

TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE Murfreesboro, TN, 16 July 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Henderson at 12:53. Jamie Summers opened the meeting with a prayer and Brian Biggs led the pledge.

Welcome: President Henderson welcomed all in attendance and thanked all the vendors.

First- Time Attendees: Jim Arnold, Y-12 FD, Jeff Stuart, Bradley Co. F/R, Chris Bates, Cleveland F/R, Chris Cummings, Columbia F/R, and Anthony Braden, Rocky Top FD were present at the Business meeting.

Elections: Chief John Selberg presented the slate of candidates and explained the voting procedures.

Chief Selberg presented the list of unopposed Officer Candidates and cast a vote for them during the opening ceremonies on Monday the 24th.

President – Brian Biggs of Ashland City FD

1st Vice President Melvin Martin of Hardin County FD –

2nd Vice President – John Tallent of Madisonville FD

Middle Board Member – PJ Duncan of Pleasant View FD

West Board Member – Rich Hartfield of Fayette County FD

Treasurer – Eddie Phillips, Ret. of East Ridge F/R

Secretary – Barron Kennedy, Ret. of Tazewell / New Tazewell FD

The above were elected by acclamation due to no opposition.

The East Board was contested by Scott Boyd, Kingsport FD, Billy Roach, Englewood FD, Pete VanDusen, Cleveland FD and Ben Wexler, Warriors Path V FD. After a secret ballot, Scott Boyd was elected to a three-year term and Ben Wexler was elected to a one-year term in the East.

Reports from Association Officers:

- Treasurer's Report: Eddie Phillips reported that there is \$371,523.02 in the General Account. The Conference account has \$126,403.71. The Conference account is a bit misconceiving due to being in the middle of the Conference. The General Fund Account is a bit misconceiving due to the large amount of SAFER money in the account. All in all, things look very good. Next year the SAFER monies will be in a separate account.
- Conference Report: James Fountain reported a record number of 172 attendees and 57 vendors. We now have another new Platinum Level Sponsor, IDEX Fire & Safety. The Pre-Conf NFA classes had good attendance. The Fall meeting will be at the Meadowview in Kingsport on October 23-25. The Winter meeting will be in Jackson on February 4-6. The Spring meeting will be in Gatlinburg April 23-25. The 2025 Annual Conference will be with the SEAFCA at the Embassy Suites in Franklin July 13-18. A motion was approved to amend our 2027 contract with the Murfreesboro Embassy Suites to July 1 - August 3.
- Fire Marshal: No report.
- Board Report: In the Board of Directors meeting the following were approved by motions:
 - ❖ The appointments for 2024-2025 were approved. David Woody – Chaplain, Business Manager James Fountain and Brian Biggs as Assistant Business Manager, Member-at-Large PJ Duncan. The chairs will remain mostly the same.
 - ❖ The 2024-2025 budgets were approved.
 - ❖ Life Membership was approved for Chief Jerry Harnish of Rural/Metro Fire..

Reports from Associated Organizations:

- TFACA - Jason Sparks reported the Recruit Class begins August 12th. Fire Chief Orientation classes will be at the Tennessee River and on campus. The first Recruit class had excellent scores. FY 2023-24 was very successful and set records.
- Commission – Director Shane Clark was absent but sent in a report about the numbers in the EIP/VEIP programs with over \$6,574,000 paid out. All testing is done through ACADIS. Many personnel changes are occurring.
- MTAS - Steve Cross reported on many topics and provided several useful links.

[Analysis of Civilian Residential Fire Deaths in TN, 2013-2022.](#)

For language issues <https://tlc.tennessee.edu/interpretation-and-translation/lcmo/>

For MTAS training (<https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/training-calendar/>):

Many Grant Opportunities throughout the year. www.peppartners.org/grants
 He also reported on the upcoming TML Conference and ISO classes.

- NFPA – Kelly Ransdell reported on some personnel changes and some other internal changes at NFPA.
- TN Firemen’s Assn. – Jason Driver announced the 2023 conference will be September 26-28 with lots of training in Cookeville.
- CTAS – Marc Alley reported on ISO classes.
- John Paul Jones reported on possible communications coming with First Net and a new spectrum may become available.

Committee and Sections Reports:

- Accreditation and Credentialing – Jason Powell reported on many agencies that are in the process and encouraged others to participate.
- Codes – PJ Duncan reported on the lessening of the codes’ effectiveness due to legislative action. We will try hard again in the next session.
- Communications – Amy Maxwell reported on the numbers of followers on our social media sites. We need info on events and training to put on our web site to help spread information.
- EMS – Jeff Beaman reported Members of the EMS Committee, who serve on the 1st Responder Subcommittee, attended the State EMS Board’s Committee on Committees (now called the Oversight Committee) meeting on June 25, 2024, and presented information about the need to form a 1st Responder Committee with the goal of establishing reciprocal communication about the challenges and needs for 1st Responder Fire and EMS Services across the state. The Oversight Committee voted 5-0 to form a 1st Responder Committee. Each member of the Fire Chief’s 1st Responder Committee has submitted a letter of interest and resumé to reflect their desire to participate. The Oversight Committee will consider the make-up of the EMS Board’s 1st Responder Committee during their September meeting. Additional information will be provided during the Fire Chief’s fall meeting in Kingsport.
- FF Health & Safety – Rich Hartfield reported on the posters available.
- TN FF Memorial – Dewey Woody reported the project is about complete and clean-up weekends are scheduled through September. Please schedule through Amy.
- Homeland Security – Dewey Woody advised about possible threats and said that there needs to be much planning for large events, both outside and inside.
- Industrial Section – Michael Shillings reported on the revitalization of the section. He also introduced Jim Arnold as the new Chief at Y-12.
- Legislative Committee - David Windrow reported on a tough year.
- Membership – Barron Kennedy reported 282 members with more coming in each week.
- Professional Development – Jamie Summers reported on work for the next meeting.
- Mutual Aid – Eric Mitchel reported no committee meeting but still staying busy.
- Southeastern - Brian Goss is in Atlanta and a delegation will be joining him to work on next year’s joint conference in Franklin.
- TN Fire Chaplains – David Woody has gone to be with the Pigeon Forge FD. He will be going to Baltimore for more classes and bring these back to TN. He is working with the Mutual Aid Committee to bring CISM. He is reaching out to TN Public Safety Network to see if we can agree on joint Standard of Care and share training/response.
- TN-PERI - Richard Griggs reported on membership. Several instructors have been trained and are available. The grant allows for a program manager and a marketing manager. Trying to get more involvement from transporters and distributors.
- NVFC – Melvin Martin reported the 16th Tennessee River Training weekend is in November. The AFG grants began awarding last week and will continue for the next 8-10 weeks.

Other Business:

- Bob Dudley thanked everyone for several years.
- Matt Henderson thanked the Board for their help during his term as President.

Adjournment at 14:47 CDT. Respectfully submitted: Barron Kennedy, Secretary