

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

Director Meeting - Minutes

April 28, 2024

EMS EXPO Greensboro NC / WebEx / Teleconference

Call to Order

Welcome - Josh Shumate

Invocation - Joel Faircloth

Adoption of order of business: Motion to adopt, William Mauney, second Robert Poe, motion approved.

Recognition of guests -Tom Mitchell - OEMS, Allen Johnson -OEMS, Fred Bone-Bone & Associates

Roll call of Directors; Joel Faircloth. 17 Area Directors, Vice Commander, Commander, Executive Director were present.

Minutes of Directors Meeting January 20, 2024: Motion to approve, Robert Poe, second by Bob Twomey, motion approved.

Old Business

Agency Reports

OSFM: No Report

OEMS: Tom Mitchell
· Welcome to EMS Expo.

· With the passage of legislation in Session Law 2023-129 last year, it included an exemption to minimum staffing for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation through May 11, 2024. We put together a group of stakeholders that met on Wednesday April 24th in Greensboro. There are a couple of statute changes that a sub-committee will be looking for consideration. That being the background check for non-credentialed personnel, and the lack of ability to discipline non-credentialed personnel. This will have to be handled by the EMS Agency utilizing the waiver. On the non-emergency side, there are currently 7 providers out of 448 utilizing the waiver (less than 1%). We will extend the length of the waiver from 6 months to 1 year, with a 6 month update. Other agencies can still request an exemption to the minimum staffing statute (131E-158). If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to your respective regional office for assistance.

· Proposed changes to NC Administrative Code were codified on April 1, 2024 and are currently in effect. Only changes mentioned is implementation of CAAS & NFPA standards to ambulance remounts. Also mentioned the provider reentry rule allowing EMS professionals that previously held a credential to get back into the profession without having to start over.

.0224 – Gound ambulance Vehicle Manufacturing Standards

Proposing to require remounted vehicles to meet the CAAS or NFPA-1917 standards. Remounted trucks will be exempt from the standard if they are remounted prior to July 1, 2025.

.0512 – Reinstatement of Lapsed EMS Credential

Proposing for lapsed credentials the ability to take a refresher class and the state exam, regardless of the length of expiration.

· Please enjoy yourself at EMS Expo, and visit the vendor area, paramedic competition and hope you will stay for some of the sessions. If you need anything while you are here, feel free to let our staff know.

I will let that conclude my report. Mr. Chairman, I will turn it back over to you, and happy to take any questions. Thanks for the opportunity to present.

NCEM: No Report

Treasurer's Office: No Report

Boards & Commission Representative Reports

Fire & Rescue Commission: Robert Poe.

Fire and Rescue Commission 1-9-2024

Kevin Gordon gave a presentation on the new rules. The draft set of rules needed representation from the Commission. Chief Cook appointed Cloyce Anders, Terry Foxx and Freddy Johnson to this.

Freddy Johnson moved to approve the new Commission Bylaws as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion was then on Nepotism. This will have to be approved at the April meeting.

Matt Davis was reappointed to the CFI Board.

Josh Smith was reappointed, Christopher Wells, Joshua Crisp and Jennifer were appointed to the Certification Board.

Board reports.

Certification Board TR rewrite is moving

CFI Board 2023 there were 45 applicants with 35 being approved.

Discussion was then on Brian Taylors position as the State Fire Marshall.

Commission Board went to Executive Session to discuss instructor investigations. Commission Board reconvened after closed session. Motion was made to uphold the decision of the Certification Board.

Fire & Rescue Commission 04-09-2024

Kenneth Hogue was reappointed to the Certification Board as one of the representatives from NCAREMS

Certification Board Derrick Clouston reported that the TR update is on track, They are looking at online testing, similar to what OEMS is doing. A study group has been formed to explore this. Certified Fire Investigators received 15 applicants and approved 12.

Workers Comp Board Report Claims are up approximately 1 million \$ from last year. Medical claims are up slightly. 19,000 claims have been reported since the beginning with a payout of 196 million dollars. There are no premiums for the year 2024-2025.

Discussion was then entered into concerning Nepotism. There had been a question concerning family members serving on Commission appointed Boards. When the entire definition was brought out which included "friends" it was determined that the organizations that send in names for consideration are completely responsible to do what is right for the good of North Carolina. OSFM staff had already written the bylaws to reflect Board members appointed to the Certification Board, Workers Comp Board, Certified Fire Investigator Board and any other Commission committees could not be reappointed after their term was up. Motion was made and passed to not include this language. Bylaws were then approved as previously written.

Discussion followed concerning Federal OSHA rewrite. 100% volunteer departments should not see any changes. Departments with 1 or more paid personnel may have to follow updated ruling. Federal OSHA has not actively superseded North Carolina OSHA.

SAFER Conference is August 7 – 11

Community colleges downloaded 33441 certifications to OSFM. They also had a 11% increase of EMS students 19596 students in 2023.

Fire & Rescue Commission Certification Brd: Terry Foxx

The Certification Board met on March 14, 2024, at Kernersville Fire Department. The agenda and minutes were approved. Chief Brian Taylor gave the OSFM report on the recent reorganization of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Terry Foxx updated the board on the progress of the TR Program rewrites and stated it is on track to meet the deadline of the 1-year extension granted by ISFAC.

In old business, a felony applicant to join a department to maintain his certifications was reviewed along with a policy and procedure update regarding the Certification Board's policies becoming Rule. That is very much in progress and Chief Gordon is working diligently to get this ready for the Commission to review and subsequently approve in Rule or NC Administrative Code. New business included 2 departments for additions to their delivery agency status, the possibility of looking into online testing due continued cheating along with live fire skill sheets. The Chair appointed a committee to review online testing and make recommendations to the full board.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2024, at Kernersville Fire Department.

EMS Advisory Council: Robert Poe
NC EMS Advisory Committee Meeting 2/12/24
Reappointments and initial appointments
Todd Baker reappointed
Sarah Rivenbark reappointed
Rebecca Pitman appointed

Elections held
Dr Kim Askew reelected Chair
Dr Darrell Nelson reelected Vice Chair

Mr. John Grindstaff was reappointed to Chair the Injury Prevention Committee
Robert Poe was reappointed to Chair the Compliance and Education Committee

Injury Committee Report
UNC Hospital Chapel Hill received a 1-year extension and an additional 2 years when 2 deficiencies are corrected

Compliance and Education Committee Report
1808 Credentials issued from 11/1/2023 to 1/31/2024
263 or 15% were Paramedics

November thru January the Discipline Committee Report 29% were due to violent offences DWI were 23% Patient Care 5%

There are 40 Fully Accredited Institutions with 20 more under the Letter of Review for Paramedic Instruction

In 2024 there are scheduled 8 Instructor Workshops. 6 Virtual, 2 in-person
AS of now there are 6 Program Coordinator Workshops scheduled

EMS EXPO is scheduled for Friday April 26 thru Wednesday May 1

VSWCF Board: Joel Faircloth
Information given in Fire & Rescue Commission Report

Fire & Rescue Pension Advisory Brd: Debbie Poe / Gary Whitman
No Report. Next Meeting June 2024

Stroke Advisory Council: No Report

911 Board: No Report

Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee: Terry Foxx
The Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee met on March 13, 2024, at the State EOC Media Room. Director Ray gave special recognition to several who had deployed to assist the State of Vermont for Water Rescue. Agency reports were heard along with the State of the SAR programs addressed, by the respective NCEM staff who handle each. Helicopter, Swiftwater, Mountain, Urban and Wilderness SAR

programs all are operational and doing well. The big item discussed was the upcoming State budget and trying to maintain the current funds and continue to get funding to replace shelters and training equipment.

Personnel changes were discussed that Scott Zander has retired from NCEM and JR Griffin has taken his place and other positions will be shuffled to get all vacant positions filled. Program operations manuals and SOGs are being established for each program. NCGS 166A is being clarified to update statutory authority. There was no new business to discuss except to keep an open dialogue with all partners and to closely monitor the budget which may come from a conference committee this year. With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned. No further meeting is scheduled currently.

Standing Committee Reports

Advisory: Bob Twomey
No Report

BLS Competition: William Mauney
Allen Johnson inquired if the consensus was to stay with same format from last year. No known issues were noted.

Constitution : Billy Sparks Jr.
No Report

Credentials: Jerry Bradshaw
Even year Director Appointments Voting was tallied for those in person and those present online were given until 12 noon 4-29-2024 to return ballots. Areas 1-10, 12, 13, 15 were reappointed - Area 14 Chad McNabb was appointed, Area 11 Cole Wyatt received the majority over Wes Blackwelder for appointment.

Finance: Debbie Poe
Motion by Committee accept financial statements for 03-31-2024 Association, Brotherhood, Memorial Fund, Relief Fund, motion passed.

Motion by Committee to accept audit for FY 22-23, motion passed.

Motion by Committee approved FY 24-25 budget which include 3% pay increase for all employees, motion passed.

Motion to pay off building with September 2024 payment, motion passed.

Personnel: Jeff Hinshaw/(Joel Faircloth)
New employees Summerlyn Merritt and Holly Denning are working out well and are continuing to learn the processes of the office. They have and continue working with Joel, Becky, and Lynette.

Rescue Competition: Mac Smith
Tim Pennell said the committee had met and they are intending to have the rescue competitions on site.

Standards & Training: William Mauney
The committee will be looking to meet in the coming months to review the equipment standards for any updates that are required.

Roster Statistics

Date: 2024-04-25

Count of members on a single roster	25415
Count of members on more than a single roster	4924
Total distinct members on rosters	30339
Total roster entries	37005

Average number of rosters/individual	1.220
Number of not-closed squads with rosters on file	678
Average number of individuals/squad roster	52.94
Median number of individuals/squad roster	38
Percentage of roster entries that are Paid ¹	58.93
Percentage of Departments that are Paid	24.93
Count of BH departments (Bnnnn)	152
Count of BH roster members	4422
Count of BH Individual members	666

Closed Dept since 01-20-2024

closed_dat	reason_desc	date_squad_entr	Squad Name	Squad	City
2024-01-25	Closed	2003-08-19	COLFAX FIRE DEPARTMENT		COLFAX
2024-01-26	Closed	2000-01-03	PAMLICO BEACH FIRE &		BELHAVE

New Departments since 01-20-2024

2024-01-25	VASHTI VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT		TAYLORSVILLE
2024-02-05	WAYNESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT		WAYNESVILLE
2024-03-06	PEACHTREE FIRE DISTRICT INC		MURPHY
2024-03-14	RANGER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT		MURPHY

Relief Fund Board of Trustees: Josh Shumate/Joel Faircloth
Scholarships are to be announced May 15, 2024

Convention Committee: Josh Shumate
Directors approved to go to return to Asheville Biltmore West Holiday, same location as last year. September 5-7, 2024

Memorial Committee: Joel Faircloth
Discussion about locations with updates given and thoughts on reducing the size of area for placement to 60x40 - 70x30 estimates was discussed. Further research will be done in regards to location and design in an effort to find a suitable location.

Legislative Update: Fred Bone

Wednesday, April 24, at high noon. There were numerous legislative receptions on Monday afternoon and evening, Tuesday evening, and Wednesday morning. I personally attended five receptions within a twenty-four hour period. Most of the Democrat receptions were held at Democrat Party headquarters, while Republicans met at the Raleigh Beer Garden and Sullivan's restaurant. These receptions on the opening day of session reminded me of going to a high school reunion. Everyone was chatting, catching up, and acting like they had just found long-lost friends. Camaraderie and optimism overflowed. Members, not yet stressed about the upcoming session, reminisced about what they have been doing in their districts for the past few months. All this will quickly change as budget negotiations start to heat up. For now, most legislators are planning to get out quickly so they can enjoy some vacation time before hitting the campaign trail again. Many people

believe that session will adjourn by July 4. I can only hope that this is true but experience tells me that we could be here into late July or early August.

Governor Cooper released his proposed budget on Wednesday as the legislators returned to town. Among other items, his budget calls for an 8.5% teacher pay raise and a \$1500 retention bonus for teachers. Governor Cooper also wants to restore master's degree pay for teachers. Governor Cooper adamantly opposes opportunity scholarship dollars that have been spent giving parents a choice on how to educate their children outside of the public school system and provides no funding for this issue in his budget. The Governor's budget calls for a 5% raise for state employees and retention bonuses of \$1000- \$1500 to retain state employees. Governor Cooper's budget even includes a 3% one-time bonus for retirees and a \$2.5 billion bond referendum for public education. With the legislature looking at a \$1.4 billion revenue surplus, some changes will be made, but it is unlikely the Governor will get too many of his requests as the legislature's priorities differ significantly from the Governor's. The legislative budget adjustment proposal will be seen over the next 90 days. Look for continued negotiations between the legislative body and the executive branch as we move through the summer months.

The Senate Transportation Committee met on Wednesday as well. They began the confirmation process for Governor Cooper's Transportation nominee, Joey Hopkins. Secretary Hopkins faced numerous questions about the DMV. Many of the trials the DMV has faced in recent years make it a prime area for discussion. Considering that the legislature held a special Joint Transportation Oversight Committee to drill down on issues that overwhelmed DMV only last month, it is not surprising that the new secretary would be quizzed on this. Secretary Hopkins answered questions fairly and honestly and even impressed some of the Senators on the committee. His confirmation will most likely proceed in the next couple of weeks.

Committees are slowly starting to meet and no votes are being taken in the House next Monday or Tuesday. It always takes a while for the legislative process to get going. As always, I look forward to keeping you updated on the political happenings here in Raleigh. Until next week...

New Business

Robert Poe

Advised the directors that work was being done to get the High Angle Rescue School started back up. He has engaged Jeff Hinshaw, Shawn Haynes, and Eric Wiseman as well as an Instructor meeting was held over the last several months. The plan is to hold the school later this year.

Josh Shumate

Thanked everyone for their work with the association and those that helped make the association.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Joel Faircloth

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