

Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads
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Executive Director's Comments

Happy New Year! Along with the new year comes improved services and opportunities for our members. We have been working diligently the past few months to streamline and improve our services online and in the office to better assist our members. One of the biggest improvements that you will see is the new website at www.tnars.org. We have totally redesigned our website to provide better information, aesthetics, overall ease of navigation and ease of registering for events such as Rescue College Classes, Region Meetings, Captain and Unit Director Meetings, and Convention. We have some more ideas that we will discuss with the Captain and Unit Directors to get their feedback on. So take a few moments if you haven't already and visit the website.

Our legislatures are now back in session and we are working on some things to help our members. They are just now getting back into the swing of things, and we hope to have some information to you at the Region Meetings.

One of the biggest opportunities we have for our membership is training. We encourage you to continue to improve your training experiences. The more you know the better you are prepared to serve your community. Everything you do in training, improves yourself and your squad. If you only learn one thing in a class, that one thing may save a patient's life.

Start the new year with good things, be safe, work well with others, stay healthy, and I hope you have a great year!

Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

John F. Kennedy

The Presidents Page – State President Dale Dodds

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season for 2018 and everyone is ready to get back to business. I believe that we had a great year and a fantastic Squad Convention which can be credited to everyone working very hard to make TARS the best option for training in and around Tennessee! Stacy, Brian, Shannon, State Officers and all of our many dedicated volunteers have made a difference.

Brian will no doubt talk about training but we all should be very proud of the job that Brian and his team of volunteers have done for us, we are once again being noticed by all the right people and they are interested in getting on board with us and that is a big deal!

Stacy and Shannon have really streamlined our office to promote better tracking and response to agencies and instructors to get paperwork back to the agencies faster and more efficiently.

I really hope that everybody will be able to come to our region meetings this year. There will be a lot of information passed along about training and our new endeavors in TARS, which will make us even more visible to everyone needing training in the Rescue field.

This is a great time to be in TARS and a great time to get our friends and neighbors to join TARS from departments around us. Please spread the word and let them look into TARS and join with us moving forward as we grow to the next level. I know of several conversations taking place which will bring squads back into TARS that have elected to get out over the years. I honestly believe we will all see growth in 2019. I am once again talking to the squads who have seen an increase in membership to see what they have been doing that can help us grow so I can pass it along to everyone.

Once again thank you all for letting me be your President, it is a great honor and I will try to do the best job I possibly can in my final year. See everyone soon!!

Thank you,
S. Dale Dodds

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A Message from Our State Vice President, Dujuana Naylor

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and made some amazing memories. First off I want to thank each of you for electing me as your Vice President. It is an honor to continue to serve you and this organization. Again I make no promises other than to do my best and to try to do what is in the best interest of TARS.

Remember teamwork makes the dream work so please continue to support your Officers and the Training Committee by being evolved. Crucial elements of teamwork and a great team are: patience, loyalty, communication, hard work, and play. Rudyard Kilpling wrote: "For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack." Not every member of the pack aspires to be the boss. Some prefer to be steady hunters, caretakers or scouts. But each has a crucial role to play as a part of the team. Are you a leader, a scout or a caretaker? This year I challenge you to find your role and perform it to the best of your ability.

May God bless you and I look forward to seeing each of you during region travels.



A Message from Our Region IV Vice President, David Tuck

Hello members in the greatest organizations in the state. This year was another successful one for us in the RESCUE COLLEGE. Thank each and every one of you for coming and training to become better fire/rescue personnel. The hard work pays off not for us but for the citizens in our communities that supports us. Convention went well and the training opportunities keep getting better each year. One thing I witnessed that discourages me is the attitudes that are displaced during these events. If someone beats you all it means is someone trained harder than you did. The point is we are family no matter what we should be learning from one another. It should not matter if it is training, competitions, or on the scene it is not about us it is about them.

A BAD ATTITUDE IS LIKE A FLAT TIRE

IF YOU NEVER CHANGE IT YOU'LL NEVER GO ANYWHERE.

I hope everyone had time well spent with their families during the holidays, without their backing we would never survive what we do. Look forward to seeing all of you in 2019.

Region IV VP

David Tuck.



A Message from Our State Treasurer, Ross Musgrave

As I write this article, I'm busy scrambling around getting ready for the holidays as I'm sure you were when this was written. There's so much to do, gifts to buy, family gathering to plan, travel arrangements to make and so many other things to take up our days.

I hope each of you had a wonderful and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am excited about the direction that the association is moving. Training is booming, sometimes with classes going on in both ends of the state on the same weekend. We are lucky to have a dedicated group of college instructors helping us in this endeavor.

Your state officers are working hard to make TARS even better. I realize that sometime that work is not apparent to you, but rest assured they are working to improve our association. Our reputation is expanding not only in Tennessee but literally all over the country.

I hope you all are excited about the New Year. I hope you are making big plans for your local squad as well as your personal life. The New Year brings us the chance to make new resolutions. Can I be more involved in my squad? Can I be a better employee at my job? Can I just be a better person?

I challenge you to pick at least one of these areas and strive to be better in 2019 than you were in 2018.

I hope you all enjoy the winter season, and I look forward to seeing you at the region meetings in February.

Membership Dues Reminder

Membership Dues were due on
January 1st, 2019 and are considered
late after March 1st.

A Message from Our State Historian, Tim Moss

Dear TARS Members,

First of all I hope that each and everyone one of you have had a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Also, I am very humbled and excited to be your TARS Historian for 2018-1019. This year we have a lot great things on the horizon and I look forward to sharing it with you. If your squad or department has anything they want included in the state scrap book, be sure to send them to me. Also, if you have any events or stories you would like shared on the TARS Facebook page let me know or send us a message. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

Finally, with the new year upon us, I am sure everyone has made out their new year resolutions. But, I do hope that each one of you have decided to dedicate 2019 as a year of training. Try to take a college level class and expand your knowledge. Take the free class offered in the February Region meetings. I look forward to training and seeing everyone in the upcoming year.

Tim Moss

TARS Historian

2018 CAPTAIN / UNIT DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

DoubleTree Hotel, Murfreesboro – 5:00 PM CST March 23, 2019
DoubleTree Hotel, Murfreesboro - 5:00 PM CST July 20, 2019
Music Road Hotel, Pigeon Forge - 3:00 PM EST October 4, 2019

March and July's Captain/ Unit 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 - \$99.00 per night, Double Room - \$99.00 per night.

Please call 615-895-5555 for reservations at the Doubletree Hotel and tell them you are with the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads.

A Message from Our Region I Vice President, Rusty Rotenberry

Greetings TARS Members,

As we embark on a new year lets us take a moment and reflect over 2018 and remember family, friends and fellow squad members. Let's remember those that are no longer with us and their families as well. I would also like to extend a challenge to each of you, take every opportunity you can to attend any training session offered by TARS.

To help you meet this challenge our TARS Training Coordinator will be putting together a training schedule for the year that will be posted so you can plan accordingly. Sign up early for these classes to ensure your spot in class. I realize that money is tight so be sure to apply for the Steven Carden Foundation grants that are available to squad members each year.

I would also like to ask that TARS Unit Directors please attend all Captain & Unit Director's meetings, you hold a valuable position and represent your squad. Please encourage your squads' members to attend the Region meetings as well, so they are aware of changes within TARS and see the new opportunities that are available. One training opportunity is a Rehab class that will be presented by VSIF at the region meetings in February.

This new year will bring new and exciting opportunities to our profession. As a volunteer we need to take pride in what we do and what we stand for in our communities. Take every opportunity possible to train and learn to keep our skills sharp so when called upon we can provide the best help and assistance possible to those in need. Happy New Year and thank you to everyone and above all be safe out there

Rusty Rotenberry, Region 1 VP

If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living.

Gail Sheehy

A Message from Our State Parliamentarian, Jimmy Peoples

Fellow squad officers and members

It is time to fire up the engines and get rolling toward another great year for you, your squad/unit and TARS. This great organization just didn't happen overnight. It took years of hard work and knowledge from everyone to make it what it is today. So, take your hand and put it over your shoulder and pat yourself on the back for a job well done.

With that said, I have a quote on my wall in the office, and it is as follows. "WHAT LIES BEHIND US AND WHAT LIES BEFORE US ARE SMALL MATTERS COMPARED TO WHAT LIES WITHIN US."

What's within you? This year will tell if we are content to sit on our past laurels or plow new ground to continue to grow our own squad/unit and TARS.

I especially challenge our Unit Directors to attend all meetings and bring the information back home to share with your squad/unit so everyone will be aware of what has happened, is happening and what we plan for the future.

I believe everyone is aware of the process to update, delete or add to our By-Law's. This is our constitutional right to continue to grow the greatest organization in the Great State of Tennessee.

Ways to keep in touch:

www.tnars.org

Like us on



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

tnassocrescuesquads

Stephen R. Carden Foundation Scholarships Now Available

The Stephen R. Carden Foundation is pleased to announce that we are once again able to award scholarships for TARS College Classes for the year 2018. If you are interested in applying for one of these scholarships email stacy@tnars.org. For questions, you may contact Stacy Rhodes at stacy@tnars.org or call the state office at 865-689-3256. You will need to fill out the form in its entirety and mail to the state office, or email to stacy@tnars.org by March 1, 2019. Incomplete forms and forms received after this date will not be considered. Applicants awarded scholarships will be notified by March 30, 2019.

Stephen R. Carden Foundation Update

The goal of the foundation is to provide some assistance to personnel and services who could not otherwise participate in training. We are still in need of funds so that we can provide more training to our fellow squads. In 2017 we awarded scholarships to 14 individuals who filled out forms for the available scholarships. We continue to adhere to the spirit of the founders' original intent and use the interest from the funds to support training programs.

We would like to thank the following charter members: Benton County Rescue Squad, Roy Goddard, George and Earlene Young, Union County Rescue Squad, Pull-Apart of Knoxville, and Al and Nancy Davila. Charter member status will be granted for any donation of \$1000 or more. Donations can be made by individuals, groups or organizations and can be made as honorariums or gifts.

Tax deductible donations can be made online with PayPal at www.tnars.org or by contacting the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads State Office at 865-689-3256.

Message from Our State Chaplain, Bobby Darnell

Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and ready for a great new year. One thing I want to work on this year is advancing our Honor Guard. We hope to have Honor Guard meetings/classes at each Region meeting. Times will be announced in the region meeting information letters. These meetings are for those interested in T.A.R.S. Honor Guard as well as those interested in their local squad Honor Guard. We will go over procedures for funerals as well as flag presentations.

Thank you for doing so much for others. Don't forget to take time for your family and yourself. And watch out for each other in your squads.

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



A Message from Our Region II Vice President, Keith Sartin

I would like to thank every member of Region II for allowing me to serve as your Region II Vice President. I look forward to working with everyone across the Great State of Tennessee. I have talked with a Captain or Unit Director of every squad in Region II. The February region II meeting will be hosted by Cumberland County Rescue Squad and the June meeting will be hosted by Morgan County Rescue Squad. The Region II meeting in February 2020 will be hosted by Chattanooga - Hamilton County. There will be a Rehab class on Saturday morning in Cumberland County.

This quote has a lot of meaning. This was a quote that Former Chief John Yu would always quote. This has always stuck with me. Always give your best.

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.
Stephen Grellet

Thank You,
Keith Sartin
Region II Vice President

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A Message from Our State Secretary, Jennifer Freeman

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! I hope everyone has enjoyed their time with family and friends over this holiday season.

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone that visited and bought merchandise from the John Bird store during the convention. This is the first year since I have been an officer that we ran out of items. We will have shirts back in stock for the region travels and I would encourage everyone to attend and buy items that we may have ran out of at the convention. As you all know, we buy limited quantities to be able to keep things new in the store. If you have a suggestions on things that you would like to see in the store please get with an officer and let us know and we will look into trying to get it.

I look forward to a great 2019 with TARS and hope you do as well. I will leave you with my thought of what I think of when I hear the word VOLUNTEER.

V - VIBRANT
O – OBEDIENT
L – LOYAL
U – USEFUL
N – NEIGHBORLY
T – TALENTED
E – EAGER
E – EMPATHETIC
R – RESPONSIBLE

State Secretary,
Jennifer Freeman

Message from Our State Training Coordinator, Brian Robinson

With the holidays behind us, it's time to look forward to 2019 and making ourselves and our agencies better and stronger. There will be some changes made in 2019 regarding the Rescue College classes and their accessibility which should make things much easier for your students and instructor staff within your agencies. Based on the surveys taken at last year's Annual Instructor Updates, we have decided to offer a total of two live on-site instructor led Saturday locations for those who wish to attend which will be positioned to combine Regions 1 and 2 on the eastern end and Regions 3 and 4 on the middle and western ends. In addition, we will be offering two separate on-line live instructor updates with one being during the week on a week day and another on a weekend day to allow those who wish to take the training on-line vs. travel to an actual training site. We will be transitioning in 2019 to attempt to eliminate the Friday night portions of most of the classes in response to reviews from our students, thus saving additional time off and an extra nights lodging for the volunteers and paid students alike.

We will also be changing the way you can register on-line and pay for your classes. We will be utilizing Eventbrite registration starting in 2019 so it's a very simple click and pay process that will be much easier to use than the prior on-line class registration process. The new Eventbrite registration will be attached to all Rescue College classes which brings me to my final update. The State Office staff has been working diligently with a web designer over the past several months and starting in early January the TARS website will have an entirely fresh look. The training classes for 2019 will be listed on the new site in an easier to read format and will have the Eventbrite registration link directly on the same page as the class information etc. I hope this make it simpler for you to register for classes and it will also notify you of a completed class registration. As always, failing to train is training to fail so get out and see what's new with TARS training in 2019!

Brian Robinson

2019 Convention & EMS Symposium - Reservations Music Road Hotel & Convention Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

- Symposium October 2-3, 2019
- Convention October 4-5, 2019

Host Hotels: Music Road Resort Hotel & Music Road Resort Inn
Group Room Rates starting at: \$140 per night + tax
(Early arrival rate on Tuesday, Oct 1st start at \$130 plus tax)

All hotel guests are charged first night stay upon making a reservation. If you are planning on making multiple reservations for other attendees in your name, you should be prepared for this deposit to be placed on each room at the time the reservations are made and confirmed. You must have a valid credit card ready when calling which can accept a charge for each room.

If you cannot use a card for additional reservations, you should have each attendee call and make their own reservations. If this is not possible, you can also request an estimated price and send a check from your organization totaling all first night room charges with a letter requesting that number of rooms from the required conference block for the number of nights required. If the organization is tax-exempt you should inform the reservation agent of this for a correct room amount. You should send the tax exempt information with your check. The reservations will be made and confirmed to you when the payment is received. Include your email address to receive confirmations electronically.

For multiple rooms with stays longer than 3 nights and Tax Exempt Reservation, please contact Vicky Cowden at 865-286-1782 directly.

2019 Convention Hotel Information



From our modern Convention Center to our outdoor water parks to our grand lobbies with fireplaces and inviting social areas, Music Road Resort is a very special place for families and couples to reconnect, friends to reunite, and executives to gather and collaborate. Here in the Great Smoky

Mountains of Pigeon Forge, TN, the spirit of Southern Hospitality is alive and well at a Hotel and Inn unlike any other. Let our family welcome you like family with everything you need to create special memories to last a lifetime. Start your day with our complimentary, fresh, hot breakfast in the Morning Room or Breakfast Room. At the Hotel, you'll enjoy fabulous views of the local wildlife from the Patio, and when you dine at the Inn, you'll have a great view of the Water Park. In addition to our signature "Cini-Minis" cinnamon rolls, breakfast features scrambled eggs, sausage, hot, fluffy biscuits and sausage gravy, and many more choices. After a day of travel, meetings, or checking out the sights and activities of Pigeon Forge, nothing beats a soak in our heated indoor pool and hot tub, which are available to guests 24/7. Complimentary to all guests, Music Road Resort Hotel Water Park features a 60-foot corkscrew waterslide, lazy river, diving board, mushroom fountain and a heated indoor pool and hot tub. Snacks and drinks are available at the Seasonal Cabana from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. For more information regarding the hotel, visit their website: musicroadresort.com.

February Region Meeting Information

- Region I – Kingsport Life Saving Crew
February 2nd, 2019
- Region II – Cumberland County Rescue Squad
February 9th, 2019
- Region III – Dickson County Fire & Rescue
February 16th, 2019
- Region IV – Humboldt Area Rescue Squad
February 23rd, 2019

READYOPS

ReadyOps is the system that we use to notify you (our members) of Association news, Training, Job Opportunities and other interesting and pertinent information in a fast, efficient, and inexpensive way. If you are not receiving emails from the State Office, you are missing out on a lot of information over the year. If you would like to receive these emails, please contact Shannon Lawson at shannon@tnars.org and she will get you added to the email list. If you have submitted your email and have not been receiving them, please contact Stacy Rhodes at stacy@tnars.org and we will get this corrected.