

Executive Committee Conference Call

April 21, 2020

1:30 pm

Attendance: Keith Minick, Jamie Caggiano, Josh Holzheimer, Malcolm Burns, Brian Brazier, Tres Atkinson, John Bowers, Marquis Solomon, Rick Cramer, Billy Dillon, Tracy Williams, Brian Christmas, Will Broscious, Charlie King, Gary Rogers, Brick Lewis, Zorrina Harmon, Jonathan Jones, Ashley Boltin

Meeting Called to Order at 1:30 pm by President Minick.

Prayer lead by Gary Rogers

Pledge of Allegiance lead by President Minick

Roll Call – Taken by Ashley Boltin

President Minick welcomed everyone and thanked those that have submitted words of encouragement videos. If you have not submitted a video yet please do so.

State Fire update by Jonathan Jones. Firefighter mobilization has been in the upstate Seneca & Oconee area helping after the tornados hit, total there have been 108 deployed to Oconee County since last Monday. Today we have 8 Firefighters on the ground in Seneca and today should be our last day. Nathan Ellis and several of our fire marshals are in Anderson today working with the ATF on a fire they had that included a post office. Jonathan has been taking the daily COVID counts and looking at the trend. (Jonathan shared his personal mapping on the screen so everyone could see.) State Fire has about 10 -15 people on campus per day. They are currently working on a phasing plan at the Fire Academy for when things go back to normal.

Committee Reports – None to report on

Old Business – None to report on

New Business

2020 Fire – Rescue discussion.

Charlie King started off the conversation by letting the group know we have only had 2 vendors cancel , we have received a few phone calls with others asking questions about what our plan is. Up to this point the message has been consistent that we are on track as originally planned, but they will be the first to know if something changes. We are receiving a few phone calls from our membership asking the same questions.

Charlie King emailed an information sheet prior to the meeting, he reviewed over that with the group.

We have several items that staff has not done yet but needs to get done depending upon our decision. The conference booklets that are set to be sent out 30 days in advance, flights for instructors, T-shirt printing are just a few of the items we have been holding off on until we are confident we are moving forward. These items can be quite costly. Chief King sent out a spreadsheet that shows Conference expenses leading up to conference at this point, you will see on that sheet that a few items that are not conference but are paid out of the conference

budget such as Fire Service Improvement Conference, Lobbyist pay and Leadership Institute. This is a visual for a “what if” scenario.

Chief Jamie Caggiano asked a couple of questions on the software tool for badging expenses. Chief Caggiano also asked what the staff internal dates is if we were to not have conference, we know we have to let the convention center and hotels know by May 1st . A reply to his question that staff would need to know 7 -10 days prior so that we can get items printed and sent out. For example we have to get the conference book in hands of our membership 30 days prior per our by-laws and we would need time for the printer to get that information, formatted, printed and for us to put it in the mail.

Malcolm Burns let the group know that he has polled the Strategic Planning Committee and it is their opinion that that we need to cancel the conference due to the to many unknowns at this time and travel restrictions.

Brian Brazier agrees with Malcolm Burns, he poses the question of what our attendance will be like compared to our expenses.

President Minick expresses this is not an easy decision or transition, but one that needs to be made on what is best for our membership and before we spend a lot of money on it.

Chief Jamie Caggiano let the group know he has spoken with 5 large vendors, one said cancel the other 4 opinion were to wait and not make a decision yet. I don't think we need to make a decision today yet and if we were to take a vote, I cannot support it today. I think we need to wait.

Tres Atkinson ask if we have heard of other conferences and their decision to cancel. Jonathan Jones replied with the Nation Fire Marshal Conference has cancelled there conference for this summer, Ashley informed the group that Firehouse Expo in Nashville in July is still on but that SUSAR Conference (that was to be held in SC) has been postponed to the spring and FIERA conference (that was to be held in SC) is in discussions of postponing there event. Chief Atkinson expressed that we don't want to get anyone sick. Will Broschius mentioned that the NFPA Conference has been cancelled as well. What would we do if the Governor lifts the ban, but the local government puts restrictions in place that we could not have the conference?

The question was proposed to Jonathan Jones is the academy going to be able to assist and support as they have done in the past and same for the local fire service. Chief Jones replied that they will do all they can to support conference, pending the Governors plan. They currently are building there reopen to the public plan off of the Whitehouse report as the governor's plan and OSHA plan has not been released yet.

Will Broschius is going to ask Chief Jenkins if he can get a pulse on what the mayor's office feelings are for events in the city in June.

Marquis Solomon brought up the fact that Richland county is a HOT SPOT for citizens with COVID-19. Do we want to take the risk of exposing our membership knowing the county we host conference in is a HOT SPOT. Would folks feel safe coming to the high risk area? Will Broschius offered what if explore having conference in a modified way with technology. Do virtual classrooms you could set it up through zoom meetings. Maybe have a sponsor logo in the bottom corner of the screen.

Jonathan Jones added will the local economy be able support a conference of our size to include restaurants, currently they aren't slated to open until phase 3.

A motion was made by Malcolm Burns to cancel this year's conference as currently scheduled in June 2020; seconded by Brian Brazier. 8 votes yes, in support, 2 votes No.

Chief Billy Dillon let the group know he had polled the Training & Education Committee and the committee was torn on what we should do. He supports the decision that has been made but feels that it is important that we put something together for the fire service, it doesn't have to be a week-long event, but something for training purposes and to bring the fire service together.

President Minick expressed that as a committee we need to be thinking about and coming up with what do we do next? How do we move forward?

A motion was made by Josh Holzheimer to adjourn this meeting at 2:39 pm; seconded by Jamie Caggiano. All in favor.