

## *Spotlight On . . . A Few Parting Thoughts and Wishes of Progress*

*By Steve Carden*

My tenure as Executive Director is coming to a close. I have weathered my Chemo treatments and following a hopeful successful surgery, I expect to convalesce several months and then enjoy a little slower paced life.

My thanks for the past two decades to this organization, and you the individual members that make TARS what it is. I have deep gratitude and respect for many who have served this organization as officers over the years.

In singling out a few of the many, I admire the ethics of President Jim Williamson, Vice President Kenny Blaker, State Treasurer Doug Warren,

Chaplain Roy Goddard, and Past President Bill Robbins. *Thank you for your past and continued service.* A great debt is owed by me to Rose Beckner, our State Office Manager, for her unwavering loyalty to both myself and our Association. Please express your thanks to her as well when you have the opportunity.

I hope to see many of you if possible at the convention in Pigeon Forge this fall. All the information including reservations and registration forms are included in this newsletter.

Come and take part in supporting your Association. *"MAY GOD SPEED"*.

### **TARS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** Jim Williamson

This year is flying by very fast, we are already past the June Region meetings and Convention is closing in on us. Thank you to the hosts of the June Region meetings on a job well done and for your continued dedication to our organization.

The Sevier Co. Rescue Squad is planning an exciting convention in Pigeon Forge; we all need to make plans on being there to let them know how much we appreciate their efforts.

This is not only a time for our organizations to shine in the many competitions, but there are numerous individual accomplishments to be acknowledged. If you have any people that you want to

nominate for an award, get with your Region Vice President and please be mindful of the deadlines.

I have been very humbled, honored, proud and grateful to serve as your State President these past two years. There have been a lot of great experiences, trying times, sad moments, frustrating situations and many health concerns to be dealt with, but through it all we can still come together and find some common ground to work out our differences. We have the **GREATEST** Organization that anyone could be a part of, bar none. We should continue to strive into our next fifty years and make a positive influence on those people's paths we cross.

### **TARS STATE VICE PRESIDENT** KENNY BLAKER

Hello Everyone, It's about time for convention again. I urge everyone to try to make it to Pigeon Forge, it's always a good time, bring your family and make it a vacation week-end.

Be sure and get your teams ready to compete, it is good to see new teams competing so don't feel like you can't compete just because you never have before, it is open to everyone. We have introduced a new Vehicle Extrication class if you have not had the opportunity to take the class, I urge everyone to do so.

This is going to be a big year for the Association, we will be starting the year off with a new Executive Director, and I urge everyone to introduce your self to him.

I would like to *Thank Everyone* in the Association for letting me serve as your Region II Vice President, and the last two years as your State Vice President, this year I will be seeking the office of State President.

I have enjoyed working with all of the officer's in the past and I am looking forward to working with them in the future, if you feel I am the person for the job, I would appreciate your support and will do the best of my ability to help the Association move forward.

*Thank You All* for your support that you have given me since I have been a State Officer, hope to see everyone at the convention.

*Please keep Steve Carden in your prayers and . . .  
"MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!"*

Here we are with nearly a half of 2009 already gone, and to say the least it has been a challenging year for myself and even for a lot of our seasoned officers. To be a TARS officer is something that has been way beyond my beliefs in this organization. I hope I have served this organization to the standards that should have been because they are a lot of people in TARS that I have a lot of respect for and I hope someday I myself can get the same from them and other members in this great organization.

Before you know it will be October and time for the TARS Convention, so start getting plans made to attend and get those teams ready for competition that will be happening on Friday & Saturday. You will never know how well your Squad may do if you don't try, its all for fun anyway...

morning to pay our respect to those that has served this organization with great pride.

Training is now underway and I hope you can come out to get some of the best training offered, so start looking at what Rescue College classes are offered and get your name in. A lot of classes fill up quick so again do this as soon as possible. If at any time I can be of assistance to anyone feel free to get in touch with me and I will do what ever I can to help, because this is what we all are in here to do is help people and if we can't help each other then we can't help someone who is really in need.

So hope to see each and everyone at Pigeon Forge for the 2009 Convention.

*"Stay Safe and take care all."*

Also please remember the Memorial Service on Saturday

<b>TARS State Historian</b>	<b>Dujuana Weaver</b>
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Hello All. I hope everyone is having a safe and wonderful summer and that all of you have been busy getting your scrapbooks ready for convention. Don't forget that the deadline for your pictures to go into the TARS Scrapbook is August 15<sup>th</sup>. This also counts towards your total score in the scrapbook competition. So get those photos to me as soon as possible.

Also, while enjoying summer remember to take care of yourselves and of each other. If you work a call and it bothers you more than normal talk to someone, or if you notice that a call seems to have bothered a fellow member talk to them.

Let them know that you are there for them. We always take care of those who are hurt, whether we know them or not, but for some reason we forget to take care of one another. It's ok to say that working a bad call has bothered you and its ok not to be the "tough guy." God gave us all the compassion to do the jobs we do as rescue personnel and he also gave us each other to lean on when the heartaches from the compassion get to heavy for us to bare. Again take care of yourselves and of each other and I'll see you at convention.

*"May God bless and keep you always. "*

# **\*\* 2009 CONVENTION IN PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE\*\***

The 54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TARS CONVENTION will be held October 1 – 3, 2009 at the Music Road Hotel in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Pre-Registration form and Hotel reservation information are included in this newsletter. Please take care of these items early to help avoid delays or possible sell-outs.

The Music Road Hotel and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee is conveniently located just off the Parkway @Traffic Light #1 and is surrounded by local attractions and restaurants. All of their functions will be held on site, so your attendance at the meetings, exhibits, and contests will be only a few moments walk from each other.

## **CONTESTS**

Some contests scheduled are the Vehicle Extrication contests, the Rescue Challenge, the Emergency Care Contest, the (EVOC) Emergency Driving Contest, and The Rambling Rescue Race. Don't forget the Horseshoe 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!!!*

## **TRAINING**

According to experts, the most critical safety issue at the scene of a large animal incident is the responders' lack of knowledge of and experience around large animals. Most Emergency Responders in North America live and work in urban or areas and have little contact with large animals such as horses, but thousands of these critters pass through their jurisdictions ever year. Even if you work in the downtown area of a large city, sooner or later you could get that dreaded call. A trailer rollover! If you are first to arrive on the scene and assume command, would you know how to handle the animals involved? Most rescue personnel don't. . .

The seminar is scheduled for 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Be sure to indicate on your pre-registration form your plans to attend Thursday's training seminar. A Seminar certificate with 0.3 CEUs will be awarded to attendees. Cost is only \$10 with conference Pre-registration. Seminar by itself or at the door is \$20. Classroom activity only, casual dress is acceptable.

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

This year's Evening Outing is a trip to Dolly Parton's "Dixie Stampede" Dinner and Show, it is complete with music, dancing, side-splitting comedy, and a patriotic finale that will move you to your feet. Join us for an

exciting new addition, "Skeeter's Big Event" that is sure to thrill both new and returning guests. You will get all of this fun plus a delicious four-course meal for one great price. The cost is only \$40 for Adults and \$28 for kids ages 4-11. Price includes transportation and gratuity. Our buses will depart the Hotel by 7:00 pm and return around 10:30 pm. Your boarding pass will be in your registration packet.

Pre-registration is required. Seating is limited for this event, so be sure and complete your form and enclose the proper fee to join this fun event. Your ticket will be in your registration packet and may be picked up at the TARS desk at the Main Hotel Lobby between 4:00 - 5:00 pm Thursday afternoon. *Be sure and complete the pre-registration form and enclose the proper amount to join the crowd for this exciting event!*

## **PRE-REGISTRATION FEES ARE:**

(PACKAGE 'A') \$25 per person, which includes your registration fee, name badge, and Fun-Night ticket.

(PACKAGE 'B') \$50 per person, which includes your registration fee, name badge, Fun-Night ticket and Awards Banquet ticket.

(PACKAGE 'C') BANQUET TICKETS will be available only to Non-TARS/WATARS guests of registered members at a cost of \$35 each.

## **THURSDAY, October 1**

"Dixie Stampede Adult: \$40 Child 4-11: \$28

\* (After September 10) - Pkg A is \$35, Pkg. B is \$60,  
Pkg. C- Extra Banquet ticket is \$40.

Your reservations at the hotel need to be made as soon as possible. Their reservation numbers are listed here along with room rate information. Remember check - in time at the Hotel is typically after 3:00 pm, so please do not make a reservation and arrive at 12:00 Noon and expect your room to be available. Let's remember that we are a guest 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.

*On behalf of our State Officers and our Convention Host, we hope to have an exciting and enjoyable convention for YOU.*

**WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU THERE!!!**





*\*\* We are pleased that you are joining us at our 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
October 1 – 3, 2009 in Pigeon Forge, Tn\*\**



Music Road Hotel & Convention Center  
303 Henderson Chapel Road  
Pigeon Forge, Tn 37863  
Phone: (865) 429-7700 or Toll Free (800) 429-7700  
[www.musicroadhotel.com](http://www.musicroadhotel.com)



Music Road Inn & Convention Center  
314 Henderson Chapel Road  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863  
Phone: (865) 429-8803 or Toll Free (866) 429-8803  
[www.musicroadinn.com](http://www.musicroadinn.com)

**Reservations**

Located at Traffic Light # 1 Pigeon Forge, Tn

**ROOM RATE: \$119 -- \$129 plus tax per night Fri & Sat**  
*Early arrivals Wed. & Thurs. \$79 - \$89 per night plus tax.*

**For Reservations at either hotel call: 1-800-429-7700**  
*Reservation CUT-OFF DATE to reserve rooms is Aug. 29 call early!!!*

*Please specify you are attending the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads Convention for the TARS Rate and which hotel you prefer. Both are located next to the Convention Center.*

**All rooms have private balconies, refrigerators, micro-waves, iron, ironing boards & coffee makers.  
Both hotels have 24 hour indoor pools and a 17 item Continental Breakfast.**