

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

JANUARY 25, 2020

Meeting Room Horizon C, Overton Hotel, Lubbock Texas

Meeting called to order at: 1:00 p.m.

by President: Tim Smith

Invocation given by: Ben Kennedy

Roll Call of Board Members Present: Brent Allen

Board Members present on site:

President Tim Smith
1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle
2nd Vice President Chuck Richardson
3rd Vice President Donny Boggs
4th Vice President Curtis Brown
Immediate Past President Mike Richardson
Secretary Brent Allen
Assistant Secretary Jim White
Chaplain Ben Kennedy

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson, Mascot Landon Flisowski

Board Members Not Present:

Non - Voting Board Members Not Present:

Office Staff Present: Executive Director Tim Rutland

Approval of Minutes from Secretary Allen:

A motion to approve the minutes from 12/7/2019 as presented.

Motion was made by 2nd Vice President Chuck Richardson and seconded by 4th Vice President Curtis Brown and the motion passed with 9 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Guest present: Dallas Renfrew, TEEEX, Brad Hardgove, Alvarado FD, R. Andy Dexter, Northwest VFD, Harvie Cheshire, TEEEX-ESTI, Cary R. Roccaforte, TEEEX-ESTI, Gordon Lohmeyer, TEEEX-ESTI, Tey Barnett TEEEX-ESTI, Chris Angere, TEEEX-ESTI, Billy Tidwell, Ralls VFD, Larry Norotsky, Ingleside VFD, Steven Loving, Ingleside VFD, Charles Gallatin, EXPOTEX, Kevin Creamer, SFFMA Staff, Steven Lopez, LaJoya Fire, Carrie Osborn, West Harrison Fire, Chris Osborn, West Harrison Fire, Kyle E Stephens, Decatur FD, Paul Hamilton, Potter Co. Fire, Henry Perry, TEEEX, Jared Jones, Winoa VFD, Frankie Joe Salinas, LaJoya FD, Ubalde D. Perez, Edinburg FD, Timmy George, El Campo VFD, Lang Flisowski, Brenham FD, Chis L. Moore, Coffee City FD, Brian Scheffod, Brenham FD, Patrick Hlavaty Past President, James F. Farrenorl, RGVFFMA, Shawn Snider, Edinburg FD, Eloy Dalazar, Pharr FD, Gerardo (Jerry) Gomez, McAllen FD, Roman(R.C.) C. Flores McAllen FD.

Old Business: 1:03 p.m.

1. Retention of Association of Historical Record

Report & Discussion: Director Rutland

Director Rutland stated that he has little bit of a chance to go through the information that we have back in the closet back there, but only a small chance. I only have general idea of what's back there. There is material in there that we may not need to retain, but also there is a lot of information that we do need to retain and some of it we will want to retain forever.

- Boxes of old photos, lots of old photos
- Also, was approached by TEEEX has more boxes of photos as far back as the 50's
- We obviously want to do something with those photos, they need to be digitized.
- Turned in to an Association Scrapbook, multi-year scrap book or History of the SFFMA
- Director Rutland would love to see a group take this on as a project to get this organized.
 - He would like to speak with the Auxiliary about maybe taking on this project.
- This has a huge impact for many of members of the association, if we could get this into nice presentation format, to gain access and see.

2. Constitution & By-Laws Amendment

Report & Discussion: President Tim Smith

President Smith commented on the Constitution and By-Laws revision President Smith email a copy of that this morning, I will have copies for the Constitution & By-Laws Committee members. However, there is one correction, if you see me after the meeting, I will give the correction on page 13 about having an error, that was fixed.

1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle had a couple of questions.

- It says the Constitution and By-Laws Committee make a recommendation to approve or reject the proposal. Does that mean y'all look at it, you send it out, do say at convention, we think y'all should go for this or think we should go against this. What does that mean?
- It is check for proper formatting, edits need, thing of that nature. Make sure it follows the current Constitution and By-Laws. All respects to Roberts Rules of Order. Then we come back to y'all and say that it's properly formatted, placed on the ballot.
- Notice there is no Article 11, there is an Article 11 just miss formatted
- Its part of contention, about the Chaplain not being elect or having a vote.
- The Memorial Service is the highest attend event at any of our conventions, if we were to appoint a new chaplain every year, that we may lose some quality in that event.

3. Industrial Testing & Certification Program

Report & Discussion: 3rd Vice President Donny Boggs & Director Rutland

Many of us are aware that the industrial group has been trying to get a volunteer certification program going and we are close. Software was purchased, has been vetted to the JPR's, Director Rutland came on board was brought up to date on that situation and he is running with it.

There was an area of concern Board on the wording on the certificate, that was cleared up. It will read Certified Industrial Firefighter and JPR's the board was good with that.

- The Board approved the online testing platform, I like to see the association, also adopt.
- The platform is called Question Mark. (questionmark.com)
- 1st testing of program, will start with the Industrial Partners (TIESB)
- Go ahead and purchase 15 tablets will be bought for testing purposes.
- Proctors will take to site for certification testing.
- Proctors will give out an access code to the group that allows them to get to their test.
- The system itself is very flexible.

4. Status of Austin HVAC Issues, Possible Annual Contract

Report & Discussion By: Director Rutland

- Provide information on cost of repairs on HVAC system.
- Couple of Maintenance Agreements, they have a Cadillac plan, but we are not going use that plan and Volkswagen plan
- In 2019 we spent \$40,000.00 to fix this thing.
- At this point, I recommend we fix the system and allow me to go forward with Volkswagen plan.
- Feel like once the system is fixed and installed correctly, I'm going to go with their recommendation that we have a good system and should be pretty low maintenance.
- It's a good idea to have a maintenance plan for this thing, it's a worth wild investment for us.
- Cost of plans, one is about \$6000.00a year or \$500.00 per month and the other is about 1200.00 a month.

Motion was made 1stVice president Richard Van Winkle to table the HVAC Issue and seconded by Immediate Past President Mike Richardson.

Voting for the motion: 9 voting against: 0 Abstaining: 0

5. HazMat Carve Out

Report & Discussion: President Tim Smith / Certification Chairman Brian Scheffer

The was to go live with NFPA 1072 on January 1, 2020, we had a hiccup with the testing process, some paperwork that needed to be done. Now, we need to validate the questions for 1072 for SFFMA. We, have to clarify how that is going to occur and when that will occur.

- The Curve out of HAZMAT Awareness & Operations
- Validate Test with 1072
- There will be 3 tests: FF I & II and HazMat Awareness & Operations
- There is like 24 different test versions for A & O
- NFPA 1001 will be updated, so we can validate test after fire school so we can go live 1/1/2020
- We have a few significant changes 1001, with fire dynamics with SLICERS and safety stuff, conference call in the spring or around June, so Kevin can get to the website

New Business: 1:25 p.m.

1. Format & Schedule for Annual Conference Venter Show

Report & Discussion: President Tim Smith

- Have been contacted by several different vendors by the way the show is set up, with opening time and options of opening times.
- Vice President Boggs had several conversations with vendors
- Year and half ago, some of the vendors came and talk to me about their R.O.I. when they go out and support organizations and return on the investment with us has been not that great.
- The way they are set up now, they come up on Friday and then open up on Saturday
- Vendors are getting about 3 hours of exposure they are very concerned about that.
- Vendors don't bring a lot of stuff
- 2 of our biggest vendors sent an email to Donny Boggs with some suggestions
- He contacted those vendor's and stated he would bring it to the Board
- It's something very doable and it's their suggestions
- What they would like to do, is after setup, that they open it up for 3 or 4 hours on Friday
- It will give them more exposure.

2. Appointment of Committee Member from District

President Tim Smith

Request to place Kent Watts back on the Finance Committee by the Guadalupe District.

Pat Hlavaty: When met in July to do committee appointments we have to we had it down to sixteen or trim it down to sixteen, to get our quorum if you remember in Longview, at that time we had 22 folks on there. Only 8 showed up, so if you have 16 on there and 8 show up you have a quorum. Then there was 3 more added later on, I what to know why that happens. Why wasn't the chair contacted? I think its customary when a change is made, if putting them on or off, no matter what chair it is, they should be notified and ask if this is ok. Then you can bring it before the board. I'm little upset about this, if you put Kent Watts on there its 20. So, we have to have at least 10 here. Sometimes if its along ways it's hard to get folks here I know they should commit once their put on a committee. But that's what happened in Longview. I hear scuttlebutt and hear a lot of things occasionally that someone delete finance committee. I've got a problem with that, and alot others do too. Finance committee is like a watchdog.....fore this and that. We are here to make suggestion to the board. Folks we have on here now have financial backgrounds, they know the ins and out, so when it comes to audit, he can help Tim, Allen said won't be able to make it.....He would discuss some of the stuff from December he said he would do that. He had some issues,..had some family stuff. So, that's my spill Mr. President.

President Smith: I will address your concern about the finance committee, it is exactly that scuttlebutt. I'll suggest in the future pick up the phone and call me, I'll explain the situation. I understand that, we are bringing it up in open session the finance committee is well alive..... its not going anywhere. The real question is.....under preview I did that out of respect for Ken Watts, I understand your concerns about it, I have to listen to the district as well. If some of you know the folks are not showing up, you need to fire back on their district President and ask them why.

3. Status of Candidate Search for TCFP Director

Report & Discussion: Director Rutland

Mike Wesco is now the new director of the TCFP.

- Had 4 candidates, 2 of them withdrew.
- Mike has been there many years, great to work with.
- He was a member on the Firefighter Advisory Board Member.

4. Report from SFFMA Executive Director

Report & Discussion: Director Rutland

- The association is going through its annual renewal process.
- I would, along with Coordinators, Fire Chiefs and Staff, that this has been a frustrating experience for us. It has been difficult; with the feedback I'm getting from staff.
- My personal experience with this, it has not been a smooth process.
- With having 7 staff members, we have had 5 of those staff involved in the process, including the Executive Director. I was taught to process invoices and to also fix invoices
- I literally had 2 staff members on the phone the entire day fixing problems.
- The System needs to be fixed. We've got to have a better system the next time around.
- F.C.D.P. launch on February 21-23, 2020 1st Session. Bill Gardner and Mike Montgomery were putting on the finishing touches. We have 38 attendees signed up, this is an extremely popular program.
- Spring Meetings, Chuck has been contacting the various districts, putting a list together, the where and when of those meetings. For my proposes I was charged with trying to make as many meeting as I could.
- The grant program that we have going on, the retention grant, I met with our grant administrator, we've got a good plan going forward for this year. Has workshops already scheduled, they are two hours workshops in the evening time during the week.
- Greg Redeen is willing to do a one - day workshop at conference.
- I want to provide the board my assessment up to this point, of the growthzone system that's been adopted by the association.
- I have the benefit of coming to this as a new user, weather it is an advantage or not, I also come at this after having an organization that had the same problems to put a new system together.
- What I have seen up to this point, is a system that just does not work very well for the needs of this organization, not saying it can't, right now, it does not work very well.
- This has been my assessment of growthzone, they are a standardized can software system that are designed for association to use around the country.
- We have a lot of unique features and characteristics in our association and membership, that just did not fit this.
- We have many number of work arounds of this product to try to make it work.
- Its was never design to handle fire departments.
- We to come up with a plan to fix what we are currently using.

Audience Comments:

1. **TEEX:** Henry Perry – TEEEX processed all the certificates for training at the conference, we were told by student records we cannot do certain things as we did in the past such as adding people after the fact, Henry brought to the E.D. Rutland and President Smith that we do the pass through portal for certificates. We can have, TEEEX as an option, that use to a lot things for the association. This something with TEEEX and ESTI, for years and years we could not handle money. That's why we had one group handling the money and the other handling the students. There is a 4% service handling fee for this.
2. **Paul Hamilton:** Paul Hamilton, Past President, thank y'all for giving me the nod to submit my name to the governor for Texas Commission on Fire Protection, that is a completely different world. Just finish up two days at the commission we have award the Executive Director to Mike Wesco, he will start full time Feb. 3rd, there were several names, about originally 13 to 14, then down to 4 and then 2 withdrew their names.
3. **Billy Tidwell:** Thank coming up the Panhandle I know it's a long drive. We've got pretty weather today. Can't guarantee that tomorrow the wind might be blowing or snowing. Thank y'all for coming up, I just what to say looking forward to seeing y'all in the spring as a get out on my campaign trail. If there any thing I can do, or bend my ear please let me know. Been working hard for the is organization. Looking forward to seeing y'all in June.
4. **Chris Moore:** Question on the 4% for service of handling and process, is the association up registration 4% also? Can't keep throwing money at growthzone. More time for the vendors, we need vendors but vendors need us also.
5. **Steve Loving:**
6. **Chris Angere:** I want to explain the 4%, we work though our finance office that does not generate any money for us. That's a pass through cost were we are paying the credit card fee. It's not a revenue stream for TEEEX.
7. **Andy Dexter:** So, I've been approached on several different projects, I'll be presenting one today. The one I present to the Executive Board on Nov 20th was a Training Officer program. A very common question I get serving as a coordinator is how do we run our train programs? We had some classes after our class. How do we put the together, so I create Training Officer Program. I submit it to the executive board by email Nov 20 and certification board I haven't heard anything back. I want to run this close to Fire Chief program, bring people to the office around two or three weekends. Thank you for your time.
8. **Dallas Renfrew:** I thank the SFFMA and TEEEX for allowing to serve on the NVFC Board of Directors. Patrick, served for a long time and had great influence. Just want to touch base on that for a minute. We have a different Chairman, he decides the two Co – Chairs, need to be committee chairman, so I've worked 14 months on membership program, so I understand the membership program. Talk about amounts there are some volunteer organizations across the nation that pay four hundred dollars dues. We ranked like 38th we way below some of the other states. So, money's important, I think everybody in here should be a member of the NVFC, you can be member for 18 dollars a year, which is one starbucks coffee, depending on how you want to look at it. It's cheaper than a box of 30-06 bullets. I encourage you to do that because we get

emails everyday about people who died in the fire service. Over the past month there's been seven deaths. None of them were members. In North Carolina they have 20,000 members in the NVFC they're payed, union, industrial, volunteer, ems it doesn't make a difference. Potentially, for ten dollar death benefit. I worked with the insurance company and found out, it's not just for the fire service, I sign up my wife, if she get killed going to the HEB, I'm going to get 10,000.00, so don't miss interpreting what the definition of fire service personnel is. I really encourage you to do that, Texas is one of five states, Texas has about 5,000 members NVFC. No departments, individuals only you can sign up your family. Any questions come see me.

Board Comments:

President Tim Smith: It's an honor to be here, I would echo what Chuck said about the spring meeting get that to us share our time with you guys and address for meeting. LODD in Lubbock, thanks for the support, that was a tough time. Couple people in the room, hats off to Tim Rutland he stepped into a hornets' nest done really, really well, enjoy working with him, smart guy, we are going to tap that knowledge little more. Kevin, Lius, Julie, Heather everybody in the office. Thank you helping in this transition cause y'all in transition too and its tough. Charles, year number two for you, should have it all down by now. Heather, y'all need to get to know, Heather has step into the shoes of Gabbi and while we all love and miss Gabbi. We are blessed to have Heather onboard she has filled the void that we needed filled hit the ground running. She has done an exceptional job. June conference comes around, there may be a few things that Heather don't know. There a lot things Heather don't know. We need to help Heather out. We need to understand this is Heather first year of doing this stuff. We want to support you. We all know there's tons of moving parts to this thing, all gear together roll at the same time, it's a challenge. The last thing on the amendment, echo on what Donny said just try to make the place better than what we found it, all were trying to do. We see a smattering of the last five years, little tiny piece mill changes that have tried to be effective. While with good intention and great ideas just didn't things work. Not a wholesale change, a whole new way of looking at things. All our traditional element remain, really nothing changes meeting stay the same, districts stay the same, just a different business model of doing thing so, we will be around districts to visit about that, welcome you to constitution and by-laws committee meeting topic of discussion. Next business meeting will be detremend.

1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle: What y'all to know lied to me about Lubbock all my life! Was walking thru parking lot last night I step on dime could not see Dallas! Glad to be here, I like coming out this direction Wish weather was little warmer, say that about my own place too, enjoy being here thank you for having us, appreciate y'all hospitality.

2nd Vice President Chuck Richardson: Great to be here, this elevation is little bit much for a flatlander like me. As Director Rutland stated I'm collecting data, When and where meeting are happening. It's increasing hard to get information from people of the districts. In November, I lost all my contacts. I have no contacts. Thanks so much letting me be here.

3rd Vice President Donny Boggs: Lot of talk about change, Change is never easy, What's best for the members, not what best for the board or district or individual. We are really trying to address them. Consider what's best for the whole. Glad to be here, Love this organization, love y'all.

4th Vice President Curtis Brown: Welcome to the panhandle, I guess! It as close for me and it's still, three hours.

Immediate Past President Mike Richardson: Sorry, I wasn't at the last one, Literally, Glad to be here! Districts, that are here, sorry I wasn't at your meetings, been down for 5 months See you this spring!

Secretary Brent Allen: Nothing at this time.

Assistant Secretary Jim White: How do we get wind turbines in Northeast Texas, do they have to be above the pine trees.

Chaplain Ben Kennedy: None

Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson: Glad to be here, good board meeting.

Mascot Landon Flisowski: None

Executive Director Tim Rutland: None

The next scheduled meeting will be determined

There being no more agenda items

A motion to adjourn was by **2nd Vice President Chuck Richardson** seconded by **3rd Vice President Donny Boggs** the motion passed with 9 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

President Smith ended the meeting at 2:44 p.m

Respectfully Submitted by,
Brent Allen
SFFMA Secretary
03/01/2020