



# Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association

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P.O. Box 661 Grayson, GA 30017

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

**Call to Order:** The March 12, 2019 GFSA meeting was held at SPP Pumps in Norcross. GFSA President Patrick Cordi called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM, with a welcome to everyone. Patrick reminded everyone the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of creating meeting minutes. The meeting was officially opened with “all those in favor, please say “aye”.

**Invocation:** Patrick opened the meeting with prayer, which included the meal being blessed. The meeting minutes from the January 8, 2019 general meeting had been emailed to GFSA membership and were available at the entrance desk. The minutes were accepted. Patrick identified the March meeting date for the GFSA General Meeting and the SFPE Conference were scheduled on the same date. A 2020 calendar planning of the GFSA meetings will help to avoid the conflict in the future.

**Guests Introduction:** Patrick recognized guests Karl Wiegand and Madison Parsons with Globe Sprinkler, and Nate Leonhardt and Randy Lane with Leonhardt Pipe & Supply.

**Executive Director’s Report:** Bonnie Pinson was introduced as someone that could be used as a contact point and “gatekeeper” to keep us on-track with new ideas, appointments, and possibly become the State Coordinator.

**Georgia State Fire Marshall:** Patrick read a profile on the new State Fire Marshal, Chief Jeff Hogan: Fire Chief Jeff Hogan began his career in the fire service more than 35 years ago. After decades of service to the Fulton County Fire Department, Jeff was asked to join the newly formed John’s Creek Fire Department in 2008, becoming the city’s fire chief in February 2011. He was designated in 2011 a Chief Fire Officer by the Commission on Professional Credentialing and is a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers. In his new role as State Fire Marshal of Georgia, Hogan will manage all responsibilities of the Fire Marshal’s Office and oversee building inspection, manufactured housing, inspection, engineering, hazardous materials inspections, and licensing. Jeff said *“After a lifetime in fire service, I am excited to have this historic opportunity to work with the Commissioner to improve our efforts in this field. As someone who has been in the trenches with firefighters for almost four decades, I look forward to drawing on the experience of my fellow firefighters as we look to make Georgia’s fire service the best in the nation.”*

Patrick explained he invited Chief Hogan to the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, but Chief Hogan had to decline due to a meeting already scheduled on his calendar. The Fire Chief stated his desire to bridge his office with the Association. Patrick suggested maybe in the near future a sit down lunch meeting with the Fire Chief, working toward options in getting the code issues resolved or at least getting some movement toward a closer working relationship with him.

Larry Labbe (GA Tech FM) stated he has spoken with the new Fire Chief on 4 occasions. He feels sure a meeting would not be hard to accomplish.



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The question was asked if the State would be hiring more plan reviewers. The response: no one knew of plans to hire additional plan reviewers. It appears there is a problem with plans being lost by the State Plan Review office. Larry Labbe said there have been conflicts with the City of Atlanta regarding AHJ jurisdiction.

**Georgia Fire Fighters Burn Foundation:** No report.

**SFPE:** Kevin Biando: The SFPE conference was ongoing.

**Essay Contest / Scholarship:** Bobby McCullough stated the deadline for students to submit essays was March 18, one week away. A total of 709 emails were sent to public and private schools. Patrick stated more judges were needed for the HS Essay Contest and all Board members are automatically enrolled as judges. The scholarships to be awarded are \$1,500 for first place, \$1,000 for second place and \$750 for third place.

## Committee Reports

**Finance Report:** The checking account has a balance of \$ 12,091.00 and the PayPal Account a balance of \$2,900.00

**Legislative, Codes and Standards:** Ray Vance said Cobb County will be requiring contractors to adjust flow tests used for fire sprinkler designs. Cobb County's plan is to require a certain residual drop, much more conservative than NFPA or State requirements, and he does not know where this requirement came from. It appears there is no local ordinance. Ray requested a meeting with the County. Patrick suggested a lunch-n learn with Cobb County and the new State Fire Marshall may help.

**Activities: Spring Fishing Tournament:** The spring fishing is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> at Barry's Boat Dock at Lake Jackson. This is Memorial Day Weekend. Boats are for rent. This is a GFSA fund raiser and Patrick encouraged everyone to take part. Everyone had a great time last year.

**Membership:** Patrick reviewed GFSA membership requirements.

**NextGen:** Mindy McCullough-Buckley said 25 people attended the AFSA NextGen webinar. Benny Durden provided good information. Hopefully this will take place again soon.

Mindy said the CEFGA Career Expo will take place on March 21 & 22. There is a lot left to do and help is needed. Allsouth Sprinkler will pick up the pump equipment from SPP Pumps but someone else is needed to move the trailer and equipment after the Expo is over. There will be two virtual reality set ups for the students. A projector and screen will also be used. 9000 students are expected and there will be a lot of competition from different trades. Scott Donnelly said we need to work with CEFGA to introduce our trade to students and this may involve getting into the CEFGA program, and meeting with Scott Shelar. CEFGA announced they have



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outgrown Gwinnett Convention Center and expect to be moving to the World Congress Center for the next three years.

**Education:** Patrick said after a State Coordinator is in place, the apprenticeship program will become a priority. The AFSA is holding an Apprenticeship webinar on April 17 and the GFSA will participate. We are looking for committee members for Apprenticeship Committee. The hope is for a change in the structure of the class to require less classroom time.

**Golf Tournament** – Scott Donnelly reminded everyone of the Twentieth Annual Bob McCullough Memorial Golf Tournament on November 4, 2019.

**Old Business:** Ray Vance said the State Sponsored Life Safety Symposium will be in June at the training center in Forsyth. Ray will be out of town and the State will be looking for someone else to serve as an instructor. Scott Donnelly said the AFSA may be able to help with an instructor. Larry Labbe will be teaching other classes at Symposium. Jeff Phifer welcomed Bonnie to the GFSA. Jeff suggested the GFSA leadership attend the AFSA Leadership conference on May 20 and 21.

Ciara, the marketing manager with SPP Pumps / Syncroflow spoke on the Heroes First Foundation. This was started in 2009 by John Kahren. A short video from CBS 46 was shown featuring Jeff Mitchell, son of Doug Mitchell, and John Kahren. The purpose of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Heroes First Foundation Charity Golf Outing at Stone Mountain is to help support Veterans needing help with neurological, psychiatric or emotional disabilities. The trained dogs cost approximately \$65,000 each.

**Vendor Highlight:** Madison Parsons and Karl Wiegand with Globe Sprinkler reviewed how attic sprinklers work. The two most important criteria are peaks & ridges, where the heat collects, and hip lines. The two least important are valleys and eaves. Karl reviewed truss structure and how and where heat collects and does not collect and how heat is channeled. Karl reviewed the UL testing, how the roof slope affects the operation of the sprinklers and how the operating temperature of the sprinkler is a factor. The goal is to limit the sprinkler operation to the area of fire. He reviewed protection of hip areas and single slope areas.

For additional information please see Globe Sprinkler website:  
[www.globespinkler.com/special-products/attic](http://www.globespinkler.com/special-products/attic)

**Adjournment: 1:35 pm**