

**Press Release: St. Tammany Fire Chiefs Association [www.stfca.org](http://www.stfca.org)**

The St. Tammany Fire Chiefs Association has partnered with the St. Tammany Parish Coroner to provide a Medical Director for non-transporting Basic Life Support Fire Departments. Dr. Charles Preston, the current Parish Coroner, sees this as an extension of his duties to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish. "I am a public servant. I am here to serve the public in any way I can" said Dr. Preston during a recent meeting with the Chiefs Association on Tuesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Dr. Preston cleared the last hurdle of getting the Parish President's approval to enter into this agreement to function as Medical Director free of charge with the following Fire Departments: St. Tammany Parish Fire District No. 2 (Madisonville), St. Tammany Parish Fire District No. 5 (Folsom), St. Tammany Parish Fire District No. 7 (Talisheek), St. Tammany Parish Fire District No. 9 (Bush), and St. Tammany Parish Fire District No. 13 (Goodbee). Fire Chief Chris Kaufmann with Fire District No. 1 (Slidell) and President of the St. Tammany Fire Chiefs Association said "this is a proactive approach to addressing the need of improved Emergency Medical First Response that impacts quality of life on many levels in our Parish; this is a win, win for our communities and a great example of good government". "This was a service that some of these fire districts were previously paying for and some could not afford, so we cannot thank Dr. Preston enough for stepping up" said Ken Salzer, Chief of Emergency Medical Services with Fire District No. 4 (Mandeville).



Pictured from left to right are Chiefs Harold Dutsch, Earl Gorrondona, Patrick Sicard, Chis Kaufmann, Dr. Charles Preston, Merrick Tassin, Scott Brewer, Daryl Guillott, Lonnie Johnson, Mike Stein and Gary Whitehead.