



Date: September 9, 2023

Location: SFFMA Office – Austin, Texas

Call to Order: 8:30a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

- X President Boggs
- X 1st Vice President Tidwell
- 2nd Vice President Wobus
- X 3rd Vice President Thomas
- X 4th Vice President Smith
- X Immediate Past President Richardson
- Secretary Allen
- X Assistant Secretary Richter
- X Chaplain Kennedy

Non-Voting Board Members

- Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson
- Mascot Hunter Tidwell

INVOCATION: Chaplain Kennedy

Approval of Minutes from: August 14, 2023

Motion by Immediate Past President Richardson to table minutes until revisions can be made.
Seconded by 1st Vice President Tidwell

Vote Motion Approved

President Boggs stated this is a dual meeting today we have two representatives of the Senior Leadership Team from TEEEX Municipal Fire School. We have Jeff Doran and Mike Montgomery. I would like to introduce our guest. We have Bianca Nelson Vice President of VFIS one of our partners, David Luedeke Past President who is also a Past President appointee to our Sponsorship committee, and Shirley Richter.

President Boggs opened an open discussion in reference to Annual Municipal School and Spring School. SFFMA Board has heard from all over the state there is a lot of displeasure with the

SFFMA Staff

- X Tim Rutland - Executive Director
- Kevin Creamer – Certification Admin
- Heather Lundy – Events
- Julie Wegmiller – Sales Manager
- Teresa Junkin – Membership
- Derrell Beasley – IT Manager
- Edward Palacio Membership

changes that have been made at municipal fire school. A lot of people feel that TEEX has forgotten about the volunteer fire service. The changes seem to be directed toward a certification instead of training. The training they are getting they could get at home. The floor was then opened for board comments. Comments were that they were graduating students that don't know one end of a fire hose from the other, they've got a certification but they can't fight fire. Instructors are told just to demonstrate a skill and then let student do the skill. Students come to school to fight fires.

Jeff Doran stated 5 years ago the direction at A&M changed, the leadership team was a management team. In the last couple of years the SLT has been given way more control. This is our school (emphasizing ours) and we need to get back to that. Mike Montgomery stated they had previously heard from firefighters that they spent too much time in classrooms when they should be outside fighting fires. The intent of the new program was to take the classroom portion of the program and get it anywhere you wanted, then come to A&M and get the firefighting portion. From comments heard today we missed the boat. The intent of A&M was to reach out to all firefighters and for firefighters to utilize area schools for training.

Discussion continued about items like the capping of the number of participants, Pro-Board Certifications, some people want certifications some just want the training and a certificate, possibly offer two tracks one toward certification and one toward a training certificate. Classes are filled up by municipal firefighters before volunteers can complete the 2604 process to get registered. Should there be a member of the SLT from the SFFMA? What if A&M held 25% of class space for 2604 registrations?

Jeff and Mike will take the information from this meeting and share it with TEEX Leadership.

Old Business

1. Update on Sponsorship Committee

Report/Discussion:

Billy Tidwell, Tim Rutand, Kim Hilsenbeck, Alex Smith and David Luedeke from Past Presidents. The Executive Board should lead the way. Any businesses that we know of that could help the Association. Tesla, M&M Mars, and McCoys are on the list. If we know what forms and letters that need to be sent out we can start sending them out. A lot of businesses start setting their budget this time of year. Would like to see the sponsorships pay for conference so that it is free to members.

2. VFIS Executive Board Travel Policy

Report/Discussion

Travel Insurance policy went into effect September 1.

3. Update on Fall District Meetings

Report/Discussion

President Boggs has sent out the information that he has on meetings, let him know what meetings you would like to attend. Tim Rutland stated he is trying to get a staff member at District Meetings. Not for reports but for assistance to the members.

4. Update on TAMFS, TEEX, VFIS @ District Officer Symposium

Report/Discussion

Need to include TEEX SLT on agenda. We need to adjust dates on the flyer and get it ready to send out.

5. Update on Pro-rated department dues

Report/Discussion

Annual Dues are \$200.00 for departments. New departments or a department that has not paid for 5 years and wants to rejoin at other than the start of the year be able to pay dues broken down by quarters.

6. Update on Tesla

Report/Discussion

President Boggs has been in contact with TESLA, Cassidy Scott stated they are interested just need to get to the office to get it set up.

7. Discussion on wall of Honor Donation @ TEEX

Report/Discussion

Discussion was held as to whether the SFFMA would make a donation toward the wall of honor whether it would be a plaque or whatever. Tim spoke with David Coatney in reference to donations. Mr. Coatney stated their biggest expense is the luncheon, the plaque is not that expensive only a couple of hundred dollars. Possibly put in budget for next year or possibly do a special fundraiser like a statewide raffle. Bring up at District Officers Symposium.

This item was tabled until after the Symposium.

New Business:

1. Discussion on 2024 District Leaders Symposium

Report/Discussion

Change the dates on the flyer and add a meet and greet on Friday. Add VFIS, and TFS to flyer.

We will set the agenda as to times for various items to be discussed. A copy of the agenda will be sent out for everyone to look at and make comments.

2. Creating flyers as handouts/advertisement.

Report/Discussion

Vice President Tidwell gave a presentation on items (borrowed from VFIS) to be put on a flyer about benefits, SFFMA Executive Board and Office Staff.

3. Discussion Host cities for 2027

Report/Discussion

Vice President Billy Tidwell made a motion to leave a three city rotation along I-35 Corridor from the Metro-Plex to San Antonio. Seconded by Chaplain Ben Kennedy.

Vote Motion Approved

4. Curtis Brown Anniversary

Report/Discussion

Vice President Billy Tidwell suggested we do a dedication of the Curtis Brown paver stone. After discussion it was decided to do the dedication during the Leadership Development Symposium.

5. Voting at Conference

Report/Discussion

Immediate Past President Chuck Richardson brought up the letting all member in attendance at the conference vote. A suggestion was made to see if a District would like to carry this change. He will send copies to the board for bringing up at District meetings.

6. Information

Report/Discussion

Vice President RJ Thomas brought up some legislation changes that may affect board members and information on TDEM.

Into Executive Session at 11:35a.m.

Present for Executive Session

President Boggs, 1st Vice President Tidwell, 3rd Vice President Thomas, 4th Vice President Smith, Immediate Past President Richardson, Assistant Secretary Richter, Chaplain Ben Kennedy and Executive Director Rutland

Items discussed:

Employee Matter

Out of Executive Session at 12:22p.m.

No action is taken in Executive Session

Audience Comments:

Bianca Nelson talked about VFIS wanting to be a part of Board meetings. Also she brought up that we are covered for the Firefighter Gauntlet we just need to have a waiver signed by participants.

Board Member Comments:

1. President Boggs

I appreciate everybody's involvement and Jeff and Mike reaching out to meet with us and I think they understand the importance of us being involved with making decisions on A&M Fire School. This is of a critical nature and I hope the fire school is around for the 100th year and I hope that I am around to attend it, but the direction it was headed it was iffy.

2. 1st Vice President Tidwell

It was a good meeting we got a lot accomplished with some of the deadlines and the city rotations. This gives us something when we get out in these districts to hammer out in stone on how things are going to be, getting the budget done and looking forward to Leadership Symposium. Getting out on the road and see how the Districts are going and getting our vision going.

3. 3rd Vice President Thomas

This is a very quiet place up here when there is not an Executive Board meeting or a chief's meeting, other than that nothing further to add.

4. 4th Vice President Smith

We got a lot accomplished in this one.

5. Immediate Past President Richardson

Good Meeting

6. Assistant Secretary Richter

Good Meeting

7. Chaplain Kennedy

All is good

8. Executive Director Tim Rutland

No comment

Next Meeting

Motion to Adjourn by Immediate Past President Chuck Richardson, Seconded by 1st Vice President Tidwell

Vote Motion Approved

Adjournment at 12:23p.m.