

**TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Murfreesboro, TN, 25 July 2023**

The meeting was called to order by President Dudley at 11:15. Jamie Summers opened the meeting with a prayer and Matt Henderson led the pledge.

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

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 – Matt Henderson of Sevierville FD

1st Vice President – Brian Biggs of Ashland City FD

2nd Vice President – Melvin Martin of Hardin County FD

Middle Board Member – Ken Reeves of Goodlettsville 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, and Lee Turner, Jefferson City FD. The West Board was contested by Jamie Summers, Milan FD, Rich Harfield, Fayette County FD, Tracey Worlds, Ripley FD. All gave brief speeches. After a secret ballot, Lee Turner was elected to a three-year term and Scott Boyd was elected to a one-year term in the East and Jamie Summers was elected to a three-year term and Rich Hartfield was elected to a one-year term in the West.

Chief Selberg and Steve Cross outlined the By-Laws election. Item one was basically a housekeeping and word smithing item. Item two was restricting to five the number of votes per Department. Item three was only voting for a Director from one's own Grand Division. Each item would need greater than 66% to pass. Item one passed while items two and three failed to receive the needed votes.

Reports from Association Officers:

- Treasurer's Report: Eddie Phillips reported that there is \$154,584.33 in the General Account. The Conference account has \$49,719.01. The Conference account is a bit misconceiving due to being in the middle of the Conference. All in all, things look very good. Going to apply for SAFER III.
- Conference Report: James Fountain reported a good number of 148 attendees and 52 vendors. The Pre-Conf NFA classes had good attendance. Thanks to James and MFRD for their hard work. The Fall meeting will be at the Meadowview in Kingsport on October 24-27 along with the Fire Loss Symposium. Please book your room early.
- Fire Marshal: Gary Farley reported the 2021 codes should be adopted by early 2024.
- Board Report: In the Board of Directors meeting the following were approved by motions:
 - ❖ The appointments for 2023-2024 were approved. Steven Dillard – Chaplain, Co-Business Managers James Fountain and Brian Biggs, Member-at-Large John Tallent. Chairs will remain mostly the same.
 - ❖ The 2023-2024 budgets were approved.
 - ❖ Life Memberships were approved for Chief Terry Wiggins, Bartlett FD; Chief David Pendergraff, Estill Springs FD; and Deputy Chief Roger Toombs, Murfreesboro F/R.

Reports from Associated Organizations:

- TFACA - Jason Sparks reported the Recruit Class begins August 21st. Fire Chief Orientation classes will be at the Tennessee River and Upper Cumberland Weekends. Design work is being done for the new residential burn prop. The Driving Simulator is back on the road. FY 2022-23 was very successful.
- Commission - Director Shane Clark made brief remarks. The HMTTO is now one test. October 1st plans need to be in and all requests by March 1st. All tests are from Bartlett & Jones books for all disciplines.
- MTAS - Steve Cross reported on many topics from MTAS and its Leadership programs. They continue to work with the Fire Marshal's Office and the Academy. They have ISO and the Barry Brady Act info.

There are grant opportunities through the Public Entity Partners. They also have translation assistance available through Univ. of TN Language Center.

- NFPA – Kelly Ransdell reported they are working on mass-shooting incidents and many other topics.
- TN Firemen’s Assn. - Lynn Price announced the 2023 conference will be October 13-15 with lots of training in Cookeville.

Committee and Sections Reports:

- Accreditation and Credentialing – Jason Powell reported that Hendersonville FD is having a site visit and will be before the Commission in Orlando in March. Maryville FD is up for Re-Accreditation in Orlando in March as well. The City Manager of Johnson City is now on the Commission.
- By-Laws – Steve Cross did a very thorough look at and revision of the By-Laws. Thanks Steve.
- Community Risk Reduction – Jay Westbrook reported they are continuing to share the Community Risk Analysis GIS Storymap in Fire Departments across the state. Fire Loss Consultants have been contracted to assist as needed. The Fire Loss Symposium will be in Kingsport with some from FDNY talking about lithium battery fires.
- EMS – Jeff Beaman reported the EMS bill passage.
- TN FF Memorial – Gary West and Dewey Woody reported the project is about complete and clean-up weekends can soon be scheduled. It looks very good while still waiting for the final landscaping to be completed. Thanks to Murfreesboro F/R for helping with the sprinkler system.
- Homeland security – Dewey Woody reported on 122 new agents.
- Legislative Committee - David Windrow reported on a successful year. The Ball was in Gatlinburg and was good. Several topics are being discussed for the next legislative session. March will be FD Day on the Hill.
- Membership – Barron Kennedy reported 275 members with more coming in each week.
- Professional Development – Jamie Summers reported on more EMS CEUs.
- Mutual Aid – Eric Mitchel reported on the Tri-State Mutual Aid group.
- Southeastern - Brian Goss reported on the newly elected SEAFCA Officers. The 2024 Conference will be in Atlanta and the 2025 Conference will be in Franklin with TFCA. The Section’s budgets were passed.
- TN Fire Chaplains – Steven Dillard reported on the need for manpower, training in each Grand Division, and Mutual Aid for Officers to assist others with peer support, CISM, and EAP. He also reported on the BUP program.
- TN-PERI - Richard Griggs reported on membership and the need to work on the section’s finances. There has been a grant awarded that will go through Marion County. There may be others available. Thirteen instructors are interested in providing training. More information needs to go out about TN-PERI.
- NVFC – Melvin Martin reported he attended the meeting in Arlington in April. Barron Kennedy will be replaced by P. J. Duncan. Thanks Barron. The AFG is about 1/3 awarded so far with TN receiving 24 grants to date. The SFMO grant program is \$10 million this year and applications will be in January.

Adjournment - There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 13:53 CDT.

Respectfully submitted: Barron Kennedy, Secretary