

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

Director Meeting - Minutes

March 12, 2022

WebEx / Teleconference

Call to Order

Welcome - Hervy Kornegay Jr

Invocation - Joel Faircloth

Adoption of order of business: Motion to adopt, Bill Henderson, second Ronnie Warrick, motion approved.

Recognition of guests -Kim Williams-OSFM, Allen Johnson -OEMS,Brian Barnes-NCCEM, Greg Foster, 911 Board Representative, Fred Bone-Bone & Associates

Roll call of Directors; Joel Faircloth. 19 Area Directors, 1 Past Commander, Vice Commander, Commander, Executive Director, and Executive Director Emeritus, were present.

Minutes of Directors Meeting September 10-11, 2021: Motion to approve, Jerry Bradshaw, second by Ronnie Warrick, motion approved.

Old Business

Agency Reports

OSFM: Kim Williams

Have several positions coming open - Commission(Michael Caviness's region), 3 for AFFF / Foam Program, Fire 2 Investigators, and Engineering.

NC Emergency Training Center - Agreements for partnerships and funding are being finalized and should start construction in the fall. Stage 1 - Water Rescue and ARFF facility. Stage 2 - Main Campus. Bids for design build will go out soon.

Grant programs are work in progress with some delays with federal requirements for COVID Relieve funds and actual funds requested.

OEMS: Allen Johnson for Tom Mitchell

As COVID numbers continue to trend in the right direction, there is quite a few items to update. I will try to be brief.

We will be releasing new protocols annually on October 15th of each year to limit updates that EMS Systems need to make. Once protocols are released, Systems have until January 15th to submit documentation on changes or acceptance of protocols as written. RAC Coordinators need to be kept aware of protocol changes, especially trauma protocols. Please keep your respective RAC Coordinator updated and use them as a resource to your EMS System. They can provide input, guidance and training for your System.

131E-158 waiver is still in place with the Governor's state of emergency (SOE) keeping it in place. The Governor is getting some pressure to allow the SOE to sunset. If this happens, the 131E-158 waiver will sunset 30 days after the SOE ends. We are working with the AG's office to attempt to change the statute to give OEMS more authority to implement the waiver without a SOE. Not sure whether this will happen or not.

CAAS & NFPA Ambulance Standards are under revision. CAAS Standards are out for public comment. No major changes, except for final stage ambulance manufacturers (FSAM) on bariatric trucks. These standards will go out for public comment a 2nd time in the April-May timeframe and will likely be implemented in July. NFPA is still in the process of drafting their changes. Reminder that remount standards do not apply to remounts in NC, since our rule exempts remounts. However, that will likely change in the next rule revision. This should not have a significant impact on any agency.

We (OEMS) is still managing the PPE Warehouse in Mocksville. If your agency is unable to secure PPE through normal channels, feel free to request them through us. We will likely have that warehouse for

another 3 years or so. Since opening the warehouse, there have been over 29,000 PPE requests filled. There have been over 130 million items shipped out across the state. Federal Ambulances left NC on March 2nd. 25 counties received assistance upon request from the assets. From January 6th til March 2nd, these trucks responded to 9,916 calls.

We have partnered with the EMS Adm. Association and your Association on working on some strategies to deal with staffing shortages. Thanks to Joel for participating in those discussions. The Administrators have released a Scarce Resource Document that we assisted in putting together. If you haven't see that document, feel free to let us know and we will be glad to provide it to you. This is just some ways of dealing with staffing problems that are being done or considered in NC or nationally.

EMS Expo is coming up on April 29th – May 4th. We have put together a good lineup of speakers on pertinent topics. We have a sold-out vendor hall with booths in the hallway. Please make every effort to attend, as this conference is done for you. Please support us in bringing Expo back and making it a success.

We have been made aware that we will be distributing \$2.8 million from ARPA funds through Mental Health to expand EMS-based Medication Assisted Treatment programs in the state. These programs are primarily done through Community Paramedicine Programs responding to reversals with Narcan. These patients are offered help and given Suboxone initially and followed up daily with Suboxone until they are able to get into a program or OBOT program. The Suboxone will keep them from going into withdrawals and keep them from overdosing again, until they can get definitive treatment. There are currently two of these in the state, Stanly and Onslow counties. More information to come about distribution of these funds.

There are no current modifications to NC Administrative Code, underway.

NCEM: Brian Barnes

1. Watching the weather closely today as Storm Prediction Center has issues an enhanced risk of Severe Weather for today along and east of I95.
2. Personnel Changes, as I mentioned previously Todd Brown is the new Operations Chief and I have taken his old position as the Deputy Operations Chief.
 - a. NCEM has two vacant positions in the Emergency Services Branch that would should be hiring for soon if you know if anyone who might be interested.
 - b. The State budget passed that included reoccurring Search and Rescue Appropriations. The impact of these funds cannot be understated for Search and Rescue in NC.
 - a. Currently working to finalize draft administrative rules. We should be publishing these draft rules in the next month to codify the processes of the State SAR Program. Once they published for comment we will be sure you all are made aware so that you can comment on them.
 - b. Upcoming Training and Exercise –
 - a. We currently have an Advanced Boat Operator Course going on in Morganton and are planning to deliver three regular boat operator courses for state deployable Swiftwater teams. We are continuing to work down the backlog of those who need the course and appreciate everyone's patience as we have a very small window each year that we can deliver these courses.
 - b. The State Search and Rescue Exercise is scheduled for next week March 18th – 20th – currently there are over 200 participants signed up on TERMS.
 - c. Burke County is hosting the Catawba Flood and Land Search Exercise April 28 – May 1st and sign up is also on TERMS.
 - d. State Emergency Response Commission Meeting is Friday April 9th at the State EOC
 - e. Next Search and Rescue Technical Advisory Committee will be in July as soon as details are finalized, we will send those details out.

Treasurer's Office: No Report - Joel Faircloth

Boards & Commission Representative Reports

Fire & Rescue Commission: Robert Poe.

Fire and Rescue Commission
Certification Board report
Approved addition to NFPA Driver Operator
Wildland Fire Apparatus
Airport Fire Apparatus

1/11/22

Fire Officer Program was updated in 2021

Report from VSWCB Fund is doing very good

Image Trends is the new from NFIRS

Fire & Rescue Commission Certification Brd: Terry Foxx

The Certification Board met on March 8, 2022, at Kernersville Fire Department. Chief 101 Committee updates were given, OSFM Updates along with standing committee reports were heard. New business discussions on the FIP 3030, OSFM Portal/Reporting Errors, Felonies and NC GS 143B-943 that if a person has a felony, then no certifications will be issued by the Board. Investigations are ongoing at AB Tech, Bladen C.C., Catawba Valley C.C., Robeson C.C., Sampson C.C. The Board went into closed session to discuss personnel matters and returned for adjournment. The Board meeting is on June 14, 2022, at Kernersville Fire Dept at 10AM.

EMS Advisory Council: Robert Poe
NC EMS Advisory Council

11/9/21

Wake Med in Raleigh was given a Level 1 Trauma Designation provided they correct a noted deficiency in substance abuse screening

Melinda Swindells gave an update on Compliance:

October 1 thru September 30 saw an increase of credentialing
Disciplinary Committee saw a 30% increase of Violent Offenses

Todd Messer gave a update on Credentialing

EMS Courses that are allowing alternative ways to obtain clinical and ride time ends
12/31/21
There are 217 classes that are scheduled to end as of 12/31/21
From 1/1/21 to 10/31/21 there have been 4929 individuals tested for certification
EMR thru Paramedic
19 EMS Instructor workshops have been held since 4/1/21
2 EMS Program Coordinator workshops have been held this year with 4 more
Scheduled

We received a Healthcare Preparedness update

NC Medical Director Dr Winslow has visited some counties concerning RSI

A Protocol update was briefly discussed

Chief Mitchell gave a brief update

VSWCF Board: Joel Faircloth

The legislature has passed that departments would not be charged a premium for the next 2 years.
Please keep in mind to practice safety to keep claims low.

Fire & Rescue Pension Advisory Brd: Debbie Poe / Gary Whitman
No Report

Stroke Advisory Council: Dr. Hervy Kornegay Jr. / Tom Mitchell
No updates to report.

911 Board: Greg Foster
Board Minutes attached online.

Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee: Terry Foxx
The Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee met on January 28th, 2022 @ 9:30 AM. Introductions / Agency Updates were heard. The State of SAR Programs Helicopter Search and Rescue, Mountain Rescue, Swiftwater Search and Rescue, Urban Search and Rescue, Land Search and Rescue, Budget Updates, Policy Updates, Rule making Process and the Technology Working Group Update was given by NCEM Staff and committee members. No meeting is scheduled at this time.

Standing Committee Reports

Advisory: Bob Twomey
Motion to add department information to the web page, department name, mailing address, and services by committee, Approved

BLS Competition: William Mauney/Allen Johnson:
Update on planned changes to format of competition to MEDPAT format.

Constitution : Glen Cowan
No Report

Credentials: Jerry Bradshaw / Joel Faircloth
Odd year Director Appointments coming up. Applications will be sent out to be returned to the Credentials Committee before the May directors meeting.

Finance: Joel Faircloth
Motion by committee to accept financial statement for FY 20-21, approved the audit, and tax return submission, second by Jerry Bradshaw, motion approved.

Personnel: Jeff Hinshaw/Joel Faircloth
Carnie Hedgepeth and Ethan Myers are working part time in the office.

Rescue Competition: Mac Smith
Planning on competition in Beaufort NC this year.

Standards & Training: Terry Foxx
The current Association membership is 28707 members. We all need to work toward getting more to enroll into the Brotherhood. To date we only have 5109 Brotherhood members. The training and standards committee met prior to our March 12 meeting to discuss several possible changes to our standards to make them all the same language regrading Light, Medium & Heavy. The changes were approved at the March 12 meeting and all standards will be reviewed and implemented by NLT July 1.

Relief Fund Board of Trustees: Hery Kornegay Jr/Joel Faircloth
Scholarships are applications are on line and must be submitted by March 31, 2022.

Convention Committee: Josh Shumate
Planning to be in Beaufort September 9-10, 2022 for convention.

New Business

Legislative Update: Fred Bone
The North Carolina General Assembly has at long last adjourned the 2021 long session. This is the longest long session in the history of the State. The session convened in January 2021 and will officially conclude on March 11, 2022. The adjournment resolution is SJR 748 The resolution releases the General Assembly, but it allows for the reconvening of session on April 4 through April 6 and May 4 through May 6, 2022. Both of these three-day sessions are expected to be strictly procedural in nature. Leadership is trying to get an early jump on issues that will be addressed during the 2022 legislative Short Session. With the bill drafting and bill filing deadlines occurring prior to the convening of the May 18 session, it appears that House and Senate leadership are making a good faith effort to make the "Short Session" truly short. Members of the North Carolina Senate seem to believe that the session will run from 3 to 4 weeks. Over in the House, it is anticipated that the session could run for 6 to 8 weeks. I'm willing to split the difference. For now, let's project that the legislature may be out by July 4.

Only a limited number of issues will be taken up during the 2022 short session. The only items up for consideration in the short session will be; bills that are introduced by interim study commissions, bills that had made crossover, bills that have been negotiated through the conference committee process, and possibly a budget adjustment bill for 2022. The purpose of the "short session" is to adjust the budget for the second year of the biennium. One factor that will help to ensure a "short" short session will be the fact that there will be a tremendous need for legislators to get into their new districts and begin campaigning.

Over the past few months, the North Carolina Supreme Court in the North Carolina legislature have battled over legislative redistricting. This is been the primary issue that has kept the legislature in or so long. The legislature has submitted several maps to court system, only to have them rejected as political gerrymanders. Eventually, the court decided to appoint his own special master and draw congressional maps themselves. While the Constitution delegates that authority to the General assembly, the courts felt it necessary to draw the maps themselves. This will lead to intense court battles to come.

Primary elections will now be held on March 16, 2022. Last Friday marked the end of the filing period for the new 2022 election cycle. We now know who is seeking political office in the State of North Carolina. I am still evaluating the 2023 legislative candidates who completed the filing process. My initial assessment is that we have several experienced members retiring, including Senate majority leader Kathy Harrington. There are a number of very capable individuals running for Congress or other statewide offices. One of these is Senator Don Davis, who is running for Congress. Senator Davis is one of the few Democrats to vote against some of Governor Cooper's vetos. Several members who initially indicated that they might not run for office again changed their position and decided that they want one more bite of the apple. The new maps have double-bunked some incumbent leaders, leading to interesting primary elections. Some members are moving from the North Carolina House and seeking out North Carolina Senate seats. Please take a look at the website ncleg.gov for a complete listing of all of the candidates that have filed for office in North Carolina this year. The listing is on the left-hand side of the homepage. This can be a wonderful resource to use.

One of final bills filed in 2021 legislative session occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. HB 243 was the budget technical corrections bill. In this Bill were several items of interest to our North Carolina rescue and EMS communities.

NON-DESIGNATED SURVIVING SPOUSE BENEFICIARIES/FIREFIGHTERS' AND 46 RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS' PENSION FUND

47 SECTION 17.3. G.S. 58-86-55(d1) reads as rewritten:

48 "(d1) Benefits shall be paid in the following manner when a member is killed in the line of
49 duty and the requirements of Article 12A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes are met:

50 (1) If the member had been receiving a monthly pension fund benefit prior to
51 being killed in the line of duty, there shall be paid to the member's principal
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1 beneficiary, if only one principal beneficiary is eligible and has not accepted
2 a return of contributions, an amount of one hundred seventy dollars (\$170.00)
3 per month beginning the month following the member's month of death,
4 payable until the beneficiary's death. If the member became a member prior
5 to July 1, 2018, and had not designated a principal beneficiary prior to being
6 killed in the line of duty, there shall be paid to the member's living spouse
7 upon the spouse's application to the Board, an amount of one hundred seventy
8 dollars (\$170.00) per month beginning the month following the member's
9 month of death, payable until the spouse's death.

FIREFIGHTER AND EMS/RESCUE WORKER PAYMENTS TO WORKERS' 28 COMPENSATION FUND FOR 2022-2023 AND 2023-2024 FISCAL YEARS

29 SECTION 12.1. Section 30.3 of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

30 "SECTION 30.3. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 58-87-10, for the 2021-2022 fiscal
31 year and the 2022-2023 fiscal year and the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the State Fire and Rescue
32 Commission shall not set an amount to be paid by every eligible unit and eligible entity, as those
33 terms are defined in G.S. 58-87-10(a), that elects to participate in the Workers' Compensation
34 Fund (Fund) created pursuant to G.S. 58-87-10(b). For the 2021-2022 fiscal year and the
35 2022-2023 fiscal year and the 2023-2024 fiscal year, no eligible unit or eligible entity shall be
36 required to submit to the State Fire and Rescue Commission any payment to participate in the
37 Fund."

27 ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES' DEATH BENEFITS

28 SECTION 17.4. Section 39.2(j) of S.L. 2021-180 reads as rewritten:

29 "SECTION 39.2.(j) Any For the 2021-2022 fiscal year only, the Office of State Budget and
30 Management shall transfer up to one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) of the
31 funds remaining after these bonuses are awarded in accordance with this section shall be credited
32 to the State Fiscal Recovery Fund.to the Department of State Treasurer, as needed and to the
33 extent allowed under federal law, to pay for line of duty death benefits awarded by the Industrial

34 Commission under Article 12A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. Any funds remaining
35 after bonuses are awarded and funds are transferred in accordance with this section shall be
36 credited to the State Fiscal Recovery Fund."

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35 2022-2023 fiscal year and the 2023-2024 fiscal year, no eligible unit or eligible entity shall be
36 required to submit to the State Fire and Rescue Commission any payment to participate in the
37 Fund."

Other issues taking the forefront, since our last meeting include trying to ascertain how we can get similar benefits to the benefits provided to the volunteer fire departments in last year's budget. We have had conversations with Representative Mitchell Setzer, Representative Jamie Boles, and Senator Bob Steinberg around this issue. We've also had conversations with the Department of Insurance representatives. If there is additional money in the short session, it would be nice to get additional resources for our small volunteer EMS and rescue facilities that have suffered greatly during the COVID 19 outbreak.

Over the next several weeks, there will be a number of oversight committees and interim study committees convening here in Raleigh. Although the legislature may have adjourned, the work continues on. I look forward to keeping you posted on all the happenings here in Raleigh.

Directors Meetings 2022

May 01, 2022 - EMS Expo Greensboro

September 9-10, 2022 - Convention Beaufort

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Joel Faircloth

Executive Director

(Not Official until approved by the Board of Directors)