

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Ed Venture**  
**November 12, 2024**

**Attendance:** Randy Arant, Pierce Womack, Jason Dennis, Mike Norket, Malcolm Burns, John Bowers, Ross Vezin, Brad Kavetski, Billy Barnes, Kevin Crosby, Tom Gwyer, Mickey Folsom, Jamie Caggiano, Jack Kirlin, Jamie Helms, Zorrina Harmon, Brick Lewis, Carter Jones, Ashley Boltin

**Special Guest:** Bradley Anderson, Andy Marquart

10:00 am Call to order by President Arant

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance by Jamie Helms

Ed Venture updates from Bradley Anderson & Andy Marquart

***A motion was made by Malcolm Burns to accept the October minutes as presented; seconded by Pierce Womack. All in favor.***

Finance & Audit – We have our audit coming up in a few months.

Legislative – Discussing Proviso's for the upcoming Governors Budget - Return to work, Palmetto 800 User Fee's. Verbiage adjustment for Firefighter Registration Act to reflect Firefighters must have a "valid" Driver's License. Definitions review for Firefighter/Fire Chief/Fire Department. Examples from other states provided to committee members to review. 2nd VP Jason Dennis has a word document ready to send out to the members for additional wording or changes to definitions. Still awaiting the Pre-Filing dates.

Advisory –

***A motion out of the Advisory Committee to accept the following into phase 3 of the leadership application process of the 2025 – 2026 Leadership Institute class selection. As long as these applicants' complete phase 3 of the program, they will be recommended to be a part of the 2025 – 2026 LI Class.***

- 1. Daniel Farrar - Myrtle Beach Fire Department***
- 2. Thomas Sidik - St. Andrews Fire Department***
- 3. Brad Belue - Parker District Fire Department***
- 4. Daniel Chavous - City of Goose Creek Fire Department***
- 5. Brian Whittington - Myrtle Beach Fire Department***
- 6. Perry Gosnell - North Spartanburg Fire and Emergency Services***
- 7. Christopher Evans - City of Hanahan Fire Department***
- 8. John Rushton Smith - Dillon County Fire Department, Station #3***
- 9. Aaron Parris - Parker District Fire Department***
- 10. Leroy (Lee) Clanton III - West Columbia Fire Department***
- 11. Bryson Jeffords - Dorchester County Fire & Rescue***

**Seconded by Jason Dennis. All in favor.**

Past President–Chief Burns reported that the scheduled meeting for this month has been postponed until after the holidays.

Supervisory – We continue to work with Saluda County to reschedule their meeting. Since our last time together we had our Hampton meeting that went well, and we have two more meetings scheduled for 2025 so far.

Heritage Committee – Chief Bowers attended the Fire Museum Network in Houston Texas, this network is with other established fire museums.

Member Benefits – Expert Voice is a discount website for first responders it is similar to govx.com it was encouraged that everyone signs up and give them a try.

Training & Education – Reported by President Arant online submitted report.

1. FSIC 2025 Update: Total Registrations: 231; Total Students in Classes: 264; Classroom Sessions have 15 & 20 registered; 107 registered for Friday night dinner. 2. Fire/Rescue 2025 Update: working on class schedule and keeping within budget. Once draft is complete, will provide to President & EC for approval. 3. SCFA: a. SCFA new electronic registration process email was released on 10-28-2024. The new process will be implemented on January 1, 2025. b. Metal Class A Burn Building repairs were completed, and test burn was completed, and this building was placed back in service on 10-30-2024. c. Concrete Class A Burn Building still out of service pending core samples. Will keep EC updated once samples are obtained and processed. d. Next Advisory Meeting: Wednesday, November 20th @ 1000.

Health & Safety – Last Friday the committee met and heard from Milliken & Lucid Diagnostics. We are looking at holding a Health & Safety Officers summit. We selected our BINGO winner, Jamie Hunter, from Kershaw County. This month's safety spotlight is Oconee County Rescue 1. There is some concern about the Lucid Diagnostic testing that they have a 49% false positive rate.

Strategic Planning – No report.

EMS – November 25 is their next meeting. We had an opening on the committee, we are seeking approval to add Dr. Bobby Ridgeway to fill the slot.

Conference Experience – We had a meeting scheduled but it has been rescheduled. Exhibitor registration opened in October to return exhibitors and on November 1 to all Exhibitors.

Community Engagement – We held a summit that was successful. There is a questionnaire that will be going out for feedback.

OSHA – Congressional hearings started today. Online report was read by President Arant. Oct 5th -Update all on the status of the regulation, update all on activities of partner agencies, spoke about membership awareness, and planned for the Nov 6th stakeholders meeting. Nov 6th - Meeting at Seawell's in Columbia. Large group of multi-agency participants. Well represented. Historical review of the regulation. Numerous contentious items reviewed. Heard from SC OSHA Director Baker. Established plan of attack to list side by side comparison of the current and proposed regulation; created a team's network for communication; and established the viability of a "plan B" to be unveiled as the project development occurs. A December 2024 meeting of this group will be facilitated. November 19th at 1 pm - Joe Palmer and Keith Minick are the only two persons from SC testifying and will do so on this date.

#### Executive Committee Action Items

- 1). Listen to the You Tube broadcasts of testimony starting Nov 12 (as feasible and available)
- 2) Participate in the next stakeholders meeting in December.

Officer Academy – They are working through applications for the next Officer Academy. This month's JIVE will be hosted next week.

Insurance Services – We are having additional conversations with Blue Cross on the definition of a retiree. We have now partnered with Washington National. We will be selling new products through them and are no longer with Colonial Life.

Foundation – We have a meeting this Thursday.

NVFC – Membership dues will be increasing for NVFC from \$21 a year to \$24 a year. AFG Grants opened today, OSHA testifying started today.

### **Staff Reports**

Brick Lewis – **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – KIM VOISINE**

- Recruitment leads b/t 9/30/24-11/4/24 we received 169 leads,
- Database-38 FDs/5,064 members updated, challenges having VFDs to respond

#### **1% ACCOUNTING SERVICES – JANA KASSIANOS**

- An additional \$1,850,556 in Broker tax was given to Greenville County.
  - SCSFA received additional \$92,527.801
  - Fire Departments in Greenville County received an additional \$1,758,028.20 in 1% funding.
  - The total income from the T&E from all departments and counties went from \$568,918.89 to \$594,093.90. An increase of \$25,175.01.
- Working on Accounts receivable
  - 2024/2025 Invoices

- FSIC registrations
- 2025 SC Fire-Rescue Booth Spaces
- Foundation Donations for Satcher & Bodie funds are still coming in

#### **MEMBER OUTREACH – JEFF ALLEN**

- October 4th, 5th & 6<sup>th</sup> - assist at the Circle FD funerals in Batesburg Leesville
- October 7<sup>th</sup> retrieve LAST trailer from B&L and bring back to office.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> - Side by Side burn at Clear Springs open house; canceled.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> - Side by Side burn at Fountain Inn FD - narrated burns
- October 21st - NC/SC IAAI conference - give legislative update
- October 26<sup>th</sup> - Side by Side burn Clarendon County - narrate burns
- October 28<sup>th</sup> - relocate sign trailer from Orangeburg FTC to Allendale

#### **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR – BROOK DENNIS**

**Project: Intern management**

**Status: Ongoing**

Summary: Drew has successfully completed the Health & Safety bingo project, graphics for Psychologically Safe, FOA countdown, FSIC promo, follow-up survey for the scvolunteerfire.org submissions, graphics and copy for FOA applications, awards graphics and copy, and in the near future, a video to accompany the SCTF1 written article. Amy has been taking brief videos of our interviews and has sent them all to me. Between these clips and some photos, I've asked Drew to help put together a short video for them to play during their December awards ceremony. I am prioritizing writing the article so that he has a feel for how to edit the video together. Needs: NA

**Project: SCTF1 article**

**Status: Ongoing/very close to being done**

Summary: Amy asked if we would be able and willing to write an article on the history SCTF1 and future plans. This is timely because of the activation for Hurricanes Debby and Helene. Discussed with Brick that this would have to be a member-focused story with a call-to-action regarding the State Warning Point.

Needs: NA. Remaining interviews include Chief Jones, Director Farr, Chief Kline, and a few members of the team are scheduled for next week. Hopeful to have this entire project wrapped up by the end of November.

**Project: FOA article for Firehouse**

**Status: Ongoing and needs more juice after falling off because of the hurricanes and LODDs**

Summary: Rick had the opportunity to meet and chat with the Editor for Firehouse magazine, Peter Matthews, a while ago. He'd heard rumblings of the Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer and is interested in an article on the program. Rick and I met with Peter Tuesday, August 20 to discuss further. We're in a bit of wait-and-see phase in terms of how the content can be used for Firehouse (print, multiple online articles, podcast, etc).

Rick and I have talked with Andrew, Tardo, Terry, and Nick Ray. We have several others to interview as well, but given that this is a long-term project, I am getting those done whenever schedules allow but not breaking my neck.

Needs: NA

**Project: Theme month interviews (Black History Month, Women's History Month, volunteer week)**

**Status: Upcoming/ongoing**

Summary: I need help getting names for theme month interviews. Ross and Brad connected me with 4 of firefighters for Women's History Month, but that still leaves at least 4 for Black History Month and 5 for volunteer week.

Needs: Names and contacts for interviews for BHM and volunteer week

**Project: Officers Section newsletter and The Jive**

**Status: Ongoing**

Summary: The Officers Section has an episode of The Jive scheduled for next Thursday, November 21. Rick and I successfully tested a Live broadcast to the Facebook group so that's positive. Need to work with Rick/Chief Cline on the newsletter content for next week.

Needs: NA

**Project: Awards**

**Status: Upcoming/ongoing**

**Summary: Awards submissions due January 31, 2025**

Needs: NA

**Project: Scholarships**

**Status: Upcoming/ongoing**

Summary: Caggiano mentioned creating one scholarship form instead of the current system where each scholarship has an application. Rick and I suggested this to him years ago. I will work on consolidating the form(s). Scholarship applications open February 1 and close April 30.

Needs: NA

**1% CORRINATOR – JEFF OSWALD**

- 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 currently have (8) registrants.
- 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 (10) registrants
- Would like to secure additional host departments for 2025 1% Classes. If anyone is interested, please let me know
- Ongoing audit work

- Daily task of 1% job duties

### **SC FAST DIRETOR – PATTI GRAHAM**

- 2 Suicidal FFs connected to clinician
- 5 others FFs to clinician
- Team member's husband died from cancer
- 2 struggling FFs to Shatterproof
- Training canceled with Edgefield County
  - Next training 11/5 5:00 pm
- Spoke at the Statehouse for the September Suicide Coalition meeting
- SCEMSA Leadership Conference Booth
- Spoke to both of Bryan Riebe's CTC classes
- SCFAST was featured on the SC Public Safety Chaplains Association meeting where I presented Part 1 of SCFAST 101
- Met with the board of SC Public Safety Chaplains Association for strategic planning

### **Ashley Boltin – Training & Events**

Carter has been very busy with his written history, speaking engagements and helping provide information to Director Helms to provide justification for potential future funding.

Rick – We have pretty much covered most of his report in other reports, but he is continuing to work on Fire Chief 101 with his group.

Sara – Is staying busy with trying to connect with businesses.

Kim Bowman – Continues to filter calls and help members get their statements.

The Leadership Institute group will be meeting this Friday to learn about Public Safety systems and to present their group projects. The elected presidents will sit in as the panelists for the presentations of these projects. Please keep Peter Dontje in our thoughts and prayers he has a one-year-old who is very ill and has been transferred to MUSC, he has RSV along with several other issues. We attended Fire Fusion last week and were able to meet and greet lots of folks. Next week a group will be going to VCOS (Volunteer Combination Officer Section).

### **Jamie Helms – Executive Director**

The Chiefs Association will be meeting in Dorchester County on January 8, 2025. Their training will be Passionate Leadership our very own Jason Dennis will be one of the instructors.

CPM memberships and credit card proceeds have totaled \$14,000 in donations to us this year.

We are still working on the Health and Safety Summit dates.

Pal800 Meeting discussion

### **State Fire Report – Jason Pope**

A new student WIFI network has been added in the classrooms, and we plan to expand this to the Denny and the dorms.

The Resident Recruit School is moving from traditional textbooks to eBooks and Blackboard (LMS) for the January class. Each Recruit will be issued a Chromebook for their coursework.

We are replacing all the classroom tables with powered tables to accommodate the charging of laptops and mobile devices.

The changes to the student registration and waivers will take effect on January 1, 2025. Several emails have been sent to all fire portal users announcing this change.

11:35 pm Break for lunch

Toured Dalmatian Station & Ed Venture Museum.

### **Old Business**

Conference Center, when we leave here, we will head to the Columbia Convention Center to do a walk-through of the facility. An email was sent to all on November 9<sup>th</sup> to review the building. We put an offer in. 2003 is when the building was built, and it still has the original air units. We have requested specific information from the seller, but they have not provided ½ of what we have requested. Chief Bowers commented we need to figure out the game. We need to decide what we want and what we are willing to pay. What is the building worth to you.

It was asked about our current building and what would need to be done to put it on the market. We know new floors, Paint and some ceiling work.

### **New Business**

***A motion was made by Malcolm Burns to go into an executive session to discuss personnel matters, seconded by John Bowers. All in favor.***

***A motion was made by Jason Dennis to come out of the executive session and to approve Christmas Bonuses as discussed in the Executive Session; Seconded by Malcolm Burns. All in favor.*** President Arant will communicate the decision to the accountant.

***A motion was made by Malcolm Burns to adjourn, seconded by Mike Norket. All in favor.***

### **Online Reports**

NVFC - November 2024 NVFC update Membership dues are increasing to \$24 starting January 1! We are grandfathering in state association members who have SAFER grants to pay for members based on the amount written into the grant. The FY 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Application period opens Nov. 12, 2024, at 9 a.m. ET and closes Dec. 20, 2024, at 5 p.m. ET. Plan your FY 2024 AFG application by reviewing the FY 2024 AFG NOFO today at AFG Grant Documents | FEMA.gov. Request NVFC Training for your State Association Conference: Did you know that NVFC can provide low cost or FREE training for your state association conference? Please submit a request using this form. You

may also reach out to Rachel Buczynski if you have specific questions:

<https://nvfc.wufoo.com/forms/qmwgeu91cu9etv/> UPCOMING EVENTS: Webinars: Check out our new online training page for upcoming webinars: <https://www.nvfc.org/online-trainings/> and please share this link with your audiences! Other upcoming trainings include: • November 13 | So You're a Training Officer – Now What? Incorporating Adult Learning Theories into FD Training Programs Webinar | 2:00 – 3:00pm eastern • Nov 18 | National Kickoff Webinar: Crash Responder Safety Week Webinar | 1-2pm eastern

Health & Safety - H&S Committee members had the opportunity to hear from Milliken & Company (Textiles & Turnout Gear) and Lucid Diagnostics (Esophageal Cancer Screening). We are continuing to connect these companies to departments and firefighters across the state. The H&S Committee is working on identifying Health & Safety Officers within departments. Our goal is to specifically target these individuals when it comes time to promote/advertise for the H&S Summit. Staff is working on a date, currently aiming towards late February, early March 2025. Bingo Card winner was selected: Jamie Hunter from Kershaw County. The committee would like to give our appreciation and thanks to Jason Bell from Victory Steel LLC for sponsoring the prize! November Safety Spotlight is Oconee County's Rescue 1 Rehab Trailer that provides rehabilitation services, equipment & supplies at structure fires and any kind of extended search & rescue incidents.

OSHA - Oct 5th -Update all on the status of the regulation, update all on activities of partner agencies, spoke about membership awareness, and planned for the Nov 6th stakeholders meeting. Nov 6th - Meeting at Seawell's in Columbia. Large group of multi-agency participants. Well represented. Historical review of the regulation. Numerous contentious items reviewed. Heard from SC OSHA Director Baker. Established plan of attack to list side by side comparison of the current and proposed regulation; created a team's network for communication; and established the viability of a "plan B" to be unveiled as the project development occurs. A December 2024 meeting of this group will be facilitated. November 19th at 1 pm - Joe Palmer and Keith Minick are the only two persons from SC testifying and will do so on this date.

Executive Committee Action Items

1). Listen to the YouTube broadcasts of testimony starting Nov 12 (as feasible and available) 2) Participate in the next stakeholders meeting in December.

Advisory - Oral interviews were scheduled for every 20 minutes starting at 9:20 am. There was a total of 14 interviews. Originally the committee had selected 15 applicants, but one applicant sent an email request asking to be removed from the list as his life had had some changes, and he would not be able to commit to the program for the 2025 -2026 year. Of the 14 interviews 12 were in person. One person notified us early on that he would be out of town, so Ashley did a prerecording zoom with him, for the committee to review. We had another applicant have a medical emergency; he was unable to travel, so we did live Zoom with him.

Executive Committee Action Items



A list will be discussed at the Nov. 12 meeting for EC approval to move to the phase 3 portion.

Past President- The Past Presidents meeting that was scheduled in Anderson for 11/14/24 was postponed until a later date yet to be determined.

Chaplaincy Committee - No meeting held this month with committee members, nothing to report.

EMS - Next meeting 11/25 on SCSFA Office, will be addressing several items: stop the bleed kits, pod cast on DPH items, Greenville Tech EMT/Medic program, OHSA, Dorchester EMS Conference, FR2025 classes.

Executive Committee Action Items

Approval of Dr. Bobby Ridgeway to the EMS Committee to replace Alston Blanchard from Greer FD.

Legislative - Discussing Proviso's for the upcoming Governors Budget - Return to work, Palmetto 800 User Fee's. Verbiage adjustment for Firefighter Registration Act to reflect Firefighters must have a "valid" Driver's License. Definitions review for Firefighter/Fire Chief/Fire Department. Examples from other states provided to committee members to review. 2nd VP Jason Dennis has a word document ready to send out to the members for additional wording or changes to definitions. Still awaiting the Pre-Filing dates.

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