

**The Exchange Club of Kiawah-Seabrook**  
**Box PMB-J 130 Gardener's Circle Johns Island, SC 29455**

**Member Meeting 02/01/2023 @Seabrook Island Club**

Jack Wilson, President, called the meeting to order at 6:32PM and opened with a prayer.

Thad Peterson honored fallen South Carolina hero Sergeant First Class Christopher Celiz and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following guests of members were welcomed:

Host	Guest
John Reock	Ryan Kunitzer, Speaker
	Chris Whaley, Speaker Associate
Thad Peterson	Bob Rosenberger and Steve Ash
Charlie Septer	Jeff Rivken
Rich Boss	Helen and Rick Hargreaves

Jack Wilson welcomed new member John Woychick.

Alan Armstrong informed members about the Angel Oak Award for which nominations are being solicited and are due Feb 11.

Roger Steele gave an update on the CSO Outing scheduled for Feb 9; the bus is full but the CSO donated one free ticket for those already sign up. It was awarded to Vick and Carol Augusta by random number selection.

The evening's speaker, SJFD Fire Chief John Kunitzer was introduced by John Reock. The SJFD was chartered in 1959 as a volunteer FD, but they now employ 140 people. All firefighters are EMTs and they are moving toward a paramedic-model. 85% of calls are medical and only 4% are fire. There are two FDs on Kiawah, one on Seabrook, three on Johns Island, one on Wadmalaw and a fireboat in Bohicket Marina which is soon to be replaced with a new 38" model. A new FD will also be installed in Kiawah River. SJFD works hand in hand with Charleston FD under the automatic-aid system which means all 1<sup>st</sup> responders are dispatched no matter the incident address. **He offered to come do a CPR class for our club.** See attached bio. Instagram and Facebook posts with a photo and caption were made the next day.

**Next Meeting:**

2/15/23 @ Lakehouse

Speaker – Eduard Suarasan, Asst GM of Seabrook Island Club

**Addendums:**

Guest speaker bio – Ryan Kunitzer

**Minutes submitted on -02/02/2023 by Lisa McDonald, Club Secretary**

Ryan Kunitzer

Fire Chief for St. John's Fire District



Ryan Kunitzer was selected as Fire Chief for St. John's Fire District in October of 2021. Before becoming the Fire Chief, Ryan served as the Chief Fire Marshal and Battalion Chief for 5 years with St Johns, prior to becoming Fire Chief. Previously, Ryan has worked for the Charleston Fire Department and was a firefighter in his hometown of Saginaw, Michigan. Ryan holds a master's degree from the Citadel in Leadership Studies and last year completed the competitive Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy. Ryan and his wife, Mary and daughter Molly, reside in West Ashley.

### **The Fire District**

The St. Johns Fire District is made up of a growing, vibrant, and diverse group of islands, rich in history that pre-dates the Revolutionary War. Known for its beautiful trees and beautiful.

The women and men of the St. Johns Fire Department are key contributors to making this place special. They bring unique backgrounds and skill sets allowing them to provide an "all-hazards" type response to local residents and visitors. With other local support organizations, they provide EMS services, fire response, and rescue services ranging from marine rescues to significant hurricanes.