

TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Winter Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting

Jackson, TN – 5 February 2021

Members present Tony Watson, Bob Dudley, Mark Foulks, Brian Goss by Zoom, John Tallent, Mike Flynn, Natt Henderson, Melvin Martin, Jay Moore, Ken Reeves, Jamie Summers, James Fountain, Gary Farley, Eddie Phillips, Barron Kennedy by Zoom, and about 30 guests in person or by Zoom.

Opening: President Watson called the meeting to order at 16:15 CST, Richard Griggs opened with a prayer and John Tallent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Minutes: The Board and Business meeting minutes from Murfreesboro and one conference call were approved by motion.

Communications: A note from The Limestone VFD thanking for the memorial to Past President Charlie Lewis was read. Mrs. Carolyn Lewis also sent a thank you note. Eric Mitchell read a note from Colin Bures of the Memphis FD thanking for all the mutual-aid assistance during the recent water crisis.

First time Fire Chiefs attending: CA Benton Young of the Cookeville FD was at the meeting.

Reports from Association Officers:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Eddie Phillips said there is \$94,952.82 in the General Account and \$31,551.42 in the Conference Account. He explained that bills were paid. The TFCA private domains have been renewed, We are in sound financial condition thanks to members, vendors, corporate sponsors, and cuts to expenses.
- **Conference Report:** James Fountain reported that the Spring 2021 meeting will be at the Park Vista in Gatlinburg on April 6-9, 2021. The Annual Conference will be July 17-20, 2021 at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro and will be part in and part out for the vendors. The Fall '21 (October 19-22) meeting and the Winter '22 meetings will be at the Double Tree in Jackson. Gatlinburg will be the site of the Spring '22 and Fall '22 meetings.
- **Fire Marshal's Report:** Gary Farley had no report.

Old Business:

- **SAFER Update** – Eddie Phillips reported that we have reapplied for the Phase II SAFER Grant.

New Business:

- **TFCA & LODD** – There was much discussion about LODD and COVID-19 and different agencies reacting in different ways. This topic will be discussed at length in Gatlinburg. A motion was passed for the Board to come up with a policy stating that the TFCA LODD would be for killed in action as designated by the local jurisdiction. No TFCA benefits for COVID-19 related deaths.

Associated Organizational Reports:

- **Jason Sparks** reported for TFACA. The latest Recruit class has started with 49 students. The opening of the new Conference Center has allowed larger classes. The Fall Recruit class is scheduled for August. Soon there will be an opening for an on-campus Instructor II for lead Recruit classes. COVID-19 has had an impact on scheduling of many classes. Many classes are presently scheduled.

- Commission – Anthony Grande reported that Volunteers may get incentive pay by a bill that is in the Legislature. The Commission is working on new rules.

Committee Reports:

- Accreditation & Credentialing – Tony Watson reported that Brian Goss wants to establish this committee as a section. A motion was passed to create this section with paperwork presented in Gatlinburg.
- Communications – Amy Maxwell reported by Zoom reported that as of 2/23/21 our Facebook page had 5,143 followers and lots of activity. We need to encourage Committee Chairs to check their pages and to send in updates. Thanks to the State Fire Marshal's Office for providing weekly reports. Please send in training opportunities for posting.
- Community Risk Reduction – Baylie Scott made a report.
- EMS – Mark Foulks reported that due to COVID, ALS units will continue to operate with 1 paramedic and 1 EMT. Contact TEMA for needed PPE.
- Fallen FF Memorial – Eric Turner and Melvin Martin reported that if the Feds recognize a LODD, we enter them on our pedestals. Plans are under way to add more pedestals. A workday was in November.
- Industrial – Dan King reported by Zoom. COVID -19 has impacted travel. Hospital and University Managers are interested are communicating with e-mail. The IAFC is working to set a curriculum for Industrial Fire Officer. Our committee will be discussing PFSA and IAFC in Gatlinburg. The 360-Podcast link is on our website. All proceeds from the book "Charlie Visits the Fire Academy" goes to the Fallen Firefighter Memorial.
- Legislation – Tony Watson spoke about the Legislative issues that are posted weekly.
- Membership – Barron Kennedy reported 440 members, 55 not renewed, and 48 new members.
- Mutual Aid – Eric Mitchell reported on IMT Teams grouping. Please add department info to NMAS website. Mutual Aid Tanker Strike teams were sent to Memphis.
- Professional Development – Jamie Summers reported that planning is underway for the Gatlinburg and Annual meetings.
- SEAFVCVP – Mark Foulks reported Annual Leadership Conference is in Biloxi, MS on June 23-25.
- Volunteer/NVFC – Melvin Martin reported that the SFMO grant program is 1 \$million in the Governor's budget. AFG grants are now open, please apply. NVFC will be virtual this Spring.

President's Moment: Tony Watson wants everyone to be aware of the AFFF problem. Suicide is a problem that needs addressing. Mark Foulks reported that Steven Dillard wants the dues for 5 members of the Chaplain's Section to be waived if they pay national dues. This was approved by a motion.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 17:20 CST.

Respectfully submitted: Barron Kennedy, Secretary with help from Eddie Phillips.