Executive Committee Meeting
Virtual
August 11, 2026

Attendance: Jason Dennis, Ross Vezin, Billy Barnes, Pierce Womack, Ben Waring, Terry Sheriff, Brent McClellan, Larry Kardos, Ryan Eubanks, Charles Lamoreaux, John Smith, Tom Gwyer, Rickie Jenkins, John Bowers, Randy Arant, Jennifer Thackston, Matt Rhoton, Joe Palmer, Ben Williams, Rick Cramer, Jamie Caggiano, Jack Kirlin, Keith Minick, Zorrina Harmon, Brook Dennis, Brick Lewis, Jamie Helms, Ashley Boltin

10:05 am Meeting called to order by President Dennis

Thank you for jumping on it is a busy week with travel.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance by Chaplain Jenkins

A motion by Ross Vezin to approve the July 16, 2026, minutes as presented; seconded by Brent McClellan. All in favor.

Committee Reports
Finance & Audit (Helms) Meeting scheduled for August 24th to review the current status of the budget and to review and approve the budget for FY 26 -27. In person in Columbia. Reviewing the 1% funds for distribution for this year.

Legislative (Helms) Conference Committee waiting on who the final group is. They are in session today and voting on the budget as proposed and a resolution to handle their earmarks.

Advisory – Ross – Company officer academy review. Next up is the Leadership Institute apps are due by August 31st. Help us continue to spread the word; we have 4 applications so far. We cap the number of participants it at 12.

4th VP – Billy Barnes Nothing to report.

Past Presidents (Helms) – Planning to do quarterly get-togethers for past presidents, looking into items such as a shirt & lapel pin that are bigger. Planning these events in the next couple of weeks with Chairman Womack.

Supervisory – (Lewis) – July 28th held their regional class 25 in attendance hosted by Cayce, August 28th in Beaufort class will be hosted by Beaufort Port Royal so far over 30 folks registered so far. Chief Shumake with Darlington County Fire District; they are interested in hosting a meeting in the coming months. Corinth Shiloh in Oconee County use to be volunteer now a STD if you have seen the news there is a lot going on. They voted to dissolve the volunteer fd and create a tax district, we were told it was a merger but

obviously it is not just a name changes, so volunteer dept. is nonexistent, and the tax district was created but they did not file for membership, so we cannot recognize it until June 2027. The Vol department has approximately 43,000 in 1% funds and the tax district cannot receive the monies, past or the new being issued in August. A letter has been sent to the department that they cannot spend the money because the volunteer department is not in existence, per their County to State Fire, and further the new tax district cannot receive because they are not established as a member department of the Association. We have met with both parties and explained that all current fu1% funds must be returned to the County, to be redistributed to other county departments. Also, new money being distributed this August must be returned to the County for redistribution. We are in communication with all of parties going forward.

Pierce Womack – Contact list for the Past Presidents, going to hammer a date for a meal and meeting in September. Talked to Helms and Ashley to try and get them together quarterly throughout the year: Christmas party, springtime, and Fire – Rescue. Work in the budget some items. Anything pertinent, and anything they would like to do, send it my way.

Member Benefits – Ryan Eubanks – met on July 23rd in person at the Sheriff Association. Marcia & Director Helms were in the room with us. Gave an insurance benefits look, exclusives look like and reviewed your goals. VSAFE, Retiree Health Care, Exact science for cancer guard, and Cologuard. Fire K out of the Augusta area cancer screenings for free. Adopted meeting schedule for the year. Continue to work with DNR, Food Delivery services, and other old business we continue with potential members' benefits. Condolences to Safe Industries on the loss of an employee last week. At the Collision facility the old Anderson Brother's facility. Working with OSHA since Friday.

Training & Education – Terry Sheriff – Everything is in the report that was submitted. Make note: normally, we have a fire school advisory meeting, but it has been moved to next week. Wednesday August 19th.

Health & Safety – Brent McClellan – Will meet this week and will have more updates; look at the basic grassroots firefighter physicals for those that don't have access to the larger companies that perform the OSHA physicals. Better fitness and nutrition; looking forward to next week with the stakeholder meeting.

Strategic Planning – Larry Kardos – Meeting scheduled for the 24th of August. We had a vacancy that has been filled with Michael Vantroost from Lexington County Fire Service.

Bylaws – Lamoreaux – Just waiting for marching orders, and a meeting with President Dennis and Executive Director Helms

EMS – John Smith – Report sent, but we have had a discussion with Joe Palmer on OSHA and we are looking forward to the stakeholders meeting; August 27th is our next meeting.

Conference

Chaplaincy Committee – Rickie Jenkins – Doing a Basic Chaplaincy Course at Conference. Improvement conference.

History & Heritage - John Bowers - They will be traveling & we received a piece from the Greenwood City Fire 1870.

Recruitment & Retention – Randy Arant – Met on July 29th, productive meeting. Discussed VSAFE Funds; we are all for pursuing that. Setting up a joint meeting with R&R and Member Benefits Committee. Continue to pursue the survey and recruitment & retention summit. Good discussion on technology and firefighting programs.

Technology & Communications – Jennifer Thackstson – Busy with personal transitions. Hoping to get back in our regular meeting hopefully for August 27th.

Emergency Management – Matt Rhoton – August is Emergency Management month for SC. We continue to monitor the tropics, continue with preparedness, looking to consolidate the grants list, state fire reimbursement in the guides. Meeting will be scheduled soon.

OSHA – Joe Palmer – Emailed report; next week is a milestone event. To be held next Tuesday the 18th at Seawells. Created a document; we have arrived at version 35, near complete. We have one subpart that we have to get activated. Our creation phase is transitioning to our education phase. Next week we have a great representation outside of our organization, federal level and state level. We are seeing that most people who have heartache have not read the document.

Officer Section – Ben Williams - Met on August 7th – started out with an update from Brook on FOA, reviewed our strategic plan for the year. Will meet next month.

Foundation – Jamie Caggiano - Golf 42,210 total, & Silent Auction a total of 49, 837. Tomorrow will be going to talk to Mission BBQ for the foundation. Another exciting thing: Fire Department Coffee fundraiser for the month of October. The shirt & Coffee they will be selling. We have one opening on the foundation.

Jack Kirlin – we have not got any recent updates, next month we will be going to Kentucky to our meeting.

Staff Reports

Brook Dennis – Report

- Presented Fire-Rescue check-in numbers and social media analytics
- Working with Supervisory Committee, Jeff, and Jana to film a One Percent overview update
    - Scheduled for Sept 14

- All systems are a-go for FSIC registration
    - Based on SCFR surveys, we identified folks who want HOT classes and will send direct message about FSIC

Director Helms added thank you for the hard work, and our numbers are getting better with more accurate information. “I don’t pay attention to the numbers but more of the vibe and people’s comments and our exhibitor comments mean more than numbers”.

Ashley Boltin – Rick Dunn – Committee is working on collecting Call for Presenters until September 30th. Working on finalizing schedule for Fire Service Improvement Conference January 21 – 24, 2027 in Columbia. They are working on Fire Rescue 2027, and our Quarterly training will be October 21st in Florence Keynote is Richard Ray.
The Training Officer Academy continues in there working groups prepping for a final product. Fire Officer Academy will be September 27th – October 2nd.

Greg Bulanow – Leadership applications for 2027 close on August 31st. The Leadership Institute will meet at State Fire this month on August 25th
Kim Bowman – Retirement will meet August 17th.

Carter – Continues to keep us busy working on history with different departments around the state. We have already talked about the committee members traveling to the Fire Heritage Museum Conference. We have been a recipient of many items over the last several weeks. Small items such as nozzles up to 1870, a steam engine, and hose cart reels.

Brick Lewis – **1% ACCOUNTING SERVICES – JANA KASSIANOS**

- Preparing for October invoicing
- Monthly accounts payable/receivables

MEMBER OUTREACH – JEFF ALLEN

- Scheduling sign trailer and burn trailer for October – Fire Prevention Month
- Scheduling Home Shows

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – KIM VOISINE

Database

- Past Presidents
- Move self-pay members to their own account and roster
- Continues updating/cleanup

Recruitment and Retention

- Had first meeting of 2026/2027 year on
- See attached monthly volunteer/career inquiry report

EMS

- First meeting for 2026/2027 is scheduled for August 27th, at the annex

1% CORRDINATOR – JEFF OSWALD

- July 28, 2026, Lexington County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by City of Cayce FD. (25) Attendees; (13) fire departments represented; (10) Counties represented by attendees.
- August 28, 2026, Beaufort County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by City of Beaufort/Port Royal FD. Class registration link was created on May 27, 2026. We have received (32) registrants for the class.
- Received email from Chief John Shoemake of Darlington County Fire District, on 01/13/2026, informing me they are interested in hosting a 1% Regional Training Class for Darlington County after SCSFA Fire-Rescue Conference. I will be working with him and Molly Odom to schedule a date for the class in 2026.
- Have been discussing, with contacts, future 1% Regional Training Classes in Aiken, Spartanburg, Charleston Counties.
- The update for the 1% Overview video is scheduled for September 14, 2026, at the Sheriff's Association from 10AM - 2PM.
- Would like to secure additional host departments for 2026-2027 1% Classes. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

- FD meetings/classes in August – Murrells Inlet-Garden City (08/03-08/05); Georgetown City FD (08/03-08/05); Oconee County - Corinth-Shiloh (08/19); Beaufort County 1% Regional Training Class (08/28)
- Daily task of 1% job duties
- Audit tasks - working with departments that have been audited.

SC FAST DIRETOR – PATTI GRAHAM

- **Training**
- Upcoming Peer
- Boiling Spring FD Officers
    - South Greenville-February 9-10
    - Prisma EMS Greenville – Date TBD

- SCFAST 101
- Lake Cunningham FD – Oct 13
    - Boiling Springs Fire District – September 14/16/18
    - Daufuskie Island FD – Date TBD
- **PCIS-Post Critical Incident Seminar**
    - Date – November 8 Team arrival, meet & setup event November 9-11
    - Event Site – Barefoot Landing Conference Center – North Myrtle Beach
    - Host Hotel – Marriott
    - Registration – Opened Aug
        - Opened August 7
- **Loving and Living with a First Responder**
    - Planning for Beaufort Fire
- **Mile In Our Boots – April 22-27**
- Colleton County Fire Department
- Working on Schedule & CE offerings through NBCC (National Board of Certified Counselors)
- **PeerConnect**
    - Funding
        - PeerConnect funding through December 2026

- **SC FAST Responses- May/June/July**
- June 9 – Fairfield County brother of EMS member. -suicide
- July 9 – McCormick County 16 year old suicide
- July 15 – Williamsburg County – 9 month old fatality
- July 30 – Circle FD-Saluda County-Department ran the call for past fire chief who passed after cardiac arrest
- Upcoming Seminars/Conferences
- SCSFAST Coordinators attending Science to Station – Nov 3-5
- **Outreach**
- Met with Dr. Matt McKeithan https://yourkindofhappy.org I am looking forward to working with him, he will be a resource for first responders throughout the state.
- Boiling Springs Greenville Benefits Fair Night-with Zorrina, and etc.
- Lunch meeting with Battle Buddies-they want to open their program to first responders-Service Dogs and Facility dogs
- Met again with SRS to get Fire Department Peer Support Team Started
- Coordinator Kim Rider went to Charleston for Lowcountry Firefighter Support Team Behavioral Health Summit 7/16
- Still working with Hoofbeats Ranch (Lindsay McDade) on connecting FDs/Agencies with her horse connection wellness programs. 3/28
- Peer to Cherokee County meeting (monthly)

Jamie Helms – Past presidents we did put them on our roster; we had some that were not paying for their benefits, but now by being on our roster, they will continue to have them. Finance & Audit are working through budget stuff now; we are looking good. Our expenses were controlled better last year. Staying on top of the Conference committee to try and get earmarks pushed through. We have a meeting with Founders Credit Union in the next couple of weeks to talk about the building.
151 Updates – we were cautious on landscaping needs last year; now we are working out better this year. We are confident that come October we should have money to get us started on phase 1 of the second floor. A lot more comfortable in the Annex building with the addition of the air conditioning. We appreciate you allowing staff to give you more details.

Old Business

Fire – Rescue Review (Brook did this during her staff report)

Building Update – (Jamie Helms covered during his report)

New Business

Retirement replacement for Chuck Black, who passed away; our recommendation is Cory Chinn. This recommendation has to come from the Executive Committee.

A motion by Ross Vezin to have Cory Chinn from Clear Springs Fire Department; seconded by Ryan Eubanks. All in favor.
Roll Call: Ross Vezin, Billy Barnes, Pierce Womack, Ryan Eubanks, Brent McClellan, Jason Dennis. All in favor. Recused himself: Larry Kardos.

September will be very busy: State Chief's Conference coming up, FRI travel, and NCSAFR travel

Playbook review for September – Jamie Helms

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. by Ross Vezin; seconded by Larry Kardos. All in favor.

Online Reports

Conference Committee - Confirmed all members will continue on the committee for the 2027 event. Ken Norton will replace Billy Floyd as the North Myrtle Beach representative. Next meeting scheduled for Aug 26.

Finance & Audit - July financial statement approved and forwarded to committee on 8/7/2026

Training & Education - T&E Committee: Committee met to review the goals from President Dennis. Discussed and Reviewed Fire-Rescue 2026 class numbers, instructor feedback, and suggestions for F/R 2027. Committee reviewed the draft schedule for FSIC 2027 and discussed future planning and logistics. Training Officer Working Group: All subcommittee's have met and reviewed all the objectives. Information from the meetings will begin drafting the curriculum and begin building a schedule. May have a draft to provide to the EC in September. SCFA Advisory: Reviewing the current By-Laws to make sure they are updated to the State Statute. Meeting date has changed to Wednesday, August 19th @ 1000 due to multiple events occurring.

Member Benefits - Meeting called to order with a strong quorum at the SC Sheriffs Association at 10:03a. Chairman Eubanks opened with welcoming the members and thanking them for their commitment. The committee members provided brief introductions. Marcia Greer with SCFIS provided an overview of insurance benefits and member exclusives. Chairman Eubanks briefed the committee of President Dennis' goals for this cycle. New Business: Discussion related to improvements to income protection policies to supplement volunteer members injured while in performance of their duties. Some specific conversation related to VSafe funding and volunteer member-specific policies. Additional discussion related to the current position of volunteer and career members with Workers' Compensation. Specific discussion related to potential options for improvement. The committee agreed to continue the discussion while working jointly with the Recruitment/Retention committee. Possible coordination may also be needed with the Legislative committee. Retiree insurance was also discussed. The committee will continue to work with SCFIS to explore viable and affordable options. The committee has been approached by Exact Sciences (Abbott) for a potential partnership with their CancerGuard and ColonGuard for members. The committee agreed to invite Exact Sciences to present at a upcoming meeting. Daniel Smith brought forward a similar organization (FireK) that assists firefighters with cancer screening. The committee also agreed to meet with FireK at an upcoming meeting. The committee discussed the meeting schedule for this cycle. The committee moved to adopt the following meeting dates. 09/03/26, 11/05/26, 01/07/27, 03/04/27, and 05/06/27. The committee will also meet as needed or requested. Old business: The committee discussed engagement on member exclusives. Staff will review web portal clicks related to marketing/media pushes from previous cycle to determine effect. The committee will continue to work on a potential member exclusive for SCDNR hunting/fishing licensing discount. This conversation remains young. The current discussion with SCDNR is related to financial impact. Will Glover is heading the conversation and will report back. The committee remains supportive of continued work for meal discount exclusives. The committee is continuing to discuss and gather potential options for discussion. Adjourned. Next meeting is virtual on 09/03/26.

EMS - We are looking at three specific topics in our August Meeting: Previous activities of the committee that are not yet completed, current OSHA Draft and EMS Association's input for Subpart B (EMS), and EMS Training Track focus ideas to discuss with T&E about Fire Rescue '27.