

**STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Les W. Bunte Administration and Classroom Complex

Room 101 A.

College Station, Texas

SFFMA Executive Board Meeting

July 22, 2023

Meeting called to order at: 12:58 p.m.

by President: President Boggs

Invocation given by: Chaplain Ben Kennedy

Roll Call of Board Members Present: Brent Allen

Board Members present on site:

President Donny Boggs

1st Vice President Billy Tidwell

2nd Vice President mark Wobus

3rd Vice President R.J. Thomas

4th Vice President Alex Smith

Immediate Past President Chuck Richardson

Secretary Brent Allen

Assistant Secretary Mike Richther

Chaplain Ben Kennedy

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Mascot Hunter Tidwell

Board Members Not Present: Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson

Non - Voting Board Members Not Present:

Office Staff Present: Executive Director Tim Rutland

President Donny Boggs: Asked Mascot Hunter Tidwell to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes from Secretary Allen & Asst. Secretary Mike Richther;

A motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion was made by 1st Vice President Tidwell and seconded by 2nd Vice President Wobus,

The motion passed with 8 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Guest present: Andy Dexter, Richard Van Winkle, David Luedeke,
Gerald Mathemus, Ray Murray, Bill Gardner

Appointments

Chief Loamier – TEEEX Chief Lomier has ask if we could re appoint David Atkinson to the TEEEX Advisory Board, for those that don't know David, he is a good individual and is passionate for the fire service, he is the Fire Chief of Texas Eastman, so that has been the request of Chief Lomier. Also, E Board Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson, he would still like to stay on, as Parliamentarian.

I would entertain a motion to appoint these two gentlemen, David Atkinson, for the TEEEX Advisory Board and Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson to the E-Board.

The motion was made to app by IPP Vice President Richardson and seconded by 1st Vice President Tidwell, motion carried with 8 voting for the motion, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Certification Board Appointments

There were several positions that were past due and some that came up. I have received e-mails on these. I spoke with the individuals; I will run through theses.

- Patrick Dooly, Reappointment Zone 8
- Nick Barlow, Reappointment Zone 13
- Roger Esparza, Reappointment Zone 17
- Jesse Slaughter to Replace Josh Constancio finish his term for Zone 16
- Jimmy Gorge, Reappointment Zone 3
- Steven Loving, Reappointment Zone 7
- Brent Allen, Reappointment Zone 14

Did we have letters on each one of these, President Boggs, yes, sent to Tim and Kevin.

2nd Vice President Wobus made the motion that we approve those certification appointments, by the names listed, represented zones to finish out their term or renew their terms, Seconded by 1st Vice President Tidwell. The motion was carried with 8 voting for the motion, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Old Business

Committee Reports

President Boggs,

We, going to go into some committee appointments, we not going into the master of all the districts. We are going straight into the Legislative Board, as you see, anybody have any commits, updates, questions, about it, pretty much it is our board, as you see, any questions on this.

3rd Vice President Thomas

Just to educate myself, is this typical of the Legislative Board, is it usually the executive committee, it is spelled out in the Constitution.

President Boggs,

Everybody good with it, and you see I've got names in green, that means I have talk to the district. And the individuals

- Certification Board, I have some names in blue, those names where just reappointed I'm going to them to green. We have Brian Sheffer (Chair), Andy Dexter (Vice Chair.)
- Jerry Carnes, Texas A&M Forest Service (?)
- TISB (?) Plants Information

- T-Flag – Billy Tidwell (Chair) and Bill Gardner (Vice Chair) Chief Van Winkle (Liaison)
- Credentials Committee (Brent, Liaison)
- Constitution and By & Laws - Harvey Cheshire (Chair) Chief Van Winkle (Liaison)
- Sargent of Arms – Matt Cornell (Chair) David Luedeke (?)
- Poster Committee – Nancy Hall
- Fire Marshal Committee – R.J. Thomas (Liaison)
- Finance Committee – Pat Hlavaty (Chair) Malissa (Co-Chair) Rayford Gibson (Secretary) Chuck Billy, Tim
- TEMSB – Andy Dexter (Chair) Karen Picker, Billy Tidwell, DeNisa Brown, Tim Smith, R.J. Thomas, Dave Lambrix
- Memorial Committee – Ben Kenndy, Pat Hlavaty, Henry Perry- Past Presidents, TFA President, Past Presidents of TFA, Mary Jane, Jim
- Driving Committee – Mike Richther, David Luedeke - Past President, Alex Smith (Liaison)
- Racing Committee – Steven Donley (Chair) Gary, (who chairs the men and women.)
- International Committee -Edward Plaseo (?), Dallas Renfrew
- Speaker Selection Committee – R.J. Thomas, Certification Board, Jason Jackson - TEEEX, Jason Nabona(?) – Fire Marshals Committee, , Mark Wobus- E-Board Liaison, David Wade -TISB
- Exhibits Committee –Billy Tidwell (Chair) Raymond (Co-Chair)
- Firefighter & EMS of the Year – Stepanie and Ben (Chairs) David Luedeke, Linda Finny, Jeff Blue, David Blowe
- Golf Committee – Stay the Same
- Site Selection – R.J. Thomas 3rd V.P.
- Health & Safety -
- Combination Departments – Bill Gardner - Past President
- Steering Committee – I.P.P Chuck Ricardson, Bill Gardner-Past President
- Education & Travel Grant – 3rd V.P. R.J. Thomas (Chair) I.P.P Chuck Richardson (Co - Chair) Mike Richther (Asst. Secretary) Joe Cook (Certification Board) Melissa Roberson (Finance) Jason Nabrono (Speaker Selection Committee) Tim Rutland (Staff)
- Conference Sponsorship – 4th V.P. Smith
- National Volunteer Fire Council – Dallas Renfrew, Kendall Hunting
- Fire Museum – David Wade - P.P., 4th V.P. Alex Smith (Liaison)
- TCFP Board - Paul Hamilton, Tim Smith
- TCFP Advisory Borad – David Atkinson

IPP President Richardson made the motion that we approve those committee appointments as presented, Seconded by 3rd Vice President Thomas.

The motion was carried with 8 voting for the motion, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Capstone Projects Travel Grant

I.P.P Chuck Richardson

- As you all know we haven't done very well at raising funds.
- We have reached out to Kim, she has given us some ideas.
- We might improve donations coming in, we really have moved anything.
- Now that we have a new President, he and I will get together, to get this committee moving.

Industrial Membership

President Donny Boggs

- On the Industrial membership you know we are struggling to get them involved, get them engaged.
- I have talked with David Atkinson, the chair of TIS, he is in our court, doing everything he can to get people in.
- How to tell the people how to do it, still going to cost them more, what cost them anyway.
- We hope it's going to catch one, current numbers have been 14 in Firefighter 1, 14 in Firefighter 2
- Keep pushing it, to get more people involved in it.

Media & Marking of SFFMA

1st Vice President Tidwell

- Everything is still on track, just the way we thought.
- We will go into executive session later on.

2nd Floor Buildout

2nd Vice President Wobus

- I had some conversations with Finance Chair Pat Hlavaty at the conference in McAllen.
- We talked about the dollar amount to finish the buildout, add elevator.
- His suggestion was that we have so much in saving get the elevator done.
- The cost of that is about \$85,000.00.
- Take that bid start doing construction you are going to find little things, so you round it up to \$100,000.00, do it and get it done.
- But, since that I have had some conversations with our Executive Director, I think we are all, aware we are going to have to dip into our saving just to make it through the end of the year.
- Had conversation with other folks, if we spend that \$100,000.00 to put in the elevator, we are still looking at roughly \$350,000.00 just to finish out.
- It is going to take quite a bit of time when we start to rent it to recover money.
- So, now the question is do we even worry about spending the money, to not get anything back
- We will still have discussion.

Update for Upcoming Conferences for E-Board to Attend

2nd Vice President Wobus

- There are quite a few conferences to attend.
- Due a conversation that I had with the secretary of the Louisiana State Firefighter Association, they attend other conferences around Louisiana.
- They attend other conferences around Louisiana, allow those conference boards to set up a booth at their conference they just trade out space, that no money that exchanges hands
- The Emergency Management Association of Texas in February, Texas Emergency Management Conference in May, The Texas Association Fire Educators in April, The EMS Conference in November, South Texas All Hazard Conference in March, Costal Bend Conference in May, The Texas Fire Marshal Conference in October, Port Arass EMS Conference in May,
- The Benefits may be a draw for them.
- Central Texas Based Organization, holds its conference in San Marcos

Update on 4-Day Schedule

1st Vice President Tidwell

2nd Vice President Wobus

Director Tim Rutland

2nd Vice President Wobus

- Since we have the Committee names, I will reach out Ubaldo start putting stuff to together.
- In the past, we would send out requests for instructors in September time frame.
- About 60 days to turn something around. A list would be put together and approved .at the plans meeting.
- So, you have plenty of time to notify instructors and plenty of time if some backs out to find another instructor.

1st Vice President Tidwell

Day 1

- Boards and Committee, get all discussions on Zoom ahead time.
- The E-Board will be 10:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Cert Board 1:00 pm to 2:30pm
- TFA Meeting, Conference Registration, EEOY/EMSPOY interviews
- President Dinner with Staff Family and Guest

Day 2

- Exhibits Committee Meeting
- FFOY/EMSPOY Breakfast
- Training Sessions
- Memorial Rehearsal
- Ribbon Cutting & Exhibitor Show meal with Vendors.
- Past President Luncheon
- 1st Business Session 4:00 pm to 6:00
- Hospitality Night

Day 3

- Driving Contest
- Training Session
- Poster Judging,
- Exhibitor Move Out
- T-Flag
- Games
- President Dinner and Dance

Day 4

- Memorial Line Up
- Memorial Service
- 2nd Business Session
- 1:00 pm E-Board Meeting

Update on Red Book Proceeding

Director Tim Rutland

- Heather has the Red Book that is her sole responsibility currently.
- It is her project to get these things taken care of.
- Talk to her on Thursday, she said by the weekend she should have 2019 and 2021 electronic version of the Red Books and posted on the website.
- Get to those by link "About Us" and the previous conference link for that year.
- She will get to the digital copy of 2022.

Update on 2604 Funding

President Donny Boggs

- Frustration around the state about the course pricing
- I had a sit down with Director Lomier and Executive Director Angler.
- Specialize Courses are costing \$1,000.00, and only covers \$665.00 of it.
- Most Rural Department have extremely limited budgets.
- They must pay the difference of what budget they may have it may not allowed to pay for another test they had earmarked.
- It was suggested to contact the Texas Forestry Service, to raise the daily rate.
- I talk to Jason Killingham, explain the situation, we have talk about raising the daily rate
- I put a letter together and the board seen it. Jason replies back saying he got it good and we go to committee with it.
- They are meeting July 30 or 31.

New Business

Time 2:00 p.m.

VFIS Travel Policy

1st Vice President Tidwell

Currently the commercial and auto package which includes Board Members falls under the policy definition of employees in course and scope of the association's duties. Worker Comp does not appear. Board members are not included according to the override.

Its call a Business Travel Accident Insurance for Board Members

It would be around \$1500 to \$1600 a year. It would be everyone on the Board excluding employe staffing. So anytime doing anything in the business or scope of the SFFMA where it was driving down here, our going to a district meeting or just going to an association district in your county and you were hit in a car, certain policy would kick in. In a way we are covered, and, in a way, we are not covered, right in our current stuff. So, if we go with this board policy, you will have the Accidental Death of \$50,000.00 for a policy period and \$50,000.00 dismemberment with a total Argument limited for \$500,000.00. it would have sum accidental medical expense.

Posting of Recordings and Minutes

President Boggs

Director Rutland

President Boggs

I am asked all the time why minutes are not posted on the website, we have got behind.

Director Rutland

They are there, people just do not know they are there, the minutes to meetings are there all the way through April. The one we just approved will now go on there.

President Boggs

There was a time when we were behind. The Director stated that the meeting recording could be placed on there if they really want to hear it. I think that is a great idea.

Director Rutland

That is what TCFP does, using them as an example. That's what they do, you can go to their meeting minutes you can get the recording commission minutes.

Membership Voting

President Boggs

Gone to a lot of district meetings, fire department meetings, one thing I keep hearing do they come to Conference, well I do not have a vote and I just what see what this board fills. If you are dues paying member you should have a vote. That means coming to the conference to exercise that vote.

IPP Chuck Richardson

That is one of the things that I had a question mark about. Why doesn't every member of the conference have a vote? It says every department has five votes. The key is, at convention. Be at the spring meeting to be able cast your ballots.

NVCF Computer Class

IPP Chuck Richardson

One of the classes was an online seminar on how to put on a conference. Since we are struggling with our conference might be an innovative idea for Executive Board and Staff to look at this. If can glean some information, it might help us. The name of the course is Conducting Training and Events on a Budget. And he said it will not cost us a dime. 3 hours long. I am willing to invest to find out.

Three City Rotation

2nd Vice President Wobus

So again, a lot of talk about conventions, where they are in the future, amount of travel and the amount of travel from the panhandle to the valley.

Several folks had suggestions about going to a three-city rotation. Along the I-35 Corridor, with a 2 yr. Bid. Better discounts, Better pricing, and so forth and so on. See them again in 5 yrs.

San Marco, Fisco, Waco

Put together a Proposal. It will take a constitutional amendments to make that happen.

Conference Sponsorship

4th Vice President Smith

I have been talking to Director Rutland and Mr. Wobus about the sponsorship of the conference. Also talk to Mr. Raymond about it, a little bit yesterday. I think that the people to get to sponsor this thing. They sponsor part of the conference, but they are also paying for a booth out there in the exhibits. Why can't we give them a little help? We live in a gimme, gimme world. I what to reach were ever they have conferences. Also reach out to the companies that will help support this thing. A form or a layout of stuff, which try to get going a will back. It comes back to diverse types of sponsorship.

Blogs

President Boggs

Good to See everybody Blogs for E-Info,
Lots of different ways to do that.
Right the V.P.
2 Articles, around 300 words
To Julie, the first week of the month

Enter into Executive Session at 2:51 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 3:41 p.m.

Motion was made by 1st Vice President Tidwell

At time I like to make a motion that we direct Director Tim Rutland to go into conversations to hire Kim Hilsback under the terms we discuss. Seconded by 2nd Vice President Wobus
The motion was carried with 8 voting for the motion, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Audience Comments at 3:43 p.m.

Andy Dexter- Dates Set, Fliers out, Last week of October.

Richard Van Winkle – None

Bill Gardner- Info to the Past President is appreciated, it actually generated some conversations among the group. Thank ya'll for the appointment to the advisory board.

Board Member Comments: 3:53 p.m.

President Boggs: Well first and foremost, I respect each and every one of you. I really want to thank ya'll. for taking care of me in McAllen, when something unexpected like happens, other organizations would have fallen apart, and I didn't see that. I saw Billy Ray, Mark and Chuck and everybody step up. The prayers and well wishes were appreciated. Of course, I beat myself up, I wanted to be there. We have a lot of decisions to make that will define where this association is going to go. You are right Billy Ray taking stuff head-on, a lot of people do not think so. We are listening to the membership. All around the state, we see from Beaumont to McAllen in the last couple years. The amendments that were passed They are saying we are embracing change. So, the next three years Where theses Conferences will be held will tell us a lot. As far as members these next three years just happen to fall that way. We will see what it does. I'm just honored to sit in this chair. I what to do the best job that I can. But I expect this Board to in my jurk a knot in my butt, if you think I'm doing the wrong thing. Even form the Past Presidents.

1st Vice President Tidwell: Another great meeting we are taking a lot of these challenges head on and turning this organization around as Tim alluded to earlier, we are right there on the cusp turning this thing back around, we are moving in the right direction. We are a lot closer at every meeting and every day, we are going in the right direction. Just Keep on.

2nd Vice President Wobus: I don't remember voting for black.

3rd Vice President Thomas: Working on emergency management We have a lot of Fire Chiefs and EMS directors as well that end up in their latter part of their career being assigned to emergency management. There should be some training or certification we can offer based on our background with us on individuals that will help them get into a position like that. I am collecting information from emat, tdem, emi, nfpfa looking at this.

4th Vice President Smith: No one is above the others, everybody works together, and we talk to one other.

I.P.P. President Richardson: We did have a good meeting and we touch on lot of things. I appreciate everybody having an open mind in the discussions we are having. It just isn't me, it has to be us. Thank you.

Secretary Allen: Looks like we are headed in the right direction.

Asst. Secretary Richter: Good to see everybody and we had a good meeting.

Chaplain Kennedy: Good to see everybody again.

Parliamentarian Gibson:

Mascot H. Tidwell: None

Director Rutland:

Next Schedule Meeting:

Motion to adjourn the Executive Board Meeting

1st Vice President Tidwell made the motion to adjourn the business meeting.

Seconded by 2nd Vice President Wobus

The motion was carried with 8 voting for the motion, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Adjourned at: 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brent Allen

SFFMA Secretary

8/1/2023