



**Executive Committee Meeting
February 14, 2023
Columbia EOC
1800 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201**

Attendance: Josh Holzheimer, Malcolm Burns, Randy Arant, Brian Christmas, Jamie Caggiano, John Bowers, Ross Vezin, Terry Sheriff, Tracy Williams, Kevin Henson, Jason Pope, Billy Barnes, Mickey Folsom, Pierce Womack, Jeff Allen, Jeff Oswald, Jana Kassianos, Rick Dunn, Brick Lewis, Zorrina Harmon, Jamie Helms, Joe Palmer, Ashley Boltin

10:00 am President Holzheimer welcomed everyone and introduced Harry Tinsley, Mike Cothran & Tracy Beymer they work for Columbia EOC and will be providing the tour of the EOC.

11:00 am President Holzheimer Called the Meeting to Order

Keven Henson was sworn in as the Strategic Planning Committee Chairman.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance by Rick Dunn.

A motion was made by Jamie Caggiano to accept the meeting minutes from January 10, 2023, as presented; seconded by Malcolm Burns. All in favor.

Committee Reports

Finance & Audit - Malcolm Burns – Financials were emailed out to all executive committee members. We received a draft copy of our audit yesterday; the finance and audit committee will be reviewing it in the coming days.

Legislative – Randy Arant – a report was emailed to all executive committee members. A few of our top items we are monitoring are LLR Budget, Return to work, Income tax exemptions, Pal800. Pal800, we have a meeting with Department of Administration and are working on a meeting with Ken Stenson director at SC Department of Emergency Management to make sure all are on board with the funding we are requesting. Legislative Day will be held on April 5, 2023, be sure to help spread the work about signing up to escort your House & Senate members. ***A recommendation out of Committee to recognize Senator Harvey S. Peeler Jr. & Representative Bruce W. Bannister as our recipients for the 2023 Society of the Maltese Cross. All in favor.***

The review of the Fire Chief Handbook update and revisions have been made, the document has been turned over to staff.

Communications Committee – Pierce Womack – With Pal800 there are questions on the law enforcement views. Joe and others believe they need it and want to work together, SLED is wanting to wait. Pierce went over how his county, Charleston, York and other counties handle Pal 800. Pal800 funding discussions were had.

Lunch Break

Ned Toledano with Toledano & Associate joined and addressed the group.

A question was asked if we have sent out the Fire Department self-audit check list with the 10 questions, have we sent this out to the Departments yet? Joe Palmer emailed it out to the Executive committee. The question was answered that the association has not yet sent it out, after further research there are only about 12 departments that choose to invest their one percent money into a retirement plan other than the association plan.

A motion was made by Jamie Caggiano that the Supervisory Committee send out the retirement self-audit form for those that are not in the association retirement plan and that document must be sent in and approved by the supervisory committee before the 2024 budget is approved; seconded by Malcom Burns. All in favor.

An update was provided by Joe Palmer that the retirement committee has had a change to the plan document; you are now able to draw money from your plan if you have a total of 20 years in the system. It does not have to be 20 years with one single department.

Advisory – Brian Christmas – We received 22 award submissions this year, we will meet on February 23, 2023, to review those applications and have a recommendation next month for approval.

Foundation – Jamie Caggiano – The foundation is currently accepting applications for scholarships. We have a new scholarship for Mr. Stone from Darlington County and are working with Rock Hill to develop another scholarship for their firefighter that just passed. We will review those award applications and present them at Fire – Rescue conference. We continue to work with the Children’s Burn Fund and moving forward with them. We have had a policy change with fees. We will have a written agreement with organizations before accepting funds from this point on.

Supervisory – John Bowers – We have held two 1% trainings since we last met, those were held in Abbeville and Orangeburg. We have had a lot of success with these meetings. We have an upcoming meeting in Spartanburg County at the Una Fire Dept on March 16th.

A recommendation out of committee to raise the per person cost for meal if using 1% funds, Drill night super cost be adjusted from \$15 per head to \$20 per head and the Holiday meal from \$40 per head to \$50 per head, these adjustments will go in effect for the new 2024 budget. All in favor.

The list for delinquent departments were passed out to the Executive Committee. There are a total of 59 departments on this list, the departments on this list have either not paid dues, selected voting members or filled out and submitted forms 206 & 207.

A motion as made by Jamie Caggiano that staff will send out certified letters to the delinquent departments on March 15th; if the departments are not compliant by April 1st the departments will no longer be in good standing with the association, meaning they will lose membership and will not be eligible for 1% funds; seconded by Brian Christmas. All in favor.

Heritage Committee – John Bowers – Last week I, Carter, Jamie Helms and Ashley met with Laura and Steve Green to talk about our history museum and pick their brains about funding opportunities, and archiving programs. Laura works for the Arts Commission and Steve is very knowledgeable about the archiving. We also discussed with them about the Cleveland School Fire 100th Anniversary event coming up in May 16th & 17th.

Joe Palmer talked about a history training event he, Carter, Raymond Lloyd & Joey Roberts are working on. This would be a walking training tour to visit old sites of Charleston Fire Stations, and cemeteries and to hear old stories and historical value about them. We are currently working with a local hotel to reserve a room block. We would charge a small fee for folks to join this training along with the participants would be responsible for booking their own hotel. Our time frame is late October, and we look forward to sharing more details as they develop.

Member Benefits – Ross Vezin – The members benefits committee met with BMG financial on loan offers. They offer quick loans at a much better rate to fire responders than these loan cash places. We have a meeting coming up with a group called Ready Rebound, this company has a program geared toward fire service that helps get firefighters back to work faster, if you need to get say a MRI and your doctor's office is saying it takes 2 month before they can get you in, this group can help you with finding an appointment quicker because they have a network of health care providers that finds a facility to get you in much quicker. We look forward to meeting and seeing what they can offer to the fire service. A big shout out to Zorrina and staff for another successful Memorial Service, it was a great event.

Training & Education – Terry Sheriff – Thank you to Rick Dunn, staff and the training and education committee for a successful 2023 Fire Service Improvement Conference. We had 167 people registered and 139 people complete training. A handout was given to the Executive Committee and a after action review was conducted. The Fire Academy Advisory Committee meet last week, Chief Jones shared that there were 17 eligible candidates that applied for the Superintendent's job. His hopes are at their next meeting on May 3rd that they will have a Superintendent in place. There has been discussion on Electric Vehicles and the training that will be provided through the SC fire academy and other sources. With having them manufactured in our state and having a recycle center in our state, we really need to be training our folks on the electric batteries.

Health & Safety – Tracy Williams – The Health and Safety Committee and Cancer Coalition have been supporting heart healthy month by promoting exercise and healthy eating. This Thursday is the Cancer stuff the bucket campaign, Jeff Allen reported that we have about 50 people scheduled to help stuff the buckets. Jeff Allen is working on a plan to get these buckets dispersed to departments that need them along with coming up with a list of departments that already have their own.

Sprinkler Coalition – Jeff Allen – We have several home shows coming up in March. The National Fire Sprinkler Coalition will be in Camden for the 100th Anniversary of the Cleveland School Fire. We are hoping that on March 15th we will have a ceremony at Reliable Sprinkler for donation of the new side by side burn pod. The Sign Trailer required some maintenance, we have been able to get that completed and it is up and running again.

Strategic Planning – Kevin Henson – Joe Palmer has met with Kevin Henson to catch him up to speed as to where the current strategic plan stands. There is lots of work to be done and he looks forward to our planning session in March.

By-Laws – Jason Pope – The schedule is outlined in the By-laws and the forms have no set deadline. The By-laws states a department shall be removed if voting members are not selected by January 31st.

EMS – Billy Barnes – The EMS Symposium is coming up the first of March and we will be there representing the Associations EMS Committee. Joe thanked the committee for the work they have done in the DHEC discussions. ALS 1 agency discussion.

DEI – Mickey Folsom – The committee met on February 10th it was a productive meeting. We are excited for the Summit that we will be hosting on March 31st. We are working on what the committee role will be that day and then the transition plan afterwards. We ask that everyone support our Summit on March 31st. We all are puzzle pieces and we are going to have a discussion on how we fit into the puzzle. This summit will cover the Humanist approach. Bring a department member with you. President Holzheimer asks that everyone be present and bring a department member with you. Registration and Marketing will be up soon.

Social Media & Communications - Brick Lewis & Jamie Helms gave handouts and reviewed the social media and communications for Fire Service Improvement Conference and Memorial Service are reviewed it with the committee.

Old Business

Architect Selection Process update by Malcolm Burns. A proposal provided by Stewart Cooper and Newall was handed out to the Executive Committee.

A recommendation out of committee to move forward with the selection of Stewart Cooper and Newall as our architect and to move forth with part one of the proposed process. All in favor.

New Business

Josh Holzheimer announced we have a t- shirt design for 2023 Fire – Rescue Conference, the design was shared with the committee on the big screen. We are working with our vendor to do multiple colors to have a friendly competition with Gamecock and Clemson colors. Money generated would be donated to the foundation.

Jamie Caggiano proposed we move the DEI committee which is currently an ad hoc committee to a standing committee. Discussion was had, this idea is being tabled at this time.

A motion made by Malcolm Burns to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Brian Christmas. All in favor.