

**Spring Work Session
March 13 -15, 2024
Hickory Knob State Park**

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Attendance: Malcolm Burns, Randy Arant, Tres Atkinson, Pierce Womack, Jason Dennis, Josh Holzheimer, John Bowers, Ross Vezin, Terry Sheriff, Brad Kavetski, Kevin Henson, Charles Lamoreaux, Billy Barnes, Mickey Folsom, Mike Norket, Billy Dillon, Jack Kirlin, Keith Minick, Doug Cline, Jamie Caggiano, Brick Lewis, Joe Palmer, Jamie Helms, Zorrina Harmon, Ashley Boltin **Guest:** Jason Pope, Jonathan Jones

1:00 pm Meeting called to order by President Burns

A welcome was offered by President Burns.

Invocation & Pledge by Joe Palmer.

State Fire Update by Jonathan Jones - 391 Departments have submitted for VSAFE Grants if granted each department will receive \$13,280.

A discussion on OSHA proposed changes to regulation for the Fire Service.

Discussion of creating a working group to include all aspects of folks that this OSHA change would affect.

A motion was made by Kevin Henson to appoint Joe Palmer & Doug Cline to begin working on the association draft comments and to communicate with other associations and political entities to help with the draft; seconded by Josh Holzheimer. All in favor.

It has been recommended that the association send out communications to the membership to encourage folks to share prepared comments from individual departments.

When the executive committee visits its elected officials in Washington DC in April this needs to be a talking point.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer for the purpose of defining “firefighter”, “fire chief”, and “fire department” that the legislative committee define these and have them done with the intent to pre-file in (2025); seconded by Kevin Henson. All in favor.

President Burns unveiled the 2024 Fire–Rescue t-shirt design.

DEI Committee Report – Mickey Folsom - We have selected and secured a DEI instructor for the 2024 Fire-Rescue Conference. We have a vacancy on our committee as Captain Regina Jenkins has retired. We are currently working on our next summit.

Recruitment & Retention - Billy Dillon – We meet this week and are making headway on the Fire Chiefs Handbook recruitment and retention section. We are working on the Sounds of Siren Site to tailor it more to what we are looking for all fire service recruitment and retention not just Volunteer Fire Service. Junior firefighter program is underway, we have sent out a survey to get a feel for who has what in our state, we are looking forward to the competition at the Fire-Rescue Conference and we are still exploring the option of having a Junior Firefighter weekend in 2025. The FLSA Class had a total of 74 people in attendance, we are looking at potentially hosting a 3 day program in the future.

Directions for checking in to rooms and dinner instructions were given by Ashley.

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Attendance: Malcolm Burns, Randy Arant, Tres Atkinson, Pierce Womack, Jason Dennis, Josh Holzheimer, John Bowers, Ross Vezin, Terry Sheriff, Brad Kavetski, Kevin Henson, Charles Lamoreaux, Billy Barnes, Mickey Folsom, Mike Norket, Billy Dillon, Jack Kirlin, Doug Cline, Jamie Caggiano, Brick Lewis, Joe Palmer, Jamie Helms, Zorrina Harmon, Ashley Boltin

Guest: Shaun Gadsden, Josh Horton, Ross Vezin, Brad Maness

8:30 am Welcome by the President & then turned the floor over to Strategic Planning Chairman Kevin Henson.

Director Helms went over the objectives for the day.
The group went through the goals.

A discussion was had on creating a technology committee. Chad Beam gave a presentation on technology and its importance and uses.

A motion was made by Pierce Womack to change the current communications committee to Technology and Communications committee; seconded by Randy Arant. All in favor.

A motion was made by Randy Arant to allow Executive Director Helms to look for a person to manage the Leadership Institute and Fire Chief 101 program and for this person to provide a scope of work to be done before being chosen; seconded by Josh Holzheimer. All in favor.

A timeline of 90 days was given to Executive Director Helms to identify possible candidates.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to raise member benefit fees from \$31.00 to \$41.00; seconded by Jason Dennis. All in favor.

Committee Reports

Supervisory – John Bowers -We have several 1% classes coming up on April 30th in Union, and May 21 in Dorchester, we are working with the Surfside Beach Fire Dept to set a date. We are working with Green Finney on audits and expenditure requests have slowed down.

Finance - Randy Arant – All is going well.

Legislative – Tres Atkinson – Thanked Director Helms for sending out the weekly legislative updates. The cancer bill is out of the House and headed to the Senate. A representative from York put in a PRIVISO recommending for critical need position to not fall under the cap, wording is being added to include firefighters, this has passed the House and is headed to the Senate. A bill was introduced by a legislative member to allow firefighters to transport patients by means other than ambulances.

Advisory Committee – Pierce Womack

A motion out of committee to accept the following awards and recipients for the 2024 Fire-Rescue Annual Conference.

Hall of Fame

- 1) *James Michael Muller – Irmo Fire Dept. – LODD*
- 2) *Kenneth Sott – Summerville Fire Dept. – LODD*
- 3) *Richard Moultrie – Greenville (1881) – LODD*
- 4) *Standord L. Wilson – Calhoun Falls (1964) – LODD*
- 5) *Kevin D. Simmons – Aiken Public Safety – LODD*
- 6) *Joshua Holzheimer – Greer Fire Dept. – Past President*
- 7) *Richard “Tim” Cobb – Piedmont Park (Ret.)*
- 8) *David M. Griffin – North Augusta Public Safety*
- 9) *Thomas Webb – Burton Fire District*

Firefighter of the Year

John Bowers – Camden Fire Dept.

Clyde Spillers Instructor of the Year

Nathaniel “Junior” Ellis Jr. – Grassy Pond Fire Dept.

Medal of Valor

Nathan Ellis – Myrtle Beach Fire Dept.

Meritorious Action

- 1) *Justin Blankenship – Jasper County*
- 2) *Anthony Ragsdale, Tristen Lowe, Matthew Stallings – Anderson Fire Dept.*
- 3) *Tanner Quattlebaum & Josh Mills – Saluda County Fire Service*

John Bowers sustained from voting, All others in favor.

Past President – Josh Holzheimer – Our next meeting is scheduled in Manning on May 17, 2024.

History & Heritage Report – Ashley Boltin – This group has been busy Carter has been

- Lining up trucks for conference. Went to Greenwood to check out steam and make sure they are able to transport to conference.

- Went to Beaufort to check out their old steamer (1874). It's in rough shape, but they want to give it to us. Will talk w/ SPAAMFAA folks to see if they can take it on as a project to restore. We can put them in the warehouse in Winnsboro.
- Trying to make arrangements to move Ed Gamble's truck from Denny to warehouse. State Fire needs room & are making plans to expand auditorium.
- Working w/ Clinton on transportation of their 1923 engine to conference. May can use Joe's goose neck trailer. They will have to get a truck to tow it to the beach.
- Went to Myrtle Beach to meet 8th grader who researched Cleveland School & to set up filming her in the documentary. She is an amazing child.
- Finished researching & writing collaboration between Louis Behrens & F. H. McMaster (1st Ins. Commissioner) and how State Fire evolved along w/ Firefighters' Assoc.
- Researching history form above beginning to now of State Fire Marshal, Fire Academy, and Association. This will be a book for sure...long and detailed.
- Spoke to opening program at Officer's Academy...story of Louis Behrens, Jesse Johnson, Charlie Denny, Richard Mincey. No one knew who they were nor what they did.
- Working w/ Memorial Committee on two new additions to LODD plaza...one in 1871 and another in 1963.
- Spent weekend w/ Leadership Institute at Hickory Knob.

Member Benefits – Ross Vezin – We are working on a deal with an alerting system, we are trying to get local talent to offer discounts on their products such as helmets and radio straps.

Training & Education – Terry Sheriff – Gave a Fire School advisory updates, they are upgrading the WIFI in the door rooms, registration waiver changes are still in process, and they continue to move forward towards online testing and eBooks. The training and education committee is waiting on marching orders, we now have 90 individuals who have graduated from the officer academy. The 2025 Fire Service Improvement Conference call for presenters is open.

Health & Safety – Brad Kavetski – Bingo continues until June 1st, please continue to help us share, we have a Yeti cooler we will be giving away. Jacob Patrick and I presented at the Officers Academy on firefighter cancer.

By-Laws – Charles Lamoreaux – Procedure review of the by-laws for the officer academy has been sent back to them and they are putting them out to their members.

EMS – Billy Barnes – We attended the EMS symposium last week. We have finalized our Fire – Rescue speakers and are seeking CEU hours from DHEC.

Officer Section – Doug Cline – We are making an impact. By-Laws will be going out to the membership tomorrow. We will be working on a strategic plan with the officer section leadership and strategic planning committee. We are working on how to become financially sound. Election nominations are open until the 15th, and we will have our officer section meeting and training at the Fire-Rescue Conference on that Thursday afternoon.

NVFC – Jack Kirlin – AFG, SAFER are seeking USFA authorization. Thank the association for helping share information on the Nutella grant. NVFC will host another OSHA webinar on the 40 pages of change. They are encouraging folks to submit comments.

SCFIS – Memorial service was a huge success. The staff is busy processing claims. The SCFIS sponsored the Officer Academy.

Foundation – Jamie Caggiano – We have received a letter of intent from Sara Moore, she will begin with us on April 1st and will be assigned to the foundation, 50 percent of her salary will be from the association and 50 percent will be paid by the foundation. Sara come to us from Washington State. A challenge was issued by Jamie Helms that everyone to send in 5 names of potential businesses for Sara to visit. We need to update the foundation by-laws now that the Burn Children group is under the foundation, Joe Palmer is working on this. Zorrina and Staff are working on insurance coverage for the foundation and burn children group. Stephanie Julazedah is helping with assets and camp. Stephanie owns a company named Pheonix and the foundation contracts with that company. Gina with Mission BBQ has reached out to the foundation, they are opening a location on Harbison Blvd. in Columbia, on 4/26 from 6-9:00 pm will be their Fire Department Charity night and 100% of their proceeds will go to the Firefighter Foundation. We are working on getting items for the silent auction that will be held a Fire – Rescue.

Operations Report – Ashley Boltin

SCFAST – Patti Graham

Working on getting peers for the camp Can Do Preview weekend.

MIOB APRIL 4-7, 2024 Mile In Our Boots Clinician Academy* Hosted by Colleton County Fire Department

- The class is full of 16 participants.
- It will start with a cookout on April 4th at 5:00 pm
- We would love to see any of you throughout the weekend, even if it is a short time.
- While we have several from SC, we also have clinicians from Maryland, Virginia, California, New Jersey, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Florida

If you plan to attend and have NOT yet filled out a Volunteer Registration Form, please do so ASAP.

Training

- Team Meetings by Zoom Next week, 6 offerings.
- All 3–16-hour classes in Pickens County in January/February have been completed.
- Our 16-hour class at South Spartanburg Feb 26-27 for fire officers went very well, a working group is being formed to develop the program.

Upcoming Trainings

- May 1-2 Pickens County
- May 7-8 Lowcountry (Hampton County or Beaufort)
- May 28-29 Lugoff FD Officers

Working with SRS to Schedule a 16-hour class.

I will be happy to work with you to schedule one at your department/county.

We are getting additional trained instructors ready to deliver classes.

PEER CONNECT

- Continuing to onboard departments/agencies and complete training for individuals.
- We have over 100 agencies (including each county's coroner)
- We have reached the 2,500 members being supported; we will still be adding smaller departments.

SC Fire Sprinkler Coalition - Jeff Allen

Several meetings and events are on the schedule for the next couple of weeks.

- Aiken County Firefighters meeting Thursday night at Midland Valley FD
- Charleston Home Show Friday, Saturday, and Sunday this weekend
- CRR Summit with SC Fire Marshal Office in Anderson on Wednesday the 20th
- FF Memorial at the Academy on April 10
- Legislative Day April 17th
- Walk Like MADD at SCCJA on April 20th.

We have already covered Carter Jones & Rick Dunn report.

Fire – Rescue

- Exhibit Hall is filling up fast, if you know of someone who would like to be a vendor, please have them visit the website to sign up, we do still have some 10x10 spaces available.
- If you have not yet, please try on these sample shirts so that we can ensure we have your correct size for the conference.

2023 Leadership Institute will present individual projects on March 19th at the Association office. This group is preparing to graduate on Legislative Day April 17, 2024.

2024 Leadership Institute Phase 3 must be completed by Friday, March 15th at Midnight.

I look forward to attending Camp Can Do Preview Weekend.

I will be representing us at the FIERO Conference in Greenville next week, I will be working the registration desk and exhibits.

The Fallen Firefighters Memorial will be April 10, 2024 @ Academy Fallen Firefighter Memorial.

Administration Report – Brick Lewis

We are wrapping up collecting dues and forms. We have 13 departments that still are not in compliance.

Kim Bowman is working with Milliman and the launch of their website.

Brook – has worked hard capturing moments at the Officer Academy and continues to promote Women’s History Month. She has also been helping with several surveys.

3rd & 4th Vice President voting for 2024 will open on May 31 and run through Friday, June 14th at noon. A test vote email will be going out through Survey Monkey. This year the Conference App will be in full swing.

Executive Director Report

Staff continues to work on departments that are not compliant.

The Fallen Firefighter Memorial site is receiving an overhaul, medal masters made a Maltese cross and will be adding knock-out roses. We will be doing a fundraiser at the Fire–Rescue Conference selling stress relief bricks for \$10.00. Our booth this year will be in the center of the floor. We met with Myrtle Beach staff to negotiate contracts for 2025 & 2026.

As far as the new building, there has not been any movement. The Deputy Director position will remain open until filled. This is not a fast process.

The Chaplain search committee will meet later this month. Ricky Jenkins has been notified that he will serve as the interim Chaplain until filled. We are looking at developing an assistant chaplain team.

Retirement has a meeting being scheduled for April 18, 2024 at 10:00 (via zoom). There are lots of records in Greenville from Tolendano and Associates that we are trying to decide what to keep and what to get rid of.

Wendy Hummel will be coming to town on April 1st to discuss this printing of the magazine. 2025 will be our 150th Anniversary.

Playbook Review – Director Helms.

A motion was made by Randy Arant to approve moving forward with signing the 2025 & 2026 contracts as proposed and to ask Myrtle Beach to extend the contracts to five years; seconded by Josh Holzhermier. All in favor.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to move to an executive session to discuss personnel matters and to include Joe Palmer & Executive Director Jamie Helms; seconded by Kevin Henson. All in favor.

Executive Committee went into executive session.

Executive Committee came out of executive session.

Motion was made by Rand Arant to remove Zorrina Harmon from the Deputy Director interview panel, and for Executive Director Helms to find an “suitable outside replacement” for the panel; seconded by Josh Holzheimer. All in favor.

Motion to adjourned by Josh Holzhemier; seconded by Randy Arant. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned.

Online Reports Submitted

NVFC – Jack Kirlin - Training: Leadership Track: NVFC has launched a Leadership Track in the Virtual Classroom. OSHA update Webinar March 14 2pm Proposed OSHA Standard Update and What it Means for Volunteer Fire Departments On February 5, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a proposed rule revising its emergency response standard. This is the first time OSHA revised this standard since 1980, and the public has until May 6 to provide comments. This NVFC Roundtable Talk will highlight some of the biggest concerns with the proposed revised emergency standard, discuss which volunteers will be impacted, explain the NVFC's strategy for addressing the proposed revision, and suggest best practices for departments wishing to comment on the revisions. NVFC still pushing for the AFG/SAFER/USFA reauthorization. More than 1600 letters were sent to Congress through NVFC's Legislative Action Alert Center, and 139 members of Congress signed on to a letter of support. Enter to Win a \$5,000 Grant from Nutella® through "Stacks for Giving Back." Nutella has partnered with the NVFC to award \$5,000 grants to five deserving departments. To be eligible, departments must be over 50% volunteer, serve a population of 25,000 or less, be located in the U.S., and the individual applying or department chief must be a member of the NVFC. Apply by March 22. Pancake breakfast fundraiser kits also up for grabs. Many fire departments rely on donations received through fundraising activities such as pancake breakfasts. Nutella hopes to honor and celebrate all that firefighters do by providing them the materials and tasty products they need to hold a fundraising pancake breakfast. Now through March 22, consumers can nominate their local fire departments for a chance to receive a Nutella Pancake Breakfast Kit that contains the necessary supplies and ingredients, including pancake mix, to host their next delicious fundraiser. A total of 100 kits will be awarded.

Executive Committee Action Items

Complete the Legislative action alert for the AFG/SAFER/USFA reauthorization, if you haven't completed already.

Recruitment & Retention – Billy Dillon - Discussed the draft for Section 600 in the Chief Officer Handbook, Discussed the format in which to layout the resources and information on the web page. Discussed the current Sound the Siren web page. Discussed Incentives that may need to go through legislation. Reviewed some after action items from the FLSA Bootcamp presentation. Brick updated us on Form 101 being updated.

Supervisory – John Bowers - One percent Regional Classes, Expenditure forms.