

BURNING ISSUES

from the Georgia Firefighters
Burn Foundation

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Chad and Danielle
Mozley with their
daughters Avalee
Mozley, 4 (front),
and Abigail, 10,
and Kaitlyn Jordan,
11, and Arianna
Mozley, 8

New Members Join GFBF Board

The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation is excited to welcome five new members to the board of directors. They include: Darnell Fullum, chief, DeKalb County Fire Rescue; Shanon Prater, Floyd Medical Center EMS; Daniel "Danny" Rumney, retiree, Macon-Bibb County Fire Department; William Tanks, deputy chief, Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services; and Dayna Scott Vidal, trauma program manager, Atlanta Medical Center.

Darnell Fullum came on board as fire chief



of DeKalb County Fire Rescue in February 2014. The 700-member department has 26 fire stations that respond to roughly 100,000 calls annually. A fire executive leader with 27 years of experience, Fullum has served as a firefighter, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, and held other positions. Fullum served as interim director of the Atlanta-Fulton County Emergency Management Agency. He and his wife of 17 years have one son.

A front-line paramedic for Floyd Medical Center EMS, **Shanon Prater** specializes in the areas of public affairs and community and



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Burn Survivors Family Weekend Grows

The mother of a 10-year-old daughter who's lived all of her young life as a burn survivor, Danielle Mozley finds tremendous benefit from the support of others

who can relate to her experience. That's especially true during an annual weekend Mozley and her loved ones have come to look forward to: the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation's Burn Survivors Family Weekend.

She and her husband Chad and their four daughters—Kaitlyn and Abigail Jordan and Arianna and Avalee Mozley—took part in the second-annual Burn Survivors Family Weekend September 5 to 7, 2014. Burn Survivors Family Weekend at Fort Yargo State Park grew from four families in 2013 to seven this year, with a total of 27 participants.

This made for the Mozley family's second year attending. "I really love the other families," says Mozley, who shares that her 10-year-old daughter Abigail—also a Camp Oo-U-La® camper—lost part of her middle finger on her right hand and skin from

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About the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation

The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation has a mission to partner with the fire service and burn care community to provide fire safety and prevention education, support medical facilities and assist burn survivors in their recovery.



GFBF Board of Directors

Ricky Burnette, Chair; Deputy Fire Chief, Roswell Fire Department

Toni Washington, Vice Chair, Fire Chief, Decatur Fire Department

Joan M. Wilson, MSN, MHA, RN, Secretary, Director of Clinical Research, TEI Medical Inc.

Iby B. George III, Program Chair, Fire Science Technology, Athens Technical College

Darnell Fullum, Fire Chief, DeKalb County Fire Rescue

Elaina S. Hall, RN, BSN, Director of Emergency Services, Emory University Hospital

Stacey R. Kolomer, PhD, MSSW Professor & MSW Program Coordinator, UNC Wilmington School of Social Work

Charles G. Middleton, Fire Chief, Savannah Fire & Emergency Services

Shanon Prater, Floyd Medical Center EMS

John T. Robinson, Battalion Chief, Valdosta Fire Department

Daniel "Danny" Rumney, Retiree, Macon-Bibb County Fire Department

Michael Schoppenhorst Show Director, SEMCO Productions

William Tanks, Deputy Chief of Preparedness, Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Dayna Vidal, RN-MSN, Trauma Program Manager, Atlanta Medical Center

Dennis J. Gardin, Executive Director, Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation (non-voting board member)

www.gfbf.org

Burning Issues is the official publication of the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and serves to provide timely information on news and events related to fire safety and burn prevention. Press releases, announcements and other materials submitted for potential publication are subject to editing.

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Message from Executive Director Dennis J. Gardin

The Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation is extremely grateful for a number of exciting recent developments! This includes the addition of five new members to GFBF's board of directors. You'll learn more about them in this issue.

Our second-annual Burn Survivors Family Weekend was quite a success. The program expanded from four families to seven, resulting in a total of 27 people supporting each other in

their journey of recovery. Excitement is also building for our annual Winter Camp for burn-injured children and siblings, scheduled for January 2015.

Thank you for your contributions; the programs and services continue to expand only because of the individuals and organizations that diligently support the mission. With many needs still to be met and the official deadline for fundraising fast approaching in December, I want to encourage everyone to remain engaged in making this 25th year of Give Burns the Boot® the best in campaign history.

Thank you for helping us... help others!

GFBF SPOTLIGHT:

Venessa Walker

Her face and voice likely are familiar traits to those connected in some way to the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation. Venessa Walker has been with GFBF for 19 years, more than half of the organization's history.

Today the executive administrator for GFBF, Walker has held positions of receptionist, administrative assistant and office manager. She started as an intern while attending the former DeKalb Technical Institute, and later accepted a full-time position with GFBF.

Along with her administrative responsibilities, Walker oversees GFBF's Give Burns the Boot® campaign. "We're excited about our 25th year of Give Burns The Boot," says Walker. "It's exciting to have a department call and brag about their drive and how much they raised for GFBF, or to take a call from a department that wants to get involved with boot drive for the first time. Having watched the different phases of boot drive 19 of its 25 years, I think one of the biggest



Venessa Walker

phases is the boot drive website at www.giveburnstheboot.com, where individuals and groups can make an online donation toward their local fire department's boot drive efforts or raise money themselves for that department."

Walker points to a drop in fire fatalities and injuries over the years through GFBF's partnership with fire service professionals. But she says the organization has much more work ahead. "Our work is far from over," she continues. "We're working hard to ensure that you never know the devastation of fire, but if you unfortunately do find out, we're here for you through the programs and services that we have the privilege to offer."

GFBF SPOTLIGHT:

John T. Robinson

Today, the kids John T. Robinson crossed paths with his first time at the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation's Camp Oo-U-La® summer camp are all grown up, some with children of their own.

"Hard to believe that was 21 years ago," says Robinson, adding that many of those children have embarked on their own career paths and are managing their personal lives. Robinson's direction, in particular with GFBF, has evolved as well. For 19 years, he served as a counselor during camp; two years ago, he took on a role of coordinator (one of three) for the Leaders in Training program—for 18 to 20 year olds. L.I.T. provides assistance to past campers and young staff members who are making the transition from camper to counselor. "We're not only teaching lessons to be used in the camp settings, we're teaching life lessons that you can use the other 51 weeks of the year," says Robinson.

A battalion chief for the Valdosta Fire Department, Robinson also serves on GFBF's board of directors—a position to which he was appointed in 2011. He is a 31-year veteran of the fire service, having begun his career in 1983 with the Quitman Fire Department. In 1990, he moved to the Valdosta Fire Department. He has held positions of firefighter, driver, company officer and captain. Robinson also is a member of the city's 911 Advisory

Board for the local 911 center that dispatches all emergency services within Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta.

For eight years, he has served as boot drive coordinator for the Valdosta Fire Department, which has participated in the drive, Robinson says, for at least 22 years.

"The men and women of the Valdosta Fire Department really stepped up this year and got excited about our campaign and the mission of GFBF as a whole," adds Robinson. "We have gone from just two collection sites to six collection sites this year." The department, he says, also is involved with GFBF's Project R.E.A.C.H. (Recycling Every Aluminum Can Helps), a year-round aluminum can recycling program.

He's grateful for the partnerships with fire departments around the state, what he describes as "the greatest and most caring firefighters in the world. Without their continued support and hard work, the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation could not and would not exist."



John T. Robinson

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youth safety education. He began his public safety career in September 1998 with the City of Rockmart Fire and Emergency Services, making the rank of sergeant within the first year. He serves as logistics coordinator for GFBF's summer camp, is a member of Toastmasters International and is married with three children.



The time that **Daniel "Danny" Rumney** has spent volunteering with GFBF has lasted nearly as long as his lengthy career in fire service. Rumney has volunteered with the organization for more than 20 years. He spent 27 years as a firefighter and emergency medical technician with the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department. The Macon

native now lives in Juliette (the location for filming of the movie "Fried Green Tomatoes"). He has been married to his wife for 42 years; they have two daughters and one son as well as three grandchildren.

As deputy chief of Preparedness for Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services, **William L. Tanks Jr.** has oversight for education, training and facilities, and support services, among other roles, to a department of 29 stations (total of around 650 personnel) that protect more than 700,000 residents and visitors.



Before becoming deputy chief of Preparedness in June 2013, Tanks held positions to include division chief of training,

battalion captain and firefighter/EMT/paramedic.

Dayna Scott Vidal, RN-MSN, is the trauma program manager for Atlanta Medical Center, a Level 1 trauma center—one of only two in Atlanta.



Vidal spent five years as a critical care nurse and the program manager for the Burn Center at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. In addition to being a nurse manager, Vidal teaches trauma/burn education to nursing students throughout the state and volunteers with the Cascade Youth Organization. The Atlanta native and former marketing and advertising executive is married with two children.

GFBF SPOTLIGHT:

Josh Kemerling

Still basking in the success of its Give Burns the Boot® efforts for 2013, the Winder Fire Department is excited about this year's drive. For 2013, the department placed first for most money raised in the highest per capita category. This year, too, appears to be a strong one, according to boot drive coordinator Josh Kemerling. "Earlier this year we hosted our annual boot drive and fortunately we had three great days!" says Kemerling, a part-time firefighter. "We were number one in the state last year for most monies raised per capita, and that was a great honor. Our department worked very hard to raise money and the efforts paid off greatly!"

Kemerling started with the department part time in 2000 before moving to full time a year later. In April 2014, he returned to part-time hours. In addition to GFBF boot drive coordinator on behalf of the department, he has served on the department's Special Services Committee

and Grant Writing Committee.

He's committed to helping spread the word about the various services GFBF provides — from continuing education to grants as well as support for firefighters and their families.

"I am very passionate about the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation because it is an organization that directly works not only in the continuing education part of our career field but also in helping our burn victims recover. The most rewarding part of my job is to know I am helping people typically when they need it the most."



Josh Kemerling

Georgia Teens Take Part in Canadian Camp Exchange

Two teenagers from Georgia got to spend part of their summer away through a camper exchange program with Camp BUCKO, thanks to a partnership between the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and Camp BUCKO. The summer travel to Toronto, Ontario, made for the first time out of the country for Nick Anderson of Statesboro, and George Gresham of Union Point (with Anderson also flying for the first time).

The boys, both 14, enjoyed all activities, including learning field hockey, paddle boarding, archery and arts and crafts. During the camp for burn survivors between the ages of seven and 17, the two teens stayed

in the same cabin together and were excited about getting to know a new Canadian family. Each figured out a way to use the Canadian "EH" and

the Southern "ya'll" together.

Both have attended Camp-Oo-U-La® for four years. More info: www.campbucko.ca



Nick Anderson (third from left) and George Gresham (third from right) spent one week this summer at Camp BUCKO in Toronto, Ontario.

Family Weekend, *continued from page 1*

both palms when she fell into a gas heater at nine months old. The family travels to Cincinnati with her roughly every 12 weeks for laser correction surgery, as grafts from her stomach and right leg were used to cover her

hands. "We all deal with the same things. We know what the others are going through. It's nice to have that."

GFBF hosts Burn Survivors Family Weekend at no cost for children, siblings, parents, caregivers and other adults. Families take part in a number of activities including arts and crafts,

fishing, movie nights and boating. Families also have an opportunity to attend support groups for both children and adults. This allows each family to share personal victories and struggles as burn survivors, as a way to help one another on the road to recovery.