

2022 PFESI IMPACT REPORT

The Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute is an educational, non-profit association of emergency service organizations, emergency responders, industry and public service professionals who research, exchange information, and cultivate relationships among constituents about the issues affecting emergency response and life safety in the state of Pennsylvania. Our mission is to use combined knowledge and efforts to better protect the industry and those who serve within it.



Advocacy

PFESI advocates for the sustainment and improvement of fire and emergency services across Pennsylvania. We work with various groups to gain consensus and provide recommendations to the General Assembly, Executive Branch, and administrative agencies.

2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Below is legislation that was signed into law during the 2021-2022, two-year legislative session that was supported by the PA Fire Service:

Act 10 of 2022: SB 739- Stefano (R-Fayette)- amended Title 35 (Health & Safety Code) by permitting career and combination fire companies to apply for low-interest loans through the Fire & EMS Loan Program. (Implemented ballot question on municipal fire departments to access loans).

Act 45 of 2022: SB 861- Stefano (R-Fayette)- PA joins the national EMS Compact

Act 53 of 2022: HB 1342 (Tax Code)- this bill was amended during the 2022 budget debate to include language that would amend the Tax Code by stabilizing the revenues that go into the Fire Relief Program that originally was proposed by Sen. Stefano as a stand-alone bill.

Act 54 of 2022: HB 1421 (Fiscal Code)- this bill was amended during the 2022 budget debate to include language that would amend the Fiscal Code by providing for the Recruitment and Retention positions in the Office of State Fire Commissioner. Additionally, the Act increased the Basic Life Support (BLS) Reimbursement Rate to \$325 and the Advanced Life Support (ALS) Reimbursement Rate to \$400 which was language that was originally introduced by Rep. Causer (R-McKean).

Act 72 of 2022: HB 2097- Hamm (R-Lycoming)- Emergency Services Staffing Waiver extended until 2027.

Act 74 of 2022: HB 2517- Farry (R-Bucks)- Fireworks Law Modification- Limits the time frame for using fireworks from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. — except on July 2, 3, and 4 and December 31, when consumer fireworks may be used until 1 a.m. the following day. Municipalities can require that residents obtain a permit to shoot off fireworks. Mandates that fireworks cannot be exploded within 150 feet of a building, so in communities where there are no legal locations to use fireworks, municipal officials can bar fireworks entirely. Repurposes the 12% tax collected from the sale of fireworks as follows:

- \$250,000 – Online Training Educator and Training Reimbursement Account
- \$1,000,000 shall be used for loan forgiveness and tuition assistance for students and graduates who are active volunteer firefighters
- \$500,000 shall be used for EMS training center capital grants via transfer to the Office of State Fire Commissioner (OSFC)
- \$500,000 for career fire department capital grants via transfer to the OSFC
- \$250,000 for a public safety campaign on fireworks via transfer to the OSFC
- \$500,000 for reimbursement to a Pennsylvania bomb squad accredited by the FBI
- Any remaining funds to be equally divided between the EMS Grant Program and for making grants under the Fire Company Grant Program

Professional Development / Training

PFESI conducts professional development for a variety of organizations. The efforts include improving relationships between emergency services organizations and local governments, increasing awareness on the issues identified in SR-6, and fire service strategic planning.

- Effective Relationships (Fire Service and Local Government)
 - Eight (8) Programs – 206 attendees
- Strategic Planning for Fire Service Operations
 - Four (4) Programs – 59 attendees
- PA State Association of Township Supervisors Regional Forum – Adams County Recruiting Volunteer Firefighters - 43 Attendees
- Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
 - Fire Service Organizational Sustainment & Improvement Best Practices
 - Webinar 1 – 51 attendees
 - Webinar 2 - 24 attendees
 - PML Leadership Conference Panel Discussion – 55 attendees

Strength Through Engagement

PFESI conducts outreach to various partners and communities throughout Pennsylvania. The goal of these outreach efforts is to increase awareness and promote engagement in the legislative process. These efforts also improve the visibility of PFESI.

- The Future of Emergency Services Meeting – Crawford County – 68 attendees
- Statewide Advisory Board Meeting – Two (2) meetings – 94 attendees
- IAFC Eastern Division Meeting Keynote Speaker – 70 attendees
- Roundtable Fire/EMS Discussion PA Association of Township Supervisors Conference – 120 attendees
- PA State Mayors Association Conference – Conference Speaker – 68 attendees
- Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association Meeting – 43 attendees
- Northampton County Fire Chiefs Association Meeting – 16 attendees
- Firefighters Association of the State of Pennsylvania Meetings
- Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association meetings - 3 meetings in 2022
- CONNECT – University of Pittsburgh Future of Fire Services – 65 attendees
- Delaware County Firefighters Association Dinner Meeting – 1 meeting
- 4th Annual EMS Law Seminar – Widener Commonwealth Law – 139 attendees
- Office of the State Fire Commissioner Fire Advisory Board – 25 – attendees

PFESI Town Hall Meetings

PFESI has conducted and will continue to conduct a series of open Town Hall style meetings with members of the Pennsylvania Fire Service. Our goal is to seek local input and ideas on how we can effectively prepare for the current and future challenges facing organizations.

The Topics for Discussion have included:

- Act 91, Junior Firefighting, Relief Association Modernization
- Fire Training and Education, Fire Police
- Recruitment & Retention
- Open Form

Back Mountain (Luzerne County) Town Hall – 26 Attendees

Mill Hall (Clinton County) Town Hall – 70 Attendees

Southeast Pennsylvania (Montgomery County) – 70 attendees

Excellent feedback was received and is being used to guide our legislative and educational efforts.

Conference Participation / Vendor

PFESI participated as a vendor in several conferences. The goal of attending is to expand our influence, answer questions, and build relationships. We attended the following events:

- Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors – 50 contacts
- LCFA Fire Expo – 80 contacts
- Pennsylvania Boroughs Association – 25 contacts

Coordination with Key Partners

PFESI works with many key partners at the local, county, state, and federal level. The success of our organization is built over the ability to achieve consensus and partner with those who have in interest in sustaining and improving Pennsylvania's Fire and Emergency Services Organizations.

Some of our 2022 key partners include:

- Firefighter's Association of the State of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
- Pennsylvania Municipal League
- Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
- The Pennsylvania State Mayors Association
- Congress of Neighboring Communities – University of Pittsburgh
- County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council
- Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association
- Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association
- Office of the State Fire Commissioner

Firefighters Association of the State of PA / PFESI Joint Conference

The Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute (PFESI) and Firefighters Association of the State of Pennsylvania (FASP) conducted the first joint conference, "Moving Forward Together" on October 20 to 22, 2022 at the Best Western Premier Conference Center in suburban Harrisburg. The October 20 and 21 sessions consisted of the FASP meetings/officer elections, memorial service, and award ceremony. The Acting State Fire Commissioner Chas McGarvey provided an update on the OSFC activities, Tom Santanna and Jim Carstater provided a Law & Legislative Committee report.

On Saturday, October 22, Chief Frank Zangari convened the Statewide Advisory Board (SWAB) meeting. Executive Director Jerry Ozog provided a legislative update and Tracie Young-Brungard provided an update of the Office of State Fire Commissioners Recruitment & Retention efforts. The SWAB was followed up by three education sessions, Frank Leeb, Deputy Assistant Chief, FDNY presented strategies and tactics considerations from the Bronx Fire, Bill Jenaway reviewed the FASP Recruitment and Retention SAFER Grant actions, and Spencer Cheatham, Fire Chief of West Point VA FD presented "Leadership is Retention, Retention is Recruitment".

The Annual PFESI Dinner opening ceremonies included the Honor Guard from the Seven Mountains EMS Council and The Kiltie Band of York. Brian Connely served as the Master of

Ceremonies, and PFESI Vice President of PFESI Chad Deardorff provided welcoming remarks. Following dinner Chief Chaplain Jimmy Fanny Jr. from the Chaplain Corps of Lancaster County conducted a remembrance ceremony for PA's Fallen Firefighters and EMS personnel. He was assisted by Firefighter and PFESI Volunteer Rick Witten, Acting State Fire Commissioner Chas McGarvey, and PA EMS Director Aaron Rhone. Eriks Gabliks, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy provided the Keynote address. Following the Keynote, Brian Connely and Frank Zangari awarded the Chet Henry Award to Chief Bill Jenaway. Terry Sheets and Brian Connely awarded Frank Zangari the Ivan Meeker award and finally Chad Deardorff awarded longtime PFESI Administrative Assistant Penny Biter the President's award.

On behalf of the PFESI Board of Directors we would like to thank all who attended and all our corporate sponsors for making the event a success.



Ongoing SR 6 Report Work

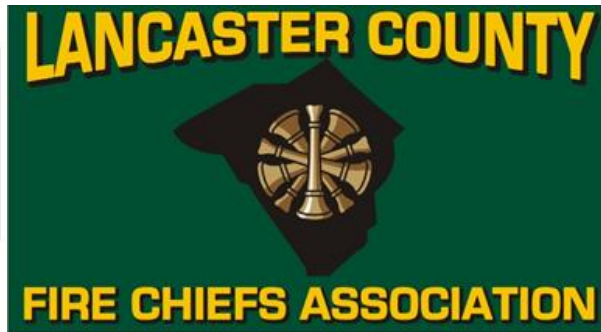
PFESI has continued to coordinate Recommendation 17 to create permanent communication and cooperation link among fire & EMS providers. PFESI coordinated meetings with all original SR 6 members and key legislative staff. The purpose of these meetings is to track progress and recommend continuing efforts.

Finance

PFESI is funded by four sources that include corporate donations, statewide advisory board assessment, general donations from individuals and organizations, and educational services contracts. We need and appreciate your funding support!

Thank You to our 2022 corporate sponsors and donors!



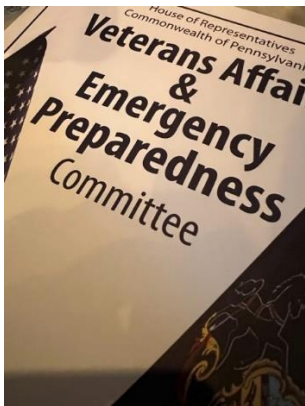




Pennsylvania Municipal League



FRITZ FIRE PROTECTION CO., INC.



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- Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association

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Thomas O'Donnell

- Fire Chief, Norristown

Frank Zangari

- Fire Chief Girardville, PA

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