

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

May 14, 2020  
Conference Call via Zoom Room

**Meeting called to order at:** 6:39 p.m.

**by President:** Tim Smith

**Invocation given by:** Chaplain Ben Kennedy

**Roll Call of Board Members Present:**

**Board Members present on site:** Brent Allen

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

**Non-Voting Board Members Present:**

**Board Members Not Present:** Immediate Past President Mike Richardson

**Non - Voting Board Members Not Present:** Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson, Mascot Landon Flisowski

**Office Staff Present:** Executive Director Tim Rutland, Heather Lundy Events Coordinator, TFA Ladies  
Aux. President Leslie Nixon

**Approval of Minutes from Secretary Allen:**

A motion to approve the minutes from April 28,2020 Conference Call via Zoom as presented.  
Motion was made by 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs and seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson.

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

**Guest present:** Conference Coordinator Charles Gallatin

**Old Business:**

Annual Conference  
President Tim Smith

The subsequent Cancellation of the SFFMA Conference.

- A lot of Commits and Concerns on potential health impact.
- There are so many unknown with this pandemic
- That was the recurring theme we got
- We only got a tiny little slice of the membership response
- We didn't have a great turnout on the survey

President Smith – I want to go around and get commits form each of the board members on what we should or need to do, at this point.

Richard - It's pretty plain to me that people are not interested in having Conference this year or having a mini conference. I feel that with results of the survey that we should just cancel the conference. Just wait till 2021.

Chuck – Well, from reading the commits, I saw a lot of negativity in the commits, so I kind of agree with Richard. People are not wanting this, we probably need to go ahead and cancel it and start next year.

Donny – I tend to agree with what Richard and Chuck talking about, I saw those negative commits myself. One thing is, we have people running for office, that spent money. Is there anything that can be done at the Planning Conference in January, elevate the chairs and elect somebody in January. I don't know, but with the result what we see, most are not in favor of the two - day conference, as it is, I did see where if we centralize it, but not in Lubbock, that might help. I think there is more of an overtone that we should cancel it, from what I'm seeing.

Curtis – I don't even remember of what I read, Yes, there was a lot of negativity in it and things. The only concern I got.....intelligible

Brent – At the last meeting I almost stated that we should cancel, but I thought about that and then decided no. I saw some of the commits, you know, I would have thought that would have been different. But, I can see were people are very concerned and still little scared, the older folks, even in our town don't come out, they aren't going, anywhere. I know we were really kind of wanting this to work out, but reading the commits and stuff, I'm going with everyone else, you are better off trying next year and hope everything goes well.

Ben - I got a lot of thoughts on it, number one, I was really, really looking forward going back to Lubbock, cause that's home. I really hate that we are not going to be able to, there are people out there I really wanted to see. As I go back and Donny talking about the election, I will tell you what we're going to do at the International Association of Arson Investigators we are going to let it ride move the officers up, we are going to have a board meeting and move the officers up and then elect two officers at the next meeting, I think we can do that. I know that Barb and I are totally opposed to have EMS and Firefighter of the Year, not being able to get together for interviews. I think we are better off to cancel it.

President Smith -Tim Rutland, any other thoughts real quick, Tim-No, I really fall with same camp as everybody else. There are to many unknowns at this point and to many people have to many concerns at this point and not just in this group here. To many people with concerns all over the place. There's no way to know at this point even how the attendance would suffer, and I feel like we all believe that we would significantly try to have something in August. It makes since to me to put this one off, and lets spin it up again in 2021.

TFA President Leslie Nixon – A lot of my ladies have said they are not going, so we wouldn't have much of a turn out from our side.

President Smith – that is my thoughts as well, I guess that this year is going to be a wash. That's pretty tough to do. But, it's for the safety of our members. Couple things that stuck me with the commits, that we read, I was a little taken aback with commits about panhandle advantage of passing the amendments. We could get this pulled off, that amendment would pass on by-laws. But I'm going to tell you, it's a good amendment First of all, It will work for our association, my belief I don't what to be that board that does it that way. We need to pass it with the most voices possible, lets do it the right way. I do worry about the health and safety of our members.

A motion to cancel all 2020 Convention activities was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Richard Van Winkle seconded by 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Curtis Brown.

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

We are already refunding all vendors their full amount for their spaces, and all other convention events are moving forward with Cancellations.

Tim Rutland - Remember there were no spring meeting and no actions were taken at that time, from Districts. No action taken, no submittals, Postpone of all events, such as Firefighter of the year or EMS of the year and all activity should stop.

### **New Business:**

2021 Conference  
President Tim Smith

All activities for 2020 will be push to 2021.

- Move Lubbock to 2021, McAllen to 2022, Beaumont to 2023
- All we have from McAllen is A letter of Intent
- McAllen would have to move to 2022
- A time frame for a Lubbock Conference is in July and it will be the last week in July
- People will not like the Idea conflict with A&M fire School
- Lubbock looks to be a conflict
- Just move on to McAllen
- Do we have anyone trying to host 2023
- Can we move Lubbock to 2023
- Cancel Lubbock move on to McAllen
- Executive Board would serve two years at this time.
- 2021 we will elect new officers

### **Board Comments:**

President Tim Smith – Well I echo what everybody else said, It is what it is, Ben said it best, he cant do anything and I can't do anything and neither can any of ya'll. You know. it is what it is, It did reset our world, not only this association, the districts but our world reset into a manor if we will ever go back to the same I sure hope we are, but right now. I had a long talk with the Chaplain up here in the panhandle today about it, he kind a what's to get back to normal want ever that is but maybe we reset some world we needed to reset, I hope so. We will be in McAllen, we will do what is we need to do and how we need to do it for the good of the association. I was so looking forward with Leslie and myself going out here in Lubbock, but you know some of ya'll said it doesn't matter where you go out it's the fact of the honor of serving and the honor of helping the firefighters of Texas, that what it's about and this board has done a good job and we are going do another year of a good job, another year of good work Talk to Tim Rutland this is going to free up a lot of his time Spent a lot with this convention, it time that he can back off of that and be done with it. Charles will continue to be working on McAllen, making sure its great as it always is we can start working a little bit harder with more focus on growthzone. Get it were its more user friendly he needs this time and he what's this time, I believe he will make growthzone better. That's all I got,I hope you stay safe, wash your hands and cover your cough. Don't touch face.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle – If Lubbock has no opening for us, lets move forward to McAllen in 2021 and Beaumont in 2022, and who ever bids on 2023 I know we have that rotation now, I don't know what part the state we are suppose to be in 2023. (Central)That's where it got to be according to the by-laws. That policy is what this board put in place.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson – I don't have anything. We made some tough decision tonight, decision we had to make and congratulation as a second year President.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs – As disappointing as it is, not to be able to come to Lubbock I think we all understand we are making the right decision. I'm still going to do what I can to help this association, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President chair for another year. You know, it is what it is. It is something that will go down in history of this association, at least we are apart of history. We ought to be thankful for that. This is the greatest association I can imagine and associate with, you know what, I just fill bad for you, Mr. President. Just know I hurt for you and we are going to make it up for you.

4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Curtis Brown – Sure miss hanging out with you guys, just wish this stuff was over and we could go back to a normal life. I think I'm going to get a custom mask for the shoebox, just looking forward to seeing you guys soon though.

Secretary Brent Allen- Just something that has happened unfortunately, we didn't plan on this I'm like everybody else, we were excited to come to Lubbock. Just not going to happen. Like I said we got one more year with you. It's just something that happens, its part of history now. Other than that, I don't have anything else.

Chaplain Ben Kennedy - Hang in there, Stay safe and Be well, Sure going to miss going to Lubbock, but that not anything you do about it, I'm sure your wife could have fix it , if she just would have. I saw in the background and just had to say that. Everybody stay safe and be well.

Executive Director Tim Rutland – I'm not in the mix of the rotation with you guys and I don't ya'lls responsibilities. Just looking at this from my perspective I hope ya'll would see this as an opportunity. This whole thing has been a reset. The whole thing has been a reset, there were no spring meetings, no opportunities get and do things you really what to do during this year. So, if nothing else, it presents that opportunity to begin to do that, I hope you make the best out of your opportunities before you.

TFA President Leslie Nixon – Just sad it ended this way for here, look forward to next year, McAllen was a blast my first year.

The next scheduled meeting is To Be Determine

There being no more agenda items

A motion to adjourn was by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Richard Van Winkle seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson.

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

President Smith ended the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by,  
Brent Allen SFFMA Secretary  
05/19/201**