



APRIL 13, 2023 | ISSUE 46

# Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



## Legislative Day a success

Firefighters from around the state met last week at the State House to speak to their legislators and unify the fire service voice with concentration on several legislative actions that effect the fire service as part of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association annual **Legislative Day**.

Association President **Josh Holzheimer** welcomed firefighters, legislators, and staff to a focused event to draw attention to safety and protection needs of fire service personnel, both volunteer and career, during the annual meeting. Firefighters met with both House and Senate members and offered directed thoughts on several bills and their thanks for supporting the fire service back home and throughout South Carolina.

Topics of conversation included: V-SAFE funding, Palmetto 800 funding, PTSD and the Workforce, Line of Duty Death benefits, Fire Drills in Schools, and Right of Way.

The Executive Committee and staff want to extend an enormous thank you the legislators and their staffs who took the time out of their schedules to eat and fellowship. In addition, Legislative Day would be impossible without firefighters from all over the state making the trip to Columbia to participate. Your steadfastness in creating and maintaining relationships with your representatives is admirable and we commend and thank you for your efforts.



### Two legislators inducted into Order of the Maltese

During the Legislative Day luncheon, House of Representatives Speaker **Murrell Smith** and Senator **Harvey Peeler** were inducted into the Society of the Maltese Cross.

A symbol associated with fire for over 500 years, the Maltese cross brings to mind in every firefighter the traditions and values sacred and true to service to our fellow man. Firefighters across South Carolina, and the world, proudly display the Maltese cross on their uniforms to remember and signify servants of similar purpose.

The points of the Maltese cross stand for gallantry, sympathy, tact, observation, explicitness, dexterity, loyalty, and perseverance. The establishment of the Order of the Maltese cross recognizes those individuals of the South Carolina General Assembly that share in those values and have supported South Carolina firefighters in meeting those goals.

“Speaker Smith and Senator Peeler’s service to their districts and to South Carolina shows a long-standing tradition and their commitment to helping the state’s fire service in Columbia is proven each year,” offered Pres. Josh Holzheimer.

View all members of the Society of the Maltese are on our [website](#).



### Leadership Institute Class 2022 graduates, welcome LI 2023

The 2022 class of **Leadership Institute** graduated from the program at Legislative Day. LI is a 12-month leadership development and educational

program set in an executive-level environment with an emphasis on open communication and project-based skills. LI is offered to individuals to improve and develop fire service leadership at the state level through networking and education pertaining to the many facets of the fire service profession.

Congratulations to: **Melissa Adams**, Fairfield County Fire Service; **Michael Browning**, Belton Fire Department; **Zac Crutchfield**, Slater Marietta Fire Department; **RJ Dowd**, City of Newberry Fire Department; **Chris Elrod**, Pickens Fire Department; **Alex Glover**, City of Charleston Fire Department; **Matthew Hughes**, Taylors Fire Department; **Seth James**, City of Greenville Fire Department; **Larry Kardos**, Clear Springs Fire Rescue; **David McDaniels**, Gaffney Fire Department; **Tom Porter**, City of Greenville Fire Department; **Shane Walters**, Parker Fire Department; and **Josh Zorzi**, Myrtle Beach Fire-Rescue.

In addition to formally graduating the 2022 LI group, we announced and welcomed the 2023 class. We are excited for the following to embark on the LI journey: **Marc Aloan**, West Columbia Fire Department; **Gary Dicks**, Florence Fire Department; **Gary Finkle**, Myrtle Beach Fire-Rescue; **David Griffin**, City of Charleston Fire Department; **Tristan Johnson**, Greenville City Fire Department; **Alexander McGovern, III**, Florence Fire Department; and **Tim Williams**, Abbeville County Fire Department.

## Association event



The Jive

hosted by Will Vaigneur and Chris Kip

with **Sabrina Yaw and Amanda Moore**

A circular photograph of two women, Sabrina Yaw and Amanda Moore, smiling and posing together. Sabrina is on the left, wearing a red hoodie, and Amanda is on the right, wearing a plaid shirt.

## Save the Date: The Jive with Fire-Rescue speakers

Get a preview of the **family-centered courses** at Fire-Rescue when we go Live on our [Facebook page](#) on May 18 at 7:30 p.m. with **Sabrina Yaw** and **Amanda Moore**.

The monthly Officers Section video podcast, **The Jive**, is hosted by **Will Vaigneur** and **Chris Kip** and is open to the general public for the first time ever for this special edition. The Training & Education Committee recognized the importance of including multiple classes during conference that focus on the part of the job that's often left by the wayside-*our families and relationships*.

Sabrina is presenting [Preventing a Flashover: Surviving a Firefighter Relationship](#) on Friday, June 16 at 10:45 a.m. and Amanda is presenting ["Back to the Table," a Mindset for Fostering Healthy Relationships](#) that



afternoon at 2 p.m. All classes are on a first-come, first-serve basis and there is no registration for Fire-Rescue. Show up early to get your seat!

Join us on Facebook Live on May 18 to hear from Sabrina and Amanda ahead of their classes at [Fire-Rescue](#) in Myrtle Beach.



## Get your Fire-Rescue t-shirt before conference

Fire-Rescue t-shirts are coming to a mailbox near you. [Order today](#) and have your conference gear ready to pack in your suitcase when you head to Myrtle Beach in June. T-shirts are \$20 and available in S-4XL sizes.

## Community events

**FIRE SAFE**  
**South Carolina**



A COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

## Fire Safe South Carolina names Fire Safe communities

**Fire Safe South Carolina** announced last week the departments designated as a Fire Safe community. 132 departments across the state were named in a [press release](#) from Fire Safe South Carolina. The program aims to reduce fire-related injuries, promote consistent fire safety messaging, and stress the importance of collecting accurate fire scene data. Fire Safe South Carolina was launched in 2017 in a partnership between the Firefighters' Association, South Carolina State Association of Fire Chiefs, South Carolina Fire Marshal Association, South Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Fire Investigators, and South Carolina State Fire.

“Nearly one million citizens were educated last year on ways to stay fire safe thanks to the commitment and dedication of our 132 Fire Safe South Carolina fire departments and our community partners,” Community Risk

Reduction Chief **Josh Fulbright** said in the announcement. "The efforts will not stop there as we continue to work together to educate more people and make South Carolina fire safe."

Fire Safe South Carolina departments will be recognized during a ceremony at [Fire-Rescue](#) in June.



## Compete against the best of the best

Registration is open for the 2023 [Southeast Region Firefighter Challenge Championship](#).

The mission of the Firefighter Combat Challenge (FCC) is to "promote, showcase, and celebrate the selfless spirit and extraordinary fitness levels of America's firefighters in an exciting and entertaining sports competition that simulates the arduous and essential skills of firefighting as first responders compete against each other—and the clock."

The Southeast Region Championship is **May 10-13** in Virginia Beach. [Register](#) before May 10.



# CCM

## *Investment Advisers*

### **2023 Q1 Commentary from CCM**

We've trusted CCM Investment Advisers for many years now to grow our retirement account so that our members can enjoy life long after their tailboard firefighter days are behind them. CCM publishes a quarterly market commentary, as well as other timely research pieces, to keep our members up-to-date on the account's performance.

Read CCM's [commentary on Q1 of 2023](#).

### **News from the State House**



### **Legislative Update**

Each week when the legislature is in session, Association lobbyists Stewart, Konduros, and Associates provide an update on legislation that impacts the fire service. All Legislative Updates for current session are posted on our [website](#).

Today we're looking at the Senate Bill 81.

S 81 (Workers' Compensation- PTSD) By Malloy. Provides that a limitation on stress, mental injuries, and mental illness for workers' compensation does not apply to a first responder (fire and law enforcement) diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Referred to Judiciary. A subcommittee

meeting on S 81 was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 and the bill was not reported out. A similar bill S251 which was also on the agenda was reported out favorably.

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- [April 20 - 1% Regional Training Class: Berkeley County](#)
- [May 16 + 17 - Cleveland School Fire Remembrance](#)
- [May 18 - The Jive with Amanda Moore and Sabrina Yaw](#)
- [June 14 - Foundation Golf Tournament](#)
- [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**

Westpark Boulevard 111, 29210, Columbia

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