

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

**68th Annual Meeting & Directors Meeting**

**September 6-7, 2024**

**Holiday Inn Biltmore West, Asheville NC**

**Call to Order**

Welcome - Josh Shumate

Invocation - Bob Twomey

Adoption of order of business; Motion to approve Scott McCaskill, second Dale Whitlock, motion carried.

Recognition of guests - Josh Shumate

Tom Mitchell Chief OEMS, Allen Johnson, OEMS, Bruce Hodges, NCOSFM, James Rose- NC Fire Rescue Pension Fund, and Fred Bone of Bone & Associates.

Roll call of Voting Delegates; David Stamey 19 voting delegates. A complete list is available in the office.

Roll call of Directors; Joel Faircloth. 26 Area Directors, Past Commander, Vice Commander, Executive Director, were present.

Minutes of Directors Meeting 04-28-2024: Motion to approve, Bob Twomey, second by Tim Pennel, motion approved.

**Old Business**

**Agency Reports**

**OSFM:** Bruce Hodges

- TR and TR Vehicle Instructor Re-qualifications have begun across the state. Instructors need to be sure to sign up for the upgrades. Other rescue specialty upgrades will be handled on line.
- Be sure certification to the current standard are completed by December 31, 2024

**OEMS:** Tom Mitchell

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the partnership the NC Association of Rescue and EMS has had with the Office of EMS. We value that partnership, and appreciate the opportunity to be here with you.

We are continuing to work with all EMS agencies that are interested in utilizing the waiver to minimum staffing. As written in the Session Law 2023-129, we are also working with Non-Emergency Medical Agencies on their utilization of the waiver. On the non-emergency side, there are currently 20 providers out of 448 that have applied for the waiver (4.5%). Many of these are not utilizing the waiver, but applied in case they needed it. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your respective regional office for assistance.

Just wanted to remind EMS agencies that with the recent changes made to NC Administrative Code, there are a few changes we want to make sure you are aware of:

.0224 – Ground ambulance Vehicle Manufacturing Standards

Proposal 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

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

Quick reminder of the Viper TDMA project that is underway by the NCSHP VIPER System. Effective July 1, 2025 all radios on the VIPER System must be ready to receive TDMA programming. Radios that aren't capable of accepting TDMA will become obsolete on the VIPER network. If any EMS agencies have questions or need assistance in determining whether their radio is capable of TDMA, please contact your respective regional office who can put you in touch with Dale Sutphin from our office.



Kevin Gordon 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 and will be implemented on January 1, 2025. Requalifications began in July and a motion was made to allow all current TR VMR's to be granted TR NFPA 2021 Heavy Rescue Certification.

In old business, a live fire update was given by OSFM Staff to dispel some ongoing rumors. It was announced that all skills for Live Fire are now available on the OSFM 24 portal. A discussion was held concerning the allowance of the VFIS EVD for NFPA 1002 EVD Certification. The course would be allowed as training but not for NFPA 1002 EVD certification.

The online testing ad hoc committee gave a report on their continued work and are currently in the fact-finding mode. No decisions have been made as to this and anything on the street to that point is simply rumors. There were multiple delivery agency requests for additions to their current offerings, but no new Delivery Agencies are being considered at this time. A closed session was held discuss several violations for several classes and disciplinary action was taken according to policy.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on September 12, 2024, at Kernersville Fire Department.

**EMS Advisory Council:** Robert Poe  
EMS Advisory Council

8-13-24

Injury Committee Report: ECU has submitted corrections to deficiencies found during their site visit. Their certificate has been extended to 2027

Report from Melynda Swindells.

From 5/1/24 to 7/31/24 there were 1876 credentials issued. During this same time period the violent offenses were the main cases reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee

Todd Messer reported on education

The Office has updated their Frequent Asked Questions on the web site

They are finalizing 8 Instructor Workshops for 2025. 4 will be virtual and 4 actual seating with locations scattered across the state

They are working with Measure Learning on extending the current exam testing for another 5 years. It is looking like there will be some improvements in the exams with more ways for developers to create or review. There will probably be a cost increase. The price has been the same for 7 years

A report was given on the Trauma System Plan. This is ongoing with the sub-committees meeting.

Dr Winslow gave the State Medical Director update. He is aware and looking at the new FDA rule that will allow EPPI to be given nasally in place of a EpiPen.

Chief Mitchell gave a update on the Office.

**VSWCF Board:** Joel Faircloth

The fund is in a good position. Reserves have been capped at \$45 million. Departments have not been required to pay premiums for the last two years.

**Fire & Rescue Pension Advisory Brd:** Debbie Poe / Gary Whitman

Information covered NC Treasurer report.

**Stroke Advisory Council:** Hervy Kornegay Jr./Tom Mitchell

No Report.

**911 Board:** Greg Foster

NC Grant currently in progress for the 911 PSAPs

NC Radio Grant for PSAPs grab and go radios in case they need to evacuate. all counties applied except 2  
911 board is working to resolve 911 lines being down

Some questions are being raised about an outside party recording 911 phone calls. Legal counsel is being sought and board will review.

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

The Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee has not met since our last meeting.

## Standing Committee Reports

**Advisory:** Bob Twomey  
No Report.

**BLS Competition:** William Mauney/Allen Johnson  
Be sure to let Joel and/or equipment check in personnel if teams are sharing equipment.

**Constitution:** Billy Sparks Jr  
No Report.

**Credentials:** David Stamey  
Reported on the director reappointments from April 28, 2024.

**Finance:** Debbie Poe  
Motion from committee approve all financial statements for Association, Brotherhood, Memorial Fund b, motion approved.

Relief Fund financial statements presented for information.

Building will be paid off September 2024.

**Personnel:** Jeff Hinshaw  
No Report.

**Rescue Competition:** Mac Smith  
Competition Ready for competition beginning the afternoon and Saturday morning. Rescue competitions will be out on the parking area.

**Standards & Training:** William Mauney  
The current Association membership is 30624 members. We have had 5 departments to close and have gained 10 new departments since our last annual meeting. We all need to work toward getting more to enroll into the Brotherhood. To date we only have 5145 Brotherhood members.

Standards – Committee brings forth updates as presented in packet for approval, motion approved.

**Relief Fund Board of Trustees:** Josh Shumate  
383 children currently on scholarship  
148 awarded this year. \$975,000 awarded in 2024  
17 LODD deaths are in various stages of payment  
3 Accidental death  
35 Natural Deaths

**Convention Committee:** Josh Shumate  
Encourage everyone to attend the classes this weekend as we have some great instructors offering good classes.  
Committee recommends going to Fayetteville for the convention for next two years. Motion David Stamey, second William Mauney, motion approved.

## New Business

**Legislative Update:** Fred Bone  
Updates were given on various bills of interests and outlook on the upcoming election.

**State of the Association Report:** Josh Shumate  
I want to thank each of you for making the trip and coming to join us at the 68th Annual Convention of the North Carolina Association of Rescue and EMS. From the first convention and meeting in Greensboro in 1957 till now, members from across the State have taken time out of their normal lives to come together and have discussions, sometimes easy, sometimes difficult, to do what is in the best interest of our members. The

framework for continued success has been laid and the cost for that success has been paid, sometimes in blood, by you, the members for decades and for that the Association thanks you. The state of our Association can be summed with one word- Progressive. Progress is more than just running in place, it is putting one foot in front of the other and actually moving forward. Like most organizations, the COVID era stopped all motion and, in some places, caused regression. We were lucky to not regress during that time and now have a lot of momentum moving forward. One good marker for this is the growth in our numbers. Since last years convention 5 departments left the association but 10 departments became members, giving us a net of 5. This seems small, but in a time when a lot of organizations are stagnant, we are fortunate enough to still have departments going through the process of becoming part of our family. In the last 12 months, our directors and inspectors have completed over 200 inspections for departments. Some of these were for departments adding new specialties and some were reinspections. The association is back in a spot where reinspection's are going to be on a schedule to ensure that we are upholding our standards and the end result is hopefully a better service provided to the communities we serve. Our Standards and Training Committee recently met, spending an entire day going through our equipment standards. They are tasked with looking at the equipment that we currently have and comparing it with the current industry standards and accepted practices to make sure that we are not only in line with the current standards, but that as an Association we are trying to be ahead of them. Several of those changes were discussed today. Next weekend, the Association is hosting its own High Angle Rescue School. For a number of years we partnered with OSFM on the High Angle Rescue School and since that school has ended we saw a need to offer that training again. Our biggest responsibility as an Association is to serve our members and provide benefits. This comes not only in the form of insurance or money, but also in the form of providing some unique training that our members can use to better serve those in our neighborhoods. Financially, we are as strong as we have ever been. Our investments continue to perform solidly and our cash flow is where it needs to be as you have seen in our report from the Finance Committee. The biggest monetary expenditure we have from the Rescue Relief Fund is awarding and payment of scholarships. This year we were fortunate enough to award \$961,000 to the members and children of members to attend school and further their education. All of you have helped position us in the past to be able to provide this benefit and help decrease the financial burden for all of these families. We have also been able to pay off the loan on the main office in Goldsboro.

In closing, the state of the Association is only in this good of shape because of all of you. The reason we are in such a strong position going forward is because of the support of the Directors and the support of each and every member. You all are the ones risking it all when the call comes in and are truly the only reason for our success. Thank you all and I look forward to having the pleasure to serve you for at least the next 12 months

**Directors Meetings 2025**

Recommendation for January 18 @ Williamston Fire Dept, May 4 @ Greensboro EMS Expo, September 4-6 @ convention annual meeting Fayetteville .

**Appointments of Personnel Committee:** Josh Shumate

Motion to re-appoint Kim Haddock and Jerry Bradshaw, and appoint Debbie Poe by Bob Twomey, second Chris Mauney, motion approved

**Lifetime Appointment:** Josh Shumate

Lorrie Lancaster & Wes Blackwelder were submitted to the delegates for approval by the Commander. A majority vote of approval was received.

Cloyce Anders was submitted by the Commander to the directors for Emeritus Membership. Motion by Joe Mancos, second Tim Pennell, motion approved.

**Recessed until Awards Presentation Ceremony**

**Presentation Ceremony September 07, 2024**

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Josh Shumate</b>
<b>Invocation</b>	<b>Joel Faircloth</b>
<b>Supper</b>	
<b>Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag</b>	<b>Josh Shumate</b>
<b>Memorial Service</b>	<b>Joel Faircloth</b>
<b>Introduction of Special Guests</b>	<b>Josh Shumate</b>

<b>AB Parker Rescue of the Year</b> Henderson County Rescue Squad	<b>Josh Shumate</b>
<b>Lifetime Membership</b> Lorrie Lancaster Wes Blackwelder Cloyce Anders, Emeritus Member	<b>Josh Shumate</b>
<b>Director of the Year (#2)</b> Tim Pennell	<b>Josh Shumate</b>
<b>Craig A. Helms Rescue Challenge Awards</b> 1st Place Cherry Point Fire & EMS Team #2 2nd Place Alamance County Rescue Team #1 3rd Place Alamance County Rescue Team #2	<b>Mac Smith</b>
<b>Chad Smith Memorial Spirit Award</b> Cherry Point Fire & EMS	<b>Mac Smith</b>
<b>Technical Rescue Competition Awards</b> 3rd Place - Cherry Point Fire & EMS 2nd Place - Henderson County Rescue Squad 1st Place - Alamance County Rescue Unit	<b>Mac Smith</b>
<b>Senior BLS Competition Awards</b> 3rd Place - Forsyth County EMS 2nd Place - Henderson County Rescue Squad 1st Place - Appalachian State University Mountaineer Medics #1	<b>William Mauney</b>
<b>Junior BLS Competition Awards</b> 3rd Place - Gaston Vol Fire Dept. #1 2nd Place - Tabor City EMS #2 1st Place - Tabor City EMS #1	<b>William Mauney</b>

**Benediction** **Joel Faircloth**

**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)