

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

Zoom Meeting

8/14/2023

Meeting called to order at: 6:30 p.m.

by President: President Boggs

Invocation given by: Chaplain 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
Secretary Brent Allen
Assistant Secretary Mike Rither
Chaplain Ben Kennedy

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson

Board Members Not Present:

Non - Voting Board Members Not Present:

Office Staff Present: Director Tim Rutland

Approval of Minutes from Secretary Allen:

A motion to approve the minutes from 8/14/2023 with edits as presented.
Motion was made by 2nd Vice President Wobus and seconded by 4th Vice President Smith
The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Guest present: None

Old Business:

Ad Hoc Committee Sponsorship:

President Boggs:

- Basically, the Executive Board, along with some Staff Personal out of the Autin Office.
- (President Boggs) I believe it is important for us as board members to lead the way, to go out for sponsorship to help pay for this conference that we have.
- If we really hit some of these agonies or companies to get enough sponsorships to help pay for the conference.
- So, our members would pay a lower attendance fee, if any at all.
- 4th Vice President Smith has some form that he can submit though the Board.

- To discuss certain levels to establish for want dollar amount, and what they, the donor would get for that.
- We also have the Education Travel Grant

Update on Capstone Project:
3rd Vice President Thomas

- EMC Duties, we need education that should be provided, practically looking though at the fire service.
- FEMA, has a pross of Basic, Advanced and Executive, with pre-requisites.
- NFPA 1600 has a broad application, but it's not laid out in a manner to build an actual program.
- TDEM has an academy that was rolled out just recently, they also have a Senior Official Workshop.
- What an EMC is in TEX.GOV. Code 4-18, the Judges and Mayors, are the presiding officers and the emergency Director for the jurisdiction, the EMC is the day-to-day person, he shall serve as the Assistant for the EMC Director.
- Pre-requisites & FEMA Classes, they have Basic Academy at 120 hours over 3 weeks, these are online classes or in - person classes though, the Emergency Management Institute and 12 required Courses of these are very basic, we could do these in a classroom setting.

Dist. Development & Sponsorship:
4th Vice President Smith

- On the District Development, out of all the districts, I have had only 4 that contacted me with information on their 4th Vice Presidents and their Secretary's to be members of this committee.
- Mr. Rick Issac contacted me, and I agree with what he said, wait till the fall meeting are over with, when the election is going on to see who's being put in those chairs.
- Try to get the information from them then and get them placed on this committee.
- I know that I will not be able to make a lot of the meetings down south, so I would ask whoever is going to that meeting, since I can't attend, if you could possibly get that information to give to me. I would appreciate that, or I will contact that district.
- So far, I have Permian Basin, Midwest, Panhandle and North Texas, for 4 districts on board.
- So, at fist it's kind of like with the President's in the south and about the committee appointments and everything else, trying to get people involved, it's like pulling teeth sometimes, I will still be keeping push on them. We need representatives from each district if not you are up to four districts to make the choice for everybody else.
- As far as the sponsorship stuff, Director Rutland sent me some stuff I kind of like that format, my question was on prices and stuff like that, he got me that stuff on prices, levels, what are we offering them.

Update on TEAMS Meeting:
1st Vice President Tidwell

- Not here.

Update on Louisiana Conference:
2nd Vice President Wobus

- A good time was had by all, good report !
- Chuck, R.J. and I travelled over on the second and returned on the Fifth.
- We had a meeting with their executive board while we were there.
- They are different than we are, but they are the same as we are, if that is a good way to put it.
- Our major diffidence between their group and our group is, we run a certification program,

and they do not.

- They are truly membership; their membership is roughly the same as ours 14,000 to 15,000 members.
- We attended their 118th Conference in Baton Rouge
- As far as putting it together, the President, the outgoing President is reasonable for picking the location and pretty much for getting the funding for that conference.
- So, while we were sitting there in their meeting, they did a raffle last year leading up to this conference to help offset the cost of the conference, they did a raffle on guns, who won't buy tickets for guns. They made 23,000.00, that's a profit. That goes to the cost of the conference.
- Their board is made up of President, a First Vice, a Second Vice, the Secretary, and a Treasurer, they have 8 District Representatives
- District Representatives run and can be elected, somebody can run against them and beat them out, but those 8 District Representatives, along with the Past President, Chaplain, President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President make up their Board.
- They did have a struggle at this conference about 90 days before their conference, their President resigned, so they didn't have an outgoing President at this conference.
- They have two paid staff members, that is the Secretary and the Treasurer. Made up of Paid and Volunteer Department, paid firefighters, and volunteer firefighters.
- Less Committees, 8 committees, they do have a training fund where they can pay for their speakers to come in that help get some folks in there, they did the MAX Fire Box. They had a Texas giving a class.

Update on Compinsion of Speakers for our Conference

President Boggs

- I think we are going to draw some people, by centralizing the next 3 years, along that 35 corridor I think it's going to help.
- We are going to have some good speakers; I am not trying to take away anything from members that our presenters.
- But we do that some out there like to go here, like Daniel Deyear that I always try to go lesson to, Mo Davis is one, Rick Laskey, there are several out there. I want to put out to the board; do you feel it will be in our best interest to try to set aside x number of dollars to Compensate some Keynote Speakers.
- Whether that monetary award, be in the form of money or hotel stays and meals.
- I think it would benefit us, during the President Forum at McAllen when you were taking a nap, Donnie. That came up in discussion, to get good quality notable speakers to come in, then again, we don't have the money for that.
- If that is something we what to stive to I think it would be good and help the attendance, if we could start getting that in. If we are still trying to do two days' worth of training. I would suggest that the first morning of our first training day is our keynote speaker.
- That kicks off the training into our sessions that first afternoon, then though the second day.
- Tim is anything we can do that we can pull from, that could set-up an account per say that put money into.
- (President Boggs to Director Rutland) All I would suggest at this point, when you want to develop the budget for 24, allow me to set aside money for that propose of keynote speakers. I can look in doing that.
- Farm Bureau normally sponsors our meals, it's about 12,000.00 to 15,000.00. What about using that money from the Farm Bureau to sponsor our keynote speakers. It is worth looking at. We need to give them the opportunity to see all the sponsorship opportunities. Let them drive the bus, so to speak.

Update on RED Book proceeding:
Tim Rutland

- We have Heather working on that.
- We have though 21 is on the web site.
- If you go to the About Us link, then to publications you will see them.
- I talk to her just this morning before I left town, she was hoping to get 22 (Beaumont) finish up by this evening, she was really shooting posted on the website by time we met this evening.
- I just looked and it looks like she couldn't, I think she will have it done in the next day or two.
- She plans to have all of those printed during September, they will be available for distribution based on that guideline.
- She has the recordings of McAllen, she sent those to the Transcriber, she should have them back within the week.
- She said she was doing some preliminary work on the 23 Red Book as well.

Update on HB2604 funding announcement:
President Boggs

- I was approach by a Red River District Fire Chief about the cost of classes that he needed that his people in,2604 barely cover half of that cost.
- He has to make a discission, to move them, which was going to cost him \$50.00 to move them or he is just going into the budget and keep them in there for the training.
- Because it may be a long time before assistance gets to them.
- I went to a set down with Gordon Lohmeyer and Chris Angler, I explained the situation and in talking to them they suggested maybe reach to the Forestry Service, on behalf of the board.
- They received it, and got back with me, it was some good justification they felt to increase the daily rate per person and increase the course cap and also the annual cap on the department.
- I am very proud to say they did, they met, they did raise that rate effective, September 1st that rate will now be 140.00 dollars per person, per day with a 700.00 cap on the course and a 15,000.00 annual cap on the department.
- It was not the increase I was hoping for, but I did write a letter to them, and stated I appreciate what they did do.

Update on VFIS SFFMA Executive Board travel policy:
1st Vice President Tidwell

- It will cover the entire Board, at a price of 1299.00.
- Rutland, I was thinking 1500.00 or less.
- As soon as possible, before we start district meetings.

President Boggs would like to entertain a motion to be purchased for the board.
The motion was made by Secretary Allen and Seconded by 2nd Vice President Wobus
The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Update on Fall District meetings:

President Boggs

- I know we have got seven that have been scheduled, I have got them right here.
- Sept 23rd you have Wintergarden, Jourdanton VFD at 10:00 a.m. R.J. at Wintergarden
- North Texas; Richland Hills at 6:00 p.m. I'm committing to Richland Hills, President Boggs
- Ya'll can choose the ones that you what to, that are close to you.
- October 7th Golf Tournament and Social and 8th Meeting, Officer Elections and Memorial Service, Central Texas in Moffit, which is the Temple area.
- October 14th South Central at Rockport, 9:00 a.m. Officer Elections, No Memorial Service.
- October 14th Mid-West at 1:00 p.m. in Abilene, at the D.C. Muzic Training Center
- October 21st East Texas at 10:00 a.m. Trinity Fire Department
- October 21st Permin Basin, Denver City at 10:00 a.m.
- Northeast Texas, September 30th West Harris, Business at 1:00 p.m., Memorial Service, Officer Elections

This is all I have at this time.

Discussion on TAMFS, TEEEX and VFIS@ Dist. Leaders Symposium

President Boggs:

- A suggestion was made by one of the Fire Chiefs out of our district, instead asking questions of the Forestry Service, TEEEX, VFIS and AMBA, why not have all of these entities come and speak to the members of the boards.
- It was a great suggestion.

New Business:

New Office Staff addition:

President Boggs:

- I want to let everybody know that the individual that we pursued to take on our marking has accepted the position.
- She will start September 18th and she has a project she is working on right now.
- To wave the 90-day waiting period so she can purchase insurance through our group policy.

President Boggs would like to entertain a motion to allow the new hire to purchase insurance. though our group policy.

The motion was made by 3rd Vice President Thomas and Seconded by Chaplain Kennedy

The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Copyright on Certification Training:

Asst. Secretary Mike Richter

- Maybe sell the Base program, maybe get the modification.
- Certification Tracking System
- It's funny that you mention Mr. Richter.
- I don't want to get into details right now, I have already been approached. by somebody in our other organization about this idea.

- He is all over this county on a regular basis.
- He believes there is a significant market out there.
- Not just for certification program, but other features and module's

Creating flyers as handouts/advertisement

1st Vice President Tidwell

Pro-rated department dues:

1st Vice President Tidwell

- I brought up guys, I was meeting with Ransom Canyon the other day, they were wanting to join.
- But with the invoice and with everything that is coming up, we don't want to pay now and then a month or two must pay again, so they basically wait. I didn't know if we prorate dues for individual and do the same thing with the departments.
- So, if that department want to get in that last quarter, break it up to 50.00
- It is something we need to address in the future going forward.

VFIS desire to learn the portal & participate in meetings:

President Boggs:

- I met Stephanie and Bianca at VIFS; they are looking forward to working with SFFMA.
- They have a tremendous desire to get involved with the association.
- They would like to be able to learn the portal.
- We would really be surprised how many members contact them about stuff.
- They would like to participate in our meetings.
- 1st Vice President Tidwell, Guys I probably have more of a firsthand of this of any of the board members, as I am traveling all over, they deal with the exact same clientele that we do. The same fire departments they our sale to members. They work hand and Hand.
- Stephanie runs a great program there; they have lot of good ideas.
- I think that either Tim can go visit them or they visit him and walk them though the portal.

Discussion on TESLA meeting & possible membership:

President Boggs:

- Discussion of the TESLA meeting and their possible membership, Mark you were there, Alex you didn't get to make that, R.J. and Chuck. Myself, Billy Ray, Tim and Kevin, Mark and Brian Sheffer.
- We met with the TESLA Emergency Services Manager and some of his team, they have indicated they would love to be a member of the SFFMA.
- Not part of the Industrial Borad, we inserted they didn't have to be. They are interested in possibly helping to develop curriculum and training. As well as building props, to help our first responders out, on the lithium ion batteries in transport, as well as tank batteries at solar farms.
- We pretty much told them what we had to offer; Tim, did a real good presentation.
- We told them welcome aboard, as far as we could see.
- We told them to think about it and let know something.
- I wanted a week and did a follow up email to Cassidy Scott, who is their Emergency Manager, I have yet to hear anything from him.

- I will let that be a week, I will send a second follow-up to see if they are still interested. Or if they have a change of heart.

Discussion on Wall of Honor Donation @ TEEEX:
President Boggs and Director Tim Smith;

- If you went to the Grand Opening or Summer School at all and went into the new building, the first thing you would see is the Wall of Honor.
- A Past President bought up to us, what we thought of a contribution to upholding that wall. They are coming back to that idea. if the steak holders would be willing to help support the cost for maintains that.
- Any indication of the amount? No, they really haven't said anything, it's up to each stakeholder. This will be on an annual basis.
- I want to make sure that the Volunteers have a present.
- If we decide you want to support it in some way, I will look at an amount of money to setting aside in the budget each year.
- Kinda some numbers, make sure we are not fronting the hold deal, so to speak.

Blogs for E-Info Fire (TEEX, TAMFS, VFIS):
President Boggs;

- I did see that TEEEX did put one in there, on the instructor 1 course. The training managers have to go through the Leadership Program, Talk to Shawn Fay. They also talk about the cost of the program.
- VFIS has a Blog, maybe by Bianca, Forestry Service is doing one.
- No Blogs from the Vice President, Vice President Wobus will get a blog in about the trip to Louisiana.
- First week of the month, 300 hundred words or less

Audience Comments: None

Board Comments: None

The next scheduled meeting is

There being no more agenda items.

A motion to adjourn was by Secretary Allen seconded by 4th Vice President Smith
The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

President Boggs ended the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Brent Allen
SFFMA Secretary
08/22/2023