

# Volunteer Fire Officers Section

FFCA VFOS  
July 14, 2018 @ 13:30 Hours

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Darian Brown (Dixie Co.), Tim Diamond (Skyline), Josh Waters (Jasper), John King (Munson), Mike Long (Monticello), Thomas Thrower (Bagdad), Bruce Gillingham (High Springs), John Fish (FFS), Mike Tucker (SFM), Richard Knaff (Clay Co.), Rusty Nail (Escambia), Roy Bass (Dixie Co.)

<b>Call to Order</b>
Called to order by chairman Tim Diamond
<b>Approval of meeting minutes from 01-20-18 at FRE Daytona</b>
Motion to approve minutes by Bruce Gillingham 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Richard Knoff Motion carried with no objections
<b>Report from the SFM office</b>
Director Julius Halas <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SFM office will be needing assistance in helping with rule development in additions to the current FF1 standards incorporating the new cancer and mental health training requirements by Florida statue and NFPA.</li><li>In doing so, the rule development needs to find a balance of the additional hours within the current 206 hour standard. To accommodate the small county coalitions concerns of the additional hours to the standard.</li><li>On scene Deacon bucket kits made available through the current cancer grant initiative are being put together and will be sent out for shipment as soon as possible. Thank you for all the support from VFOS in getting the word out on this opportunity.</li><li>Volunteer fire grant from the SFM program is now funded to \$1million in recurring funds yearly thanks to legislative support. The first phase of this grant initiative is for PPE and air packs as time evolves additional funding for apparatus purchases/matching grant funds is in the visioning phase of the grant. To date, some of the departments benefiting from the grant include, White Springs, High Springs, Monticello, Hendry County, Labell, and Bonifay to name a few.</li></ul>
<b>Report from Fire College</b>
Director Mike Tucker <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Florida Forest Service IQS program that houses firefighter qualifications is in the process of uploading this data to the FCDICE system. At this time, the Fire College and FFS personnel are validating the entries in both systems and adding enhancements as they find them to the FCDICE system for further search queries and user utilization for deployment orders.</li><li>As of now, the following have been validated in the system: Strike Team Leader (200 persons validated), Engine Boss (644 persons validated), S130-S190 (2,000 persons validated). The Fire College is currently working on furthering this venture of joining the two systems to obtain the most accurate data.</li><li>State Fire College Volunteer Week will be in April of 2019 needing support and increased participation for this year's event.</li></ul>
<b>Report from the Florida Forest Service and discussion</b>
Chief John Fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FFS Update notes distributed by Matt Weinell (see attached notes)</li><li>Florida saw an early fire season in the spring of 2018 which quickly damped down from the rains throughout the state.</li></ul>

- FFS is currently in review of prescribed fire use and protocols associated with due to a control burn/wildfire in the East Point area.
- 50/50 grants are continually available for fire related equipment to include PPE, radios, and other wildland equipment.
- FFS will be issuing grants this year for attendance to Fire East in 2019. Details will be sent out sometime this fall by Matt Weinell.
- FFS is needing support with local legislatures with supporting new forestry equipment purchases to include dozers, engines, and aircraft.

**Report from Emergency Services Foundation**

Assistant Chief Mike Long

- The foundation will be setting up a scholarship program for firefighter candidates wanting to further their enrollment in fire academies and EMT schools. The criteria and requirements will be made available later this fall.
- Mike Long is stepping down as Chairman of the foundation but will continue to be a voice on the board of directors.

**Old Business**

- Chief Diamond elaborated on the need for further contact information for departments across the state.
- Chief King collaborated on the current developments of the Volunteer Officer program and discussions with Bill Bingham, the architect of the ESLI program. A rough draft of this program outline for volunteers is being further developed with input from this board, Mike Long, and other interested volunteer chiefs.
- Chief Diamond would also like to develop a disaster database that tracks volunteer and career firefighter losses during disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires, etc. Other states, such as Texas, track the damages that occur to the firefighters in their states and the National Volunteer Council has funds available but there is no knowledge of a trackable database for this information in Florida.

**New Business**

- Discussions of the FF1 standard and how to accommodate new hours into the program resulted in a unanimous decision by the group present that the additional hours for cancer awareness and mental health should be kept within the current 206 hours (4 hours cancer awareness, 4 hours mental health). It would be optimal to find hours within the current 206 by consolidating redundant hours within the current standard and adding in the newly required 8 hours.
- Rusty Nail made the motion to draft a letter of support for the above proposal. Bruce Gillingham second the motion. Motion carried with no objections.
- Next business meeting will be held during the Northwest Florida Volunteer Weekend in Niceville, FL on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at 12:00pm in the dining hall.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Motion made by John Fish  
 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Bass  
 Motion carried with no objections