



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee Meeting
SCSFA Boardroom
April 15, 2025

Attendees: Randy Arant, Pierce Womack, Jason Dennis, Mike Norket, Kevin Henson, Malcolm Burns, John Bowers(T), Ross Vezin(T), Terry Sheriff, Brad Kavetski(T), Billy Barnes, Charles Lamoreaux, Kevin Crosby, Tom Gwyer, Rickie Jenkins, Mickey Folsom, Doug Cline(T), Jamie Caggiano, Joe Munn, Josh Holzheimer (T), Rick Dunn, Brook Mixon, Zachary Watson, Jana K, Marcia Greer, Carter Jones, Jeff Oswald, Colleen Quillen, Patti Graham, Kim Voisine, Kim Bowmen, Brick Lewis, Zorrina Harmon, and Mark Bryant

Absent: Chad Beam, Joe Palmer, Rick Cramer, Jack Kirlin, Keith Minick, Scott Smith, Scott Garrett, Ashley Boltin

10:03 Meeting called to order by President Arant.

President Arant welcomed the group and Chaplain Jenkins did invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

President Arant stated that Mission BBQ will try to be here during our meeting for a check presentation.

President Arant discussed that this is our last meeting before May prep for Fire Rescue. He wanted all to attend to give a personal thank you to staff and board members for hard work during his presidency.

Mike Norket made motion to approved March 12-14 committee minutes seconded by Pierce Womack. No discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

Pierce Womack gave the finance and audit report. He introduced Ken Meadows with Greene, Finney Cauley, to go over the annual audit for the Association and SCFIS. Ken went over the audit review and end of the year audit presentation. Overall opinion was satisfactory. They gave reasonable assurance that financial statements are materially correct. It was an unmodified opinion. Very good financial condition as of September 30, 2024.

Ken went over Insurance Services and PRS consolidated financial position. It was unmodified opinion.

Motion made from committee to accept the annual audit. No discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

Jason Dennis gave the legislative report. He thanked everyone for attending Legislative Day.

Jason differed to Jamie Helms about the Pyrotechnics board meeting. Jamie went over the seats on the committee and the feelings of the subcommittee. SCSFA is asking for an additional seat on the committee to ensure proper balance of the committee. Jason will try to have another meeting before the legislative season comes to an end. Jason discussed the S346 bill. Increasing penalties on first responders and nurses. Malcom discussed a committee in Washington on fire apparatus purchases. Jamie will send a video that explains the purpose of the committee and lawsuit. Jamie Caggiano discussed the repercussions of lowering SC taxes from 6 to 3%. It could be harmful to the Firefighter. Possibly doing away with all incentives such as daily allowance and VIP. He also discussed H4265 for burn bans. He would like to be able to have authority to write citations. Currently DHEC has authority and usually are unresponsive or is minimal. Chief Norket gave scenarios in his area where they are locally working together to have a heavier weighted penalty. Malcolm led discussion on making the enforcement side stronger and if charge is a felony, it does take away more rights from that individual.

Mike Norket gave Advisory Report. He led discussion on an appeal to one of the applications. The committee stood by original decision. The committee would like to look at all the awards and their language and see if any of them need rewritten and bring back to the EC as a recommendation of changes. President Arant's opinion was to have the advisory committee look over the current language and bring back to the EC. EC agreed to send back to advisory. No one openly opposed.

Kevin Henson No report.

John Bowers gave supervisory report. He sent email to committee on overview. Department audits are coming up for review at their next meeting.

Ross Vezin gave member benefits report. The committee met yesterday. They discussed the strategic plan 2a1 gap insurance. They also discussed new benefits.

Ross gave a burn children's fund report. Had their first park day and it was a success.

Terry Sheriff gave the T&E report. Working on Fire Rescue and 2026 Fire Improvement classes. Last year they checked with DHEC trying to get CEUs for the classes. Several of those are for EMTs. Great benefit. At FDIC had success on bringing a few things back to our state especially simulators.

Brad Kavetski gave Health and Safety report. They have been very busy and met last month. They went over strategic plan goals and are working toward meeting those goals. Fire Rescue Fun Run is planned and looking at for 2026 Fire Rescue have morning workouts a few days. He discussed H&S seminar this week. He is collaborating with Chapel Hill and bring back to EC what he learns. Jamie Helms gave an overview for this week's Health and Safety seminar.

Billy Barnes gave Strategic planning report. They met last week and were able to get with SCFAST and other groups to secure their plans to incorporate into the plan. All changes were made from last meeting and/or combined. Went over each goal to see if committee had any specific questions. President Arant gave an opinion on by laws committee review annually. Malcolm discussed further having a deep dive each year to make sure by laws lines up with how we operate. Billy wanted to confirm is this policy or is it part of the strategic plan. EC agreed to move to play book and not put in strategic plan. Policy procedure, play book and bylaws looked over every 3 years. Look into one each year to form a 3-year rotation. What to put in strategic

plan is to have the deep dive of bylaw changes in multiple areas on committee restructuring. Billy went over the letter of from the President. Every year a new letter goes into the plan and must be done every year. Should it be from the EC that doesn't have to change? EC agreed to have letter from EC and only change if needed.

Charles Lamoreaux gave By-Laws report. He discussed request to look over elected and vacancies process. The committee will continue to look at alternative ways to look at the best way when the issue arises of an elected vacancy. Charles confirmed one of the goals is to make improvements to the process that brings balance to the committee.

Kevin Crosby gave EMS report. Met end of March. Grant funding equipment and training for non-certified departments. Funding is \$30,000 then restocking is \$20,000. He requests guidance in writing the proposal. Jamie Caggiano stated they could run it through the foundation to give initial funding and then to be reimbursed by grant.

Motioned made by Malcolm to have committee go to the SCSFA Foundation to approve initial funding of kits. Seconded by Mike Norket. Discussion to amend motion to change logo on kit to foundation. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

Tom Gwyer gave the Conference committee report. Working on several events to be held at Fire Rescue. Fun Run at FR will be at the Market Commons and will be marketing to the community.

Rickie Jenkins gave Chaplain committee report. He discussed his attendance at Mile in our Boots that Patti instructs. He will be part of the Chiefs Memorial Service and another Memorial event of a member FD.

Carter Jones gave Heritage Committee Report. He will be attending a workshop in the near future on archiving. He has completed the Small's acquisition. Several great items in the collection. Jamie Helms discussed the Fire Hydrant Art in Columbia on trying to obtain that for the fire service and let the state know the history of the art. Mickey insured the artwork was being stored in an appropriate place for safe keeping.

Mickey Folsom gave Community Engagement No report.

President Arant gave Joe Palmer's OSHA report

Doug Cline gave the Officer Section report. He will be completing the strategic plan and sending to Billy Barnes to be placed in the Association plan once approved. He thanked Brook and Rick for their assistance. The committee will be at Fire Rescue and engaged.

Zorrina Harmon SCFIS had no report other than annual audit completed earlier.

Jamie Caggiano gave Foundation report. Went over annual audit will be going over it with his committee. It was a good review. He discussed silent auction and golf tournament at Fire Rescue. He wanted direction with discussing partnership with Founder's Federal Credit Union. They serve a different group than CPM. The Foundation will be the partner and Association will continue partners possible with both. Jamie Caggiano will meet with his board and bring back a recommendation at next meeting.

Staff reports

Brick Lewis gave report. (See report) Kim V continues to work on database. Improvements made every day. Appreciates the hard work. Legislative day was a success. Volunteer inquiries are high. Jana wrapped up the departments in good standing and followed policy to complete that process. Brook went to FDIC and took it all in to bring back communication ideas. He welcomes her new staff, Zachary and Abby. They both will be at Fire Rescue. They are working on days leading up to that week and content specifics for the week. Fire Rescue app continues to be updated. Task Force 1 packet was giving to key players. Patti continues to be busy. Her team responds to several state incidents and continues to make peer connections. PCIS in partnership with SCLEAP is coming up in November. Funding for Peer Connect is at an end this November. Cost will be made by departments. EMS association may be going to a new app. Jeff Allen has been to 5 home shows in the last few months. He continues to have good conversations with home builders and the community attendees. MAD May 3rd is having their walk and Jeff will be there. He has several other department meetings he will be attending. Jeff Oswald continues to teach his regional one percent meetings. He also is working with the audit reviews for departments.

Zorrina went over SCFAST and policy report asking for more funding to pay for policy increase. Cindy, Jamie and she will be meeting with Senator Massey to request additional funding.

Director Jamie Helms gave a brief report from Ashley Boltin's team and advised the full report would be add to the minutes (See below)

Rick Dunn

- We have 48 classes ready to go at Fire-Rescue, all contracts have been signed.
- The T&E Committee is working on 2026 FSI Conference.
- Rick is working with Chief Bulanow on the Fire Chief 101.

Officer Section – We are working on verifying our members and cleaning up email addresses. At the Conference, the Officer Section Guest Speaker will be Jason Pope.

Carter Jones

He has been working on the archivist job description, it has been sent over to Francis Marion University for review by their archivist, and we are awaiting her feedback.

Working to finalize the Fire-Rescue Show

Will be the Keynote Speaker at the Myrtle Beach Fire Rescue recruit school

Working with the Rekindle Society.

Greg Bulanow

Continue to work with the Leadership Institute their next meeting will be April 23, 2025, in the office.

Working on Fire Chief 101 with Rick Dunn

Kim Bowman

Continue to work with our membership to help them get their retirement reports.

Fire – Rescue

The agenda is complete. We are excited for a great conference with a full lineup.

Exhibit Hall

Exhibit Hall is quickly filling up, we do have a few spaces available if you have someone who would like to exhibit with us. Please direct them to the website.

Hotel

The host hotel is sold out, I have each of you a room. If you will not be staying at the convention center, please let me know.

Awards

The award nominations that we received have gone out to all categories to the individual who submitted the nomination. We are working with the film crew on setting up the film dates for the Meritorious Action Awards.

Name Badges

I will be sending you a form in the coming days. if you could please list out who your guest will be, along with their email address. We will have these badges preprinted and delivered directly to you.

Director Helms reported that we are continuing to review and analyzing budget, and we are conducting a mid-year review of accounts. We welcome Bryan Bailey on full time on April 7th. We have completed the FEMA and NFA letters, which were on our website. Discussion was made about NIOSH, FEMA and other federal organizations. Still not being staffed some are paused some may not open back up.

President Arant went into old business. He asked for any other old business. None mentioned.

President Arant moved into New Business. Deferred to Jamie Helms to go over new motion log to be used to improve tracking and research of committee motions. This will create a better filing system to provide a more effective management system.

President Arant discussed the FBI building has been placed back on the market. Everyone is invited to do a walk through today at 3pm today. Jamie stated that they are working on the financial plan the committee asked for and it will be presented to the Chairman of Finance and Audit for approval. In the meantime, the building came available along with another building downtown. The downtown building would not be able to house the fire trucks for the museum. The FBI building is available and could be a good fit. It has massive potential. The Finance and Audit and EC had previously voted to make an offer on the building, but it did not go through. The current price is lower than when we originally offered. They are asking to recoup some of their cost, and it is priced at \$4,900,000.

12:40pm Lunch

Reconvened 1:15PM. Pierce Womack called meeting back to order. He welcomed Jason Pope with State Fire to give an update. Jason sent Terry a few things that State Fire were working on such as the digital coursework package. May 1-2nd all digital package and administration of course 100% online. After the one course next step to implement other courses. This will eliminate staff travel time and reallocate their time to help with the ever-demanding schedule of the academy. He stated they have a new facility manager and look forward to us meeting him. New positions are posted along with two other positions that need to be filled.

Outside of State Fire Jason was part of South Carolina Leadership program. He was part of a fund raiser in Landon Bodie's and Chad Satcher's Honor that will be given to the SC Firefighters Foundation.

Jamie Helms went over the monthly playbook review. Reminder that next meeting will be Fire Rescue overview.

Meeting recessed 1:36pm to take a tour of the old FBI building for sale.

At end of tour meeting reconvened at 1:45pm.

Motion made by Malcolm Burns to offer \$4.5 million with a 60-day due diligence and a 30-

day extension if needed. \$20,000 earnest money and a 15-day closing. Seconded by Mike Norket. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion made by Malcolm Burns to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Mike Norket. All approved none opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.