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June 2017

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Your Connection for Life

Public Safety



A Message from Our Region IV Vice President, David Tuck

First off, I want to thank all of the squads that have stepped up to host a college class. Region IV members should be very proud of themselves. We have a full schedule for this summer. It takes a lot of preparation to make these classes successful, depending on the type of class being hosted. Your host squad may be out several dollars for the materials involved, lunch, drinks, and so on. We as members need to do our part in supporting the host squads, and not let them down by nonparticipation of these classes. We have 22 full-membership squads and 12 associate-member departments. If these agencies would send just one person to each class, that would be a total of approximately 34 students. There would be no reason to ever have to cancel a class. I personally do not think that is too much to ask for.

This has been very exciting year for me as your Region IV Vice President. I have been able to meet a lot of great people across the state and see many great organizations. It has been a learning experience, to say the least. It's hard to get it all figured out in just one year. I would like to say thank you to Benton County and Obion County for welcoming us to their homes for the Region meetings. Let's not forget about Convention; it will be upon us before long. So, book your reservations early. This is great way to come and relax with your Rescue brothers and sisters from across near and far. We are looking forward to some new events that will be occurring at Convention that will give it a twist from the same old thing. If you missed the June Region meeting, I will be seeking re-election as your Region IV VP.

Final Thoughts:

Leaders who cannot embrace change are destined to be left behind...

Our dilemma is that we hate change but love it at the same time; what we really want is thing to remain the same but get better.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER.

David Tuck, Region IV Vice-President

Executive Director's Comments

Are you and your fellow members ready for the next mission?

As first responders, we have to be ready for anything -- including Haz-Mat, advanced techniques, mass transit, and farm and heavy machinery accidents, just to name a few.

The latest thing that we may now encounter are the new illegal drugs, especially the lethal effects of Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, and Carfentanil, used as a large-mammal sedative and is said to be 10,000 times more potent than morphine.

Please be very careful when working accidents, especially if there is powder or dust inside the vehicle or on the victims. Carfentanil can be absorbed through the skin and it only takes one granule to kill a human.

Please work with your local law enforcement agencies to get the latest training and guidance on these drugs. Learn how to quickly identify them while on a call, and read up on the potential dangers. Have a plan ready to implement in the event that you encounter them.

The 2017 Convention is just around the corner. The EMS Symposium is October 4th & 5th, and the Convention is October 6th and 7th. More information on hotel reservations, convention registration, and events are in this issue. Make plans to come out and be with your peers to network, visit the exhibitors, and learn new ideas.

Stacy Rhodes, TARS Executive Director

If you always put limit on everything you do, physical or anything else. It will spread into your life. There are no limits. There are only plateaus, and you must not stay there, you must go beyond them.

-- Bruce Lee

A Message from Our State President, Ross Guy

Thanks to everyone that attended the Region meetings, to the host squads, and everyone who opened their buildings for the officers during Region travels.

We did not have a very large turnout for "Rescue Squad Day on the Hill" in Nashville. Most of the officers were there, and we met with several Senators and Representatives, explaining TARS and what we do for our great state. We received a warm welcome from every one of them. Thanks to everyone who sent emails and made phone calls. It does make a difference. Keep in contact with them, so they know we are watching how they vote on bills pertaining to TARS. Invite them to your squad activities. You never know. They might show up.

2017 is half over, and Convention will be here before you know it. Start planning to attend. Start putting teams together to compete. It is fun and can be educational. At the February Region meetings, I asked those attending for suggestions for new ideas for Convention. You gave me several. The most popular one was to have an event on Thursday night to which a celebrity visits. The officers are working on this, and we will let you know when it is finalized.

My time as President comes to an end in October. Having served as a state officer for the last eight years, I hope I have played a positive role in making the future of TARS brighter. I appreciate all of the support, encouragement, and suggestions you have given. Please continue to support TARS and the people who will lead us in the future. Good luck to all of you!

Thank You.

Ross Guy, TARS President

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress;
working together is success.

--Henry Ford

A Message from Our State Historian, Jennifer Freeman

HELLO ALL!!

Hope the summer months bring lots of fun family adventures for everyone. Since we are finished with the June travels and meetings, let's start looking forward to this year's Convention, as it will be here before you know it. This is the time when you need to start getting those pictures and news articles to me for the extra 10 points for the scrapbook competition. If you want to get credit for sending them, I have to receive them by August 15. As many of you are aware, sometimes it comes down to this simple thing that determines the winner of the scrapbook competition.

If you haven't made plans to attend Convention, there is still time to do so. As always, there will be training opportunities, and lots of other fun and exciting stuff to do. We as officers are always trying to change and add stuff to Convention to make it more enjoyable for you as members. I hope to see all of the usual squads, and I would really like to see some new faces attend this year.

Please remember, if you missed visiting the **John Bird General Store** during the Region travels, we will be set up at the Convention. So make plans to drop by and see what new items we have available. If you just can't make it to a Region meeting or to Convention, you can call the office and they will be happy to mail items to you. Just remember that you will have to pay shipping costs for the items.

In closing, I would like to say that I have enjoyed being your Historian, and I would like to ask for your continued support as I will be seeking the office of Secretary for the upcoming year. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to get you an answer. Everyone have a safe and fun summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone in October.

Jennifer Freeman

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the
mirror that reflects it.

-- Edith Wharton

A Message from Our State Treasurer, Ross Musgrave

I hope this finds you enjoying the first weeks of summer. School is out, the weather has warmed up, and we find ourselves busy with ballgames, soccer matches, and other activities of summer. It's a time to spend with family. But what is family? Your blood relatives, of course, but I submit another thought to you. As members of the rescue squad, we belong to another "family," a brotherhood.

Webster defines "brotherhood" as follows:

1. the quality or state of being brothers; 2. fellowship, alliance; 3. an association (such as a labor union or monastic society) for a particular purpose; 4. the whole body of persons engaged in a business or profession

This brotherhood has come to light in my life twice in the last month. My wife and I have a friend who became seriously ill and was diagnosed with a tumor in her abdomen. The tumor was successfully removed, but in doing so, the "cure" caused another, more serious, problem, requiring her to be added to an organ transplant list. In order to increase her chances of finding a suitable donor, she was transferred to another facility several hundred miles away from family and friends. With her husband traveling for work, and no family able to be near, she found herself lonely and in need of some personal items. I was able to text one of my fellow squad members and explain the situation. Our friend's needs were taken care of the very next day. There were no questions asked. In fact, I was told "TARS is family, and we take care of family."

Likewise, my wife and I have another friend whose daughter is now living in a rural area away from her family. She doesn't have many friends and was looking to connect to people her age. She has a desire to make public safety her career and is planning on enrolling in school soon to pursue this dream. My wife was able to make contact with another squad member in this small town and explain this young lady's situation. Without hesitation, this squad member offered to contact our friend's daughter and help her become involved in the local squad if she'd like. As a matter of fact, the squad member told my wife she had relatives employed at the same place as our friend's daughter. She told us she'd try to hook them up with each other. I'm sure there are many more such stories I'm not aware of. I can recall hearing stories of members broken down on the road and squad members responding to help alleviate the situation.

We are indeed blessed to be a part of this brotherhood, T.A.R.S! Let's not ever take this brotherhood for granted. May we always continue to not only take care of the citizens of our cities and towns, but our fellow squad members as well. Hopefully, I will be able to return these favors in the future.

Have a good, and safe, summer. I look forward to seeing all of you at our meetings this summer.

A Message from Our State Vice President, Dale Dodds

I hope this addition of our Rescue Line finds everyone happy and healthy.

Our membership still needs to be worked on to increase our members and attendance. If everyone receiving the Rescue Line would give your neighboring squad a call, and encourage them to train and come to our Convention, I believe we could get more people interested in what we do.

Our training has increased considerably, and we have more classes on the schedule than ever before, with still more coming this year. Brian has updated all of our college classes and has also added new classes to the schedule. Please keep checking the web site for updates. Our Ready-Op system is up and running but we must have everyone's email address so you can receive updates and messages from TARS.

The 2017 Convention is just around the corner, and we have even more planned this year than last. There is an all-new event being planned for Thursday night, and additional training available during the Symposium. The actual Convention itself will also have a few changes that we hope everyone will enjoy.

I have enjoyed serving as your Vice President for the last two years, and as a state officer since 2010. TARS has overcome many difficult times over the last several years, and we are steadily growing and moving forward. With your support, I will be running for TARS State President in October and I will do my very best to keep us moving forward. I believe TARS has a very bright future, and together we can keep it moving in a positive direction. As always if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions, please give me a call.

Thank you,

S. Dale Dodds, State Vice President

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

--Margaret Mead

2017 Meeting Schedule

Captain / Unit Directors Meetings:

DoubleTree Hotel, Murfreesboro - 5:00 PM CST July 15, 2017

Music Road Hotel, Pigeon Forge - 3:00 PM EST October 6, 2017

July's Directors meeting begins at 5:00 PM CST. A block of rooms has been reserved at the DoubleTree for this meeting.

Reservations must be made at least 30 days in advance to receive the block rates of: King Room - \$91.00 per night, Double Room - \$101.00 per night.

Please call 615-895-5555 for reservations.

Ways to keep in touch:

Check out our redesigned website:

<https://www.tnars.org/>

Like us on



TARS now has an official Instagram account. You can follow us at:

tnassocrescuesquads

Stay tuned for updated information and photos!



STEPHEN R. CARDEN FOUNDATION

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Stephen R. Carden Angie Bowen & Todd Derrick Douglas Warren
VFIS Insurance (Steve Frost & Mark Bowery)

CHARTER MEMBERS

Roy Goddard Union County Rescue Squad
George & Earline Young Pull-A-Part
Al & Nancy Davila Benton County Rescue Squad

Stephen R. Carden Foundation Update

The foundation is proud to announce that we were able to provide scholarships to members of 5 squads this year. Congratulations to Grainger County Rescue Squad, Hardeman County Rescue Squad, Dickson County Rescue Squad, Obion County Rescue Squad, and Hancock County Rescue Squad. These squads will receive training in classes on Low Angle Ropes, Heavy Rescue, Advanced Extrication, Farm Rescue, and Bus Rescue. We trust you will learn something new and exciting, and hope the training you receive will benefit your communities.

Donations are still being accepted and are always welcome. Anyone wanting to make a donation may mail it to:

Stephen R. Carden Foundation
2906 Tazewell Pike, Ste. B
Knoxville, TN 37918

We appreciate the opportunity to make a difference in the squads while supporting TARS at the same time.

A Message from Our State Chaplain, Keith Sartin

I challenge every Squad/Unit to send in an applicant for one of the awards. There is someone in your Squad/Unit that deserves an award for their loyalty, dedication, and commitment to your Squad/Unit, Community, and to the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads.

The nominations for this year should be turned in before August 15, and can be mailed or emailed.

John Stiles Award * Hugh Skip Trotter Award * Costo McGhee Award *
Lifetime Membership * John H. Bird Valor Award

Mail to:
TARS Awards Committee
c/o Keith Sartin, Chairman
515 Wilson Street
Lenoir City, TN 37771

If you email the nomination, please send in a PDF and a Word document.

Email to:
TARSChaplain@bcrs.org

Memorial Service Plaques information needs to be in by August 15th to the State Office. This is if your Squad\Unit has had a death between August 1, 2016 and August 1, 2017. Please invite the families to the Memorial Service.

Mail to:
State Office
2906 Tazewell Pike, Suite B
Knoxville, TN 37918

John 15:13
Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

A Message from Our Region II Vice President, Jim Houston

As we go from winter to spring, I would like for you to think back to our Region II meeting and class day, held in February.

If you were unable to attend Brian Robinson's class, Dealing with Death and Dying, you missed out on a very interesting class. The class is really beneficial for members of your squad who run calls. There were 92 members in attendance. After the class, Bledsoe County Rescue Squad hosted the Region II meeting with the roll call showing 195 members, 12 state officers and 20 squads present.

The Region II meeting in June will be hosted by **Rhea County Rescue Squad** and will be held at the high school. Make plans now to attend and represent your squad. Please give your upcoming host squad a courtesy call to let them know how many members from your squad plan to attend.

We still have a selection of college classes that you can attend. These classes are set up to help you and your squad, as well as the people you serve.

Have a safe summer, stay cool, and call me if I can be of help.

Jim Houston, Region II VP

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A Message From Our Region III Vice President, Charlie Tollison

Hello Everyone:

Tis time for another letter, and thankfully, there have been no Region call-outs. But now is the time to push the issue of **USING** and **WEARING** seatbelts and life jackets.

Please remember to call your Region meeting host and give them the number that is attending the June meeting.

Over the past couple of years, I have been asked a question, by a few people, and I am going to try and answer it with a statement of which will sound familiar.

Ask not: "What does the Association do for Me?"

But: "Do I, as a Rescue Squad, provide all the rescue services to the citizens and visitors of my county, that I can?"

Go through the list of TARS College Classes, and if there is one discipline of rescue that is not provided in your county, by yourself or another agency, then you have your answer to the original question.

"TRAINING"

Charlie Tollison, Region III VP

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

-- George Bernard Shaw

Message from Our State Training Coordinator, Brian Robinson

I would like to thank all of the members of TARS for their support and willingness to move the TARS Rescue College Training Program forward. As I have stated prior, this is “YOUR” training program. A lot of folks have stepped up and offered support in many ways to get things moving again and to get TARS back in the saddle.

There are a multitude of classes scheduled for the remainder of the year. Additional classes are being coordinated and added each and every day. The best place to keep track of what’s new is either via the website under the RESCUE COLLEGE tab, or through the TARS FACEBOOK page. Additionally, through the support of our partners at VFIS Corporate, Mark Bowery and Steve Frost, TARS will be offering live instructor-led online classes related to certain subjects. This is a sure-fire way to not only save your agency and TARS money, but also to be able to get much needed training without ever leaving home. I am still working the kinks out of the system, so stay tuned!

Convention will be here before we know it, and there are a few upcoming changes based on your feedback. You MUST register your teams for the competitions prior to convention in order to plan for the needed vehicles, props, etc. The prior rule of a maximum of two teams per agency per competition will be enforced this year for Basic Extrication, Emergency Medical Care, and the Team Building Rescue Challenge. Also, due to duplication of efforts, the Rescue Challenge Competition and the Team Building Competition will be combined into the Team Building Rescue Challenge Competition. Please don’t let the title fool you or scare you off. All of the competitions are designed to showcase your agency’s talents, as well as to allow you to have fun and learn at the same time. As in past years, expect the unexpected...

See you in class!

Brian Robinson

2017 Convention & EMS Symposium Music Road Hotel & Convention Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

- Symposium October 4-5, 2017
- Convention October 6-7, 2017

Room Rates for the convention are:

Tuesday Night: \$126.50

Wednesday – Saturday: \$136.50

Convention Hotel Reservations must be made by September 3, 2017 in order to receive the above rates. Any reservations made after this date will be at the regular published rate.

For Reservations:

1-855-875-9100 (Request TN Association of Rescue Squads room block)
For online reservations, copy and paste this link into your web browser:
goo.gl/st6ptY

If you are booking more than 5 rooms under your name or squad, please contact Heather Sims, Group Rooms Coordinator, at 865-286-1782 or by email at hsims@musicroadresort.com to make your reservation process easier.

Tax exempt:

If you are seeking to be tax exempt for your stay, you must provide a Tennessee Department of Revenue Tax Exempt form AND pay with a Squad check or Squad Credit Card matching that form. **Personal funds, credit cards, or cash cannot be used to pay for tax exempt items.** Once you make your reservations, please fax your tax exempt form **WITH EACH RESERVATION CONFIRMATION** written on the form to: Heather Sims 865-286-2236.

Early arrivals or stay-overs:

For individuals wishing to arrive early during the week, or stay over past Saturday night, it is recommended that you contact the reservations department direct at 1-800-875-9100 and speak to a reservation agent to make your arrangements. All room types may not have been blocked for the dates you wish to stay, and the rate may be different.

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

--Ronald Reagan

2017 Convention Hotel Information



Music Road Resort offers a sense of an authentic Southern charm through a luxurious Hotel experience, gracious Southern Hospitality, and exceptional attention to detail. Nestled against the natural setting of the Little Pigeon River, the Resort's elegant accommodations offer complimentary

deluxe breakfast and private balconies, easy access to over 40+ area attractions, indoor pools with hot tubs and fun. In addition, our guest only Water Parks will compliment your time spent in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. For more information regarding the hotel, visit their website: musicroadresort.com.

Thursday Night Entertainment

This year's Thursday night dinner event will be a Low Country Boil with a band, held in the Music Road Hotel's lower parking lot. The fabulous feast will include shrimp and sausage, or BBQ chicken, with potatoes, corn on the cob, dessert, and a drink. We will have some potatoes and corn that are not cooked with the shrimp, in case any attendees have food allergies. Tables and chairs will be provided for those that will be eating with us. Prices for the dinner are included on the pre-registration form in this newsletter.

For those not wanting to enjoy the delicious meal, please bring a chair, enjoy the band, and network with your peers.

A Message from Our State Parliamentarian, Jimmy Peoples

It's amazing how time flies! It seems as if only yesterday I was writing a note for the January edition of Rescue Line.

I wish to express my appreciation to every squad and individual that helped with the By-law revision just completed. Hopefully these will be an asset to keep us updated on how to carry on the business of TARS.

My challenge to you is to keep in mind that times are "changing fast." With that, I would like to encourage everyone to remember that these changes are our perceptions of organizational growth. If anyone has ideas of how we might improve our organization, or to keep up with the current trend, please discuss your ideas with your squad and submit your thoughts and/or ideas. For proposed changes to our By-laws, Constitution, or Code of Ethics, when I receive your properly documented request, I will immediately submit it to the Ways & Means and By-Law committees as prescribed.

As always, it's an honor to work with and serve this great organization.

Jimmy Peoples, State Parliamentarian



A Message from Our Region I Vice President, Stacy Large

Hello folks. I hope everyone is doing good, and staying safe on calls. By the time you read this, Region travels should be behind us. Thank you to Region I for allowing me to represent you this year, and the five before. I have enjoyed it! So sit back, and enjoy my thoughts and ramblings.

#1 - Your Local Organization

Get involved! If you're one of those who only comes around now and again, get more involved, attend meetings to be heard, help expand your organization, and step up on your local training. As an individual, you are only as good as the last training session you attended. When was that? We are no longer training on model T's.

#2 - Training

When was the last time you or someone in your organization came to a state-level training through Rescue College? As a member of the Training Committee and an instructor, I can tell you Brian is doing a good job improving upon our classes. Folks are coming from out-of-state to take our training, and also to assist as instructors. I've had the opportunity to travel and assist more with training this year. I've had the pleasure of meeting these fine folks, and working with them to train your personnel to assist your communities.

#3 - The Association

Get involved! This is your association. Help it grow! Talk to your Unit Director and get them involved. They are your part of the association's voice. Hold them accountable. Don't be afraid to talk to the state officers. Call us, email us. We value your opinion. Just like you, we want to see your organization and the association grow and continue to be a vital part of the emergency services in Tennessee and neighboring states in times of need.

#4 - Convention

Convention will be here before we know it. Plan to attend. Assemble a team for each of the competitions. Create a scrapbook to showcase your department. We also need volunteers to assist with competitions, the ballot tables, and to run errands. Contact your Region VP, or any of the other officers, if you can spare some time to help. Every dept. has someone that meets the criteria for the Convention awards. Nominate them. Make the Awards Committee work harder this year. Come to the memorial service. This is an opportunity for us to say goodbye to our sisters and brothers who have passed in the last year. Also, plan to attend the general meeting on Saturday to elect officers for 2017-2018. Each individual has 1 vote, and each dept., through your Unit Director, has 5 votes. With all that said, I look forward to serving you for the rest of the year, and possibly new endeavors for the next year! Stay safe!!!!

The most dangerous phrase in the language is "We've always done it this way."
Grace M. Hopper, Rear Admiral, United States Navy

2017 TARS EMS SYMPOSIUM

October 4-5

Registration Form

One name per registration form please. Copy as needed. This registration form is only good for the Symposium. On-site registration is subject to availability.

Name

Title: ___ EMT-P ___ EMT-IV ___ EMTA ___ EMR ___ EMD ___ RN

Organization

Street Address

City

State

Zip

_____ \$95 Symposium Only

_____ \$105 Symposium Only (If paying after September 1, 2017)

Mail completed registration form and check / money order
(payable to TARS) to:

TARS State Office
2906 Tazewell Pike, Suite B
Knoxville, TN 37918

You may also register online at www.tnars.org

2017 TARS EMS Symposium – October 4 & 5

Save the date and make plans now to attend the 7th Annual TARS EMS Symposium. We have a great line up of speakers and topics scheduled for you this year. Seating for the symposium is limited to 200 participants.

Wednesday, October 4:

- 7:00 - Registration
- 8:00 - Welcome
- 8:15 - Dr. Russ Langdon, UT Medical Center
- 9:15 - Oceana Bratton, ETCH – “When Band-Aids Aren’t Enough”
Pediatric Pain Management
- 10:15 - Break (Visit Vendors)
- 10:45 - Dustin Housewright, Eastman Fire Department –
Carbon Dioxide (The Silent Killer)
- 11:45 - Lunch on your own
- 1:15 - Todd Spence – Sevier County EMS - Tactical Trauma Medicine
- 2:15 - Dr. Sudave Menidiratta, Erlanger – “Getting High in 2017: Emerging
Trends in Substance Abuse”
- 3:15 - Break (Visit Vendors)
- 3:45 - Robert Galvin, Air EVAC – Effects of Trauma on Our Profession
- 4:45 - Adjourn

Thursday, October 5:

- 8:00 - Welcome / Announcements
- 8:15 - Joe Campbell, TWRA – Boating Collisions
- 9:15 - Angie Bowen, REAC/TS – Considerations in Pediatric Mass
Casualty Incidents
- 10:15 - Break (Visit Vendors)
- 10:45 - E. Stacy Prater, Erlanger Life Force Child Abuse and Neglect
- 11:45 - Lunch on your own
- 1:15 – Jennifer Dindo, Monroe Carrell Jr Children’s Hospital
Pediatric Case Studies
- 2:15 - Todd Derrick, Oak Ridge Fire Dept. – Chemical Suicide
- 3:15 - Break (Visit Vendors)
- 3:45 – Debbie Harrell, Shriners Children’s Hospital – Pediatric Burns
- 4:45 - Adjourn

A Message from Our Past President, Kevin “Bucky” Ayers

Hello to all TARS members and their families. I hope the year has been a progressing one and all are staying safe. The approaching summer months means more outdoor activities and family vacations, and therefore more action for emergency responders. Be prepared for whatever might happen. Watch out for your members and see that they stay in good physical shape.

As most things in our lives need to change and adapt to the passing of time, the same is true of TARS. The training now being offered is moving forward, which is a good start because as responders, our first step to responding to calls is being trained in what we do. But we have to keep up with the times in more ways than just training.

The costs required to run a business these days is significantly more than it was 20 years ago, or even 10. How far behind do we allow ourselves to get, until we never hope to catch up to progress? So many other agencies charge far more than we do for joining and continuing membership, and what do you get for those fees? No one wants to pay more, but look at how much money each and every one of us wastes every day, whether contributed to a habit of tobacco usage, or drinking 2-3 soft drinks a day. Just think: if you set aside the cost of 2 soft drinks per week, and do that for a month, it would pay the TARS membership dues. If you do that for 12 months, that would give \$150.00 a year. By increasing the dues, the officers are trying to save the organization and allow for future growth. I understand several of you feel you get nothing for the dues you pay now, but you will never get anything if you don’t start utilizing the resources that are already available to you. Please look at where the organization will be in the near future if we don’t start looking forward and begin planning for what is to come.

Writing this for Rescue Line stirs up a lot of thoughts and strong feelings. For the last 9 years, I have served as a State Officer in the greatest organization anywhere. Why is it the greatest? Because every one of you who serves as a VOLUNTEER or PAID servant does so to help someone in their time of need, no matter what it involves. In this organization, it doesn’t matter where you are, someone will be there to help you if you ask. Sometimes you don’t even have to ask. Last June, at all of the Region meetings, each of you showed your heart. Through your kindness and caring, you gave a lot to myself and my wife after a long month of battling brain surgery. She and I will be forever grateful to each and every one of you for all you did. When I joined Greeneville Rescue in 1999, I never dreamed of going to the ranks as an officer or even President, but with everyone’s support, I am so glad I accomplished a task that I could only look at as a dream. Come this October, my term will end, and life will go on, but I will always be a strong supporter for the GREATEST ORGANIZATION ever. So stay safe and give your all to whatever life leads you on.

Kevin “Bucky” Ayers

A Message from Our State Secretary, Dujuana Naylor

Hello everyone. I hope this finds all of you healthy and happy.

I know that most of you have heard the song lyrics “Where did you come from, where did you go?” Well, have you ever thought about how that applies to us as an organization? We take time to learn where people are from, but often wonder where they have gone when we no longer see them at events.

Through the years as a member of Hardeman County Rescue Squad and TARS, I have seen people come and go, as I’m sure the rest of you have. I have often asked their fellow squad members where they were, and have gotten such replies as: “They decided rescue was not for them,” or “They have gone to a fire, police or EMS agency.” In asking this question, I have learned something very valuable to me: in a lot of situations we – TARS as a whole – are responsible for the foundations that so many have built their lives on. I have heard our Keynote and guest speakers say that they too started their careers as TARS members, and I must say, this makes my heart swell with pride. Unfortunately, I have also seen instances where people have used us as a stepping stone as well. However, even in those instances, I still take pride in knowing that even though they might have forgotten where they came from, we/TARS are still at the foundation of their lives.

I am proud to be one of those people who have TARS as a foundation, and I am thankful for all that I have learned, and for my extended family. My challenge to you is to remember where you came from. Always appreciate those who mentored and taught you by letting them know that they made a difference in the building of your foundation. With TARS as our foundation, those lyrics should be “where did we come from, and where can we go?” Keep moving forward, and never forget where you came from.

I look forward to seeing you at Convention. Be ready for more educational fun and fellowship. Submit your award nominations to Keith Sartin, and your intent to compete forms to Brian Robinson, so we can continue to make your Convention memorable. As many of you know, I have served you in the capacity of State Historian and Secretary over the past several years. This year, with your assistance and blessings, I will be seeking the office of State Vice-President. It will be an honor to move up and follow in the footsteps of those before me, as well as to see TARS continue to grow.

May God bless you,

Dujuana Naylor, State Secretary

2017 CONVENTION, PIGEON FORGE, TN

The 62nd Annual TARS Convention and 8th Annual EMS Symposium will be held October 4-7, 2017 at the Music Road Hotel and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, TN. The pre-registration form and the Hotel Reservation information are included in this newsletter. Please take care of these items early to avoid delays or possible sellouts.

Contests: Some contests scheduled are the Vehicle Extrication Contest, the Rescue Challenge, the Emergency Care contest, the (EVOC) Emergency Driving Contest, and the Rambling Rescue Race. Don’t forget the Corn Hole and the Turn-Out Gear Competitions. Rules and entry forms have been sent to your squad, so get with some fellow members and enter. It’s guaranteed to be fun!!!!

Challenge Coins: The 62nd Anniversary Challenge Coins are in, and everyone that registers for the Convention will receive one coin with their registration packet.

Pre-Registration Fees:

Package A - \$45 per person, which includes your registration fee, name badge, and “Fun Night” ticket.

Package B - \$65 per person, which includes your registration fee, name badge, “Fun Night” ticket, and Awards Banquet ticket.

Extra Banquet tickets will be available to Non-TARS/WATARS guests of registered members at a cost of \$45 each. Children, ages 5-10 - \$10 each.

Thursday, October 5, 2017 - 7:15 PM – Low Country Shrimp Boil and Band
Adult tickets - \$20 Child ticket (ages 5-10) - \$5

After September 16, 2017: Package A - \$55, Package B - \$75, Extra Banquet Ticket - \$45

Please make hotel reservations as soon as possible. Their reservation numbers are listed here along with the room rate information. Remember, check-in is typically after 3:00 PM, so please do not make a reservation and arrive at noon, expecting your room to be ready. Let’s remember that we are guests in the Host City and that Courtesy is Contagious. It is up to each of us to leave a good impression of our Organization wherever we visit.