

TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
Spring Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting
Gatlinburg, TN – 29 July 2020

Members present: Tony Watson, Bob Dudley, Mark Foulks, Brian Goss, Matt Henderson, John Tallent, Brian Biggs, Jay Moore, Ken Reeves, Mike Flynn, Eric Turner, Jamie Summers, Melvin Martin, Gary Farley, Eddie Phillips, Steve Dillard and Barron Kennedy. Biggs, Flynn, Moore, Summers, Farley, and Kennedy were on Zoom. About 30 guests present and more than 30 on Zoom.

Opening: President Watson called the meeting to order at 16:00. Steve Dillard opened with a prayer and Mark Foulks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests: Tommy Beasley the new Fire Chief of LaVergne FR and Chief Jeremy Shelton the new Chief of Newport FD were first-time attendees.

Communications: Eddie Phillips read thank you notes from the City of Mt. Juliet, and Putnam County for assistance rendered during the tornado aftermath and from Springhill FD in the loss of a Firefighter.

Adoption of Minutes: The Board and Business meeting minutes from Jackson and five Board conference calls were approved by motion.

Reports from Association Officers:

- Treasurer's Report: Eddie Phillips said there is \$70,700 in the General Account and \$20,562 in the Conference Account. He gave a breakdown of major expenditures. TFCA share of joint conference was \$2,460.
- Conference Report: James Fountain gave a report on the impact of COVID-19 on our meetings. Conference registrations will go out soon. A motion was passed to continue with the Annual Conference in a modified form in October in Murfreesboro. Another motion was passed to raise the Conference registration fee from \$145 to \$195. There will be no banquet this year. A motion was passed to freeze the Officers and Board terms of service until 2021. Contracts have been signed for 2021-2024. In 2021 We will be in Jackson in the Winter and Fall. A motion was passed to meet in Gatlinburg in the Spring and Fall of 2022. Corporate memberships are being pushed out.
- Fire Marshal's Report: Gary Farley reported that they are working with the Board of Education about school reopening and inspections.
- Executive Committee: Eddie Phillips reported on the Executive Committee meeting. Several motions were approved, and each will be addressed later in this meeting.

New Business

- Life Memberships were granted for Randy Ragan, Newport FD; Gary Whiteaker, Bristol FD; Rocky Garzarek, Franklin FD; and Bill Honeycutt, Morristown FD by motion.
- Approval of budgets for 2020-2021. Eddie Phillips presented the proposed budgets. Both were approved by separate motions. The TN Federation of Fire Chaplains line item will be eliminated.
- Paul Trumpore issue: A motion was passed to send a letter of censure to Paul Trumpore for Code of Ethics violations concerning Project Roll Call 145.
- Flower policy: A motion was passed to send flowers at the passing of a Past President.

- Donald Fredricks addressed the group concerning the need of a First Responder Memorial Foundation. This will be followed up on later.

Old Business:

- SAFER Grant: Eddie Phillips reported the grant is still serving but has expired. Time constraints led to not filing this year.
- CFSI Dinner: The dinner was cancelled, and funds should be refunded.
- Strategic Plan: Tony Watson reported the first draft will be out soon and hopefully adopted in October.
- Project Roll Call 145: This has been taken care of. Coins will be going to family members.

Associated Organizational Reports:

- Jason Sparks reported for TFACA. The Conference Center should be complete in August. It will host the Chief Training Officer Symposium in September. The next recruit class will be a double class. The brush truck should arrive in August. The NFA classes that were scheduled for the TFCA Annual Conference are taking place at different locations. Murfreesboro FR had the most career training hours with 11, 192 and Williamson County had the most Volunteer hours with 6,063.
- Tony Grande reported for the Commission. There is a new Coordinator for West TN. He is Chief Joshua Holdeman of Obion VFD. The Commission is working to replace old test scoring software. Audits will be beginning in East TN and moving westward.
- TN Firemen's Association – Paul Swafford reported the Conference was cancelled.
- TN Federation of Fire Chaplains – Jim Lewis read a statement from Paul Trumpore who was ill. TFFC has five training opportunities coming up in the next six months. The Tennessee Crisis Response Network has over 100 members. Steven Dillard reported the emblem and by-laws of the Chaplains Section will be heard by the Board in October. He also continued to pitch the BUP participation.
- MTAS – Dennis Wolf reported on several classes offered across the state. The new Google Group is working.

Committee Reports:

- Community Risk Reduction - Baylie Scott reported FDTN is being updated. There is a COVID dashboard for reporting and monitoring responder exposures / quarantines. Working to amend the fall schedule.
- EMS – Mark Foulks briefly spoke about COVID responses.
- Fallen FF Memorial - Eric Turner reported on a few Items. Gary Farley expressed the need to have plans submitted for the Memorial improvements. A motion was passed to send a letter to the Committee requesting the TFCA Secretary be informed of financials, and other important issuers.
- FF Safety, Health and Wellness: Rich Hartfield is the new Chairman since Reed Bullock has stepped down.
- Legislative - David Windrow reported that bills with fiscal notes are dead this term. They are working to adjust some policy with TEMA, modifying fireworks regulations, and adding to the Brady Bill. The Firefighters Ball may move to East Tennessee.
- Membership – Barron Kennedy reported 175 current members with 106 renewals so far as this is the busy season for renewals.
- Mutual Aid – Eric Mitchell reported on the statutory responsibilities of the TN Mutual Aid System. Recent deployments were discussed.
- Industrial – Tony Watson reported for Dan King that the Committee is working to strengthen the Industrial Fire Community in TN.

- Professional Development James Fountain presented some generalities about upcoming meetings.
- SEAFC – Mark Foulks reported that their conference was cancelled but they hope to have a meeting later in the fall.
- NVFC / Volunteer – Melvin Martin said their meeting was cancelled but there are online classes available.

President's Moment:

- Please let us know if you get sick after this meeting.
- Plans are underway to get coins to the Project Roll Call families.

Other Business:

- Gary Farley reported the TBI wants to provide cause and origin service.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 18:22.

Respectfully submitted: Barron Kennedy, Secretary