

Executive Committee Minutes
February 13, 2024

Attendance: Malcolm Burns, Randy Arant, Tres Atkinson, Pierce Womack, Jason Dennis, Josh Holzheimer, John Bowers, Ross Vezin, Terry Sheriff, Brad Kevetski, Kevin Henson, Charles Lamoreaux, Billy Barnes, Mike Norket, Billy Dillon, Jamie Caggiano, Jamie Helms, Joe Palmer, Brick Lewis, Zorrina Harmon, Ashley Boltin, Guest: Ken Meadows

Call to Order & Welcome – President Malcolm Burns

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance – Joe Palmer

Opening Remarks – The president welcomed everyone and thanked them for being here today.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to accept the January 9, 2024 minutes as presented; seconded by Randy Arant. All in favor.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to accept the January 30, 2024 minutes as presented; seconded by Tres Atkinson. All in favor.

Committee Reports

Finance & Audit – Randy Arant – We received the audit, it looks good and Mr. Ken Meadows from Greene Finney Cauley, LLC is here to present the findings to you today.

The presentation was given by Ken Meadows.

Legislative – Tres Atkinson – A report was sent out, and Pyrotechnic safety adjustments Jamie Helms sat in on the House sub-committee meeting to oppose these changes. At this time the “Bill” was referred to discussion. Cancer “Bill” adjustments for the current policy Jamie Caggiano and Jamie Helms sat in on the House sub-committee meeting, with Chief Caggiano testifying. It was a good meeting that we and the professional firefighters testified, and we both were speaking the same message. Caggiano and Helms were asked after the meeting to sit with the attorney and make changes to the language on the residency requirements also, the policy currently lists forestry and forestry employees but not State Fire. The retroactive date we are working on making one date, hopefully, it will go to the full committee next week. The pyrotechnics were trying to increase their board size to give the pyrotechnics more of a voice and less of a voice on the safety side. Legislative day is April 17, 2024. Tres Atkinson took the oath of office for 2nd VP administered by Joe Palmer.

Advisory – Pierce Womack – The Advisory will meet on February 27th to review awards and make a selection.

4th VP - Jason Dennis – He is currently following the Legislative Committee.

Supervisory – John Bowers – They had 35 people at the Calhoun County Meeting, Coming up on March 4th will be Fairfield County, then Union and we are working with Surfside Beach and Summerville to host classes. The audit list has been sent out for 1% via Certified letters. Benefits – Ross Vezin – January 8th was our last meeting. We have secured a discount for Top Golf. Mattress Firm has saved many of our folks significant savings. We are still working with Active 911 & I am responding to try and work a discount. Great Job to Zorrina and the staff, the memorial service went very well.

Training & Education – Terry Sheriff - 256 folks trained with us at the Fire Service Improvement Conference, we have received 129 evaluations back and most are positive. 2024 Fire–Rescue classes are on the website and the advisory committee meets tomorrow.

Health & Safety – Brad Kavetski – We have started our second round of BINGO cards it will run from February 1 – June 1st. We have made a few small changes, those that turn them in will have a chance to win a Yeti Cooler. Jacob Patrick & Brad Kavetski will speak at the Officer Academy in March.

By-Laws – Charles Lamoreaux – The Officer section has requested minor changes to their current by-laws.

EMS – Billy Barnes – We met on January 29th. Our Podcast is currently on hold until we see what DEHC is going to do. We are working with the T&E committee to finalize Fire – Rescue Speakers for the EMS track.

Conference – Mike Norket – The committee met, and we have reviewed some changes for this year. We are excited to have the app for all attendees, some things we are looking at for this year are Stars & Stripes, Wonderworks, and a Fun Run. With the app, there is a gamification piece we look to have a scavenger hunt while folks are coming to the conference & for the vendors. We are looking to revamp the Kid Zone area.

Recruitment & Retention – Billy Dillon – We brought on John Smith from Dillon County to the committee. On February 23rd we will be hosting the FLSA Bootcamp with speaker Curt Varone. Today we have 87 registered. Will Catoe, Ashley & the academy have met on the Junior Firefighter program and hosting a Jr. firefighter weekend in 2025. The explorer competition will be moving to Saturday at the beach this year. We have sent out a survey to try and see who in our state has a program. Bryan Riebe & Billy Dillon are working on a chapter in the Fire Chief handbook.

SCFIS – Zorrina Harmon - Thank you for your support at the Memorial Service, we have had lots of calls about the Beach Bash for Fire – Rescue Conference. I wanted to share with you all from a national standard point of view, that we are the only organization in the nation collecting the information in our database, according to the Social Security Administration. We are excited to offer all of our discounts, but the Mattress Firm, Dell Computer, and Chase Bank are very popular. Chase Bank is offering 50% off foreclosed homes for firefighters and no closing cost.

Foundation – Jamie Caggiano – We are collecting items for the silent auction at Fire-Rescue this year. Golf registration is open as well. Our funds are growing, we have interviews this Thursday for 2 individuals for our director of development position. Burn Children’s Fund’s final documents have been signed and they will be transferred \$458,000 to the foundation, we look forward to a long-standing relationship with them.

Operations Team Report – Ashley Boltin

SC FAST – Patti Graham

Mile In Our Boots Clinician Academy APRIL 4-7, 2024

- Hosted by the Colleton County Fire Department
- The class is full of 16 participants.
- It will start with a cookout on April 4th at 5:00 pm
- While we have several from SC, we also have clinicians from:
 - Maryland
 - Virginia
 - California
 - New Jersey
 - North Carolina
 - Wisconsin
 - Florida

TRAINING

- Pickens County January/February has been completed.
- South Spartanburg Feb 26-27 for fire officers.
- Future Scheduling Get with me to Schedule one at your department/county.
 - I am working with Beaufort, Hampton, and Allendale counties for a 16-hour class.
 - We are working with SRS to Schedule a 16-hour class.
 - Patti will be speaking at the Vision 20/20 CRR Conference next week.

PEER CONNECT

- Have a Steering Committee Meeting this Thursday.
- Continuing to onboard departments/agencies and complete training for individuals.
- We have reached the 2,500 members being supported; we will still be adding smaller departments.

Training & Education – Rick Dunn

FSIC

The 2024 Fire Service Improvement Conference was completed. Here is the recap:

- 256 participants completed the event.
- 11 classes hosted in 6 different locations.
- Friday evening event was well attended.
- 127 evaluations were completed, very positive in all aspects.

Fire-Rescue

- We have 40 classes confirmed and signed teaching agreements from 29 instructors.
- I still need information for a few programs to include EMS, SC FAST & DE
- The Fire-Rescue website has been updated with current information.

Officer Section Leadership

- The Officer Section has sent draft bylaw changes to the Bylaw committee. Waiting for the feedback on these.
- Nominations for leadership positions for the 2024-25 term are now open and communicated with the section.
- The roster for the section is being cleaned up to make sure all are members of the association.

Officer Academy

- FOA 24-01 will begin March 3-8, 2024, at the SC Fire Academy.
- 25 students have completed all required work and submitted forms.

Memorial Service

- I am working on the final video for the families.

Fire Sprinkler Coalition Chairman – Jeff Allen

Sign Trailer

- Has been used the last month in Greenville Area
- Cross Hill
- Now in Fairfield County

Up Coming Meetings

- Tuesday, February 13th - Pee Dee FC in Lee County at 7:00 pm
- Monday, February 19th - Lower State FF, Govan FD at 7:00 pm
- Thursday, February 22nd - Pickens County FC, Norris FD

Home Shows

- Columbia Home Show, Friday February 23rd, Saturday February 24th and Sunday February 25th

History – Carter Jones

- Finished researching the story on the late Fitz H. McMaster & Chief Louis Behrens...currently at printers...about his relationship & early beginning of State Fire
- I was working with w/an ETV/PBS producer on completing the Cleveland School Fire documentary & filming an 8th grader who used this fire as a research project (Gary Finkle's daughter).
 - Also, early plans for a limited "early premier" of the documentary hopefully before the Conference in June
- Leadership Institute at Hickory Knob
- Representing Assoc. at Pee Dee FFs Assoc. & Lower State FFs

- Assisting Gene Ball & Phil Jolley with/ locating any families (descendants) of two LODDs (1881 & 1964). Utilizing help from an archivist in Greenville for 1881 death.
- Plans to visit Beaufort to explore the possibility of acquiring an 1874 steam fire engine.
- Attended the funeral of Art Baker (brother of Past Pres. Bobby Baker) of Sumter

2023 Leadership Institute

- Leadership Institute meet this month in Hickory Knob we had a good weekend.
- Their next meeting will be March 19th to present their Individual Projects before graduating in April.

2024 Leadership Institute

- 12 participants are currently working to complete phase 3.

Fall Work Session March 12 / 13 -15, 2024

- I have everyone a hotel room booked, if you have questions or if you are not able to attend, please let me know as soon as possible.

Legislative Day April 17, 2024

- We have secured parking for our attendees.
- The escort list will be up for folks to sign up very soon.

Fire – Rescue

- The Conference committee has met to discuss the attendee experience.
- Shirt – Please check with me before you leave today to make sure I have your current size.
- We are working with Mike Gagliano & Paul Combs and hope to have our T-shirt design to share soon.
- Hotel rooms are currently sold out for our public block. We have added as many extras as we can.
- Master Staff Block – I am working on hotel rooms, need to know if you want a King or 2 double beds. Also, I need to know if your date will be altered from Tuesday (June 11) – Sunday (June 16).
- Volunteers sign up will be up on our website very soon.

Administration Team Report – Brick Lewis

They reviewed the list of Departments that are delinquent and staff is reaching out to get these departments in compliance.

Brook is working hard on Social Media posts, interviewing to tell the stories for black history month and Women's History Month, she is working with Burn Camp to support them.

We will be working on a fundraiser for the Fallen Firefighter Memorial at the academy, so it is time to update the site.

Director Helms' Report

The Deputy Director position has been posted, and we have received a few applications. We are researching Retirement options for the association, as requested by the Executive Committee.

For Legislative Day, Bryan Riebe has brought to our attention this is the 10th anniversary of the state curriculum for the CTC programs, we currently have 37 programs. We will be recognizing them at Legislative Day.

We had a vehicle accident, Patti Graham's we are currently waiting on insurance to tell us what the status of the vehicle.

Lunch

Jason Pope joined the meeting and gave a State Fire update.

There is new campus security, new banners, and signage for the State Fire branding.

VSAFE is open, 100% of the eligible departments have completed paperwork to say they want funds for this year. This year VSAFE will allow funds to be used for Station Renovations.

There will be a change soon for Student Waivers, there will be some changes coming but we will keep you updated before the change is made.

Old Business

New Business

There are major Federal OSHA Changes coming down the pipe. We are in a 90-day public comment period. This has been 17 years in the making. We will be putting together a purposeful, working steering group if you or someone you know is interested in being a part of this group, please send those names to us. Director Helms will send out a link to a webinar that some of them sat in on, it is very informative.

March Playbook Review.

Camp Can Do Preview weekend will be March 15 -17, 2024 if you are interested in attending, reach out to Stephanie Julazadah.

Questions from Director Helms.

1. Is EMR still being offered? We have heard rumors from the McCormick county area that EMR may be going away.
2. Communications Ad- hoc committee; is this an active committee or not? They have not had a meeting in quite some time. No action was taken but the feel of the Executive Committee was that it should turn into the Communications & Technology Committee. The group will discuss further at next month's strategic planning meeting.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to appoint Ricky Jenkins as an interim Chaplain and ask that the Chaplain search committee review and vet all applications that have been

received and develop a list of those that could be assisting chaplains from around the state; seconded by Randy Arant. 10 in favor, Tres Atkinson abstained from the vote.

A motion was made at 1:32 to adjourn; seconded by Tres Atkinson. All in favor.

Online Reports Submitted

Officer Section – Matt Tidwell - Officers Section By-Laws update and discussion on changes to be provided to the section at the annual meeting after approval of the executive board. The annual Officers Section meeting will be held on June 13, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the Fire and Rescue Conference. Welcome letters for the new fire officers section members and upcoming election letters will be sent out soon for the election of the 1st and 2nd vice chairs, secretary, and treasurer. Deputy Chief Kevin Henson spoke with the leadership team about strategic planning. Team members discussed the value of creating an officer's section mentorship program. Members will continue to discuss the creation of sub-committees to engage membership for the officer's section programs, for example, "The Fire Officers Academy" and "The Jive."

Strategic Planning – Kevin Henson - Discussed the current progress of items within the strategic plan. Discussed the upcoming (March) planning retreat - developed themes and ideas *Most of the strategic planning committee is planning on attending the retreat*

Executive Committee Action Items

I have one item for the executive committee: It is my recommendation that Chief Doug Cline be invited to the March planning retreat as a representative from the Officers' Section. I spoke with Matt Tidwell to get his recommendation, and he recommended Chief Cline. As the incoming chair, Chief Cline wishes to align the strategic plan (to be developed) for the Officers' Section with the Executive Committee and the Association's strategic plan. I agree with this methodology.

Supervisory – John Bowers -

1. January 29th, 2024, Calhoun County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Sandy Run Calhoun VFD - (36) Registered for the class; (35) attendees; (10) Fire Departments Represented, Calhoun County Treasurer; (3) Counties represented by attendees. 2. March 4, 2024, Fairfield County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Fairfield County Fire Service. We currently have (34) registrants. 3. April 30, 2024, Union County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Bonham FD. We currently have (41) registrants. 4. Working with Surfside Beach FD to host a 1% Regional Training Class for Horry County. 5. Working with Summerville FD to host a 1% Regional Training Class for Dorchester County. 6. Would like to secure additional host departments for 2024 1% Classes. If anyone is interested, please let me know. • The audit spreadsheet that lists departments that were chosen and required a 1% audit this year was emailed to Greene Finney Cauley, LLP on January 10th, 2024. • All 1% certified notification letters were mailed to departments by January 26th, 2024. • 1% Audits are currently being conducted by Greene Finney Cauley, LLP auditing team. • Daily task of 1% job duties – 2024 Budgets are being submitted, processing 2023 1% Forms 206 & 207.

Health & Safety – Brad Kavetski - The second round of H&S Bingo began Feb. 1st with small changes to hopefully get more members involved. Each block on the bingo card completed is 1 entry into the drawing for a Yeti cooler. We will do a better job advertising the prize. Jacob Patrick and I will be at FOA in March giving a brief presentation on Firefighter Cancer and sharing his cancer story with the group.