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Press Release

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MCC Receives Donation from Historically Black Fireman's Association

Pictured right is Walter Whitfield, MCC's Executive Director of Continuing Education, accepting the Association's donation from Ret. Fire Captain Ernest Peterson of the "Rough and Ready" Fire Company of Greenville, NC.

On June 26, 2008 at the conclusion of their 118th annual meeting, the North Carolina Volunteer Fireman's Association presented MCC with an \$1100 donation. This organization, founded in the late 1800s by the state's black volunteer firefighters, has a long-standing relationship with the College. In 1996, during their last annual meeting held on MCC's campus, the Association's members donated funds that were used to purchase the first caps and gowns for MCC's adult high school and GED graduates.

Though most of the 35 black volunteer fire companies were phased out by the 1930s and 40s, the Association continues to exist and holds annual conventions consisting of socials, business meetings, and fire and EMS training workshops for members of the three remaining teams: Warrenton Volunteer Fire Department, the "Red Hot Hose & Reel" Company of Wilson, and the "Rough and Ready" Company of Greenville. In addition, the Greenville Company has a Ladies Auxiliary, and they help the team when there's a night fire.



Members in attendance at this year's meeting were (pictured left, from left to right): *Raymond Yancey (Warrenton), Helen Stafford (Greenville), Linwood Rasberry (Greenville), Hubert Speight (Wilson), Ronald Richardson (Warrenton), Kelvin Davis (Warrenton), Charles Richardson (Warrenton), Don A. Stith (Warrenton), Al Alston (Warrenton), William Harkley (Greenville), Marvin Jones (Wilson), Artis Richardson (Warrenton), Helen Bell (Greenville), James Kearney (Warrenton), William E. Simmons (Wilson). In the front, kneeling is Ernest Peterson (Greenville).*