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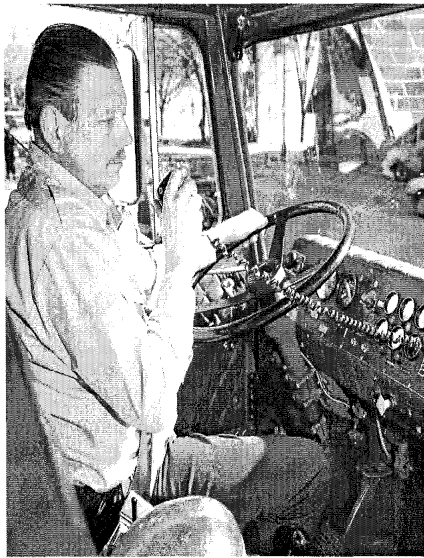
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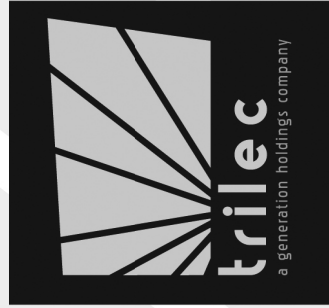
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Executive Director

Stacy Rhodes

Can you name the most recognized character in all of America? The entire World? If you answered Mickey Mouse, you are correct. We all have had a connection with Mickey Mouse sometime in our life. Walt Disney started a multi-billion company in 1923 with \$500 that he borrowed from his uncle. Today, if his uncle had kept his money invested in the business it would have been worth almost a billion dollars. So how did a boy born into modern circumstances in turn-of-the-century Chicago accomplish so much? Legend has it that Walt Disney explained his success this way:

I dream, I test my dreams against my beliefs, I dare to take risks, and I execute my vision to make those dreams come true.

Now you are thinking; "What does Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse have to do with me?"

Walt Disney's principles Dream, Believe, Dare, Do, are the same principles that our Association was built on. Our forefathers had a **Dream** of creating a state organization for the local units, and they **Believed** in their ideas, they **Dared** to start an organization, then they accomplished what they set out to **Do**, they created the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads.

We as an emergency organization are compelled to continue to move forward with new ideas, training and ensuring our members are offered the best services that are available. In today's tough economic times this sometimes may seem out of reach or maybe impossible. This is where I encourage you to follow Walt Disney's principles and:

- Dream** – Continue to dream. Without dreams we would have nothing.
- Believe** – Believe in your dreams. Test them against your beliefs.
- Dare** – Dare to tell your story. Let your peers and leaders know your ideas.
- Do** – Execute your visions to make those dreams come true.

Now, as we progress forward in the coming days, months and years, I encourage you to continue following in our forefathers footsteps, for not only your local unit but also for the Association. With these principles as a guideline we can accomplish anything that we set out to do. As the future comes upon us there are going to be changes in everything we do. Some changes are good, some are not so good. As we progress into the future here at the state office we are going to be trying some new things, to see if we can make things better and easier for our members. We are starting out slow to ensure a positive experience. As we progress in changes please let us know if they are good, or if you have an idea, we would love to hear it. Walt Disney had a dream, and his dream succeeded! Now, we have to make sure our dreams are carried out to ensure the dreams of our forefathers is continued on in the manner that they would have.

President's Page

Joe Arnold

First, I want to thank all of you for giving me another chance to be your President. I plan to work hard at keeping TARS the strong organization it has been for so long. It takes a lot of people working together to make a group successful, and I believe we have that capability in TARS. I would also like for ANY of you to feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions for improvement in our organization. All of you are a very valuable part of our Association, and your ideas, thoughts, and input in making TARS stronger is important to us. We cannot always please everyone, or implement every suggestion, but we will listen to you.

This year we are trying to improve our revenue by watching our costs and reducing spending where possible, and find ways to increase our budget. We are also looking at ways to present our budget in a way that makes it easier for everyone to understand at our Director's meetings.

One of my goals this year is increasing training. My charge to the instructors and coordinators is to teach a class. This will recertify them, as well as bring revenue to the training budget. As we all know, training is a very valuable tool in our Association, and is important to us as members within our Squads.

I am very proud of all the team-work at the past Convention in Pigeon Forge from the people putting on the competitions, to those participating in them. Everyone did a great job, and we can all be proud.

At our State Officer's meeting in November, we decided to resume the traveling during the February and June Region meetings, with specific emphasis on visiting Squads we haven't visited in a long time, and Squads that don't always have someone attending the Region meetings or Conventions. Our hope is to increase participation and attendance at these meetings, and keeping everyone up to date on happenings.

I'm looking forward to working with you and for you this coming year !!

*Imagination lit every lamp in this country, built every church,
performed every act of kindness and progress, created more
and better thins for people. It is the priceless ingredient for a
better day. Henry J. Taylor*

Letter to ALL TARS Instructors

Dear Instructor,

Being an instructor is a very important and commendable resource, to not only your individual unit, but you are also a very important link in the T.A.R.S. curriculum of classes. Without instructors in organizations teaching and promoting the classes, we are failing not only the individual members but also the units and the Association. Squad level training classes that are taught with rosters and fees turned in, is a large portion of income that supports the training program for your Association. It has come to the attention of the Training Committee that there are instructors that are not teaching classes after becoming an instructor. We the training committee feel, that as an instructor, you should be teaching and promoting the classes that you are eligible to teach. In order for our training program to continue and be successful, the Training Committee has placed into effect some changes that will be taking place effective April 1st, 2010 for our squad level instructors.

1. Any instructor that has not taught a class or turned a class roster in, within two years of being certified or re-certified will no longer be eligible to stay an instructor.
2. Any instructor that is caught teaching a class and not turning in fees and rosters to the state office will be dismissed as an instructor immediately.
3. Rosters are to be submitted either online or to the State Office within thirty days of completion of class.
4. Fees for classes must be mailed in with class or within thirty (30) days of class roster being filled out online.

There are approximately five thousand people that are certified in various classes taught by instructors from our organization each year. Each of these people and classes come through the state office for rosters, certificates, etc. We appreciate all of our instructors that are teaching classes and turning in the paperwork and money on a timely basis. **Please remember, for any class that you teach, the paperwork and fees have to be turned in, in order for the class to be certified and your instructor's liability insurance to be in effect.** Please make a note of the above rules and keep them in mind as we go forward in the future.

Training Committee

2010 Convention Information

This years convention will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Murphreesboro on October 7th–9th, 2010. Room rates are as follows and includes a made to order breakfast for each person registered in your room.

1-2 people \$129 + taxes per night 3-4 people \$139 + taxes per night

All rooms are spacious suites and feature a spacious living room, private bedroom and full size bathroom with exclusive Bloom® Energy bath and body products. Other comforts include a workstation with an ergonomic desk chair, high-speed Internet access, two televisions, two telephones with data ports, a refrigerator, microwave oven and tea and coffee making facilities.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel direct at 615-890-4464 or by going to www.hilton.com. If you make reservations online, make sure you use the reservation code **RSQ** in the promotion/offer code box under the header Special Accounts to receive the convention rate.



State Vice-President

John Weaver

I hope this message finds you all well. Convention was great once again. Thanks to all the host squads. I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did. I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your State Vice-President. If you didn't get to be at convention this year, start making plans for 2010.

This coming year we will have some great training classes. The training committee, along with Rusty, has a great schedule for you this year. The college will be offering the usual assortment of classes. Also added this year will be classes in: Structural Collapse, Advanced Trench, Rural Search and Rescue (operations and technician levels), there will be a Swift Water recertification class and there will be a pilot class on large animal rescue which will include hands on. There is also the rope classes offered through Progressive Rescue Solutions. Watch the web site for posting of dates for all the classes. Please get registered for class early. It will cost more if you register late this year. If you haven't been to a college class in a while, you need to come take some. Along that same note, college classes now have a four year expiration date. You need to come back to class and stay updated on new techniques and technologies that are coming out. At instructor updates this year we will have the Water Search and Recovery class ready for the instructors to take back to local squad level.

We have neighboring squads in Virginia, Alabama and North Carolina. I was fortunate enough to get to go to Alabama Association of Rescue Squads convention again this year. It is similar yet at the same time very different from ours. I thank my brothers and sisters in Alabama for allowing me to be part of their convention. If you get the chance to go to any of the other associations conventions, it is worth the trip. You will have a good time. It also helps to promote TARS.

I hope to see you soon, either on travels, at region meetings or in class. If you need me you can reach me at 731-518-8637 (new number) or email me jweaver@hardemanems.org.

Take care of each other. May God bless you!!

John P. Weaver
State Vice-President

Visit our Web Site

www.tnars.org

For the latest in News, Training, Convention,
Rescue College Information and Application

Region I Vice-President

Kevin “Bucky Ayers”

As another year comes to an end I want to thank all the Squads in Region1 for allowing me a 2nd term as their Region 1 VP. I also want to thank all who came out to the TARS Convention hope you had fun and took some memories back home with you. So now go back and start planning on next year’s convention in Rutherford Co. We have worked through some very trying times in the past year and had some very tough decisions to make and I know that all wasn’t pleased with some of the outcomes but as the old saying goes life must go on. As we begin a new year also training will begin in the early part of 2010 so start looking at the classes offered and let’s see some new faces out and about learn some new things and update yourself on some old. If I can be of service to anyone in anyway please feel free to give me a call will do what I can to help, as we all know there is no I in TEAM so lets all work together to make TARS the best darn organizations in the country. Hope to see everyone at the February Region meeting in Morristown, to be held at the West Hamblen Fire Dept. come out see what is going on and let the TARS Officers help you if they can in any way. Hope everyone has a super Holiday season and be safe out there and take care.

Region II Vice-President

Jim Houston

Hello Fellow Squad Members, I hope everyone had a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year and are looking forward to Rescue Squad events in 2010. This year our Region II meeting will be in Fentress County in February and Meigs County in June. Try to attend these meetings and get to know your fellow squad members across the region. If you are interested in training, check the TARS website (www.tnars.org) for a list of classes and dates. Some classes have a limited number of students. Feel free to call me if I can be of any help. Thanks again for your vote of confidence in choosing me as your Region II Vice-president for this year.

If you don't make a total commitment to whatever you are doing, then you start looking to bail out the first time the boat starts leaking. It's tough enough getting that boat to shore with everybody rowing, let alone when a guy stands up and starts putting his jacket on.

Lou Holtz

College football coach

State Historian

Dujuana Phelps

Hello everyone! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. I want to start by saying thank you for your continued support over the past few years. I am looking forward to another year of serving you as your historian and seeing all of your smiling faces as we travel across the state.

February region meetings are just around the corner and before we know it convention will be here again. So get those cameras out and get those flashes flashing. We had some really great scrapbooks, and I look forward to having even more this year.

You can email or mail me your photos for the state scrapbook in order to get your points on the scrapbook competition. These points can make a big difference.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon. May God bless and keep you.

What is the difference between an obstacle and an opportunity? Our attitude toward it. Every opportunity has a difficulty, and every Difficulty has an opportunity. J. Sidlow Baxter



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State Secretary

B J Robbins

I hope everyone enjoyed this year's convention in Pigeon Forge. I would like to thank everyone for their support and their vote in electing me as the state secretary. I will work for you; you are the ones that make this association what it is. If I can be of help to any of you, I am only a phone call away. I pray that everyone has had a Merry Christmas and will have a prosperous New Year. Thanks also to the people who have so faithfully supported and gave me a helping hand through the years that I have served this great Association as an officer. Hope to see everyone at the region meeting in February.

Past President

Jim Williamson

I would like to thank all of our members for supporting TARS and your local organizations; without your help we would not be a strong organization. In order for us to remain strong, we need to train hard and help each other in every way that we can. Hope to see you at the upcoming meetings, May God bless you and your families.

Class Fee Reminder

We are still receiving classes that are being turned in with the wrong amounts being charged. Just a reminder that fees were increased on April 1, 2009. All instructors please make a note of these changes.

Vehicle Extrication	\$12.00
Vehicle Extrication w/BBP	\$12.00
Vehicle Extrication Recert	\$ 9.50
Vehicle Extrication Recert w/BBP	\$ 9.50
EVOC/VKF	\$12.00
EVOC/VKF/BBP	\$12.00
EVOC/VKF Recert	\$ 5.00
EVOC/VKF Recert w/BBP	\$ 5.00
Bloodborne Pathogens only	\$12.00

Vanessa K. Free Certified Roster 1 - 25 = \$50
\$2 ea. Thereafter

Region III Vice-President

Cecil Nunley

Hope everyone has had a great holiday season. I would like to thank everyone for electing me as your Region III Vice-President once again it is a great honor to serve this organization. We will be doing region travels this year. I will be contacting squads that we will be visiting this year and look forward to seeing you. There are a lot of classes set for this year. Please take advantage of this training, for yourself and your community. Region III February meeting will be in Coffee County. I look forward to seeing everyone there. If I may be of any help to you please contact me.

Technology is another word for "tool". There was a time when nails were high-tech!

Tom Clancy-American Writer

Region IV Vice-President

Ross GUY

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support and confidence given to me at the October Convention in Pigeon Forge. It is truly an honor to serve as your Region IV Vice-President. I have attended two TARS Officers meetings since being elected. I have learned a lot and still have a lot to learn. I want to thank the other TARS Officers for their patience and help. On October 16-18, 2009 I attended the advanced Extrication Class hosted by Obion County Rescue Squad. Thirty -four students participated in the class. A special thank you to the ladies of the Obion County Rescue Squad for the delicious meals they prepared. Rescue College classes planned for 2010 in Region IV are Farm Rescue, Trench Rescue, Big Rig and Instructor I. Dates and places are in this rescue line newsletter. Mark your calendars and plan to attend one of these classes. The February Region IV meeting will be at Henderson County. Make Plans to attend and bring your new members with you. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Region IV Vice-President. If I can be of help to you or your squad please call me. I hope to see you at the February region meeting. Be careful and be safe.

