

CHARLOTTE FIREMEN'S ASSEMBLY
Charlotte, N.C.

29 September 1967

ATTENTION: All Members-

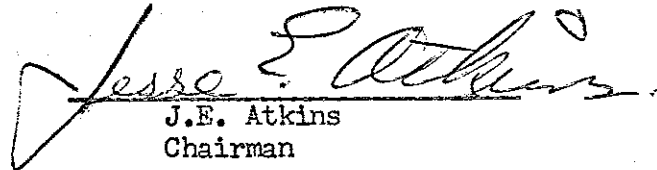
The regular monthly meetings will be held as follows:

PLATOON "B"

DATE: Monday, 2nd October 1967
PLACE: Firemen's Drill Tower
TIME: 7:45 P. M.

PLATOON "A"


DATE: Monday, 9th October 1967
PLACE: Firemen's Drill Tower
TIME: 7:45 P. M.


J.E. Atkins
Chairman

SPECIAL NOTICE: TO ALL FORMER MEMBERS OF THE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Please take notice on 2nd October and 9th October 1967, at 7:45 P. M., a meeting will be held in conjunction with the Charlotte Firemen's Assembly at the Firemen's Drill Tower on East Seventh Street, Charlotte, N.C., for the purpose of disposing of the ASSETS of the Firefighters Association of Charlotte, N.C.

This 29th day of ^{Sept.} ~~October~~ 1967


J.E. Long
President

F I R E F I G H T E R S ' A S S E M B L Y

March 13, 1967

Gentlemen, first off let me thank you for asking me to speak tonight to this Assembly. This is my first opportunity to appear before you in a formal setting. I was asked by numerous men within the Department to make this address and I accepted (maybe a little blindly at first, and a mite reluctantly). I realized of course in so doing that I would be placed in a position that could be detrimental to me and my career but after much thought, I realized that here could be a starting place for a worth while organization, so I agreed, but with one stipulation, that I not be censored in my prepared text. I will present to you a 10 point program of evaluations that may explain some of the needs that we all share in common. You are here tonight probably out of curocity:

1. Wanting to know what it's all about.
2. Desiring to be of help.
3. Searching for answers.
4. Or here for reason known only to yourself.

But, if you are here for a purpose, then we will give you that purpose. We will give you an opportunity to be heard.

There will be no secrets here, (since this is opened to the Press at any time or to anyone else). So if you can be classified as a bearer of tales, then see me. I will give you the printed words. There must be no fear in this organization. I have a 10 point program to present to you at this time, that may be the answers that some of you are looking for, and that may show to the citizens why there is concern and also explain what we are doing here.

In some circles, I will not nor will you be very popular, but truth must stand. So here is the program.

1. The Fire Department of the City of Charlotte has lost it's public image and has dropped from No. 1 in the public eye to the bottom of the totem pole.

When the Fire Department is spoke of it is only by a few and for a few.

The firemen of the City of Charlotte are to blame. We have let this happen. This could be one of the reasons our salaries stay at this constant level while others increase. If we don't do something now, within 2 years we will be tied with the lowest paid employees in the City, believe it or not. The handwriting is on the wall.

2. The Charlotte Fire Department is in a state of fear. Each man fearing the other, not knowing who can speak and who cannot speak. You do not have to be told to keep your mouth shut, but the threat is there non the less.

3. We are not even allowed the basic right of free assembly, because of fear. This in itself can hinder men in the performance of their duties.

4. The Charlotte Fire Department is in dire need of more dedicated men and not just bodies. That walking encyclopedia will fail you when the going gets rough. It's good to have knowledge, but applying it is a matter of skill and dedication.

5. If you decided to stand up as men and form this organization, let it be said here and now; that this is not a head-hunter group, and that the intent of this is to better the Fire Department, so that we can give a just and honest accounting to the citizens who foot the bill.

It, has the second year that we have in this country and
not and will not seek the endorsement of our city fathers.
We understand their position and we are sure that they
have not created this situation as it is of our own doing.
We want it clearly understood that if this organization
comes into being, we will not hesitate in promoting ourselves.

I have given you a ten point program of work. It is left up to
you. If you see fit to agree, well and good. If you disagree, no ani-
mosity will be held. Of course, at this moment there are some among you
who asked me to speak and you may be wondering at this time what
happened. Well gentlemen, I have tried to be truthful and honest with
you and the citizens of Charlotte. So if I must stand alone, I will
do so.