

October 17, 2023
Executive Committee Minutes

Attendance: Malcolm Burns, Randy Arant, Brian Christmas, Pierce Womack, Jason Dennis, Josh Holzheimier, John Bowers, Ross Vezin, Terry Sheriff, Kevin Henson, Charles Lamoreaux, Billy Barnes, Mickey Folsom, Mike Norket, Matt Tidwell, Jamie Caggiano, Zorrina Harmon, Jamie Helms, Brick Lewis Joe Palmer, Rick Dunn, Carter Jones, Ashley Boltin
Guest: Jason Pope

Call to Order by President Randy Arant

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance by Carter Jones

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to accept the minutes from September 13 -15, 2023 as presented; seconded by Randy Arant. All in favor.

Committee Reports

Finance & Audit – Randy Arant – We have not met since our last EC meeting.

Legislative – Brian Christmas – We are looking to schedule a meeting in November. Items our committee will continue to look at are Including our members who live out of state in the Cancer policy, recently a cost analysis was conducted and determined that there is no cost impact. Pal800, Background checks, we have learned that a department in our state is paying \$18.00 per person for a national background checks. They are going to get CWP fingerprints filling out the national background and sending it off for a national background check.

Advisory – Pierce Womack – Advisory committee meet yesterday we have 21 Leadership Institute Applications, we narrowed it down to 14 that will go forward for oral interviews. As directed by the president, we discussed about the committee staying involved, no really thoughts came out of the discussion, there was more discussion on the sustainment of projects. Tian has a document where the fire chief would have to sign off the project, not sure if we want to in act a formalization of such.

4th VP – Jason Dennis – Continues to review through the Playbook. Starting October 1 – January I will be tagging along with T & E Committee.

Past President – Josh Holzheimer – continue to work on past president section by laws.

Supervisory – John Bowers - Thank you for the support you showed during the passing of my mother. We have a 1% meeting tonight in York looks like we have about 60 people registered. Jeff has several departments he is meeting with between now and the end of the year. We held two online zoom meetings with departments that participate in a retirement plan but are not a part of the association retirement. We have gone over the 10 questions check list and answered

questions. WE have about 26 departments. It is in question of when the 10-question check list will be mandatory as part of your budget approval process.

Member Benefits – Ross Vezin – We continue to work with Pressy.

Training & Education – Terry Sheriff – October 23rd meet to review for 2024 class submissions. October 25 -Quarterly meeting in North Charleston, FIS Conference in January is coming along. Truck & Engine classes are full already.

Jason Pope from the SC Fire Academy was recognized in the room.

Health & Safety – Joe Palmer – This committee is busy at work, if you haven't participated in the BINGO card challenge, we encourage you to do so. Fire Chiefs in our state should have received an email with a survey on Foam. We are trying to see how much A triple foam is out there still. We know the toxins in this foam can cause cancer, so once we see how much is out there maybe can work on funding for a swap out program. It was suggested that maybe we can go to the legislature for funding for this campaign. Please keep Tracy Williams family in your prayers, his wife is not doing well.

Strategic Planning – Kevin Henson – We met on September 29th. We have 2 initiatives. First is for the Firefighter Retirement Community, and the second is the PRS Expansion with training and other projects. This is a conceptual idea with limitation on staffing across the fire service, this would give the opportunity to provide services outside of the state system, thought a third-party company controlled by the SCFIS Company; Resource to hire consultants. Kevin Henson & Will Broschious will be on the JIVE Thursday night.

By-Laws – Charles Lamoreaux – We are meeting on 1% actions before our April deadline.

EMS – Billy Barnes – We meet in October to talk about the townhall event we are developing. We are working with T&E on possible training for Fire – Rescue Conference next year. I need to meet with President Burns to get a little more direction on these kits and the management of them. DHEC does not have a director. State Fire EMS class are successful.

Diversity Committee - Mickey Folsom – Committee met on September 28th, we evaluated where we are and where we want to go. We are looking at planning a DEI summit in April 2024.

Conference Committee – Mike Norket – We are discussing what we want to see for 2024 Fire – Rescue looking at revamping and adding Kid zone, family activities and maybe a competition and fitness component. WE are making sure our corporate sponsors want to continue to serve on the committee and we plan to host a in person meeting next month.

Recruitment & Retention – Joe Palmer – This group is looking at possibly adding a section in the Fire Chief Handbook on recruitment and retention tools. They are also putting together a

draft for a recruitment and retention summit in possibly February. They have a new member on this committee John Ruston Smith from Dillon County.

NVFC - They are working with Brooke on some educational components. Candice McDonald will be our guest speaker at the Quarterly meeting.

Officer Section – Matt Tidwell – Officer academy went well. Kevin Henson and Matt will be meeting today for some strategic planning and possibly by-law changes.

Foundation – Jamie Caggiano – The Children’s Burn Fund Group signed an agreement with the foundation, we hope to have the finalization with MUSC by the end of the year. We went through a 6-week process of hiring an employee and she did not accept the offer so now we are back to square one. If you know of anyone that would be a great fit, please get their resume over to Jamie Helms. It is more important to us that we get the right person than a time deal. We have open position on the foundation board.

We come to you with a board recommendation of Joe Duggan from Sumter Fire Department to fill our open position. All in favor.

SCFIS – Zorrina – We are finishing up our 4th quarter. Tomorrow we will vote in new board members, we have two name recommendations Jamie Caggiano & Josh Holzheimer. We will bring to you next month the official recommendation. SCFIS will be donating to the officer academy of \$40,000. We continue to grow at the SCFIS Company, we have doubled our money market account.

Heritage Committee – John Bowers – Sean Irvin & John Bowers attended the Fire Museum Network Conference in New York. This was a very informative conference, and we need to plan to attend each year, this year was in New York next year is in Arizona. We continue to work with ETV, they attended the US Fire Administrator summit and were able to interview Dr. Moore – Merrell. Carter will be going next week to film Ricky Waring in Summerville.

Administration Team Report – Brick Lewis

Invoices have been sent out for 2024 Dues.

Brook has been working with Deputy Director Helms on the Policy & Procedure manual, Hand Book, Style Guide, Rockers etc. Brook has assisted with sending out several surveys, the FOAM Survey & Recruitment & Retention Survey. We continue to work with Milliman on deliverables of we let the departments know of the transition.

Jeff has a lot going on, they are working with Surfside beach for a tentative training in February 2024.

Operation Team Report – Ashley Boltin

Patti Graham –

- She wanted me to convey her thanks for the car, she is very appreciative.

- FAST has been hosting lots of trainings and meetings over the last several weeks to include the following area's Lancaster, Marlboro, Dufuskie Island, Pickens, South Spartanburg, Hilton Head.
- Peer Connect App is moving forward, with several departments that have come on board.
- The PTSD911 movie, was a success we have roughly 20 something in attendance at each location North Myrtle Beach, Columbia & Greenville. Other areas have requested to host it and it has been brought up that it need to be shown at the Fire – Rescue Conference.

Rick Dunn – We have hit most of his report.

- Office Academy was a success.
- Qtly Meeting – October 25
- FSI Conference – January 18 -21, 2024
- Fire – Rescue Conference – Jun 2024.

Jeff Allen – has had a busy month.

- Attending county meetings a
- Finishing up getting the cancer buckets out to all departments.
- Sign trailer has been on the move and very busy, lot of departments have been requesting to use it.
- Side by side burns to include Cordova, Camden, St. Johns & Edventure.

Carter Jones

- Busy with ETV Crews
- Continues to work on written history for several departments.
- Has attended several meeting and dedications to include the Summerville Station dedication to Richard Waring.
- He will be doing a video shoot with Ricky Waring Sr. next week.
- Continues to work with the folks in New York on visiting the museum and nursing home facilities.
- Past Perfect archiving program we have purchased and look forward to delving in to that here soon.

Other things...

- Leadership Institute meets in North Charleston this month.
- Advisory Committee meet and evaluated the 2024 LI written applications.
- EMS Committee meet with month.

Deputy Director Jamie Helms

- Introduced our new Employee Kim Voicine, administrative assistant.
- Working with a lady Wendy Hummell on a possible printing grant deal.
- Employee Handbook is on the agenda later for approval.

Executive Director Joe Palmer

Our Retirement system third party administrator is being changed to Milliman, the retirement trustees have meet with a familiar face that we all know Kim Bowman who worked for Toledano

& Associates who has helped our departments for years. Kim has accepted a position with the Firefighters Association to be a liaison between our fire service and Milliman. Once the transition occurs, we will bring Kim on board probably after the first of the year.

Play Book Review by Joe Palmer.

Old Business

October 25, 2023, Quarterly Meeting in North Charleston logistic review.

A motion was made by Brian Christmas to accept the employee handbook as presented; seconded by Jason Dennis. All in favor.

Chaplain Search Update – Joe Palmer they continue to look for the right fit, if you have any suggestions, please share them with Joe and the committee.

Building Review Update.

Lunch

New Business

We have Rattle Watch flyer for you to take back to your departments.

Policy and Procedure Manual Review.

Mobilization appointments we have 3 people whose term expired July 2023, Mark Davis, Bruce Kline, Joey Tanner. We nominate, our nominations go to the Governor office for approval.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to move forward with keeping the same 3 members Mark Davis, Bruce Kline & Joey Tanner; seconded by Jason Dennis. All in favor.

VSAFE appointment, Tony Dicks has been removed due to his retirement, we need to send a recommendation name for replacement. If you have any ideas send them to President Burns & Joe.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to go into executive session for contractual and personnel matters; seconded by Kevin Henson. All in favor.

A motion was made by Josh Holzimer to come out of exectutive session with no actions taken; seconded by Ross Vezin. All in favor.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to adjourn; seconded by Randy Arant. All in favor.

Reports that were submitted online.

NVFC - The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Board of Directors met on September 21-22 in Cooperstown, NY, to conduct Council business, participate in committee meetings, and guide the direction of the organization. Sixty-six directors from 40 states were present, including Jack Kirlin and Keith Minick from South Carolina, along with other leadership from state fire associations, corporate members and sponsors, and guests. The board is comprised of up to two representatives from 47 state fire service associations and meets twice a year in the spring and fall. Highlights from the fall 2023 meeting are as follows. Council Business NVFC committees met on a range of issues including health and safety, legislation, recruitment and retention, wildland, standards and codes, and more. The EMS/Rescue Section also held its biannual meeting. In addition, two general sessions were held with the full board to discuss matters of national and state interest and provide input and guidance on the strategic direction of the organization. Among the decisions of the board was to add the Helping Emergency Responders Overcome (HERO) Act to the NVFC's legislative priorities. The HERO Act would establish a series of programs designed to address public safety behavioral health issues. In addition, the board voted to establish the Ron Roy Memorial Scholarship in honor of the late Washington director, who passed away on July 31. The packed agenda also included an update on the FirstNet Authority and a panel discussion on Advocating on Behalf of the Volunteer. Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center addressed the Health, Safety, and Training Committee about the Firefighter Cancer Initiative, a research project seeking to understand and address the excess burden of cancer among firefighters. Special Events Prior to the start of the meeting, a group of directors and invited guests gathered in New York City on September 20 to visit the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and participate in a wreath laying and remembrance ceremony. Meeting host Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) welcomed the board to Cooperstown with hospitality after registration on the evening of September 20. Other activities during the meeting included a Chair's Lunch sponsored by Clarion Fire & Rescue Group, a reception and dinner hosted by FASNY, and a Networking Lunch sponsored by OnStar. The annual fundraising auction, sponsored by ESIP, raised \$7,630 for the NVFC's health and safety initiatives. The meeting concluded with an optional trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame, sponsored by Provident. Sponsors The NVFC enthusiastically thanks meeting host FASNY and all the sponsors who helped make the meeting possible: Adapt Management, Anheuser-Busch Foundation, California Casualty, Clarion Fire & Rescue Group, Columbia Southern University, ESIP, Josh Cellars, Lincoln Financial Group, National Fire Protection Association, OnStar, PH&S Products, Provident, Tesla, Ward Diesel Filter Systems, and Wendell's Mint. Next Meeting The next board meeting will take place April 26-27 in Arlington, VA.

Strategic Planning - Discussed the feasibility and viability of the firefighter retirement community that has been discussed. Reviewed steps for planning and assigned research areas to members of the committee. Discussed the feasibility of PRS expansion and the various areas of focus for the company. Assigned research and planning areas for committee members. The goal is for the strategic planning committee to put together a conceptual plan for how the PRS expansion could be implemented without a dedicated staff employee and then transition; there was discussion about the committee helping manage it to get it off the ground. *Committee Chair Kevin Henson, along with Will Broschious, will be featured on "The Jive" on October 19th - We will be discussing Planning and Accreditation.

Legislative -No meeting last month. Planning a meeting for November 8th, 9th, or 10th.

Health & Safety - I am unable to attend tomorrow's meeting, have prior engagements. The committee plans to meet the first week of November. In the meantime, we continue to share the H&S Bingo campaign. I also presented to the Officer Academy on FF Cancer a few weeks ago and plan to continue that in future OA's. Hoping to also get the Cancer Coalition members together for a meeting soon.

EMS - Committee members meet virtually to discuss Virtual Townhall with SCSFA EMS Committee and SCDHEC to discuss how to create a BLS department and the cost associated with it. The committee is looking sometime Q4 of 2023. DHEC update: lots of changes and more to come in the next 6 months. SCEMSA updated their status, SC State Fire (EMS) updated their status. STB Kits that were requested to look into by President Burns will need more information to move forward. Committee discussed 2024 Fire-Rescue and the selection process with the T&E committee. We will work with the T&E committee for the EMS track.

Training & Education - The Committee is scheduled to meet at the Association Office on Monday, October 23rd to review and select presenters and topics for Fire/Rescue 2024. The Committee has reached out to the EMS Committee to collaborate with EMS topics and presenters. Having an EMS track at Fire/Rescue was well received at F/R 2023. Committee is finalizing FSIC 2024 and numbers are continuing to increase. The Engine and Truck Company class is already full. Have a total of 134 registrations currently.

Advisory - Committee Members reviewed Leadership Institute applications over the last several weeks and met in-person on 10/16 to narrow the applicants. A list of 14 applicants were chosen to continue to the next phase of interviews on 11/15. After oral interviews are complete, a final group (no more than 12) will be chosen to continue with pre-course assignments. The committee also discussed it's role in the progression and development of each LI class.

Recruitment & Retention - We have decided to create a Chapter 11 in the Fire Chief's Handbook. This is contingent on approval and support from the Executive Committee but we do not feel there will be any concerns. Chapter 11 will also direct readers to the already live web site that may need a name change in the near future. Will has offered to work with me on writing the content for the Handbook and Chief Riebe has offered to handle having it reviewed and edited. • The "Recruitment and Retention Summit" is projected to be scheduled in February. A venue and date will be decided by the end of the month if all goes well. We are reaching out to Curt Varone to check his availability as the headliner. • The academy received the survey that was sent out and was asked to review the responses over the next month to come up with thoughts and ideas to include in the Handbook. • President Burns approved to bring John Smith from Dillon County Fire Department on to the Committee.

Supervisory - One percent Regional class Oct. 17 York County 60 registered. Working on scheduling classes in Calhoun and Horry counties. Staff meeting with Bennettsville, Marion, Marion rural, Hartsville, and Goose Creek Departments in November