

TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
Spring Combined Board of Directors and Business Meeting
Gatlinburg, TN – 8 April 2021

Members present: Tony Watson, Bob Dudley, Mark Foulks, Brian Goss, Matt Henderson, John Tallent, Brian Biggs, Jay Moore, Mike Flynn, Jamie Summers, Gary Farley, Eddie Phillips, James Fountain, and Barron Kennedy. About 35 guests present.

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

Introduction of Guests: Chris South the new Fire Chief of Crossville FD and Shift Commanders James Clause and Shawn Robertson from the Cookeville 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 \$88,115.69 in the General Account and \$29,313.68 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 17 – 21. Sunday will be a Volunteer Day.
- **Fire Marshal's Report:** Gary Farley reported that the Volunteer Incentative Pay is looking good in the Legislature. Commercial codes are nearing adoption. There may be some fees for plans review and some inspections.
- **Executive Committee:** Barron Kennedy reported on three motions passed. The first recommend to the Board the creation of the Credentialing and Accreditation Section. The second was to deny a law firm's request to post a link on our website. The third was to pay expenses for Tony Watson, James Fountain, and Eddie Phillips to attend the SEAFC meeting in Biloxi in June.

New Business

- **AirMedCare Network** – Daniel Willis presented a proposal for our Association to enter into an agreement with them at no cost. If approved, all firefighters in the state would receive a discount. A motion was passed to make the agreement.
- **Establish the Credentialing and Accreditation Section** – A motion was passed to create the section.
- **Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative** – Ken Tuggle introduced the idea and said that greater details will come later for paid quality training regarding pipeline emergencies.

Old Business:

- **SAFER Grant:** Eddie Phillips reported the grant has been filed with Lexipol's help.
- **LODD and TFCA:** Tabled until later date.

Associated Organizational Reports:

- Jason Sparks reported for TFACA. The Conference The recruit class of 49 began in February. The fall recruit will begin in August. Interviews are underway for the on-campus Instructor II. Several classes are scheduled soon in different locations.
- Tony Grande reported for the Commission. There are 112 Career and < 7,000 Volunteers in the Incentive system which is moving forward. October 1st is program submittal date.
- TN Firemen's Association: Paul Swafford reported the Conference is June 3 - 6 in Cookeville.

Committee and Section Reports:

- Credentialing and Accreditation Section: Brian Goss reported that Karl Bristow conducted a virtual session. Brian Goss talked about using the credentialing framework as a basis for your department.
- Communications: Eddie Phillips asked that Committee Chairs contact Amy with info for their pages on the website.
- Community Risk Reduction: Baylie Scott reported the discussion of the Fire Symposium dates, Front Porch Fire Prevention in April, updated on Get Alarmed TN, and update the Volunteer Training and Equipment Grant Program.
- EMS: Mark Foulks briefly spoke about the First Responder Licensure Task Force had not met due to COVID-19. Also discussed vaccinations. Community Colleges are transitioning back to in-person.
- FF Safety, Health and Wellness: Rich Hartfield on poster ideas.
- Homeland Security: Dewey Woody reported the threat level in the country has not changed. Homegrown groups are a problem.
- Industrial: Dan King hosted a video meeting with the IAFC n the future of PFAS foam.
- Legislative: David Windrow reported on many bills. There are several successes this year and many are rolled until 2022.
- Membership: Barron Kennedy reported 442 current members.
- Mutual Aid: Eric Mitchell reviewed the components of the TN Mutual Aid System and the legal responsibilities of the plan. The Memphis deployment was discussed.
- Professional Development: James Fountain said the Conference will have a Volunteer Day, medical CEU classes, and three NFA classes.
- SEAFCA: Mark Foulks reported that their conference is in Biloxi, MS, June 23 – 25. A motion was passed to send the SEAFCA a letter endorsing 2nd VP Scott Garber, Secretary/Treasurer Larry Williams, and International Director Mark Foulks.
- NVFC / Volunteer: Melvin Martin (who left but provided notes) said their meeting was very productive. Training will be at the Annual Conference. The Volunteer Incentive Bill was discussed. The NVFC CEO passed away and a search is underway for a replacement. The State Fire Marshal's Office discussed several issues impacting Volunteers.

President's Moment:

- Nominations are due for TFCA Board and Officers as well as Career and Volunteer Chief of the Year. A motion was passed to have the two Chiefs of the Year.
- Shirts are available online through NAFECO.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 16:18 EDT.

Respectfully submitted: Barron Kennedy, Secretary