

Executive Committee Meeting

Zoom

January 12, 2021

Attendance: Keith Minick, Jamie Caggiano, Josh Holzheimer, Malcolm Burns, Tres Atkinson, , Ross Vezin, Rick Cramer, Tracy Williams, Jason Pope, Ryan Eubanks, Matthew Bullard, Rickie Jenkins, Gary Rogers, Charlie King, Brick Lewis, Zorrina Harmon, Rick Dunn, Jeff Oswald, Bryan Bailey, Ashley Boltin, Marquis Solomon, Patti Graham, Kyle

10:02 am Call to Order by President Keith Minick

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance by Jason Pope

President Minick welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending in Newberry last month. President Minick brought his president coins for each of you today to add to your coin board.

A motion was made by Jamie Caggiano to approve the minutes from November 10, 2020, November 23, 2020 & December 8, 2020 as presented; seconded by Josh Holzheimer. All in favor.

Committee Reports

Josh Holzheimer – Legislative – Legislative Committee held a scheduled meeting on 12/14/2020 at 2pm in the afternoon. We discussed the upcoming legislative cycle and prioritized our path for the upcoming year. We received word that following items were in the Governor's budget, PTSD \$250,000, Emergency Response Task Force Funding \$850,000. The Cancer Bill was not funded in the Governor's budget. Chief Jones discussed the VSAFE grant as well as the upcoming Legislative items. We are also reaching out to other associations to discuss the South Carolina Move Over Law. Chief Stewart and Ms. Cindy will report back at our next meeting.

Strategic Planning – Malcolm Burns – Survey went out last week, please help us share and encourage your people to take time to fill it out.

Jamie Helms – Advisory – (absent) but it was mentioned that we will accept award nominations until January 31, 2021.

Tres Atkinson – Foundation – We have our two scholarship recipients that we are in the process of notifying and awarding their checks. Tracy Williams, Keith Minick, Charlie King and Tres Atkinson are working on submitting for a Firehouse Sub's scholarship for Cancer buckets.

John Bowers – Supervisory – (absent) Jeff Oswald reported that he, Larry Finney & John Bowers presented at the Chiefs Conference last week. Jeff Oswald has scheduled a 1% meeting for Spartanburg on February 4th, please check the website for other scheduled trainings. Jeff is working on the audit list for the year, there will be about 50 departments on the list for 2021.

This is a random selection process. Chief Minick expressed his disappointment of the lack of participants for the class at the Chief's Conference. Jana presented a list of departments that still have not paid their dues there are a total of 119 departments on the list, the list was shared with the Executive Committee via email, departments have until January 31st to get dues in without a penalty.`

Marquis Solomon – Finance & Audit – (absent) Chief King mentioned that Bryan Bailey is available if anyone has any questions.

Ross Vezin – Member Benefits – The Committee held meetings in November and December to discuss the upcoming recommendations for the member benefits package. The last increase was \$10 and it covered our benefits package for 8 years. The Member Benefits committee is recommending to keep the same benefits package that we currently have, we recommend to increase Member dues by \$5, with research Zorrina has provided we feel we will be able to maintain our current level of benefits for 5 years. This would go into effect for the billing cycle for January of 2022. The Executive committee has asked for the group to look into offering options for member to be able to increase their benefits level if they choose. The committee would also like to see the NVFC Membership option offered at the bottom of the invoices.

Billy Dillon – Training & Education – (absent) Ashley reported that the Training & Education Committee is working on an alternative for the Fire Service Improvement Conference. We need to know the direction you all would like to see us go in.

Currently the Training & Education Committee has been researching and collecting information on Instructors that they feel have a sought after program both for the classroom and hands on training.

1. This classroom programs could possibly be used for a virtual conference if you all chose that route.
2. We had discussed since we have training and education money possibly offering a menu with multiple options and bring the trainings to the different regions. This would put a little work on the hosting areas, they would be responsible for finding a location that is big enough to host the class (with CDC Current Guidelines), that is equipped with technology – screen, projector etc., adequate parking, and suggestions of local catering. The association would pay the instructor, pay for lunch and then the association would have the opportunity to talk to the group to give a business meeting update.
3. It has been suggested that we co - sponsor the Academy's Executive Chief Officer Weekend February 26 -27, 2021. This would give us the opportunity to speak to the group 2 times one on Friday and once on Saturday. We could potentially speak to this group and be able to give our business meeting. They are expecting an attendance of over 140 participants of the SC Fire Service. The cost to us to sponsor would be \$250 per

Instructor and currently they have 6 instructors to sponsor. As of today the academy doesn't have anyone else sponsoring this event.

Discussion was had, and the committee likes the idea of regional delivery. They would like for the T & E to provide a plan to deploy for regional training. The committee would like to entertain charging \$10.00 per person as a retainer fee to cover the cost of lunch. They would like to budget \$15,000 for these efforts with each offering costing roughly \$2,000 per class. They would like to see 5 to 7 classes offered. If we get these scheduled and feel that we need more money they would look for the T & E Committee to come back to the Executive Committee and let them know how much more money they would need.

Tracy Williams – Health & Safety – Cancer coalition meet yesterday via zoom. We had a productive meeting and are now focusing on awareness and concentrating on delivery messages. We have come up with 11 monthly topics and then we will break it down weekly into 4 weekly related topics that pertain to the monthly topic. Our plan is to kick this off in March of 2021. We have plans in the works to keep this going through 2022 year as well . Also I wanted to make sure each of you were aware that January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness month.

COVID-19 Vaccine discussion, Phase 1a comes to an end on Friday January 15th. We are seeing that only a low number of first responders that are offered the vaccine are choosing to take the vaccine, majority of departments that we have heard from only 30 % of their members are choosing to take the vaccine. Law Enforcement rates are about the same. It was asked should we as an association be educating and urging our folks to take the vaccine? There were mixed emotions from the Executive Committee. It came down to folks feel this is a personal health care decision that each individual has to make, there decision based on what they believe. There was an agreement that we could share reliable links and facts for folk to be able to get education on the matter but not push or sway on individual beliefs.

Jason Pope – By – Laws – The Committee meet in the office last month for a work session. We look to have another work session in the coming weeks.

Ryan Eubanks – EMS – The committee met virtually last month. Back in November drafts of 61.7 standards started circulating. On December 10th the official draft was approved and on December 25 opened for public comment until January 25th. We are working on a few challenges this document holds, letters from different stakeholders have been sent asking for more time with stakeholders. The next DHEC board meeting will be February 11th to accept proposed changes.

Matthew Bullard – Life Safety Education Section – We meet on December 21st via Zoom. We have a workday planned with Jeff Allen to inventory all of the side by side trailers on January 21, 2021 at the SC Fire Academy. We are looking forward to doing a presentation to the Leadership Institute in the coming months. We are developing ways to reach out to departments if they have a fire fatality, we are working with Red Cross and the Fire Marshalls office.

Rickie Jenkins – Officer Section – We are trying to schedule a meeting this month.

Rick Cramer – SCFIS – Chief Cramer wished everyone a Happy New Year and he looks forward to working with everyone this year then he turned it over to Zorrina. The insurance services are working on policy language and numbers for the cancer policy, they should have this information in by February 15, 2021. Memorial Service, Zorrina ask for guidance on the upcoming memorial service that will memorialize 2 years of those that have passed in 2019 & 2020. Zorrina estimates we will have about 180 to recognize in the service. We will need to look at changing the flow. A couple of options were thrown out, we could recognize families and have them just stand at their seats not walk across the front. We could do a virtual deal and send a nice DVD of pictures to the family along with a plaque, or we could possibly split the state and do 2 memorial services one for folks in the upper half of the state and then one in the lower half of state. A discussion was had on COVID related deaths, the national PSOB guidelines do not match our state guidelines. Currently the national PSOB you do not have to have an incident of exposure; our state guidelines say you do. We are currently working with our instate OSHA and Workers Comp on clarification. The Public Safety Officers benefit was signed by President Trump to allow officers who pass away within 45 days of last contact to qualify for COVID-19 PSOB from January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2021.

Patti Graham – SCFAST – We have had lots of classes scheduled and cancelled over the last several months. We have seen an increase in request to do virtual training, we have jumped back on that project with the SC Fire Academy. We hosted a quarterly meeting on Saturday that was well attended. I had the opportunity to speak with a few chiefs and lots of spouses at the Chief's Conference in Myrtle Beach. I was able to hand out a lot of the books we offer spouses. We will have an all regions meeting via zoom in February and look forward to seeing everyone then. As an industry whole, we are seeing an uptick in the emotional and mental health of our First Responders.

History – Carter Jones was not present, but those in the office made mention that they noticed the items that Carter has displayed in the room up front, it has come along nicely but the room has filled quickly. Carter and team were able to get the Antique Fire Truck from Edgefield County over to the State Fire Academy in December, we look forward to the display of this truck.

Sprinkler Coalition – Jeff Allen was not present, but Charlie King mentioned that Jeff continues to do good work, he attended the Home Show in Charleston last weekend and this weekend he will be attending the Home Show in Columbia. Last weekend he had great networking and conversations; he continues to work with sprinkler contractors.

Webmasters – Rick Dunn & Brick Lewis – Rick went over a handout of the summary of collection of work they have been doing with 37 gears. The new website should be ready for release in June 2021. We now have analytics for our website and in the last two weeks in December we had over 12,000 visitors.

Lunch Break

Old Business

None to report

New Business

Mobilization Oversight Committee

A motion was made by Malcolm Burns to reenlist the 6 current Mobilization Oversight Committee members Joey Tanner, Mark Davis, Bruce Kline, Steve Kovalcik, Brian Legette & Phil Jolley as long as they submit the appropriate paperwork asking to continue to serve on that committee; Seconded by Jamie Caggiano. All in favor.

Leadership Institute class of 2020 are in their thirteenth month, we are finding that with the uptick in COVID-19 positives it has been a challenge to schedule meetings. The Leadership Institute class of 2021 will have their introductory meeting on January 22, 2021. We are looking at placing a hold on this class due to the uptick on COVID-19 and not being able to host meetings as normal. We will continue with online engagement with them but let them know that we are going to place a hold on in person until things settle down.

Legislative Day

March 3, 2021 is our currently scheduled Legislative Day. Ashley has spoken with the House Invitation Committee and they have informed her that all events on the State House grounds have been cancelled through the end of February. We need to be thinking about if we were able to host an event on March 3rd would the Fire Service and Legislator even be able to come down and interact as we have done in the past. The decision was made that a big in person event is not the direction we want to take for this year but what the event would look like we need to be thinking on. We could always host a Zoom meeting provide talking points, maybe send the cups we had made downtown with a thank you for your hard work note and here are our points of interest for the year. We can discuss more at our February 9th meeting.

2021 Fire – Rescue

We have been in touch with the convention center to see options of if we were to postpone our event to a late date and time in the year at this time they do not have an alternative whole week available. We will continue to keep in touch, monitor the situation and have conversation's on what Fire – Rescue is going to look like this year.

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to adjourn at 2:06 pm; seconded by Jamie Caggiano. All in favor.