

Tennessee Emergency



Communications Association

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Roane County AEC - Interoperability

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Gentlemen,

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to those who voted in this officer election, no matter who you voted for. Your participation in the process is greatly appreciated!

First, let me mention this year's officer list:

President Emeritus:	John Stockberger	W9THI
President:	Sam Sumner	W4ZKM (Roane County)
Vice President:	Cliff Segar	KD4GT
Secretary:	Robert Colleston III	KJ4GDJ
Treasurer:	Ritchie Fields	KI4LOE

With a group of people like this, I have no doubt that TNECA will be a vital participant in the future of EmComm in the state of Tennessee. Although it has been said before, I would like to say a hearty "THANK YOU" to all of you who have agreed to serve.

As for the outgoing officers and Board members, please know that your time and efforts have been greatly appreciated. Remember... your input and participation are still needed. This is where our past will help assure our future.

One additional note... The Rev. Joseph Pinner agreed to serve on the Board (although hesitantly) to assure that there would be enough members to assure the proper operation of TNECA. However, after the current Board was in place, Fr. Joe felt the Board was strong enough to properly achieve its mission, and that his plate was really too full to accept another item. Therefore, on Saturday, March 27th, Fr. Joe sent the Executive Director an Email saying:

Please make my resignation from the board effective as of today.

Paul, as Executive Director, responded:

Many of us were hoping you would change your mind and share your wisdom with us.

However, I do understand and "Will Comply" with your request.

I agree with Paul. Fr. Joe's experience, background, and knowledge would have been a great asset to this board. However, as a former member of Fr. Joe's Parish, I know how busy he is, and I understand his request. Therefore, it is with sadness that I announce his resignation from the board.

Fr. Joe, please know that we appreciate your commitment to assuring that TNECA would be a successful and properly functioning operation. I want to remind you that your knowledge and skills are still vital to

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TNECA, and that we hope that you will continue to share those with us whenever you have the opportunity. Thank you again for your willingness to help!

Now, a little of my plan for TNECA:

I want you to know that, as your President, my job is not to “run” the Board, but to **serve** the Board. I am simply there to keep the meetings moving and on-track... to co-ordinate assignments and objectives... and to help to communicate the wishes of the Board to other EmComm agencies – Amateur and Clubs, and Governments. In short, I am here to help... not rule!

As for the “routine operation” of the organization, that is the job of the Executive Director. At this time, our Executive Director is Paul Drothler. The position of Executive Director is an appointment made by the Board, not an elected one.

On March 21st, KJ4GDJ (Robert Colleston III) sent out an Email to the board which said:

It is my recommendation that Paul Drothler remain appointed as the Executive Director for TNECA. His knowledge, experience and contact base is extraordinary. He has stated that he would be willing to continue to serve as such and I believe that he should remain as such.

Robert, I hope that you will allow me to accept this as a motion for the Board, rather than just a recommendation. Please know that I agree with Robert, and I second this motion. If anyone feels that this should be voted on, please say so at the next meeting (currently scheduled for April 15, 2010). At that time, unless a vote is requested, I will consider this passed unanimously.

It should be understood that I am **not** an expert in every aspect of EmComm. That is why there is an organization. WE ARE ALL NECESSARY TO ACHIEVING OUR GOALS! Just as the body is made up of many parts, each of us makes up TNECA. Please contribute your ideas and input!

While there are times when you and I may not totally agree, those are NOT the times to simply keep quiet to keep the “peace”... those are the times to initiate a conversation with me (or with other members with which you disagree). Sometimes, my ideas are good. Other times they are – quite simply – crappy. Help to keep the organization “on-track” by providing your thoughts and feelings. Please do not take other members comments on your ideas personally... simply take them as constructive input! This will make our meetings effective vehicles for meeting our objectives.

Speaking of our next meeting, I would like to give you several things to think about, so that they can be discussed at that meeting.

- **What is your their vision for TNECA** (please reply via Email). When these have been received, I will send out a summary of your comments.
- Please give some thought, and make a listing of **one year goal(s)** for TNECA.
- Also, please give some thought, and make a listing of **five year goal(s)** for TNECA.
- Please make sure that your goals **ARE ACHIEVEABLE!** (Don’t suggest “a chicken in every pot”, or an extensive [or expensive!!!] radio station in every household. <GRIN>).
- It has been suggested that TNECA work to become an “umbrella” organization that can act as an interface between TEMA and Tennessee Clubs, EMAs, and other volunteer communications

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groups. Please consider this, and give suggestions on this idea. (How to make this work, why it would/would not work, etc.)

- It has also been suggested that – as a part of the above – we reorganize TNECA in such a manner to allow a central organization (TNECA) with other groups as Chapters. These groups would continue to have their own identity and operations; they would just work through TNECA as a coordinator for incidents, emergencies, disasters, etc. As a part of this, each Chapter would be represented on the Board of Directors.
- If the above is agreed to, it will require some changes to our Charter and By-Laws. Please think about the specific changes that would be necessary, and bring them out during the meeting.
- TNECA should begin to produce and initiate a “minimum standard” for required training of EmComm personnel (both Amateur and EMA personnel). This will allow EMA Managers to know what kind of resource they can expect to walk in during incidents, etc., and that all of the EmComm personnel working through TNECA will be consistently trained and professional.
- Above all, what can we do to **maintain** the reputation of TNECA as a professionally run operation, capable of interoperability with **ANY** EMA or other EmComm agency. We should do **nothing** that will tarnish this reputation.
- Comments on any of these ideas are welcome... drop me an Email or give me a call about these (or any) concerns you may have.

As there is so much to talk about during this meeting, I suggest that we suspend the training portion of our meeting this month (April 2010) to devote to these discussions.

Also, please remember that we are **NOT** limited to the above list of items to discuss. If you have concerns, ideas, or anything else you would like to talk about... please feel free to give me a call or drop me an Email. My door is always open!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve. I look forward to working with each of you!

Sincerely,

Sam Sumner

Sam Sumner
President, TNECA
W4ZKM

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