

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1st, 2009 through March 31st, 2010



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 – Richard Keith, 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 2009-10]

PRESIDENT

Jim White, Fire Chief
Winter Park Fire Department

VICE-PRESIDENT

Gerard Ransom, Fire Chief
Sanford Fire Department

DISTRICT - 1 (Orange) DIRECTOR

James Reynolds, Fire Chief
Orlando Fire Department

DISTRICT - 2 (Seminole) DIRECTOR

Craig Haun, Fire Chief
Lake Mary Fire Department

DISTRICT - 3 (Osceola) DIRECTOR

Robert King, Fire Chief
Kissimmee Fire Department

DISTRICT - 4 (Lake) DIRECTOR

Richard Keith, Fire Chief
Tavares Fire Department

AT-LARGE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Charles Chapman, Fire Chief (ret)
Longwood Fire Department

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John Williamson, Fire Chief
Winter Garden 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

Matt McGrew – Winter Garden Fire Dept (Orange District)
Lars White – Oviedo Fire Rescue (Seminole District)
Jeremy Donovan – Kissimmee Fire Department (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 (23) 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

**1-800-BOARD-UP
ELKHART BRASS
HALL-MARK FIRE APPARATUS
MUNICIPAL FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY
TARGET SAFETY
TEN 8 FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY
WHEELED COACH INDUSTRIES**

SECOND Alarm Partners

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

FIRST Alarm Partners

**BENNETT FIRE PRODUCTS COMPANY
ETR VEHICLES
FERRARA FIRE APPARATUS, INC.
FIRE RESEARCH CORPORATION
FISHER SAFETY
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

Ken Neuhard, Fire Chief
and the
City of Maitland Fire Rescue Department
In recognition of International Fire Service Accreditation
by the Center for Public Safety Excellence
March 10, 2009

RECOGNITION AWARDS – SERVICE TO ASSOCIATION

Ragan Vandegriff, CFFCA Chaplain
Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination by CFFCA Board
Patriot Day Recognition Breakfast
September 11th, 2009

RETIRING FIRE CHIEFS – SERVICE PLAQUES

Richard Firstner, Fire Chief
Ocoee Fire Department
December 18, 2009

and

Dennis Sargent, Fire Chief
Leesburg Fire Department
January 29, 2010

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

PRESENTATION SPEAKERS – TOUCH ITEMS

CFFCA logo items 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-five (35) agencies. Twenty-seven (27) of these agencies are active member agencies. As of March 31st, 2010, the CFFCA Roster stands at one-hundred seventy-three (173) members in good standing from the previous year's 171 members. This represents a status quo in membership strength.

Eleven (11) monthly meetings were held with a social luncheon held at the FFCA Summer Conference in Fort Lauderdale (FL). Meeting participation remained status quo from the previous year with all business meetings mustering a quorum under the bylaws. The March 2010 business meeting served as an East Central Florida Regional Meeting for the Florida Fire Chiefs Association. The Board of Directors conducted ten (10) tel-conference meetings throughout the year.

An average of thirteen (13) agencies and twenty-six (26) 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 good attendance including visiting dignitaries from throughout Florida. Our corporate partners [23 total] remained very active in our monthly meetings by logging over 39 visits last year. Over the course of the year, seventy-six (76) guests were introduced and welcomed at the monthly meetings, along with thirteen (13) guest agencies.

The CFFCA did not hold its annual golf tournament during the spring in 2009. It was determined that due to the economic downturn the CFFCA would again place this annual event on HOLD due to the current economy crisis.

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. 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, annual report, and Program Power Points) were made 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 remained effective through this agency contact method.

The financial and business profile of the CFFCA remains solvent with a year-end treasury balance of \$9,177.29 as of March 31st, 2010. Membership reductions due to budget cuts were offset financially by the Corporate Partner membership levels of participation providing additional revenue.

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 eleven (11) 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 monthly meeting attendance roll calls that the 2nd Thursday each month and venue continues to work well for the majority.

All business meetings mustered a voting quorum in accordance with association bylaws and business items were acted on without delays. The meeting in July was conducted at the FFCA summer conference in Fort Lauderdale (FL) which consisted of a lunch social. The FFCA luncheon remains a very popular venue and continues to serve the goodwill of the fire service through the exposure and network opportunity.

The Board of Directors meetings continued in the tele-conference method on the Thursday prior to the general membership meeting. Ten (10) board meetings were held with a quorum at all meetings called. As customary, the BOD did not meet in July or during the month of December. The tele-conference arrangement continues to be the more efficient and effective means to conduct association business.

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 with the treasury underwriting an additional \$2.50 of the overall meal costs. To help offset this subsidy, the practice of 50/50 ticket sales were continued at each meeting. Other means used to further offset lunch costs was the special arrangement of a speaker fee for those interested parties [non-corporate partners] wishing to present a product or service. The fee was a contribution to underwrite the subsidy only—not the agency member'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 9 with the high recorded at 16 agencies in attendance. The "INDIVIDUAL" membership attendance average for each meeting was 26 members (down 4 from previous year) with the low being 19 and the high being 31 members in attendance (exclusive of guests). Our corporate partners remained in active attendance with over 39 visits recorded over the year. A total of seventy-six (76) 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, 2009 was \$ 12,083.40. The year ending carried forward account balance on March 31st, 2010 was \$ 9,177.29. At the Call of the 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". The state of the economy has had a significant impact on our membership numbers due to agency budget cuts.

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.

DMAT FL-6 Team Update Report and BRIEF
FL DEM Update on State Management Teams
EMS Transport Fees "Issues and Trends"
Fire Code Process for Fire Chiefs
FFCA Regional Meeting
Two (2) Agency Round-Table Forums
Corporate Partner Annual Appreciation Social
Central Florida Intelligence Exchange – CFIX Update
CFFCA Retiree Round Up and Financial/Estate Planning Program
FFCA/SFMO Fire College—FF Safety Program Compliance Issues
Co-Hosted Light Weight Truss Workshop with Central FL Fire Academy to discuss OPS Issues

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

The CFFCA strategic plan process coincides with the association president's term of office. The 2009/2010 business year continued to be another year of many accomplishments for CFFCA.

FOCUS AREA # 1: PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING

- Schedule a set number of networking opportunities throughout the year for CFFCA 5-bugle agency chiefs and/or directors to meet as a forum to promote the discussion of common issues facing agencies.
- Directors to be more proactive within their represented districts encouraging agency attendance and participation.
- Continue inter-association relationships through meeting attendance and open-invitation opportunities extended to other similar associations.
- Increase CFFCA visibility and participation through collaborative efforts with sister association groups attending state events, awards, etc.

FOCUS AREA # 2: PROFESSIONAL STANDING AND CREDITABILITY

- Establish a consistent voice and position statements on issues that impact the Central Florida area – understanding that there will be limits that some agencies are willing to undertake, including a philosophy to agree to disagree on various issues.
- Remain actively involved with the FFCA providing valuable Central Florida input maintaining a strong presence in leadership and planning roles.

FOCUS AREA # 3: ASSOCIATION RELEVANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Remain vigilant and fiscal responsible mindful of the current and future economic impacts affecting the fire service, this association, and its members.
- Determine the feasibility of expanding the CFFCA membership's Associate Status to that of Emergency Management, Fire Marshals, Chaplains, and other potential membership candidates that would share mutual benefits.
- Actively seek methods to off-set the increasing lunch costs and the CFFCA subsidy share through promoting 50/50 ticket sales, fund raiser opportunities, and lunch sponsorships.
- Remain committed to providing beneficial lunch programs that improves interest and increases meeting attendance.

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