

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

December 15, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting

**Meeting called to order at:** 6:35 p.m.

**by President:** Tim Smith

**Invocation given by:** None

**Roll Call of Board Members Present:** Secretary 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

**Non-Voting Board Members Present:** Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson

**Board Members Not Present:** 4<sup>th</sup> Vice president Curtis Brown and Chaplain Ben Kennedy

**Non - Voting Board Members Not Present:**

**Office Staff Present:** Executive Director Tim Rutland

**Approval of Minutes from Secretary Allen:** No approval of meeting minutes at this date.

**Guest present:** Bill H., Dallas Renfro, Pete Salinas., Frankie J. Salinas

**Executive Director Report:**

Director Rutland spoke on the Industrial Fire Certification program, they are ready to test using the new testing platform. We would begin with limited testing session. With at least 2 Exam Sessions pre-month. At this point it looks like Legislative Day may not happen with all that is going on. Will have figure out how to out honor our LODD firefighters at this time, with the Cov-19 Virus issue. Sales are going fairly well. Membership is also going well, as with the Safer Grant we are allowed to help members with their membership dues, we started with 40,00 dollars to give departments help for their members.

**Old Business:** President Smith

Talking to JPete, Bill Gardner and Mike, hopefully we can just maintain what we got and not lose any thing.

It's going to be one of those years, a year of not getting much done.

But, hopefully just keeping what we got and not losing anything.

One of the things on our radar is Cancer in the fire Service and is very prevalent.

Worker Comp has shot up significantly as a result of that. Rates will go up.

We are hoping to increase HB 3667 this year.

You will see a significant increase in your workers comp and possible in your accidental death and dismemberment, not sure about yet?

It will impact us all and we will need to prepare for it and get ahead of it.

Again, the session is going to look very different, we talk a little bit last time about the Legislative Day at the State Capitol. I just don't see that happening.

I definitely don't see a Catfish Dinner on the lawn happening as has in years past.

I'm quite sure we will have some sort of Memorial Service, to honor those that need to be placed on the wall.

It will look very different from what it has in the past, It might be the Executive Board and a little bit of the Press, just to cover it or maybe just the Executive Board to honor those folks to be placed on the wall.

News out of the Austin office on the data system, Director Rutland has been working hard on something to replace Growthzone.

Something customized for our association, we know growthzone is not it, it's a source of many headaches.

Personal changes as in Director Tim Rutland was hired, Some may not know, Teresa Junkin was hired as a book keeper and is full time since January. Heather Lundy, a gem for us, is in Gabi's old position as event coordinator also assisting Kevin in Certification Process.

Sales are going decently, though not as good as we would like.

We have lost a few publications, we are no longer distributors of NFPA, Brady or Pierson.

Still have a host books online as well and host books you can purchase from.

We have Wildland Boots and we encourage you to purchase these items.

When Using 2604 grants don't forget to use your purchasing option through the SFFMA.

#### Certification Items

We've developed a new Industrial Firefighter Certification

There are two levels for that certification, which are Industrial Firefighter 1 and Industrial Firefighter 2 (Interior Structure) Which give them options.

We did this in response from the Industrial Board.

We have subscribed to online testing Service, which is called Question Mark.com.

We are going use them for online testing with the intent being to use that platform for our pilot program to roll out the industrial firefighter certification.

We are ready to test with the industrial firefighter, we plan to use our new testing platform to do it.

We did the validation for Firefighter 1 & 2 Awareness and Ops,

Certification Board members have already done the TEEX Test Bank for FF 1&2 Awareness and Ops.

They are now validating again, the test banks residing on our online test platform.

#### Safer Grant

Originally 1.43million dollars, we have spent 630,000. Which is 44% of the grant.

Lots of work shops going on around the state.

We had departments order 136 recruiting kits.

We received 1380 applications from respective volunteers.

We estimated about 210 have become firefighters and enrolled in the ranks of the volunteers in Texas. 1 in ever 6 or 7

Excellent turnout for a grant.

We made \$40,000.00 available that could not afford departmental dues.

That got snatch up pretty quick, so we made the decision to include another \$50,000.00  
If you know of departments that need help, have them contact Teresa Junkin. at the  
SFFMA Office.

39 departments have taken advantage of that.

#### Constitution and By-Laws

3 proposals are still on the table, the were approved by the Constitution and By-Lays  
Committee in Lubbock. Will still be on the ballot, I encourage you to familiarize  
yourself with all three. Make sure what you are voting for.

#### 2021 Conference Planning:

Will do a site visit with limited Presidential Members and Staff members.

At this time, contracts with motels has not been signed.

RGVSSFFMA and Hotels are committed to the Conference.

Committees bring issues to this endeavor at this time.

Pre-Convention, January 29& 30, more than likely will be at the State Office.

Committees will have to hold meeting so that they can tell the board what they will need  
for the convention in McAllen.

Also, Only the Committee Chairman will address the Executive Board at Pre-  
Convention because of Covid-19 virus.

We did meet with Charles and Heather today, to talk about hotel issues

Charles is in contact with embassy suites to iron as far as rate and whatever kind of  
commit we can get form them and try to pursue contracts with the other hotels. That we  
will be using in addition of the Embassy Suites.

Any contracts we can get, we need to. Those were his marching for the next few days.

See if we can get that all squared away.

We are going to plan for the best, Hope for the Best!

#### Richard Van Winkle

We need to make sure the next few days to contact every committee Chair, Cause I'm  
sure that don't know about this yet and let them know they can call a committee meeting  
though ZOOM, Teleconference or whatever. So, they can get back to us, that meeting in  
Austin will be committee Chairs only, so we don't have 300 people showing up now.  
Make sure the committee chair are aware of what's going on.

#### Chuck Richardson

No Sir, I think we've got a plan to take follow through with, I agree with keeping it small  
going to help saving us some money as far as the planning conference in the years future  
Maybe we can use that money for training, during the conference, if it become an  
success.

#### Donny Boggs

I agree with what Chuck said, and I agree with everything yawl said. First and foremost, I  
what to thank ya'll for your diligence and going down to McAllen seeing this thing is on  
go. You know because your right we are in unprecedented times, Things are going to  
have to change, I know alot people don't like that word Change, but it is a golden  
opportunity to prove that social media is a way to conducting business. If it had been in  
place in our By-laws we could have kept on taking care of business. I applaud ya'll.

I'm there for you anything I can do I certainly talking up the amendment with favorable  
response this is what the pandemic has done open some eyes, so again thank ya'll that's  
all I got.

I.P.P. Mike Richardson

I think it sounds real good, got everything streamlined to move forward best we can. There will be challenges no just form COVID, but from a lot of things this year that are going to be different. Good to see us getting off the ground, trying ways to solve problems.

Brent Allen

Everything ya'll say I'm right there with you, really don't have anything other than that Deal with it and make the best that we can with it.

Rayford Gibson

Just echo every thing ya'll said, new innovated ways out there if anybody has a problem with Change its me but only because I can't operate these fancy machines I wanted to thank everybody and the staff and Tim Rutland for thoughts and Prayers about my son I lost 2 weeks ago I appreciate the Flowers, they were beautiful. Thank Ya'll very much.

President Smith

Least we could do for a great man. We were glad we could do it for you.

JPete Laney:

Spoke on what is happing at this time and the State Capitol and what precautions are going to take place, and it is up in the air as to how what will happen and how it will work.

Dallas Renfro

And all these old guys including Boggs should learn how to use this equipment. Rayford if you would go down to the bottom of the screen down there, there's a little chat button. Get on there and answer my damn question. Rayford: I can't Chat button, Dallas. It's down there it says, Participants, were the mic is, I'm going to tech everybody how run this mess, because I had to learn. If ya'll meet in Austin, that sound like a good Idea, What is the states Where's Rutland, what is the platform for letting people in the building without being tested. If any thing, I have been deployed for 257 days. I got home for three days, this is the third time I've been home for 3 days, since the beginning. I love all of ya'll but if the one thing I really understand, I'm trying to protect my armory. You shouldn't let people have a meeting unless they have been tested. So, somewhere somebody need to figure that out. It would be really embarrassing if we all met in Austin. You got Richardson or somebody like cross contaminates everybody, I mean that in the nicest way. Does that make any since? That's not going to go in the INFOFire, Executives meet, all of them now have COVID, What is the position of the office about letting people in the building without being tested?

Director Rutland, We are not requiring people, have not been requiring people to be tested, they require face covering and we require social distancing. So, we have not been requiring tested even before they come into the building. We have not been requiring that.

Dallas, ok just checking because they are not hard to do.

President Smith, Dallas, are you saying that we can have a request to have that done?

Dallas, Yes, it might be, you can check with Harvie. He may be able with that part a little bit. So I don't know how many of ya'll have been ever tested, I've been tested every day. I have been positive once already, too. So, the issue is it is still there and we are setting a 7

day record today across the nation for the mount of cases out there. I think social distancing and masks are good. The only reason I bring this up is because I love ya'll It's really good to see all of ya'll. These Zoom meeting if nothing else tug at your heart. Because we haven't been together or go to lunch, or me pick on Donny Boggs or any thing like that in person so, these meetings are more about the heart, than they are about business a lot of times. Because, we can't touch or see each other anymore. I'm just throwing that on the table, and I'll take my hand down, I was just wondering what the position was because it would look really bad if everyone got cross contaminated, know what I mean.

President Smith, I appreciate that Dallas, we will have a side conversation with Director Rutland about that perhaps we can contact the local Emergency Manager Contact of Travis County and get those testing kits bought in, would be hard to do.

Dallas, It gives you a peace of mind.

Secretary Allen, I had one like and it wasn't fun.

Dallas, did the tip of the probe come out

Vice President Boggs, It pull out all the brain cell I had

Dallas, It's not like anymore its smoother and simpler now. The technology has increased immensely, they are terrible anymore.

President Smith, Director Rutland and I will talk, I'm sure we could get that.

Pete Silanis, RGVFFMA, Sounds good, Gentlemen, First of all I want thank you to allow me to make this meeting. As we spoke on Saturday, I want to plan this as its going to happen. There is no use to not be prepared for it. McAllen, I'm sure they cane find a different venue for if the McAllen Convention Center is not an option. We've got several, State Farm Arena maybe we can use that, if we need bigger places, we look forward to your planning with Frankie Jo, with Dallas, I had a few conversions, and we look forward to it.

President Smith, Anybody else for the good of the group. That's really all we have for tonight. Just want to give an update of where were at, what we are doing, and the direction we are headed I suspect we will have a few more these, till we reach the end of this. I defiantly what to Thank everyone involved, everyone that travel to McAllen this weekend. Director Rutland with your ability to get us though this and your diligence to stay on top of what's going on at the State office. We appreciate you hard work and effort. We will not schedule another meeting till January 29 & 30, 2021. Executive Board meeting will be on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Will the the 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President candidates be allowed to speak and the answer is yes. We will make sure it happens.

Dallas, Director Rutland and I are both director for NVFC they have enormous amount of online training for 5cent a week. Be member for 18.00 a year and accidental death benefit You can have on family on it and you don't have to be a fireman to be in NVFC. I encourage to be a member even if it's for the online training. They have over 80 classes you can take.

**New Business:** None

**Audience Comments:** N/A

**Board Comments:** N/A

The next scheduled meeting is at the SFFMA Office Jan 29& 30, 2021

There being no more agenda items

A motion to adjourn was by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle, seconded by Mike Richardson the motion passed with 6 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

President Smith ended the meeting at

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Brent Allen**

**SFFMA Secretary**

**12/15/2019**