

Executive Committee Minutes
August 20, 2024

Attendance: Randy Arant, Pierce Womack, Jason Dennis, Kevin Henson, Malcolm Burns, John Bowers, Ross Vezin, Terry Sheriff, Billy Barnes, Charles Lamoreaux, Kevin Crosby, Rickie Jenkins, John Bowers, Mickey Folsom, Chad Beam, Jamie Caggiano, Zorrina Harmon, Brick Lewis, Jamie Helms, Ashley Boltin

Zoom: Pierce Womack, Mike Norket, Brad Kavetski, Doug Cline, Billy Dillon, Jack Kirlin

10:01 am Call to Order & Welcome – President Arant

Invocation & Pledge -Chaplain Rickie Jenkins

A motion was made by Malcolm Burns to approve the minutes from July 14, 2024 as presented; seconded by Kevin Henson. All in favor.

Committee Reports

Finance & Audit – Pierce Womack – Will be meeting on August 30, 2024 to review the proposed 2024 -2025 Budget.

Legislative – Jason Dennis – They met on August 1, 2024. Some of the items of discussion were Pal800 fees, Priviso, Blue Lights on Apparatus, strengthening the Move Over Law & Defining Firefighter, Fire Department. As a reminder this is an election year, anything filed previously will have to be refiled.

Advisory – Mike Norket - Will meet this coming month to review Leadership Institute Applications.

4th VP – Kevin Henson – Has been tagging along with the Finance & Audit Committee along with helping with the Officer Academy applications selection.

Past President – Malcolm Burns – I will be reaching out to my committee members. We also want to explore getting all past president's shields with the year they were president.

DEI – Mickey Folsom – Our Committee meets tomorrow, we are looking at hosting a summit on October 25, 2024.

Supervisory – John Bowers – Upcoming trainings will be held on September 30th – Saluda, October 29th – Hampton, February 24th – Abbeville.

Member Benefits – Ross Vezin – We met last week, and we are working on different Health benefits.

Training & Education – Terry Sheriff- Reviewed Fire Rescue final details & plans for Fire Service Improvement Conference.

Health & Safety – Kavetski was absent so President Arant read his online submission Bingo Campaign is running until Oct. 1st. Next campaign once Bingo ends will be a video series published each month highlighting departments/individuals who are prioritizing health and safety through programs/initiatives. Began the discussions to plan a Health & Safety Summit.

Strategic Planning – Billy Barnes – We will have a meeting in September.

By-Laws – Charles Lamoreaux – No report this month

EMS – Kevin Crosby – On August 29th we will meet. We did find out that the EMS Association received funding of 1.6 million from Senator Graham’s office for training. They are willing to have a conversation with the academy on their training program if the funding can be used towards some of those classes. There is a discussion with the EMS leadership coalition on 61.7 & QRVs.

Conference Committee – Tom Gwyer –Our committee meets tomorrow at 2 pm.

Chaplain – Rickie Jenkins – We are working on setting up a Zoom meeting. Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy lost one of its chaplains, her funeral is on Saturday and I will be attending. I am working on a way to take away the stigma of Chaplain = death. There is so much more to chaplaincy we can be there during the good stuff to not just death. I plan to work with Patti as we move forward.

Recruitment & Retention – Billy Dillon – Meet on August 22nd to go over topics and goals. We continue to look at a recruitment and retention summit, we have reached out to the DEI committee to see if we can work together.

Technology – Chad Beam - Meet to discuss initial goals and objectives given to our committee by President Arant. Discuss what our new committee will look like as far as what we’re going to do over the next year and how we’ll benefit the state’s fire service and association. Discussed establishing a baseline of known technology across our state which will establish how we move forward by creating a survey. We also plan to work with vendors that don’t currently attend our conference to see about bringing them in.

OSHA – The next congressional hearing is in November; we continue to track.

Officer Section – We have selected a strategic planning committee internally, and we continue to work to build up our people.

NVFC – Jack Kirlin - OSHA task force webinar at 2 pm today to prepare folks for the November 12th hearing. In September we will be attending the NVFC Fall Conference.

SCFIS – Zorrina Harmon - We meet tomorrow.

Foundation – Jamie Caggiano – Conference was great we raised over \$40,000. Burn Fund camp went great. We are working on budget for the foundation and the burn fund. We have a possible new scholarship coming on board.

Staff Reports

Training & Events – Ashley Boltin -

Carter Jones – History

Written History

- St. George, Darlington, John Nelson Gamewell.
- He also received a request from the family of a deceased black fireman from Newberry who worked with Malcolm Lesesne, “Old Joe’s” Handler

He is working with the City of Beaufort on getting their Steam Engine restored.

Meetings

- Pee Dee
- Lower State

Speaking

- Dorchester County 911 Service
- Charleston Historical Society

Sarah Moore - Foundation

Continues to reach out to businesses trying to get in the door.

- Milliken

She is working on a printed sponsorship package to be able to provide to clients.

Working with a new software that they will be using to track donations.

Kim Bowman – Retirement

Kim continues to field phone calls daily for customers trying to get there statements and general retirement questions.

Rick Dunn – Training & Education

2025 FSI Conference – Sent contracts to all instructors, working on the website & registration link.

Officer Section –Working on The Jive, a newsletter, the next quarterly meeting and their strategic plan.

Officer Academy – Still working through the process the deadline is Friday for the applicants to complete the assessment period. The selection committee will meet and then notify students. Class starts September 29th.

Fire Chief 101 – SME group will meet on Friday.

Ashley's notes

- Leadership Institute applications will be accepted through August 31, 2024.
- This month's LI group will be meeting in Dorchester on Thursday.
- Working with Fire Fusion on helping provide Tailboard talks & helping in general with the Conference

Up Coming Events

(11 Voting Members) Budget Work Session, Inman Spartanburg, September 11 – 13, 2024

NVFC (Kansas City, Missouri) September 18 -21, 2024

Fire Chiefs Conference, September 22 -25, 2024

FIERO Conference, September 22 – 25, 2024

Leadership Institute Charleston, September 27 – 29, 2024

Officer Academy, September 29 – October 4, 2024

SCFIS – Zorrina Harmon –

We are doing well. We sent out a survey and received 8,000 deliveries and had about 200 responses. We will be attending the SPD conference on October 16 -18, 2024.

Deputy Director of Staff - Brick Lewis

Kim Vosine – Continues to clean up the database

Jana – Will be working on October Invoices that will be going to each department.

Jeff Allen – Continues to attend monthly meetings.

Brook – Taking on the Intern, Drew Harmon, starting on Monday. She continues to work on articles and has been helping state fire promote with they offer and what they do.

Fire News – The new issue has a great article about Fire – Rescue in it, I encourage you to take one with you.

Recently we have been notified of some changes with Berkeley County consolidating, we are working with them on the one percent side of the house.

Jana's email got hacked but we have taken measures to resolve that.

Executive Director – Jamie Helms

The retirement system is currently updating certificates to department accounts. On August 28th the Retirement Board of Trustees will meet at our office.

FRI – we had a good SC representation at FRI, and several of our folks taught Will Broschious & Chad Beam. We had the opportunity to see our NC delegation as well. We did learn that Tim Bradley is retiring from the NC Association, they are working through the process of looking for a replacement.

Lunch Served

Old Business

Columbia Fire had a situation that occurred and two firefighters were hurt pretty significantly, 1 has a brain bleed he had surgery and is recovering, the other has several broken bones and is at home recovering but will have a long road. A campaign through the SC Firefighters' Foundation has been set up to collect money for these two individuals. There is also a GoFundMe set up through the department.

Executive Director Helms had a meeting with Sherri Biggs who is running to take Jeff Duncan's place. The Chiefs association was there as well, it was a great meeting. Senator Alexander was present as well.

Fire Chief's Conference – September 22 -25, 2024, we will have representation. Ashley is registering Jamie Helms, Randy Arant, Jason Dennis & Pierce Womack. There may be an opportunity to have lunch together with the Fire Chiefs board one day while there.

Facility & Relator update – Our agreement with Sherry expired on August 3rd. Director Helms is going to reach out to her to let her know we are going to shift courses. Director Helms would like to reach out to Stewart & Cooper to see what options might could be done with our existing building on expansion. We do need to continue to look for somewhere to host a Museum, we are looking at the State Museum to see if DHEC is moving out or not, and property at the academy may be a possibility as well. We have spoken with Cindy and Annie about securing state funding through the legislature. We continue to look at options.

It was suggested that we reach out to other Fire Museums to ask how they went about finding their locations and what was there target audience general public or fire service.

New Business

Fire Rescue Final Stats Chief Helms emailed to everyone.

Director Helms has been studying the numbers to see how close we are to self-funding.

Fleet Update – Brick Lewis – We have purchased 2 new vehicles recently. Ashley a new Tahoe her current Tahoe will go to the fleet for general use. Zorrina has purchased a new vehicle, they will be rotating out Mark Bryants vehicle and Marks vehicle will become a fleet vehicle as well. We are working on getting tags 1 -15 dedicated to SCSFA.

Safe Federal Credit Union – has asked us to choose a firefighter to be recognized at a Gamecock football game on October 5th. It is the recommendation by the committee that each year this be the person who receives firefighter of the year through the association.

A motion made by Jason Dennis this year Safe Federal Credit Union firefighter of the year is this year SCSFA Firefighter of the Year recipient John Bowers; Seconded by Malcolm Burns. All in favor.

Playbook Review by Jamie Helms.

A motion was made by Jason Dennis to adjourn at 1:32 pm; seconded by Malcolm Burns. All in favor.

Online Reports

Health & Safety -Bingo Campaign is running until Oct. 1st. Next campaign once Bingo ends will be a video series published each month highlighting departments/individuals who are prioritizing health and safety through programs/initiatives. Began the discussions to plan a Health & Safety Summit.

NVFC - NVFC – OSHA Task Force is now focused on getting ready for Nov. 12th public hearing. An OSHA session has been added to the fall meeting schedule as we prepare for the upcoming hearing 2024 US Fire Administrator’s Summit on Fire Prevention and Control has been announced and will be held in Emmitsburg, MD on October 8. NVFC offers low cost or free training for State Association Conferences. Reach out to Rachel Buczynski if you have specific questions. NVFC Fall meeting September 18th - 20th in Kansas City, MO NVFC’s 2025 Training Summit will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 20-21, 2025. Upcoming Webinars: <https://www.nvfc.org/online-trainings/> Aug 29 | The Virtual Fireground – Evaluating Immersive Learning for Fire Service Training Roundtable Talk | 2pm eastern Sept 3 | Hazmat Response Training: Zooming in From National to Local Webinar | 2pm eastern

Legislative - The Legislative Committee met in the board room and discussed the goals and expectations of the committee as assigned by President Arant. Those in attendance were Director Jamie Helms, 2nd VP Jason Dennis, Chief Mark Davis, Chief Jamie Caggiano, Chief Morris Russell, Cindy Konduros, and Annie Wooten. We discussed the Palmetto 800 user fees. There is a proviso in place providing 33% assistance this coming year. There was also some conversation on potential federal assistance on Palmetto 800 infrastructure if tied in with military use. This would provide the needed towers in the state in areas where there is no signal. This could certainly help in getting the user fees funded. There was a request for information on adding “blue lights” to apparatus for traffic concerns and roadway incidents. More information is needed on roadway safety/responder safety. May propose a committee to research this and ways to strengthen the “Move over Law. This is certainly a concern and will need support from state law enforcement. The definitions of Firefighter, Fire Department, and Fire Chief were discussed as far as pre-filing. The Firefighter Registration Act was referred, and the discussion was lengthy. There is potential for a committee to research the needs as they pertain to legislation. Provisos with recurring funds will be reviewed during the EC Meeting.

Chaplain - The committee will be focused on the growth of the Chaplain program by creating a basis for the program. I plan to meet with Rich Robinson of Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy to make sure that we set the program up to benefit the entire state.

Executive Committee Action Items

1) Hold meetings throughout the year and keep the Executive Committee updated with any recommendations made within the committee. 2) Being a newly formed committee, come up with recommendations on committee objectives and future programs and/or needs.

Advisory - Upcoming Leadership Institute application review Committee meeting will be set immediately after the application close and the packets are ready for review

Member Benefits - The committee discussed our goals for the upcoming year. Each member has been tasked with searching and looking for different health screenings that are available throughout the state that our firefighters could have the opportunity to use. The committee discussed working on and looking for other options to market our current benefits for our membership. Our next committee meeting is setup for October 1st.

Recruitment & Retention - 2024 - 2025 Goals R&R Summit Working with other Committees (Already Spoke w/ Chief Folsom about co-meeting) Chief Officer Handbook Chapter Update Website

Executive Committee Action Items

None - Next meeting scheduled for August 22.

Conference Committee - First committee meeting is 8/21/24. Meeting was intentionally set to occur after FRI to use it in the discussion.

Training & Education - Committee has communicated through email and at the advisory meeting. Committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss goals from the President, FSIC 2025, and F/R 2025. The committee is working on finalizing classes for FSIC and layout of the schedule for EC approval along with meeting the budget. SP Goals: Rick is working with members to move forward with Fire Chief 101. Call for Presenters is open until September 30, 2024 for F/R 2025. Call for Presenters for FSIC 2026 is open until February 28, 2025. SCFA: IFSAC was onsite for the re-accreditation process last week. SCFA was approved for all 25 current levels and initial accreditation for 3 new levels (Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician).

4th VP - Continued to shadow the 1st Vice President and the Finance and Audit Committee. Reviewed financial statements in conjunction with the 1st Vice President. Continued working with Rick Dunn and the Officer Section to determine the next meeting time to finalize Officer Academy Selection. Continued to support Chief Barnes and the Strategic Planning Committee.

Technology -Meet to discuss initial goals and objectives given to our committee by President Arant. Discuss what our new committee will look like as far as what we're going to do over the next year and how we'll benefit the states fire service and association. Discussed establishing a baseline of known technology across our state which will establish how we move forward.

Supervisory - September 30, 2024, Saluda County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Saluda County Fire Service. October 29, 2024, Hampton County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Hampton FD. February 24, 2025, Abbeville County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Abbeville County. Would like to secure additional host departments for 2025 1% Classes. If anyone is interested, please let me know.