

**TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**  
**Winter Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting**  
**Jackson, TN – 3 February 2023**

Members present Bob Dudley, Matt Henderson, Brian Biggs, Tony Watson, Melvin Martin, Eric Turner, Jamie Summers, Eric Mitchell, Lee Turner, John Tallent, P.J. Duncan, Jay Moore, Ken Reeves, Gary Farley, James Fountain (by phone), Eddie Phillips, Barron Kennedy, and about 16 guests.

Opening: President Dudley called the meeting to order at 10:29 CST, Jamie Summers opened with a prayer and John Tallent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

First time Fire Chiefs attending: There were no first-time attendees at the Board/Business meeting.

Reports from Association Officers:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Eddie Phillips said there is \$127,695.35 in the General Account and \$96,923.59 in the Conference Account. He explained that bills were paid. We are in sound financial condition thanks to members, vendors, corporate sponsors, and cuts to expenses.
- **Conference Report:** James Fountain presented one spreadsheet detailing future meeting dates and locations. The Spring 2023 meeting will be at the Park Vista in Gatlinburg on April 12-14, 2023. The Annual Conference will be July 22-27, 2023, at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. The Fall '23 (October 24-27) meeting at the Meadowview in Kingsport. He also presented a spreadsheet with options for the joint annual conference with the SEAFCA for 2025. After a brief discussion a motion was passed to choose the Embassy Suite in Franklin as the location for the 2025 Annual Conference.
- **Executive Committee Report:** Barron Kennedy reported briefly on the Conference call meeting on 1/30/23 concerning the legislation, lobbyist, and coalition. More will be discussed in the committee report.
- **Fire Marshal's Report:** Gary Farley gave a lengthy report of the office's accomplishments. The report had 23 bullet points. The State Fire Marshal's Office has been very busy carrying out many programs and administering many grants to assist the emergency responders of Tennessee.

New Business:

- **SAFER Update** – Eddie Phillips reported that greater than 400 new firefighters have been added by way of this grant.
- **Life Memberships** for Chief Charles Suttles of the Dayton FD, Chief Edgar Jewel of the Decatur FD, and Chief Scott Vowell of the Y-12 National Security Complex FD were approved by a motion.
- A motion was passed to sponsor a table for \$3,750 for 10 members at this year's CFSI event.
- A letter to Gov. Lee requesting additional funding for the Fire Service was discussed and will be fine-tuned before sending.

Old Business: None

Associated Organizational Reports:

- Jason Sparks reported for TFACA. So far for this year 453 Volunteer Firefighters have received tuition free classes of the 64-hour Basic, FFI Live Burn, and 4-hour in-service classes. The Chief Officer Orientation class schedule for 2023 is set. The Spring Recruit Class begins at the end of February and ends in May. The NFA classes are set for April in Gatlinburg, July in Pigeon Forge, and two at the Annual Conference in Murfreesboro in July.
- Firefighting Commission – Randy Fox has come out of retirement to help as the Commissioner until a replacement for Tony Grande is in place. The Commission will meet in Gatlinburg in conjunction with the Spring Quarterly meeting. There will be a rule making hearing in Brentwood in May. The ed pay has been approved to be paid as soon as forms are processed. There is a Coordinator position open in East Tennessee.
- Firemen’s Association conference will be October 13-15 in Cookeville.
- MTAS – Steven Cross reported on numerous classes that MTAS has around the year on many subjects. Their consultants are ready to assist in any way possible.

Committee / Section Reports:

- Accreditation and Credentialing Section – Brian Goss reported briefly on the process involved. He encouraged departments to try it.
- By-Laws – Steven Cross reported on the By-Laws updating status and the discussions in the work session. We will be fine tuning suggestions in Gatlinburg before a vote in July. Many good comments and suggestions.
- Chaplain’s Section – Jamie Summers reported for Steven Dillard about the “Peer Support Network” and have secured clinicians to serve in each Grand Division. There is now an instructor for CISD and classes are scheduled in April and September at TFACA. More members of the Section are needed to provide the needed services.
- Community Risk Reduction – Jay Westbrook spoke briefly on the effectiveness of their programs.
- EMS – Jeff Beaman spoke about legislation to redo the State EMS Board. The Fire Service should have greater representation. They discussed the need for coordination of EMS protocols between Medical Directors and transport providers.
- Fallen FF Memorial – Eric Turner reported they are waiting on better weather to continue the project.
- FF Health and Safety – Rich Hartfield said a survey will be coming out soon about FF mental health issues. Please complete this survey.
- Homeland Security – Eddie Phillips reported for Dewey Woody stressing the need for Terrorism Liaison Officers in each department.
- Legislation – David Windrow announced that March 8<sup>th</sup> is Legislative Day on the Hill. The rewrite of the EMS Bill, the composition of the EMS Board are two bills of importance. There is also a bill to eliminate the 2/3 majority vote on residential sprinklers. We are following the PTSD Bill by the TPF. F.
- Membership – Barron Kennedy reported 480 members, which is the largest number at this time of the year. Volunteers make up 22% of members and Career make up 70% and the other 8% are Associates and Affiliates.
- Mutual Aid – Eric Mitchell reported on the database and program that will replace NMAS. The ReadyOp program was discussed. Coordinators were given usernames and logins. John Selberg discussed the deployment to assist Memphis with water tenders in December.
- Professional Development – Jamie Summers reported that planning is underway for the Gatlinburg and Annual meetings.

- SE AFC – Brian Goss reported the SE AFC Conference is in Wilmington, NC, June 12-16. SE AFC has gone back to an Executive Director spot for Secretary/Treasurer. The TFCA Chiefs of the Year have been submitted to SE AFC for consideration. He suggests that the TFCA nomination form more closely match the SE AFC format.
- TPERI – Eddie Phillips reported that TPERI is a big deal with industry participation. Members of the Section need to be members of TFCA as Affiliate of other membership.
- Volunteer/NVFC – Melvin Martin reported that the SFMO grant program is \$5 million.

President's Moment: Bob Dudley reported that Ken Reeves and Chuck Walker are our Coalition representatives and David Windrow is an Alternate representative.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 CST.

Respectfully submitted: Barron Kennedy, Secretary