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Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



Historical Spotlight: Chief Eddie Rivers

Eddie Rivers didn't grow up in the fire service. He joined the military when he was of-age and moved back to Pageland where he worked for his dad's laundry and dry-cleaning business after his time serving the country.

The fire department was across the street from the laundromat, intriguing the young veteran. When Eddie asked the chief about joining, he was told he needed to grow up before he was ready. After a few years running calls, they accepted him as one of their own.

"When I initially joined, we didn't put out many fires... we attempted to put them out, but we didn't have the skills nor equipment to do the job we needed to do," Chief Rivers said. "That's when we realized we needed to develop some training skills and get some better equipment."

When the Pageland Fire Department reorganized in 1966, Eddie had been on the department for 3 years. It was then that he was elected chief of the department.

Chief Rivers grew into the role and found himself on the big stage at the State House when he was appointed by Gov. **Richard Riley** to serve on the State Fire Commission. **Richard Mincey**, former Association lobbyist, is credited with getting Chief Rivers involved on the state level.

"In working with Richard over those years, he asked me one day if I would be interested in serving on a state board... so, in a short period of time, I

was asked if I would serve on the State Fire Commission,” Chief Rivers said. “It makes me feel real good to know that I had some small part in trying to improve the services of our fire service throughout the state.”

In addition to his statewide service, Chief Rivers has given back to the community that raised him by serving on County Council for 35 years. All 3 of his sons joined the fire service when they were old enough, with his son, Tommy, currently serving as fire chief; 3 of his grandsons are firefighters, too.

Chief Rivers’ advice to the upcoming generation remains true to his servant heart: it’s not about serving you, it’s about serving other people.

Watch our [full interview with Chief Rivers](#).

Association news

Departments in Good Standing: Congratulations!

In order for a department to be in Good Standing with the Association, several items must be completed before the assigned deadline. Our Constitution and By-Laws states for a department to be in Good Standing they must:

- Select and confirm their voting members by January 1st
- Remit SCSFA Dues by January 1st
- Submit all required forms (Form 206 & 207) by January 31st
- For departments that are required to have an audit, they must obtain a passing grade

Member departments in Good Standing that have met their requirements to be eligible to receive this year’s current 1% distribution from their County Treasurer are listed on our [website](#).

If your department is not listed under your county’s list, please contact the us at (800) 555-1234 to discuss the reason.



Association events



LI applications are due at the end of the month

Becoming a strong leader takes time, effort, and a commitment to lifelong learning. Leadership is a continuous journey with no firm destination and no clear roadmap.

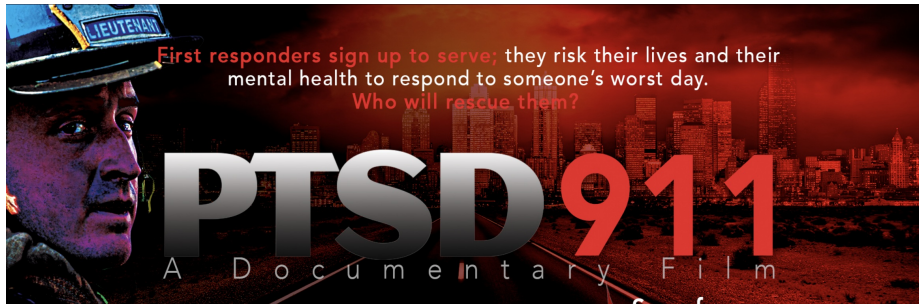
Leadership Institute is here to help you on your journey.

Designed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in their department and community, the program places strong emphasis on open communication and project-based skills. LI covers a wide range of topics related to the fire service and exposes you to the issues facing departments of all sizes.

- Participants will have the opportunity to interact with other firefighters from across the state, sharing best practices and learning from each other's experiences.
- The program is tailored specifically for South Carolina firefighters, taking into account the unique challenges and opportunities faced in the state.
- By participating in LI, you will not only enhance your own skills and knowledge, but also contribute to the overall improvement of the fire service in South Carolina.

The ideal Leadership Institute participant is a person who has a strong desire for honing their individual leadership knowledge, skills, and abilities beyond typical management skill training and has exhibited prior leadership skills in local or state efforts. Participants will not be judged on the criteria of rank or pay status but instead on their potential to impact future leadership for the Firefighters' Association and South Carolina fire service.

[Applications are due August 31](#). Do not wait to apply!



Coming to a screen near you: PTSD911

We know that PTSD is rampant in emergency services. First responders see and experience levels of trauma the average person will never fully understand.

[PTSD911](#) is a documentary about first responders and the lingering issues from repeat trauma. According to the documentary website, "PTSD911 will provide information about a path forward from PTSD that does not lead to suicide, but rather leads to return to a fulfilling life that involves serving others. Fire, Police, EMS, and 911 operators all came into their respective professions to help others. They want nothing more than to be able to return whole to their jobs. But, in the circumstance of PTSD, help is needed for healing. Department leaders need to develop programs and policies to help their members. This takes education and awareness, which PTSD911 will provide. Also, the responders need to know there is help available, which will be another critically important message in this film."

South Carolina First Responders Assistance and Support Team has partnered with ConjoStudios, LLC to show the film in Columbia on Thursday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at Calvary Chapel Northeast; a second showing is scheduled in Greenville on Friday, September 29 at 7 p.m. at Boiling Springs Station 15. Both screenings will feature a Q&A with documentary director Conrad Weaver and members of the public safety community in the area.

Tickets are \$10. Buy your tickets to the [Columbia](#) or [Greenville](#) screening.

Community events



Register now for Columbia T2T 5K

The **Tunnel to Towers Foundation 5K Walk & Run** is in Columbia on Friday, September 8, 2023 at 6 p.m. Participants meet ahead of the 5K at the Columbia Convention Center. According to the Tunnel to Towers website, the series "was created to honor the heroic life and death of Stephen Siller, a New York City firefighter (FDNY) who lost his life on September 11, 2001 after strapping on his gear and running through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the Twin Towers."

[Register](#) for Tunnel to Towers in Columbia.



It's a par-tee: Lugoff Fire hosting golf tournament

Lugoff Fire-Rescue is hosting a golf tournament on Saturday, September 16 at the [Pine Creek Golf Course](#) in Camden. Price to play is \$60 per player or \$240 per 4-person team. Mulligans and string will be available to purchase. Check-in starts at 7 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

Registration for the tournament closes September 1. Register [online](#) or call Will Catoe at 803-438-2553 ext. 3.

Was this email forwarded to you? [Subscribe](#) to receive Rattle Watch every Thursday.



- [August 24 - 1% Regional Training Class: Beaufort County](#)
- [October 1-6 - Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer class 23-02](#)
- [October 17 - 1% Regional Training Class: York County](#)
- October 25 - Quarterly Training + Business Meeting
- June 12-15, 2024 - Fire-Rescue



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

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