



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Josh Smith, a Statesville Firefighter, Seated on the Retirement System Board of Trustees

Raleigh, NC – PFFPNC Political Director Josh Smith began his service on the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System today after being sworn in before the start of the governance board's meeting. Smith, an Iredell County native and Statesville resident, is a captain with the Statesville Fire Department, where he has served since 2002.

Governor Roy Cooper nominated Smith to the retirement panel in the weeks after being sworn into office and the Senate gave unanimous consent to the nomination on the last day of session. Smith's term expires March 31, 2021.

"As the North Carolina Treasurer and Board Chair, I welcome Captain Smith to our Board, not only as a professional but as a quality person," said Treasurer Dale Folwell. "As a firefighter, Captain Smith will be a constant reminder to me and the rest of the board that we must make decisions that keeps our promises to retirees, future retirees, and taxpayers."

Treasurer Folwell added that he was especially pleased to work with Josh, as he has come to know him as a man with the three qualities he looks for in politics and policymaking – integrity, ability and passion. "With Josh, I have all three in one person," he said.

One of the primary responsibilities of the governing board is to maintain responsibility for the proper administration and operation of the pension system for North Carolina's 875,000 active and retired public employees, including teachers, police officers, firefighters, and public servants throughout the state. An added benefit is that firefighters have a seat at a powerful policymaking table.

Captain Smith also serves on the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission and was recently reappointed by Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey. Smith already has a Masters in Public Administration he earned from Appalachian State University and is currently completing a doctorate there. In addition to his service to Statesville, Smith teaches at Mitchell Community College as a fire service training coordinator, a position he has held since 2007.

"This is not only an honor for Josh, but this is an honor for PFFPNC and the entire fire service," said President Tom Brewer, who has served with Smith on PFFPNC's executive board since 2014. "Josh will be our organization's voice on some very important issues firefighters face, including the passage of HB340 (separation allowance), how sick leave is calculated for retirement purposes, line of duty death benefits, 25-year retirement, and, of course, the oversight of the \$90 billion retirement fund."

The Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association of North Carolina represents full-time professional fire fighters and paramedics and is a Chartered State Association of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

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