

Executive Committee
October 22, 2024
Spartanburg – Marriott Hotel

Attendance: Randy Arant, Pierce Womack, Jason Dennis, Malcolm Burns, John Bowers, Terry Sheriff, Brad Kavetski, Billy Barnes, Kevin Crosby, Rickie Jenkins, John Bowers, Chad Beam, Joe Palmer, Rick Cramer, Jamie Caggiano, Jamie Helms, Brick Lewis, Zorrina Harmon, Ashley Boltin

2:00 pm	Call to Order & Welcome	President Arant
	Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance	Rickie Jenkins
	Approval of Minutes	

A motion was made by Malcolm Burns to accept the September 11-13, 2024, minutes as presented; seconded by Jason Dennis. All in favor.

Committee and Staff Reports

Finance – We ended the 2023-2024 year with a net \$116,000.

Legislative- Will meet on October 31, 2024

Supervisory – Had to reschedule the Abbeville meeting but have several meetings coming up.

Training & Education – Met on October 15th to review Fire Rescue submissions we received 153 submissions we have narrowed it down to 50 classes. FSI registration is going well so far we have 228 people registered.

Health & Safety – Everyone did a great job for the Saluda County LODDs. We will meet in November to select our Bingo winner. We have started our monthly Safety Spotlight series this month’s spotlight was Howe Springs. We are working on our Safety Summit in the coming months.

Strategic Planning – We met October 17th and created a share point site. If your committee is making progress on any of the goals, please send that info to me.

EMS- Our last meeting was canceled due to the hurricane. We currently have an opening on the EMS committee.

Chaplain Committee – We have added Ms. Patti to the committee, and we met the day before the hurricane. We are working on several classes to include spouses and mental well-being. We also are working on educating folks on what chaplaincy is.

Heritage – Friday we will be heading to Houston for the Fire Museum Network meeting. Community Engagement Committee will be hosting the Creating A Psychologically Safe Work Space seminar this Friday at the Denny Auditorium.

Technology & Communication Committee –A survey is being sent out. We just had the second-largest disaster in our state, and the entire event was run off of technology. Next Thursday will be Ken Kerbers last day, a drop in will be held at 1:30 pm.

OSHA – November 6, 2024 we will hold a stakeholder meeting at Seawells. You can find our position statement on the website. November 12th will open public comment, and we are being told it will run for 4 weeks, there were over 500 requests to speak submitted. We are looking for your feedback on what you would like for us to bring up during public comment. On October 16th, Marquis Solomon, Charlie King, and Joe Palmer presented at the Municipal Association. It was discussed the NFPA stance on the changes, OSHA statement page on volunteers being held to the new standard, and that it's a problem for the Volunteers. Comments were brought up that Volunteers cant afford it unless there is a funding mechanism put in place. Act 388 was brought up. Chief Caggiano brought up this will cause a huge divide in the fire service between Paid & Volunteer fire service.

Officer Academy – Officer Academy class had to be canceled due to Hurricane Helene. They have started back up the monthly Jive podcast.

SCFIS – February 15, 2024, will be the Memorial Service at Riverland Hills Baptist Church. We are talking with a new supplemental policy company, Washington National; we will have more info in the coming months. PRS – has lots of opportunities we are looking at pursuing.

Foundation- We were able to assist two City of Columbia Firefighters who were injured, and two fallen firefighters' families from Saluda County. We are now in the GoFundMe business; we also can help if a department wants to form a subsidiary foundation. Sarah continues to work on building relationships with businesses. We are working on two different scholarships. Malcolm Burns gave an update on the Burn Fund. They had an issue with the vendor out of Summerville that builds the new can trailers not being delivered, and a police report has been filed, they have learned the company they are using is known for this.

Staff Reports

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Brick Lewis

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – KIM VOISINE

- Purchase and install of nugget maker
- Assisted with needs for 2 LODD Circle VFD
- Recruitment leads b/t 9/30/24-10/18/24 we received 103 leads,
- Database
- EMS Committee meeting
- DEI Committee meeting
- Organization of lunch for Creating a Psychologically Safe Workplace for Friday, October 25

1% ACCOUNTING SERVICES – JANA KASSIANOS

- ???

MEMBER OUTREACH – JEFF ALLEN

- October 4th, 5th & 6th - assist at the Circle FD funerals in Batesburg Leesville

- October 7th retrieve LAST trailer from B&L and bring back to office.
- October 12th - Side by Side burn at Clear Springs open house; canceled.
- October 12th - Side by Side burn at Fountain Inn FD - narrated burns
- October 21st - NC/SC IAAI conference - give legislative update
- October 26th - Side by Side burn Clarendon County - narrate burns
- October 28th - 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, and FSIC promo. His to-do list now includes creating the follow-up survey for the scvolunteerfire.org submissions (on scfirefighters.org), 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

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.

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

Summary: I need help getting names for theme month interviews. Ross connected me with 2 of his firefighters for Women's History Month, but that still leaves at least 4 for Black History Month, 2 for Women's History Month, and 5 for volunteer week.

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

Project: Officers Section strategic plan survey

Status: Complete

Summary: The Officers Section had a strategic planning meeting and decided to gather feedback from committee members before sending the strategic planning survey to the Section membership. Micah Taylor (Clear Springs) and Chief Cline led this process. After receiving the feedback from Micah, Chief Cline, and the committee members, I created a survey, received their approval, and sent to the Section members. With the survey open for one week, we've received 70 responses. I have sent the survey results to Chief Cline, Micah, and Rick to analyze and evaluate. Needs: NA

1% CORRINATOR – JEFF OSWALD

- September 30, 2024, Saluda County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Saluda County Fire Service. Registration link was made available on July 8, 2024. Class was postponed due to LODD of Circle VFD Chief Satcher and Firefighter Bodie. (34) had registered for the class. I will follow up with Mark Lybrand to see when he wants to reschedule their class
- October 29, 2024, Hampton County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Hampton FD. Registration link was made available on July 15, 2024. We currently have (32) registrants
- 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 (4) 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 (9) registrants
- Would like to secure additional host departments for 2025 1% Classes. If anyone is interested, please let me know
- FD meetings/classes in October – Hampton County 1% Regional Training Class (10/29)
- Tommy Watson, DOI, emailed SCSFA on 10/08/2024, to inform us that the broker miscoding issue has been resolved. State Treasurer's Office was to cut a check to the Greenville County Treasurer in the amount of \$1,850,556 week of October 7-11, 2024
- Ongoing audit work
- Daily task of 1% job duties

SC FAST DIRECTOR – PATTI GRAHAM

- LODD Funerals- Satcher and Bodie
 - Debrief and Clinician connection Crew that worked Satcher and Bodie

- Coordination for Visitation and funeral for Satcher and Bodie
- 2 Suicidal FFs connected to clinician
- 5 others FFs to clinician
- Team member's husband died from cancer
- 2 struggling FFs to Shatterproof
- Training cancelled 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

Training & Events Report – Ashley Boltin

Carter Jones – Has had several more Speaking opportunities. He also traveled to Appleton, WI with Leadership Institute.

Rick Dunn – Fire Chief 101 will meet 10/30/24. We have already covered in FSI Conference, Fire – Rescue & Officer Academy.

Sarah Moore – Continues to work on making connections with possible donors.

Kim Bowman – Retirement system phone calls continue to keep her busy with helping ur members.

Leadership Institute had a great trip to Pierce this month. They will meet again on November 8th at Aiken Public Safety and will present their group projects.

2025 Leadership Phase 2 oral interviews were conducted and Chairman Norket will have a recommendation to bring forward next month. Reminder Fire Fusion will be held in Charleston November 5 – 7, 2024.

SCFIS – Zorrina Harmon

It is suicide awareness month, and we have been busy assisting with the Saluda LODD's.

Executive Director Report - Jamie Helms

Thank you for your support at the Saluda County LODDs.

Greenville County's 1% issue has been fixed.

Greg Bulanow will be meeting with Ashley and I in the coming weeks.

Building – Browning Road- Sherri has been working on trying to get us back in the building, but they have not had success yet.

Blue Light document – I have meetings set up with Chief Keel, and Director Woods to let them know our stance. I think a better approach or discussion needs to be had on Roadway Safety.

PRS- Zorrina and I have been having lots of conversations on potential business.

A motion was made by Malcolm Burns to create a proclamation for Ken Kerber for his contributions to USAR, the state, and our association; seconded by John Bowers. All in favor.

A discussion was had about an issue we had with a photographer at the Saluda county LODD funerals, it has been handled.

Rick Dunn & Jamie Helms attended the opening day of Chattum County GA officer Academy.

Old Business

Jamie Helms will be meeting with Trey at the Governor's office to discuss tax credits and retirement.

New Business

Play Book Review for November

John Bowers thanked the group for the FFOY recognition at the USC football game, it was a very special day that Safe Credit Union & USC created.

Instructions for dinner were given.

Adjourn

Online Reports

Strategic Planning - Opening President Arant's Goals: Continue to work on our current strategic planning goals and track goals that have been completed and/or started. At our March Strategic Planning retreat, come up with updated goals to start working on and update our strategic planning document. Review of current strategic objectives (EC Meeting Minutes July 14, 2024): Legislative Committee Goals: Chairman Jason Dennis: Pre-file for definitions for Firefighter and Fire Department (Strategic Planning Goal – 1A1) Work with staff, State Fire, and Chief Stewart and Mrs. Kondurus Supervisory Committee Goals: Chairman John Bowers: Continue the 1% training seminars held throughout the state. (Strategic Planning Goal – 1A3) Finance & Audit Committee Goals: Chairman Pierce Womack: Research and seek alternative funding sources to support the mission and vision of the SC State Firefighters' Association. (Strategic Planning Goal – 1B3) Member Benefits Committee Goals: Chairman Ross Vezin: Continue to find new benefits for our members. (Strategic Planning Goal – 2A1) SCFIS Committee Goals: Chairman Rick Cramer Continue to research and evaluate healthcare "GAP" insurance policies that could be offered through SCFIS for members who are retiring from service. (Strategic Planning Goal – 2A2) Heritage Committee: Chairman John Bowers Develop and present a policy referencing the acceptance and curation of antique items into the historical preservation collection. (Strategic Planning Goal – 2B2) DEI Committee Goals: Chairman Mickey Folsom Establish a

process for enhancing Association participation that is inclusive, engaging, and focused on soliciting input from our diverse membership. (Strategic Planning Goal – 4A2) Training & Education Committee Goals: Chairman Terry Sheriff: Continue to plan and find ways to improve the Fire Service Improvement Conference (Strategic Planning Goal – 5A3) Continue to plan and find ways to improve the Leadership Institute program. (Strategic Planning Goal – 5A1) Have a Fire Chief's 101 syllabus made and presented to the Executive Committee during the new fiscal year. (Strategic Planning Goal – 5A2) Discussion of upcoming projects and timelines Update the current plan Officer Section Strategic Plan First meeting in September 17 Projected Completion date December 2024

NVFC- October 2024 NVFC update Jack Kirlin and Keith Minick attended the fall meeting in Kansas, MO. Separate meeting notes was sent to the executive committee. Hurricane Helene has wreaked havoc on unsuspecting areas. The news is incredibly difficult to watch but if you are looking for ways to help those impacted, we have a couple of options for you:

- NVFC's Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund provides stipends of \$350 to volunteers whose homes have been impacted by a state or federally-declared disaster. If you are in the states that have been impacted, please help us spread the word about this resource, or you can donate to the fund. The applicant must be either a member of NVFC, OR your state association.
- Our friends at the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association have launched a hurricane relief fund for first responders in western NC. You can learn more or donate here: <https://ncsfa.com/hurricane-helene-relief-for-western-nc-firefighters>

Upcoming Events (please share these with your networks):

- Oct 16 | When the Call Comes From Inside the House- Next Steps After a Harassment Allegation Webinar | 2pm eastern
- Oct 24 | The Role of the Fire Department Chaplains Webinar | 2pm eastern

New Class Available in the NVFC Virtual Classroom: A new course was launched on Creating a Successful Junior Firefighter Program. Take this course free through the end of the year, thanks to sponsorship by First Alert. ODD Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat movie from John Deere on Volunteer Firefighters being aired on SCETV October 6th at 4pm and October 8th at noon.

Chaplaincy - Meeting was held on the 25 of September
Committee Focus Activities

Meeting was held to go over the Executive committee goals set for the Chaplaincy Committee. We also discuss being partners with Patti Graham's SC Peer group. Patti also informed us that she was contacted by Rich Robinson concerning some partnership with the Association and Crisis Chaplaincy. Chaplain Robinson reached out to me the next to meet up. No meeting set up at this time. We also talk about coming up with something like a spiritual gift bag for membership that we come in contact with.

4th VP - Attended the SC Association of Fire Chiefs' Leadership Conference in Myrtle Beach (Sept. 22-25) with other Executive Committee members. Met with the Training and Education Committee on 10/15/2024 to review the submissions for speakers / instructors for Fire Rescue 2025.

Supervisory - Information on 1% Classes: • September 30, 2024, Saluda County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Saluda County Fire Service. Class was postponed due to LODD of Circle VFD Chief Satcher and Firefighter Bodie. Class will be rescheduled. • October 29, 2024, Hampton County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Hampton FD. We currently have (32) registrants. • January 13, 2025, Greenville County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Boiling Springs FD, Greenville Co. We currently have (4) registrants. • February 24, 2025, Abbeville County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Abbeville County. We currently have (9) registrants. • Would like to secure additional host departments for 2025 1% Classes. If anyone is interested, please let me or Jeff know.

Legislative Committee - The Legislative Committee will be meeting October 31st to discuss the items below. The plan of action for the committee is to work on the items in working groups to get our plan of approach and information together for pre-filing. The pre-file dates will not be set until after election day. Once we have those we will move forward with guidance from Stewert, Konduros and Associates. Our last committee meeting was postponed due to Hurricane Helene and the LODD's in Saluda County. I will go into more detail during our meeting. 1. Palmetto 800 user fees increase 2. Firefighter registration act adjustments (Fire Department, Fire Chief and Firefighter definitions) 3. Blue Light / Roadway Safety project 4. History and Heritage Center funding

Past President - We created a survey to gauge the frequency and location of the Past Presidents meetings throughout the coming year. The majority of the members agreed that twice a year was the frequency and location of the meetings would move around to different locations in the state. A follow-up email was sent out asking who would be interested in hosting the next meeting and Charlie King expressed his desire to host. A final email to be sent to the members with the date/time/location is pending.

Health & safety - Committee plans to meet first week of November to select a winner for Bingo Campaign. Currently running our monthly "Safety Spotlight" series. This month we are highlighting Howe Springs FD's Traffic Safety Unit.

Training & Education - Committee met in person and zoom to review presenters for 2025 Fire-Rescue. 153 submissions were reviewed and 50 were selected for consideration to include a diverse schedule. Schedule will be worked and a draft schedule will be presented to the President and EC for review. 2025 FSIC registration is going great. 3 classes have sold out. Received 204 registrations with 228 students in seat.