

**Executive Committee Minutes**  
**January 14, 2025**  
**Association Office**

**Attendance:**

**In Person:** Joe Palmer, Billy Barnes, Kevin Henson, Marcia Greer, Jamie Caggiano, Ross Vezin, Terry Sheriff, Rickie Jenkins, John Bowers, Mike Norket, Brad Kavetski, Kevin Henson, Kevin Crosby, Jack Kirlin, Greg Bulanow, Jamie Helms, Brick Lewis, Ashley Boltin

**Online:** Randy Arant, Pierce Womack, Tom Gwyer, Jason Dennis, Charles Lamoreux

President Arant welcomed everyone.

***A motion was made by Malcolm Burns to accept the minutes form December 10<sup>th</sup> & December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as presented; seconded by Mike Norket. All in favor.***

**Committee Reports**

**Legislative:** Jason Dennis – Our state has a 1.8 billion-dollar surplus this year. We will be pushing Palmetto 800 infrastructure. Also, there's some legislation being introduced involving "Daniels Law". This legislation will put conditioned boxes at each station with a method of "alert" to let someone know there is something in the box.

**Finance & Audit:** Pierce Womack – We will be forwarding out the December financials.

**Advisory:** Mike Norket – Award submission is due at the end of this month.

**4<sup>th</sup> VP:** Kevin Henson – I am still learning from Rick Dunn; we will be reviewing the next officer academy applicants on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Past President Section:** Malcolm Burns – We are working on a date for our next Past President meeting.

**Supervisory:** John Bowers – Last night we held a meeting at Boiling Spring Greenville County in their new station we had 55 in attendance. On February 24<sup>th</sup> we will host a meeting at Abbeville County registered so far are 32, March 3<sup>rd</sup> Saluda County there are 21 Registered so far. We are working with Chief Murray at Cheraw about hosting a meeting.

**Member Benefits:** Ross Vezin – We met last Tuesday; please take a look at the website we have rebranded our discount page to Member Exclusives. We are working with Fire News to publish a page on member benefits and discounts.

**Training & Education:** Terry Sheriff – The committee has been working hard on the FSI conference and the Fire – Rescue Conference. FSI conference has 275 people registered. Friday night event 120. Registration will cut off on January 17, 2025. We only have 2 non-members signed up. Academy updated, the academy is transitioning from OSHA HazMat to

a Haz Mat Technician this bill be a 48-hour class and will begin on February 1<sup>st</sup>. March the academy will host their first recruit style EMS class.

Health & Safety: Brad Kavetski- Januarys Safety Spotlight is on Firefighter Cancer Awareness. Jacob Patrick & Le Hopkins did a podcast to help highlight this. You may have received an email from me on IAFF Missions, the Norris family is from Abbeville, SC and are looking for firefighting equipment donations for Ecuador. If you have any donations, please feel free to reach out.

Strategic Plan: Billy Barnes – We have signed a contract with Bill Tomes & the College of Charleston. Our committee will be meeting with him in the next week.

By-Laws: Charles Lamoreaux – We have not been assigned any task, so we have no report.

EMS: Kevin Crosby – My report was submitted online, but I will be happy to answer any questions. Stop the bleed kits - working to finish the proposal for presentation to the EC. Committee will review the proposal during our next meeting scheduled at the end of March. FR2025 class presentation - Joey Campbell will be presenting a class on Human Trafficking on June 12th. Pod Cast - working on finalizing the creation of a pod cast that will provide information to the state regarding various topics including agency licensure, cost, regulation, and much more. OSHA Rule - subgroup of individuals was put together to work on the EMS section of the proposed OSHA rule. Members consist of Aaron Dix and Mark Weber from PRISMA EMS, Brian Pothier and Steve Austin from Greenville County EMS, and Julie McCabe from Charleston Fire/SCEMSA.

Conference Committee: Tom Gwyer – Movie night in Conway has been confirmed for in the park. We are working with the City of Myrtle Beach special events coordinator on potentially incorporating the beach into the conference a little more, such as maybe hosting the run, or devotion or something like that. We need support and direction from the Executive Committee on our proposal for a diversity breakfast/lunch. If we are going to try and do this it will take a little planning. President Arant said he would get back with Chief Gwyer on this.

Chaplaincy: Rickie Jenkins – Working with the SC Public Safety Chaplains they are looking to revamp their training.

Community Engagement: Mickey Folsom – No report but are with Chief Gwyer on possible breakfast/lunch.

OSHA: Joe Palmer – There are 2 parts to this. First off is the Federal and public testify have ended, and written comments are open. We will be submitting it from our state tomorrow. There is a large push to try and exempt volunteer fire service, but we don't feel this is a great move. We will continue to monitor. From a state perspective we are developing a SC draft plan of 19.10.156 and creating subparts to it. We have broken it down and have a group of

experts in each section working to make what would work best in our opinion for South Carolina. We are working and hope to have something ready by the summer to present for public comments.

Office Section: Chief Cline absent Ashley reported that they continue to work on there strategic plan and hope to have something to present to their membership in June.

SCFSI: Zorrina will report on Memorial Service under Old Business.

Foundation: Jamie Caggiano – Jason Pope hosted Leadership South Carolina and alumni at the academy last week, it was a great event. This years Leadership South Carolina group project is focused on helping the Circle Fire Department community. There will be more details coming about this. Golf Registration is open for Fire – Rescue and we are gearing up for our Silent Auction, if you have any donations please send them our way. We are working to replace Sarah; our board will meet to discuss our goals and direction in the next several weeks.

NVFC: Jack Kirlin – NVFC is finalizing their comments for the OSHA. They will be hositng a training in Salt Lake, Utah June 19 -21, 2025.

## **Staff Reports**

### **Brick Lewis**

#### **Communications Coordinator**

- **Project: Marketing Intern research/getting into Handshake**  
Status: Ongoing  
Needs: After a good bit of research, I think our best bet is it move forward with posting the internship/job description to Handshake. We anticipate having the internship posted by end of January.
- **Project: Member Benefits requests – Web updates + content schedule**  
Status: Mostly complete  
Needs: I updated the Member Benefits page to Member Exclusives, updated the page graphic and intro paragraph, and sent a list of broken links to Marcia, Zorrina, and Ross. I also included a suggested timeline for sharing Member Exclusives. Ross liked the schedule and sent to the committee.
- **Project: Theme month interviews**  
Status: Ongoing  
Needs: Interview and articles for Women’s History Month in March are completed. February is Black History Month, and I still need to get those interviews on the calendar. I have several names on my list for Volunteer Week.

- **Project: SC-TF1 beautified packet for legislature**  
Status: Ongoing  
Needs: Waiting on quote from Colonial Printing.
- **Project: SCFR25 app**  
Status: Upcoming  
Needs: I am caught up with where Rick is on the agenda for Eventur. I will start getting deep into app work in the coming weeks.

**Information on 1% Classes:**

- **January 13, 2025, Greenville County** 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Boiling Springs FD, Greenville Co. Registration link was made available on August 30, 2024. We had (50) to register for the class.
- **February 24, 2025, Abbeville County** 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Abbeville County. Registration link was made available on August 20, 2024. We currently have (32) registrants.
- **March 3, 2025, Saluda County** 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Saluda County Fire Service. Original Class was postponed due to LODD of Circle VFD Chief Satcher and Firefighter Bodie. (34) had registered for the class. New class registration link was made available on November 26, 2024. I sent an email to all registrants of the postponed class and asked them to re-register using the new link for the class. We currently have (21) registrants for the rescheduled class.
- **Chief Marvin Murray of Cheraw FD** has offered to host a 1% Regional Training Class for Chesterfield County in 2025. We last conducted a 1% Regional Training Class for Chesterfield County on November 21, 2019. I followed up with Chief Murray last week and we are supposed to discuss potential dates for the Chesterfield County Class this week (01/13-01/17)
- Would like to secure additional host departments for 2025 1% Classes. If anyone is interested, please let me know.
- **FD meetings/classes in January** – Boiling Springs FD, Greenville Co. (01/13 – 1% Regional Training Class)
- **Working on AUP 2024 Audits** Spreadsheet/Letters for Follow-Up Audits; Will provide list of fire departments that require a Follow-Up audit to Greene Finney Cauley, LLP by this week (01/13-01/17). After I provide the list with the information for Follow-Up audits, I will work on the same for the 2024 Initial Audits.

- **Reviewing/Processing Forms 206 & 207** – Taking time to review all department's Forms 205 to ensure they correspond with the names of their LBoT members on their submitted 2024 Form 207.

### **SCFAST EC Report**

- Congratulations to Patti Graham for graduating from the Public Safety Chaplaincy programs through the Lutheran Theological Seminary. The program was 18 months, and she is not entered into the next phase, clinical pastoral education. This training gives Patti and SC FAST a unique prospective on how chaplaincy and SC FAST roles can work in conjunction. Patti has been a chaplain since 2009. The next Public Safety Chaplaincy Certification starts in April 2025 and there are still spots remaining. Reach out to Chaplain Eric Skidmore [eskidmore@sled.sc.gov](mailto:eskidmore@sled.sc.gov) or 803.206.8961 for more information.
- Started the month off by training with 14 members of the North Myrtle Beach Public Safety Peer Team. Spent eight hours teaching them about SCFAST and training them in our curriculum. They are trained in CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management).
- Presented to Travelers Rest City Hall employees about mental wellness and info about SCFAST specifically to the first responders present. 30 people. Got to spend time with some of the FF's after. Also got to speak with the Fire and Police Chiefs about Resources available to First Responders.
- SCEMD Region One Meeting, presented on SCFAST, resources and trainings available. 28 people attees. Was asked to speak at July 10, 2025 EMD meeting in Columbia.
- 2 Day Peer Training in Edgefield County-2 students. Despite the low number after four registered students backed out last minute, it was one of the best classes for sharing and conversations. EMD Director was in class and felt it was worth spending the time to have him as a trained resource for the county and state.
- Had 1<sup>st</sup> year end on Peer Connect meeting via Teams. (I can add more about this, but thought you would share what is relevant, since you attended and have had other conversations.
- **Responses**
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Broadmouth Turkey Creek FD-Response after call where someone died by suicide
  - 11<sup>th</sup> to Laurens County after a fire fatality
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> to SRS after death of one of their firefighters.

- 30<sup>th</sup> to Darlington County after Christmas Eve Fire killing two children.
- MIOB-April 3-7<sup>th</sup> Website updating, preparing registration, preparing to send in to NBCC(National Board of Certified Counselors) to offer 17 hours of Continuing Education Units.

### **Account Services/1%**

- Updated numbers on Departments' Outstanding.
  - As of 1/13/25 at 2:30pm we have:
    - Dues: 84 departments that have not paid
    - Voting Members: 111 departments have not confirmed
    - Form 206: 344 have not completed
    - Form 207: 310 have not completed

### **Administrative Assistant**

- Calling FSIC registrants and their fire chiefs, who have outstanding balances
- Continues to update/correct member profiles in the database
- Working on developing 2025 legislative escort list

### **Ashley Boltin**

#### **Rick Dunn**

- We have covered most of the report from Rick in Training & Education and Officer Section.

#### **Carter Jones**

- Working with Bennettsville Fire Department on their written history.
- Working with the Darlington County Fire Museum on loaning items for a Fire Service Display along with helping them with other items in their museum.
- Carter & I had the opportunity to meet with Kim McClure Supervisor, Archival Services SC Department of Archives and History to seek advice and discuss how we should go about with hiring a person to help us with our collection.

#### **Kim Bowman**

- Continues to work with departments to get their information on retirement.

#### **Greg Bulanow – Leadership Development Coordinator**

- Has come on board with the Association. He is excited to work with the team.
- The 2025 Applicant finalists are working to complete the online portion and have until Feb 21<sup>st</sup> to complete it. All have logged in and are working towards completion.

- The 2024 Leadership Institute Class will be meeting
  - January 16, 2025 – Pelham Batesville Fire Department
  - February 7 -8, 2025 - McCormick
  - 2024 Class will graduate on Legislative Day March 26, 2025

### **LAST**

We have had a lot of deaths in the Fire Service and personal lives here in the last month. We have been assisting lots of departments by supporting them with supplies, assisting with guidance for funerals and benefits.

### **Up Coming Events**

CFSI Group

February 11 -14, 2025

Memorial Service

February 15, 2025

### **Zorrina Harmon – SCFIS**

Zorrina thanked Brooke & Rick for their help. Also, claims are now being processed online so it may look a little different, but this will help with the efficacy of getting folks paid.

### **Executive Director Jamie Helms**

Gave an update on ...

- Fire Chief's quarterly meeting.
- Fire Chief's ED & President want to meet to discuss chief officer training.
- Social Security Act update
- Michael Regal has announced the 4<sup>th</sup> VP Candidacy.

Lunch Served

Fire Service Improvement Conference behind-the-scenes review by Ashley.

Memorial Service Update by Zorrina

February 15, 2025, starts at 2:00 pm. We ask that the Executive Committee be there by 1:00 pm. If anyone would like to help with escort families, please let us know. We will have a rehearsal on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. This year we have 105 members being honored.

### **New Business**

None to report.

Playbook Review by Jamie Helms

The next scheduled meeting will be February 4, 2025 this meeting will be held virtually.

***A motion was made by Kevin Henson to adjourn at 12:49 pm; seconded by Terry Sheriff. All in favor.***

### **Online Report Submissions**

Communications & Technology - The committee will take information from the survey to digest it, a comprehensive report has been put together. We will see where our state stands and how best to support. Also, establish our next meeting date and invite Dennison Coomer.

Legislative - Annie and Cindy from Konduros and Associates reviewed the pre-filed bills from both the House and the Senate. We talked about the items presented to the EC for the Governor's budget. There are a few bills we are watching for movement. Our next meeting will be 01/29/25. This meeting will focus on the definitions in reference to the Firefighter Registration Act. The Governor announced today the state has an 8 billion dollar surplus. Naturally, everyone will be trying to get a piece of the pie. We will be pushing Palmetto 800 infrastructure. Also, there's some legislation being introduced involving "Daniels Law". This legislation will put conditioned boxes at each station with a method of "alert" to let someone know there is something in the box. I don't have all the details, but we can discuss this during the meeting and I hope to have more information by then.

Training & Education -

Update on FSIC, Fire-Rescue, SCFA. FSIC: 275 total registrations with 315 students. 3 classes are full (Engine, Truck, Search). 120 registered for Friday evening event. Registration closes Friday, January 17. Fire-Rescue: Continue to work on schedule and hope to be shared soon. SCFA: Hazmat Technician curriculum February 1, 2025. Campus Recruit FF and EMT Program for March Class, EMT will take place after.

Advisory - Upcoming annual awards selection following Jan. 31, 2025 cutoff

EMS- Stop the bleed kits - working to finish the proposal for presentation to the EC. Committee will review the proposal during our next meeting scheduled at the end of March. FR2025 class presentation - Joey Campbell will be presenting a class on Human Trafficking on June 12th. Pod Cast - working on finalizing the creation of a pod cast that will provide information to the state regarding various topics including agency licensure, cost, regulation, and much more. OSHA Rule - subgroup of individuals was put together to work on the EMS section of the proposed OSHA rule. Members consist of Aaron Dix and Mark Weber from PRISMA EMS, Brian Pothier and Steve Austin from Greenville County EMS, and Julie McCabe from Charleston Fire/SCEMSA.

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Health & Safety - January Safety Spotlight is focused on Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. Committee member and cancer survivor Jacob Patrick sat down with Lee Hopkins from Fatbaby's Junkyard Dogs for an interview sharing his cancer story. Will be shared on socials in the coming days. Committee hope to meet the end of this month.

Officer Section- Continued movement on the Officer Section Strategic Plan -Membership poll completed and data extracted and validated -Strategic Planning Committee is moving forward with the crafting of components in a format Brooke can work with -Professional Development model

Executive Committee Action Items

Strategic Plan Professional Development model development to present to T&E Working with Chair.

OSHA - Committee Focus Activities

The committee/Chair has been focused on 5 areas of development for the project. 1). Creation of and language in and for, a SC specific OSHA plan with a focus on comparative analysis on the existing and proposed federal plan. 2). Reaching out to specific partners on populating specific subparts of the SC plan in which they would be a SME. 3). Drafting and improving the SCSFA written response to the federal post hearing/testimony comment period. 4). Coordinating with national partners of our response and strategy going forward. 5). Communicating with key personnel around SC for education and input on the pathway forward and impacts of options.

Executive Committee Action Items

1) Review/Approve written post testimony response for submission on January 15th. 2) Obtain a copy of the proposed SC plan late January/early February for input and education. 3). Educate themselves and be prepared to discuss the topic in March during CFSI related DC visits.

Member Benefits - The Member Benefits committee focused on renaming our exclusive discounts for our membership that are on our website. We discussed going through each benefit and will be making sure each link works properly for our members. The Committee discussed trying to get an ad to market our benefits/exclusives in Fire News. Committee is continuing to work on getting discounts for our membership for physicals and screenings.

NVFC -Membership dues were increased to \$24 January 1st. NVFC is grandfathering any state association members who have SAFER grants to pay for members based on the amount written into the grant. The OSHA Task Force has been preparing NVFC's comments for this next comment period (closing Jan 17). NVFC is asking for individuals, departments, and state associations to submit their own public hearing comment. Jack Kirilin is representing NVFC at

the AFG grant peer review February 3rd – 7th. UPCOMING EVENTS: NVFC's new online training page for upcoming webinars: <https://www.nvfc.org/online-trainings/> • January 16 | Actions Firefighters Can Take to Reduce Cancer Risks Webinar | 1pm eastern • January 22 | Community Risk Reduction for Fire Departments – Strategies for a Safer Community Roundtable Talk | 2pm eastern • January 30 | R&R Coffee Talk: Supporting Families Interactive Virtual Discussion | 7pm eastern • Annual Membership Meeting – per the bylaws, NVFC is to hold an annual membership meeting each year. Mark your calendars as this virtual meeting will take place Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 1pm eastern. This meeting is open to all members (state association, individuals, and corporate).