

TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
Spring Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting
Gatlinburg, TN – 8 April 2022

Members present: Bob Dudley, Tony Watson, Matt Henderson, Tony Watson, John Tallent, Brian Biggs, Jay Moore, Mike Flynn, Jamie Summers, Eric Mitchell, Ken Reeves, Gary Farley, Eddie Phillips, James Fountain, Steven Dillard, and Barron Kennedy. About 35 guests present.

Opening: President Watson called the meeting to order at 15:00 EDT. Steven Dillard opened with a prayer and John Tallent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests: Bill Myers and Ryan Cox from Giles County F/R, Terry Arnold from Kingsport FD, Matthew Lupo from Nolensville FD, Bobby Gaylor from Cleveland FD, and Jeff Pierce and Barry Hollis from Camden FD were first-time attendees.

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 \$102,385.74 in the General Account and \$50,677.44 in the Conference Account. He gave a breakdown of major expenditures. Thanks to our vendors, sponsors, and member Departments for their continued support.
- Conference Report: James Fountain gave a report on new sponsors and vendors. The Annual Conference will be at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro on July 23 – 27, all inside this year. The Fall meeting will be back at the Park Vista and will be co-located with Fire Symposium with the dates of October 18 – 21 with our meetings Tuesday through Thursday. This was approved by a motion. The Fall 2023 and 2024 meetings will be at the Meadowview in Kingsport. A motion was passed to approve.
- Executive Committee: Barron Kennedy reported on five motions passed. The first recommend to the Board the creation of the EMS Section. The second was to terminate our contract with NMAS. The third was to recommend the changes in the Fire Chief of the Year awards. Fourth was to recommend approval of new contract changes for James. The fifth was to recommend the Fall Meetings in 2023 and 2024 be at the Meadowview in Kingsport.

New Business

- SAFER Grant: Eddie Phillips reported the grant is beginning to take shape.
- Establish the EMS Section – A motion was passed to create the section.
- Fire Chief of the Year – Our process will mirror the SEAFCA, and our winners will be automatically sent to the SEAFCA the following year. A motion was passed to approve.

- Old Business:

Associated Organizational Reports:

- Jason Sparks reported for TFACA. The funding through the SFMO for volunteers is continuing through June with some very good numbers to date. The recruit class graduation is scheduled for May. Three Chief Orientation classes are scheduled. The fall recruit class still has a few slots open.
- Tony Grande reported for the Commission. There are over 8,000 in the Incentive system. There are two ways for the Volunteers to be paid, one is through a city or county and the other is to the individual. The

paperwork needs to be signed by the Chief Administrative Officer and not the Fire Chief of the city or count. The other way is for the individual to complete all paperwork including the W-9 form. ProBoard issued certifications will be only for Fire Inspector to allow reciprocity with ICC. The West TN Regional Coordinator position is still open. Single textbook per certification level is moving forward.

- NFPA -We now have a new Rep., Kelly Ragsdale.
- TN Firemen’s Association: Tom Brown reported the Conference is June 2 - 5 in Jackson.
- MTAS – Barron reported for Steve Cross and Donald Pannell – There is info and directions related to the Barry Brady act on the MTAS Knowledge website. FLSA questions can be addressed to Steve or Donald. The 21022 MTAS Salary Survey is underway, and help is available at MTAS.

Committee and Section Reports:

- Chaplain’s Section – Steven Dillard reported the Section is working to obtain certification through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. Soon will have a “peer to Peer Network” along with Suicide Prevention. There will be a class on Assisting Others in Crisis at the Annual Conference.
- Codes _ Gary Farley said the Commercial Codes should be adopted within the year.
- Communications: Eddie Phillips asked that Committee Chairs contact Amy with info for their pages on the website. Our Website and Social Media pages have been very popular lately.
- Community Risk Reduction: Jay Westbrook made a brief report.
- EMS: Jeff Beaman made a brief report on a good Section meeting dealing with the EMS Board.
- FF Memorial – Dewey Woody reported on the construction that should begin next week. The project will be \$25,000+. Cleanup has been suspended for a May and June.
- FF Safety, Health, and Wellness: Rich Hartfield reported on the plaque presented to the high school student that had written an essay on Firefighters.
- Homeland Security: Dewey Woody reported on the TLO (Terrorism Liaison Officer) training.
- IAFC – Eddie reported for Mark Foulks. The IAFC Board is conducting a Strategic Planning meeting in This week and will be with stakeholders soon. The Community Risk Reduction Conference will be in Toronto in May. The FRI will be in San Antonio in August.
- Industrial: Barron reported for Michael Shillings. They are working with the IAFC Industrial Fire Committee and Oklahoma State to have an Industrial Fire Officer Certification.
- Legislative: David Windrow reported on many bills. Several are “behind the budget’ and are still in limbo. The FLAG PAC needs funding, please consider a donation.
- Membership: Barron Kennedy reported 467 current members.
- Mutual Aid: Eric Mitchell reported on the recommendation from the Executive Committee to end our contract with NMAS who is ceasing any future development. A motion was passed to terminate our contract with NMAS. The Tennessee Fire Service Emergency Response Plan and Strike Team/Task Force Guidance Documents will be sent to the Coordinators for review and revision by July. The recent response to the fires in Sevier County provided many lessons learned and identified issues that can be improved.
- SEAFIC: Eddie reported for Brian Goss. The SEAFIC is working with states to streamline the Fire Chief of the Year process. The TFCA Board had made changes to help with this. The SEAFIC Conference will be in Mobile June 21-23. 2022.

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, Chair, Brian Goss, and Tony Watson.

- If you are planning on running for the Board, be prepared to attend the meetings and take part.
- Chief David Green of the Sewanee FGD has retired after many years.

Other Business:

- Smoky Mountain Weekend is June 10 – 12.
- Scott Boyd announced that Johnson City FD has achieved the top accreditation.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 EDT.

Respectfully submitted: Barron Kennedy, Secretary