



MAY 11, 2023 | ISSUE 50

Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.

PeerConnect

How to join the PeerConnect App

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we at the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association invite you to join the **South Carolina Public Safety Wellness Initiative**.

A joint effort between the Association, South Carolina First Responder Assistance and Support Team, South Carolina EMS Association, and South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program, the SC Public Safety Wellness Initiative proactively connects every member in your organization with their peer team for structured mental health and wellness conversations through the **PeerConnect App**.

The app allows for scheduled regular interval conversations (customizable for all your members or on a per group basis), and connects with those who do not actively seek out support to reduce the stigma and normalize mental health conversations.

Benefits of PeerConnect include:

- 90% less effort to coordinate Peer Support
- Private and anonymous support for your members
- Seamlessly integrate with your dispatch system
- Track and report anonymous incidents
- Peer Support and wellness resources in your pocket
- Coactively share supports with other organizations
- Share wellness KPIs, metrics and engagement reports
- Enhances CISM, EFAP, and other programs
- Decrease lost time, STD, LTD, OSI, and overtime
- 24/7 Coverage - No one falls through the cracks
- Affordable pricing for large and small departments

Contact SC FAST Director [Patti Graham](#) to join or [book a meeting](#) with the PeerConnect team.



Send this to your spouse

We are proud to offer a [firefighter family track](#) on Friday, June 16 during Fire-Rescue. A first of its kind for the Association, the Training & Education Committee took special care to include several classes applicable to families and spouses. Fire-Rescue classes are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The track kicks off in the morning with Chris and Renee Elrod presenting "[The Two Thirds](#)," followed by "[Preventing a Flashover: Surviving a Firefighter Relationship](#)" from Sabrina Yaw. Amanda Moore wraps things up in the afternoon with "'[Back to the Table](#),' a mindset for fostering healthy relationships."

We're excited to have Sabrina and Amanda join us next Thursday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. on [Facebook Live](#) for the first-ever public edition of **The Jive!** Hosts Chris Kip and Will Vaigneur will be talking with the ladies about their upcoming Fire-Rescue classes and their experiences as fire wives and how firefighting isn't just a job—it is a lifestyle that impacts the entire family unit.



Living history

There are hundreds of years of collective fire service experience in the picture above. Carter Jones earlier this week sat down with several of these fire service leaders to document their lives and legacies on camera.

Pictured left to right: retired Chief **Tommy Livingston** (sitting); **Bill Segars**; retired Chief **Carter Jones**; **Duane Cassidy**; Chief **Tommy Rivers**; retired Chief **Eddie Rivers** (sitting); and **Michael Webb**. We want to extend a special thank you to **Sean Irvin**, volunteer with Hartsville Fire Department and part-time career firefighter with Travelers Rest, for allowing us to film in his home.

Thank you, gentlemen, for sharing just a bit of your journey with us!

Fire-Rescue event

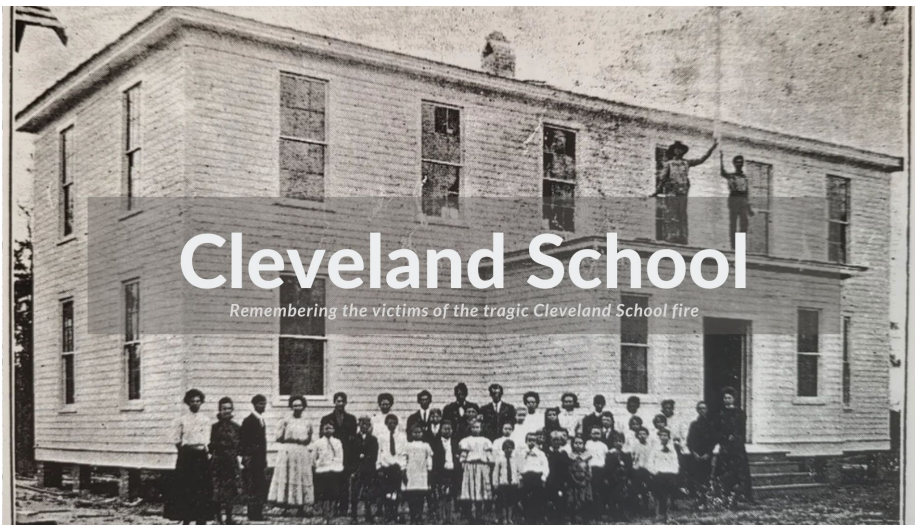


Foundation golf spots are filling up

The Foundation Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 14 during Fire-Rescue is filling up quickly. With only a few team spots available, [register](#) before it's too late! The Foundation saw record turnout for the golf tournament last year and hopes to continue the upwards trend.

If you can't make it to the tournament or aren't great on the green, you can still help South Carolina firefighters by bidding on items during the silent auction on Friday and Saturday during Fire-Rescue.

Community event



Last call for Cleveland School anniversary RSVPs

Cleveland School was a rural South Carolina school, situated just a few miles east of Camden, that was constructed circa 1908-1909. Prior to the fire, nearly 100 students were enrolled at the school. The fire occurred during the annual play on May 17, 1923, and signified the end of the school year. 77 people lost their lives due to the Cleveland School fire. This fire impacted local, state, and national codes regarding school safety.

In a joint effort between the Association, Camden Fire, Lugoff Fire, Kershaw County Fire, and Beulah Church, a recognition service will be held on Wednesday, May 17 at 10 a.m. at the memorial site with processional to follow to the mass grave site. A historical seminar will be held the evening before on Tuesday, May 16 at 6 p.m. detailing the impact the fire had on the community and state. Please kindly [RSVP](#) if you plan to attend either of both events.

If you can't make it in person, the seminar on Tuesday, May 16 will be livestreamed on our [YouTube channel](#).



Gamecock Baseball First Responder Night is May 19

USC is saying thank you to first responders by offering discounted tickets to the baseball game vs. Tennessee on Friday, May 19 at 7 p.m. [Grab your tickets for \\$15.](#)

News from the State House



Legislative Update

Today, May 11, is **Sine Die** for the South Carolina legislature, signifying adjournment for the year. Only legislation expressly identified in the Sine Die Resolution can be considered or acted upon beyond this date. Bills filed this session have until Sine Die next year to be signed into law.

All Legislative Updates for current session are posted on our [website](#).

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- [May 16 + 17 - Cleveland School Fire Remembrance](#)
- [May 18 - The Jive with Amanda Moore and Sabrina Yaw](#)
- [June 14 - Foundation Golf Tournament](#)
- June 14 - Beach Bash with SCFIS
- [June 16 - Jr./Explorer Competition](#)
- [June 14-17 - Fire-Rescue](#)
- [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](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

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