

VOL. 50 / MARCH 2015

State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas



INFO FIRE

M A G A Z I N E



2015 CONFERENCE EDITION



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INFOFIRE MAGAZINE

VOL. 50/ MARCH 2015

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Photo credits:
Cover photo by: Thomas McDonald, 2014 Photo Contest, Best in Show
Back cover photo by: McAllen Chamber of Commerce

2015 CONFERENCE EDITION

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Front row (left to right): Rusty Kattner (president), Paul Hamilton (1st VP), Henry Perry (2nd VP), Harvie Cheshire (3rd VP), Mike Richardson (4th VP), Bill Gardner (immediate past president), Kelby Jasinski (mascot). Back row (left to right): Ben Kennedy (chaplain), Jim White (assistant secretary), Chris Barron (executive director), Rayford Gibson (board parliamentarian), Joe Ondrasek (secretary).



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Hello SFFMA Members,
Spring has come and it seems that winter hasn't quite left us yet since I'm writing this while it's about 37 degrees outside. It feels like we were just recently getting out of the hot summer season and waiting for some cooler weather.
SFFMA is undertaking some tasks aimed to further improve services to our members. As we continue to face the challenges of today's fire service, recruitment/retention issues, and certification changes, our organization must try and do what is best for our members and our future. The Executive Board recently appointed a Vision 2040 Steering Committee to be comprised of our members aged 20 to 40. This committee will look at the functions and divisions of our association, and make recommendations to improve services to our members and address some of the challenges we face ahead. The board also recently took action to update our name. We will keep the original parent name of the organization but will be doing business as State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

The legislature is in town and work has begun on filing bills which will affect our services and funding. There are numerous bills already filed that we are watching, and when it comes time for the bills to be heard, we will either support, stay neutral or be opposed to them. Please be on the lookout for any special notices that may be sent from our email system, and contact your state representative or senator if the need

arises. A simple phone call to one of their offices with who you are, what department you are with, and your position on a bill will often get the attention needed to have a bill heard or out of committee.

Another association project we are working on this year includes a major update to our online certification reporting system. We have had some technical difficulties but are working with our software developers to resolve those issues. The upgrade to our database will fix some problems we have been having with online event registrations, automation of email notifications, online activity reporting, etc. We are working on a guidebook that should be available this fall to help the districts with their meetings, reports, attendance, etc.

We hope that you will take a serious look at our conference schedule and classes this year and consider going to the conference in June in Galveston. The training schedule and keynote speaker are quite unique this year, offering a wide variety of seminars you can attend. Did you know that you can go to the conference practically for FREE? Between HB2604, TIFMAS tuition funding and a travel assistance grant program, most of your stay could be paid for. Please take advantage of the grants available to your department.

I wish you a safe and successful spring, and ask that you please let us know if we can do anything to better the services we provide to you. Thank you for your membership in Texas's oldest and largest trade association representing emergency first responders.


Chief Chris Barron
Executive Director



PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Well, my year as president of this great association will soon end and there are a lot of people and organizations I must thank for their support during my term on the

board. First of all, I want to thank my wife, Nita. We have been traveling buddies throughout my tenure. We have traveled to every district at some point (some more often than others) and without her company those trips certainly would not have been as exciting.

I wish to thank the Galveston County Firefighters Association (GCFFA). The GCFFA supported me during my campaign and throughout my tenure on the board. They have made possible many of my trips, hospitality rooms, and bidding for conference, and have ALWAYS been there to support me, anytime I asked. I couldn't ask for a better group of individuals and departments. President Dan Key has always made himself readily available to me when I needed him to help. Galveston Fire Chief Mike Wisko is a true friend who has encouraged me along the way and has been most helpful while planning our conference.

The Santa Fe Fire-Rescue, wow—what can I say? Chief Anderson has provided me great inspiration and guidance, both as a friend and past president. Anthony Cargile, Jim Cargile, Chris Anderson, Joel Sumrall, Mark Lancaster, and many others have been to every conference during my tenure, served on numerous committees, and when asked, performed any task needed, so thank you for your support.

My employer, the Village Fire Department, and Fire Chief David Foster have really been there for me. They have made it possible for me to attend many of the district and board meetings by allowing me excused time off. Without this support, it's possible that I would not have been able to travel as much as I have.

The Gulf Coast and Tri-Rivers Districts have been there for me along the way, first making it possible in 2009 to run through their endorsement. I want to thank the many districts who voted to endorse me during my campaign.

I especially want to thank Mike and Shirley Richter, Hal and Donna Chudalla, Rex and Charlene Klesel, David Wade and Kim

Tanner, the Harris County Firefighters' Association, and the Alvin Volunteer Fire Department which worked hard to raise money for the Presidents Reception for me, Rex and David. I want to single out the Alvin Volunteer Fire Department which, not only has contributed to my tenure with the hard work of its members, but has contributed financially as well. The help, led by Chief Klesel, is much appreciated.

I want to thank Clemente and Elena Sanchez, and Jason Deleon from the South Central District for making my term on the board fun. When I ran for 4th VP in Corpus Christi, I was handing out water bottles during the pumper races and when I got to Jason, I ran out. He told me if I didn't get him some water he would not vote for me. Needless to say I immediately rounded up a bottle of water. Ever since then, when I've attended district meetings or the annual conference, I have made it a point to present him with a bottle of water.

I want to thank Executive Director Chris Barron and all of his staff. They work so hard to support our entire membership and the Executive Board. In case you haven't noticed, all of the employees work tirelessly during the conference for you. Chris, Gabi and Jon literally work up a sweat during the conference, and I don't think they get much in the way of sleep. Kevin and Mallory work hard to make sure our certification program is the best and second to none. Diana and Mari work tirelessly to support our membership, and now Diana is working to support our districts. Julie works diligently to make sure our sales are through the roof. So, thank all of you for your hard work.

I especially want to thank Immediate Past President Bill Gardner. He is the one person who I called upon for advice and, more importantly, honest answers. Bill and I have met on numerous occasions, either in person or on the phone. We call this "Bill Time." His advice and, yes, constructive criticism have made me a better person and the best president I can be.

Finally, I sincerely want to thank the Executive Board for its support and guidance during my presidency. When I ran for office, I told myself that I would always think outside the box, and thought that this would meet with opposition. But to my surprise, your board was thinking the same way, with a strong desire to improve the association. Many of the changes we have made over the years, I believe, long term, will make this association grow to better serve our members.

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e-INFO FIRE NEWSLETTER

HAS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGED AND YOU NO LONGER RECEIVE OUR EMAILS?

EMAIL NEWSLETTER@SFFMA.ORG

continuation—President's Forum

Your current board has taken some brave steps in an attempt to build this association. We recognize that the association has to change in order to grow. While in the minds of some, change is bad, it truly is the correct path. Some of those changes include:

- Eliminating a general session while expanding training at the conference to two full days
- Moving most athletic and family events to Saturday and Sunday to encourage members to attend with their families, while at the same time, giving those members opportunities for more training
- Raising the dues structure to allow us to purchase land and construct a building suited for future growth
- Testing for all our certification disciplines; while it is still a work in progress, the FFI and FFII certification testing is working out with few hiccups
- Engaging our districts with the Austin office; Diana has visited and will continue to visit districts to assist them in engaging their members, and help them to understand their responsibilities
- A district can now host a website through the SFFMA website where its members can search for vital information

Changes are still to come. We have appointed a new committee comprised of our younger generations. We have given them a clean slate with no agenda but have tasked them with telling us what they perceive the association will look like 5, 10, 20 years into the future. I am certain that their ideas will be well outside the box. When their report is issued, we need to embrace their ideas for change. After all, they will be the leaders of our association in the near future and we must move to the future now before they assume control. This younger generation is our future, and without them, we will not be the association we are today.

At our last board meeting we voted to adopt the DBA State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas. The name was primarily changed to make it more gender correct. While some will oppose the change, it was inevitable. The good news is that it is only a DBA. We will keep our parent name, but do business as the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association. (By the way,

Chris tells us the cost will be minimal, just in case you were wondering.)

One big change we are asking your vote for is a proposed by-laws change submitted by the Red River District. As you know, currently you must attend the annual conference to cast a vote for new board members, host cities and so on. The proposal will allow electronic votes to be cast without attending the conference. The change will still limit the number of votes per department to five, but those votes might be cast before the conference. I heard many people voice opposition to this change because votes will be cast without attending the conference. One comment in particular was from a member who stated that people who do not attend the conference will be deciding where we meet, maybe over the objections of those who attend regularly. So, here is my response: it's their association, too! They pay the same \$30 per year as you do. Therefore, as members, they deserve a say in all aspects of the association, even though they may not attend the conference. I sincerely hope that if you attend the conference in Galveston as a delegate, you will support this measure.

The 2015 conference in Galveston will be exciting and educational. I have seen the training matrix and am really proud of the conference training and speaker committee for putting together a schedule that is unique and appropriate. Some of the speakers are nationally recognized, but all are experienced in their fields. Some of the training made available will present rare opportunities. The GCFFA, TFA President Jeri Hamilton and I are planning a fun time for those who attend and will be spreading more information as we get closer to June. Our plans will include a family oriented event at Palm Beach at Moody Gardens. I am sure Jeri, her board and the committees are diligently working to provide a wonderful experience for the ladies as well.

Aside from the conference, Galveston Island has a lot to offer. Moody Gardens itself has three pyramids with entertaining venues for the entire family that include an IMAX theater, rain forest and aquarium. Across the street from Moody Gardens is Schlitterbahn Waterpark. At 25th and Seawall you will find the Galveston Island Pleasure Pier with amusement

rides and fun games. Galveston has several museums near downtown.

The Strand Historic District is a shopping mecca where women can shop and the menfolk can marvel at the best architecture in the southern United States, much of which is pre-Civil War. Near the Strand is the waterfront where you can eat at some of the finest restaurants, visit the tall ship *Elissa* at the Texas Seaport Museum, tour an offshore oil rig, and see Galveston's famous Mosquito Fleet (shrimp boats). Tour the Bishop's Palace, Ashton Villa and Moody Mansion, which are historic homes of Galveston's rich and famous from the years past. These homes were architectural marvels of their time. And then there is the beach. Galveston has the best beaches along the Texas coast. Galveston has many fine dining and family fun-themed restaurants such as Bubba Gump's and the Rainforest Cafe. There are local restaurants that are not generally visited by tourists, as well. We hope to have a list of these restaurants for you when you arrive. They are usually located in neighborhoods and off the beaten path, but the food quality is always good.

The "Mainland," as BOIs (born-on-the-island) call it, also has multiple family and adult venues to visit. In Santa Fe there is Haak Vineyards and Winery, where they produce award-winning Texas wines. In Texas City, there is the Texas City Dike, outlet malls and my favorite—Buc-ee's. In Kemah, there is Kemah Boardwalk with numerous restaurants, amusement rides and a shopping experience found nowhere else (just ask Nita). Up the road a bit is NASA, where you can be entertained at Space Center Houston and tour most of the NASA facility.

I guess I should end it here with this: Jeri Hamilton and I cordially invite you to the 139th Annual State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Conference at Moody Gardens on Galveston Island, June 12 through 17, 2015. Come join us for the most fun, best networking and educational experience you will have anywhere.

Thanks,

Rusty Kattner
President 2015

VFIS OF TEXAS AND TEXAS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY AWARD \$144K IN GRANT MONEY TO TEXAS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

AUSTIN, Texas—VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual Insurance Company recently awarded grants of up to \$5,000 to 86 volunteer fire departments across Texas.

Funds awarded through the Firefighter Safety, Training & Wellness Grant Program totaled more than \$144,000 and will enable these departments to participate in a certification program, attend critical workplace safety training, and/or set up training and wellness programs to prevent firefighter deaths and injuries.

Over \$300,000 in grant requests were received. VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual Insurance Company partnered with the State Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA) to manage the application process and select the grant recipients.

"This award will serve as valuable funding that will enable us to better serve our community," said Dennis Bailey, lieutenant and training coordinator of Sunset Volunteer Fire Department. "This grant, I can assure you, will allow our members to actively pursue formal certifications that will develop them into safer firefighters. Thanks again for your contribution to making our community safer."

Grantees will be recognized at the SFFMA conference, June 12-17, 2015, in Galveston, Texas.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Aledo VFD
- Angleton Fire Dept
- Anna Fire Dept
- Anson VFD
- Apple Springs VFD
- Ata-Bexar County Line VFD
- Avinger VFD
- Ballinger Fire Dept
- Ben Bolt VFD
- Bovina VFD
- Bowman Community VFD
- Brazos County Precinct 4 VFD
- Bremond VFD
- Burkburnett VFD
- Callisburg VFD
- Cameron Gardens VFD
- Center Hill VFD
- Central Bell Co. Fire/Rescue
- Chandler VFD
- Chapel Hill VFD
- Chisholm Trail Fire/Rescue
- City of San Diego Fire Dept
- Coleman Fire Dept
- Columbia Lakes VFD
- Cool-Garner VFD
- Cottonwood Shores VFD
- Crafton VFD
- Crockett VFD
- DCBE/Acton VFD
- Douglass VFD
- Eagle Mountain Fire & EMS
- Edgecliff Village Fire Dept
- Elm Mott Fire/Rescue
- Farmersville VFD
- Five Star VFD
- Fresno VFD
- Friberg-Cooper VFD
- Giddings VFD
- Harleton VFD
- Hoover Valley VFD & EMS
- Iredell VFD
- Jackson Heights VFD
- Jarret Volunteer Fire Assoc.
- Jefferson County ESD #1
- Justin Community VFD
- Kemah VFD
- La Junta VFD
- Lake Coleman VFD
- Lake Palestine East VFD
- Lake Tanglewood VFD
- Lakeside City VFD
- Lone Star VFD
- Los Fresnos VFD
- Lowry Crossing VFD
- Malone VFD
- Martindale VFD
- Mineral Wells VFD
- Mt. Calm VFD
- Mt. Zion Comm. Vol. FF Assoc.
- Newark VFD
- North Blanco County EMS
- N. Lake Brownwood VFD/EMS
- Peaster VFD
- Petrolia VFD
- Pleasant Grove VFD
- Possum Kingdom Westside VFD
- Potosi VFD
- Primrose VFD
- Rhome VFD
- Sand Hills VFD
- Santa Monica VFD
- Sebastian VFD
- Shiro VFD
- Silsbee VFD
- Silver Creek VFD
- South Ector County VFD
- South Polk County VFD
- Springtown VFD
- Sunset VFD
- Tarkington VFD
- Terrell VFD
- Tulia VFD
- Turnersville Fire Dept
- View VFD
- Wayland VFD
- West Valley Fire Dept

Stay CONNECTED!



State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas



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www.sffma.org

CONGRATULATIONS!

More grants available at www.sffma.org under Resources/Available Grants.

STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY DISTRICTS

By Cliff Avery, executive director

Ben Franklin got a lot of things right in his day: Poor Richard's Almanack, the pot-bellied stove, electricity in lightning, and that revolution thing—it turned out pretty well.

He also founded the first volunteer fire department, which has been important for members of SFFMA and for emergency services districts (many of which rely on volunteer fire departments to provide services).

He might not have been thinking of ESDs and VFDs when he said, "Love thy neighbor, yet don't pull down your hedge," a colonial version of, "Good fences make good neighbors."

But the idea is still important when ESDs and VFDs sit down to figure out the best way to protect the people that they mutually serve. It's best when everyone knows and respects where the boundaries are.

An ESD is a grassroots governmental entity; an expression that a community makes when it taxes itself to fund fire protection or emergency medical response. The ESD board of commissioners is the steward of the taxpayers' money and must operate to protect that money.

Under the Texas constitution, a governmental entity can't give away tax money and not receive a benefit from that expenditure. If it uses tax money to purchase an asset—say, a fire engine—the taxpayers' interests must be protected.

There are statutory and common-law provisions reflecting that fact. But some ESDs and their fire departments have wandered off into the weeds to discuss, sometimes heatedly, who owns what and who gets the money when it sells.

Let's face it: those discussions are distractions. An ESD board wants its citizens to be protected and wants to give its volunteer fire departments all of the tools that the ESD can afford to keep people safe. As one ESD commissioner says, "We don't want to respond to an emergency and end up saying, 'Gosh, I wish we'd had the right kind of truck.'"

The volunteer fire department wants to do its job with efficiency and honor, and keep people safe.

At SAFE-D, we encourage our member ESDs to have detailed contracts with their service providers. There should be performance standards (i.e., response times) that the service provider has to meet. There should be provisions for the service provider to report to the ESD about how the provider uses the money it receives. There should be provisions about what happens if the contract ends; when you split the sheets, who gets what?

Contracts, by legal definition, aren't one way. The ESD has obligations to the service provider as well, such as timely payments.

The ESD, in drafting its contracts, must recognize the limitations of a volunteer organization and must respect the many contributions that the service provider made before the ESD was even created.

We all want to keep people safe. We're good neighbors—we just need good fences.

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR SFFMA INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS:**

After several years of developing an international program, we will be hosting the first general assembly of SFFMA International at SFFMA headquarters in Austin, Texas. This meeting will be for all members of SFFMA who are interested in the international certification program that we've developed. We will have international committee members present to address any concerns or questions about the program and the goals of SFFMA International. Our objective is to make a leap forward and have an international platform for sharing the benefits and training that we already make available to Texas firefighters. SFFMA International includes all territories outside of the U.S., but the materials will initially only be available in Spanish and English. We want to be present in areas of the world that have the most interest and need for our services.

Topics addressed at this general assembly will be:

1. Goals and functions of SFFMA International
2. Getting to know the international committee members
3. Presenting the certification program for the international SFFMA division
4. Presentation, discussion and development of the curriculum for the 2016 International Conference
5. Strategy for publishing "Essentials of Firefighting VI" in Spanish

We are on the path toward expanding the knowledge base for firefighters and emergency responders. We will have more updates for you on the assembly and the development of SFFMA International in future issues of e-InfoFire and on social media.

Follow @SFFMA_INTL on Twitter, and @SFFMA_diana or #sffmaconnected for other posts you'd like to share with the group.
Facebook: SFFMA International

ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE SOCIOS SFFMA INTERNACIONAL

Como resultado de las acciones desarrolladas en estos últimos años, para el día 03 de julio de este año 2015, se desarrollara en la ciudad de Austin Texas, en nuestra sede principal de SFFMA, la primera asamblea de la división internacional. A este reunión están convocado todos los miembros de SFFMA Internacional, contaremos con la presencia de la junta directiva de asociación. Nuestro objetivo y es dar un salto al futuro y posicionarnos como nuestro nombre lo dice internacionalmente, extendiendo hacia todos los países donde nuestros socios hacen vida los beneficios que nuestra asociación ofrece. En el segundo semestre del año comenzaremos desarrollando los programas de certificación para bomberos 1 y 2, a través de nuestros departamentos establecidos en los diferentes países de América Latina, dando un paso al frente en la masificación del conocimiento y la estandarización de los procesos en la lucha contra incendios y en el manejo y control de las emergencias. SFFMA Internacional como su nombre lo indica cubre todo el campo de aplicación fuera de los territorios de los Estados Unidos hacia los países de habla hispana, lugar donde esperamos poder capitalizar ese sector de la ciudadanía que requiere de nuestro servicio. Los temas que serán tratados en la 1ra. asamblea de la división internacional serán:

1. Función y metas de la división internacional de SFFMA
2. Nombramiento de la junta directiva
3. Presentación del programa para la certificación de los miembros de la división Internacional.
4. Presentación, discusión y desarrollo del programa de la Conferencia Internacional Anual de SFFMA enero 2016
5. Estrategias para la publicación de "Fundamentos VI" en español

Vamos en camino hacia la masificación de los conocimientos y la certificación de las habilidades de los que responden a situaciones de manejo y control de emergencia. Les tendremos más informes sobre el desarrollo de SFFMA Internacional en las próximas publicaciones e-InfoFires y por Twitter o Facebook.

Facebook: SFFMA International
Twitter: @sffma_intl or @sffma_diana



Mandatory Training for all TCFP and SFFMA Firefighters:

On Oct. 20, 2010, the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) adopted the Everyone Goes Home® - Courage to be Safe® initiatives and has required all new and currently certified career fire protection personnel to complete this program by Dec. 1, 2015. (See §435.25).

Effective January 1, 2012, the State Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA) Volunteer Firefighter Certification Board requires completion of the Everyone Goes Home® - Courage to be Safe® course as part of its program for any new certification applications submitted after January 1, 2012.

Courage to be Safe® (CTBS) course description:
Firefighters must have the courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities.

Their courage allows them to willingly risk their own lives so that others can be saved.

A different type of courage is required to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations, avoiding needless risks and tragic consequences. This provocative and moving presentation is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of firefighters as a normal occurrence.

Building on the untold stories of line-of-duty death (LODD) survivors, it reveals how family members must live with the consequences of a firefighter's death, and provides a focus on the need for firefighters and officers to change fundamental attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line-of-duty deaths.

The central theme promotes the courage to do the right thing in order to protect yourself and other firefighters and ensure that "Everyone Goes Home" at the end of the day.

To prevent firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and TEEX-ESTI have partnered to offer 40 open-enrollment CTBS classes in 2015. To view the list of classes, visit the link below.

https://teex.org/documentsresources/extension/2015_CTBS.pdf

IN MEMORIAM

Noonday VFD

Demetrius Johnson November 8, 2013

Campbell Fire/Rescue

Ret. Chief Garry McLarry October 12, 2014

Guadalupe FFMA

Charles Wood December 18, 2014

Mulshoe VFD

Jack Rennels January 9, 2015

Cloverleaf VFD

Douglas Clouch January 16, 2015

Plantersville VFD

Harley Mullenix January 24, 2015

Ivanhoe FD

John Paul Feeley January 29, 2015

Demi-John VFD

Ret. Chief Robert "Bob" Michie January 31, 2015

**VERNON
"BLONDY"
RUCKER
MEMORIAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

**MONDAY
June 15, 2015
10 A.M.**

**Bayou Golf Course
2800 Ted Dudley Drive
Texas City**

**REGISTRATION FEE:
\$75 per person**

Registration form is available
online
at www.sffma.org.

Annual Memorial Service

June 14, 2015 - 10:30 A.M.

In order to acknowledge firefighters and first responders who've perished in the past year, please provide the SFFMA office with the following:

- Name
- Fire/ EMS department
- Date of death
- Did death occur in the line of duty?

Email your information to memorial@sffma.org, no later than **May 18, 2015**.



2015 ANNUAL AWARDS FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Nominee's department MUST be a member of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominee MUST hold current individual membership with SFFMA.

Each nominee will be considered on a point system to determine the three finalists. The areas to be considered are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Leadership abilities, including
-Leadership positions held
-Work knowledge
-Communications
-Creativity and innovation
-Attitude
-Interaction with others | 3) Involvement in SFFMA, both state and district level |
| 2) Dedication to training and/or introduction of new and innovative training methods | 4) Community involvement, both church and civic |
| | 5) Heroism in a fire-related act or act of bravery |
| | 6) Accomplishments/awards received |
| | 7) Certifications held |
| | 8) Letters of recommendation (no more than four please) |
| | 9) Pictures may be submitted (no more than four please) |

All nominations must be submitted to local districts by a fire department on or before the district's spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from the fire department and signed by either the fire chief, assistant chief or president.

One nominee from each district should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the state SFFMA office no later than the fourth Monday in May. Submissions must be received with a letter from the district and must be signed by the district president or secretary.

The SFFMA office will log the submissions as received and leave them unopened. The FFOY committee will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists based on the above-noted criteria. The nominees will be notified of the results. The three finalists will be interviewed by the FFOY committee on Saturday morning at the state convention. All nominees will be recognized and the winner will be announced on Sunday at the opening business session. All submissions will be returned to the districts after the state convention.

EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

Nominee's department or agency must be a current active member of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominees must hold current individual membership in the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

A nominee could be considered because of past heroism in an EMS-related act, act of bravery, dedication to training, or introduction of new and innovative training methods. Leadership abilities to be considered are:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Work knowledge | 4) Innovation |
| 2) Communications | 5) Attitude |
| 3) Creative ability | 6) Interaction with others |

Community involvement will be considered, either church or civic.

A nominee could be considered for the committees he or she may have chaired or served upon, and how these committees functioned under his or her guidance.

Nominees will be considered on a point system, giving points for their contributions in the above-noted areas.

There will be a personal interview conducted with the three finalists. To win the state award as EMS Responder of the Year, nominees do not have to be an agency officer or chief.

All nominations for EMS Responder of the Year must be submitted to a local district association on department or agency letterhead, and signed by the department or agency chief officer or executive, assistant chief, or president.

The district offices will direct submissions of district nominations to the SFFMA office. Submissions of nominees must be on district letterhead and/or signed by the president or secretary of the district. One nomination from each district president/secretary shall be submitted to the SFFMA office via fax, email or postal mail by the fourth Monday in May.

Copies of certificates and pictures may be included (but no more than four of each).

**ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MAY 25, 2015.**



Thank You!

Thanks to the RGV District and the McAllen FD, as well as TEEX for their collaboration on the SFFMA International Conference held in McAllen, Texas, in January.

We had a great turnout of folks from many different countries attend for training and the annual instructors meeting. With the new streamlined certification program, SFFMA's international program can expand, and we'll be seeing more from this conference and its participants in the future. Next year, we will have our planning conference and international conference overlap, so we hope that we can introduce our different divisions of membership to SFFMA and establish new partnerships for developing all our programs even further.

Last but not least, a big thanks to all of the members of the international committee and the Executive Board for working to develop SFFMA International—we'll be seeing great things from them.

SOCIAL MEDIA: TWITTER USE

In an effort for SFFMA members to connect through online social media and become more informed about upcoming events, legislative issues and other SFFMA activities, we have made a number of platforms available. A great one to use is **TWITTER**.

Twitter: Create a "handle" (Twitter name). Search for others to follow (to create an interesting news feed). Share information, post pictures and interesting things, start a #hashtag (a folder of related items for everyone to post to). SFFMA has a number of available accounts that you may find interesting: @sffma, @sffma_diana, @sffma_gabi, and @sffma_intl. Post with #sffmaconnected and see what others are saying!

If you use Instagram or Facebook, post with #sffmaconnected and you'll be able to share with your Twitterverse.

A Twitter account is especially useful for volunteer departments. It allows to connect to the community, become a resource for information, and begin a rapport with potential sponsors, donors and other agencies.

Lastly—retweet, retweet, retweet. Don't feel like you have to come up with original stuff to say all the time; try to retweet interesting stories and this way your followers can be on top of the news as well.

SFFMA also urges all members to gain access to their online member accounts. We will be expanding the functionalities of this feature, as well as upgrading the certification portion of it. Please log in using your SFFMA ID# and password (which consists of the lowercase initials of your first and last name, and the last four digits of your SSN). If you have any questions, please email membership@sffma.org.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS PROPOSAL

SFFMA Red River District 10

Organized fire departments from the counties of: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Knox, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, Wise, and Young

MOTTO: "Together We Protect"

TO: SFFMA Constitution Committee

SUBJ: Proposed Constitution and By-Laws Amendment

The executive board of the Red River District # 10 respectfully submits this proposed constitution and by-laws amendment for consideration of the membership at the 2015 convention. The proposed changes are listed below by article and section after a brief problem statement addressing our rationale for submitting this change.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: The vote of officers to represent SFFMA members is limited to those paying registration fees and attending the state convention. In addition, even those who do make the commitment to voice their vote must wait until the last business session of the convention for the vote to be recorded. As the annual convention continues to struggle with low attendance, the voting numbers are dropping, meaning an officer-elect may gain a position by an extremely small percentage of the membership. Location and the size of the population represented may become more the deciding factors than what the membership as a whole desires. Is it right that members are asked to pay to play, so to speak? That being said, unless you are registered and pay the convention fees, plus whatever travel and lodging costs, your vote goes uncounted! For most organizations from smaller communities, deciding whether to fund conference attendance or keep the apparatus on the road presents only one logical answer: fund the operation of the department. We have many great avenues in this state for funding, but it will cost individuals and organizations to make the effort to get delegates to a convention to vote. Unless change is made now for the future, the cycle will continue until it eventually causes a collapse of the organization. Many fire service associations currently conduct their elections by mail or through online ballots, including NFPA, IAFC and TFCA, to encourage all members (not just the members attending the annual conference) to participate in the organization.

The SFFMA's mission statement has been included to ensure this organization maintains these guiding principles as it drives to the future.

SFFMA Mission Statement

Promote, Unify, Represent, and Educate the Fire Service of Texas.

The present wording of the sections being recommended for change are in the boxed areas, and the proposed changes are in red, under the box.

Article VI - Delegates

Section 1. Each regularly organized fire department shall be entitled to five delegates at the Annual Training Conference and Convention, provided that all sections of the by-laws have been complied with.

Section 1. Each member organization shall be entitled to five delegates for the purpose of casting votes on behalf of the organization and any and all approved elections, provided that all sections of the by-laws have been complied with.

Section 2. All delegates must be current, individual dues-paying members, except industrial members. Industrial members must be from a participating industrial organization to be delegates, and each participating industrial organization may have up to five voting delegates. No member delegate shall be allowed to be represented by proxy.

Section 2. No change, unless a need to offer proxy votes arises, then the last sentence would be removed.

Section 3. Lists of delegates from each member department or organization shall be furnished to the secretary upon registration at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Section 3. Delegate applications shall be submitted at the time and date designated by the Executive Board; that shall ensure ample time for the credentialing committee to verify and confirm delegates prior to any vote.

Article VIII - Nominations of Officers and Selection of Meeting Places

Section 1. Nominations of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the hour designated on the official Annual Training Conference and Convention program, during the first business session of the annual conference.

Section 1. Nominations of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the date and time designated by the Executive Board, with ample time to facilitate an election and acquire results for disclosure at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Article IX - Voting and Elections

Section 1. Each properly accredited delegate shall be entitled to one vote at the annual meeting.

Section 1. Each properly accredited delegate shall be entitled to one vote during the election.

Section 3. Ballots shall be distributed to the delegates by the sergeants-at-arms at such a time as their attendance cards are taken up at the last session. The sergeants-at-arms shall act as tellers during balloting. The president shall appoint a committee to count all ballots and return a total count to the secretary.

Section 3. Ballots shall be distributed, by electronic means, to all delegates by the election dates established by the Executive Board. The state office staff shall take receipt of returned ballots and secure them for distribution to the committee appointed by the president at the state convention to count all ballots and return a total count to the secretary.

The executive board of the Red River District # 10 believes that acceptance of these changes to our parent organization's constitution will continue the mission of the SFFMA to Promote, Unify, Represent, and Educate the Fire Service of Texas.

Respectfully revised and submitted this 24th day of January, 2015.


Marvin Gels, 1st Vice President, Jeff Jackson, 2nd Vice President, Nate Mars, 3rd Vice President, Kade Long, 4th Vice President

Successful Financing of VFD Projects

Financial markets, including the stock market, bond markets and global markets for U.S. Treasury securities continue to surprise folks on a daily basis with their many twists and turns. However, while all of this occurs on a global and national level, financing of VFD equipment and real estate projects at the local level around the state of Texas continue to occur on a week-by-week “normal” basis. This of course is great news to all of us who are seeing the demand for fire services around the state of Texas reach unprecedented levels.

The process of financing emergency services equipment, vehicles, and stations has not changed much over time and continues to be a very simple and efficient process. Several thoughts on how to prepare and plan for a successful and timely financing are highlighted below.

Take Advantage of Tax-Exempt Status

One of the more critical aspects of securing low, tax-exempt interest rates involves locating and providing a few simple documents evidencing the VFD’s legal status and contractual funding arrangements:

- ✓ Organizational creation documents (filed when the VFD was created)
- ✓ IRS documentation evidencing the Department’s tax-exempt status
- ✓ A properly executed fire service agreement with a City, County, or ESD

Locating these documents should be a priority on every VFD’s “To Do” list. Once located, these documents should be kept in a secure place so they are handy when the need for financing arises.

Keep Financial Records Up To Date

One key to the success of any business is keeping good financial records. This also holds true for Volunteer Fire Departments even though the financial transactions may be few and you may not employ an accounting staff to oversee the finances on a daily basis. Many VFDs find using a simple accounting program such as “QuickBooks” is a low cost, simple way of keeping the financial records in order. QuickBooks and other similar software packages can provide the VFD with quick access to monthly and annual financial statements. Additionally, when the need for financing does arise, balance sheets, profit & loss statements and budgets can be quickly and efficiently prepared in a format that will be satisfactory for a lender.

Real Estate Considerations

There are many things to consider when a VFD needs to identify and purchase land for a new station. Clearly, identifying the best location for your station is critical. Generally, it is best to avoid property located in a flood plain or in other locations requiring costly dirt work for the proposed station. You will also want to make sure the seller will be able to provide you with a survey and the existing deed from the title company. These documents contain valuable information relative to existing liens as well easements for underground piping, utility lines, hazardous waste, etc.

If the VFD intends to construct new facilities on property it currently operates under a ground lease, it is important to make sure the ground lease does not restrict liens being placed on the property. Similarly, if you plan to build on property donated to the VFD, you should check your property deed and consult with legal counsel regarding any possible restrictions on the use of the property. Such deed restrictions can usually be resolved, but it is best to identify and resolve them sooner rather than later.

Low-cost tax-exempt financing continues to be available to VFDs and can be arranged very efficiently. Departments who maintain up to date internal records in an organized, secure location will be positioned to complete financings and construction projects with ease and avoid delays.

Contributed by the Texas Fire Facilities Fund Team





Texas

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Westfield Road VFD



State Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association

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- Debt structuring & analysis
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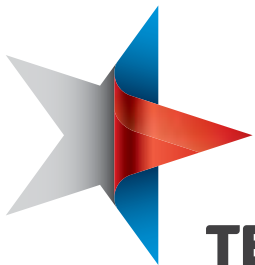
Financing available for:

- Land acquisition
- Equipment & bunker gear
- Stations & Facilities
- Apparatus of all kinds
- Refinancing existing debt

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SFFMA Member Benefits



Members have access to:

- First Diagnosis Heart Attack & First Diagnosis Cancer Plans
- Final Expense Whole Life Policies
- Long Term Care
- Dental & Vision Plans for you and your family!
- And many merchant discounts!

Learn more at:

www.myAMBAbenefits.info/sffma



vote

TIM SMITH 4th VICE PRESIDENT

WEST CARLISLE

- FFII/Paramedic
- Instructor I
- Fire Chief/EMS Director

LUBBOCK COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

- President

PANHANDLE DISTRICT

- Past President

SFFMA

- Health and Safety Committee
- Texas EMS Board Chairman

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Get in touch with our energy representatives Ajax Daugherty and Ron Klink. They are working for you to save money with the Stream Energy **POWER UP Program!**

Remember that our representatives believe in helping SFFMA members, so take some time to find out more about how you can benefit from these exclusive services from our providers.

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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

June 12 - 17, 2015

Galveston, TX

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015

6:30 - 7 A.M.	Exhibits Committee Meeting
7 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Exhibitor Registration
7 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Exhibit Hall Move-In
8 A.M. - 11 A.M.	TIESB Meeting
11 A.M. - 3 P.M.	Executive Board Meeting
3 P.M.	Certification Board Meeting
3 P.M.	T*Flag Meeting
3 P.M.	TFA Board and Committee Meeting
3 P.M.	Fire Marshals Committee Meeting
5:30 P.M.	First-Time Attendee Meeting

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015

7 A.M.	Past Presidents Breakfast (by invitation only)
7:30 - 9 A.M.	Constitution & By-Laws Committee
8 - 9 A.M.	EMS Committee Meeting
8:15 - 10:15 A.M.	Firefighter/EMS Responder of the Year Interviews
8:30 - 9:30 A.M.	Finance Committee
8:30 A.M.	Sergeant-at-Arms Meeting
9:15 A.M.	Ribbon Cutting
9:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	Exhibit Hall Open
9:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	Registration Inside Exhibit Hall
9:30 A.M. - 3 P.M.	Golf/Driving/Poster Registration/TFA/ Pumper Races
10 A.M.	Pumper Race Committee Meeting
10 - 11 A.M.	Poster Committee Meeting
10:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.	Keynote Speaker Training
1 - 3 P.M.	TFA Workshops
3 P.M.	SFFMA Recognition of Exhibitors
4 P.M.	Pumper Race Captain Meeting
4:30 P.M.	First-Time Attendee Meeting (Repeat)
4:30 - 10 P.M.	Exhibit Hall Move-Out
5:30 - 8 P.M.	Pumper Races/Kids Activities

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015

7:30 - 9:30 A.M.	Driving Contest
8:30 A.M.	Firefighter/EMS Responder of the Year Breakfast - Sponsored by VFIS (by invitation only)
9 A.M.	Memorial Service Rehearsal
10 A.M.	Memorial Service Lineup
10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Memorial Service
12:30 - 1:30 P.M.	Luncheon - Sponsored by TFBI
2 - 5 P.M.	Opening Business Session
5:30 P.M.	International Committee Meeting
7 - 10 P.M.	Presidents Reception

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015

7:30 - 8:30 A.M.	TFA Business Meeting Registration
7:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Registration
8 - 9:00 A.M.	Poster Contest Judging
8 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Training Workshops
8:30 A.M.	TFA Business Meeting
10 A.M.	Vernon "Blondy" Rucker Memorial Golf Tournament
5 P.M.	TESRS System Overview
6 - 9 P.M.	Hospitality Night Events

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015

7:30 - 11 A.M.	Registration
8 A.M.	Credentials Committee
8 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Training Workshops
11 A.M.	TFA Luncheon
7 - 10 P.M.	Dinner & Dance

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015

8 - 10:30 A.M.	Closing Business Session
9 A.M.	TFA Board Meeting
1 - 3 P.M.	SFFMA Executive Board Meeting

REGISTRATION NOTES

WEEKEND REGISTRATION: Anyone wishing to attend just the weekend portion of the SFFMA conference is required to sign up for the weekend registration and pay a registration fee. Your fee will include access to exhibits, pumper races, memorial service, memorial service luncheon, and the Presidents' Reception. If you are only interested in attending the exhibits, you don't have to register. *Weekend registration does **NOT** include keynote training.

JUNIOR EXPLORER ATTENDEES: We welcome ALL Junior Explorer program attendees and encourage them to participate in training (to count toward their future certifications). However, they will have to pay full conference registration in order to do so.

PROGRAM CHANGES:

FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE MEETING—Friday evening at 5:30 p.m., and Saturday evening at 4:30 p.m.. Both meetings will be the same so if you are a first-time attendee, plan to attend whichever date works better for you.

SATURDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER TRAINING—SFFMA would like to invite you to participate in this new training on Saturday. Visit the exhibits in the morning and then join Frank Viscuso for a leadership training. Training will take four hours. Registration fee will be included for everyone registered for full conference. Registration fee will apply for those registering for this training only. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

MAIN EVENTS

EXHIBITS

Saturday, June 13, 9:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Moody Gardens Convention Center - Expo
Complimentary self parking available.

PUMPER RACES

Saturday, June 13, 5:30 - 8:00 P.M. West Parking Lot - Moody Gardens
Pumper races for 3 and 6-men/ladies teams. Team members don't have to be from the same fire department. Each 3-member team has to run 50 feet before performing the following: first member connects a hose to the truck, second member connects hoses together, and third connects nozzle to allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. Six-member team members have to connect hard suction hose to hydrant, pull hose from the hose bed, and, in an approximate straight line, connect to pumper on one side and to a nozzle on the other side, open valve on hydrant and allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. *Registration will be available in the Exhibit Hall until 3 p.m.*

DRIVING CONTEST

Sunday, June 14, 7:30 - 9:30 A.M. West Parking Lot - Moody Gardens
Sign up to test your ability at a timed obstacle course or come cheer for a friend.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, June 14, 10:30 A.M. - Noon Moody Gardens Convention Center - Expo
To honor those who passed away in a line-of-duty or non-line-of-duty death in the past 12 months. Names to be submitted by May 18, 2015.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Sunday, June 14, 2 - 5 P.M./Wednesday, June 17, 8 - 10:30 A.M.
Business sessions include fire service agency reports, executive director's report, committee updates, keynote speaker, and delegate voting (Wednesday).

PRESIDENTS RECEPTION

Sunday, June 14, 7 - 10 P.M. Moody Gardens - Palm Beach
SFFMA and TFA presidents invite you to Palm Beach to enjoy an evening of entertainment and great food.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 15, 10 A.M. Bayou Golf Course, 2800 Ted Dudley Drive, Texas City
Golf tournament has, on average, 60 players. Registration fee is \$75 per player. Refreshments are provided at no additional cost.

HOSPITALITY NIGHT

Monday, June 15, 6-9 P.M. Moody Gardens Hotel
Various candidates for office and other entities will be hosting hospitality suites at the Moody Gardens Hotel. Food and drinks will be provided. Open to all conference attendees.

DINNER & DANCE

Tuesday, June 16, 7 - 10 P.M. Moody Gardens Convention Center
Dinner and dance. No awards will be given during this event. Dress code: no shorts or flip-flops, please. Each conference attendee will receive one dinner & dance ticket with their registration. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$40 each.



139TH ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION
JUNE 12 - 17, 2015
GALVESTON, TX

OFFICE USE ONLY

REGISTRATION FORM

AVOID FILLING OUT REGISTRATION FORM BY REGISTERING ONLINE AT www.sffma.org.

Member ID#: _____ **Rank*:** _____ **This information will be included on your name badge.*

Member Type: **Member (Non-voting)** **Non-Member** **Presenter** **SFFMA Board/Past President** **Delegate**

Name: _____
(as to appear on badge)

Mobile #: _____

Email: _____

Fire Department/Organization: _____

First-Time Attendee **Junior Explorer***

* Junior Explorers (15-18) must pay full conference registration in order to participate in training and CANNOT be voting delegates.

For Delegates Only: Each member department is authorized to send up to five delegates. Registration must have an approved signature from the fire chief on file to be processed.

I authorize the above-named individual to represent our member department as a delegate at this year's annual conference. I understand there can only be five delegates per department participating in the voting process.

Delegate #: 1 2 3 4 5

Fire Chief Signature: _____

FEES & DEADLINES **Full Registration Fee includes:**

- Access to exhibits, all functions
- Training workshops (including certificates)
- ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant

Members
BEFORE MAY 22, \$175
AFTER MAY 22, \$250

Non-Members
BEFORE MAY 22, \$210
AFTER MAY 22, \$310

Members
 \$30 each

Non-Members
 \$40 each

Weekend Registration*:

One-Day Training Registration:

- Training workshops and evening event of the day
- **Saturday keynote training (10:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.)

Saturday**
 Monday
 Tuesday

\$40 each (if not registered for full conference)
BEFORE MAY 22, \$85
AFTER MAY 22, \$105

\$45 each
BEFORE MAY 22, \$105
AFTER MAY 22, \$125

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER MAY 22.

PLEASE INDICATE ACTIVITIES YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

PUMPER RACES (SAT) **HOSPITALITY NIGHT (MON)**
 PRESIDENTS RECEPTION (SUN) **DINNER & DANCE (TUE)** (A) Subtotal: _____

TFA AND ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION—Allowed only with the purchase of the FULL conference registration above. This registration includes access to main conference, exhibits, activities, and ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant.

NOTE: TFA and additional registrants will NOT be eligible to receive continuing education credits.

BEFORE MAY 21, \$75 + AFTER MAY 21, \$95

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION TYPES: TFA SPOUSE OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER GUEST OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER OTHER

(1) NAME: _____ (2) NAME: _____

YOUTH REGISTRATION—Allowed only with the FULL conference registration above: includes access to exhibits, activities, and ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant. Price of \$35 for ages 7-17; children 6 and under are FREE!

(1) NAME: _____ AGE: _____ (3) NAME: _____ AGE: _____

(2) NAME: _____ AGE: _____ (4) NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDITIONAL DINNER & DANCE TICKETS—Available for those who will be attending the SFFMA Dinner & Dance ONLY.

_____ X \$40 Each = _____ (B) Subtotal: _____

THIS TRAINING CONFERENCE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE FOR ELIGIBLE HB2604 GRANT FUNDING.



METHOD OF PAYMENT: MC VISA AMEX DISC

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 PO

Subtotals (A) _____
 (B) _____

CARDHOLDER NAME: _____

CREDIT CARD #: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____
(mm/yr)

GRAND TOTAL: _____

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE MAILED TO:
FAXED TO: 512.453.1876
EMAILED TO: [GGLASS@SFFMA.ORG](mailto:gglass@sffma.org)

SFFMA CONFERENCE 2015
PO BOX 1709
MANCHACA, TX 78652-1709

PLEASE SELECT YOUR TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS BELOW

1. Do you require special assistance during conference? Please specify. _____
2. Do you have any severe food allergies or dietary restrictions (Sunday luncheon & Tuesday dinner)? _____
 Vegetarian Vegan Gluten Free Other _____

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

	AM	8:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	PM	1:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
SATURDAY			<input type="checkbox"/> STEP UP AND LEAD 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. <i>Frank Viscuso, keynote speaker</i> More information on page 16 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!	<input type="checkbox"/> STEP UP AND LEAD, continued 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. <i>Frank Viscuso, keynote speaker</i> More information on page 16 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!	<input type="checkbox"/> STEP UP AND LEAD, continued 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. <i>Frank Viscuso, keynote speaker</i> More information on page 16 PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!	
MONDAY	PREP/FRONTIER	<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING CONSTRUCTION <i>Cary Roccaforte</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> RIT/MAYDAY OPERATIONS <i>Tim Johnson</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FORCIBLE ENTRY <i>Adam Laird—PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FORCIBLE ENTRY, continued <i>Adam Laird—PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED</i>	
	CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION 101: NEW COORDINATORS INTRODUCTION <i>Kevin Creamer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION 102: SFFMA ONLINE 3.0 <i>Kevin Creamer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP <i>Kevin Creamer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PATHWAY TO CERTIFICATION <i>Mike Montgomery, Harvie Cheshire</i>	
	INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE TO RAILROAD CRUDE OIL AND OTHER HAZMAT INCIDENTS <i>Patrick Brady</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PIPELINE EMERGENCIES <i>Phillip Oakes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> OIL AND GAS: FROM DRILLING TO BOTH TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION PIPELINES—SAFETY RESPONSE ISSUES <i>Bob Hodges</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> WELL CONTROL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT: ACHIEVING SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES TO OIL & WELL EMERGENCIES <i>Casey Davis</i>	
	WILDLAND	<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM <i>Ron Roy</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM, continued <i>Ron Roy</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND FIRE/AIR OPERATIONS <i>Charles "Boo" Walker</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE BEHAVIOR FACTORS/WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOR & SAFETY <i>Jared Karnes</i>	
	FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONALISM WITHIN EMS & FIRE <i>Ricky B. Snell</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROGRAM IN THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE <i>Robert "Andy" Dexter</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> MANAGING CHANGE THROUGH EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP <i>Mike Montgomery</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> SO YOU THINK YOU WANT TO BE A FIRE SERVICE OFFICER <i>John McMakin</i>	
	SAFETY	<input type="checkbox"/> THE ROLE OF AN ATHLETIC TRAINER WITHIN PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Deena Kilpatrick</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> LOW BACK ISSUES AMONG FIRST RESPONDERS: THE HOW, WHY AND WHAT <i>John Hofman</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY: ENCAPSULATED AGENTS <i>Michael T. Greiner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO, AND IS IT RIGHT? <i>Phillip Oakes</i>	
	EMS	<input type="checkbox"/> OVERVIEW OF THE TEXAS EMTF PROGRAM AND UPDATE ON TEXAS DISASTER MANAGEMENT <i>Taylor Ratcliff</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> OVERVIEW OF THE TEXAS EMTF PROGRAM AND UPDATE ON TEXAS DISASTER MANAGEMENT, continued <i>Taylor Ratcliff</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> STILL BEING FINALIZED, please check the website at www.sffma.org for latest information.	<input type="checkbox"/> STILL BEING FINALIZED, please check the website at www.sffma.org for latest information.	
TUESDAY		8:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	
	PREP/FRONTIER II	<input type="checkbox"/> TEXFIRS CODING INCIDENTS AND DATA SUMMARY REPORTS <i>Virginia Garza</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> THE FIRST RESPONDER'S ROLE IN FIRE INVESTIGATION <i>Dean Hensley</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOAM OPERATIONS AND TANK FIREFIGHTING <i>Lee Hall</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOAM OPERATIONS AND TANK FIREFIGHTING, continued <i>Lee Hall</i>	
	CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP <i>Kevin Creamer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PATHWAY TO CERTIFICATION <i>Mike Montgomery, Harvie Cheshire</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION 101: NEW COORDINATORS INTRODUCTION <i>Kevin Creamer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION 102: SFFMA ONLINE 3.0 <i>Kevin Creamer</i>	
	PANEL DISCUSSIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> UNDERSTANDING THE PROS AND CONS OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE FIRE SERVICE <i>Francisco Sanchez, Jeff Smith, Brian Murray</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR THE FIRE SERVICE <i>Francisco Sanchez</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> TCFP & SFFMA <i>Tim Rutland & SFFMA board members</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSITION FROM VOLUNTEER TO COMBINATION DEPARTMENT <i>Shawn Snider & panel</i>	
	SAFETY	<input type="checkbox"/> COURAGE TO BE SAFE, Course 1 <i>Danny Hurt</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> COURAGE TO BE SAFE, Course 1, continued <i>Danny Hurt</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> COURAGE TO BE SAFE, Course 2 <i>Danny Hurt</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> COURAGE TO BE SAFE, Course 2, continued <i>Danny Hurt</i>	
	FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW FIRE SUPPRESSION RATING SCHEDULE & ABBREVIATED FIELD SURVEY PROCESS <i>Phillip Bradley</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> TIME MANAGEMENT: HOW TO BALANCE WORK, FAMILY & FIRE DEPARTMENT <i>Brian Scheffer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> THE COMPANY OFFICER'S ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING PROGRAMS <i>Robert "Andy" Dexter</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE SERVICE BROTHERHOOD <i>Mike Wisko</i>	
	SAFETY I	<input type="checkbox"/> FIREFIGHTER SAFETY: HOW TO PREVENT LODDS <i>Chris Connealy</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> THE ART OF READING SMOKE <i>Roy Mercer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> THE ART OF READING SMOKE, continued <i>Roy Mercer</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVE #9 AND THE VALUE OF POST-INCIDENT ANALYSIS <i>Danny Kistner</i>	
	EMS	<input type="checkbox"/> EMS RESPONSE TO HAZMAT INCIDENTS <i>Chris Collier</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRTBALLS, FREQUENT FLYERS AND TAXI RUNS <i>Dave Bradley</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> INCIDENT INVESTIGATION FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES <i>Dave Bradley</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> INCIDENT INVESTIGATION FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, continued <i>Dave Bradley</i>	
	GENERAL	<input type="checkbox"/> GETTING YOUR GRANTS ON THE RIGHT TRACK <i>Brian Vickers</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> WORKING WITH YOUR ESDs <i>Elizabeth Cargile</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMA-AFG PROGRAM GRANT WRITING <i>Joe Ondrasek</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE GRANTS (HB 2604 and TIFMAS) <i>Jason Keiningham</i>	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN GALVESTON!

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If you were in the right place
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CATEGORIES

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Lifesaving Acts
Education and Public Safety

**DEADLINE TO ENTER
FRIDAY ~ MAY 25, 2015**

Anyone can enter the contest with the
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Best-in-show image will be used on the cover
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California Casualty	Sharp Testing Services, Inc.
Casco Industries, Inc.	Siddons-Martin Emergency Group
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VISION COMMITTEE SURVEY

On January 21, 2015, the vision 2040 steering committee was officially established by President Kattner to help the SFFMA address the needs of the association for the next generation of fire service leaders. The committee's purpose is to provide recommendations to the Executive Board on how to involve all existing and future members of the association and maintain its relevance to the firefighters of the state of Texas. With this goal in mind, we are asking for your assistance. Please complete the following survey in order to answer the current questions of the vision 2040 steering committee.

This survey is also available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vision2040sc>.

1. What is your age group?

- 18-24 25-36 37-45 46-55 56-65 65 and up

2. What is your SFFMA district?

- Central Guadalupe Tri-Rivers
 South Central Rio Grande Valley Gulf Coast
 East Texas Northeast Texas North Texas
 Red River Mid-West Panhandle
 Permian Basin Hill Country Wintergarden
 North Central Texas I don't know

3. What kind of department do you belong to?

Check all that apply.

- Rural Urban Suburban
 Volunteer Combination Paid
 Other None Retired

4. Do you participate in SFFMA's certification program?

- Yes No

5. Do you feel SFFMA represents YOU?

- Yes No

6. Do you use any of the benefits offered by SFFMA?

- Phone/plan discounts Flight discounts
 Hotel discounts Auto insurance discounts
 Dental/vision Auto rental
 Legal protection plan Six Flags Fiesta Texas
 Target Solutions Bakflip Truck Bed Cover
 Training materials Other _____

7. Do you feel information comes to you in a relevant manner?

- Yes No

8. How often do you access SFFMA information online?

- Once a day More than once a week
 Once a week Once a month
 Never Other _____

9. Do you feel SFFMA's message/goals are clear?

- Yes No

10. Do you feel your voice is being considered when the board is making decisions?

- Yes No

11. How long have you been a member of SFFMA?

- 1 year or less 2-5 years
 5-10 years 10 or more years

12. Which aspect of SFFMA is the one you're most interested in? *Check all that apply.*

- Business Fellowship
 Training Not interested
 Other _____

13. Is your overall goal as a member of SFFMA to become a career firefighter?

- Yes No

14. Do you attend district association meetings?

- Yes, always Some of the time
 No, never Never heard of them

15. Would you attend SFFMA conference if it were at a different time of the year?

- Yes, I would like it to be moved to a different time of year.
 No, I would stop going if it were moved.
 I would not attend at any time of year.
 Other _____

16. What online social media platform, if any, do you use most often? *Check all that apply.*

- Facebook Twitter
 Instagram Other
 I don't use any form of online social media

Thank you for taking the time to give SFFMA of Texas a better understanding of how to help our membership. Feel free to give us your additional comments, concerns or suggestions below!

The following few questions are being presented on behalf of the Bereavement Uniform Program. They are designed to determine your county's interest, magnitude of need, and ability to be part of the communication network to provide dress uniforms for burial purposes.

1. Do you have a network of retired firefighters in your community?

- Yes No

2. Do you see the value of providing a dress uniform for burial services?

- Yes No

3. Does your department have a website or online platform?

- Yes No

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STEP UP AND LEAD

SPONSORED BY:



**JUNE 13, 2015 - GALVESTON, TX
10:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.**

You are cordially invited to a leadership seminar presented by nationally recognized instructor and speaker, Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Every organization's culture is either created by design or default. Creating a culture of exceptional service does not happen by accident. This seminar begins with a discussion of the highest-rated emergency service leadership traits. Chief Viscuso will also cover the leadership skills that are needed in order to motivate teams and maintain discipline within your organization. Topics will include: mentoring and succession planning, critiquing others, delegating, preventing freelancing, technical report writing, taking on administrative tasks, dealing with insubordination, conducting a post-incident analysis, building morale, and leading an organization through change. Chief Viscuso will also introduce proven theories, methods and techniques that can help you and your organization provide exceptional customer service and make a great impression on the people you come in contact with on a daily basis.

TESTIMONIALS

"Every so often you meet someone who has the drive, dedication and devotion beyond the others. Frank is one of those individuals. His literature and live presentations will meet and exceed all of your expectations because of the type of individual he is. Frank is changing the way we approach challenges in the fire service. His professional and motivational look at how we do business will inspire you. He is the type of officer that creates an environment that enables and encourages others to get involved and make a difference." Deputy Chief Mike Terpak, Jersey City FD

"Chief Viscuso, thank you for your inspiring and highly motivational presentation today. Lessons were learned which will inspire and motivate future fire service leaders and those that are leaders, mentors or officers now. Excellent job." Philip Brousseau, NY

This seminar will be a part of the 139th SFFMA Annual Training Conference and Convention in Galveston, Texas. It will be offered on Saturday, June 13, 2015, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All seminar attendees are encouraged to visit the vendor show.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Registration fee (\$40 for each SFFMA member, \$45 for non-members) will apply to those **NOT** attending the full conference. There is no additional registration fee for those registered for full conference. Registration is available online at www.sffma.org or on page 20 of this magazine.

Chief Viscuso will also be the keynote speaker on Sunday, June 14, 2015. Don't miss this great opportunity!



Frank Viscuso is a career deputy chief, nationally recognized speaker, and author of six books, including bestseller "Step Up and Lead" (PennWell, 2011). Frank is also co-creator of FireOpsOnline.com, a website that provides valuable free training, drills and tips for firefighters who are serious about advancing their careers.

As a speaker, Frank has the ability to move people to action. Over the past decade he has spoken to audiences in and outside the fire service on many topics that include leadership, team building, officer development, and customer service. His seminars are designed to introduce people to the top traits associated with leadership and to equip them with the skills needed to lead, inspire and motivate their teams.

Frank works as a tour commander in Hudson County, NJ. He and his wife reside in Toms River with their three boys.

More information about Frank Viscuso can be found at www.frankviscuso.com



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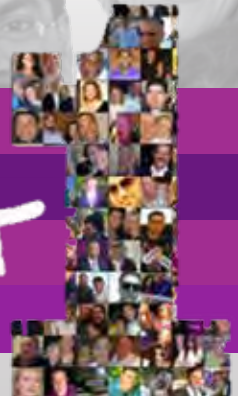
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“I JUST DID MY JOB—WHAT I HOPED WOULD BE DONE FOR ME”.

Sunday, November 2, 2014, started like any other around our station. Chief David Pelletier and firefighter Rebecca Torres were leaving the station and saw the smoke rising above the city’s northern treeline. Thinking the smoke was in our city (Cockrell Hill), they arrived on scene to find it was one block outside the city, in Dallas. Chief Pelletier called in the location at 100 N. Randolph, the Casa De Loma Apartments. The building was fully involved. The complex was built around 1959, with a long, common attic and no

the fire coming from the opposite, vacant apartment. Torres told me later, “I’m not sure how, but I got the door to open.” She gained entry to find the woman trying to gather her belongings. Torres grabbed the lady by the arm and said, “we have to go, now.” They started out of the apartment and headed down the balcony to the staircase, passing by the apartment of the 71-year-old man from earlier. “The smoke cleared just enough to see,” she said, and the bag the man was trying to get to was visible. She quickly entered

sad moments, happy moments, moments of weakness, moments of compassion, moments of hope—all of these moments are important to all of us. I like to think of them as the building blocks of a complex structure that is never quite complete. And we are the sum of all of these moments. Who knows what this person will accomplish or what they will do for someone else in their lifetime? I took a moment to give them another one; not for recognition and not for thanks (though it doesn't hurt to hear it anyway). Being a firefighter gives you insight into these moments. In a moment you could be pulling a citizen or fallen brother out of a fire, or jumping off a porch to avoid a flashover, or you could be freeing victims from a horrible vehicle accident. This job gives time a whole new meaning of urgency. Who would ever really expect minutes and seconds could be so valuable? Being a firefighter is so much more than a title. A title can't give you selflessness. It can't give you passion for what you do, and it can't give you worth. And that is what makes this job so rewarding—having the opportunity to ensure for those people that there will be more moments. Would I do it again? In a heartbeat, no doubt.



Casa De Loma Apartments Fire

fire walls. Dallas Fire called for five alarms, and around 100 firefighters ended up on scene that day. After Chief called in for Dallas to respond, he and Rebecca Torres began evacuating the complex. Residents coming out of the fire were giving reports that people were still inside the building. Torres and a Cockrell Hill police officer that had arrived on scene entered the upper levels of the complex, clearing each apartment, door to door. Torres came across a 71-year-old man trying to go back into his home. She repeatedly asked the man to go, but he continued to explain, “I need my papers in the bag.” Torres then pulled the man to safety and asked another resident to take him with them to the safe zone across the street. Most would have thought twice about going back. Not Torres—she went back into the building as Dallas Fire began to arrive on scene. When she made it back to the top of the stairs, she saw a woman with a child in hand and smoke coming out of the door, go inside her home and close the door. She made a straight line for the place. It was next on her search and was directly in the path of

and grabbed the bag and proceeded to go down the steps with the woman and the child. Chief Pelletier met them at the bottom and explained, “all residents are out.”

I was just arriving on scene to a sea of apparatus. I located Chief and asked where Torres was. He explained, and I found her behind a dumpster, exhausted, vomiting, and trying to clear her lungs of the smoke. I pulled her up and walked her to the rehab unit. Funny thing—as we passed the line of residents, there was an old man holding a bag, looking in it. He looked up and said, “thank you so much.” I asked Torres who he was. Her reply was, “just a man I helped when he needed me.” It took firefighters 90 minutes to get the blaze knocked down. Eighteen units were lost and 54 families were displaced. Torres was treated and released that night. I got the chance to sit down and talk to her. This was our conversation:

Someone asked me once...

...why I risked my life for someone I didn't know. After some time to reflect on this, I realized that life is made up of moments:



Firefighter R. Torres

That night, I found out there was more to this firefighter than meets the eye. Our department put her up for the Medal of Honor. Once a year, our annual awards banquet is held to celebrate the year and the accomplishments of the department. Torres received this honor, and to all she humbly stated, “I just did my job... what I hoped would be done for me”.

Asst. Chief Charles “Duck” Powell
Cockrell Hill Fire Department

TRAINING WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

**MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015,
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

FIREFIGHTER I

8 - 9:45 a.m. Building Construction

Cary Roccaforte, TEEX/ESTI

Upon successful completion of this lesson, the student shall be able to: 1. Describe the impact of fire on common building materials, 2. Explain the impact of fire on construction classifications, 3. List the main types of occupancy classifications, 4. Describe the basic construction of building components, 5. Identify door and window assemblies, 6. Identify building mechanical operation, 7. Identify how occupants move within the building, 8. Identify the best firefighter building accessibility.

10 - 11:45 a.m. RIT/MAYDAY Operations

Tim Johnson, battalion chief, Galveston FD

How to train for and manage a mayday event, and the roles and responsibilities of the RIT.

1 - 4:45 p.m. Forcible Entry

Adam Laird, assistant chief, Bastrop FD

This class will cover the tools and techniques of forcing entry into buildings through doorways using many different methods. There will also be a hands-on session during the course.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

8 - 9:45 a.m. Certification 101: New Coordinators Introduction

Kevin Creamer, SFFMA certification administrator

Discussion of the structure of the Certification Program, with emphasis on common issues encountered while filing applications and training summaries.

10 - 11:45 a.m. Certification 102: SFFMA Online 3.0

Kevin Creamer, SFFMA certification administrator

We will discuss the recent overhaul of SFFMA Online and point out new features, application submissions, fee payments, and reporting.

1 - 2:45 p.m. Certification Workshop

Kevin Creamer, SFFMA certification administrator

Overview of the certification program, Certification Board, available certifications, dues payments, and determination of department participation status.

3 - 4:45 p.m. Pathway to Certification

Mike Montgomery, fire marshal, Harris County, Harvie Cheshire, chief, TEEX-ESTI

With the new SFFMA firefighter certification program, a volunteer now has many paths to certification, both paid and volunteer. This presentation discusses the certification pathway concept, pathway options, annual and area school phases, testing, available certifications, and future programs.

INDUSTRIAL

8 - 9:45 a.m. Emergency Planning and Response to Railroad Crude Oil and Other HazMat Incidents

Patrick Brady, director hazmat, BNSF Railway

This program will provide attendees with the basic knowledge to prepare for and to be able to respond safely and effectively to railroad hazmat incidents, including those involving crude oil.

10 - 11:45 a.m. Pipeline Emergencies 101

Phillip Oakes, National Association of State Fire Marshals

The Pipeline Emergencies Program is designed to help fire service and industry emergency responders to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and effectively manage a pipeline incident. It is based upon nationally recognized engineering practices, recommended operating practices and training programs.

1 - 2:45 p.m. Oil and Gas: From Drilling to Both Transmission and Distribution Pipelines—Safety Response Issues

Bob Hodges, head of training, Danielle Dawn Smalley Foundation

Topics include: terminology, product characteristics, videos and incident pictures, actual response scenarios, lessons learned, Q & A.

3 - 4:45 p.m. Well Control Incident Management: Achieving Successful Outcomes to Oil & Gas Well Emergencies

Casey Davis, VP HSE, Wild Well Control

This lecture offers participants the opportunity to experience the complexities of managing a well control incident and to gain practical knowledge in the oversight processes necessary to manage a potentially catastrophic event. Each participant will gain a better understanding of the management requirements and crafts necessary to effectively coordinate and support the response activities during an oil or gas well emergency.

WILDLAND

8 - 11:45 a.m. Wildland Fire Assessment Program

Ron Roy, division chief/NVFC wildland committee chair

The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) is a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the NVFC to provide volunteer firefighters and non-operational personnel, such as Fire Corps members, with training on how to properly conduct assessments for homes located in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). This is the first program targeted at volunteers that specifically prepares them to evaluate a home, and provide residents with recommendations to protect their property from wildfires in order to become a more fire-adapted community.

1 - 2:45 p.m. Wildland Fire/Air Operations

Charles "Boo" Walker, training coordinator, TFS

An introduction and general overview of working in the wildland aviation environment.

3 - 4:45 p.m. Fire Behavior Factors/Wildland Fire Behavior & Safety

Jared Karnes, branch fire coordinator, TFS

Will discuss basic wildfire terminology, elements of the fire triangle and methods of heat transfer. Will identify changes in wildland fire behavior, describe causes of extreme fire behavior and list environmental factors to be aware of.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

8 - 9:45 a.m. Developing a Culture of Leadership and Professionalism Within EMS & Fire

Ricky B. Snell, EMT coordinator 101574, Bastrop Co. First Responder Training Academy

Will discuss defining a culture of professionalism and leadership within the EMS and fire communities, identifying some of the roadblocks that stand in our way.

10 - 11:45 a.m. Implementation of a Progressive Discipline Program in the Volunteer Fire Department

Robert "Andy" Dexter, fire chief, Klein Volunteer Fire Department

The majority of the company officer's responsibilities are the coordination and management of personnel. A comprehensive tool used in the management of your personnel is a progressive discipline program. The course will identify the components, usage and implementation of a progressive discipline program for the volunteer fire service.

1 - 2:45 p.m. Managing Change Through Effective Leadership

Mike Montgomery, fire marshal, Harris County

Change is inevitable and ongoing. Change itself can be positive or negative; it is how we, as leaders, manage and affect change that counts. This presentation discusses the need for and resistance to change, and how to lead through each stage of the process. Grounded in modern change theory, it includes anecdotal information about change for company and chief officers.

3 - 4:45 p.m. So You Think You Want to be a Fire Service Officer

John McMakin, ret. chief, LaRue-New York FD

This presentation has three phases based on leadership:

1. What are the personal traits required?
2. What skills are involved in becoming an effective fire department administrator?
3. What training and leadership traits are required to be an incident commander, whether as a company officer or a chief officer?

SAFETY

8 - 9:45 a.m. The Role of an Athletic Trainer Within Public Safety

Deena Kilpatrick, MS/LAT/ATC/vice president, Public Safety Athletic Trainers' Society

This session will explain what an athletic trainer is and what the qualifications are. This session will discuss injury trends within fire/rescue and outline how the addition of an athletic trainer will help the fire department.

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SAFETY - continued

10 - 11:45 a.m. Low Back Issues Among First Responders: The How, Why and What

John Hofman, strength & conditioning coach, Sacramento Fire Department

This session will cover many common ailments that are specific to firefighters and how they are brought on by overuse, poor compensation and improper motor patterns. Specific focus will emphasize effective strategies that will help improve a department's health, wellness and injury prevention programs as well as corrective exercises that will enable the firefighter to increase performance while reducing lower back injuries.

1 - 2:45 p.m. New Firefighting Technology: Encapsulator Agents

Michael T. Greiner, president, Hazard Control Technologies, Inc.

An explanation of the advantages over water or foam for fighting modern car fires, including hybrid and electric cars, three-dimensional fires, polar and nonpolar Class B fires, including ethanol-blended fuels, energized transformer fires (tested to 345 Kv), Class A and Class D fires. The presentation describes a history of firefighting agents and an explanation of how encapsulator agents work.

3 - 4:45 p.m. Why we do What we do and is it Right?

Phillip Oakes, National Association of State Fire Marshals

Identifiable risks are manageable risks. Even with this in mind, we often miss the signs which tell us we are heading down the road to disaster. Why are we doing this and how can it be prevented? Is it based on tradition, culture, erosion of culture, outside factors, or something else entirely? All of these topics and more, along with some ideas to help prevent the disaster from occurring to you and yours will be discussed, along with examples of where the worst could have been easily prevented and how (from both inside and outside the fire service).

EMS

8 - 11:45 a.m. Overview of the Texas EMTF Program and Update on Texas Disaster Management

Taylor Ratcliff, MD, FF/EMT-LP

This session will be in two, 1:45 blocks that will highlight and introduce the Texas EMTF program and other important disaster mitigation programs currently ongoing in Texas. Participants will get to view EMTF components, including an MMU, AMBUS and other components.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FIREFIGHTER II

8 - 9:45 a.m. TEXFIRS Coding Incidents and Data Summary Reports

Virginia Garza, State Fire Marshal's Office - TEXFIRS

Overview and update of TEXFIRS/NFIRS coding rules and reporting guidelines. Instruction on generating summary output reports from TEXFIRS/NFIRS data.

10 - 11:45 a.m. The First Responder's Role in Fire Investigation

Dean Hensley, Harris County fire marshal

Teaches first responders, fire, police and EMS personnel how to make critical observations and take important scene-preservation actions during their duties. K-9 presentation at the end of session.

1 - 4:45 P.M. Foam Operations and Tank Firefighting

Lee Hall, sr. technical trainer, Williams Fire & Hazard Control

This course is designed to meet and exceed the SFFMA objectives listed in Section 6: Fire Streams, under Firefighter II 6-11.01-.07. Students will receive the knowledge necessary to identify and safely manage an event where foam is required to extinguish and/or control a fire involving a hydrocarbon or polar solvent. Topics covered in the course will be: application rates for spill and tank fires, application differences for hydrocarbon and polar solvents, foam equipment, and foam application methods.

CERTIFICATION/CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

8 - 9:45 a.m. Certification Workshop

Kevin Creamer, SFFMA certification administrator

Overview of the certification program, Certification Board, available certifications, dues payments, and determination of department participation status.

10 - 11:45 a.m. Pathway to Certification

Mike Montgomery, fire marshal, Harris County, Harvie Cheshire, chief, TEEX-ESTI

With the new SFFMA firefighter certification program, a volunteer now has many paths to certification, both paid and volunteer. This presentation discusses the certification pathway concept, pathway options, annual and area school phases, testing, available certifications, and future programs.

1 - 2:45 p.m. Certification 101: New Coordinators Introduction

Kevin Creamer, SFFMA certification administrator

Discussion of the structure of the certification program with emphasis on common issues encountered while filing applications and training summaries.

3 - 4:45 p.m. Certification 102: SFFMA Online 3.0

Kevin Creamer, SFFMA certification administrator

We will discuss the recent overhaul of SFFMA Online and point out new features, application submissions, fee payments, and reporting.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

8 - 9:45 a.m. Understanding the Pros and Cons of Social Media in the Fire Service

Francisco Sánchez, liaison to the director and PIO, office of Harris County Judge Ed Emmett; Chief Jeff Smith; Brian Murray, emergency public information planner, Harris County OHSEM

Our unwillingness for the world around us to change is not enough to keep it from doing so. Social media is here to stay and its presence only continues to grow. Information technology continues to advance at a breakneck pace. Because of this, the public has access to more sources of information than ever before. And each member of the public can now be a broadcaster in their own right. Moreover, the dawn of social media and the vast oceans of open data available with only a few clicks have created a situation where the public demand for information far exceeds the ability of most government agencies to provide it. This panel discussion looks at the opportunities and challenges of social media in the fire service.

10 - 11:45 a.m. Public Information for the Fire Service

Francisco Sánchez, liaison to the director and PIO, office of Harris County Judge Ed Emmett

From advising the incident commander to dealing directly with the media, the public information officer at a fire scene plays a vital role. PIOs can help responders and the public make decisions that will save lives, reduce injuries and protect property. And the public perception of a department's competence rests in the ability of the PIO and the IC to provide accurate, timely information in a calm, authoritative manner. This session will provide a basic overview of the PIO's role on scene. It will offer practical tools for successfully communicating public information and emergency public information as well as provide guidance on how the PIO can work effectively with incident command, partners, media, and the public to communicate effectively.

1 - 2:45 p.m. TCFP and SFFMA

Tim Rutland, executive director, TCFP; SFFMA board members

TCFP Overview and Orientation: Establishment, organization, regulatory responsibilities and practices, testing and certification programs/ requirements, other services.

3 - 4:45 p.m. Transition From Volunteer to Combination Department

Shawn Snider, fire chief, Edinburg FD

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS AND WILL

By Dave Wyrwas, president, Glatfelter Specialty Benefits

VFIS and Glatfelter Specialty Benefits provide a number of products that include death benefits for emergency responders. These programs include Accident and Sickness (A&S, which provides line-of-duty benefits and optional 24-hour AD&D benefits), Group Life, LOSAP, Critical Illness and other specialty accident programs.

It is common practice to ask the emergency responder to complete a beneficiary form. Typically, a member will name a primary beneficiary who receives benefits in the event of the member's death. At times, the member will name a contingent beneficiary to receive benefits if the primary beneficiary dies before the member. Usually these beneficiary designations are kept on file at the emergency service organization. A beneficiary card should be completed for each policy to avoid any complications when benefits are paid.

VFIS ardently encourages updating beneficiary forms whenever there is a change in the member's life, such as marriage, divorce, children, being widowed, etc. An updated beneficiary form ensures the death benefit goes to the person designated. We also encourage the review of beneficiary designations on any personal or employer-provided insurance. Here are some common mistakes with beneficiary designations:

1. Naming Minor Children—Life insurance benefits cannot be paid directly to a minor. Absent a trust or other legal arrangements, the court will appoint a guardian which may entail significant costs. Additionally, the court could name someone as guardian who may not be the choice of the family. It is important to seek legal advice to develop a will, set up a trust, and name an adult custodian for life insurance proceeds under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act.

2. Naming Special-Needs Dependents—This could put the loved one at risk of losing eligibility for government assistance. Anyone who receives a gift or inheritance of more than a certain amount is disqualified

for Supplemental Social Security Income and Medicaid. Seeking legal advice to establish an appropriate trust is prudent in these cases.

3. Personal Wills—The named beneficiary in a life insurance policy takes precedence over the provisions of a will. Life insurance is a stand-alone contract with the proceeds paid to the beneficiary listed on the individual life policy or on the beneficiary form on file with the policyholder in the case of most group policies such as Accident and Sickness or Group Term.

4. Outdated Beneficiary Forms—Forgetting to update forms is very common. Updates are needed every time there is a life-changing event. Otherwise, a long-forgotten friend or distant relative could receive a death benefit instead of the spouse or preferred beneficiary.

5. General Designations—It is important to be specific. Designating "my children" without listing names and social security numbers could lead to a delay while time is spent researching to verify proper identification. However, being too specific might exclude future children and will require updating your beneficiary designation. A traditional beneficiary designation might state, "to all my children, in equal shares."

6. Contingent Beneficiaries—Not naming a contingent beneficiary is problematic. Many married people name their spouse as beneficiary and don't name a contingent beneficiary. If the couple is traveling together and dies in a common accident, who would receive the insurance benefit? Without a contingent beneficiary, either the state or the insurance policy provisions will determine who receives the benefit.

7. Parents as Beneficiaries—Naming a parent who is in a nursing home that might be paid for by Medicaid could lead to any proceeds of the insurance policy going to the state.

With any special situation, it is prudent to seek legal advice. Generally speaking, a review of beneficiary designations should be part of the

overall will-drafting or estate-planning process. However, it is shocking how many people don't have a will! According to an article in USA Today, 71 percent of adults under age 34, and 41 percent of aging baby boomers do not have a will. The reasons stated are: expense, they believe they do not have many assets, or simply procrastination. Without a will, state laws determine who receives property. With a will, assets are passed to selected heirs.

In my travels, I've noticed that many states use the services of an organization called Wills for Heroes. Their stated purpose is: Wills for Heroes programs provide essential legal documents, free of charge, to our nation's first responders, including wills, living wills and powers of attorney. By helping first responders plan now, they ensure their family's legal affairs are in order before a tragedy hits. The 501(c)(3) non-profit Wills for Heroes Foundation supports these wills programs, giving back to the community and "protecting those who protect us."

In our state, the program is co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. The service is staffed by lawyer volunteers and is conveniently offered to first responders at meeting halls and police and fire stations. While I haven't personally worked with this program, I have heard positive feedback from departments who have used this service to draft a will and other necessary legal documents. Contact the State Bar Association or State Firefighters Association to see if "Wills for Heroes" is active in a specific area.

I urge everyone to review your beneficiary designations, work with legal counsel, and be mindful of changes in your personal situation. As emergency responders, you continually plan for the unexpected. Shouldn't you use the same strategy for your personal situation?

**TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015,
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

SAFETY I

8 - 11:45 a.m. Courage to Be Safe (1)

Danny Hurt, training officer, Pleasant Grove FD
Firefighters must have the courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities. Their courage allows them to willingly risk their own lives so that others can be saved. A different type of courage is required to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations, avoiding needless risks and tragic consequences. This provocative and moving presentation is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of firefighters as a normal occurrence. Building on the untold stories of line-of-duty death (LODD) survivors, it reveals how family members must live with the consequences of a firefighter's death, and provides a focus on the need for firefighters and officers to change fundamental attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line-of-duty deaths. The central theme promotes the courage to do the right thing in order to protect yourself and other firefighters and ensure that, "Everyone Goes Home" at the end of the day.

1 - 4:45 p.m. Courage to Be Safe (2)

Danny Hurt, training officer, Pleasant Grove FD (see above description)

The State Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA) Volunteer Firefighter Certification Board requires completion of the Everyone Goes Home® - Courage to be Safe® course as part of their program for any certification applications submitted after January 1, 2012.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

8-9:45 a.m. New Fire Suppression Rating Schedule & Abbreviated Field Survey Process

Phillip Bradley, manager, ISO
Introduce new fire suppression rating schedule & discuss abbreviated field survey process.

10 - 11:45 a.m. Time Management: How to Balance Work, Family & Fire Department

Brian Scheffer, training officer, Brenham FD
We all face competition for quality time—whether it's between work, home, or fire department activities. Learn how to deal with competing priorities, keep up with meetings and emails, satisfy everyone with needs, and still have time to hunt, fish and sing in the choir.

1 - 2:45 p.m. The Company Officer's Role in the Development of Training Programs

Robert "Andy" Dexter, fire chief, Klein Volunteer Fire Department
As a company officer, it is your responsibility to develop your firefighters into a cohesive and functional unit. This is only accomplished through the development of effective training programs which target the needs of

your membership. This course is designed to provide understanding of the various components and development of these programs.

3 - 4:45 p.m. Fire Service Brotherhood

Mike Wisko, chief, Galveston FD
This session will include what the fire service brotherhood means, how to support each other, why it is important to do so, and examples of ways to exemplify the brotherhood.

SAFETY II

8 - 9:45 a.m. Firefighter Safety: How to Prevent LODDs

Chris Connealy, state fire marshal
This session will review LODDs from State Fire Marshal Office (SFMO) reports from 2001 to present, and cite the same causes showing up in report after report. There is a critical need in the fire service for leadership, management, accountability, and personal responsibility to minimize firefighter risk exposure.

10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Art of Reading Smoke: Risk v. Gain

Roy Mercer, director of education, VFIS of Texas
Dave Dodson developed this class initially, changing the view of the first-arriving company. As a responder, you must be able to predict fire behavior and hostile fire events. If you do not, firefighters may die or be critically injured. The key to predicting fire behavior is in your ability to read smoke as you arrive and begin firefighting operations. This class will change your tactical procedures as a firefighter and/or incident commander forever. Newly updated features will help us understand the risk-management pieces of our response to a structure incident, which increases safety awareness in our workplace. The class will cover what the smoke is telling us by color, rate of flow and density. Reading smoke is a definite benefit for firefighter safety and survival. Additionally, the course will demonstrate our response needs at certain structural incidents. We should remember, "Practice doesn't make perfect, PERFECT practice makes perfect!"

3 - 4:45 p.m. Life Safety Initiative #9 and the Value of Post-Incident Analysis

Danny Kistner, fire chief, McKinney FD
Through case study and discussion, the value of conducting post-incident analysis of firefighter serious injury and mayday will be presented. Methods for conducting PIAs will be presented as well as integration of lessons learned.

EMS

8 - 9:45 a.m. EMS Response to HAZMAT Incidents

Chris Collier, emergency service and response coordinator, SETRAC
This session will cover EMS response and medical considerations when responding to HazMat incidents.

10 - 11:45 a.m. Dirtballs, Frequent Flyers and Taxi Runs

Dave Bradley, B.S., NREMT-P, VFIS
These words depict vivid images in our minds, but have we forgotten why we entered emergency services? Are we in this profession for the right reasons and are we doing the best job possible? Today, providers are entering the profession ill prepared to face the realities of emergency services and the opinions and stereotypes that can occur. Join Dave for an enlightening look at these issues from a different perspective—that of the patient.

1 - 4:45 p.m. Incident Investigation for Emergency Services

Dave Bradley, B.S., NREMT-P, VFIS
Every year, emergency service organizations (ESOs) experience a myriad of incidents. It is in the investigation, and specifically in the information gathered during incident investigations, that we may find the solutions to many of the problems that create losses. The program provides a process to evaluate all losses experienced by the emergency services community. Join Dave as he discusses the issues regarding what should be investigated, the role of staff and leadership, and the investigative process.

GENERAL

8 - 9:45 a.m. Getting Your Grants on the Right Track

Brian Vickers, CEO, Vickers Consulting Services, Inc.
Just like when building a house, if the foundation isn't laid properly, it might not stand up. Grants are similar in that if you don't have the required work done right before you begin your application, you reduce your chances of being successful. Come learn how to do the work before the work, and increase your chances.

10 - 11:45 a.m. Working With Your ESD

Liz Cargile, commissioner, Medina County ESD#5/SAFE-D
This session will cover basic information about an ESD and will guide you through the process of working with one.

1 - 2:45 p.m. FEMA/AFG Program Grant Writing

Joe Ondrasek, fire chief, SFFMA board member
To review the grant-writing techniques to be successfully awarded a FEMA-AFG grant. Chief Ondrasek has attended and participated in FEMA-AFG peer reviewing for the last two years. During this process, he has reviewed many FEMA-AFG grant applications and can offer insight into the process, providing you with information to help your organization be successful in getting your grant.

3 - 4:45 p.m. Texas A&M Forest Service Grants (HB 2604 and TIFMAS)

Jason Keiningham, department head, TFS
Providing an update on the fire department assistance programs available through the Texas A&M Forest Service.



PROVIDENT

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PROVIDENT INTRODUCES SERVICES TO HELP FIREFIGHTERS BETTER MANAGE STRESS

First Responder Assistance Program Included with Accident & Health Coverage

According to CareerCast.com's Most Stressful Jobs of 2015 report, firefighting is the most stressful job in the United States, ranking ahead of the jobs of enlisted military personnel, airplane pilots and police officers. Given the physical, mental and emotional ordeals that firefighters regularly face, it's not surprising to learn that many struggle with chemical dependency, emotional problems, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as relationship issues with their families, friends and coworkers.

There is increased national awareness and attention focused on educating emergency responders about how to cope with stress. For example, included in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Life Safety Initiatives

is Initiative 13: Behavioral Health, "Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support." (EveryoneGoesHome.com)

To help provide relief from these struggles, we at Provident recently introduced the First Responder Assistance Program, which is a suite of behavioral health support services customized for first responders and their families. This program is included with our Accident & Health insurance policies.

"First responders routinely risk their lives to save others and we recognize the impact that this can have on their emotional well-being," says Barry Balliet, CLU, CEO of Provident. "With the First Responder Assistance Program, we are offering them—and their families—professional resources to help them better cope with the stresses they face."

First Responder Assistance Program services are confidential. Communication is available 24/7 by phone, text messaging, live chat, mobile application, and email to accommodate multi-generational preferences. The program, which offers immediate access to experienced, accredited counselors and clinicians, provides resources and referrals for issues regarding:

- Stress management
- Addictions, depression and anxiety

- Family conflict
- Grief and loss
- Relationships and parenting
- Financial and legal matters
- Problem gambling
- Child and elder care

The First Responder Assistance Program is administered by the employee assistance program firm Bensinger, DuPont & Associates (BDA). "In addition to its impact on the emotional state of mind, stress can contribute to physical health concerns such as heart disease, high blood pressure and addictions," says Andrea Sinisi, BDA's VP of marketing and product development. "By making our assistance programs available to first responders, we can help them take better care of themselves at all levels. Our coaches help firefighters identify the causes of stress, reduce their stress levels and develop ongoing stress management plans."

We would like to encourage all members of the emergency services to be aware of these issues and be advocates for mental wellness. This can be as simple as lending an ear to anyone you perceive to be in need, or a being a conduit for referral.

Daren K. D'Ippolito
President, Provident



86th Annual Municipal School
July 19 - 24, 2015 - College Station, TX

COURSES OFFERED

- Firefighting Phase I - V
- Transportation Emergencies
- NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector I & II (Session I, IIV)
- Plans Examiner I
- Public Fire Educator I - II NFPA 1035
- Fire Investigator Phase I
- Fire Investigator Phase II
- Fire Investigator TCFP Course Completer
- Fire Service Leadership Development I - V
- Rescue I: Rope Rescue Awareness and Operations NFPA 1006
- Rescue II: Trench Rescue
- Rescue III: Automobile Extrication
- Rescue IV: Ag Rescue
- Rescue V: Confined Space Rescue
- Rescue VI: Rope Rescue Technician NFPA 1006
- NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I Training
- Public Safety Telecommunicator I - II
- Public Information Officer NFPA 1035
- Fire Department Pump Maintenance/EVT
- Fire Department Pump Operations
- Emergency Medical Response (EMR)
- Compressed Air Foam Systems and Class A Foam
- S190/S130 Wildland Introduction and Firefighting Training
- Industrial Emergencies for Municipal-Based Responder Phase I - II

For more information or to register, visit www.teex.org/annualschools.



Hello and greetings to all!

For starters, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Gulf Coast District

for their hospitality, and to the SFFMA staff for hosting a successful planning conference in Galveston in January. Plans for the 139th Annual Training Conference and Convention are well underway and our hopes are that each attendee will gain something beneficial from the conference, whether through training, networking or vacationing!

Saturday, June 13, during the vendor show and exhibits, TFA will have a booth set up, and we invite you to stop by. At that time, you can pay your dues, pick up packets for Monday's business meeting, sign up for pumper races, buy your luncheon tickets, and put your name down to run for a position on the TFA executive board. Sunday morning, June 14, will be the memorial service with a lunch to follow. The TFA annual business meeting will be held Monday, June 15, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m., and the meeting starting promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Now, how about some fun? Everyone loves a beach party,

right? Well, President Kattner and I have been working together to plan a fun and exciting Presidents Reception for you all to enjoy Sunday evening.

I assure you there will be plenty of food, fun and fellowship—and who knows, maybe even a drink with a little umbrella in it! On Monday evening, June 15, there will be ample opportunities for you to spend time with other attendees during the hospitality events. I would like to extend an invitation for each of you to stop by my suite and say hello! And finally, on Tuesday, June 16, a luncheon to honor the TFA past presidents will take place and everyone is invited to attend. For additional information and to purchase tickets, please contact TFA 2nd Vice President Billie Smith at billiesmithemp126@gmail.com. You won't want to miss this!

My motto this year has been "Imagine the Possibilities." I ask you to continue to imagine where our auxiliary could be and the things we will be able to accomplish if we remain open to change and growth. The possibilities are limitless! I would like to encourage each of you to consider making a difference—whether through serving on the TFA board, serving on a committee, offering suggestions, or just showing up at a meeting. This is YOUR organization, and your ideas, comments and concerns are always welcome. We will continue to see changes

in the fire service and my hope is that we continue to move forward and embrace those changes.

I want to say thank you to each of you for the time, talent and expertise you have given to the TFA, because, through your dedication and continued support of our auxiliary, we will only become better. Just imagine the possibilities!

As this will be my last correspondence as TFA president, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve such a wonderful organization. Many of you have provided encouragement, extended assistance, and offered guidance and knowledge, and for this I am truly grateful. I have met many people and have made some very special friendships that will last a lifetime! A special thank you goes to the Panhandle Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association and the PFFMA Auxiliary for their support during my time on the TFA board. Lastly, I would like to say that without the support of my wonderful husband Paul and my beautiful daughter Lauren, this opportunity would not have presented itself to me. Thank you both for your unending encouragement, inspiration, praise, and love. I am truly grateful!

Jeri Hamilton
TFA President 2014-15



Membership

Hello Ladies!

2015 TFA dues are now being accepted. Individuals are \$20, auxiliaries and districts are \$30. You can mail them to me at:

Kendra Charbula
PO Box 595
Louise, TX 77455

Or pay them at registration on Saturday of convention. Dues must be paid in order for you to run pumper races and have a delegate at the ladies meeting. See you all in June in Galveston!

Kendra Charbula
TFA Treasurer

Please Join Us in Honoring the Past Presidents of the Texas Firemen's Auxiliary

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fisherman's Wharf
2200 Harborside Drive
Galveston, Texas 77550



Attire: Business casual for your comfort

Menu Includes:

Fried Shrimp/Fish
Roasted New Potatoes, Garden Salad,
Coffee/Tea, and Dessert

Cost: \$23/plate

Pre-sale ticket deadline: May 25, 2015

Additional tickets will be available until 1 p.m. **Saturday, June 13, 2015**, at the TFA booth.

Make checks payable to TFA and mail to: Billie Smith, 10216 CR 6740, Lubbock, TX 79407

Questions: billiesmithemp126@gmail.com

Phone: 806.789.8013

DIRECTOR MOORE RECEIVES A&M SYSTEM REGENTS FELLOW SERVICE AWARD



Robert Moore, division director, TEEEX-ESTI

Robert Moore, division director for TEEEX Emergency Services Training Institute, has received the prestigious Regents Fellow Service Award. The annual award is the highest honor given by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents and recognizes employees who have made exemplary contributions to their university or agency and to the people of Texas.

Moore is recognized for his leadership, dedication, and commitment to training professional and volunteer firefighters in both municipal and industrial response so that our cities, our state and our nation are better prepared to respond to any emergency.

Drawing on 38 years of experience and a down-to-earth approach to problem solving and relationship building, Moore has created cooperative endeavors to enhance the safety of Texas citizens while expanding fire and emergency services training opportunities across the state. He implemented a regional concept for extension fire services training, stationing a coordinator in each of eight regions to provide timely and professional training that meets the needs of local responders.

"I cannot think of someone who better represents the Texas A&M University System's commitment to ensuring the safety of our citizens," said TEEEX Director Gary Sera. "Robert has demonstrated a consistent dedication to public service not only for his local community but for the citizens of Texas as well. Robert's leadership has had a profound impact on TEEEX's ability to serve the state and citizens of Texas and beyond."

During his tenure, the Brayton Fire Training Field has grown to almost 300 acres, and he has developed a five-year, \$10 million expansion plan. In 2014, Phillips 66 committed \$500,000 to support future expansion and to enhance training of first responders who protect critical infrastructure, ensuring resiliency. Under his leadership, TEEEX has also invested \$1.5 million in the Center for Marine

Training and Safety in Galveston, providing training opportunities for the maritime industry, Gulf Coast oil producers and U.S. Coast Guard.

Moore's sphere of influence extends beyond the thousands of students at Brayton Fire Training Field in College Station, and even beyond Texas. His leadership extends to training offered nationwide through the Homeland Security Cooperative Training Agreement, at 10 cooperative learning centers across the globe, and at Ras Laffan Emergency and Safety College in Qatar.

Moore joined TEEEX in 1996 after serving as fire chief for Arco Chemical Co., and assistant fire chief and paramedic for the Channelview Volunteer Fire Department. He has served on numerous state and national boards including the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and the International Fire Service Training Association.

Moore received an associate's degree in fire science from Blinn College, and completed his emergency medical technician and paramedic certificate at Lee College. He holds the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) certification, Certified Fire Protection Specialist certification, and more than 20 ProBoard certifications. He is a graduate of the TEEEX Leadership Development Program and a recipient of the TEEEX Distinguished Service Award, the agency's highest honor.



FunSaturday is a newly founded nonprofit corporation, the aim of which is to help volunteer fire departments get what they need to save lives, then go home.

History: It started with a handful of volunteer fire departments in north central Texas who participated in a local fundraiser. The Whitewright Chamber asked us to organize a chili cook-off in 2010. We requested that the proceeds go to participating VFDs because it was a historic year of drought, and fires were all over Texas.

Volunteer fire departments were running out of supplies and money for fuel, and losing vehicles. Even one fire station burned.

The fundraiser became an annual tradition and volunteer firefighters from multiple counties began to participate. 2014 was the fifth year. We had great repeat sponsors, chili cook-offs, motorcycle rides, activities for children, and a lot of fun. Volunteer fire departments took home money and supplies.

But we wanted to do more. The benefit of being a nonprofit corporation became evident; it would serve as a catapult to accomplish more. FunSaturday was founded and became a Texas nonprofit corporation in

October 2014. We expect to be 501(c)(3)-certified by May 2015.

We want to serve all Texas volunteer fire departments by developing best practices for acquiring contributions—both fiscal and in-kind.

The purpose of this article is to ask volunteer firefighters and departments to respond to a brief survey that will be used to provide guidance to FunSaturday.

The survey can be accessed on the website, through email and text: www.funSaturday.com, texasVFD@gmail.com 903.818.9023

Some VFDs won't need help but your responses are a great resource of information that can be shared to help other departments all over the state.

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