

TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Spring Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting

Gatlinburg, TN – 14 April 2023

Members present: Bob Dudley, Matt Henderson, Tony Watson, John Tallent, Lee Turner, Eric Mitchell, Jay Moore, Ken Reeves, Melvin Martin, Jamie Summers, Gary Farley, Eddie Phillips, James Fountain, Steven Dillard, and Barron Kennedy. About 41 guests were present.

Opening: President Dudley called the meeting to order at 9:00 EDT. Steven Dillard opened with a prayer and Matt Henderson 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 \$125,011.86 in the General Account and \$61,486.83 in the Conference Account. He gave a breakdown of major expenditures. Thanks to our vendors, sponsors, and member Departments for their continued support. Many forms have been completed for different agencies. A table for 10 is sponsored at the CFSI in Washington.
- Conference Report: James Fountain gave a report thanking our vendors. The Annual Conference will be at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro on July 22-26, you need to book early. Registration will be \$225.00. A motion was passed to approve. The Fall meeting will be at the Meadowview in Kingsport and will be co-located with the Fire Symposium with the dates of October 24-27 with our meetings Tuesday through Thursday. Winter '24 & '25 will be at the Double Tree in Jackson on Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2024, and Feb. 4-6, 2025. A motion was passed to approve.
- Fire Marshal's Report: Gary Farley reported on the rulemaking for the 2021 IBC. Accidental fires are now being worked through the Fire Marshal's Office. The grants will be paid out soon.

New Business

- SAFER Grant: Eddie Phillips reported Phase 2 have had payments of \$196,957.51. A Phase 3 grant for \$912,900 has been successfully applied for. Over 800 interest forms completed and 553 new firefighters so far.
- Life Memberships for Chief Eric Mitchell of Signal Mountain FD, Chief Michael Williams of Paris FD, Don Collins of Pulaski FD, and Chief Jamie Luffman of Mt. Juliet FD were approved by a motion.
- Fire Chief of the Year Please get your nominations in soon.
- By-Laws: After several workshops, a revised set of By-Laws has been recommended to be sent to the membership in July by a motion. Voting options were briefly discussed.

Associated Organizational Reports:

- Jason Sparks reported for TFACA. The funding through the SFMO for volunteers has provided 1,115 volunteers with tuition free training in 71 classes completed, 2 in progress, and 38 more classes scheduled. The recruit class graduation is scheduled for May 5th. Three Chief Orientation classes are scheduled. Environmental Surveys and other work are underway for the new residential burn prop. The Driving Simulator is almost back in operation. NFA classes are scheduled in Pigeon Forge and at the Annual Conference.
- Firefighting Commission - New Executive Director Shane Clark reported for the Commission.
- TN Firemen's Association - Paul Swafford reported the Conference will be in Cookeville Oct. 13 -15.
- MTAS – Steve Cross reported the MTAS Elected Officials Academy Level I and II are being updated and rebranded as Municipal Fundamentals and Municipal Operations. ISO and MTAS will host quarterly virtual sessions. There are many grants available.

Committee and Section Reports:

- Accreditation & Credentialing Section – Jason Powell reported that several Departments and individuals from Tennessee attended the Center for Public Safety Excellence in Orlando where several made presentations. Chief Roger Robinson and the Alcoa FD received reaccreditation for the third time. Chief Scotty Bush and the Hendersonville FD are nearing accreditation. Tennessee is ranked 8th internationally in per capita credentialing.
- By-Laws – Steve Cross reported after workshops and reviews since last Fall, a redline edition is ready to go to the membership for a vote in July. Most of the items are a cleanup of typos and grammar and minor details. Two items concerning some voting methods will be voted on separately from the cleanups. This will be sent to the membership by MailChimp at least 30 days before the Conference.
- Chaplain’s Section – Steven Dillard reported the Section is working to establish a Peer Support Network along with Suicide Prevention. A motion was passed to approve a challenge coin for the Section.
- Communications - Ashley McDonald reported that Amy was having surgery but should be back soon. Requested pictures from the Fire Department Day on the Hill should be ready soon. There continues to be a lot of usage of our social media. Please keep sending information to post.
- Community Risk Reduction - Jay Westbrook made a brief report on several classes that have been or will be offered. He introduced a couple of new faces. Adam Wodzinski is the new lead for “Get Alarmed Tennessee”. Amy Jennings is the new lead for “Sound Off” at the Fire Loss Symposium.
- EMS - Jeff Beaman made a brief report on a good Section meeting dealing with the EMS Board. The legislation was favorable. The ALS Non-Transport Service License bill will come up next year.
- FF Memorial – Melvin Martin reported on the construction that is about complete. The cleanup projects by the department will resume this summer.
- FF Safety, Health, and Wellness - Rich Hartfield reported that the mental health survey needs to be completed and returned soon.
- Homeland Security – Larry Farley spoke briefly.
- Legislative - David Windrow reported on a successful year in the Legislature. The EMS Board bill passed, and the Fireworks bill failed. The residential sprinkler bill also failed. The Fireman’s Ball will be in Gatlinburg on June 10th. Please try to attend this fund-raising event.
- Membership - Barron Kennedy reported 491 current members, 90 of which are Life Members.
- Mutual Aid - Eric Mitchell reported progress is being made on the completion of the forms for mutual aid use in ReadyOp and TMAS will soon have a dashboard for use in the IamResponding system. John Selberg reported on the tornado in Covington and Melvin Martin reported on the tornadoes in McNairy and Harden Counties.
- Professional Development – Jamie Summers reported Lexipol will help with the Keynote address in Murfreesboro. Shane Ray will also make a presentation. There may possibly be a 2-day EMS recertification class as a pre-conference offering.
- SEAFCA - Brian Goss reported the SEAFCA Conference will be in Wilmington June 12-15, 2023.
- TPERI – Ken Tuggle reported they are working on grants for funding instruction.
- Volunteer/NVFC – Melvin Martin reported on the benefits of NVFC membership. The LOSAP was discussed as was the NFR which opens next week.

President’s Moment:

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

Other Business:

- Smoky Mountain Weekend will have much more training in June.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 EDT.

Respectfully submitted: Barron Kennedy, Secretary