

Executive Committee Meeting April 16, 2026, Colleton County

Attendance: Pierce Womack, Kevin Henson, Ross VEzin, Randy Arant, Ryan Eubanks, Terry Sheriff, Brad Kavetski, Billy Barnes, Rickie Jenkins, Jennifer Thackston, Jack Kirlin, Jamie Helms, Brick Lewis, Ashley Boltin

Online: Ken Meadows, Bryan Baily, Jamie Caggiano

11:25 am Call to order by President Womack

Invocation Chaplain Rickie Jenkins

President Womack, in his opening remarks, thanked everyone for being there. Thank you to those online, as we have been working through some technical difficulties.

A motion was made by Ross Vezin to approve the Minutes from February 20, 2026, as presented; seconded by Randy Arant. All in favor.

Finance & Audit Report

Ken Meadows gave an audit report overview via Zoom.

Special recognition of Randy Arant's birthday.

Committee Reports

Finance & Audit continued – Helms - Jason could not be here today due to attending a funeral. Operationally, we are tracking very well. We are excited where we are, and hopefully we can come out of the conference strongly in the black

Legislative – Helms - Weekly Legislative reports are posted each Monday our on website under Advocacy. Lot of things are moving trying to meet the signee-die date of May 15. SCFAST – our 287 K increase request looks like it will be funded. Cancer Policy increase, was not put in on the House side, but expected to be picked up H2. However, 1.1 million was added on the Senate side for the increase in the policy. We submitted a 4.8 million appropriations request (House – Ballentine and Smith) and a CIP (Senate - Gambrell) for the Heritage Center. The CIP was not accepted due to being a non-government agency. But we are still working the house side. I am in a group text with both House members, and they are trying to work to get us something. We don't anticipate getting the full amount, but I am still hopeful to see something come through.

Advisory – Kevin Henson – Our committee has not formally met since our awards review. I would like to provide you with information for awareness. We received a Media award from

Abbeville County, by Mr. JT Bass nominating Mr. Green. The nomination packet was incomplete. The committee denied the application, and a denial letter went out to Mr. Bass. Mr. Bass has reached out and requested reconsideration. Since he has provided more information to Chairman Henson. Currently, we have no appeal process. The applicant is encouraged to reapply next year. Chairman Henson spoke with Mr. Bass about the fact that he would be happy to look over the application for next year before he applies. Chairman Henson has reached out to all advisory committee members to inform them of the request for reconsideration. All committee members stand beside their decision and do not want to overturn their determination. They, along with the support of the Executive Director, feel the process is fair, and we have an effective process. Mr. Bass seems to have reached out to a lot of different members. The Executive Committee supports maintaining the denial. A follow-up letter is prepared, and Chairman Henson will work with Executive Director Helms and Ashley to formally notify him and offer him the opportunity to reapply next year, but the denial will remain for this year.

Member Benefits – Ryan Eubanks – Continue to work on benefits for the membership. Will Glover continues to have the conversation with DNR on a discounted Hunting & Fishing license. We are currently promoting the partnership with the Life Scan discount. We will be sending out a survey on ideas of reasonable health care expenses for retirement. We are working with FD Meals for fresh options for firefighter meal delivery.

Training & Education – Terry Sheriff – Monday, we met to discuss the FSIC 2027. We reviewed the 2026 evaluations. Registration was a success using our vendor, which we use for the Fire – Rescue Conference, making it a simpler way to email certificates. Fire – Rescue schedule is out, and we have 47 classes with 45 instructors. We are working hard to keep it fresh. You can look at the schedule online. FDIC is coming up, and we are looking for new instructors and topics. Ashley will be handing out the QR codes at FDIC. Training Officer Academy meets on March 3rd. Fire School Advisory Committee meets on May 13th.

Health & Safety – Brad Kavetski – We haven't met since the last meeting; however, we are continuing to work on Meal Programs, and we have had interest in the Life Scan program.

Strategic Plan – Billy Barnes – No Report

Fire – Rescue – Ashley, we continue to work on great opportunities at Fire – Rescue, such as discounts, Fire Run, Morning Work Outs, Pelican game, Grand Strand Brewery, and possibly a recruitment area.

Chaplaincy – Rickie Jenkins – Continue to work

Foundation – Jamie Caggiano – We are still having our Golf Tournament at the Legends, and we still have openings. We are looking for Silent Auction items. We would like to do something different this year with grouping gift cards. We are looking for gift cards that are

state-wide. We are working on a partnership with Founders Credit Union; this will open more opportunities for our membership.

A motion was made by Kevin Henson to move forward with a partnership with Founders Credit Union; seconded by Randy Arant. All in favor.

Lunch Break

OSHA – Helms - Things are moving forward. Joe will have his final bata test meeting with the industrial group on the 22nd and he and I will be meeting with LLR / State OSHA attorney on the 23rd.

Technology Committee – Jennifer Thackston – March 19^h was our last meeting. We discussed GRG Mapping, AI training opportunities, we are working on discounted technology packages and will get with Member Benefits on this. We are looking at the conference App. The association email deliverability has gone up to 94% now.

Officer Section – Ashley – elections will be open Monday, May 18, 2026, and will close on May 29, 2026, at 5 p.m.

NVFC – Jack Kirlin - May 15th will be traveling to Washington, D.C. OSHA update – SC is above the bar.

Committee Reports

Ashley's Report

Rick Dunn – Rick has been busy with Training & Education, Training Officer Academy, Officer Section and Fire Rescue. Most of his report has been covered already.

- The [draft schedule for FR26](#) continues to evolve.
 - Currently, 47 classes are scheduled with 44 instructors confirmed.
- All class descriptions and instructor bios have been compiled into a Word document for print use.
- All classes are currently published on the [Fire-Rescue 2026 website](#), which includes searchable features for:
 - Class days and times
 - Tracks
 - Instructor names
- Training Officer Working Group - The Job Task Analysis (JTA) was completed during this reporting period. The Working Group reviewed the results and provided direction for next steps.

Officer Academy

- Class 26-01 (March 8–13, 2026) completed during this reporting period
 - 21 students graduated
 - 2 participants withdrew on Day 2 due to physical readiness
- Program impact:
 - 160 graduates across 7 classes since 2022

NFPA

- Pre–first draft meetings continue for NFPA 1010: Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters

Carter Jones

- Has been busy getting ready for the Fire – Rescue Conference.
- He delivered the City of Beaufort’s history,
- Met the SPAMFA Group and was in their parade and displayed a booth for their festival. Cheraw gave \$500 for Heritage Center.
- Working with Chief Jansen on getting his items from the North Charleston museum.
- Will be attending Marvin Murray retirement drop in.

Greg Bulanow

- Leadership Institute met April 14th.
- There next meeting is May 5 -7, 2026 in Columbia for the Our Community Listens class.

Brick Lewis –

1% ACCOUNTING SERVICES – JANA KASSIANOS

- Good Standing Departments
 - 2 Departments have not paid their Association Due
 - 6 (one included in also in the non-payment) did not submit forms before the final deadline of April 1st.
 - Number of Correspondents
 - Dues:
 - 3 Postal service one which was certified
 - 5 Emails via the MMS Database
 - All emails sent to Chief of Departments
 - 2 emails were sent to Chief of Department and individuals with right to manage roster and forms.
 - 1 email was sent to all members of the department
 - Personal text to Chiefs
 - J. Oswald – text Chief Ford with Blacksburg
 - M. Bryant – Text Chief Peschier with South Union

- Forms:
 - 7 Emails
 - All emails were sent to the Chief of the Department and anyone with rights to manage forms.
 - 1 email was sent to all members of the department
 - Working on Certified Letters notifying the department and the county treasurer of the loss of memberships.
 - Working with B. Bailey on an action plan for accounting services when remote work begins.
 - Met with the State Supervisory Committee to discuss the Follow-Up audit results

MEMBER OUTREACH – JEFF ALLEN

- Normal stuff for mer. Not too many FC meetings this month.
- Attending Chief Marvin Murray's retirement drop on Sunday.
- Picking up sign trailer from Boiling Springs, Greenville.
- Granted permission by Clear Springs Fire & Rescue and Clarendon County Fire Rescue to stage a burn trailer at each of their departments.
- Researching the purchase of another sign trailer as well if there are financial grant opportunities
- Supporting/participating in the annual MADD walk at the SC Criminal Justice Academy. Irmo FD and Columbia FD sending apparatus

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – KIM VOISINE

- Volunteer/career inquiries
 - March
 - Volunteer – 98
 - Career – 19
- Assisted with Fire Officer Academy
 - Managed certificate process
- Officer Section
 - Assisted with Officer Section Elections
 - Verified the 550 members are in good standing
- Database
 - On going cleanup of duplicate accounts, missing information (valid/missing last 5 digits of SSN, VALID email address)

1% COORDINATOR – JEFF OSWALD

- March 30, 2026, Horry County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Surfside Beach FD. (23) Attendees; (9) fire departments represented; (2) Counties represented by attendees.
- April 20, 2026, Berkeley County 1% Regional Training Class hosted by Pine Ridge VFD. Class registration link was created on February 5, 2026. We have received (39) registrants for the class.
- Working with Chief Steven Bullard of Cayce FD to schedule a date to host a 1% Regional Training Class after the 2026 SCSFA Fire-Rescue Conference.

- Received email from Chief John Shoemake of Darlington County Fire District, on 01/13/2026, informing me they are interested in hosting a 1% Regional Training Class for Darlington County. I will be working with him and Molly Odom to schedule a date for the class.
- Have been discussing, with contacts, future 1% Regional Training Classes in Aiken and Beaufort Counties.
- Working with Brook to update 1% Class PowerPoint
- Would like to secure additional host departments for 2026 1% Classes. If anyone is interested, please let me know.
- FD meetings/classes in April – Lee County, Centenary FD, Berkeley County 1% Regional Training Class
- Daily task of 1% job duties
- Meetings to review 2025 1% Audits with Greene Finley Cauley, LLP - 1% Follow-Up Audit Reports Review Meeting on April 13, 1% Initial Audit Reports Review Meeting on April 29

SC FAST DIRECTOR – PATTI GRAHAM

Training

- Peer
 - Completed
 - City of Anderson FD March 17-18 - Successful
 - Upcoming
 - Spartanburg EMS – May 14-15
 - Working on setting up:
 - Clarendon Area
 - Horry County
 - Charleston County EMS

SCFAST 101

- Completed
- Abbeville County Feb 19, two sessions
- Seneca FD March 5
- March 23 – Union County
- Upcoming
- Flat Rock Bowen – (Anderson County)

PCIS-Post Critical Incident Seminar

- We are having preliminary conversations about the next one, PCIS 2
 - Barefoot Resort Conference Center - N. Myrtle Beach
 - November 8-11, 2026
 - SCFAST funding increase (\$287,028.620 request under appropriations (to include 2 PCIS each year - \$60k)

Team/Coordinator Meetings

- Occurring regularly

Training Event

- Mile In Our Boots 2026
 - 14 clinicians participating
 - Hosted again by Colleton County Fire Department
 - Received Continuing Education Credits for 17.5 hours from NBCC (National Board of Certified Counselors)

Peer Connect

- Pilot program funded until December 2026
 - Would like to secure funding to continue with Peer Connect as a statewide project

Responses - February & March

- February 7, Clarendon County-Infant Cardiac arrest.
- February 20, Clarendon County-Fatal MVA
- Multiple to Columbia FD following Suicide of FF
- March 11, Marlboro County EMS
- March 19 and 20-Visitation and Funeral for Greer
- March 25, April 1, April 2
- March 27, Piedmont Park-MVA-Car Fire Fatality

Outreach

- Did not attend SCEMS Symposium in March; they did not have booth space available to reciprocate with our Fire Rescue conference booth
- Met in March with Hoofbeats Ranch (Lindsay McDade) on connecting FDs/Agencies with her horse connection wellness programs
- March 6, Patti assisted with Fire Officer-IV presentations as a council member being presented with final projects.
- Peer to Cherokee County meeting (monthly)
- Met in February with an additional inpatient facility in Florida (Futures Recovery Healthcare)
- Participated in the Upstate Warrior Solution Event - Open the Roof in March
- Met with Representative in Texas charged with developing Peer Support Program-Peer Connect

Jamie Helms –

- Building Update
 - We are signed the contract on 111 Westpark on April 14th
 - Purchase price \$1,060,000 (1million 60K)
 - With 15,000 earnest monies applied
 - Inspection period Expiration: May 14th
 - Closing: 30-days after expiration of the inspection period:
 - June 13, 2026 (Saturday)
 - June 15, 2026 (Monday after conference)
 - It could be extended an additional 15-days due to extended wait period of bank/appraisal (buyer's option)
 - June 28th (Sunday)
 - Closing June 29th (Monday)
 - Staff met earlier this month with Stewart Cooper Newell to review the original 2023 “building needs list” to allow draft designed work to start.
 - We are currently working of the cost projections of the original ESTIMATED numbers from Hood Construction 10-12 million

- The first phase, 2nd floor (right side) has a cost estimated approximately \$2,060,213.
- With projections of our current Budget through July, and if we continue to stay on this trending track, Bryan and I feel that we should see approximately 2,002,000 available out of Association funds
 - 378,000: 01-Association accounts
 - 175,000: 04-Fire Recuse accounts
 - Approx. 1,000,000 from the sale of the building.

Old Business

None

New Business

By – laws – we need to explore again using the by – laws chair as the parliamentarian. He would serve as the referee/ advisor during the executive committee meeting.

Playbook Review by Director Helms.

A motion by Kevin Henson at 2:25 pm to adjourn; seconded by Randy Arant. All in favor.

Online Reports

NVFC - Jaime Helms, Joe Palmer, Keith Minick, and Jack Kirlin met with Kevin Quinn and David Denniston on South Carolina's reply to NVFC and discussed our stance on OSHA. The NVFC along with the IAFF and IAFC sent a letter to Congressional Leadership urging them to end the DHS Shutdown that has been in place since February 14. Here is a link to our ongoing VoterVOICE Campaign urging Congress to end the DHS shutdown that has been in place since February 14:

<https://www.votervoice.net/NVFC/Campaigns/135058/Respond>. VoterVOICE Campaign - the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is partnering with the National Fire Sprinkler Association on urging Congress and the Administration to reopen the National Fire Academy for the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. Here is the link to the campaign: <https://www.votervoice.net/NFSA/Campaigns/136246/Respond>. The next NVFC meeting is the Spring meeting in Alexandria, VA May 15th – 17th. On May 14th Keith Minick and Jack Kirlin will be on Capitol Hill.

EMS - 1. Reg/Statute drafting beginning by the committee in anticipation of the statute opening in 2027. 2. DPH & EMR regulation - discussion from DPH on wanting to regulate EMR 3. Stop the bleed kit - wanting on funding opening and talking with North American Rescue 4. Fire Academy a. Finishing up AEMT, late August timeline for pilot testing b. MOU work c. 13th edition JB Learning 5. Next meeting will be virtual 6. Training classes - keep looking for offering ideas 7. Kim FR update

Training & Education - T&E Committee: Committee discussed F/R 2026 and that the schedule is live on the website. Briefly discussed for members attending FDIC to identify

instructors that would bring unique classes to F/R 2027 and to share their contact information. Committee reviewed attendance numbers and discussed FSIC 2026 student evaluations. Evaluations were very positive. Committee reviewed instructors for FSIC 2027 and began planning for classes and instructors to bring in. Committee was asked to continue to research topics and instructors that could help to continue to improve the conference. Training Officer Working Group: Last meeting March 3, 2026. Reviewed the results of the Survey. Next steps are to create Learning Objectives and once completed, will divide the Objectives between the members to brainstorm to further develop the program. SC State Fire School Advisory: Next meeting: May 13th @ 1000.

OSHA - The BETA testing for subpart C- Spec Ops, has been completed. The SME group for subpart E- Industrial has begun meeting and perfecting their subpart content language. This WERE SME group will be meeting again on April 22 at the Assoc office. A meeting has been scheduled for April 23rd with Director Baker of State OSHA to review the document draft and discuss plans and desires for moving forward.

Executive Committee Action Items

EC members should continue to speak around the state on the plan and process. Schedule Joe Palmer as needed to attend and speak to local association/ groups on the matter.

Member Benefits - Received information and discussed a Group Life and AD&D insurances proposal from Zorrina. A Group Life insurance increase remains out of reach financially currently. The Accidental Death and Dismemberment proposal would increase the AD&D benefit from \$3,400 to \$5,000 with an estimated \$30,000 increase to the current annual premium or \$1.72 per member approximately. Committee moved to bring AD&D discussion to EC. Additional discussion related to SCDNR fishing/hunting license discounts. Reviewed and discussed Life Scan partnership and promotional material. Committee moved to enter a discount partnership with Life Scan. Additional discussion to explore discount partnership with FD Meals. Discussion on membership surveying to explore three questions: reasonable monthly healthcare expense, support for funds to offset retirement healthcare expenses, current fishing/hunting license. Adjourned.

Executive Committee Action Items

The committee moved to bring an AD&D insurance proposal before the EC for consideration. The proposal would increase the AD&D benefit from \$3,600 to \$5,000. The premium would increase approximately \$30K or \$1.72/member above current premiums.

Supervisory - Committee met on 4-13 to review audit finding from the 2025 follow-up audits with Greene Finley Cauley LLP. We will have a second meeting with them on 4-29 to review 2025 initial audits.

Health & Safety - Working on meal-prep/on duty meal program. Finalizing survey questions for fire helmet neck injuries.

