

Southern U.S. Chapter Report 2011

The Southeastern U.S. Chapter represents the 14 states that do not have FFLA Chapters. Most of these are in the southeastern U.S., hence the name of the chapter. Although there are FFLA members in all the states that do not have chapters, these 14 lack the minimum of 10 members to organize a chapter. All of these, except Georgia, have a designated State Representative who is listed on the Directory on the back of Lookout Network Magazine. FFLA does have a presence in all 50 states.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership remains at 20-25 members. The most recent reductions were 11 moved to the new Tennessee Chapter in 2009, and another 11 moved to the new North Carolina Chapter in 2008. There were no new chapters organized in 2010 or 2011, but efforts continue.

RESTORATIONS: Although in recent years some lookouts received new roofs and paint, none were reported in 2011. There is a proposed lookout moving and restoration in Georgia for 2012.

REMOVALS: The sale and removal of fire towers continues at about 10/year, mostly in the southeastern states. Since all southeastern states no longer use fire towers, this rate of removal is likely to increase in coming years as unmaintained towers are classified as safety hazards and ordered removed by the state agencies. The absence of FFLA chapters or members in the southern states hinders efforts to maintain the towers. There has been some success in getting local groups interested in saving individual lookouts. Efforts continue to identify individuals willing to take on the responsibilities of organizing FFLA chapters in the southeast and help restore that maintain them is an ongoing objective. One of the reasons for establishing a new southern region of FFLA is to focus on gaining new members.

ANNUAL MEETING OF FFLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The SE Chapter hosted the January 2011 meeting of the FFLA Directors at Macon, Georgia. The chapter also hosted the 2012 annual meeting at Wiggins, Mississippi.

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