

Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads  
2906 Tazewell Pike Suite B  
Knoxville, TN 37918

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Knoxville, TN  
Permit. 214

# *Rescue Line*



January 2017

# You Wouldn't Trust Just Anyone to Drive Your Vehicles



**So why trust just any  
company to insure  
your organization?**

"*Cut Rate*" insurance may sound good, however are you really getting the insurance protection and service you need?

With VFIS you get over 30 years' experience, dependable, proven protection and service.

Let us put YOU back in the driver's seat.

## Vanessa K. Free Driver Training Class

*Every Emergency Service Responder is required to take this class annually to meet the law.  
This includes all Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement.*



*For more information, please contact:*

VFIS/J. Mark Bowery Insurance  
(800) 752-9620

VFIS/The Steve Frost Agency  
(800) 332-8347



**The World's Leading Provider of Insurance and  
Training Services for Emergency Service Organizations**

## GeoConex® Corporation

GeoConex® has developed a comprehensive "Next Generation 911" Ready CAD system (computer-aided dispatch) that is second to none. We are in the process of bringing all of our software products into the "Next Generation 911" world. By doing this we can offer a complete set of software solutions that can be used in your dispatch center, your community, or across your state. Are you ready for the next leap of technology in the public safety industry? GeoConex® is and we would like an opportunity to help you get there. Please review the list of software products and services that we currently offer and contact us if we can be of service to your agency.

### GeoConex® Software and Services:

- GeoConex® NG911 CAD
- GeoConex® Mobile CAD
- GeoConex® GIS Viewer
- GeoConex® Emergency Notification System
- GeoConex® DataManager
- GeoConex® Mobile Mapmaker
- GeoConex® Editor
- GeoConex® HSM: Incident Plotting
- GeoConex® AVL/VMS
- GeoConex® RMS
- GeoConex® JMS
- GeoConex® CMP
- Software and Training Solutions



GeoConex® Corporation  
6923 Mayrandville Hwy PMB# 109  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
Office (865) 686-0411  
Toll Free (888) 610-5116  
Fax: (865) 686-0046



Public Safety



## **A Message from Our Region IV Vice-President David Tuck**

First of all, I hope everyone enjoyed their time off with family and friends through the holidays. I also appreciate the support from everyone and their votes at the convention allowing me to serve as your Region 4 V.P. It truly is an honor for me.

As you all know, last year the State training coordinator and officers helped put together a training trailer for our region along with Region 3, to help promote more of our college training classes. Training is what makes our organization grow and promote safety throughout the state. My goal is to have every class taught in West Tennessee at least once in 2017. This goal is looking pretty good so far as I have had a lot of squads contact me already about wanting to host a class.

My final thought, the word **TEAM** is four letters and TARS is broken down into four regions. One way of looking at this is each letter represents a region which in turn means:

**T**ogether  
**E**veryone  
**A**chieves  
**M**ore

So let's be the best team we can by putting all our resources together and building a better Association.

David Tuck  
Region IV – Vice President

How long you can continue to be good at something is how much you believe in yourself and how much hard work you do with the training. -- Jason Statham

## **Executive Director's Comments**

The Windshield or the Rear View Mirror? Both are important items on a vehicle, but how can we use them in a Rescue Squad? If you are doing things the right way, you should be paying more attention to the future in the windshield than looking in the rearview mirror at where you have been. While it's good to take a look in the rearview mirror to see where you have been, as Rescue Squads and Rescue Squad Members, if you are going to continue to grow and provide the best services, then you must consistently be looking to the future to find better ways to improve.

In the rescue society today, we have to look at being better prepared to serve our community. We have to be prepared financially, keep our building and equipment maintained and updated, and have our members trained to the best of their ability. Working together with other agencies to ensure that the needs of our customers are met with safe and high standards is a must.

As TARS begins its 62<sup>nd</sup> year as an association, challenges for our squads continue today as they did then. If we spend too much time doing what we have always done, we will fail to see the needs of the future. Building on what you have accomplished ensures that your squad is planning for the future and continuing to provide the best services for your community.

## **\*\*\*IMPORTANT REMINDER\*\*\* ReadyOps Update**

Beginning this year, we will be transitioning to sending out everything through the ReadyOps System. The goal in purchasing this software was to decrease the costs in postage and printing that goes along with mailing out the updates, meeting notices, and Rescue Lines during the year, while providing up-to-date information in a timelier and more cost efficient manner.

This software belongs to you and is only as good as the emails that we have on file. Please make sure that we have your current email address on file to ensure that you receive the latest in Association and Training Updates. If you are not receiving these emails, please email [jennifer@tnars.org](mailto:jennifer@tnars.org) and we will get you entered in the system. We will still be able to send out paper copies of these if you do not have an email address. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Rhodes at [stacy@tnars.org](mailto:stacy@tnars.org) or by phone at 865-689-3256.

## A Message From Our State President Ross Guy

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for their support and vote in re-electing me President. I hope everyone that came to the Convention had a great time. I think Fun Night was the best we've had in a long time. "Sure are some beautiful men in TARS when they clean up!" The competitions were also very good. More teams signed up this year. Changing the scenarios every year is good. Not knowing what to expect makes the competitors have to think outside the box which is usually the way it is in the real world. However, all that being said, attendance at the Symposium and Convention were down again. Attendance has been on the decline the last few years. If the decline continues we will have to raise convention fees. No one will be happy about that. So it's in everyone's best interest to encourage attendance at the Convention. If any of you have any thoughts on how to get people coming back to the Convention, please share them with me or one of the other state officers.

If you did come to the Convention, you saw the second extrication trailer. Most people were pleased to see it. However, some thought it was a waste of time and money. To those of you who thought that, I ask you to consider the following. First, we already had the trailer. It was not being used, parked under some trees deteriorating away. The outside appearance was deplorable. The tires dry rotted. After much discussion, the officers determined there was a need for a second extrication trailer. With a second trailer stationed in West Tenn. at the Benton Co. Rescue Squad where it is kept inside the building, we will no longer have to pull a trailer from East Tenn. to West Tenn. on Friday and back to East Tenn. on Sunday night. This will save the association money on truck and trailer maintenance as well as fuel expense. The second trailer will make it possible to have two to college level classes on the same weekend which makes more money for the association. At the time this article was written, twenty classes had been requested. That doesn't include the swift water classes. But if no one registers for the classes and we have to cancel, then it's all for nothing. So, when the schedule comes out, decide which training you need and plan accordingly. If you have to use a sick day or a vacation day, then so be it. Put your honey-do list on hold and tell your honey you need to update your training so you can be at your best when the situation arises. I'm pretty sure they will understand.

Wish you all the best. Stay safe.

## 2017 Convention & EMS Symposium Music Road Hotel & Convention Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

\*\* Symposium October 4-5, 2017 \*\*Convention October 6-7, 2017

Reservations: 1-855-875-9100 Request TN ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS room block, or go to <http://goo.gl/st6ptY> to register online.

### A FEW THINGS TO MAKE YOUR GROUP RESERVATIONS EASIER

**IF YOU ARE MAKING RESERVATIONS FOR A BLOCK OF ROOMS FOR YOUR SQUAD, AND YOU WILL BE PAYING ON ONE MASTER PAYMENT FOR ALL THE ROOMS**, please contact Heather Sims at the Group Sales Department at 865-286-1782 TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. This is required so the hotel can properly route the charges and take care of you if you are tax exempt. The hotel will be able to give you personal service and take care of your needs better by calling Heather. She is available Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. You may also email her your request at: [hsims@musicroadresort.com](mailto:hsims@musicroadresort.com). Please give her the number of rooms you require and arrival and departure dates for rooms. In addition, if you are attempting to reserve multiple rooms under YOUR name, which you will at some point assign to other people, you should contact the sales department to make these arrangements. This will streamline your check-in when you arrive. 865-286-1728 ask for Heather Sims.

TAX EXEMPT: If you are seeking to be tax exempt for your stay, you must provide a Tennessee Department of Revenue Tax Exempt form AND pay with a Squad check or Squad Credit Card matching that form. **PERSONAL FUNDS, CREDIT CARDS OR CASH cannot be used to pay for tax exempt items.** Once you make your reservations, please fax your tax exempt form WITH EACH RESERVATION CONFIRMATION written on the form to: Heather Sims 865-286-2236.

### EARLY ARRIVALS OR STAY-OVERS:

For Individual reservations wishing to arrive early during the week, or stay over past Saturday night, it is recommended that you contact the reservations department direct at 1-800-875-9100 and speak to a reservation agent to make your arrangements. All room types may not have been blocked for the dates you wish to stay, and the rate may be different.

## **A Message from Our State Treasurer Ross Musgrave**

Hopefully we have all survived the holidays and are ready to hit the ground running in this new year. As I write this article I can't help but think of how blessed I am. I suppose I am especially thankful for what I have because I haven't been through a tragic event like the fine people of Sevier County have endured since just after Thanksgiving.

I still have a house to go home to each night. I have plenty to eat; probably too much. I have a place to go to work each morning. Most of all I have friends like you all over this state. What more could I want?

I have been truly touched by the comments I have read over the past month or so on social media. I have read how people from all over this state, all over this country, dropped what they were doing to go to East Tennessee to help out. They literally put "their" lives on hold to go help others in need.

As rescue squad members, that's what we do on a daily basis. Whether it's leaving work, getting up from a hot meal, or from a warm bed, when the call comes in, we go. We can't all be out there on the tip of the jaws of life. We can't all be searching thru the woods for a missing person. We can't all be on the nozzle. But each of us has a talent that we put to use to help our communities.

Even though I was not personally affected by the events that transpired last month, I have friends who lost vacation homes, and I have friends who had their property spared. As rescue squads and fire departments, we all suffer from lack of volunteers willing to work. However, in this time of need, we as volunteer rescue squad members played a part in helping those who were suffering.

I say all of that to say this.....thank you for all you do! Day in and day out! Thank you! Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Ross Musgrave, State Treasurer

**"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."**

**— Elizabeth Andrew**

## **A Message From Our State Vice-President Dale Dodds**

This Rescue Line article should find everyone through the holidays and starting into the new year. We had a very productive year last year with the addition of our second training trailer located in West Tennessee and the upgrade of the Advanced Extrication and Farm/Machinery college level classes to current training standards.

TARS is in a very good position to start into 2017 and really move forward at a record pace. While working on setting the training schedule for 2017, we have attempted to schedule various types of training almost every week. These classes are located evenly throughout the state so it is up to us, the membership of TARS, to fill these classes. I also want to thank everyone who helped TARS achieve this success.

Related to the membership side of TARS, we need to get all our members to actively seek out new members and new departments to join TARS and grow our membership base.

Region Travels will be starting in February and the state officers would love to see everyone who can possibly come out to meet us at your squad, participate in the training, and come to the region meetings on Saturdays. All members and prospective members are welcome to meet with us as we travel the state this year, we look forward to seeing you.

S. Dale Dodds II

**"I believe that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another." — Thomas Jefferson**

## **A Message From Our Region I Vice-President Stacy Large**

Well, convention has come and gone, and I hope everyone that attended had a good time. In addition, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Hopefully your department got that new rig or equipment they asked Santa for!

To begin, thank you Region I for allowing me to represent you for yet another year. I have a few ideas for your departments to ponder on throughout the year. First of all, the importance of training. I encourage you all to go out and train not only at local and state levels but, if able, at regional and national levels.

Locally, I encourage you to strive to make your department the very best. As for state, I advise you to partake in training offered through the rescue college. These programs have advanced to include new training to refresh and instill confidence in your abilities. If you get the chance to receive Regional and National training, take it, and bring it back to your department and surrounding departments.

Secondly, I encourage you all to focus on the following:

- Safety - make sure you and your crew come home after every call!
- Equipment - take pride in your equipment, clean it, fix it, replace it if necessary, and love it. It will make your job easier.
- Vehicles - wash them, love them, and keep them serviced. Vehicles are the biggest billboard your department has that the public sees. Also, they are what brings your crew home safe after calls.
- Health and welfare of your personnel - we see a lot of good stuff and a lot of bad stuff in the jobs we do. Taking care of our mental health is a very important aspect considering the work we do. We all try to leave what we see on the scene at the scene, but we never do. Conduct debriefings regarding calls run by you and your crew. If needed, bring in outside sources to assist with this. Fortunately, there are many resources available so use them.
- Physical health - physical well-being is of the upmost importance regarding the work we do. Adjust your diets to include healthy options, and participate in physical activity so you can go home to your family at the end of your shift.

In conclusion, have fun, be kind (even if that means lending an ear or shoulder), enjoy life, and be safe!

All the best,  
Stacy Large  
TARS Region 1 VP

## **A Message from Our State Parliamentarian Jimmy Peoples**

WOW! What an enlightening, challenging and enjoyable year.

Being the new kid as a State Officer was certainly a learning curve from years past when I had the privilege of serving as State Secretary, Region 1 V.P. and State VP.

During the region meetings in February and June, I had the opportunity to visit many squads and learned the many facets of operation across the state. Thank you for the welcoming spirit felt at each squad in every area of the state. I was presented the challenge of revamping and updating the Constitution, By-Laws & Code of Ethics. This was accomplished with the cooperation of many members and squads support.

Hope your Holidays were filled with peace, joy & family togetherness. I am looking forward to working with you in the coming year. I so much appreciate being a part of the State Officers and T.A.R.S.

State Parliamentarian  
Jimmy Peoples



**A Message from Our State Chaplain  
Keith Sartin**

I would like to say thank you to everyone. I hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas. Please keep the organization in your prayers and all the responders, our military personnel.

**Psalm 118:24 (KJV)**

This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**2017 Meeting Schedule**

**February Region Meetings:**

Region I	Church Hill Rescue Squad	February 4, 2017
Region II	Bledsoe County Rescue Squad	February 11, 2017
Region III	Bedford County Rescue Unit	February 18, 2017
Region IV	Benton County Rescue Squad	February 25, 2017

**June Region Meetings:**

Region I	Hawkins County Rescue Squad	June 3, 2017
Region II	Rhea County Rescue Squad	June 10, 2017
Region III	Sparta/White Co County Rescue Squad	June 17, 2017
Region IV	Obion County Rescue Squad	June 24, 2017

\*\*Please remember to contact the host squad at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting with the number of people that you will have attending so they can prepare enough food for those attending.

**Captain / Unit Directors Meetings:**

DoubleTree Hotel, Murfreesboro	5:00 PM CST	March 18, 2017
DoubleTree Hotel, Murfreesboro	5:00 PM CST	July 15, 2017
Music Road Hotel, Pigeon Forge	3:00 PM EST	October 6, 2017

\*\*March and July Directors meetings begin at 5:00 PM CST. A block of rooms has been reserved at the DoubleTree for these meetings. Reservations must be made at least 30 days in advance to receive the block rates of - King Room - \$91.00 per night, Double Room - \$101.00 per night. Please call 615-895-5555 for reservations.

**2017 Convention and EMS Symposium:**

Music Road Hotel, Pigeon Forge  
EMS Symposium October 4-5, 2017  
Convention October 6-7, 2017

Room Rates for the convention are:  
Tuesday Night: \$126.50  
Wednesday – Saturday: \$136.50

Convention Hotel Reservations must be made by September 3, 2017 in order to receive the above rates. Any reservations made after this date will be at the regular published rate. For reservations call 1-855-875-9100. You will need to tell them that you are with the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads to receive the special rate.

**If you are booking more than 5 rooms under your name or squad, please contact Heather Sims Group Rooms Coordinator at 865-286-1782 or by email at [hsims@musicroadresort.com](mailto:hsims@musicroadresort.com) to make your reservation process easier.**

# SAF-T ENTERPRISES

---

## Highway and Construction Safety Items

- Emergency Lighting Systems- Strobes and LED custom installed
- Barricades- Type 1, Type 2, & Type 3
- Lights- Solar Powered & Battery
  - Balloon Lights
- Drums- Safety Vest- Rain Wear
- Signs- Mesh, Metal, & Vinyl
  - Sign Stands
- Gloves- Safety Glasses
- Arrow Boards- Message Boards




---

**Leroy Lynn- Sales Manager**  
865-740-6292

**Saf-T Enterprise**  
8500 Old Rutledge Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37934  
865-932-2553

**John Setzer - Sales Rep**  
865-705-5210

**Doug Beeler- Owner**  
865-740-1384

**Message From Our State Training Coordinator  
Brian Robinson**

We are well on our way to the 2017 training season. One of this year's goals was to have the equipment, personnel and programs, along with class availability statewide, and through the hard work and dedication of our Association, I believe this will be a reality. Every attempt has been made to increase the number of classes and spread them out across the four regions. As the program continues to grow, this will hopefully become the standard and TARS will flourish as a result related to training.

However, there is one piece of the puzzle still missing...**YOU**. The training program is only successful if it has support. Not financial, not vehicles and equipment, but instead, students. Years ago I heard a wise sage offer a piece of advice related to emergency services. This advice was simple: "If you ever get to the point you think you know it all and you don't need to learn and grow, go to the house." In recent years I have realized what they meant. In emergency services, there are no constants. Every rescue, every wreck, every patient...they are all different. Don't allow yourself to be caught in a situation "outside the box" for you or your agency.

The classes either have been revamped or are in the process of being updated to recognized standards. There are new faces instructing and new equipment available to use. Every attempt has been made on all fronts to make training fun, safe, educational and affordable. Take advantage of **YOUR** training program and grow your personnel. This is a great opportunity to network with other squads, fire departments and emergency entities and build relationships. I guarantee you, nor your staff, will be disappointed.

See **YOU** on the training grounds!

*Amateurs practice until they get it right;  
Professionals practice until they cannot get it wrong.  
Which one are you?*

**A Message From Our Region III Vice-President  
Charlie Tollison**

Hello!

I would like to start off by saying, thank you for choosing me to represent you as Region 3 Vice President. I will do my best to help Region 3 be the best Region it can be.

I hope everyone had a great summer. Now that it's starting to get cold and heading into the winter, I'm sure it will not be long until we get our first snow. I want to remind everyone to be ready for those cold winter call outs. It's always better to be over prepared than to get caught out unprepared. Don't forget to talk to your new members and make sure they know how to take care of themselves.

On another note, let's try to get the attendance up for the Region 3 meetings. The hosting Squads put a lot of time in to hosting these meetings. Let's show that we appreciate it. Let's have the largest attendance to the meetings in 2017. As soon as you get the Feb. notice letter, please contact Bedford Co. Rescue with how many are coming.

Always remember if you need anything I'm just a phone call away.  
931.261.9040

Charlie Tollison

BE SAFE (always go home complete [mind, body, heart])

**Membership Dues  
Are  
Due March 1, 2017**

## STEPHEN R. CARDEN FOUNDATION

### FOUNDING MEMBERS

Stephen R. Carden      Angie Bowen & Todd Derrick      Douglas Warren  
VFIS Insurance (Steve Frost & Mark Bowery)

### CHARTER MEMBERS

Roy Goddard      Union County Rescue Squad  
George & Earline Young      Pull-A-Part  
Al & Nancy Davila      Benton County Rescue Squad

### Stephen R. Carden Foundation Update

We are happy to report that the Carden Foundation will be awarding scholarships for the year 2017. We are still in need of funds so that we can provide more training to our fellow squads. In 2016 we awarded scholarships to 8 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. However, we will not be able to offer scholarships to as many people as originally planned at the inception because of not meeting our original fiscal goals. The goal of the foundation is to provide some assistance to personnel and services who could not otherwise participate in training.

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](http://www.tnars.org) or by contacting the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads State Office at 865-689-3256.



**A Message from Our State Historian  
Jennifer Freeman**

Hey everyone!! Hope all had a safe and wonderful holiday season, and with 2016 in the past and 2017 well on its way, who is looking forward to another great year with TARS? Well, I for one am excited about getting the year started off with a bang!! Let's start thinking about the upcoming region travels that will start soon. Please encourage all members to try and attend and also remember there will be training offered during February meetings.

I would also like to take this time to express my thanks for a great first year as your State Historian, and I look forward to serving you again in 2017. I really enjoyed putting the scrap book together and I hope everyone at Convention had an opportunity to take a look at it. Also, we had several scrap books entered this year at convention, but let's strive for more in 2017 and make the judges really work!! Not only are the scrap books fun to look at and see what each squad has done throughout the year, but it's a good way to reflect back on memories of your squad, educate, and help keep traditions carried on from year to year.

I would like to remind everyone that this is the time of year to start planning for attending a Rescue College class. If you have not been to one in several years', I would highly recommend signing up for one. Your training coordinator has been working very hard to update these classes, and as members we need to try to fill them up!! Remember, this is your organization and we need to strive to keep it going in a forward direction and should be very proud of what we stand for.

As always, be mindful of your current weather conditions, as they can change very quickly when we are out on that call. Everyone stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you in February.

Jennifer Freeman  
State Historian

Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit. Aristotle

**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 2017. If you are interested in applying for one of these scholarships, you can find an application online at the TARS website (www.tnars.org) or 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 3, 2017. Incomplete forms and forms received after March 3, 2017 will not be considered. Applicants awarded scholarships will be notified by March 30, 2017.

---

**STEPHEN R. CARDEN FOUNDATION DONOR LIST FOR 2016**

We would like to thank the following people and organizations who have donated to the Foundation in 2016. Without your support, we would not be able to accomplish the goals that the founders envisioned to help promote rescue education.

**Donations**

Bill & Vicky Sowell      Debbie Tuggle      Thomas Heim

**Honorariums**

Harry & Tondra Gentry - In Honor of Special Friends & Neighbors

Angie & Todd Derrick in Honor of Paul Derrick

Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads in Honor of Past Presidents  
Johnny Tummins and Jimmy Kyker

**Memorials**

Douglas Warren - In Memory of Johnny Tummins, Jimmy Kyker, Tom  
Newberry and Martin Blair

Debbie Tummins – In Memory of Johnny Tummins

