

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1st, 2008 through March 31st, 2009



PREPARED BY:

*Steve Gaston, Fire Chief (ret)
CFFCA Secretary/Treasurer*

APPROVED BY:

CFFCA EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President – James White, Vice-Pres – Gerard Ransom
District 1 – James Reynolds, District 2 – Craig Haun, District 3 – Robert King
District 4 – David Dobrzykowski, District 5 – Charles Chapman
Immediate Past-President – John Williamson*

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CFFCA MISSION STATEMENT

The Association's Mission is to promote proactive leadership throughout the Central Florida Fire, EMS and Emergency Services profession that establishes and supports common goals and objectives, cooperative partnership opportunities, and the professional development that meets the needs of its agencies, members, and the communities they serve.

More particularly, the spirit of our Mission is to bring together in a business and social environment those organizations and persons interested in the development of our profession and services through networking and educational opportunities.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[YEAR 2008-09]

PRESIDENT

John Williamson, Fire Chief
Winter Garden Fire Department

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jim White, Fire Chief
Winter Park Fire Department

DISTRICT - 1 (Orange) DIRECTOR

James Reynolds, Fire Chief
Orlando Fire Department

DISTRICT - 2 (Seminole) DIRECTOR

Gerard Ransom, Fire Chief
Sanford Fire Department

DISTRICT - 3 (Osceola) DIRECTOR

Robert King, Fire Chief
Kissimmee Fire Department

DISTRICT - 4 (Lake) DIRECTOR

David Dobrzykowski, Fire Chief
Minneola Fire Rescue Department

AT-LARGE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Charles Chapman, Fire Chief (ret)
Longwood Fire Department

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Craig Haun, Fire Chief
Lake Mary Fire Department

APPOINTED CFFCA OFFICERS

Steve Gaston, Fire Chief (ret)
Secretary/Treasurer

Ragan Vandegriff
Chaplain

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

(FIRE / BUILDING / LIFE SAFETY Issues)
Tony Apfelbeck, Fire Marshal/Building Official (Altamonte Springs)

(EMS / HEALTHCARE Issues)
Ray Colburn, Fire Chief (Reedy Creek Emergency Services)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Board of Directors

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Jerry Ransom, Fire Chief (Sanford) – BOARD Liaison
Tim Benton, Battalion Chief (Sanford)

SOCIAL EVENTS/FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

[Social Event Planning]
Charlie Chapman, Fire Chief (ret) CHAIR

[Fund Raiser Event Planning]
John Williamson, Fire Chief (Winter Garden)

NOMINATIONS and ELECTION COMMITTEE

Robert Sorenson – Orlando Fire Dept (Orange District)
Lars White – Oviedo Fire Rescue (Seminole District)
Bill Johnston – St. Cloud Fire Rescue (Osceola District)
John Jolliff – Lake County Fire Rescue (Lake District) CHAIR

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Steve Gaston, Fire Chief (ret) – Secretary/Treasurer
And Board of Directors

CFFCA LIFETIME MEMBERS [20]

Gene Reynolds	John Howe	Charlie Walker
Olin Strickland	Mike O'Dowd	Mitch Floyd
T.L. Siegfried	Larry Bell	Ron Strosnider
Mike Kelly	Bill Dryburgh	Charles Chapman
Paul W. Algeri	Randy Tuten	Richard Anderson
David Halstead	Steve Gaston	Stan Human
Charles Holzman	Wayne Martin	

CORPORATE PARTNERS

The following (22) Corporate Sponsors were CFFCA partners and have kindly and graciously supported of our CFFCA mission. Their friendship, partnership and financial support are very much appreciated.

THIRD Alarm Partners

**BENNETT FIRE PRODUCTS COMPANY
HALL-MARK FIRE APPARATUS
MUNICIPAL FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY
TEN 8 FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY
WHEELED COACH INDUSTRIES**

SECOND Alarm Partners

**FLORIDA DOOR SOLUTIONS
GLOBAL TRAFFIC TECHNOLOGUES
MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES (MSA)
SUTPHEN CORPORATION**

FIRST Alarm Partners

**1-800-BOARD-UP
ETR VEHICLES
FEDERAL SIGNAL CORPORATION
FERRARA FIRE APPARATUS, INC.
FIRE RESEARCH CORPORATION
FISHER SAFETY – Fire and Emergency Services
GLOBE MANUFACTURING
LION APPAREL – GOVERNMENT GROUP
MEDTRONIC Emergency Response Systems
NORTH AMERICAN FIRE EQUIP COMPANY
WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC.
ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION**

HONORARY Partner

HILTON ORLANDO/ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

CFFCA membership agencies are encouraged to support and/or use the services of these sponsors, consistent with the agency's local purchasing policies and regulations...

CFFCA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

No Nominations or Citations for the CFFCA Distinguished Service Award were presented during the reported Business Year of 2008-09.

RECOGNITION AWARDS – SERVICE TO ASSOCIATION

John Williamson, Fire Chief – Winter Garden
2007-09 CFFCA Past President's Gavel Award

James White, Fire Chief – Winter Park
2007-09 CFFCA Vice-President Award

Gerard Ransom, Fire Chief – Sanford
2003-09 CFFCA District 2 [Seminole County] Director Award

RETIRING FIRE CHIEFS – SERVICE PLAQUES

Stephen Chancey, Fire Chief – Greater Orlando Aviation Authority
18 Years of Service – GOAA
18 Years of Service – Orlando Fire Department
Date of Retirement – September 12th, 2008

AND

Roy Tremain, Fire Chief – Eustis Fire Department
14 Years of Service – Eustis FD
28 Years of Service – Mount Dora Fire Department
Date of Retirement – March 17th, 2009

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to the above chief officers....

PRESENTATION SPEAKERS – TOUCH ITEMS

CFFCA logo coffee mugs were presented throughout the year to each meeting speaker in recognition of their presentation and information provided to the CFFCA membership.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Florida Fire Chiefs' Association (CFFCA) serves Fire/EMS agencies throughout the Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Lake Counties. This geographical area currently consists of thirty-three (33) agencies. Twenty-nine (28) of these agencies are active member agencies. As of March 31st, 2009, the CFFCA Roster stands at one-hundred seventy-one (171) members in good standing from the previous year's 200 members. This represents a 15% decrease in memberships and directly related to the global budget crisis being experienced by all departments. Eleven (11) monthly meetings were held with a social luncheon held at the FFCA Summer Conference in Ponte Vedra Beach (FL). Meeting participation remained status quo from the previous year with only one (1) meeting falling just short of a required quorum.

An average of thirteen (13) agencies and thirty (30) members were present at each meeting. Ten (10) programs were scheduled and presented throughout the year to those in attendance. The July luncheon [held at the place of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association's Annual Summer Conference] continued to be a successful event with high attendance including visiting dignitaries from throughout Florida and the Nation. Our corporate partners remained very active in our monthly meetings by logging over 55 visits last year, including three (3) Third Alarm Partner Showcases. Over the course of the year, sixty-three (63) guests were introduced and welcomed at the monthly meetings.

The CFFCA did not hold its annual golf tournament during the spring in 2008. It was determined that due to the economic downturn the CFFCA would place this annual event on HOLD.

The CFFCA web site continues to serve the CFFCA membership as its most reliable source of information on the CFFCA, its mission, and activities. An electronic calendar hosting service continues to be integrated with the web site. This dynamic feature allows the CFFCA member to view the calendar and see any and all planned CFFCA activities. An auto-reminder e-mailer system is also a part of the calendar feature which allows the user to choose those events or activities that are of interest. The website is routinely updated by the Secretary/Treasurer to provide the membership (and other interested parties) with the most current information on CFFCA in a timely manner. In addition to the monthly business meetings, the web site and electronic e-mail notices were used as the primary means of communicating with the CFFCA membership. The most current minutes of meetings and other pertinent documents (bylaws, strategic plan, BOD minutes, and annual report) are available for downloading via the CFFCA web site.

Membership "Annual Dues Notices" were mailed through the e-mail medium via the member's agency. This continues to be the best and most effective means to streamline our accounting and dues collection practices. The timeline on the collection of dues has significantly improved (shortened) through this agency contact method.

The financial and business profile of the CFFCA remains solvent with a year-end treasury balance of \$12,083.40 as of March 31st, 2009. Membership reductions due to budget cuts will remain an issue and require monitoring to determine best means to offset revenue loss.

All five (5) strategic plan goals established by the Board of Directors were met or exceeded during the past business year.

MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

Over the reporting period, the CFFCA held ten (10) general membership business meetings, one (1) Annual Social Lunch at the FFCA Summer Conference site, and one (1) Corporate Partner Appreciation/Holiday Lunch Social. It appears by attendance that the previous year move of the meeting date to the 2nd Thursday each month is working well.

One (1) business meeting fell short of a voting quorum in accordance with association bylaws and business items were postponed to the following month's meeting. The meeting in July was conducted at the FFCA summer conference in Ponte Vedra Beach (FL) which consisted of a lunch social. Although attendance was down to 42 at this year's event due to budget cuts to travel accounts as compared to 55 the previous year, the luncheon remains a popular venue.

The Board of Directors meetings were also changed in format and venue. Meetings were scheduled and held as tele-conferences the Thursday prior to the general membership meeting. Ten (10) board meetings were held with one (1) held on site at the Hilton at the call of the President. As customary, the BOD did not meet in July or during the month of December. The tele-conference arrangement was much more efficient and effective for board member attendance and meeting quorums.

The meeting location for general membership meetings remains at the Altamonte Springs Hilton. This location best accommodates our membership with a comfortable (and quiet) meeting space and reasonable meal costs. Meetings included a full buffet lunch at a cost of \$10 per member. The CFFCA was re-notified by the Hilton that an increase of \$2.50 per meal would in place by January 2009. This brought the total lunch buffet price to \$15 per person. The CFFCA underwrote the cost increase with 50% of the 50/50 ticket sales going to the Treasury. This underwritten cost will need to be addressed by the Board to determine any creative means to further offset this additional costs rather than raising the membership's lunch cost.

According to Roll Call records, the average "AGENCY" attendance (13 agencies) remained about the same as the previous year. The agency low was 7 with the high recorded at 17 agencies in attendance. The "INDIVIDUAL" membership attendance average for each meeting was 30 members (up 3 from previous year) with the low being 13 and the high being 41 members in attendance (exclusive of guests). Our corporate partners remained very active with over 55 visits recorded over the year. A total of sixty-three (63) guests were also welcomed and introduced at our meetings over the business year. Special guests were from the State Fire Marshal's Office, State Fire Academy and the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association.

TREASURY REPORT – YEAR END

The beginning balance as of April 1st, 2008 was \$ 11,933.04. The year ending carried forward account balance on March 31st, 2009 was \$ 12,083.40. At the Call of the new incoming President, an audit of the CFFCA books will be conducted in accordance with the bylaws to verify and report that financial books are found in "GOOD FINANCIAL ORDER".

Copies of detailed monthly Treasury Reports are available upon request. In accordance with the CFFCA Bylaws, all records and books are open to membership inspection.

PROGRAMS/PRESENTATIONS

The below business meeting programs were provided with a variety of common interest topics for educational and networking opportunities of CFFCA members. Planning efforts to provide quality presentations are attributed to our CFFCA Professional Development Committee.

Meet and Greet Your Agency Chaplain
Two (2) Agency Round-Table Forums
NFPA 1901 Standard Changes
Residential Fire Sprinkler Code Adoption – IRC Guide to FD's
Florida Benchmark Consortium
Corporate Partner Annual Appreciation Social
Central Florida Intelligence Exchange – CFI
CFFCA Retiree Round Up and Financial/Estate Planning Program
FFCA/SFMO Fire College Update
Community Alerting in Today's Urban Environment

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

The CFFCA strategic plan process coincides with the association president's term of office. The 2008/2009 business year continued to be another year of many accomplishments for CFFCA.

FOCUS AREA #1: Standing Committees

Restructured existing committees assigning new EMS chair; failed to establish committee on Labor Issues and Peer Group for Fire Accreditation.

FOCUS AREA #2: Corporate Partners

Corporate partners were expanded and new membership levels established at a 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Alarm status corresponding with set dues and benefits; scheduled and held private showcases for 3rd Alarm level partners in lieu of annual showcase.

FOCUS AREA #3: Regional Networking

Continued regional networking with various board members attending other local fire chief associations meetings; maintained networking with FFCA by speaker opportunities at the annual lunch social during the summer FFCA conference and the CFFCA officers installation in March each year; many CFFCA members serve on state and national committees or boards with the most recent having a CFFCA member appointed to the FFCA Board of Directors [East Central Director] and another member appointed to the State EMS Advisory Committee.

FOCUS AREA #4: Communications

Maintained effective communications with membership through timely e-mail notifications on important or critical issues; a survey shareware program was created for use when polling membership on issues.

FOCUS AREA #5: Association Bylaws

CFFCA bylaws were amended to add voting rights to the Immediate Past President position based on Board input and direction.

The focus of our Association's direction will be determined by the Executive Board of Directors through an adopted strategic plan, membership input, and the participation of members on working committees.