

## Special Called Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2026

**Attendance: Pierce Womack, Randy Arant, Ben Waring, Jamie Helms, Ashley Boltin, Ross Vezin, Terry Sheriff, Billy Barnes, Jason Dennis, Brad Kavetski**

Called to order at 2:30 pm by President Womack.

Deputy Chief Carey Ballew of the Pelham Batesville Fire Dept. went into Cardiac Arrest at home last night. Campobello Fire Dept. responded and worked on him, and he ultimately passed at the hospital. Chief Jolley is overwhelmed at the moment. Arrangements have not been made; it may be delayed due to the weather coming in this weekend.

Honorary Member, we do not have a clear process at this time. We have several folks that we want to add, Chief Stewart, our lobbyist, who has helped the fire service tremendously. The next individual would be Robert Key, our retirement advisor, who is retiring but still wants to be involved with us. We would like to work on an outline of what the process is or should look like.

As many of you know Chief Stewart, our lobbyist, Chief Stewart started when he was a Jr. Member of the Cheraw Fire Department. His path has taken him up to the rank of Captain in the Fire Department. But then went over to the Police side. He was the first state Homeland Security director to secure funding to start USAR & Mobilization.

Robert Key, everyone knows what he has done to the Retirement fund. I think it is a no-brainer to go ahead and make him an honorary member as well.

There is no policy on how we appoint honorary members, so we are setting the tone of how we do it in the future. Director Helms thinks the elected body should offer a motion today for these two and we will put into the policy and procedure membership going forward of how we would accept Honorary members.

***A motion was made by Randy Arant to accept Robert Stewart & Robert Key as honorary members of the SCSFA; seconded by Mike Norket. All in favor. (Roll Call Jason Dennis, Mike Norket, Ross Vezin, Randy Arant, Ben Waring, Brad Kavetski, Billy Barnes, Terry Sheriff, Absent: Ryan Eubanks, Kevin Henson)***

President Womack thanked all for jumping on the line.

Jamie Helms reported that Ashley will send out more information about the February meeting. We will be cancelling the February 10<sup>th</sup> and instead, bring everyone in on Friday

February 20<sup>th</sup>, and we will do OSHA, Strategic Plan, and stay the night on the 21<sup>st</sup> which is the State Memorial Service at Riverland Hills Baptist Church here in Columbia. We feel like it will be most effective and efficient for you all. We would like to start at 9 am to give us plenty of time for the day.

It was asked if anyone would like to attend the Chief's training in Anderson, February 27 – March 1<sup>st</sup>. We need to work on getting arrangements for those.

With the weather coming in, everyone, be safe. Let us know if you need support, and from the mobilization side, we will try to support how we can.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.