

Executive Committee Minutes May 12, 2026; Emmaus Church

Attendance: Pierce Womack, Jason Dennis, Mike Norket, Kevin Henson, Ross Vezin, Randy Arant, Ben Waring, Ryan Eubanks, Terry Sheriff, Brad Kavetski, Billy Barnes, Charles Lamoreaux, Kevin Crosby, Tom Gwyer, Rickie Jenkins, Josh Holzheimer, Jennifer Thackston, Matt Rhoton, Joe Plamer, Jamie Caggiano, Jack Kirlin, Zorrina Harmon, Brook Dennis, Brick Lewis, Jamie Helms, Ashley Boltin, Emily Sobczak, Tommy Amick, Jana Kassianos, Greg Bulanow, Kim Vosine, Colleen Quillen, Rick Dunn, Marcia Greer, Joe Munn, Dan Conley & Sydney Ellis.

Call to Order by President Womack

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance by Rickie Jenkins

Opening Remarks by President Womack

Thank you for your support throughout the year. It has been a good year, and we have accomplished a lot.

A motion was made by Randy Arant to approve the minutes from April 16, 2026, as presented; seconded by Mike Norket. All in favor.

New Business

1% Audits – Ben Waring, Jeff Oswald & Emily Sobczak – From Green Finney Cauley, LLP

They did a total of 70 Audits this year. Our job is to Educate the departments and make sure they are compliant. This year the recommendation is 9 departments to be removed from the Association due to not being compliant and failing their audit. To date they have hosted 73 classes with a total of 2,238 attendees.

Director Helms - The departments that were kicked out due to not being compliant for forms and dues, we have had 5 of those departments request an appeal.

Kevin Henson raised the question at what point do we start billing back the Fire Departments for these follow up audits?

Committee Reports

Finance & Audit – Jason Dennis – April statement should be coming out soon. We are in a good financial spot. We tightened the belt this year even more. I am very appreciating of the finance and audit committee they were engaged and had lots of good questions. I hope to have one final meeting before conference.

Legislative – Mike Norket – It has been a very busy season legislatively. The legislative committee has been very helpful and inquisitive. Cindy and her staff are a great group to work with. He reviewed over legislation that was accomplished this year.

Advisory – Kevin Henson – The committee accomplished its goals of selecting the Leadership Institute applicants and Award applicants for this year. Bringing Chief Bulanow on board has been a huge asset to the Leadership Institute. We have one

committee member that has taken a job outside of the state and will need to be replaced for next year.

4th VP – Ross Vezin – I was able to attend many meetings this year and see how the committees have been working hard to move us forward. I look forward to chairing the advisory committee next year.

Past President – Randy Arant – We had 3 projects for this year. One to create a Past President Coin, Past President Leather Helmet, and to get bigger Lapel Pins. So far, we have only been able to accomplish the bigger lapel pins. We were also able to keep the firefighter retirement home in the strategic plan for the future.

Member Benefits – Ryan Eubanks – We have been very active we accomplished revamping member exclusives; we were able to clean up the webparts, so all links are current and work. A QR code was created for marketing purposes. We began a partnership with Life Scan, Member Meals at Departments. We continue to work on a partnership with SCDNR for free hunting and fishing license. We also come to you today with a proposal to improve the 24 AD&D Coverage.

The motion out of committee is to increase the 24-hour coverage for all active members of the policyholder from \$3,400 to \$5,000 per person and the Line of Duty Coverage from \$6,800 to \$10,000 per person the effective date will be February 1, 2027. Seconded by Randy Arant. All in favor.

Training & Education- Terry Sheriff – Fire-Rescue is coming up with over 40 class offerings. We have national and in state speakers. The Training officer working group has developed a purpose statement, 67 job tasks with 8 categories. A survey was sent out with 51 responses received. The group is working on learning objectives now. A huge thank you to staff for all your work in making the following trainings a success: Fire Service Improvement Conference, Fire-Rescue, Training Officer Academy. FSI was one of the largest this year with 14 classes provided, even though 5 were cancelled due to weather. We had over 200 at the dinner on Friday night. This year, we were able to implement a new registration that allowed us to email certificates out after the training was complete. Tomorrow is the Fire School advisory committee meeting at 10:00 am.

Health & Safety – Brad Kavetski – This year, we worked to revamp topics. We were able to revamp the website thanks to Brook. We have more relevant topics on social media. We presented at the Fire Officer Academy. We are now finalizing a nutrition campaign and meal delivery discounts.

Strategic Planning – Billy Barnes – Our committee is finishing up the last little bit of strategic objectives. We hope to have it completed by the conference.

By – Laws – Charles Lamoraux – We have done a complete review of the By- Laws and found no inconsistencies.

EMS – Kevin Crosby – We are seeking funding for the stop the bleed kits.

Conference Experience Committee – Tom Gwyer – This year we will have Thursday & Friday beach workouts at one location. Thursday evening will be a firefighter appreciation event sponsored by the Professional Firefighters of Myrtle Beach and the foundation. Proceeds will go to both locally and the foundation Burn Children's Fund. The Fun Run is set for 8 am on Saturday morning we are finalizing the course at the parking lot of the convention center. We have several discounts that have been offered and can be found on the website.

Chaplain – Rickie Jenkins – We were able to assist Ms. Patti Graham at Mile in our Boots. I have had the pleasure of speaking at multiple memorial and funeral services this year. We have brought together chaplains from across the state to assist in public safety. We will be hosting a chaplaincy round table at the Fire – Rescue Conference this year.

Recruitment & Retention – Josh Holzheimer – We will release 2 surveys at Conference for R&R, working on bringing the I-Chief's class to our state.

Communications – Jennifer Thackston – We have worked on email communications delivery, Pal800 having a fire service advocate for the user group, and RediOp demo as an internal tool to use outside of email. School mapping, drones, fire rescue app. We created a statewide technology survey. We look forward to helping the heritage center with technology.

Emergency Management – Matt Rhoton – We know there are reimbursement challenges. We are preparing a guide to departments. Our goal is to share information to prepare the fire service on how to support the EOCs. We hope for open communication with the state EOC to strengthen numbers. Our ongoing review council recommendations – congressional action on the phase approach & translate back to the fire service.

OSHA Review – Joe Palmer – he took a point of personal privilege to commend staff and audits for 1%. Update we started this presidency year with Draft 13 of the proposed state OSHA plan, we are now on draft 32 with significant changes. Beta test process for part E, which is the industrial side takes place next week. My recommendation is to put the draft on the website before the conference. Unveil it publicly at the conference from the podium, we will host a training class on it as well. We have met with Ms. Katrina Baker at LLR, it was well-received when we showed her. We had a good dialogue. The anticipation is mutually beneficial. After the conference, we will hold our next stakeholders meeting in the late summer. We will have a breakout session with SME, and our end goal is to find cohesion and areas of further improvement. There are still activities of change at the federal level, but we are on the right track for our state level.

Foundation – Jamie Caggiano – We have hit the \$200,000 mark for funds. That is minus the endowment for scholarships and Burn Children's Fund, which continues to increase.

We have 6 Scholarships now, 2 are endowed meaning we invested \$25,000 and the interest only will be used that is for the Louis Behrens & Mutt Bozard Scholarships. We have completed the process of partnership with Founders Credit Union. They have made a \$5,000 sponsorship to the Golf Tournament. Currently, we have 40sih teams that have signed up with room for more. We will have the silent auction this year as well, if you have anything to donate, such as gift cards, please let me know.

Staff Reports

Zorrina - SCFIS and MMA are currently working with departments in the TRUST for the 2026-2027 renewals. The entire block had a 4% increase.

PRS is continuing to grow, and several departments have taken advantage of the services offered. Zorrina asked that if anyone had a need that they would love the opportunity to help facilitate and organize their classes/instructors.

A huge thank you to the SCFIS staff for the hard work for marinating excellent customer service with the increase in claims and for the past five years facilitating the state cancer benefit claims.

Zorrina reminded the committee of the new PSOB legislation passed in December 2025, Honoring our Fallen Heros Act of 2025. Sydney is continuing to make those calls and file claims. We have had several that were outside of the state law which went into effect 7/1/2021, dating back to 1/1/2020.

SCFIS is continuing to grow and secure a good book of business in SC while looking at opportunities in NC and GA.

Ashley - Rick Dunn –

Fire – Rescue

- 47 Classes with 44 Instructors – All 47 classes will receive CE through the Department of Health
- We have 8 instructors flying in.
- The website is up to date with all information

We will go over Fire – Rescue more in-depth.

Training Officer Academy

- During this reporting period, I was able to complete the [draft learning objectives](#) for the TOA program as directed by the working group.
 - The objectives are based on the 10 categories the working group developed (Job Inventory Process)
 - The objectives are validated based on the Job Task Analysis (JTA), which included a survey to training officers across the state. Each objective is references to the applicable NFPA and OSHA reference.

- A survey results to objective crosswalk was also developed to identify the survey importance trend, the survey frequency pattern, the identified gap, the organizational risk if unaddressed and the curriculum priority level. This information was provided.
 - Within each list of objectives, I have also referenced the *critical* and *gap critical* objectives as determined by the survey results of the JTA.
- The working group is reviewing the learning objecting and subsequence information before the nest meeting. After a discussion, they also agree to invite some SMEs to the development phase as we begin looking at the delivery methods and content.

Officer Section

- The Officer Section election is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2026. The election will close on May 29, 2026, at 5 p.m.
- The contested election is for the 2nd Vice Chair
 - [Jeremy Bass](#) – Abbeville County Fire Service
 - [Nathan Huhn](#) - City of Charleston Fire Department
 - [Jeremy King](#) – South Greenville Fire District
 - [David Nelson](#) – Surfside Beach Fire Department
- The other positions are not opposed and will not be on the ballot.
 - 1st VC Haley Langford Kearnes – Jasper County
 - Secretary Micah Taylor– Clear Springs
 - Treasurer Tracy Benenhaley – Clarendon County Fire Rescue
- Kim V. is validating the Section roster now for membership in good standing in the Association before the ballots are sent out. The ballot is built in SurveyMonkey and ready to add the roster.
- Once the election results are ratified by the election committee and the Association’s Executive Committee, the candidates will be notified.
- The new officers for the Section will be sworn in during the Section’s Annual Meeting on June 11, 2026, at Fire-Rescue. This meeting begins at 10:45 a.m. at the Convention Center.

Officer Academy

- At the last meeting in March, the Steering Committee asked staff to evaluate the pre-course assessment videos for relevancy and age. Patti has redone her video, and Zach is currently editing it to replace the older lesson in the LMS. A new lesson is also being added on AI and the Company officer. This video was captured in early March and Zach is working on it as well. It was a product of the AI working group from the Steering Committee late last year.

NFPA

- Pre–first draft meetings have completed for **NFPA 1010: Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters**. I was asked to lead two chapters in this process.
 - Chapter 6 (Firefighter I) and Chapter 16 (ARFF DO)

Carter Jones –

- Preparing for Fire – Rescue Conference

Greg Bulanow –

- Leadership met last week and took part in a 3-day training, Our Community Listens.
- Most LI participants will be at the Fire – Rescue Conference

Kim Bowman –

- Continues to work and serve our membership.

Brook Dennis – Fire-Rescue app is being built

- Using the app to send surveys, approved by T&E Chair Terry Sheriff
- Conducting exhibitor trainings to alleviate pressure during check-in for badges, using the lead gen feature
- Documenting the app configuration process
- Fire-Rescue general — collaborating with Zach and Abby to ensure full event coverage while I am dual-rolling it with LI

Brick Lewis - 1% ACCOUNTING SERVICES – JANA KASSIANOS

- Good Standing Departments
 - Notified the 7 departments of loss of membership due to payment and or forms
 - Assisted in the appeal process five departments
 - Blacksburg VFD
 - Cross Keys VFD
 - Langley VFD
 - Philippi VFD
 - Westside VFD
 - Notified the County Treasurers of the departments that have lost membership
 - Met with SSC to discuss the Initial Audits results
- Setting up the action plan for accounting services when remote work begins.
- Attended the “Community Listens” Class with the Leadership Institute and Staff
- Began packing and preparing for Fire Rescue

MEMBER OUTREACH – JEFF ALLEN

- Boiling Springs (Greenville) – May 6
- Orangeburg County Fire Chiefs meeting – May 7
- Represented SCSFA at Terry Mueller’s (longtime fire marshal) Funeral in Beaufort – May 13

- York County Fire Chiefs meeting – May 14
- Pickens County Fire Chiefs meeting Easley FD – May 21
- Greenville County Vendors night Fountain Inn FD – May 21

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – KIM VOISINE

- April R&R Career and Volunteer inquiries
 - Volunteer 104
 - Career 24
- Officer Section
 - Assisted with Officer Section Elections
 - Verified the 542 members are in good standing
- Database
 - On going cleanup of duplicate accounts, missing information (valid/missing last 5 digits of SSN, VALID email address)

Mth/Yr	Sept.26	Aug.26	Jul.26	Jun.26	May.26	Apr.26	Mar.26	Feb.26	Jan.26	Dec.25	Nov.25	Oct.25	Sept.25	Totals	
Volunteer						104	98	69	76	78	79	76	106	686	Volunteer
Career						24	19	24	18	28	30	32	19	194	Career
Mth total	0	0	0	0	0	128	117	93	94	106	109	108	125	880	Grand Total
Comments															
Started 9/26/2024															
Mid Oct. 2024 site was updated where those inquiring could choose volunteering or career															
Oct. 2024 hurrican Helen															
March 2025 Horry County fires and Table Rock fire															

1% CORRINATOR – JEFF OSWALD

- April 20, 2026, Berkeley County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Pine Ridge VFD. (27) Attendees; (15) fire departments represented; (2) Counties represented by attendees.
- July 28, 2026, Lexington County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by City of Cayce FD. Class registration link was created on May 5, 2026. We have received (1) registrant for the class.
- Received email from Chief John Shoemake of Darlington County Fire District, on 01/13/2026, informing me they are interested in hosting a 1% Regional Training Class for Darlington County. I will be working with him and Molly Odom to schedule a date for the class.
- Have been discussing, with contacts, future 1% Regional Training Classes in Aiken and Beaufort Counties.
- The update to the 1% Class PowerPoint has been completed and was used at the Berkeley County 1% Class on April 20, 2026.

- Will be conducting (2) 1% Classes at 2026 SCSFA Fire-Rescue Conference.
- Would like to secure additional host departments for 2026 1% Classes. If anyone is interested, please let me know.
- FD meetings/classes in May – Clemson University Fire & EMS (5/11), Antreville FD (5/19), Columbia FD (5/20)
- Daily task of 1% job duties
- Letters will be sent to County Treasurers to notify them of the departments that are not eligible to receive 1% funds and fire departments will also receive letter via email to notify them.

SC FAST DIRETOR – PATTI GRAHAM

- **Training**
- Upcoming Peer
- Upcoming
- Spartanburg EMS May 14-15
- Working on setting up:
 - Clarendon Area
 - Horry County
 - Charleston County EMS
- SCFAST 101
- Flat Rock Bowen (Anderson County) -Part 2-April 21st
- **PCIS-Post Critical Incident Seminar**
- preliminary conversations about the next one
- location-Barefoot Landing Conference Center-North Myrtle Beach
- November 8-11- 2026
- **Mile In Our Boots - April. 16-18 2026**
- Colleton County Fire Department
 - 13 participants
 - Received Continuing Education Credits for 17.5 hours from NBCC (National Board of Certified Counselors).
 - Thank to SCSFA providing the meal for Thursday evening cookout and spending time.
 - **SC FAST Responses- April-May**
 - May 6, Joanna FD-MVA on I-26
 - April 26, Mauldin FD 14-year-old suicide-met with fire, EMS and 911
 - Union county Plane Crash-Fire-EMS-Sheriff

- April 20, Moncks Corner/Pimlico FD
- April 14 Anderson City Fire-Pediatric MVA
- April 12, North Spartanburg-Double Pediatric Fatality MVA
- Boiling Spring Greenville-Triple Fatality Fire including a 3-year-old
- April 1st and 2nd Greer City Fire-Open visits for grieving LT Graham
- **Outreach**
- Still working with Hoofbeats Ranch (Lindsay McDade) on connecting FDs/Agencies with her horse connection wellness programs. 3/28
- Peer to Cherokee County meeting (monthly)
- Met with Representative in Texas charged with developing Peer Support Program-Peer Connect 3/26

Lunch was provided

Old Business

Bylaws Chair – Establish the Bylaws position as an Executive Committee parliamentarian; it is a nonvoting position, but they have a seat at the table to keep us in check.

Building Update – already discussed but staff will work remote. We have a workstation set up in the annex building with 3 to 4 desks in it. Remote workers will use team meetings during this transition phase. This is temporary until the building is ready. Fire Rescue stuff has been moving to the annex building a lot of furniture has been moved also. Our closing date is May 28th at 3:00 pm.

Fire Rescue Overview given by Ashley Boltin.

Playbook Review by Director Helms.

Lastly if you need anything between now and Fire – Rescue, please let us know.

A motion was made by Randy Arant to adjourn at 1:21 pm; seconded by Jason Dennis. All in favor.

Online Reports

Training & Education - Committee Focus Activities

T&E Committee: No meeting since the April meeting. Training Officer Working Group: Will meet after Fire-Rescue. SC State Fire School Advisory Meeting: Wednesday, May 13th @ 1000.

OSHA Rewrite - Executive Director Helms and Joe Palmer met with SC OSHA Director Baker and Compliance Officer Charles Price on April 23 and discussed the steps getting us to Draft 31 and the way forward. The meeting was very encouraging, and staff looks forward to the final drafts of the project. Additionally, the WERE section e has been written and is currently under BETA test. The final remaining section is Law Enforcement and Chief Helms and Palmer are developing an approach plan to this section.

Executive Committee Action Items

Continue passing along information that this is coming to the department with which you interface. Offer specialized familiarization by Joe Palmer at larger group meetings which you may attend, as appropriate. Look for a late summer larger stakeholders meeting that will need your participation.

Chaplaincy - Successful 1st Chaplain round table discussion at the Fire Rescue Conference.

Executive Committee Action Items

Completion of a Chaplaincy Guideline and statewide program

Finance & Audit - Budget update with Director Helms and Bryan Bailey. We haven't met since last EC Meeting, but I will be sending out an email today to set up a virtual meeting hopefully for the last week of the month.

Supervisory - Committee met with Auditing firm to review and finalize all Audits for the year. All were finalized and notices have been sent out to the departments from Jeff. Jana and Jeff are working on certified letters notifying some departments and county treasurers of loss of membership

Officer Section - Call to Order- 10:03 am of April 9, 2026 via Microsoft Teams
o Overview of Agenda by 1st Vice Chair Ben Williams
o Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 2026 by Liasson Dennis, and Secretary Taylor- no changes noted
o Outreach Outline sent to board members from Brook, updates are sent for meetings as well when they do need to. This also included talking points from the Association
o No Status report due to Chairman Griffieth being out of the office.
o Officer Academy Update FOA 26-01
o 25 Selected and attending
o 23 attended due to 2 having family emergencies prior to Academy arrival of 21 Completed and Graduated- 2 participants were not physically prepared due to the standard in which is set forth for the program in which does not change. Were sent home earlier in the program
o Rick advised that the group was really good, and that NC attendee won the J. Awarded and had a good attitude, and work ethic. Also advised that he was the first out of state applicant to attend.
o Old Business
o Haley- trying to attend and plan for a Chiefs meeting, due to other schedule conflicts planning to attend one in the near future.
o Revisited by Rick
♣ Funding for the Officer Section • Advised coming up with “The Why?” of the funding resource • Developing a purpose or business style plan. • What is the direction of our will for the section to have funding? • Also making sure we have something middle of

July if we should wish to propose anything for the budget as the section budget starts on October 1 such as federal budget timing. ♣ Also understanding what we are wanting to establish, and what would be the cost as well as the benefit. ♣ Then conducting a process for the reason and then seeking out the funding to produce and seek the needed funding. o Haley- see below for questions asked. o Who we are using for such training needs? o What is the rules in which we are utilizing people or any issues in which may affect the training opportunities in which we decide to use? o Do we have to pay for compensation of facility usage? o Rick reply to Haley questions - see below o HOT classes have to have insured people and shared the liability agreement by the Firefighter Association o Seminar based are contracted by the Firefighter Association of Funding for materials, and such. Generally, do not have to pay for Fire Academy usage. They just have to know well in advance. o Ben advised that ways of generating revenues could be that of offering some type of scholarship for the Officer Section to include: some kind of outside training class such as FLAMES, or like Georgia Smoke Diver. Possibilities of also showing more opportunities for section involvement. o Rick reply to above is why not try something as such. There is just a process in which is needed for the funding approval also the understanding that why the funding is needed for those types of courses. Being able to pitch and sale the idea to the Executive Committee to also show benefits. o Review of the LMS resources in which are free for the section as well. o Being able to give officer and training officers the needed different components that are able to use and being able to update these things o Being able to come up with a section page for important items in which the section would like to see. Being able to have a tangible component for us to work towards as an Officer Section Board. o New Business o Election and Annual Meeting ♣ Election Committee- Grimsley, Owens, and Hinson notified of the candidates in which were received from February 5-March 11,2026 • Results included: • 1st Vice – one nomination • 2nd Vice- four nominations • Secretary- one nomination • Treasury- one nomination ♣ Only one position has to have a vote and ballot in which had been prepared for all members in which will be sent out on May 18,2026 – May 29th close of business for the membership to vote on. o After that the election committee will be notified, then ratify the votes. Executive Committee, and the Chairman of the Officer Section then are notified. o All candidates are then notified of the results and noted that there has been an uptick in the membership additions to the Officer Section. o June 11, 2026, will be the annual meeting at 10:45 am, all new candidates will be sworn in at that time. o Association staff members are checking the membership, and roster to make sure candidates are in good standing and official members of the section per the by-laws in place. o Chairman Griffeith o Thanked everyone on the board for their hard work, and in which the work that had been put into the section this year. o Speaking on the pathway and strategic plan in which played a big role in the direction of the section. o Association Booth and Scheduling o Brook advised that we had an opportunity to serve in the association booth to be able to get presence, and opportunities to interact with the membership. ♣ Having opportunities and requesting to be able to have a presence of Friday and Saturday during the exhibit hall times. Also being able to give out materials for the Officer Section. o Open Discussion of Haley- asking if anyone had plans to be attending all meeting with being able to work on to attend some of

the meetings in the near future for Chiefs o Micah- working to find a time to attend a meeting for the Greenville Fire Chiefs association due to scheduling as well. o Brook- May 11th will be attending the Beauty area meeting to be able to talk a little about Officer Section o Meeting Adjourned at 10:50 am.

Health & Safety - Year-End Report: Updated and refreshed H&S section on Association website with current and relevant information. Continued partnership with UNC Motion Science Institute - Cancer-related fatigue among firefighters in remission study. Cancer presentation shared with both FOA's. With the help of Brook, share H&S related resources across socials on a regular basis. Finalizing nutrition campaign-on duty meal prep program. Working with Member Benefits on meal delivery discount (Hello Fresh).

NVFC - Homeland Security Zoom meeting on April 27th. A reminder that fire departments should have a disaster resilience plan. Another warning against cyber threats that are on the rise. Discussed FEMA reform. Keith is reviewing Nutella Grants. Keith and Jack are traveling to Washington, DC for the Spring meeting of the NVFC May 15th through 17th. Keith and Jack will be meeting with our state congressmen on the 14th prior to the meeting.