

TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Spring Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting

Gatlinburg, TN – 16 May 2024

Members present: Matt Henderson, Brian Biggs, Melvin Martin, Bob Dudley, John Tallent, Lee Turner, Scott Boyd, Jay Moore, Ken Reeves, P.J. Duncan, Jamie Summers, Eric Turner, Rich Hartfield, Eddie Phillips, James Fountain, David Woody, and Barron Kennedy. About 30 guests were present.

Opening: President Henderson called the meeting to order at 2:45 EDT. David Woody opened with a prayer and John Tallent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Minutes: The Board / Business meeting minutes from Jackson were approved by motion.

Reports from Association Officers:

- Treasurer's Report: Eddie Phillips said there is \$220,265.64 in the General Account and \$78,301.62 in the Conference Account. He gave a breakdown of major expenditures. Thanks to our vendors, sponsors, and member Departments for their continued support. A table for 10 was sponsored at the CFSI in Washington. Paid \$3,300 for living Past President badges. Paid \$1,620 for Postal fees. Paid \$500 for NVFC dues. Paid \$7,768.80 for the Winter Meeting in Jackson.
- Conference Report: James Fountain gave a report thanking our vendors. The Annual Conference will be at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro on July 13-16, you need to book early. The Fall meeting will be at the Meadowview in Kingsport with the dates of October 23-25. Winter '25 will be at the Double Tree in Jackson on Feb. 4-6, 2025.
- Executive Committee Report: Barron Kennedy reported on the continuing discussion on our LODD benefits.
- Fire Marshal's Report: Michelle Price reported that links will be forthcoming soon about many topics.

New Business

- TN Fire Chiefs Hall of Fame: A motion was passed to approve a committee to work on the details of the Hall of Fame.
- SAFER Grant: Eddie Phillips reported Phase 2 is about to close out and Phase 3 will be opening soon under the oversight of TFCA.
- Life Memberships for Asst. Chief Tony Scott of Columbia F/R, and Asst. Commissioner Gary of the SFMO were approved by a motion.
- Fire Chief of the Year Please get your nominations in soon. Forms are on the web site and will come out in an email. The deadline is June 10th.

Associated Organizational Reports:

- Ben Wexler reported for TFACA. The funding through the SFMO for volunteers has provided over 2,800 volunteers with tuition free training. The recruit class had 100% pass HMA and HMO. Thirty-seven passed FFI. Two Chief Orientation classes are scheduled. The 95-ft mid-mount platform is estimated to be delivered in May '25. The contract for the residential burn prop has been awarded. Many classes are scheduled. Check the website.
- NFPA – Kelly Ransdell has been promoted. Many good lithium-ion resources will be on our website.
- TN Firemen's Association – Jason Driver reported the Conference will be in Cookeville Sep. 26-28.
- MTAS – Steve Cross gave a lengthy report on all the services MTAS has to offer. They can help with translation. ISO, CTAS, and MTAS will host quarterly virtual sessions. There are many grants available. Check the MTAS website for many resources.
- CTAS – Marc Alley reported that CTAS is working closely with the County Mayors Association to raise awareness of emergency services. Their website is full of resources. CTAS has three drones for assistance and training. Here is a new county fire department in Haywood County.
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Committee and Section Reports:

- Accreditation & Credentialing Section – Brian Goss made a very brief report. Things are continuing to progress.
- By-Laws – Steve Cross reported no activity this year. Open to possible suggestions.
- Chaplain’s Section – avid Woody reported on progress with the Peer Support Network. Many are getting trained in “Assisting Individuals in Crisis” and “Standard of Care”. Much more training is being planned. David conducted several classes in this Spring Meeting.
- Codes – P.J. Duncan reported there was no meeting, but they have been working closely with the Legislative Committee since many of the bills were codes related.
- Communications - Ashley McDonald reported for Amy who was involved in many events in Hamilton County. There are many things posted on the website including the clean-up schedule for the Memorial. There continues to be a lot of usage of our social media. Please keep sending information to post (training classes, job openings and committee updates). New posters are available.
- Community Risk Reduction – Jason Driver and Adam Wodzinski made a brief report on several classes that have been or will be offered.
- EMS - Jeff Beaman made a brief report on working with the EMS Board to establish an “EMS First Responder” Committee to gain info from the provider level. Members from each Grand Division will present to the Board to encourage the formation of the Committee. They are also working to finalize the qualifications for receiving the new EMS Training Salary Supplement.
- FF Memorial – Eric Turner reported on the construction that is complete. The cleanup projects by the department are under way.
- FF Safety, Health, and Wellness - Rich Hartfield made a motion to adopt the standard of care program through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation curriculum. The motion was approved. Two new posters were unveiled. They are working with the Chaplain’s Section on ICISF and Peer Support. Maybe a class in summer.
- Legislative - David Windrow reported on a less than successful year in the Legislature. Several bills passed that were not very friendly to the Fire Service. Several others became stalled. We will continue to work.
- Membership - Barron Kennedy reported 504 current members, 101 of which are Life Members.
- Mutual Aid - Eric Mitchell reported on the updates to the Mutual Aid Bill that passed. The new ReadyOPs forms were presented. The deployments to the recent severe weather events were discussed.
- Professional Development – Jamie Summers made a brief report on the preparations for the Annual Conference.
- SEAFC - Brian Goss reported the SEAFC Conference will be in Atlanta, July 15-17. Tennessee registrations are low probably due to scheduling conflicts with our Conference. Much planning and work is being done for our Joint Conference next year in Franklin.
- TPERI – Richard Griggs reported they are looking for members from TENA, The Police Chiefs Association, and from gas transmission people. Several grants have been obtained. Eddie Phillips presented a resolution to allow a checking account be established for TNPERI to help with the grants and such. The resolution was approved by a motion. A membership fee schedule was discussed but will need more work before implementation.
- Volunteer/NVFC – Melvin Martin and P.J. Duncan attended the NVFC Spring meeting in D.C. The main topic of discussion in D.C. and here is the new proposed OSHA requirements. The Vol Training & Equipment Grant will be \$10 million again this year.

President’s Moment:

- Nominations are due for the TFCA Board and Officers as well as Career and Volunteer Chief of the Year.
- The Nominations Committee is Brian Goss, Tony Watson, and Bob Dudley.

Other Business:

- John Tallent thanked the group for all their support during his recent illness. He plans on running for 2nd VP.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 15:55 EDT.

Respectfully submitted: Barron Kennedy, Secretary