

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

July 23, 2021

TEEX Building 58, Brayton Fire Field
College Station, TX.

Meeting called to order at: 9:00 a.m.

by President: Richard Van Winkle

Invocation given by: Rayford Gibson

Roll Call of Board Members Present: Brent Allen

Board Members present on site:

President Richard Van Winkle
1st Vice President Chuck Richardson
2nd Vice President Donny Boggs
3rd Vice President Curtis Brown
4th Vice President Billy Tidwell
Immediate Past President Tim Smith
Secretary Brent Allen
Assistant Secretary Mike Richter

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson

Board Members Not Present: I.P.P. Tim Smith, Chaplain Ben Kennedy

Non - Voting Board Members Not Present: Mascot Hannah Brown

Office Staff Present: Executive Director Tim Rutland

Guest present: P.P. Mike Richardson, Brad Hargrove Alvarado FD/ Cert. Board, P.P. Shawn Snider, Edinburg, P.P. Harvie Cheshire, P.P. Rusty Kattner, Galveston County, Mark Wobus, Guadalupe District Andy Dexter, SFFMA Cert Board/Northwest VFD, Steven Loving/ South Central District.

Gordon Lohmeyer

Spoke on items that pertained to updates of the municipal fire school,

- 81 % of normal, if normal is compared to 2019, we have a good number.
- There is some change, there is change dynamics going around everywhere.
- We are asking for instructors to participate in this dynamic staffing model.
- The school is smaller, but we are migrating firefighting phases to ASP601 through ASP 605 program.
- We are introducing some new pro-board classes, Awareness and Operations.
- We are doing everything that we can, to listen to our customers, because we have so many customers that asked, give something to recruit new members of my department, give them a pathway so they can at least so they can obtain Firefighter 1 in a quicker method, and I think we are there.
- We are going to go though some growing pains of course we are proud of the relationship we have, if y'all need anything while you are here, please lets us know. Thank you for the time.

President Van Winkle: Thank Chief, we enjoy being here, thanks for hosting us.

Approval of Minutes from Secretary Allen:

A motion to approve the minutes from SFFMA Business Meeting of 6/27/2021 as presented. Motion was made by 1st Vice President Chuck Richardson and seconded by 2nd Vice President Donny Boggs.

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

A motion to approve the minutes from Zoom Meeting of 6/22/2021 as presented.

Motion was made by 1st Vice President Chuck Richardson and seconded by 3rd Vice President Curtis Brown.

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

New Business: 9:20 a.m.

President Van Winkle gave 2nd Vice President Donny Boggs the floor to discuss

Pro-Rated Dues

- We understand as a board we work for the membership, and we have a voice for the membership if they come to us.
- I had a District President approach me at Lubbock, and we even talked after Lubbock. With the possibility, with this new data system being built, is there a possibility that it could be built into that system for prorated dues.
- The District President stated they get one check a year. Once he is paid, if new members come on in August, He stated if a pay the full 50.00 I don't get any benefit in the first few months.
- The way he looked at it is he said the year is divided into 4 quarters if you put 12.50 per quarters it will equal fifty dollars.
- He said that other departments if a members joins say in August they may not sign him up, because they don't what to pay that whole \$50.00, when they know that the renewals are coming up.
- By prorate if they join anytime within that quarter, you pay that \$12.50.
- As it is they are waiting and then they are training or on a response and something happens to them, they are not cover by anything or the association.
- I told him I would bring it up to the board, I don't think it would take an amendment to the dues, maybe the board could make a policy, I want to go back and let him that we did talk about it, if we decide to make a decision.
- Would there be a by-law change?
- Programming wise it can be done, there is some hesitancy about it.
- We also need to look at budgeting, and how extensive it becomes. Along with the training aspect in this.

Retired Membership

- Was contacted by a retired member, and several other retired members are interested in trying to stay involved.
- Membership in subject and Shall be available to any retired person who has been an active member of the SFFMA of Texas.
- Can we created another membership, Individual Retired Membership, along years of service.
- The retired individual spoke nothing about voting.
- Would have a Retirement membership card, that would entitle to be a voting delegate to vote on matters of the association, the annual training conference.

- Their membership can be terminated.
- This could be another revenue source.
- There would some limitations and clarifications.
- This will require a by-law change.

A motion to authorize some of the board members to write a proposed bylaw change as presented. Motion was made by 2nd Vice President Donny Boggs and seconded by 1st Vice President Chuck Richardson

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

President Richard Van Winkle

Monthly Newsletter Publication

- I have a discussion about a possibility of producing a monthly newsletter.
- Tim and I talked about that, and we feel like that's something he and I can do.
- So, we'll get that in motion.

Executive Director Tim Rutland

2022 Health and Wellness

- I think I forward out an email several weeks ago, Barbara had indicated that VFIS was going to be contributing \$100,000 and Texas Mutual was contributing \$400,000 for a total of \$500,000.
- So, two weeks later, unfortunately, and she was very apologetic and said, actually Texas Mutual contributed \$300,000 instead of \$400,000.
- So, we will be working with a total of \$400,000, I responded back, I said, exceedingly generous, nonetheless, you know our appreciation.
- Will probably start taking applications around the beginning of September.
- This past year was my first to getting in the time final approvals, Julie and I went and met with them right at the end after the first of the year to do the final approvals.
- They will do some works to qualify some department, look at financial need, they look at what the department is requesting.
- They will also be looking at if the department has already had a grant from them.
- They will some things already ranked.

1st Vice President Chuck Richardson

Grant to Fund Volunteers for Travel, Training & to Pay Instructors

- Give funds to our volunteers to go to Convention.
- And to fund Instructors to teach classes, with good quality classes.
- I have 422 company on my list at this time.
- Each of the companies are billion dollar companies.
- All the Companies operate in the state of Texas.
- They all have a vested interest in training volunteer firefighters.
- They have assets or employees who are protect by volunteer departments.
- The goal is to get \$7,500.00 each one of them.
- Once our fund gets to \$500,000.00, we can consider the possibly funding volunteers to Spring or Summer School. We want to take care of our own first.

- I proposed a committee, this was Tim Rutland idea, to turn it over to a committee that would administer grant.
- The 3rd Vice President would be the Chair and the Asst. Secretary would be the Secretary for the committee, Past President, Finance, Speaker Selection
- Finance Committee Patrick Hlavaty, Past President Mike Richardson, Speaker Selection Committee Mike Montgomery, Asst. Secretary Mike Richter, Tim Rutland, Resident Staff, Chuck Richardson, Co. Chair and Curtis Brown, Co. Chair

Executive Director Tim Rutland

January Planning Conference

- Do we want to do the limited numbers of people for planning conference this year, as we did in 2020.
- Along with the ZOOM committee meetings in the office. If they need to be present at the Executive Board meeting, they can ZOOM in.
- Committees can send a representative, if they need to.
- It worked out fairly well. All people involved, though it went well.
- And the expense was really cost affected.

Electronic Voting Method

- This on site Electronic Voting Method, not online.
- Depends on how secure you want to be. Very proprietary, basically a radio signal.
- You can do a room as big as 800 x 800 feet.
- Basically, you hand them a device and or a paper ballot.
- You can actually show the tally of votes as the receiver is picking them up.
- In terms of speed and efficiency there are a lot of advantages
- I priced this from this particular company, I priced 400 voting devices, software the recruitment device, everything to make it happen.
- I got three prices, renting was around \$4,000.00, to buy the everything is was \$12,000.00 and the one Drell,300 devices found was around \$10,000.00 or we can rent the stuff.

President Richard Van Winkle

Committee Appointments

- Made his committee appointments for the year 2021-2022
- Those districts I received I made the changes, those districts that did not send in appointments stay where they were.
- Made required corrections as needed

A motion to accept the committees' appointments as presented.

Motion was made by 4th Vice President Billy Tidwell and seconded by 1st Vice President Chuck Richardson

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

Audience Comments:

Shawn Snider - Glad to be here

Steve Loving - Running for 4th V.P. in Beaumont., Ad-Hoc Historical Committee

Rusty Kattner – How to do appointments the fast way.

Mike Montgomery – None

Mike Richardson – None

Brad Hargrove – None

Andy Dexter – Gave an update on the Training Officer Development Program

Harvie Cheshire – Thank you, Keep Training Forward, Real History Nut

Mark Wobus – Plan to run for 4th Vice President in Beaumont.

Henry Perry - None

Board Comments:

President Richard Van Winkle; We got a lot of to be done and I think we got the people to do it. Get everybody going in the same direction. I appreciate y'all support so far, I look forward to working with y'all the rest of this year If y'all see me screw it up, let me know, That's one thing Jack King told me Don't screw it up boy, if y'all see head that direction let me know and we will try to correct it. Other wise I appreciate y'all being here.

1st Vice President Chuck Richardson; This new grant we are looking at, its going to take a lot of work, I will be contacting Curtis we will develop a plan and then contact the committee members. Mike Montgomery, before you get out of here I need your contact stuff, please. Richard if you don't mind I would love to have a copy of those appointments.

2nd Vice President Donny Boggs; you have a lot of confidence in me Mr. President, put me on seven committees. You know what I've got broad shoulders, I thank you for that it was a great meeting I like how the speed this meeting ought to be over with. Just glad to be a part of it. I want to commend the Past Presidents for being here, I see Rusty pretty much at every one of them. To all you Past President thank you for what y'all have done. You are still here supporting us. And I appreciate yawl, Thank you for that. I'm done.

3rd Vice President Curtis Brown; Good job on the appointments, ready for fire school.

4th Vice President Billy Tidwell; Good meeting, some of the others just sit through for a long time and look forward and get started.

Immediate Past President Tim Smith; Not here.

Secretary Brent Allen; It was great, it was fast, that was a good thing.

Assistant Secretary Mike Richter; Good meeting, I like the way Committee appointments were done.

Chaplain Ben Kennedy; Not here

Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson; Glad to be here, we had a good meeting, I'm always for the advancement of the fire service.

Mascot Hannah Brown; Not here.

Executive Director Tim Rutland; Few quick items so that you are aware, I did ask staff this week to do a quick accounting of the conference to see where we ended up financially it looks like in the end it, will cost us 16,000 to 17,000, we a little bit more coming in, so it wasn't bad. Considering we didn't even charge a registration fee, that's not bad. I was notify this pass week the committee working on the validation of awareness and ops, FF1 and FF2 our online platform completed their work. Staff is going to look over and make sure they are formatted correctly, after that we will build some test. Andy came in and we got way into weeds of the new data system on how this thing needs to work. Got a lot of work done.

The next scheduled meeting is To Be Announced

There being no more agenda items

A motion to adjourn was by 2nd Vice President Donny Boggs seconded by 4th Vice Billy Tidwell the motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

President Richard Van Winkle ended the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Brent Allen
SFFMA Secretary
08/23/2021