

# Missouri Firefighters Elect New Officers, Advocate for Members Legislatively

KANSAS CITY, MO (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – Firefighters from across the state of Missouri have come together and elected new leadership for the Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters (MSCFF) bringing a much needed and desired unity to the organization. The State Council is not only the exclusive statewide firefighter organization with over 5,600 employees throughout Missouri, but also the exclusive advocate for the courageous brothers and sisters of the fire and EMS service.

“The Missouri State Council of Firefighters is now truly representative and inclusive of all of the professional firefighters across the state of Missouri. This is something that we’ve needed and wanted for a long time; now when one MSCFF member speaks with a legislator, he or she is representing nearly 6,000 other firefighters,” said President Sherwood Smith, a 27 year veteran of the Kansas City Fire Department.

“The newly elected officers have more than 100 combined years of firefighting experience and more than 75 combined years of legislative/political experience. They truly understand the needs of all firefighters and EMS workers, what they put on the line each and every day. The Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters will aggressively pursue legislation to protect them and their families,” said Smith.

Newly elected Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Williams stated, “Advances in technology have improved fire service in ways our forefathers only dreamed about; but even with improvements in equipment, apparatus and protective gear, firefighting is still a physically demanding, dangerous job that must be performed by highly trained and motivated men and women. While firefighters and EMS personnel are on the job looking out for the public’s best interest, it is organizations such as the State Council, that help look after the best interests of its members.”

The State Council will play an active role in the 2006 Legislative Session, which began January 4, 2006 and will continue to advocate legislatively for safer conditions for firefighters and EMS workers. Prior legislative successes have included Infectious Disease Testing, Protective Clothing Standards and the Heart and Lung Bill among others. Mark Woolbright, newly elected Legislative Affairs Director stated, “With more Missouri firefighters active in the MSCFF than ever before, we can more effectively and positively impact not only the lives of our members, but also the lives of the public that we protect.”

The newly elected officers are President Sherwood Smith, Kansas City, Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Williams, St. Louis, 1st District Vice President Kirk Lair, Blue Springs, 3rd District Vice President Bob Strinni, Mehlville ,

4th District Vice President David Carter, Springfield, 5th District Vice President David Brown, Lake Ozark and Legislative Affairs Director Mark Woolbright, St. Charles County .

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