

**N.C. Association of Rescue & Emergency Medical Services, Inc.**

**65th Annual Meeting & Directors Meeting**

**September 10-11, 2021**

**Beaufort Hotel, Beaufort NC**

**Call to Order**

Welcome - Hervy Kornegay Jr.

Invocation - Carnie Hedgepeth

Adoption of order of business; Motion to approve Bob Twomey, second Tim Pennell, motion carried.

Recognition of guests - Hervy Kornegay Jr.

Tom Mitchell Chief OEMS, Allen Johnson, OEMS, Kim Williams, NCOSFM, Brian Barnes NCEM, Greg Foster 911 Board, and Fred Bone of Bone & Associates.

Roll call of Voting Delegates; Jerry Bradshaw \_\_ voting delegates. A complete list is available in the office.

Roll call of Directors; Joel Faircloth. 19 Area Directors, Past Commander, Vice Commander, Commander, Executive Director, and Executive Director Emeritus, Chaplian, were present.

Minutes of Directors Meeting 05-15-2021: Motion to approve, Dale Whitlock, second by Tim Pennell, motion approved.

**Old Business**

**Agency Reports**

**OSFM:** Kim Williams

- Rescue Grants open and online submission made by Oct. 1.
- Classes being scheduled at the state training center in Stanley County .
- The office has returned to normal operation in person, so you should be able to reach persons in the office.
- There was a mental health symposium in June for 4 days with NFA health and wellness classes. Hope to incorporate classes for all fire & rescue services.
- The state weekend at NFA is Nov 19-21, 2021. It is currently not full and registration is open.
- Image trends software has been recently upgraded to the latest version and it is free.
- Injury Prevention had smoke alarm awareness in June.
- OSFM does need volunteers to help a the state fair if anyone would like to attend.
- Technical Rescuer standard latest edition is out and it being reviewed to prepare for updates to the certification classes.

**OEMS:** Tom Mitchell

Thanks for the opportunity to provide an agency report for the Office of EMS. We value our relationship with the Association, and appreciate the work that each of you do for this Association.

While during the last report, it was noted that we were finally seeing some drastic reductions in our COCID response, as numbers trended in the right direction. I was just kidding! When I was preparing for this report, and read the report provided in May, I was obviously putting the “cart before the horse” when it came to winding down of COVID operations.

We are still heavily involved in multiple activities related to COVID, most outside of our traditional regulatory responsibilities. As each of you know, positive cases, hospitalizations, ICU capacities, Staffing for vaccine/MAB sites, EMS calls, ED turn-around times, PPE requests, EMS personnel shortages and morale are just a few of the items trending in the wrong direction when it comes to the current status of COVID. I will briefly touch on how OEMS staff is involved in each of those topics.

OEMS, within the HPP Program, has a Data team that is responsible for the daily dashboards of positive cases, hospitalizations, ICU capacities, % positives and the graphics that you see daily released to the media at noon. As all the metrics began to trend in the wrong direction, about a month ago, we created a Support Cell that is staffed to assist with all our tasks. The amount of staff doing that daily is growing as of yesterday to about 8 per day.

Last Wednesday, we began operating a Statewide Patient Transfer Coordination Team, in coordination with the 8 major hospital's transfer centers. This was done to assist smaller critical access hospitals (35 hospitals) in getting patients transferred that are not equipped to handle. This does not include time-sensitive illness/injury or behavioral health patients, as those should follow their normal transfer patterns. This also does not include a request to transfer, just because your facility is full. Since 9/1, we have handled over 150 requests, and been able to get approx. 43% of those patients transported to another facility. Most of the transfers that we have been unable to provide a lot of assistance is patients needing ICU, or ECHMO because of the lack of availability. We have submitted multiple requests to the Feds for staffing support for hospitals, EMS, MAB sites, etc. We were on the list for minimal staffing for MAB sites, until Hurricane IDA struck, and no staffing was being released until after assets were provided to states affected. We did move some resources this week to Smithfield and Lumberton for potential MAB sites to support future operations.

We have received numerous examples over the past several weeks from EMS agencies complaining about turnaround times at the hospitals. There have been situations where EMS agencies have set idle at a hospital for up to 8 hours with the patient in the ambulance. We are trying to work with hospitals on ways to decrease this time, and encourage EMS agencies to "think outside the traditional" to find ways to cut down on this, as well. EMS agencies have put "light" duty staff at hospitals to sit with patients until they have a bed available, Community Paramedicine programs to cut down on transports, etc. This is not a statewide problem, it is a national problem.

We are still managing the Mocksville II Warehouse to provide PPE, when needed. Requests for PPE have increased significantly. If any EMS agencies are experiencing a difficult time getting PPE, feel free to reach out to the office for assistance.

In an effort to make EMS personnel available to agencies quicker, we have worked with our testing vendor. Now, when you have a potential candidate take a state exam, they are notified upon completion, whether they successfully passed or failed the exam. Then, we run a background check on them, prior to releasing their credential. We have heard students finish class on Monday, test and get credential to work before Friday.

We are currently still allowing EMS Agencies to request an exemption to the minimum staffing statute 131E-158 for ambulances. This allows EMS agencies flexibility in who can operate the ambulance, due to staffing shortages related to COVID.

On the regulatory side, we have hired a new Trauma Program Manager within our office. Heather Majernik, who used to work for our office several years ago in HPP, has returned as our Trauma Program Manager. Heather has an extensive nursing background, and we are glad to have her on board our team. We are conducting a couple of trauma site visits with ACS on NC Hospitals, but they will be doing their visits virtually for the coming future. This brings a lot of challenges to the hospital staff and site review team, when it comes to reviewing charts.

There are no current modifications to NC Administrative Code, underway. All recent changes are reflected in rule w/staggered dates on implementation of some portions of rule. (i.e. Instructor credentials, and teaching institution requirements).

We are currently preparing for EMS Expo '22 that will be held April 29th – May 4th '22. The "Call for Presentations" for EMS Expo '22 has closed, and the schedule will be finalized within the next month. We are excited about the upcoming conference, and plan for it to be bigger and better than before. More information to come.

There has been a lot of activity at the General Assembly regarding bills being introduced that would impact EMS. However, not a lot of those bills have made it to the Governor's desk for signature. There is still time though, since they are still in session. I love to hear Fred's report, so I will let him share the happenings at the General Assembly in his report. I will close as I did last time, because I think it is important to take the opportunity to say to Fred, "You do a lot of EMS and rescue (paid or volunteer) in North Carolina, and we appreciate it."

**NCEM:** Brian Barnes

- New Emergency Management Director, Will Ray, previously chief of staff. Todd Brown is acting Operations Chief, and Brian Barnes is filling in at Deputy Operations Chief. More changes will be coming.
- Updating the process for being a state deployable resource.
- Search and Rescue program is updating typing documents and equipment for the state swiftwater teams. Once those are published there will be a time to get updated.
- US Marshals service is partnering with EM and has a survey out please complete that so that will help to better support responders across the state.

**Treasurer's Office:** Information sent from David Starling attached.

### Boards & Commission Representative Reports

**Fire & Rescue Commission:** Robert Poe

Have not met since the last meeting.

**Fire & Rescue Commission Certification Bd:** Terry Foxx

The Certification Board met on June 10, 2021 at Kernersville Fire Department. Standing committee reports were heard along with new business discussions on the Driver Operator -ARFF standard, Fire Officer I-IV and a couple of hybrid requests were heard. Felonies and NC GS 143B-943 that if a person has a felony, then no certifications will be issued by the Board. The Board went into closed session to discuss personnel matters and returned for adjournment. The Board meeting on September 28, 2021 at Kernersville Fire Dept at 10AM.

**EMS Advisory Council:** Robert Poe

EMS Advisory Council

August 10, 2021

- Remembrance of Drexell Pratt was held.
- Compliance had over 500 checks and turn around times are sometime the same day depending on what has to be checked
- The first OEMS ethics course will be starting in August. 5 hours on line.
- EMS Instructors course is on line.
- Credentials are received much faster now with electronic testing.

Kimberly Clements updated the council on healthcare preparedness and COVID numbers.

Dr. Winslow updated on various medication changes and vaccine updates.

Extensions for license and credentials have ended September 30, 2021.

Contract for ESO for reporting has been done.

Protocol updates are coming out September 15.

Rules changes have gone into effect July 1 except for some of the education changes.

**VSWCF Board:** Joel Faircloth

Be sure everyone is documenting calls well. To include who was on the and what they did as it could be important for cases of exposure to COVID or any other disease.

Funding levels for the fund are good as there have been better loss ratios on claims and funding stabilized.

**Fire & Rescue Pension Advisory Brd:** Debbie Poe / Gary Whitman  
Did meet in June 9 to hear reports of the fund and updates.

**Stroke Advisory Council:** Hervy Kornegay Jr./Tom Mitchell  
Stroke bill came out requiring the office to create protocols and destination plans to large vessel occlusions. The council, NCOEMS, nor NCCEP was not aware of the bill until it was introduced. They are working with the representative on working on the language changes.

**911 Board:** Greg Foster  
911 Board Updates ESINet Telephone System - As of September 8th, 2021

-100 PSAPS (911 Centers) are live on State ESINet  
-27 active Projects  
i3 (North Carolina Next Generation 911 GIS Status Update) as of September 8th, 2021

-77 Counties are Data i3 ready

911 Telecommunicator Training Requirement Changes:

-(Effective 7/1/2022) All Communications Centers who operator under a Police or other agencies now must have certified telecommunicators. These telecommunicators must successfully complete an approved 40+ course through NC Sheriffs Standards or others.

NC 911 Financial Report as of July 23, 2021 Board Meeting

-NG 911 Financial Reporting (June 2021)

- Month End Balance \$ 85,235,209

- Disbursement \$ 3,588,723

-CMRS Financial Reporting

- Month End Balance \$ 3,315,649

- Disbursement \$ 244,283

-PSAP Financial Reporting

- Month End Balance \$ 8,376,978

- Disbursement \$ 5,087,806

-Grant Statewide/PSAP Financial Reporting

- Month End Balance \$ 9,732,429

- Grant Fund Committed \$ 28,065,951

FY 2022 PSAP Grants:

At the August 2021 meeting the board voted to approve approximately 8.5 million dollar in grants which includes the replacement or renovation/relocation of three counties 911 centers.

-These grant aware announcements are currently being made.

Priority One Collaboration Grant - Collaborative efforts have been a priority of the 911 Board, and the Grant Committee has elected to create a significant grant opportunity in the amount of \$5,000,000.00, that focuses on collaboration of PSAPs in the following areas:

- Consolidation of two or more primary 911 centers among contiguous or regional jurisdictions where economies of scale and cost savings efficiencies may be realized. This may include bricks and mortar projects, radio communications, and CAD to CAD. (Not to include transfer of 911 calls between primary PSAPs.)

- Consolidation studies.

- Primary to primary backup capabilities. Creation of backup capabilities at a current primary PSAP—removing the standalone backup. (Logical network backup versus a physical backup.)

- Radio communications consolidation for dispatching capabilities to establish a single primary answering point with more than one dispatch center in a jurisdiction.

The next 911 Board meeting will be held on September 24, 2021 at 10:00 am and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. For more information:

<https://it.nc.gov/about/boards-commissions/nc-911-board/events>

**Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee:** Terry Foxx

The Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee has not met since our January Director's meeting. No meeting is scheduled at this time.

### Standing Committee Reports

**Advisory:** Bob Twomey

No Report. Bob did write the article for the Carolina Fire & Rescue Journal that talked about the benefits of the association and benevolent brotherhood.

**BLS Competition:** William Mauney/Allen Johnson

Please be on time Saturday morning with equipment ready.

**Constitution :** Glen Cowan

No Report

**Credentials:** Jerry Bradshaw

Voting Delegates

Nominations for Vice Commander were opened, Josh Shumate submitted. Motion to close and accept by acclamation, Terry Foxx, second Bill Henderson, motion approved.

Nominations for Commander were opened. Hervy Kornegay Jr. submitted. Motion to close and accept by acclamation, Terry Foxx, second Robert Poe, motion approved.

**Finance:** Joel Faircloth

Motion to to approve all financial statements for Association, Brotherhood, Memorial Fund by Bill Henderson, second by Dale Whitlock, motion approved.

Relief Fund financial statements presented for information.

**Personnel:** Jeff Hinshaw

No report.

**Rescue Competition:** Mac Smith

Ready for competition beginning the afternoon and Saturday morning. Rescue competitions will be out on the front lawn.

**Standards & Training:** Terry Foxx

The current Association membership is 29,100 members. We all need to work toward getting more to enroll into the Brotherhood. To date we only have 4515 Brotherhood members. The training and standards committee has not met since our last meeting but I have a couple of corrections to make to our standards to make them all the same language regrading Light, Medium & Heavy. We have 1 new department since our last meeting and 8 departments that have closed.

**Relief Fund Board of Trustees:** Hervy Kornegay Jr.

2021 applications were announced May 15, 2021.

Keep in mind the disability on duty benefit. If personnel are out of work due to COVID exposures at work this benefit can be available to them.

**Convention Committee:** Robert Poe/Joel Faircloth

The Beaufort Hotel has been great to work with over the summer. We are looking forward to a good convention and will have other venues and or dates for consideration for the meeting in January.

## New Business

### **Legislative Update:** Fred Bone

Updates were given on various bills of interests. One of which was that the Wildlife Commission bill allowing for volunteers to be able to get a reduced hunting and fishing licenses has passed.

### **State of the Association Report:** Hervy Kornegay Jr.

I began last years state of the association meeting with 2020 has certainly been a challenging year. 2021 proved to be no different. The first case of COVID 19 in North Carolina was diagnosed on March 3 of 2020. I don't think any of us anticipated that we would still be dealing with this pandemic 18 months later. Unfortunately the toll continues to climb. We are now over 15,000 deaths in the state of North Carolina, and at this point all of us have lost friends from this terrible disease. All of us have treated patients with Covid 19. And all of us have worried about bringing it home to our family and loved ones. Our 688 departments, our members 2900 strong, have continued to serve this state as heroes meeting the challenge.

As an office we have continued to do all of those things we need to do to be successful. Our staff continues to be exceptional. Our finances remain strong. The relief fund continues to grow and provide scholarships for our members and dependents.

Our mission is enhanced by our working relationships with our partners at the NC Office of EMS, the NC Office of the State Fire Marshall, and North Carolina Emergency Management. These relationships are vital to our success and I would like to personally thank them for their support.

In closing. I would like to thank Executive Director Joel Faircloth and Vice Commander Josh Shumate. Joel and I talk on a weekly basis, and the three of us meet bimonthly in an effort to insure our long term success. And the Bible tells us "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary"

I am proud to serve you as Commander.

### **Directors Meetings 2022**

Recommendation for January 22@ Transylvania, May 1 @ Greensboro EMS Expo.

### **Appointment of Committee Chairpersons:** Hervy Kornegay Jr.

Motion for all committee chairs to remain as it with the exception of the Convention Committee to be changed to Josh Shumate by Scott McCaskill, second Tim Pennell, motion approved.

### **Appointments of Personnel Committee:** Terry Foxx

Motion to re-appoint Kim Haddock and Jeff Hinshaw, and appoint Gary Whitman by Terry Foxx, second Scott McCaskill, motion approved

## Recessed until Awards Presentation Ceremony

### **Presentation Ceremony September 11, 2021**

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Hervy Kornegay Jr</b>
<b>Invocation</b>	<b>Carnie Hedgepeth</b>
<b>Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag</b>	<b>Hervy Kornegay Jr</b>
<b>Memorial Service</b>	<b>Carnie Hedgepeth</b>
<b>Introduction of Special Guests</b>	<b>Hervy Kornegay Jr</b>
<b>Installation of Association Officers</b>	<b>Bob Twomey</b>

**Rescue of the Year Award**  
Eden Rescue Squad

**Josh Shumate**

**Craig Helms Challenge**

**Mac Smith**

**Technical Rescue Competition**

**Mac Smith**

**Junior BLS Competition**

**William Mauney**

**Benediction**

**Carnie Hedgepeth**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business the convention / annual meeting was adjourned.

Joel Faircloth

Executive Director  
(Not Official until approved by the Board of Directors)