

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

Business Meeting

December 7, 2019

SFFMA Office

Meeting called to order at: 10:46 a.m.

by President: Tim Smith

Invocation given by: Chaplain Ben Kennedy

Roll Call of Board Members Present: Secretary Brent Allen

Board Members present on site:

President Tim Smith
1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle
3rd Vice President Donny Boggs
4th Vice President Curtis Brown
Secretary Brent Allen
Assistant Secretary Jim White
Chaplain Ben Kennedy

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson

Board Members Not Present: 2nd Vice President Chuck Richardson, Immediate Past President Mike Richardson

Non - Voting Board Members Not Present: Mascot Landon Flisowski

Office Staff Present: Executive Director Tim Rutland

Approval of Minutes from Secretary Allen:

A motion to approve the minutes from 10/4/2019 as presented.

Motion was made by 1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle and seconded by 3rd Vice President Donny Boggs.

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

Guest present: Rusty Kattner, Past President, Gulf Coast District, Morris Locknane, Panhandle District, West Carlisle VFD, Patrick Hlavaty, Past President, Finance Chairman, Allen J. Scopel, Gulf Coast District, Kyle E. Stephens, Past President '07, Decatur Fire Department, Paul Hamilton, Potter County Fire & Rescue, "TCFP", Melissa Robinson, North Texas FFMA.

Old Business: 10:48 a.m.

Guidelines for Grant Reimbursement of Membership Dues

President Tim Smith

- Grant Administer Greg Redden, would like us to establish some guidelines.
- A commitment of 2 years in the Association.
- Maybe look at a 1 year deal and then revisit the next year.

- Executive Director Tim Rutland, suggested to go year to year.
- If a department has \$1000.00 in dues, SFFMA maybe cover 50% of the dues for that year
- First Come, first served
- Letter from Fire Chief, know the kind of revenues they get, justify the need.
- E.D. Tim Rutland will make that decision.
- Maybe see if they would participate in the Certification Program

Motion was made to have the chief be required to send a letter to the Executive Director, justifying the need, based upon his decision, we will meet their need paying up to 100% was made by 1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle and seconded by Asst. Secretary Jim White

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

Retention of Conference Materials

Executive Director Tim Rutland

- Discussion was presented and at this time no action was taken.

New Business: 11:03 a.m.

HVAC Maintenance Contract

Executive Director Tim Rutland

- Not necessarily looking for action on this
- Make you aware the HVAC system problems have come up
- Ask a company called Kilgore, who has the guy that knows this system, Used to work on it, he left company and came back
- I ask Kilgore to provide me with some options for maintenance agreements
- I have two that I'm going to look at.
- One is a full service maintenance agreement, it essentially covers everything, except what they call non maintainable, parts and equipment, like coils, which are our problem, it is \$15,000.00 year
- The other contract is a what they call basic maintenance contract \$5,900.00 a year

Motion was made to table till the January meeting and bring us a recommendation was made by 1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle and seconded by 4th Vice President Curtis Brown.

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

Firefighter I/II Haz-Mat Carve Out

3rd Vice President Donny Boggs

- Vice President Boggs got involve with a chain mail tract, about breaking out Haz-Mat test on the firefighter test, believe it was of July of last year
- Cristina Foley, asked if we were going utilize the test the SFFMA makes or utilize the test that TEEEX manages.
- I contacted Director Rutland and spoke with Kevin, and yes, used the test that TEEEX is managing.
- Cristina was not aware of this, she said she needs a decision, because takes time to break the test out.
- TEEEX stated there is a cost involved with that.
- Certification Board asked to do this, so the SFFMA would have to pay for this.
- There are going to be over 35 test versions made. Will take about a 3 week period and have it ready to go by the first of the year. Broke out as stand alone tests.

- Cost to the association \$1213.17
- There would now be 4 exams.

Motion was made that SFFMA pay for the break out of the Haz-Mat test at a cost of \$1,213.17 was made by 3rd Vice President Donny Boggs and seconded by 1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle. Motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Certification Board Appointment

President Tim Smith

- Appointment to the Certification Board, Daniel Gonzales from Permian Basin.

Motion was made to approve the appointment of Daniel Gonzales to the certification board member as presented was made by 1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle and seconded by 4th Vice President Curtis Brown.

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

Training Officer Development Program

President Tim Smith

- No Action Taken

Fire Chief Development CE Track for 144th Conference

President Tim Smith

- No Action Taken, other than an update of what's going on.

Chemical Safety Board Recommendation

President Tim Smith

- TEEEX has the training and the TCFP coordinates with TEEEX
- CSB stated never the less, final report will be unsatisfactory as per the Chemical Safety Board.

Motion was made TEEEX has a valuable program in place that it's being offer statewide at no cost.. Made by 1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle by seconded by Asst. Secretary Jim White Motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Congressional Fire Service Caucus

President Tim Smith

- Executive Director, President or 1st Vice President May go to Washington
- Be better off using our money on something else, maybe our people in Austin.
- Most of the time did not get to meet the Representatives, just got to see Aids.
- They had Classes to take, at one time.
- Speak with J. Pete Laney if interested in going.

Motion was made that table till the meeting in January.

Made by Asst. Secretary Jim White and seconded by 1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle.

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

Presidential Reception Allotment

President Tim Smith

- President's Reception
- Hospitality Night
- Some it was allowed to be used to purchase gifts for the board when we first put it in.

Motion was made that the \$5,000.00 allotment will be used at the President discretion for the convention. Made by Asst. Secretary Jim White and seconded by 4th Vice President Curtis Smith. Motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

TIESB Certification , Testing and Support Update

Executive Director Tim Rutland

- I had the opportunity to spend some time with a Minnesota Certification Board, which is certifying entity of that state.
- They are utilizing an Online Testing System - by a Company called Questions Mark
- PTS has actually partner with the Question Mark people to deliver exams.
- Based on the time I got spent with her and some staff was in on the phone call I'm confident this would be good direction for the association to go in terms of testing.
- We asked a lot of questions, how do you do this, do you have problems with this.
- These tests are all online, all Cloud-Based information, all test are based on PTS test banks
- Very Flexible.
- Start the Industrial Testing.
- Buy 15 tablets for testing. TCFP has like 40 testing centers, Fees are applicable 15 to 30 dollar fee.

Motion was made to table till the January meeting
Made by Chaplain Ben Kennedy and seconded by Secretary Brent Allen.
Motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Approval of 2019-2020 Budget

President Tim Smith

Motion was made to approve the 2019-2020 Budget.
made by 4th Vice President Curtis Brown and seconded by 3rd Vice President Donny Boggs..
Motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

By-Law Amendment

President Tim Smith

- 4 City Rotation Proposal
- By-laws Amendments Proposal

Motion was to made to Support the By-Laws rewrite proposal push forward as the executive board.
Made by 3rd Vice President Donny Boggs and seconded by 4th Vice Curtis Brown.
Motion passed with 5 voting for the motion and 1 against and 1 abstaining.

Audience Comments:

Rusty Kattner - I glad you started putting in this reserve fund. For the betterment of the association. we learned a lesson a few years ago. About what happens when you have a down turn in membership. you don't have enough money and you have raise the dues to make up the difference. I having that reserve fund will at least buy you some time. I congratulate the board on biting that bullet.

Morris Locknane - Well y'all confirm one thing for me, today. y'all are all firefighters, two things they hate, things being the same and things changing. All I can say is keep an open mind, talk among yourselves, talk to each other. Work though it. I don't think anybody in this organization should be looking at me or we it should be us.

Alan Scopel - I just what applaud the board for taking a step forward for the taking. Thank for my reappointment to the finance committee. I had the privilege of knowing some of the old, old Presidents of this organization, my dad was real old. I grew up with several of those guys, and they had the same issues this organization was put together for congressional purposes. There was no collusion there nothing to put firefighters together. We've got that now going on, but that's why we got together, And yes, they had big conventions, that the biggest thing they had to go to. Today you got all kinds of things, and today we living in a different society. and every organization has the same problem. Churches have the same problem. Thank you for letting me speak today.

Kyle Stephens - I've always very been proud of this organization, it's meant a lot to me. I'm proud of each and every board that served. One thing I reminded people of, I still today, when they talk about running is to remember you are running to be on this board to represent the firefighters of the State of Texas, not yourself, not a self agenda, but to represent the firefighters of Texas. And that's what we need to keep in mind when you'er in here making decisions, is that. to hold that is what is happened. Every now and then we get sidetracked, we need to gather up and back on track guys. I am proud of each and every one of y'all. Y'all are doing good work. I thank you for it. Pray for Mike Richardson for his knee surgery .

Paul Hamilton - You didn't skip me, you saved the best for last. I like it, I like it, we've got to do something, we've been talking for a long time, we are just going to bite the bullet and make it happen. Whatever the Past Presidents need to do, just give us a call. As far as TCFP a couple things that were done, kind of surprise me, there was a deal we vote on they were going to change the certification with the money that available and what the state required them to do 3million and back to 1.5 million reimburse back to the general fund. It was vote on to change their 85.00 fee back to 55.00. and it was voted down. They vote to keep it at \$85.00, SFFMA yea, we are at \$25.00 so that was good. Another thing that was brought up though sunset was for us to post, it always been out here, and anybody can say what they want to, that there are fees and fines that can be leveed on a department that got anything to do with TCFP that don't fulfill their part as being written up like that. That also came the commission to post those and make that come into play and that entire thing was repealed. So that is not on the table any more. they are still in there I don't know what the whole situation was 4 different Chiefs come and said they just couldn't swallow it. Kind like some of the stuff said here. well you are going to, somebody's going to one way or the other. It's always been there we didn't take it away. We didn't post it. I don't understand on the deal on that, but there will be more to come on that. Next meeting is a workshop on January 22nd and the commission meeting on January 23rd the way I understand there was 13 or 14 resumes to be consider for the executive director, and that has been broken down into 4 finalist. we plan to interview on the 22nd. and to make an offer on the 23rd. Great Meeting, Great Budget workshop. Thank You, Sir.

Board Comments:

1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle - Nothing

3rd Vice President Donny Boggs - You know the only thing I really want, when I got involved with this at the urging of others. I had been going to certain conference, talk to certain people even prior and when I see that our membership was starting to lag and losing members at the conference I understand we are a association with a conference, I didn't what to see the conference leave, first one I ever went to was 1976, never forget it. But everything I think about that goes through my mind, and I talked to Tim a bit I talked to past presidents, I talked to Curtis, I've talked to Harvey, I've talked to Ben. Everything that I try to bring out, is not for Donny, and it's not for the e-board, what I try to bring out is what's best for the membership out there, the members that's who the association is. And if we lose them, now what? So, these are drastic amendments we're looking at, people ask me, are we all going to like them, NO you tell one thing that everyone likes, doesn't happen. But is it needed, absolutely. are these the right ones I can't tell you that, but that's what the voices have told us. I'm going to fight for it. I going dang sure get out there and get everybody's approval on it. Won't happen, everybody won't be happy with it. But I can tell you this with the conversation I've had though out the districts, I make lot of these district meetings, both fall and spring. People said, you know what it's time, I like it! So the challenge is, and I echo what Kyle said it not just the e-board going to have to do it, its past presidents are going to have to get into it. District boards are going to have to get in to it, to make it better for the whole membership. That why I'm on this board to fight and work for the members, I'm just happy to be a part of it, Thank you.

4th Vice President Curtis Brown - I believe we are making a step in the right way right now we're trying to run 100 year old organization on 100 year old rules. Times have change, we have talk about the electronic stuff, and people with busier lives and thing like that. There is a lot things that come in to conference. On my campaign run one of my agenda items was the length of the conference, It's to long and that what I heard on the road. The whole time campaign on my 16,000 mile journey across the state was the conference was for like retired people, or you're caught deciding if going A&M fire school for training that you need or going to conference. the two that you had to chose from, or no family time, cause that's your two weeks of vacation, taken up with your employer for a volunteer. so I think we'er are headed in the right way but we are going to have to get their support. Going to take all us working together. I serve on this steering committee whit a bunch of intelligent people. Did I agree with every little piece of it, NO. But we've gone as a group, we went with best. That's something we are going have to do as a group also. We may not agree with every piece of it, you don't what it to get shot down over one thing that it's not that big of a deal, and that were I kind stand on it. Thank you.

Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson - Nothing

Chaplain Ben Kennedy - Yeah, I have, as Kyle said I got on this board for one reason, that why I accepted the appointment to begin with, and that was to serve the firefighters of this great state and make decisions for them. I'm sorry that you don't think I have an unbiased opinion, and I think I've got my ideas of what we need and apparently the entire board does. If ya'll wish for me to leave all you got to do is say, get out, Ben. But I cannot tell you the number of places I have gone serving this group, representing this group, And I know we all have, but I've been to a bunch of them you don't have a clue about. And I am really disappointed and fill like I can't be unbiased to serve the firefighter of the State of Texas. I'm done.

Secretary Brent Allen - It's kind of like Donny and Curtis said, Its time we do something for the future, not for us, it's not something we all going to be here for ever and ever, but what's going to the association but actually what's going to happen to the firefighters of the state of Texas, in my area they don't give crap less about the state association. We haven't been, I guess some of our guys, I'm not going say everybody, we are just out there, we don't matter. I decide to do the job, without asking, when Joe step down I just went up and did my thing, I didn't ask anybody. I just did it, I was pretty vocal about what I felt like,

especially with you and Mike when y'all came, what was I always talking about, we don't get a vote we don't get squat, we don't get nothing, we don't have that many people that can vote , like y'all have. We have a small district. in our area what funny Red River all the way down to the valley. they have a pretty good deal. In between there, We have one dept in one county. so if we what to come and vote it's not going to matter what we do anyways. we don't have that many people show up. we have some that can't leave because they are farmers, ranchers. they have to take care of stuff. So if we can get where we can vote, I feel like we've made some kind of progress for us, because we can't do anything cause we can't leave. people can't leave our jobs. they leave there cattle or their farms they got to work. That's all I talk about, we pay dues, you have a right to vote, you have a right to vote! That's just what I felt, we haven't done anything, and this the first thing that's I've seen or talked about. I understand that we don't have enough time, we never have enough time. Rusty you said it, but if we don't try what's the alternative. we have to do that we have to give it a try. we got to get out there and work together. that's hard to do sometimes, we'll get our feeling hurt, we don't think we care about each other. I care about everybody here. I want everybody lifted up. I don't want anybody left behind. but we have to have reality, that this is a changing world and its changing faster, then what we're moving. We not moving very fast. We can't, I'm sorry Ben, afford to take little bits of time. I just see it each convention is getting shorter in people every time. We're staying there long we're having a lot of fun, But it's not doing anybody any good. I just what us to work as a group and if it work's , GREAT! and if it don't we tried, we did our best, but were not going to sit here we were all task to do something about this problem. I've heard from Mike, actually from Harvie, on and still ain't got nothing done. And when got somebody who wants to do something, we're all up in arms. I sorry but life doesn't stand still. We can't live in the past. We have to live in the future, we have to get it for our young folks, we really need to work hard to need to be done. That's all I got.

Assistant Secretary Jim White - Nothing

Executive Director Tim Rutland - I don't have anything.

President Tim Smith: Well, I thank y'all for coming, appreciate making your travels, Ben I'm sorry you feel that way, but as I said, It could be miss construed as Chaplain being biased. I didn't say you where biased, I come to you, I've sent people to you, I trust you, I don't want you to leave. But I want you to have an open mind about changes. Ok, that's fine. So, what Donny, Curtis and Brent had said, and Paul about the changes that people has ask us to make, we are here for those firefighters. We are not here for self serving Presidents and get wear a red shirt everyday or every time we get together at a meal or vote on want were going to do on computers or HVAC systems, that's all required stuff, we here to represent the firefighters of Texas. Not the Gulf Coast, not Ballinger, not West Carlisle, not Dalhart, all the firefighters of Texas and by refusing and closing our minds to any change at all, we have failed every single person sitting in the fire trucks today. My opinion, I got on this board, and granite I don't have some of the history y'all coming to conventions, My first convention was in Amarillo, having the games at the old fire training field. that wasn't long ago. When I was up there cant remember who the hell was President back then. I don't remember who it was, anyway, When I saw what the organization was about I was absolutely hooked. and I drug Morris to that. And when we went back, we loved it, love this organization. It truly represent every firefighter in Texas. I don't care if you get a paycheck or not, and that's who we still represent. As long as keep our eye on the ball, and forget about what makes me happy or you happy, we will succeed. We are going to carry this thing forward and properly format it. It may fail, but if it does we may have to try again, I don't call it a failure, I call just an experiment that we did. And we are going to do it again. We're going to do it again, Why, because I have faith in this group and the firefighters of Texas want this association to continue and they what our training convention, they want all that fluff gone. Folks they've told us that. I've heard that word so many times across the state, that fluff needs to go away. Mr. Rutland came and give his report, for I don't know for how many years. And really, no offence, nobody cared. he could have sent us an email and been done its the same way with TEEX, TFS, California Causality, they give us a lot of money but I'm telling you we can trim things down. We are the one that have to make that move. If we don't make that move Its going continue as statist quo and going to continue to see those numbers decline. so when your out there talking to those

firefighters, If you like the way the convention is now, vote against it. If you want to see a change and a convention prosper, I will give you a example of a symposium that is prospering, it the one we don't want talk about, its Texas EMS, it's a three day event and a couple pre- conference classes. They sell out in November and they are sold out for next year. Lots of classes I have spoke there as an educator three or four times, I got turn down more time than excepted so many applications that what to speak at the training conference.. It's amazing how many people show up there. You can't get hotel for miles In Fort Worth or in Austin. They had to move it to Fort Worth because there was not enough room in Austin So I'm telling you, we model at that, those things are working they spend a week fluffing.

The next scheduled meeting is January 24, 2020

There being no more agenda items

A motion to adjourn was by Donny Boggs seconded by Asst. Secretary Jim White the motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

President Smith ended the meeting at 1:23p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by,
Brent Allen
SFFMA Secretary
12/17/2019**