

**2018
PROCEEDINGS**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officers.....	1
Life Members.....	16
Convention Cities and Past Presidents.....	19
Honorary Members.....	23
Honorary Life Members.....	23
Firefighter of the Year.....	24
EMS Responder of the Year.....	25
2017/2018 Boards.....	26
2017/2018 Committees.....	29
Memorial Service.....	41
Opening Business Session.....	55
*TFBI Presentation * Host City Official Welcome * Sponsor Recognition *	
* MDA's Report * Past Presidents' Recognition * TFA Recognition*	
* VFIS/Texas Mutual Grant Presentation * Keynote Speaker *	
* TFS Report * TEEEX Report * FFOY and EMS Responder of the Year	
Presentation * NFPA Report * President's Report * Constitution and	
By-Laws Proposals * Board Nominations * President's Tribute *	
Closing Business Session.....	112
* New TFA Board Recognition * Executive Director's Report *	
* Legislative Update * Certification Board Report * Sergeant-at-Arms	
Recognition * Poster Contest Winner Presentation * Photo Contest	
Winner Presentation * Credentials Committee Report * Resolutions *	
* Installation of Officers*	
Resolutions.....	142
Committee Reports.....	144
District Reports.....	154
Constitution & By-laws.....	183
Guidelines.....	205
Six-Man Pumper Race Results.....	227
Six-Woman Pumper Race Results.....	231

OFFICERS

Harvie CheshirePresident
1100 Merry Oaks Dr - College Station, TX 77840-2607

Mike Richardson First Vice President
1705 S State St - Decatur, TX 76234-2745

Tim Smith Second Vice President
PO Box 98044 - Lubbock, TX 79499-8044

Richard Van Winkle..... Third Vice President
PO Box 296 - Alvarado, TX 76009-0296

Chuck Richardson Fourth Vice President
3523 County Road 245 - Brazoria, TX 77422-7276

Joe Ondrasek Secretary
5572 Caroline Dr - Bryan, TX 77807-7806

F. Jim White Assistant Secretary
304 E Mundy St - Overton, TX 75684-1734

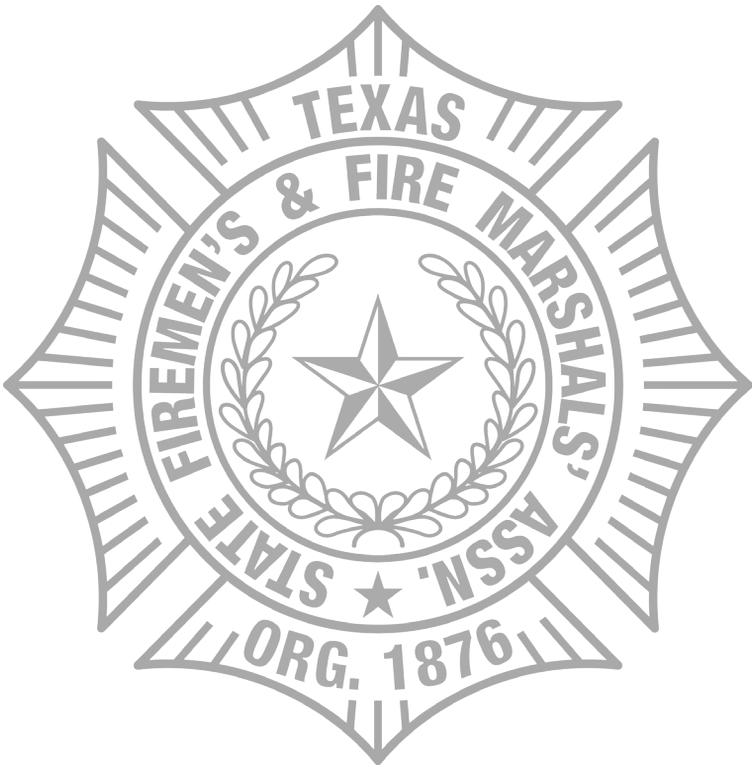
Ben Kennedy Chaplain
4210 Camber Ct - College Station, TX 77845

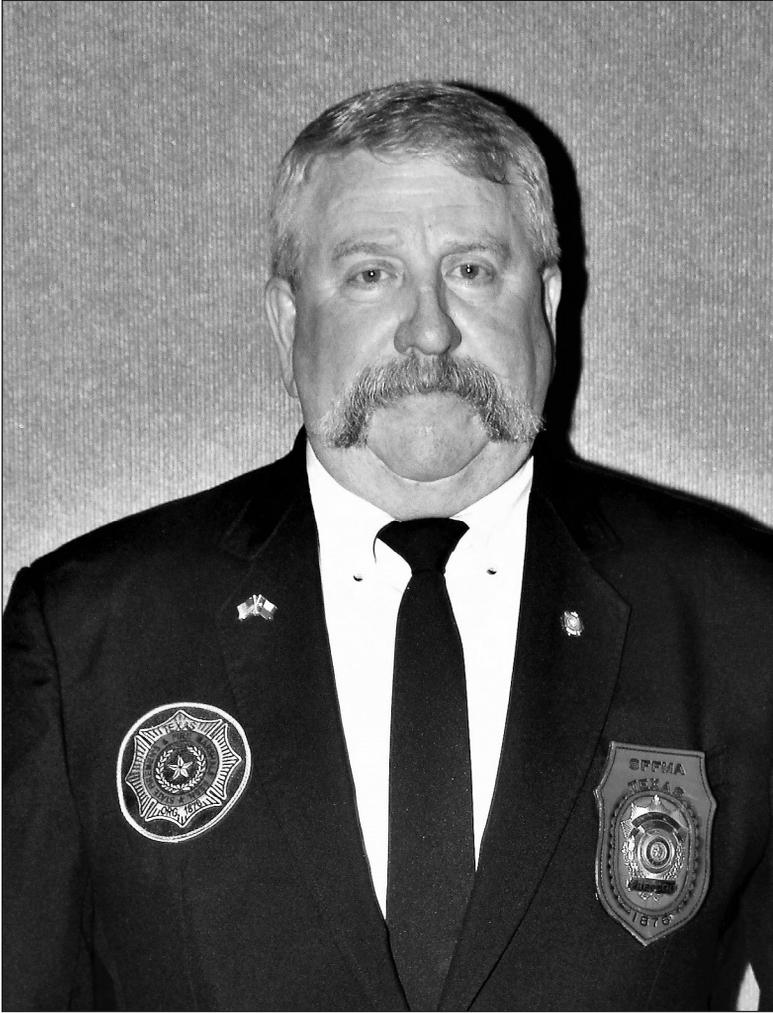
Henry PerryPast President
212 Jennifer Ln - Bastrop, TX 78602-6656

Chris Barron Executive Director
PO Box 1709 - Manchaca, TX 78652-1709

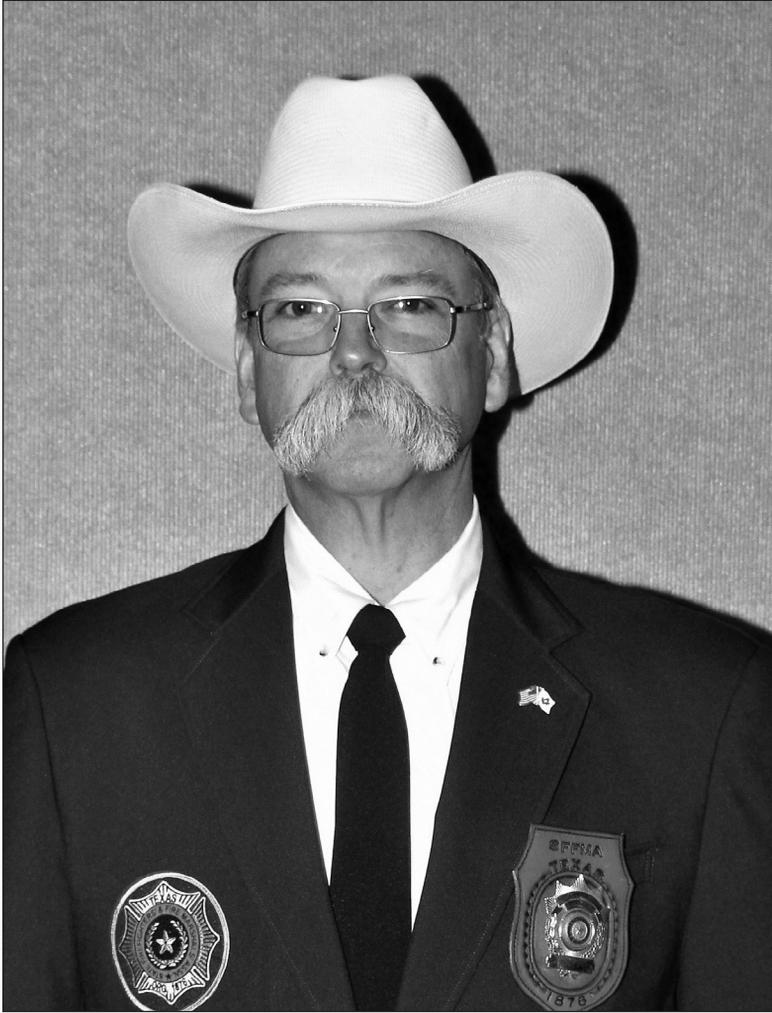
Rayford GibsonBoard Appointed Parliamentarian
PO Box 774 - Tatum, TX 75691

Daisy Svatek Mascot
8420 Padon Rd - Needville, TX 77461-9059





HARVIE CHESHIRE
President, College Station



MIKE RICHARDSON

1st Vice President, Decatur



TIM SMITH

2nd Vice President, West Carlisle



RICHARD VAN WINKLE
3rd Vice President, Alvarado

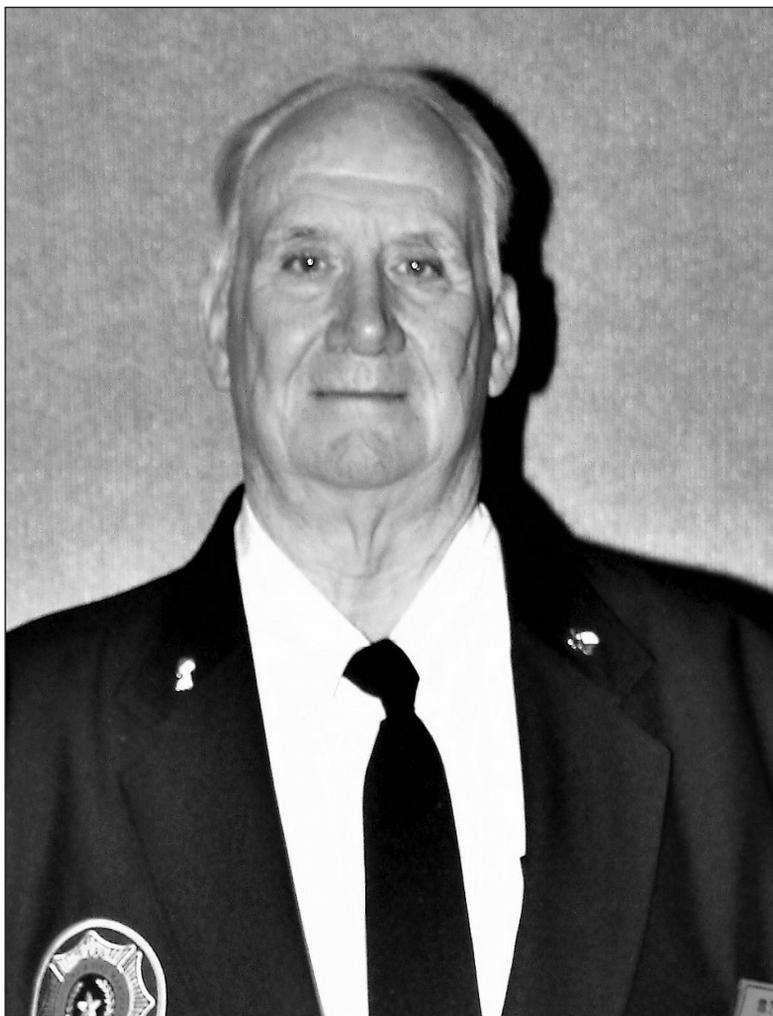


CHUCK RICHARDSON

4th Vice President, Brazoria



JOE ONDRASEK
Secretary, Bryan



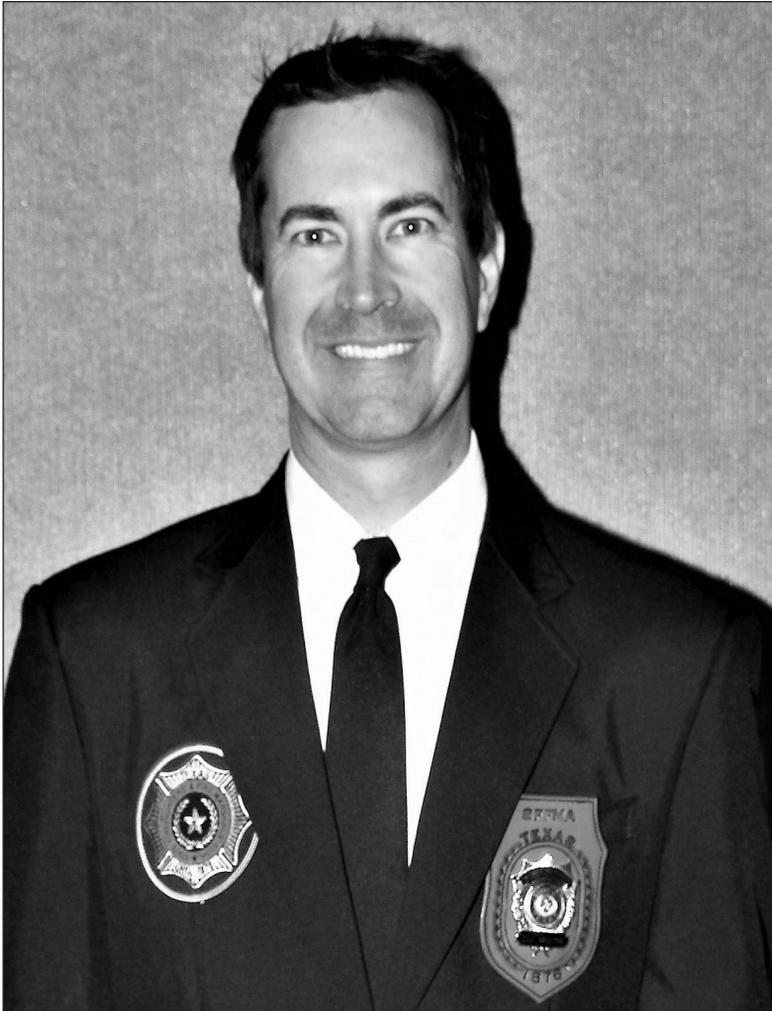
F. JIM WHITE
Assistant Secretary, Overton



BEN KENNEDY
Chaplain, College Station



HENRY PERRY
Past President, Bastrop



CHRIS BARRON
Executive Director, Austin



RAYFORD GIBSON

Board Appointed Parliamentarian, Tatum



DAISY SVATEK

Mascot, Needville

SFFMA STAFF

- Chris Barron**Executive Director
- Jon Barron**.....Facilitator/Special Projects
- Julie Beauchamp**..... Sales Department Manager
- Kevin Creamer**Certification Administrator/
Industrial Coordinator
- Gabi Glass** Event Coordinator
- Luis Martinez**..... Membership Coordinator/
SFFMA International

LIFE MEMBERS

*J. Ed. Schmitz.....	Dallas
*Gust Depmore.....	Galveston
*Jno. J. Boerum.....	Corpus Christi
*W. P. Walker.....	Luling
*Roger Byrne.....	Smithville
*C. E. Jenkins.....	Bryan
*Mrs. J. R. Porte.....	San Marcos
*C. M. Bailey.....	Gainesville
*Jno. L. Brunner.....	Taylor
*W. E. Bidiker.....	Fort Worth
*Jos. Stumpf.....	Fort Worth
*J. P. Schneider.....	Austin
*W. L. Talbot.....	San Marcos
*Mr. Meyer of the Metro Studios.....	Hollywood, CA
*Olin Culberson.....	Edna
*G. N. Holton.....	Austin
*P. J. Goodlett.....	Georgetown
*H. W. Speckels.....	La Grange
*L. B. Warren.....	Belton
*Jno. S. McKinney.....	McKinney
*Louis H. Scholl.....	New Braunfels
*W. P. Hallmark.....	Dublin
*V. S. Fritz.....	Victoria
*Rev. J. C. Felger.....	Victoria
*M. L. O. Andrews.....	Houston
*T. S. Wright.....	Temple
*W. F. Hamner.....	Belton
*J. A. Caldwell.....	San Angelo
*E. V. Easterling.....	Del Rio
*Frank Williams.....	Austin
*D. B. Clark.....	Beaumont
*E. P. Hall.....	Weatherford
*R. R. Talbert.....	Mercedes
*Lewis Haynes.....	San Marcos
*G. E. Dalton.....	Coleman
*Frederick Klopp.....	Taylor
*J. J. Blackstone.....	Burkburnett
*I. W. Speckels.....	Schulenberg

*Chester Cherry	Ballinger
*Hugh Nation	Crosbyton
*T. E. "Red" Lewis	Electra
*Royce C. Hogg	Gilmer
*G. F. Dohrn	Mission
*Adolph Solmky	Seguin
*N. W. Autry	Snyder
*John Dean	Plano
*John Ballew	Childress
*J. C. Swadley	Grand Prairie
*C. P. Churchwell	Richardson
*Paul B. Conley	Luling
*Elbert Sanders	Edinburg
*David Clabaugh	Carthage
*Leo Bales	Lampasas
*Mason Lankford	Arlington
*Leon Powell	Junction
*C. H. Boring, Jr	Rosenberg
*Vernon Rucker	Killeen
*W. E. "Bill" Zorn	Del Rio
*Palmer West	Eldorado
*Norvall Terry	Weatherford
*Carroll B. Shumaker	Alamo
*Earl Phillips	Hereford
*Hal H. Hood	Dallas
*Bob Murphey	Nacogdoches
*Hubert Gorubec	Granger
*Garland Fulbright	San Antonio
*Elsworth Greer	Imperial
Billy R. Haynes	Livingston
*Ewald W. Pietsch	Seguin
*Mike B. Perez, Jr	Laredo
*Odis L. Chappel	Deer Park
*Robert S. O'Burke	Duncanville
*Ed Smith	Channelview
*Bill Barrett	Spur
*Tinker Taylor	McKinney
*Jack King	Huntsville
*Dayne Hill	Edinburg

*Marvin Setzer	Brazoria
Ray Williamson	Wharton
*Robert Stubblefield	Killeen
Bob Looney	Mansfield
*Tommy Bledsoe	Lone Star Steel
Ernest O. Reesing, Jr	Alpine
Gerald Matheaus	Rosenberg
*W. F. "Windy" Acosta.....	Del Rio
Billy Ray Mize.....	Burkburnett
J. E. "Dinks" Eckert.....	Floydada
D. J. "Don" Hoffman	Brenham
*Don Eernisse.....	Alvin
Deloss "Dee" Edwards.....	Abilene
*W. J. "Jim" Davis	Rockdale
Patrick Hlavaty.....	El Campo
*Ben Norman	Killeen
Terry Mayfield.....	Seguin
Dallas Renfrew	Seminole
Mike Looney	Mansfield
*Richard Harmon.....	Wichita Falls
C. T. "Tommy" Anderson.....	Santa Fe
David Luedeke	Needville
R. D. "Bo" Welborn.....	Silsbee
*Thomas Harwell	Cameron
Kyle Stephens	Decatur
*Donnie Pickard.....	Ovilla
Shawn Snider	Edinburg
Kent Watts, Jr.	Luling
*Bryan Rickert.....	Carthage
Rex Klesel	Alvin
David Wade	Deer Park
Bill Gardner	Leander
Rusty Kattner	Santa Fe
Paul Hamilton.....	Bushland
Henry Perry	Bastrop
Harvie Cheshire.....	College Station

**Deceased*

CONVENTION CITIES AND PAST PRESIDENTS

- 1.....1876.....Austin *W. C. Conner, Dallas
- 2.....1877.....Dallas *W. C. Conner, Dallas
- 3.....1878
- 4.....1879.....Houston..... *W. C. Conner, Dallas
- 5.....1880.....San Antonio *W. C. Conner, Dallas
- 6.....1881
- 7.....1882.....Brenham
- 8.....1883
- 9.....1884.....Ft.Worth.....
- 10.....1885
- 11.....1886.....Gainesville
- 12.....1887.....Temple.....
- 13.....1888.....El Paso *W. J. Austin, Denton
- 14.....1889.....Paris *C. E. Fruin, F.P., El Paso
- 15.....1890.....Palestine *Jake W. Levy, Sherman
- 16.....1891.....Houston..... *Jake W. Levy, Sherman
- 17.....1892.....Waco *Jake W. Levy, Sherman
- 18.....1893.....Austin *E. S. Connor, Paris
- 19.....1894.....Fort Worth *E. E. Taylor, Georgetown
- 20.....1895.....Houston..... *Jno. Julian, El Paso
- 21.....1896.....Austin *Ed R. Krone, San Marcos
- 22.....1897.....El Paso *Carl F. Drake, Austin
- 23.....1898.....Waco *W. N. Norwood, Navasota
- 24.....1899.....Paris *Dr. Pitt S. Turner, Belton
- 25.....1900.....Waxahachie..... *Lee J. Rountree, Taylor
- 26.....1901.....Sherman *W. M. Abernathy, McKinney
- 27.....1902.....Waco *O. C. Connor, Paris
- 28.....1903.....Corsicana..... *J. R. Porter, San Marcos
- 29.....1904.....Waco *Geo. R. King, Marlin
- 30.....1905.....Austin *J. E. Kaufmann, Austin
- 31.....1906.....Mineral Wells . *E. P. Coopwood, Lockhart
- 32.....1907.....McKinney..... *Perry Hawkin, Taylor
- 33.....1908.....Waco *T. A. Bledsoe, Abilene

- 34.....1909.....Gainesville *M. L. Andrews, Navasota
35.....1910.....Temple..... *Lee Wilson, Waco
36.....1911.....Waco *W. T. Hunt, Dublin
37.....1912.....Austin..... *Jno. S. McKinney, McKinney
38.....1913.....Wichita Falls... *H. W. Speckels, La Grange
39.....1914.....Victoria..... *U. B. Warren, Belton
40.....1915.....Waco *Peter Schramm, Taylor
41.....1916.....New Braunfels *H. J. Braunig, Hallettsville
42.....1917.....San Angelo..... *T. S. Wright, Temple
.....1918.....(No Convention, World War)
43.....1919.....Cuero *Roger Byrne, Smithville
44.....1920.....Hillsboro *W. D. McCully, Brownwood
45.....1921.....Weatherford *G. J. Kempen, Seguin
46.....1922.....Brownwood *V. S. Fritz, Victoria
47.....1923.....San Marcos..... *W. P. Hallmark, Dublin
48.....1924.....McKinney..... *Frank Baker, Lampasas
49.....1925.....Cisco *T. W. Falkenburg, Taylor
50.....1926.....Harlingen..... *R. F. Hever, Cuero
51.....1927.....San Antonio *W. E. Burgess, Itasca
52.....1928.....Denton..... *Frank Hammer, Belton
53.....1929.....Galveston *J. A. Caldwell, Teague
54.....1930.....San Angelo..... *John Parker, San Angelo
55.....1931.....Bryan..... *C. E. Jenkins, Bryan
56.....1932.....Austin..... *E. V. Esterling, Del Rio
57.....1933.....Corpus Christi... *Frank Williams, Winters
58.....1934.....Mineral Wells *C. N. Humason, Lufkin
59.....1935.....El Paso *D. B. Clark, Beaumont
60.....1936.....Fort Worth *E. P. Hall, Weatherford
61.....1937.....Port Arthur *R. R. Talbert, Weslaco
62.....1938.....Amarillo *Lewis Haynes, San Marcos
63.....1939.....Harlingen.. *G. E. "Kelly" Dalton, Coleman
64.....1940.....Houston..... *Frederick Klopp, Taylor
65.....1941.....Wichita Falls *J. J. Blackstone, Burkburnett
66.....1942.....Corpus Christi..... *I. W. Speckels, Schulenburg
67.....1943.....Waco *Chester Cherry, Ballinger

- 68.....1944.....Waco *Hugh Nation, Crosbyton
- 69.....1945.....Waco
(Executive Committee Conference, World War)
- 70.....1946.....Waco *T. E. "Red" Lewis, Electra
- 71.....1947.....Amarillo *Royce C. Hogg, Gilmer
- 72.....1948.....San Antonio *G. F. Dohrn, Mission
- 73.....1949.....Galveston *Adolph Solmky, Seguin
- 74....1950.....Wichita Falls *N. W. Autry, Snyder
- 75....1951.....Dallas *John Dean, Plano
- 76....1952.....San Antonio *John Ballew, Childress
- 77....1953.....Austin *J. C. Swadley, Grand Prairie
- 78....1954.....San Antonio *C. P. Churchwell, Richardson
- 79....1955.....Dallas *Paul B. Conley, Luling
- 80....1956.....Edinburg *Elbert Sanders, Edinburg
- 81....1957.....Waco *David Clabaugh, Carthage
- 82....1958.....San Antonio *Leo Bales, Lampasas
- 83....1959.....Fort Worth *Mason Lankford, Arlington
- 84....1960.....Galveston *Leon Powell, Junction
- 85....1961.....Austin *C. H. Boring, Rosenberg
- 86....1962.....McAllen *Vernon Rucker, Killeen
- 87....1963.....San Antonio *W. E. "Bill" Zorn, Del Rio
- 88....1964.....Dallas *Palmer West, Eldorado
- 89....1965.....Laredo *Norvall Terry, Weatherford
- 90....1966.....Fort Worth *Carroll B. Shumaker, Alamo
- 91....1967.....Lubbock *Earl Phillips, Hereford
- 92....1968.....Austin *Hal H. Hood, Dallas County
- 93....1969.....McAllen *Bob Murphey, Nacogdoches
- 94....1970.....San Antonio *Hubert Gorubec, Granger
- 95....1971.....Dallas *Garland Fulbright, San Antonio
- 96....1972.....Galveston *Elsworth Greer, Imperial
- 97....1973.....Brownsville Billy R. Haynes, Livingston
- 98....1974.....Laredo *Ewald W. Pietsch, Seguin
- 99....1975.....Houston *Mike B. Perez, Jr., Laredo
- 100.....1976.....Austin *Odis Chappell, Deer Park
- 101.....1977.....Longview *Robert S. O'Burke, Duncanville
- 102.....1978.....Lubbock *Ed Smith, Channelview

103.....1979.....	McAllen	*Bill Barrett, Spur
104.....1980.....	Dallas	*Tinker Taylor, McKinney
105.....1981.....	San Antonio.....	*Jack King, Huntsville
106.....1982.....	Abilene.....	*Dayne Hill, Edinburg
107.....1983.....	Beaumont	*Marvin Setzer, Brazoria
108.....1984.....	McAllen	Ray Williamson, Wharton
109.....1985.....	Waco.....	*Robert Stubblefield, Killeen
110.....1986.....	Austin.....	Bob Looney, Mansfield
111.....1987.....	Amarillo.....	*Tommy Bledsoe, Lone Star
112.....1988.....	Beaumont	Ernest O. Reesing, Jr., Alpine
113.....1989.....	Arlington	Gerald Matheaus, Rosenberg
114.....1990.....	El Paso.....	*W. F. "Windy" Acosta, Del Rio
115.....1991.....	Longview.....	Billy Ray Mize, Burkburnett
116.....1992.....	McAllen	J. E. "Dinks" Eckert, Floydada
117.....1993.....	Waco.....	D. J. "Don" Hoffman, Brenham
118.....1994.....	Beaumont	*Don Eernisse, Alvin
119.....1995.....	Abilene.....	Deloss "Dee" Edwards, Abilene
120.....1996.....	Amarillo.....	*W. J. "Jim" Davis, Rockdale
121.....1997.....	Galveston.....	Patrick Hlavaty, El Campo
122.....1998.....	Wichita Falls.....	*Ben Norman, Jr., Killeen
123.....1999.....	Lubbock	Terry Mayfield, Seguin
124.....2000.....	Waco.....	Dallas Renfrew, Seminole
125.....2001.....	McAllen	Mike Looney, Mansfield
126.....2002.....	Beaumont	Richard Harmon, Wichita Falls
127.....2003.....	Galveston.....	C. T. Anderson, Santa Fe
128.....2004.....	Corpus Christi ..	David Luedeke, Needville
129.....2005.....	Wichita Falls....	R. D. "Bo" Welborn, Silsbee
130.....2006.....	Waco.....	*Thomas Harwell, Cameron
131.....2007.....	Amarillo.....	Kyle Stephens, Decatur
132.....2008.....	Beaumont.....	*Donnie Pickard, Ovilla
133.....2009.....	McAllen.....	Shawn Snider, Edinburg
134.....2010.....	Corpus Christi	Kent Watts, Jr., Luling
135.....2011.....	Mesquite	Bryan Rickert, Carthage
136.....2012.....	Houston	Rex Klesel, Alvin
137.....2013.....	The Woodlands	David Wade, Deer Park
138.....2014.....	Lubbock.....	Bill Gardner, Leander
139.....2015.....	Galveston.....	Rusty Kattner, Santa Fe
140.....2016.....	McAllen.....	Paul Hamilton, Potter County
141.....2017.....	San Marcos	Henry Perry, Bastrop
142.....2018.....	Arlington ...	Harvie Cheshire, College Station

HONORARY MEMBERS

- *Mother George FerrisFt. Worth
- *Father P. A. Heckman Waco
- *Dr. W. B. Goodner Dublin
- *Jay W. StevensFire Prevention Chief, National Board
of Fire Underwriters San Francisco, CA
- *Col. H. R. Brayton..... College Station
- *Sidney L. Kring Wichita Falls
- *Fred J. BensonDean of Engineering,
.....Texas A&M University, College Station
- A. M. Aiken.....Paris
- J. P. Word..... Meridian
- Murray Watson Waco
- W. S. Heatly Paducah
- *Herman HowertsLuling
- *John Traeger Seguin
- Don AdamsJasper
- Rick PerryHaskell

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

- *Henry D. Smith College Station
- *Kenneth GreenDeer Park
- *W. A. Weniger Beeville
- R. R. "Bob" Doolittle, Sr La Marque
- *Haskin V. Little Houston
- Allen Russell Cedar Hill
- *Wayne Popp Louise
- Vic Einspahr..... Beeville
- Richard Van Winkle Alvarado
- Les Bunte College Station
- Allen ScopelRosenberg
- Barbara Marzean Austin

*Deceased

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

110.....	1986.....	Austin	*James L. "Jody" Evans, Eden
111.....	1987.....	Amarillo	Charles Ray Sims, Cedar Hill
112.....	1988.....	Beaumont.....	*Tom Watson, Haskell
113.....	1989.....	Arlington.....	*Les Collins, El Campo
114.....	1990.....	El Paso	Clayton W. "Bill" Day, Kermit
115.....	1991.....	Longview	Jerry Lee Rust, Del Rio
116.....	1992.....	McAllen.....	*Gary Alan Tilton, Richmond
117.....	1993.....	Waco	*Alfred E. Gerik, West
118.....	1994.....	Beaumont.....	Carl Teaff, Sonora
119.....	1995.....	Abilene.....	Mike Hafer, Richmond
120.....	1996.....	Amarillo	Johnny Merrill, Winters
121.....	1997.....	Galveston.....	Alex Kvapil, Ballinger
122.....	1998.....	Wichita Falls	*Donnie Pickard, Ovilla
123.....	1999.....	Lubbock	*Fred Ramirez, Raymondville
124.....	2000.....	Waco	Don Pullin, Refugio
125.....	2001.....	McAllen	Jerry Mutschler, Seminole
126.....	2002.....	Beaumont.....	Ken Kvapil, Ballinger
127.....	2003.....	Galveston.....	Kip Workman, La Vernia
128.....	2004.....	Corpus Christi...	Matthew Cornell, Pecan Grove
129.....	2005.....	Wichita Falls	Patrick Hlavaty, El Campo
130.....	2006.....	Waco	Perry Thomson, Jr., Anson
131.....	2007.....	Amarillo	Ricardo Saldana, Mission
132.....	2008.....	Beaumont	Anthony Cargile, Santa Fe
133.....	2009.....	McAllen	Ubaldo D. Perez, Edinburg
134.....	2010.....	Corpus Christi	Richard Drewry, Edinburg
135.....	2011.....	Mesquite	Richard Van Winkle, Alvarado
136.....	2012.....	Houston	Clemente Sanchez, Sinton
137.....	2013.....	The Woodlands	Dennis Gage, Kilgore
138	2014.....	Lubbock	David Wade, Deer Park
139	2015.....	Galveston.....	Shawn Snider, Edinburg
140	2016.....	McAllen	Curtis Brown, Dalhart
141	2017.....	San Marcos	Alonzo Morales, Goliad
142	2018.....	Arlington	Steven Loving, Ingleside

EMS FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

- 136.....2012.....HoustonKaren Pickard, Ovilla
- 137.....2013.....The WoodlandsEdward J. Konick, III, Alvarado
- 1382014.....LubbockJames Carr, Decatur
- 139.....2015.....GalvestonGerald Weniger, McQueeney
- 140.....2016.....McAllenTim Keirn, Chisholm Trail
- 141.....2017.....San Marcos Scott White, Hartley
- 142.....2018.....ArlingtonTerry Hanks, Friberg-Cooper

**Deceased*

BOARDS 2017/2018

CERTIFICATION BOARD

Gary Williams, <i>Chairman/Zone 6</i>	Pasadena
Frank Marcinkiewicz, <i>Vice Chairman/Zone 3</i>	Cat Spring
R.J. Thomas, <i>Secretary/Zone 4</i>	Ingleside
Brian Scheffer, <i>Zone 1</i>	Brenham
Edwin Baker, <i>Zone 2</i>	Stockdale
Ubaldo Perez, <i>Zone 5</i>	Edinburg
Will Rains, <i>Zone 7</i>	Lumberton
Patrick Dooley, <i>Zone 8</i>	Henderson
Brad Hargrove, <i>Zone 9</i>	Alvarado
Nate Mara, <i>Zone 10</i>	Decatur
Clay Deatherage, <i>Zone 11</i>	Anson
William Tidwell, <i>Zone 12</i>	Crosbyton
Jeromy Dawson, <i>Zone 13</i>	Brownfield
Brent Allen, <i>Zone 14</i>	Ballinger
Scott Garris, <i>Zone 15</i>	Pleasanton
Joshua Constancio, <i>Zone 16</i>	Olden
Paul Loeffler, <i>Zone 17</i>	Alpine
Andy Dexter, <i>Zone 18</i>	Spring
Curtis Brown, <i>Zone 19</i>	Dalhart
Cary Roccaforte, <i>TEEX Representative</i>	College Station
Steven Carter, <i>Texas A&M Forest Service Representative</i>	McGregor
Mike Richardson, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Decatur
Richard Van Winkle, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Alvarado
Kevin Creamer, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	Austin

TEXAS INDUSTRIAL EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

Keith Russell, <i>Chairman, SLOT - 04</i>	Longview
Robert Moore, <i>Vice Chairman, SLOT - 20</i>	College Station
Gerald Sherman, <i>Secretary SLOT - 08</i>	Channelview
Brett Steed, <i>SLOT - 01</i>	Baytown
John Hollaway, <i>SLOT - 02</i>	Baytown
Todd Johnson, <i>SLOT - 05</i>	Cibolo
David Atkinson, Jr., <i>SLOT - 06</i>	Longview
Brett Boren, <i>SLOT - 07</i>	Sweeny
Paul Hannemann, <i>SLOT - 09</i>	Fredericksburg
Steve Pepper, <i>SLOT - 10</i>	Humble
Kevin Bryant, <i>SLOT - 11</i>	Baytown
Vacant, <i>SLOT - 12</i>	
David Cave, <i>SLOT - 13</i>	Corpus Christi
Mark Garvin, <i>SLOT-14</i>	Friendswood
Gordon Lohmeyer, <i>SLOT - 15</i>	College Station
Mark Turvey, <i>SLOT - 16</i>	League City
Vacant, <i>SLOT - 17</i>	
Jeff Hoffstadt, <i>SLOT 18</i>	San Antonio
Peter Greco, <i>SLOT - 19</i>	Houston
Richard Van Winkle, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Alvarado
Tommy Anderson, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Santa Fe

TEXAS INDUSTRIAL EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD - CONTINUED

David Wade, *Past President Liaison*Deer Park
Dallas Renfrew, *Past President Liaison* Harlingen
Chris Barron, *Executive Director* Austin
Kevin Creamer, *Staff Liaison* Austin

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

Chris Barron, *State Director* Austin
Dallas Renfrew, *Alternate State Director* Harlingen

TEXAS A&M ADVISORY BOARD

Mike MontgomeryHumble
Keith Russell Longview
Bill Gardner.....Leander
John Kiracofe..... Austin

2017-2018 COMMITTEES

COMBINATION DEPARTMENT

Lynn BizzellFrederickburg
 Hank Alex Chisholm Trail
 Greg RoseberryIngleside
 Shawn Snider Edinburg
 Lanny Armstrong..... Pasadena
 Tim Gothard Anna
 Richard Van Winkle, *Executive Board Liaison* Alvarado
 Mike Richardson, *Executive Board Liaison*Decatur
 Chris Barron, *Executive Board Liaison*..... Austin

CONFERENCE TRAINING & SPEAKER COMMITTEE

Cary Roccaforte, *Chairman* Bryan
 Brian Scheffer, *Co-Chairman*..... Brenham
 Mike Montgomery Humble
 Bill Gardner..... Leander
 Edwin Baker.....Stockdale
 Gerald WenigerSeguin
 Frankie Joe Salinas Edinburg
 Ubaldo Perez..... Edinburg
 Chuck Richardson..... Brazoria
 Danny Hurt..... Bloomburg
 Mark Wobus La Grange
 Roy Mercer..... Rosenberg
 Tim Smith, *Executive Board Liaison* West Carlisle
 David Wade, *Past President Liaison* Deer Park
 Gabi Glass, *Staff Liaison* Austin

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Dennis Gifford, <i>Chairman</i>	Lumberton
Cary Roccaforte	Bryan
Louise Watts	Luling
J Paul Bruhn	La Grange
Ruben Balboa	Harlingen
Frankie Joe Salinas	Edinburg
Maricruz Tovar.....	Edinburg
William Crawford	Channelview
Donald Shoemaker.....	Lake Jackson
Marc Nichols.....	Gilmer
Van Fowler	Ennis
Rodney Ryalls.....	Burkburnett
*Richard Harmon, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Wichita Falls
David Luedeke, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Needville
Harvie Cheshire, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	College Station
Tim Smith, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	West Carlisle
Gabi Glass, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	Austin

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Danny Hurt, <i>Chairman</i>	Bloomburg
Teri Parkison.....	Brenham
J. Paul Bruhn	La Grange
Scott Charbula	Louise
Dayna "Bert" Hill.....	Mathis
Tom Bell.....	Ingleside
Charles "Buck" Stevens.....	Pearland
Andy Van Dine.....	Alvin
William Crawford	Channelview
Dennis Gifford	Lumberton
Thomas Jones.....	Madisonville

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Tim Gothard Anna
 Mark Hanson Bellevue
 Joe Ondrasek, *Executive Board Liaison*..... Bryan
 Bob Looney, *Past President Liaison* Mansfield
 Deloss Edwards, *Past President Liaison*..... Abilene
 Gabi Glass, *Staff Liaison* Austin

DRIVING CONTEST COMMITTEE

Michael Richter, *Chairman* Needville
 Ronnie Sexton Temple
 Chris Yianitsas Industry
 Tammy Worthington La Vernia
 George Castillo Alamo
 Jason January Huntsville
 Dennis Gage Gladewater
 Marc Nichols Gilmer
 John Robinson Retreat
 F. Jim White Overton
 Rex Klesel, *Past President Liaison* Alvin
 David Luedeke, *Past President Liaison* Needville

EMS COMMITTEE

Andy Dexter, *Chairman* Spring
 Timothy Mantey Brenham
 Damon Benton Leander
 Gerald Weniger Seguin
 Timothy Keirn Chisholm Trail
 Clemente Sanchez Sinton
 Antonio Lopez Weslaco

EMS COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Jarrett Sheldon	Los Fresnos
Chuck Richardson.....	Brazoria
Dennis Gifford.....	Lumberton
Karen Pickard	Ovilla
James Carr	Decatur
Billie Smith	West Carlisle
Viola McHorse-Potter	Natalia
Tim Smith, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	West Carlisle
Bill Gardner, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Leander

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

Mark Lancaster, <i>Chairman</i>	Santa Fe
Raymond Murray, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	Shreveport
Quint Mantey.....	Brenham
Teri Parkison.....	Brenham
Clemente Sanchez	Sinton
Tito Rodriguez	Clute
Matthew Glaves	Alvin
Joel Sumrall	Santa Fe
Thomas Jones.....	Madisonville
Jerry Taylor	Gilmer
Wayland Price.....	Whitney
Cory Brinkley.....	Burkburnett
Terry Mayfield, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Seguin
Shawn Snider, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Edinburg
Gabi Glass, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	Austin

* *Deceased*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Patrick Hlavaty, <i>Chairman</i>	El Campo
Melissa Robinson, <i>Co-Chairperson</i>	Corsicana
Rayford Gibson, <i>Secretary</i>	Tatum
Mark Wobus	Bastrop
Gregory Cross.....	College Station
Kent Watts, Jr.	Luling
Dayna "Bert" Hill	Mathis
RJ Thomas	Ingleside
Ruben Balboa	Harlingen
Tommy Anderson.....	Santa Fe
Rusty Kattner.....	Santa Fe
Allen Scovel	Rosenberg
James Philp.....	Lumberton
Kent Smead	Vernon
Daniel Eaton.....	Marathon
Brent Allen	Ballinger
Jerry Rust.....	Del Rio
Morris Locknane	West Carlisle
Henry Perry, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Bastrop
Tim Smith, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	West Carlisle
Shawn Snider, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Edinburg
Michael Looney, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Mansfield
Rex Klesel, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Alvin
Kyle Stephens, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Decatur
Chris Barron, <i>Executive Director</i>	Austin

FIREFIGHTER/EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

Ben Kennedy, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	College Station
Barbara Marzean, <i>Co-Chairwoman</i>	Austin

FF/EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Timothy Keirn	Lockhart
Curtis Brown.....	Dalhart
Scott White	Hartley
Alonzo Morales, Jr.	Goliad

FIRE MARSHAL COMMITTEE

Frankie Joe Salinas, <i>Chairman</i>	Edinburg
Michael Kennon, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	West Carlisle
Gerald Burnett	Bryan
Paul Lesak	Ganado
Steven Loving.....	Ingleside
Richard Alvarez	Harlingen
Mike Montgomery	Humble
Christopher Wilson	Tomball
Clif Meekins	La Porte
Jim Philp	Lumberton
Steven Deffibaugh	Princeton
Deroy Bennett	Decatur
Harvie Cheshire, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	College Station
Rusty Kattner, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Santa Fe

GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Barbara Marzean, <i>Liaison</i>	Austin
Roy Mercer, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	Rosenberg
Lang Flisowski, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	Brenham
Brian Scheffer.....	Brenham
John Schulze.....	Brenham
Gregory Nienstedt	Brenham

GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Lynn Bizzell	Fredericksburg
Brian Janes.....	Brenham
Lloyd Klatt	El Campo
Greg Roseberry	Ingleside
William Sylestine.....	Livingston
Chris Moore	Chandler
William Norris, II	Burkburnett
Paul Hamilton, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Potter County
Deloss Edwards, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Abilene
Patrick Hlavaty, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	El Campo

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

David Wade, <i>Chairman</i>	Deer Park
Ward Roddam	Rockdale
Howard Meek	College Station
Ronnie Sexton	Temple
Chris Kehl	Navasota
Louise Watts	Luling
Kent Watts	Luling
Bernard Scott	Ganado
Timothy Bogisch	Seguin
Roy Mercer	Rosenberg
Dennis Gifford	Lumberton
Donald Lindsey	Terrell
Danny Kistner.....	McKinney
Dennis Bailey	Sunset
Mark Turvey, <i>Industrial Board Liaison</i>	League City
Timothy Smith, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	West Carlisle
Henry Perry, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Bastrop

INTERNATIONAL MEMBER COMMITTEE

Felix Carrillo Peña, <i>Chairman</i>	Venezuela
Rolando Reyes	Edinburg
Oskar Alanis	Edinburg
Robert Riojas	Hidalgo
Jose Franco Gianpicollo.....	Venezuela
Carlos Acevedo Cházaro.....	Mexico
Luis Antonio Mantilla	Venezuela
Mike Richardson, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Decatur
Shawn Snider, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Edinburg
Luis Martinez, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	Austin

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Ben Kennedy, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	College Station
Chuck Richardson, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	Brazoria
Harvie Cheshire, <i>President</i>	College Station
Anggie Sumrall, <i>TFA President</i>	Santa Fe
Billie Smith, <i>TFA Immediate Past President</i>	West Carlisle
Mary Jane Cargile, <i>Auxiliary Chaplain</i>	Santa Fe
Gerardo Gomez	Alamo
Anthony Cargile.....	Santa Fe
Jim Cargile.....	Santa Fe
Steven Loving.....	Ingleside
Kris Hester	Merkel
*Christi Cheshire	College Station
Morris Locknane	West Carlisle
Henry Perry, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Bastrop
Ernest O. Reesing, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Alpine
Patrick Hlavaty, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	El Campo

GARY TILTON MEMORIAL FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST COMMITTEE

Nancy Hall, <i>Chairwoman</i>	Gilmer
Billy Jo Jasinski	Burton
Isidore Moy	Floresville
Elena Sanchez	Sinton
Donna Loving.....	Ingleside
Dawn Rodriguez.....	La Villa
Richard Alvarez	Harlingen
Frankie Joe Salinas	Edinburg
George Tullgren	Deer Park
William Sylestine	Livingston
Frankie Smith	Madisonville
Kenneth Isom	Ennis
Anthony Fox	Petrolia
DeNisa Brown.....	Dalhart
Maray Cearley	Sonora
LaTresha Allen	Ballinger
Carl Teaff	Sonora
Leslie Nixon	West Carlisle
Billy Ray Mize, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Burkburnett
Terry Mayfield, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Seguin

PUMPER RACE COMMITTEE

Stephen Donnelly, <i>Overall Chairman</i>	Pearland
Henry Horelica, <i>3 Man Chairman</i>	Cameron
Duane Henry, <i>6 Man Chairman</i>	Normangee
Gary Williams, <i>3-6 Ladies Chairman</i>	Pasadena
Alvin Fail, IV	Cameron
Frank Rubio	Rockdale
Gerald Weniger	Seguin
Frank Marcinkiewicz	Cat Springs

PUMPER RACE COMMITTEE CONTINUED

RC Flores	McAllen
Romel Garcia	McAllen
George Castillo	Alamo
Gene Maples	Alvin
Jeffery Thomson	Alvin
Glenn Johnson	Center
Juan Hernandez, Jr.	Uvalde
Anggie Sumrall, <i>TFA Liaison</i>	Santa Fe
Paul Hamilton, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Potter County
David Luedeke, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Needville
Gerald Matheaus, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Rosenberg

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS COMMITTEE

Robert Kleen, <i>Chairman</i>	Blanket
Matthew Cornell, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	Pecan Grove
Brian Chenault	Burton
Sara Harborth	Kingsbury
Melissa Sanchez	Sinton
Tomas Sanchez	Sinton
Gerardo Gomez	Alamo
Anthony Cargile	Santa Fe
Elton Thornell	Pearland
James Cargile	Santa Fe
Daniel Hernandez	Lumberton
David Andrusick	Center
Donald "Cowboy" Wiley	Floydada
Pat Olivas	Fort Davis
Rick Cearley	Sonora
Peter Duran	Sonora
Cory Bradley	Natalia
Henry Perry, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Bastrop
Terry Mayfield, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Seguin
Billy Ray Mize, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Burkburnett

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Harvie Cheshire, *President*College Station
 Richard Van Winkle, *3rd Vice President*Alvarado
 Kyle Stephens, *Past President Liaison*Decatur
 Chris Barron, *Executive Director* Austin
 Gabi Glass, *Staff Liaison* Austin

T★FLAG COMMITTEE

Dan Key, *Chairman*.....Friendswood
 Bill Gardner, *Co-Chairman*.....Leander
 Ryan Hudson.....Leander
 Ronnie Sexton Temple
 Kent Watts.....Luling
 Edwin Baker..... Stockdale
 Don McFarland..... Seguin
 R. J. Thomas Ingleside
 Rusty Kattner..... League City
 Kendall Hunting, III Alvin
 Jeffery Thomson Alvin
 Jason January, Jr.Huntsville
 Keith Tate Flint
 Christine Rogalski..... Ennis
 Clay DeatherageAnson
 Richard Goodney Colorado City
 *William Gray SullivanBig Spring
 Brent Allen Ballinger
 Charles Garris..... Pleasanton
 Paul Hamilton, *Past President Liaison* Potter County
 Henry Perry, *Past President Liaison*Bastrop

Shawn Snider, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Edinburg
Kyle Stephens, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Decatur
Michael Richardson, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Decatur
Chris Barron, <i>Executive Director</i>	Austin

TCFP BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Robert Moore, <i>Presiding Officer</i>	College Station
Tommy Anderson, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Santa Fe
John McMakin, <i>Commissioner</i>	LaRue
Lenny Perez, <i>Commissioner</i>	Brownsville

TCFP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mike Wisko, <i>Assistant Presiding Officer</i>	Galveston
JP Steelman.....	Longview
Amado Cano.....	McAllen
Ken Swindle.....	Krum

VISION 2040 COMMITTEE

Andy Dexter, <i>Chairman</i>	Spring
Ryan Hudson.....	Leander
Jason Scheel.....	La Vernia
Britney Elkins.....	Ingleside
Andrew Sanchez	Sinton
Roman Candelario Flores	McAllen
Chris Anderson	Santa Fe
Nate Mara.....	Decatur
William Tidwell.....	Crosbyton
Michael Richardson, <i>Executive Board Liaison</i>	Decatur
Bill Gardner, <i>Past President Liaison</i>	Leander
Luis Martinez, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	Austin

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Prelude..... **Dixie Whitmore**, Past TFA Chaplain
Procession Pharr Fire Department Pipe & Drums Corps
Honor Guard Decatur Fire Department Color Guard
Call to Order **Harvie Cheshire**, SFFMA President
Presentation of Colors Taylor Fire Department Color Guard
Invocation **John Robinson**, Chaplain North Texas District
Memorial Res. Reading..... **Ernest O. Reesing**, Past President 1988
Bell Ceremony Reading **Ben Kennedy**, SFFMA Chaplain
Musical SelectionHow Great Thou...**Gabby Tahmahkera**
Line of Duty Death Roll Call **Patrick Hlavaty**, Past President 1997
Firefighter Roll Call **Patrick Hlavaty**, Past President 1997
Auxiliary Reading **Mary Jane Cargile**, TFA Chaplain
Auxiliary Roll Call **Mary Jane Cargile**, TFA Chaplain
Musical Selection**Gabby Tahmahkera**
Bell Ringer..... **Jim Cargile**, Sergeant-At-Arms
Light Operator **Jerry Gomez**, Sergeant -At-Arms
Placing Flowers **Christi Cheshire**, SFFMA President's Wife
Placing Flowers **Anggie Sumrall**, TFA President
Assisting**Chrissie Johnston**, SFFMA 4th Vice President's Daughter
Assisting**Billie Smith**, TFA Past President
Memorial Sermon **Ben Kennedy**, SFFMA Chaplain
Benediction..... **Ben Kennedy**, SFFMA Chaplain
Signal 5-5-5 **Ben Kennedy**, SFFMA Chaplain
Taps**Sgt. Robert Bernard**
Amazing Grace Pharr Fire Department Pipe & Drums
Recessional..... Pharr Fire Department Pipe & Drums
Postlude**Dixie Whitmore**, Past TFA Chaplain

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

As we set aside a time for a memorial service to honor those who departed from our midst during the past year, we herewith respectfully submit the following resolution.

WHEREAS: We desire to remember before God, our fellow firefighters who departed this life, and

WHEREAS: We desire to express our sorrow to their bereaved families,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commend the souls of the faithfully departed.
- We feel the loss of those who have given themselves unselfishly in the service of others.
- Each white flower placed upon the memorial cross be our hallowed tribute to each departed member, and each blue flower placed upon the memorial cross be our hallowed tribute to each SFFMA past president, and each maroon flower placed upon the memorial cross be our hallowed tribute to each SFFMA Executive Board member, and each red flower placed upon the memorial cross be our hallowed tribute to each departed member who died in the line of duty.
- Each pink flower placed upon the memorial cross be our hallowed tribute to each departed auxiliary member, and each yellow flower be placed upon the memorial cross be our hallowed tribute to each TFA past president, and each lavender flower placed upon the memorial cross be our hallowed tribute to each TFA executive board member.
- Each chief or representative of each department that has lost one of its members accept a flower from the memorial cross to be presented in turn to the bereaved family, and inform the members of that family of this service held in memory of our beloved departed firefighters and TFA members.
- The memorial cross will be placed at the Ovilla Fire Station located at 105 Cockrell Hill, Ovilla TX, in memory of Past President Donnie Pickard.
- And a copy of this resolution be printed in the proceedings of the 142nd Annual Training Conference and Convention of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Chuck Richardson, Co-Chairman, SFFMA 4th Vice President

Ben Kennedy, Co-Chairman, SFFMA Chaplain

Harvie Cheshire, President SFFMA

Ernest Reesing Jr., SFFMA Past President 1988

Patrick Hlavaty, SFFMA President 1997

Angela Sumrall, TFA President

Billie Smith, TFA Past President

Mary Jane Cargile, TFA Chaplain

Anthony Cargile, Sgt. At Arms

Jim Cargile, Sgt. At Arms

Jerry Gomez, Sgt. At Arms

Paul Hamilton, Executive Board Liaison

Christi Cheshire, Member

Pam Van Winkle, Member

Christopher Loving, Member

Kris Hester, Member

Morris Locknane, Member

Jeff Ballew, District Liaison

CHIEF
RICHARD MAC
HARMON
Past President 2002



MEMORIAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

The State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, the Texas Firemen's Auxiliary, all of the firefighters of Texas suffered a tragic loss with the passing of Past President Richard Mac Harmon, November 12, 2017.

WHEREAS: Richard Mac Harmon served as president of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas at the 126th Annual Convention in Beaumont in 2002.

WHEREAS: Richard Mac Harmon served as fire chief of the Cameron Gardens Volunteer Fire Department for 36 of his 43 years of service.

WHEREAS: Richard Mac Harmon served the citizens of the state of Texas and dedicated his life to service of his fellow man and training firefighters.

WHEREAS: Richard Mac Harmon was a devoted family man that served all who knew him.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that this Association expresses its sincere appreciation and heartfelt condolence to the family of Richard Harmon and do hereby respectfully and reverently dedicate this 142nd Annual Memorial Service to the memory of Richard Mac Harmon this 24th day of June 2018.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Chuck Richardson, Co-Chairman, SFFMA 4th Vice President

Ben Kennedy, Co-Chairman, SFFMA Chaplain

Harvie Cheshire, President SFFMA

Ernest Reesing Jr., SFFMA Past President 1988

Patrick Hlavaty, SFFMA President 1997

Angela Sumrall, TFA President

Billie Smith, TFA Past President

Mary Jane Cargile, TFA Chaplain

Anthony Cargile, Sgt. At Arms

Jim Cargile, Sgt. At Arms

Jerry Gomez, Sgt. At Arms

Paul Hamilton, Executive Board Liaison

Christi Cheshire, Member

Pam Van Winkle, Member

Christopher Loving, Member

Kris Hester, Member

Morris Locknane, Member

Jeff Ballew, District Liaison



BRYAN RICKERT
Past President 2011

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

The State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, the Texas Firemen's Auxiliary, all of the firefighters of Texas suffered a tragic loss with the sudden and unexpected passing of Past President Bryan Allen Rickert on April 21, 2018.

WHEREAS: Bryan Allen Rickert served as president of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas at the 135th Annual Convention in Mesquite in 2011.

WHEREAS: Bryan Allen Rickert served as fire marshal for the city of Carthage for 15 years, as well as being a volunteer firefighter in Carthage for over 31 years.

WHEREAS: Bryan Allen Rickert served his community as a firefighter, fire marshal and chief of police.

WHEREAS: Bryan Allen Rickert was a devoted family man that freely served his fellow man.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that this Association expresses its sincere appreciation and heartfelt condolence to the family of Bryan Rickert and do hereby respectfully and reverently dedicate this 142nd Annual Memorial Service to the memory Bryan Allen Rickert this 24th day of June 2018.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Chuck Richardson, Co-Chairman, SFFMA 4th Vice President

Ben Kennedy, Co-Chairman, SFFMA Chaplain

Harvie Cheshire, President SFFMA

Ernest Reesing Jr., SFFMA Past President 1988

Patrick Hlavaty, SFFMA President 1997

Angela Sumrall, TFA President

Billie Smith, TFA Past President

Mary Jane Cargile, TFA Chaplain

Anthony Cargile, Sgt. At Arms

Jim Cargile, Sgt. At Arms

Jerry Gomez, Sgt. At Arms

Paul Hamilton, Executive Board Liaison

Christi Cheshire, Member

Pam Van Winkle, Member

Christopher Loving, Member

Kris Hester, Member

Morris Locknane, Member

Jeff Ballew, District Liaison

In Memoriam 2018

LINE OF DUTY

Baytown FD

Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bernard Olive..... April 5, 2018

Bowie Rural VFD

Charles Patterson December 17, 2017

Brazoria VFD

Daryl Barber December 13, 2017

Ellinger VFD

Larry Marusik March 23, 2018

New London FD

M.V. Hudson March 10, 2018

North Richland Hills

Caleb Scott April 3, 2018

Sealy FD

Fire Chief Eric Zapalac November 20, 2017

Silsbee VFD

Assistant Fire Chief Jarrell "Jay" B. Hinkie August 2, 2017

NON-LINE OF DUTY

Abilene VFD

Thomas Goble February 5, 2018

Alvin FD

Robert L. Beard November 22, 2017

Spencer Chaffin February 13, 2018

Ballinger FD

Maxie Cole September 5, 2017

Billy Edward Kelly March 23, 2018

Bedias FD

Charles Ray Harrison September 28, 2017

Anthony Tyler Stanley July 20, 2017

Blooming Grove VFD

Boyd Bryant September 27, 2017

Bluegrove VFD

Mark Allan Talley April 20, 2018

Brady FD

Johnnie D. Elliott August 2, 2017

Brenham FD

Franklin Eckert November 30, 2016

Edward G. Strangmeyer April 1, 2018

Burkburnett VFD

Brian Chancellor June 22, 2017

Cameron Gardens VFD

Chief Richard Mac Harmon November 12, 2017

Canyon FD

Wayne Jenkins March 29, 2017

David Marshall February 25, 2017

ME Rhoads May 14, 2018

Carthage FD

Bryan Rickert April 21, 2017

Celanese Chemical Plant Bishop

Otis Myers April 23, 2017

Channelview FD

Gordon L. Young..... April 2, 2018

Converse FD

William D. Latham October 26, 2017

Corpus Christi FD

William Charles Davis September 1, 2017

Sidney Frank Farmer May 5, 2017

Edward Noel Hudgens April 13, 2016

Rogelio R. Ramirez Sr. January 9, 2018

Corpus Christi Naval Air Station FD

Juventino Hinojosa November 28, 2017

Corsicana FD

Herbert Hoffman September 17, 2017

Dallas Fire Rescue

Charlie Boyd July 16, 2017

Brian McDaniel March 3, 2018

Randy Willmon March 15, 2018

Dawson FD

Johnny Wood April 11, 2018

Deer Park VFD

Werner Gilbert Wieser August 8, 2017

Elsa FD

Guadalupe "Lupe" Juarez January 3, 2018

Everman FD

Dudley Hall March 27, 2018

Flour Bluff VFD

Allen L. Hockley February 27, 2018

Friberg-Cooper VFD

Preston Giles October 2, 2017

Gladewater VFD

Chief Michael Kirkwood December 24, 2017

Haskel VFD

Garland Wayne Wainscott August 28, 2017

Hereford FD

David Kreig December 31, 2017

Hillsboro FD

Lee Sorenson February 1, 2018

Howard County VFD

Chief Tommy Sullivan April 30, 2018

Hudson VFD

Gowland "Goldie" Bass January 31, 2018

Ingleside on the Bay VFD

Velma Jo McDonald September 28, 2017

Iowa Park VFD

Scott York July 6, 2017

Jim Wells ESD #1

Abel Perez May 4, 2017

Kerens Fire Rescue

Tamara Pitts April 12, 2018

Lindale FD

Captain Randy Willmon March 15, 2018

Linn-San Manuel FD

Chief John C. Hart January 3, 2018

Lone Star VFD

Shane Terrell July 18, 2017

Malone Fire Rescue

Tanya Timmons February 4, 2018

McAllen FD

Deputy Chief Odilio Montez June 23, 2017

Minerva VFD

Charles "Chip" Dunsmoor March 4, 2018

Mission FD

Malcom C. Moses April 7, 2018

NAS Kingsville FD

Joaquin A. DeLaGarza Jr. December 30, 2017

Reynaldo Garcia Jr. January 21, 2018

Navarro Mills VFD

Eric McGill July 27, 2017

Needville FD

Wesley Oberhoff January 5, 2018

New Deal Volunteer Fire/EMS

Harry Ford January 23, 2018

Newport VFD

Roy Manly September 29, 2017

Port Lavaca VFD

William "Billy" Zwerschke August 24, 2017

Potter County FD

Fred Conner May 7, 2018

Dannie Stover April 29, 2018

Princeton FD

Jackie Wayne Edwards April 20, 2018

Randall County FD/Pantex Plant FD

Chaplain Wylie Chaney October 9, 2017

Raymondville FD

Esequiel "Zeke" Cavazos October 10, 2017

Orlando "Lonnie" Correa April 16, 2017

Assistant Chief Lester Shed December 25, 2017

Refinery Terminal Fire Comp.

Weaver J. Mitchell..... April 7, 2018

Alfredo B. Rodriguez November 29, 2017

Robstown VFD

Esteban "Steve" Campos Jr. December 29, 2017

Rockdale FD

Tom Fisher March 8, 2018

Earl Whitmore August 22, 2017

Rockport VFD

Tom DePuma April 27, 2018

Wendell E. "Buck" Kohl January 20, 2018

Roosevelt FD

Don Haralson April 10, 2018

Rotan VFD

Dee Dycus December 20, 2017

San Juan FD

Assistant Chief Eliberto "Eddie" Alaniz Jr..... April 25, 2018

San Leon VFD

Captain Debra Donahue April 9, 2018

Schulenburg VFD

Melvin Kunz June 20, 2017

Richard Proske August 12, 2017

Felix D. Segura May 30, 2017

Seguin FD

E. Albert Glenewinkle January 24, 2018

South Houston VFD

Chief David L. Green May 13, 2018

Sunset VFD

William Wright Howington January 11, 2018

Swinney Switch VFD

Sam F. Keach Jr. May 23, 2017

Telico VFD

Jerry Hejny January 15, 2018

View VFD

Henry Gene Pinkston March 26, 2017

Weslaco FD

Robert Baxter November 24, 2017

Chief Santana "Tony" Abrigo April 29, 2018

Wild Peach VFD

Chief Kenneth R. Richardson December 23, 2017

Chief Charles L. Reed February 8, 2018

Wintergarden District

Don Bradley February 3, 2018

Walter A. Richards July 26, 2017

Winters FD

James T. Sprinkle March 19, 2018

Individual Member

Thomas Talley October 21, 2017

Auxiliary Members**Anson VFD**

Pat SeballosOctober 28, 2017

Brenham FD

Diane Hoffman December 13, 2015

Cuero FD

Lena Leist April 4, 2017

Agnes Wanjura December 17, 2017

Edinburg FD

Margaret May Falk Bishop April 14, 2018

Floresville VFD

Barbara Burleson August 1, 2017

LaBelle-Fannett FD

Lena Bordes August 24, 2017

Seguin VFD

Arline MyCue February 12, 2018

MEMORIAL SERMON

SFFMA CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: You know, as I sat and listened to that, I thought about the tears that I see being shed. And thank you, Gabby (memorial service singer), for both of those because they mean a lot to a lot of people. But when we stop and think about grief and about the pain that happens during a memorial service, during a funeral, and during the other things, I'm reminded of something I read not too long ago where a man said, Grief is the price we pay for loving someone. And with that being said, folks, there's a lot of love been in here.

Today, we come here to celebrate the life of family members, members we may not know but members that we love because of who they are, and because of what they did, and they're no longer here. And the one thing that I noticed when you talk to people about loved ones that are gone, although there may be a gleam because of the tears, there's a smile because of the love. And when somebody tells one of those stories about something they did that was aggravating and agitating, there's always a smile that goes with it, because that's who they were.

But as we deal with this and as we look at it this morning, we understand that they gave. And as we cry and the tears that we cry, understand that each drop is because of love.

Today we're here to honor the lives of those that have gone on before us, line of duty deaths. I sit here and I think about Bernard Olive. If you wanted a history lesson in Texas history, sit down and talk to Bernard. He was one of the men that helped pilot the Battleship Texas into the Houston ship channel to its current resting place. Not only that, but he could spin some yarns about Texas history, and a lot of others could.

But each and every one of these people that died in the line of duty and otherwise, they were dedicated men, they were men of service, they were men of love, and they gave what they had because of who they were and because of the profession that they chose.

We've got two past presidents. Richard Harmon, president of the 126th Convention. Richard was a man who spent 36 years serving his fellow man in one department out of his 42 because he cared.

Bryan Rickert, a close friend of mine, Bryan and I fussed and fought about the East Texas Arson Investigator's Conference. We put it together, and helped put it together, and we made it work. Bryan served on the arson task force. He served as the chief of police and even had some of his students and some of the people he wrote tickets to at the college where he was chief of police that smiled about him at his funeral because Bryan did it out of compassion and out of love and because he cared whether or not they lived or whether they died. And that's the type of people we are. We dive in where we dive in because we want, and we care about the folks that we're serving.

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: There are many others that we could talk about individually today but we don't have time. We'll be here until 5:00. I don't think you want to be here that long, even listening to me. I know doc or -- yeah, my buddy down here. Yeah.

Bob and I get along just fine. The things these folks had in common was the fact that they were dedicated, that they did care, and were servants and had a servant's attitude.

As I thought about this and what we were going to talk about today, the thing that came to my mind was armor bearers in the Old Testament. Jonathan, in I Samuel 17, had an armor-bearer. And what was the duty of an armor bearer? An armor bearer is the one that went beside his master, the one that was going to do the fighting, and he toted all of the tools of his trade. He toted the spirit, the shield, the sword, toted his armor, so that when it got time to do battle, the master could put the shield on, grab the sword, and go in and do battle. But they went up with them, they went every step of the way, yet they weren't carrying all of that weight because they were dedicated men, because they cared. And that's what firefighters are, they are dedicated. They do care. They are willing to step in when other people are stepping away. And it's for that cause that we need to remember Chief Tommy Sullivan of Howard County who lost his limbs because of a disease, but yet Tommy a week before he passed away, was imploring the people of his district to serve, to do more, to be better at what they were doing at the last district convention he attended a week prior to his death. That is the dedication of an armor bearer. That is the dedication of somebody who loves, the dedication of somebody who cares. People like that you will follow. People like that folks want to be like.

And then you talk about dedication, you go back and you think about a young man who is out tending sheep. And King Saul sent for him because the great Philistine warrior Goliath was challenging his people, the Israelites, to send a man down to fight, and whoever wins will be your servant. I win, you're mine. You win, I'm yours. Nobody wanted to go fight that man. But young David, a shepherd boy who was out tending sheep was called. He loaded up, he found somebody to watch his sheep because a good shepherd doesn't leave a sheep alone, any more than a true leader leaves his people alone. He found somebody to watch his sheep and he went to King Saul.

And you've got a man of short stature, the youngest of three brothers who said, yeah, I'll go up against this dude. Now, Goliath was somewhere in the vicinity of 9 feet, 5 inches tall and 9 feet, 10 inches tall. He had a spear of gold and brass. The head of that spear weighed close to 15 pounds. He wore a coat of chain mail that weighed over 125 pounds. And yet David, when he was offered all of Saul's battle gear said, "No, I don't want it." He wasn't big enough to carry it. He wasn't big enough to use it. So you've got a young shepherd boy loading up with his slingshot, walking -- actually, he was running towards Goliath.

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: And he stopped and he picked up five stones and he put them in his bag. He led from the front. He said, folks, let's go. And they watched him go up, and they watched him stand before that man. And he picked up one of his rocks, and he put it in his sling, and he hit Goliath in the head, and down he went. He had no sword, so he used Goliath's sword to finish his job. When that happened, Israel moved forward on the Philistines. Why? Because one shepherd boy, one leader, one child dedicated to doing the job stepped forward and said, I'm your man.

And that's what we have in the fire service, folks. We've got Davids all over the place in the fire service doing the job, dedicating, willingness to serve, willingness to give their all and, yeah, even willingness to give their life in service to their communities, in service to their people. It's what makes what we're doing today worthwhile. It makes us be able to stand up and say, yes, we are here to honor the lives of our friends, of our neighbors, and of our loved ones who are no longer with us. Do we miss them? With all our hearts. Will we forget them? Never. Does it still hurt? Until we are gone, folks. But remember, our grief for loved ones gone, our pain for loved ones gone is the price we pay for having loved them.

And I ask you today, is there anybody here who has lost a loved one that would say, you know, I wish I had never loved that individual because it just hurts too much. It wouldn't happen, would it? And that, my friends, is why this is a fantastic place and such a fantastic organization because of the love that we have for our fellow man, the love that we have for each other will not die. It will not go away, because we're willing to pay that price to care for the people we really love.

I heard a song just prior to speaking at Bryan's funeral, and I want to read part of that to you today. It's one that's done by Willie Nelson. And you can tell Willie is getting up there and kind of getting breathy, but what he has to say is worth a lot. When you lose the one you love, you think your world has ended. You think your world will be a waste of time without them in it. You feel there's no way to go on, life is just too sad, a sad, sad song, but love is bigger than us all. The end is not the end all. It's not something you get over, but it's something you get through. It's not ours to be taken. It's just a thing we do. Life goes on and on. And when it's gone, it lives in someone new. It's not something you get over, but it's something you get through. Does it get easier? I'm going to tell you, folks, I've been doing what I'm doing right now for almost 20 years. It's hard to believe it's been that long since Mike appointed me to this. And I'm going to tell you today that it's harder today than it was the first day I did it. And the reason it is, is because I know you, I care about you, and we're not acquaintances, we are friends. And without that, there is no point in living.

So, folks, be willing to pay the price, be willing to shed the tears and to have the grief and to pay the price for taking the time to love those that are dear.

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: I said it before, I'm going to it say it one more time, the lesson is yours: Never ever leave those you love without a hug and telling them you love them, because tomorrow you may not get a chance.

May God bless you all. And thank you for allowing me to stand up here in front of you and share a few minutes and share my love with you. Would you pray with me, please? Gracious God, we're thankful to you for today, for the love you have in us or for us, and the love that we have in you. We ask now that you be with us as we go on through this day. Please watch over us this week. Please help us to keep our eye on you. Thank you for loving us and teaching us how to love each other. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MR. WATSON: II Corinthians tells us, "Finally, brothers, rejoice. Be restored. Be encouraged. Be of the sane mind. Be at peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss, all the saints greet you. The grace of lord -- of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." Let us pray.

Most gracious and heavenly father, we first come to you, then we say, thank you, Lord. We thank you, Lord, for your grace and your tender mercy. We thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to fellowship. We thank you, Lord, for this service, Lord, for this opportunity to remember those that we have lost. But it's funny because your word tells us that we really did not lose them, they just went on before us. We just want to thank you, Lord, for their lives, all the lives that they touched, Lord, all the things they did, Lord, while they were here, Lord. We just thank you for it right now, Lord. We thank you, Lord, because we know that your word says it's okay for us to weep, it is okay for us to cry, but we are not supposed to cry like we have no hope. For we know that if they are not here with us, then they are present with you. We thank you, Lord, for the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, and we thank you, Lord, for this organization that puts such a premium on this family-oriented environment where you're not just a person, you are a friend, Lord.

We thank you, Lord, for putting these people in place that keep our brothers and our sisters at the forefront, Lord, that you would just continue to ask -- I want you to watch over us, and individually and collectively watch over us and be with us as we leave this place but never your presence, Lord. We'll be careful and quick to give you all the glory and honor you deserve. It is in your son Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

OPENING BUSINESS SESSION

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018 - 1:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: I once again call to order the 142nd Annual Convention and Training Conference of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas. Your presiding officer for this afternoon will be 1st Vice President, Mike Richardson.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to call Chaplain Ben Kennedy to the podium to lead us in invocation.

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: A couple of announcements before we begin, Richard Meeks, who is the president of the Central Texas District, lost his son in a tragic accident early last week. An ATV rolled over on him and injured his brother and killed one of his sons, so need to keep them in our prayers. Also received word today that Richard Espinosa from Alamo Fire Department passed away yesterday. He was also district historian for the Rio Grande Valley for 20 years, so they're kind of aching a little bit today too. And let's not forget our brothers and sisters over in Santa Fe who -- who went through a tragic shooting a few weeks ago.

So if you would, pray with me, please. Father, we're grateful to you for the day that you blessed us with, for the opportunity that we have to be here with friends and share fellowship, to learn more about our organization, and to move forward with it. We ask now, Father, you give a special blessing on the Meeks, on Richard Espinosa and his family and department. We pray, Lord, that you would be with them as they go through this hour of grief. We also pray, Lord, that you continue to be with the folks in Santa Fe as they continue to recover from a tragic shooting and a loss of so many children and adults.

We thank you, Lord, for the love you have for us. And we pray that you be with us as we go through this meeting on through this convention, keep us safe from harm, be with us always. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: I'd ask Mascot Daisy Svatek if she could come up and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

ALL: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Daisy. Now I'd ask that Secretary Joe Ondrasek come up and explain the protocols and the rules of the convention.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: How y'all doing? First of all, let's welcome all of those that have been here for the very first time.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: So if it's your first time to be here today, would you stand up? No first-timers? (Applause.) Thank you. We're very glad you guys are here for your first time, and we sure look forward to seeing you guys here for many, many more. So on page 10 are the rules of the convention, and delegate protocol, so if I don't cover it all or if you missed it, you can go there and look at it. But, again, we ask that while session is in -- business session is ongoing, that you stay seated so that everyone can see and hear and participate in what's going on in the meeting. This is your association. We want you to participate, want you to be involved, want you to hear what's going on during the floor discussion and business meeting.

If you have your cell phones on, make sure they're on silent. If you have to take a call, make sure you move out to where you won't disturb anybody. We sure would hate for you to have to -- well, we'd love for you to give to MDA, so that would be a good thing. The bylaws require us to record everything that's being said. So if you speak today from the floor, Anthony is putting up our mic and our mic stand. Make -- make sure you state who you are very clearly and where you're from so that we can get that recorded appropriately. So, again, just a reminder to do that. I think that's as far as that goes.

As far as the delegate protocols, Wednesday, we're going to vote. So remember, when you come in on Wednesday, the delegates get to vote. So if you're a delegate, make sure you have your badge, make sure you show it on Wednesday to the sergeant-at-arms, and he'll give you a ballot. And we'll also have some special seatings and things like that. So, again, make sure, if you're a delegate, check your badge. If it doesn't say delegate, you may need to see Ms. Gabi or somebody to work that out here pretty quick, but if you're a delegate, again, make sure you have that with you on Wednesday. And I think that's -- Robert, I think, wants to say a few words. I think that's all I got.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS CHAIRMAN MR. ROBERT KLEEN: I just want to say that as sergeant-at-arms, I have a wonderful committee here, and if you're having a problem, go to them. They can be a liaison between you, the board, and the staff, but they also have another thing they do. You let your telephone go off, they're going to come visit with you. They're going to take up money for MDA. You lose your badge, we get it -- we sell it to you for MDA. Your other stuff, like glasses and stuff -- in fact, there is a pair of glasses in the office now, we'll get them back to you. There are some amnesties. In those amnesties the president's gavel has total amnesty, don't ever touch it. If you try to give it to us to sell it, we're going to make you pay double. Other things that have amnesty, everything on the stage when they're doing the meetings and stuff in amnesty. The office where they go and take their stuff and leave it when they got to have total amnesty. All of the past president stuff has total amnesty. The sergeant-at-arms table has amnesty. Everybody else, my guys are out looking to make some money for MDA. There are still four or five districts that do not have a member on this committee.

I would wish that each one of your districts would get a member for the committee to help your people make it through the day of convention stuff. Other than that, have a good time, learn a lot, and do what you can, because y'all represent one of the finest organizations that I know of. Thank you. (Applause.)

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Going down my list here, I was quite focused on it and missed something because it wasn't printed on it. So I'm going to ask you all to stand again, and we have a guest who's going to sing the national anthem for us. Thank you. (National anthem sung.) Yeah. I should be beat severely for forgetting that, shouldn't I? Wow. Next I'm going to ask President Cheshire -- don't do that. I'll tell what you do -- ask President Cheshire to come up and give our welcome.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Good afternoon everybody.

AUDIENCE: Good afternoon.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: How y'all doing? All right. Excellent. It's great to have everybody here. Wish we could have had more folks, but you know what, we understand that folks have things to do at times, so we're not going to hold it against them. But we're thankful and we are blessed to have each and every one of you here. It's -- it's going to be a great convention. It already has started out to be a great convention. We're in a great location and I'd like to say thank you. Thank you for everything that you do for this organization, because if it wasn't for you, there would be no SFFMA. Okay. If it wasn't for the volunteer fire service of this state, basically 85 percent of the populous of this state would not be protected from fire and emergency responses, so it's because of you. Okay. And each and every one of you owe yourselves a round of applause for that, so, let's give ourselves applause. (Applause.) Very quickly, I just want to say a couple of other things. You know, when I first took over the gavel, I thought this is going to be awesome, this is going to be great. And then a little thing came in the coast. Y'all probably remember that. It's -- it was spelled differently but pronounced the same. Remember, Hurricane Harvey. Yeah. I heard my name called out more times on national media, and I felt like I was 8 years old again, and so I'm still working that out in therapy, just to let you know. But anyway, keep in mind that there's still a lot of our fire departments, our brothers and our sisters down along the Gulf Coast that are still suffering from that hurricane. There were departments completely devastated from that hurricane, and they still need our help. Okay. Long after the camera crews have left and the cameras are turned off and things of that nature, they still need our help. Okay. Our brothers and sisters down in Santa Fe suffered a tragedy, tragic event. They still need our help. Okay. And just this past weekend we had another little rain event come down. I think it's called a rain event, but McAllen got 36 inches of rain. They're not accustomed to that, so they need our help. Okay. Please keep them in our prayers. Please keep them in mind all the time.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: And every chance you get, pick up the phone and say, hey, how can I help. Okay. Anyway, not going to drag this out too much longer. I just want to welcome each and every one of you for being here. Each and every one of you hold a place in my heart. And I thank you for allowing me to serve as your president, for voting me in as 4th vice a few years back, and for putting up with me. My wife can attest to that. I'm -- sometimes I'm a little hard to keep up. She is my adult supervision so -- anyway, that's why I carry her with me everywhere. Plus, she gets to drive me everywhere so that way I don't get in trouble. Anyway, thank you, thank you, thank you for everything that you do for your communities and for this great organization. God bless you. I love you. Bye. (Applause.)

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Harvie. We do appreciate you. Now if -- I'll ask Executive Director Barron up for sponsor recognition.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: Well, good afternoon and welcome to the 142nd Annual Conference and Convention. I just wanted to point out, in the very front of your pamphlet -- program, there we go, you will see some key sponsors. I want to just point those out for you because without them our rates would be extremely high and you all may not be here right now. So let's just point out a few folks. We have Texas Farm Bureau who sponsored the entire lunch, and I know John was with us. Is John still here? John, thank you very much. (Applause.) As y'all know, Texas Farm Bureau has sponsored that lunch for many years because we had Freddie Gerik, Chief Gerik from West, and his son, Mike Gerik, is one of the vice presidents over at Texas Farm Bureau. So thank you very much for that. For a lot of our conference bags and other sponsorship and support, we have WinStar Insurance Agency otherwise known as VFIS of Texas and Barbara Marzean and the VFIS folks. Thank you, Barbara. All of the audio/visual and training support and logistics is provided by TEEX, and I know that Director Sera and Robert Moore are over here. Thank you very much Robert and Gary. (Applause.)

We have some other support, and I'll just recognize some of those, they are all listed there and I don't have my glasses on, so I know -- I see Budweiser, California Casualty, Gulf Coast District. For some of the firefighter of the year awards, we have Government Capital Corporation and Casco for the firefighter of the year and the EMS responder of the year award. The Galveston Firefighters' Association are here to bring you the keynote speaker today, and I think you will be highly impressed and entertained with our keynote today.

We also have Shell Oil, National Fire Sprinkler Association, TML Insurance Group, Vic Einspahr, and Gallagher Construction also sponsors of our organization. So let's give them a round of applause. Thank you. (Applause.)

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Now I'd like to ask Ms. Jenny Hanie to come to the podium and give us a report on our friends and partners at MDA.

MS. JENNY HANIE: Hey, guys. I can see over this thing, so that's good. I thought I was going to be speaking down there. My name is Jenny Hanie. I am the regional manager of the firefighter partnership of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. So we are here today to say thank you to all of you for filling the boot. This is a 64-year long tradition. We'll be celebrating 65 next year. And really, the truth of the matter is, MDA would not exist without the support of firefighters across the nation just like you guys. So we are so, so grateful for this partnership. When I started at MDA five years ago, I was on the family side. So my uncle was diagnosed with ALS. And I went to an MDA clinic with him, and I saw firsthand what MDA did for my family, and I said, sign me up. Now I work for an organization as great as the Muscular Dystrophy Association. So over the past five years, I've been fortunate enough to get to work with firefighters all across the United States. So I say, from the bottom of my heart, on behalf of my uncle, thank you. What you do makes a difference. You getting out and filling the boot for a few hours a year makes a difference. We are able to take care of these families because of your support. So today we have someone special with us. If you guys want to come up here, y'all, we have someone special here to tell you a little bit about their journey through muscular dystrophy. We have Obadiah and Cheryl Mitchell, so they're going to talk to you for a little bit.

FEMALE: Hello. All right. Here we go. I'm going to let Obadiah take this over.

OBADIAH: All right. Hello, guys. My name is Obadiah. I am turning 16 in -- over the next two weeks, and I just want to say thank you guys for filling the boot, because all of these kids out there with muscular dystrophy wouldn't be able to have a great time and basically just have fun without you guys. And you make camp possible, and camp is just such a fun experience for all these kids with muscular dystrophy. I'm sorry about my voice. We had a really fun time yelling and cheering at camp, thanks to you guys, but it's just -- thanks. It's been a really fun experience, thanks to you guys.

FEMALE: Thank you, Obadiah. We're also going to turn this over to Cheryl, Obadiah's mom and kind of hear her story as well.

MS. CHERYL MITCHELL: Hi, everyone. So I am a lifelong MDA participant. I grew up watching my grandmother wear special shoes and my mother who was a nurse for 47 years struggle with MD through her life. And in 2011, Obadiah was diagnosed as well. Pardon me. And it's just, you know, really important the work that you do for us, because I would never be able to afford the experiences that you all have offered to him. And so I'm just incredibly grateful. So thank you. (Applause.)

MS. JENNY HANIE: Thank you, guys, so much. We also would like to recognize somebody special who has gone above and beyond for MDA and fundraising for Fill the Boot. So, Ms. Daisy Svatek, please come up here. We'd like to present you with an award.

MS. JENNY HANIE: So on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association for going above and beyond, we have a special plaque for you, and we just wanted to say thank you for all that you do. (Applause.) Thank you again, guys. Everything you do matters more than you know. (Applause.)

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: And -- and before they go away, I just would like for -- Obadiah, for us to hand him a little token of our appreciation for his work with our organization. And, Ms. Hanie, a token of our appreciation from our organization for you. And we thank all of you for being here. Really good to see you. (Applause.)

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: All right. Next we'd like to -- I guess Kyle Stephens is going to take this spot, recognition of past presidents. Kyle Stephens.

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: I'm Kyle Stephens, co-chairman for the past president's club organization. Before I introduce these young gentlemen to y'all, I'd like to express my thanks to John with Farm Bureau. We appreciate what you do for us and have been doing every year, and that was a great meal. We appreciate it very much. Again, if y'all would, give them a round of applause. (Applause.) Down front for those that this is your first time here, before you leave today, walk down here on the left and take a look at a plaque that's down there. That plaque is signed by every one of the past presidents that's been in this organization that served as president at one time. The earliest one I can find on there is dated in 1922. And then it goes up from there. You look at the number of years it's there and the knowledge, just take a look at it and appreciate it. There's a lot of value in that signature. There's a star on -- when one passes, there's a star that we put beside. That's what we don't like to -- that's part of life. It's -- we've lost quite a few, two of the good ones here that we recognized this morning.

First one for introduction -- may be a little slow getting a couple of them up here. It's not because of age, they just don't like to travel fast. The first one I'd like to introduce was your president, Bob Looney, 1986.

FEMALE: You can start now. Go ahead, Bob.

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: You need to borrow one of my hearing aids, Bob?

PAST PRESIDENT BOB LOONEY: I got a hearing aid.

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: Next in line is Ernest Reesing, known as Doc, from Alpine in 1988. Then we have 1989, Gerald A. Matheaus, Rosenberg; 1991, Billie Ray Mize, Burkburnett; 1993, Donald Hoffman from Brenham; 1985, Deloss Edwards from Abilene, 1997, Patrick Hlavaty, from El Campo; 1999, Terry Mayfield, Seguin; 2000, Dallas Renfrew from Seminole; 2001 -- and he's not with us, he had to leave, he was here this morning, that's Michael W. Looney from Mansfield. That will be Bob's son. 2003, Carl T. Anderson from Santa Fe; 2004, David Luedeke, from Needville; and I was your 2007 president,

Kyle Stephens from Decatur; 2010, Kent Watts, Jr., from Luling; 2012, Rex Klesel from Alvin. There's your ride right there. 2013, David Wade from Deer Park; 2014, Bill Gardner from Leander; 2015, Rusty Kattner from Santa Fe; 2016, Paul Hamilton from Potter County. And we forgot to take a vote on this one yesterday. We'll put him in the picture, yeah. But your 2017 Immediate Past President Henry Perry from Bastrop. (Applause.)

I'd like to mention one that's not here. He's our chairman of past president, Shawn Snider. Shawn is from Edinburg. He had his truck loaded, ready to go, and they got a flood. So he's up to his earlobes in water down there trying to help the people of his town, and that's the reason he's not here. And I would like for everybody to keep them in your prayers for their safety.

But you have a line of gentlemen here, ranging from all ages, the very young, starting on this end. That's the end I pointed to. There's a lot of knowledge standing right here before you, but that knowledge that they have is going to be carried on to the people that they touch and instructed and dealt with in their lives. And I think about that all the time. These two gentlemen we recognized this morning, their legacy will carry on through the firefighters that they have trained and taught. But, if you would, join me again in giving these gentlemen a round of applause. (Applause.) Thank y'all very much.

1^{VP} MIKE RICHARDSON: Next I'd like to recognize the past mascots and sweethearts of this association. I know we have a representative to come up here and call it out, but what I would like, if you've served as a mascot or a sweetheart in the SFFMA, would you please stand? (Applause.) Thank you. And it's great to see that. There's a lot of these people that go on and they end up being our future leaders in this organization as well as others. So it's great to see them in the effort they put forth for this organization, and they work for MDA. I really do appreciate it. Next I'll call up Anggie Sumrall and -- who's going to do the recognition of the ladies auxiliary.

TFA PRESIDENT ANGGIE SUMRALL: Hi. I'm Anggie Sumrall, president of TFA. I'd like to introduce our board. 1st vice president, Brandy Tidwell; 2nd vice president, Leslie Nixon; 3rd vice president, Patti Jones; 4th vice president, Melissa Thomson; immediate past president, Billie Smith; secretary, Donna Svatek; treasurer, Kendra Charbula; parliamentarian, Jerri Locknane; historian, Penny Horelica; chaplain, Mary Jane Cargile; and sweetheart, Kennedy Sumrall. Thank you. (Applause.)

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Sorry about that. Next I would like to ask Barbara Marzean to come up for the VFD grant presentation. And also Texas Mutual VP of Safety Services, Eric Bourquin.

PRESIDENT OF VFIS OF TEXAS MS. BARBARA MARZEAN: I'm going to go first. Good afternoon. As you know, we created a workers' comp safety group for emergency services back in 1999, along with Texas Mutual. I think many of you were probably in our group.

MS. BARBARA MARZEAN: That group offers competitive workers' comp rates and premium discounts of 12.3 percent, safety resources and programs, and performance-based dividends. And earlier this month we did pay out over \$268,000 in dividends to the group members. Since the start of our program, our members have received more than \$2.3 million in group dividends back from Texas Mutual. And these dividends are in addition to the general dividends that Texas Mutual pays each year, this being the 20th year, and they're paying out \$280 million in dividends. You can be expecting a check soon on that. Because of the success of this program, VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual, we partner to establish a need-based grant program for the emergency responders in Texas for safety training and wellness. Since 2013, we have awarded over \$660,000 in grants to more than 300 departments in the state. This year we awarded \$235,000 to 78 departments for health and wellness programs. The benefits of these programs will go a long way in preventing on-the-job injuries and missed work. We have heard some great stories from the grant recipients about the difference that these grants have made to their departments, and this really shows us that we are making a difference. And if you have any stories, if you received a grant, let us know. Let us know what you've done and how it's helped your department. And if any of you are here that received a grant this year, would you stand up so we can recognize you. Great. Thank you. (Applause.) I'm now going to introduce Eric Bourquin, Texas Mutual VP of Safety Services.

MR. ERIC BOURQUIN: Thank you, Barbara, and thank you, guys, for having me. We're thankful for this great partnership that VFIS of Texas has built with Texas Mutual over the years. And thank you to SFFMA for allowing me to be here in front of you amazing first responders. Keeping employees safe on the job is something we're passionate about at Texas Mutual. Our safety team is one of the largest in the state and dedicated to providing resources to help keep everyone safe. In the unfortunate event that someone gets hurt, our organization works extremely hard to get injured workers the best care possible and back to work as soon as possible. All of us at Texas Mutual have the same goal, seeing all of our policyholder employees go home safe at the end of the day or at the end of their shift. Grant recipients are able to purchase safety and wellness equipment that will help keep emergency responders safe, which means they'll be better able to protect Texans across the state and respond to the unfortunate situations that occur. This program has been successful over the years and the need continues to grow.

I'm proud to announce that this year's VFIS of Texas Mutual Safety and Wellness grant program is going to total \$180,000 contribution from our organizations. The grant application period will be from July 1st through December 31st with the funds being distributed in the spring of 2018. VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual will post more information regarding the grants on our website and notices will be sent out to everyone by e-mail.

MR. ERIC BOURQUIN: Once again, we look forward to helping as many departments as possible with this additional funding to reduce and prevent emergency responder deaths and injuries. Thank you, guys. (Applause.)

TFA PRESIDENT ANGGIE SUMRALL: We have a big check for you guys. Y'all want to come down here? We can do that. (Pictures taken.) And Barbara and Eric, to show you a little bit of our appreciation. Thank you both very much. That's an amazing amount -- (unintelligible.) (Applause.)

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: All right. Next up would be President Cheshire. He's got an important message or you.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: All right. This is one of the fun things I get to do as president -- and I just wiped it out. So guess what I get to do, I get to go off the cuff. All right. Modern technology, you got to love it, right? I get the distinct honor of introducing our guest speaker for today, our keynote speaker. I have personally known this man for the past, oh, I don't know, what is it, 45, 46 minutes, Chad? Yeah. Okay. So you have seen him -- I know most of you have seen him on a number of different medias. He's the world famous Facebook Poke, and with his sidekick, Willie, in the back seat all the time, I watch him every day. I really do. But this gentleman was originally born a little bit north of the Red River, kind of like in New Jersey, then he -- he transferred to Atlanta, Georgia, where he learned the Southern delicacies and became a Southern gentleman, and he got to Texas just as quick as he could.

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please help me welcome our keynote speaker, Chad Prather. (Applause.)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much. That's a warm welcome. Speaking of warm welcomes, December 25th, 2015, Christmas day, I woke up to the smell of a horrific burning going on in my house, and I heard the horrible sound of a fire alarm. My wife was cooking breakfast, specifically, bacon. My wife does not cook. And then I heard the sirens of the fire truck outside, and my wife running out the door to stop them before I came to the realization of what was going on. And I learned to appreciate that -- and by the way, my wife is sitting right over here so we may not be leaving together, but I have learned to appreciate a couple of things. One of those is that Texas is the greatest state in the United States. (Applause.) America is the greatest country on the planet. (Applause.)

And as best I can tell, earth is the best planet in the universe. We don't know yet, but I'm going to make that assumption. I know America is the greatest country in the world because you don't have to give me statistics. You don't have to talk about where we stand in terms of socioeconomic status or welfare or how we take care of health care or our military might.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: I know America is the greatest for a simple reason; we have millions of people lined up at the border trying to get into this country and we can't get a single celebrity to leave. I shared a few colorful text messages with Rosie O'Donnell about six months ago, and I offered to buy her plane ticket. I realized it was going to take two. Now, I promised I wasn't going to get political at all and I won't. I didn't ask Gabi how long she wanted me to go, so this is going to be a quick hour and a half for you, but I appreciate being with you.

And I say America is the greatest, honestly, because we have men and women who are willing to get up every day and put a uniform on. Whatever that uniform looks like, whether it is United States military, or active duty military, those who are deployed overseas, our veterans, those who gave and served, and in some cases sacrificed everything, all the way to our first responders, folks like yourselves, folks who volunteer. You certainly don't do it for the money. You don't do it because of the recognition. You don't do it because of the social status that it gives you. But you're willing to get up every day, and knowing full well you may not come home at the end of the day, and when the opportunity calls, you're there to show up, and you serve and you run into that danger. We saw that happen. You know, a number of months ago when Hurricane Harvey -- which we have situations that happen all the time, almost weekly, but with Hurricane Harvey, we showed the world what it's like to be Texans. We showed the world what it's like to pull together and be responsive to our neighbors and our folks that are without. It was great for us, because I was on -- a lot of folks don't realize the -- the -- the -- I call it the humble arrogance that Texans have. As -- as Harvie said, I was -- I was conceived in Dallas, so my parents did a dirty thing in a horrible place. I choose to believe it was their last moment of intimacy ever, but I was -- my father was an engineer. I was born in New Jersey and lived there for a ripe four months before they moved him back to my mother's hometown of Augusta, Georgia where I grew up, spent my days in Georgia, went to school at University of Georgia, bounced around the southeast professionally, and then moved to Texas, moved to Fort Worth area 20 years ago, and it is the center of my universe. It's home and it's a blessing to me. And I've been tasked to talk to you a little bit about expecting the unexpected. And you could probably tell me more about that than I could tell you, but I do want to share a few words, because when Hurricane Harvey hit, it was a great opportunity for me to use my platform in a number of situations. Such as when the wildfires were in the Panhandle and various other things that I could list off, I took my platform, whether it was social media or the opportunities that they give me to contribute with Fox News Channel to go on and talk about the plight of Texans.

And it was amazing to me when the wildfires hit in the Panhandle that the mass media, the mainstream media largely ignored it.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: It wasn't something that was being spoken about on a national level, and a big reason was because it wasn't affecting millions upon millions of people like something that would happen in an urban setting. It was happening out in the so-called middle of nowhere in the Panhandle of Texas, and so it was largely ignored. We used our platform of several million people on social media to bring awareness to that. You know, they bring me onto Fox News, and they want me to try to be funny and to tell folks things that, you know, as a comedian who's on tour, they want me -- and I said, I can't come on and talk about a tragedy like Hurricane Harvey and be funny. And I said, well, what I can do is bring awareness to what's happening, for instance, the mosquitos, the bug problem that's going on. People are being plagued with mosquitoes that are so big, I saw one stand flatfooted and mate with a turkey. And you're right, it's still going on. I still have case after case of bug spray in my garage at home for people who donated to that, but we never know what a day is going to bring. And that was a perfect example but the beauty of it is even though it was unexpected, Texans from all over came together to contribute and to help one another. Our organization, which is kind of tongue-in-cheek, we have an off-road event north of here, St. Jo, Texas, called Rednecks With Paychecks.

And we have about 12,000 of our closest friends who show up for a four-day celebration there. They bring some of the most god-awful vehicles you can imagine, off-road monster trucks and the like. And we were able to take about 35 people down to South Texas and take monster trucks. It was amazing. You probably saw that Cadillac Escalade up on big tires that was pulling the Army Reserve vehicle out of the water. It was on all of the national news, went viral. We were invited by President Trump to come down and be recognized, along with the Cajun Navy. And it was a beautiful thing because we were able to take these large vehicles in and help first responders get home for a change of clothes and to get food to them and go places that a lot of their vehicles couldn't. And that, to me, was a very telling sight of how people were able to pull together in the face of the unexpected.

And I'll tell you, you know, unexpected is -- I live unexpected. I don't know what a day is going to bring. It's always interesting to me. And I know there's some of who are going, who is this guy, what is he. My name is Chad Prather. I'm what some would call an Internet sensation, which is an interesting way of introducing somebody. I get that a lot. That's just a 21st century way of saying, I'm unemployed but real popular.

And a few years ago, I set my camera phone on the dashboard of my truck while I was sitting still in traffic on I-35 west, and I started talking to it. It became, for me, therapeutic. My wife used to tell me all the time that I needed therapy, that I was crazy. And I said there was no way I was going to go talk to a therapist, nothing wrong if you do, but I said, I'm not going to do it. And she said, why not? And I said, because I'm a dude.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: And a dude doesn't go sit on a leather couch with another strange dude while that dude asks you every 15 seconds, how does that make you feel. Pretty dang creepy. You pull out those ink blot tests, and I don't even want to tell you what I saw in those things. It was quite Freudian and my mother would be embarrassed.

But I started using social media with little two-minute, fast-paced, fast-talking snippets that are all intended to be somewhat self-deprecating and tongue-in-cheek and humorous, observational, somewhat motivational, occasionally inspirational, and maybe even political, to try to take truth, wrap it in humor and make it an easier pill to swallow. And millions of people started watching these videos so that at the end of 2017, we actually crossed over a billion, with a "B," views on Facebook alone. So I'm an incredible time waster.

Those of you who say that you watch the videos or you watch me every day -- and I even had a lady at a show of mine recently -- I do a comedy tour called The Star Spangled Banter Comedy Tour all across the nation. And I had a lady that came to the meet and greet recently. She said, we watch you every night for 45 minutes before we go to sleep. And I said, honey, there are other things far more exciting you could be doing for 45 minutes before you go to sleep. She said, we've been married a long time; no, there's not. Touche.

So I started doing -- I did these videos and it's been interesting. And people ask me often -- you have to understand, when you put a video on Facebook and a million people watch it in the space of 24 hours, it's unexpected. You don't -- you don't know. I told my wife the first time it happened in early 2015, I said, it's almost like we threw open the doors to our neighborhood and invited strangers into our house to rummage through our underwear drawers. People came out of everywhere. Suddenly you have to hide the pictures of your children, and hide your address because -- we've -- the last several years on specific dates, whether it's our anniversary, my birthday, or Christmas day, we'll wake up to gifts from strangers on the front door. Thank God none of them are ticking, but it's an interesting thing. It's unexpected. And so we had no idea the life that was going to come out of just sitting in a truck and doing something as silly as making a humor video for a couple of minutes. It changed our life and I'll give you some examples of that later, but people ask me how I started doing this. And I was at the gym one day -- I was not in the gym, I was at the gym. It's a huge difference. And -- which, by the way, y'all look great, you look like you've lost weight. I operate at zero percent body muscle. Anybody wear a Fitbit? Yeah. Do you know what a Fitbit is? It's a little thing you wear -- guys, never give your wife a Fitbit and call it a gift. Okay. My wife gave me one of those last Christmas, and I -- I now know it's exactly 13 steps from the refrigerator to the sofa. And I -- I would just hook it on the collar of the dog early in the morning. And Willie would just run all over the backyard. And she'd come home at the end of the day, and she'd say, Chad, you're really active but you are still fat.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: But I -- it's -- I was at the gym and I was making phone calls in the parking lot, and I was in the corporate world at the time. I called my wife on the phone, and I said, babe, I'm miserable, I'm depressed, I hate my job. I have no sense of purpose. I need to quit. She said, Chad, if quitting will help you feel better, then I support that. And I said, good, thank you, because I've already quit. She said, what are you going to do to make a living? And I said, well, I've got an idea. I'm going to go out and I'm going to make a living just being myself. She said, "Chad what's the street value on your personality?" At the time, and being somewhat facetious, I said it's about like President Obama giving a keynote speech at the NRA convention. She said, "Well, that's worthless." But we had no idea that by putting a camera phone on the dashboard of the truck and talking to it was going to change our life the way it did. We get messages from all around the world. I get encouraging messages, I get hate mail, occasionally some death threats. It's amazing what words do to people.

I have, sitting on my desk, a 9 mm bullet. I have a little box, a little wooden box. I call it my reward box. And I keep things that people have sent that have become mementos, whether they're little notes or challenge coins or they're -- in that box there's a little note with a 9 mm bullet where a young man who's become a friend of mine down in Houston. He was a Marine -- is a Marine. I know you can't say they were, they always are. He's a Marine and he was in Fallujah, and saw some really bad things, came home with a severe case of the PTSD. One day he decided to end it all, even though he had a fantastic family, and his wife is beautiful, his children are beautiful. And he put a 9 mm gun in his mouth and pulled the trigger and he only heard click. And with adrenaline pumping through him and sweat covering his body, shaking all over, realizing that he almost killed himself and attempted to but was still alive, he was in shock, and he grabbed his phone to call his wife. And when he pulled it up, it was on Facebook and there was this cowboy sitting in his pickup truck talk -- holding a \$20 bill talking about life and self-worth, and it gave him a new sense of purpose. It gave him a new lease on life. It gave him a new reason to live. And he shared that story with me, and then he sent me that bullet. I'm sure the post office was thrilled. To look at that bullet, it has a dimple on the back of it where the firing pin hit it and it didn't go off. So doing something as simple as putting out a little silly video, you never know the unexpected results that it's going to have. And something so simple as that compared to something so great and so grand to what you men and women do on a daily basis that regular -- that the folks that you impact their lives, whether you know it or not, it's significant. It's huge. And just being here in this week of meetings, you don't know the impact that it will share, not only in someone's life but washed upon the shores of eternity.

It's an incredible thing that you do and I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. God bless you for that. Now, it's weird whenever you put your face out there on social media and millions of people watch

it. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER:** And I have parents. My father, God bless him, he passed away just about eight weeks ago. And he was a great, great man, very austere, didn't use a lot of words; unlike me, very confident, very masculine. He never understood what it is that I do. My mother being the Georgia Southern belle that she is, very proper, very insecure, she -- the idea of putting all of your personal business out on social media for the world to see just blows her mind. She called me on the phone a couple of years ago and she said, "Chad, I'm concerned." I said, About what? She said, "I was at church on Sunday morning and someone walked up to me and said, 'Have you heard about Chad?'" And she said, "What's wrong?" And they said, "He's gone viral." She said, "Are you okay?" I said, "Mom, don't worry about it. They're just talking about my Facebook and my Twitter". She said, "You need to get that checked out." At the time, she said, you're 43 years old, you're way too old to be having problems with your Twitter.

It's been an interesting journey though, it really has. And a couple of things I've learned along the way, we have -- it launched us into a new world, it did, very unexpected. And a lot of things, we didn't know if we were prepared for them or not.

I get on an airplane tomorrow morning -- now get this, understand this. You folks can appreciate this. You're Texans. I consider myself a Texan. And -- and we understand what's going on around the world. We -- we're not immune to the news. We're not immune to the mainstream employ, we see it, whether it's on social media, whether it's on CNN, or Fox News, or whatever it is you may watch. I don't think anybody watches MSNBC, but I'll pray for you if you do. I kid, but we see what comes out of Hollywood and these type of things, and, you know, tomorrow I get on an airplane and I fly to LA again. I spend a good bit of time in Los Angeles, specifically Hollywood these days, working on projects, because there are people in Hollywood, folks that are very well known, well renowned. There are producers out there, there are directors. There are people whose -- if I name the names of the shows that they've created over the years, you would know them. You'd know all of them. They're almost household names in that world. They're some of the top three to five powerful people in Hollywood who give me a call on the phone and come out, and they say, What is America thinking? What's real America thinking, not -- not the coastal elites, whether it's Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, New York City, Seattle, not that. I want to know what's going on in Texas. What's going on in Oklahoma, Nebraska. What's going on in the heartland, in the Rust Belt, out there where people are getting up early in the morning and going to work, where people are serving their neighbors. So we've created a -- we created a -- I created a sitcom, of all things. My manager in LA, he called me about a year and a half ago and he said, I want you to write an idea for a sitcom. And I said, "Nobody in Hollywood cares about my idea." And he said, "I think you could be wrong."

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: So I wrote a common sense, common voice sitcom about a family in Texas and they've fallen in love with it. They've gone crazy. So fingers crossed and God bless, I don't know, maybe they'll make it, maybe they won't. I can't believe I could ever imagine talking myself into having to spend more time in Hollywood, but something so simple as making videos in a truck has blossomed and mushroomed to something on that scale or having the opportunity to -- which is even a greater privilege, to be standing before you and talking to folks that I consider heroes, and the opportunity to go on tour and make people laugh around the country, thousands of thousands of people come to these shows that we do.

Which by the way, we would be in Midland in October, we'll be in Amarillo in October, Grand Prairie in December, and Beaumont in December, hint, hint. So -- find me at WatchChad.com.

So it has mushroomed into this incredibly beautiful thing. And here's what I find most interesting that I think prepared us for the unexpected, and I think it will help you as well, and I'm going to give you a couple of short points, and I'm going to hush.

First thing is -- and you know this well, you know all these things well, they're reminders -- you got to keep your eyes open to expect the unexpected. Whether you call it a vision, whether you call it an outlook on life, a paradigm, that web through which you interpret the world, you got to keep your eyes open. You've got to see beyond the boundaries of your horizons, you've got to see beyond the boundaries of the four walls that enclose you. We don't know. Out here on I-30 there could be some major accident; you could have some first responders out there trying to save a life right now, right there just a few hundred yards away, but we don't know because we can't see outside these four walls. I encourage people everywhere I go to see and dream larger than anything that will confine you, see beyond your boundaries.

You know, I had a living example of that. About a year ago I had a friend of mine who called me on the phone, he said, "Chad, let's go fishing." And I said, "I don't have time to go fishing, I'm too busy." He said, "Chad, you need a break, and I found this place we can go fishing." He said, "It's over in East Texas, and I want you to go." He said, "The fish bite so well, I call it the aquarium." He said, "We're going. It's a beautiful lake, you're going to enjoy it." So we went and it was -- it had -- it had three sides to it that went up 45 degree angles, about 60 feet up to the top of the bank there, and then on the fourth side was a flat bank area where we were sitting in the shade of a small tree and we were fishing, we were catching fish. And down the dirt road coming towards the lake we could hear the sound of a vehicle. And as it emerged through the trees there, we saw that it was a big white pickup truck, and it was in a hurry. And it skidded to a stop at the top of that berm there, just 60 feet above, 45-degree angle. This guy climbed out and I could tell he was in a hurry. He was wearing his dress pants, he was wearing a starched white button-up dress shirt, and he was in a hurry.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: He was frenzied. He reached into the back, he pulled out a fishing pole, pulled out a tackle box, set them on the ground. He turned towards us, he yelled down, he said, "Are the fish biting?" We gave him a thumbs up. And he said, "great, I'm on my lunch break, I got to hurry, I got to hurry." So he pulled out one of those -- the inner tube things that you get your body into with the rubber legs, and he started to climb his way into it. And I'll just suffice it to say, he was a large gentleman. And he was testing the PSI on the rubber of that inner tube. And as he got himself wedged into it, he managed to bend over and pick up the fishing pole and the tackle box, and I could tell he was still in a hurry. He took one step towards the lake, forgot about the slope. He took one step which immediately threw him off balance. He took two steps which launched him into a jog. Halfway down he was in a full-blown sprint, when he hit the water, the sprint continued until he got about knee deep and he flipped upside down to where we could see two rubber legs sticking in the area and just kicking, bouncing, and he wasn't coming back up. And he stayed under, two legs floating. I looked at my friend, my friend looked at me, and I said, "I think we got to help him." We made a 45-degree angle straight across the lake there through the water. We got to him, we pulled him out with a pop. He was purple, spitting out water. His fishing pole was gone. His tackle box was floating. He was out of breath. He climbed over to the bank, shimmied his way out of that inner tube, crawled up the bank, soaking wet, climbed into his truck, turned it around, rolled down the window and said, "Aren't you that guy from the Internet?" We gave him a thumbs up, he drove off. And I said, boy, you got to watch where you're going, don't you? And ruined his day. So I tell people all the time, open your eyes, be willing to see beyond the boundaries of your horizon.

This is somewhat a powerful story, but King George of England wrote in his diary July 4th, 1776, nothing important happened today. He couldn't see beyond the boundaries of his own kingdom, even though part of his kingdom were The Colonies and the United States, which on that date and right around that time had just declared a revolution and independence from his reign and rule, but he couldn't see across the Atlantic Ocean. He couldn't see that far. He didn't know. There was no communicating to let him know that he was now at war, because the boundaries were too great. I tell people, be prepared by seeing beyond your boundaries, be ready for anything. And you know, I believe that if you can see things far enough out, it's going to impassion you. You wouldn't be here if you didn't have passion for what you do, if you weren't enthusiastic about it. Nobody sits through meetings for fun. But I believe that when you catch a vision for something that's so great, that you get a passion for it, and that's why people put on that uniform. That's why people suit up and gear up and they go out and they're willing to face danger and potential life-threatening situations because you're passionate about what you do, and I appreciate that.

And I believe that passion always comes because you've seen a bigger vision. You prepared yourself for the unexpected.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: And a third aspect is, and this is one of the things you do in here in these days and also when you go home, and that is, discipline. You discipline yourself for when the unexpected comes. You don't just run roughshod into a dangerous situation. You don't just step out into a -- you know, a potentially life-hazarding situation and just say, well, let's make it up as we go along. You've disciplined yourself to be read for that. You've seen the situation before. You've had that vision of it so you know what you're walking into. You're prepared. That's discipline. You know, I've seen these guys who play football, and the quarterback drops back and he throws a long pass, and the wide receiver dives for the ball and his fingers touch the leather of the ball and he manages to reel it in, and the cameras are going off, click, click, click, click. And he's horizontal to the ground and just gliding through. You see the pictures of him with this incredible acrobatic effort to catch this ball, he pulls it in, and everybody goes crazy, but he lands out of bounds. And no matter how beautiful it was, it didn't count.

And I always encourage people, make sure that whatever you're working towards, when the unexpected happens, you make it count. And a lack of discipline a lot of times is what forces us to be disqualified. And then I don't have to tell you the final thing, because you know it better than me, because we're not speaking here in a vacuum. You understand the concept of risk. If you have the right vision and the right passion and the discipline, you understand the fact that there's risks. And I'm saying this, whether it's professionally with your career or whether you manage something or have a business or even how you run your family, it's risky. So many people step up to the firing line and they look through the scope of the rifle and they draw in a center bead on the target and it's ready, aim, aim, aim, aim, aim, aim, one more second, aim, they never pull the trigger and fire the shot. That's risky. You who are willing to not only do the job yourself, but train others to do the job effectively understand the concept of risk. You understand the warnings that come with risk. You understand how you have to prepare people for that risk. And I say, thank you for that as well. Continue to do what you're doing because you are truly making a difference in this world.

Now, I'll say this and I'm going to be quiet, I believe you have to have those in that order, I really do believe that, vision, passion, discipline and risk. Because, yeah, let's do it backwards. Risk without discipline is recklessness. That's like jumping out of an airplane without taking the time to make sure that the parachute was packed correctly. That's reckless. Discipline without passion, well, that's legalism. There's no fun in that. That's just going to meetings. It's black and white, legalism. It's not fun. Passion without vision, without seeing where you're going and what your direction is, well, that's just hype. That's cheerleading, that's getting together and rah, rah, pat each other on the back. But at the end of the day, you don't know why you're doing what you're doing. And then vision, I believe, without faith, whether that be a faith in God, faith in yourself, faith in your brothers and sisters and the folks around you that you trust, it's meaningless.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: So I would encourage you to walk out of these meetings this week with faith, believing in what you're a part of because I know you're a part of one of the greatest organizations that's on the greatest -- in the greatest state in the greatest nation on the greatest planet, and you've got something to be proud of with that, because when you show up, you bring something of substance, and that's what matters.

So about 100 years ago the poet Walt Mason said, "There's a man in this world who's never turned down, wherever he chances to stray; he gets the glad hand in the populous town, or out where the farmers make hay; he's greeted with pleasure on deserts of sand, and deep in the aisles of the woods; wherever he goes, there's a welcoming hand. He's the man who delivers the goods." And I believe that folks sitting in this room, sitting in this series of meetings truly exemplify the great state of Texas and what's the best there is to offer, because you're men and women wherever you go that make a difference and deliver the goods. Continue doing that. God bless you guys. I love y'all. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Before you get away, we have a little token of our esteem. Are you coming out here -- thank you so much for being a part of our conference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CHAD PRATHER: Absolutely. God bless you.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: God bless you. All right. We've asked for -- or we've had a request for a short break. So it is right now 3:22. Can we be back in here at 3:25, please? We're going to take a short break, let you stretch your legs, get the blood flowing, go relieve some pressure, things like that. Thank y'all. (Recess.)

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: At this time we'll continue with our business session. At this time I would like to ask for report and a word from our friends at Texas A&M Forest Service. And I almost feel bad about this, about asking Director Boggus to come up and give us their report, having to follow Chad Prather.

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE DIRECTOR TOM BOGGUS: Well, well, well. I have been coming here for several years. And when we got the agenda, I looked at it, and I said, huh, normally always Gary and Robert, I have to follow them, you know. They're always -- TEEEX always gives their report before we do. Now I know why -- yeah. I see -- I see some TEEEX influence at this table up here, and now it's perfectly clear, yeah, why I'm following. Thank God there was a break, you know. So anyway, I don't hold any hard feelings, Chris, yet, and -- but just -- just so we're clear, and now -- and so you know, I'm not going to storm out of here after my remarks because I'm pissed, okay, just so we're clear. It's because I got a two-week-old granddaughter waiting on me in Waco, and she's -- I can hear her crying from here. She's wanting her granddaddy to hold her, and that's where I'm headed. So Robert, Gary, I know it's your last presentation, Gary, as director. I hope you do well, but you're going to be able to

feel a breeze blowing when I get through with my remarks, just so you know. Not that I'm pissed. I would never do that out of hard feelings. Okay. But anyway, and let's talk about -- Gabi, there you are. Let's talk about some things that's gone on the last year since the last time we visited. This is probably the most important slide I want to show you because the percentage keeps going up, and it was mentioned earlier. When we first started taking this, this is number of wildfires that happened within two miles of a community, and it just continues to go up.

When we started taking -- first gathering this data, it was in 2005 and '06 fire season, it was 81 percent. You know, for Texas, like our speaker said, you know, you can always think of it as the big, great, you know, wild Texas, and unoccupied and great, you know, miles from anywhere, well, but this slide demonstrates to me two things. One is the population growth of Texas and then just people, you know, streaming in here from all over and they continue to come in daily, and they build houses and, you know, huddle up together. But most importantly, I think, what it shows is the value of you, and how important you are to Texas.

So it's been a busy year. Let's talk about a little bit -- Harvey's been mentioned a couple of times, and it's what I call the tale of two storms. It's in a couple of ways; first of all as a storm, and second of all, as it impacted our agency. It was a Category 4 storm when it came ashore with winds and destruction that all came with that in Rockport and Port Aransas area, then it came in and stalled, and it went back out and came ashore in southeast Texas as either a Cat 1 or at least very strong tropical storm that dropped historic rainfalls in southeast Texas. So it's a tale of those two storms, and we'll talk about them a little bit.

But also a tale of two storms for us, because as an agency, we are a response agency, not a recovery agency, and we'll talk about that. But when response, all the saw crews and strike teams and incident management teams go out across the street and manage resources in the impacted areas, you know, mainly we're talking about get food, water, and ice to folks

before the power comes back on. This map shows you some of the areas where our incident management teams were located. And all we do there is to try to keep continuity of government, you know. Government and counties and local governments are impacted severely, and so we try to be there and help maintain until, like, again, the power and the stores and -- can come back open and people can start getting their lives back together.

This map shows some of the locations of the resource staging areas that we had, and the points of distribution that we were managing. Nearly 2,000 truckloads of food, water, and ice, and cots, and other necessary resources were there. And then as a side note though -- and I won't tell you the stories, but I've got a couple of stories, there's always heroes in all of this, in events like Harvey.

TFS DIRECTOR TOM BOGGUS: But there were two that really helped, two companies in Texas that really helped us along the way. And I don't know if there's any federal folks in here, so I'm not going to tell the story, but it's hilarious. So see me -- next time you see me somewhere, ask me about Buc-ee's, because Buc-ee's helped us. There was a brand new store down there, and it was an island, and they really helped us when we were in a bind. And it's a great story, not so great for our federal partners, they didn't come out looking so good; but I'll just say they had to wade through some nasty water because they kicked us out of a place and Buc-ee's opened their hearts and their doors to us. So they're a hero of mine, but it's a great story. And the other is Academy. The Academy stores opened up their headquarters in Houston, and we were able to use that as an area for getting distributions and supplies in, and then also pushing them out to the folks that needed them. So there was a bunch, but that was a great -- those are two great stories.

Most of Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System was deployed across the impacted region and made an immediate difference. You heard already that there were a lot of fire departments along the coast that were really severely impacted. And those folks came in -- and currently there are about 5,000 firefighters -- 5 to 6,000 firefighters across the state that -- from 328 fire departments that participated in TIFMAS, and it's a great pay-it-forward. Every time a fire department or, you know, area of the state is impacted and TIFMAS comes in to help them, immediately I start getting calls from those departments that said, look, the first time you need some help somewhere else, we want to go because they want -- It's Texans helping Texans, and you don't get any better than that. And you look up there, you can see the number of calls. And during this time there were 9725 firefighters, 145 engines, and 44 boats from 137 departments that were deployed during the Harvey response. All right. The second tale of two storms for us as an agency came when Chancellor Sharp, my boss and my boss's boss was named commissioner to rebuild Texas, the only commissioner and the only person in that commission, to rebuild Texas by Governor Abbott.

And we became involved in recovery, which is brand new for us. We have not been involved in recovery before. And so our transition with that was we -- we do go out and we take surveys of all the fire departments in that area, in that region, about 47 counties, and did 100 percent survey to find out, you know, what the needs were. And God bless the individualism of Texans and Texas fire chiefs because once you -- you have to admit, you know, their department could have been blown to smithereens or underwater and their units and all their apparatus destroyed and bunker gear and everything else, and they would say, we're doing fine, we're doing fine. So once we got them to admit they needed some help and were able to accept it, we started getting assets. At least today we was able to get about \$2 million worth of assistance to those hurting departments.

TFS DIRECTOR TOM BOGGUS: And we also had -- we put out the word nationally and we had some states that donated equipment and donated trucks and apparatus and things as far away as Virginia and Arizona, so it was a great story. But like I said, you see that little circle up there, recovery, our smart people, one of the things we did, they needed some technology and to help with tracking meeting the needs out there with the resources, and we want to make sure we didn't fall in the cracks. And so the A&M system was involved, but they came to us and asked us and we were -- we'd already jerry-rigged a platform from ESRI, the GIS platform, with ESRI's permission and ESRI's help.

They came in from California to help us to track the trucks and the resource for the staging areas. And then when the chancellor needed some technology support, he came to us and asked us for help. So we put out -- our smart people in the room, and for five days. And five days later they came out with something that would work to help track that. And it sounds like I'm bragging, I am, but I'm Texan. Okay. I'm 100 percent Texan. So if it's a fact, it ain't bragging, and so it happened.

And the other thing that I'm kind of proud of, being part of A&M system, you got all these Ph.D.s and all these smart people, and they come to our small agency with a bunch of can-do, the most can-do people on the face of the earth, and they got it done in five days and it worked and is still working today. So, yeah, I'm pretty proud of what those folks did. The next thing is the challenge came with all of the vegetative debris. When the Cat 4 came in, the first time Harvey came in, you know, you can imagine the vegetative debris along the coast. And we'd never even -- well, I'd heard of them, but I'd never seen or utilized an air curtain burner, air curtain incinerator before. We have now, and we're pretty -- pretty good at it. So between TEEX, and TxDOT, and TFS, we burned -- and they said 80, you know, almost 81 million cubic yards of debris. And we went 24/7 -- well, we didn't burn at night. We did seven days a week, except we took off -- we allowed them to take off for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Other than that, they burned from October to January, February. And it was a great effort, it was a great partnership in the middle of a highway, in the middle of a median. God bless Texas. Never say never. You never know what you're going to get into, but we know air curtain burners and they're great stuff. I tell you, I'm a believer in them now, but I didn't understand what 81,000 cubic yards was. So I went to Google and I started figuring up and I found out pretty close, that's 24,000 pickup loads. Okay. I understand pickup loads. And so that's a bunch of debris. I'm just telling you, there was mountains of it, that the vegetative debris that was burned up by -- with these air curtain burners. All right.

But back to response, which is what we really know. And since last we were together, Texas has burned -- had over 9,700 wildfires that burned about 500,000 acres. We've lost 87 homes during that episode. And remember that, you know, the first -- when I show you where all the people are, there's just people everywhere, and so we've lost 87 homes.

TFS DIRECTOR TOM BOGGUS: But the big number is that we -- we've saved -- you have saved 7,645 homes, and those are important to me because those are Texans that get to go home and sleep in their own beds, all their stuff is still there. Because you know when the wildfire goes through -- a residential fire, y'all get there in time and usually not everything is lost. When a wildfire happens, usually those homes, it's a slab. Everything is lost, and your memories and the things that go along with that in their lives is disrupted. But y'all saved 7,645 homes, and I want to thank you for that, because that's important.

All right. Here's a map. Statewide, we started in the Panhandle, got real dry. When Harvey got through and the rains quit, I mean, it quit in parts of the state and did not see any rains. It got real dry. And so we went -- and we have 160 days -- right now we're at 160 days of straight fire season on the heels of Harvey. And the reason we mark those days is we start counting when we start launching aircraft because that's a little unusual for Texas. You know, when we start launching aircraft, then we say we're not in a normal fire season, this is something different. So I want to take the next few minutes -- and, Gabi, get ready, I'm going to point a lot. Okay. There you go.

We're going to have -- I just want to show you some pictures of activities that we had. We start in the High Plains with wind-driven fires. And you can -- you know, that's what -- that's what gets us going. We have a problem when we start having high winds and you have a lot of fuel, which we had. You'll start seeing that. You saved that one, folks. You folks saved that one. There's one that got to go home. These are just some shots of y'all in action. Okay. Slow down. Slow down. Back up. There we go. I don't ever -- I don't ever quite get used to seeing that in Texas. I mean, we -- you know, really, aircraft is a pretty new deal for Texas. And I -- I still am amazed whenever I see, especially something that big, flying over. And, you know, you got fire trucks and bulldozers, and then you got this jet that comes over and drops retardant. It's pretty cool, but I just -- it's hard to get used to. All right. So we fought the High Plains -- there we go. Keep going, one more. All right. We opened up the seat base in Abilene, so we knew things were still getting -- you know, starting to prolong, we started making arrangements for a long siege. And then about the time things got wrapped up in the grasslands of the High Plains we got to switch to the mountains of West Texas. And so we headed, we took -- got a break in the Panhandle, so we moved folks down to the Davis Mountains, and things were starting to heat up there. And -- but once we got that put to bed, we came back to the High Plains in the Panhandle, moved our stuff 300 miles north, 300 miles southwest, and 300 miles back north. And here's another one that you saved. I love -- I love those shots. The Hill Country, and the western Hill Country, and the Abilene Big Sky Country got involved. And we got that and a little more rain there, so we had to go back. And dry lightning went through Jeff Davis County and it broke out again, so again we had to go there.

TFS DIRECTOR TOM BOGGUS: So I'm going to end my little fire tour with this shot right here, because this is up in the -- the Malek fire in the High Plains because of the smoke plume. This plume-driven fire, not wind, this was a fuel-driven fire, had a plume over 40,000 feet high, produced its own hailstorm, produced its own lightning storm, and it started fires in Oklahoma. It blew stuff over into Oklahoma which is many, many miles away. I got a call from the Oklahoma border service folks and they were telling me that we started, you know, 18 fires over there. I said, you're welcome, you know, we just wanted to share. And so they didn't appreciate it.

But, anyway, let me show you some of the resources that we used. There is a lot of stuff that gets involved when you get into wildfire season, and especially this long of one. But again, you go down to that bottom point there, the aircraft, and look at 2,361 drops, accident-free drops from 2.9 million gallons of water and retardant, so pretty phenomenal stuff. We had TIFMAS involved in the fires as well. We mobilized them a lot this year. And again, it's Texans helping Texans. And really that bottom figure, I think, is so important when you look down there that we -- this year we've provided over 1,000 engines and 4,200 firefighters have come and helped across the state when they've been asked to, a great state asset. We call them our surge source, you know, that we need some -- so when we need them, we need them real bad. We don't need them all -- you know, for a real long time, usually three or four days in wildfire season, then go back home. But when you need them, you need them, and it's great to call Texans helping Texans. All right.

Before you know it, 2019 will be here, and we'll be back in legislative session, and here are some of our concerns: The backlog of 2604 grant is over \$200 million, and -- and that's a concern to us. We've been putting out a lot of stuff, but still the fact that a lot of times you'll start hearing legislators talk about, well, surely, you know, we've done enough, or it's been long enough and we can quit, or whatever. And that's not true because those first trucks are now 16, you know, 17 years old, and -- and there's still a lot of need. We've still got the backlog, like I said, from y'all. Y'all's request was over 200 million for training and for apparatus. So we're not over by a long shot, but it's still the greatest thing in the nation. There's no other state that has what we have, so I appreciate the support from the State, but they need -- you got to remind them. There's a lot of turnover in the legislature as well. Continuous operation tempo for y'all and for us, I finally got the national folks, the national fire people to admit that we're in a -- we have a fire year and not a fire season, because when they say fire season, they mean June to October out west. In the western U.S., they don't even think -- they don't even consider us as having a fire season, although we have more fires than they do, we just don't make the news like somebody -- like our speaker said while ago, and that's a good thing, you know, because -- and I tell the legislators all the time, if all hell is going to break loose, I want to be in Texas, because you folks know how to handle it and know how to take care of your own, and I appreciate the job that y'all do.

TFS DIRECTOR TOM BOGGUS: And that's why you're here this week. We've had \$18.7 million in grants this year, both in the grants program and in the insurance program, and a million dollars going to TIFMAS. Now, we are going to ask for another million for them in an exceptional light. But anyway, y'all's is a great story, so no matter what happens, you know -- and I've heard that this is going to be a Harvey legislation, it's going to be a disaster emergency response legislature, mainly about Harvey, and that's great because y'all are well situated. If they want to talk about emergency response and first responders, then y'all have got a story to tell and we don't have to back up to anybody. So I think it's going to be -- you know, I'm looking forward to again representing y'all and telling your story.

The TIFMAS grant -- I'm sorry. Go back. Like I said, here's some of the things that we've done for them. They've got a 20.7 million backlog in requests as well. It's not 200 million, but it's still a pretty good-sized backlog. So, again, we're going to ask to try to double that. Instead of a million a year, we'd like to have two million a year to go towards that program. All right.

Capacity building, just to brag a little bit and kind of show you where we've been. I told you we have a 200 million outstanding request, but since the program began, there's been \$258 million in grants put out through the history of this program which started in 2002. So 258 million is awesome, and we appreciate that, and I hope you're taking advantage of it, as you can. We've also tried to put in the news, we started a few years ago, about five years ago really trying to push the big tech presentations and getting the word in the media and local media. And you'll see here, the press releases we've put out have resulted in 300 and almost 400 news articles, 215 TV reports, and 31 radio reports. So it's getting out there and that word is getting out there, and I appreciate that. Please, please, you know, if you get any kind of equipment or help that could fulfill our grant program, we'd love -- so let us know about it, and we'd love to get a newspaper. Local newspapers, weekly newspapers, whatever, they love those big check presentations and those photo ops, and it really helps to tell your story and keep you out there. All right. We started -- a few years ago we started -- in 2015 we started a pilot program because we found out and we were getting told that there are some departments out there that couldn't afford to match. It didn't matter if it was 10 percent or it wouldn't matter if it was 1 percent, they couldn't afford to match.

And so we said, all right, we can't mix state money -- you know, we can't use the state money to be state matched, can't match federal with federal. But we thought, okay, we'll take the federal excess property and the FF -- the firefighter program and we'll try to meet that up with the state program. And so what -- and we used the match to be sweat equity from the fire departments, and that's worked extremely well. We've been able to put out 200 engines across the state for those departments that needed it the worst, and so that's been a really good program.

TFS DIRECTOR TOM BOGGUS: It was with y'all's cooperation and your approval, and I appreciate that. It's been really, really beneficial. We get the military truck through the feds and we give them the slip-on unit through the 2604 program, and then the fire department makes it a firefighting apparatus, and so it's worked extremely well. So congratulations on that.

You folks are -- we had the memorial service this morning. Last week we were at a Weatherford firefighter's funeral that died out in West Texas supporting us in the TIFMAS units. And so you're in a dangerous business. And sometimes, you know, you just take it for granted. Please don't. So I do appreciate the insurance programs and insurance companies we have, some that are sponsoring this week here. You're just in a difficult situation, a dangerous business, don't get complacent. But we have some programs to help with vehicle liability insurance and also help with workers' comp through insurance providers. So thank you for that, but just always -- you always keep safety as number one. All right.

I want to end with some news about our predictive services folks telling us what it's going to look like coming up. It's hot. We missed -- somehow June went right to July and August and the weather. And so the temps are expected to be above normal, we know that. Go outside right now. Average precip is going to be either low or about normal during the summer. Drought conditions in part of the state from here west, western part of the Hill Country, go north, you know, south from Kerrville, Fredericksburg, Junction, go up to here and over to the Red River and across to Northeast Texas, and that's who missed the rain, and that's who's going to be cooking for the rest of the summer. And so we expect wildfires to kind of go through that part of the world. It's -- wildfire activity be a little bit higher than normal. Here's kind of -- you can kind of see that curve, that shape over there on that right-hand chart. So what we got last week really helped us. The monsoons are going to be normal through West Texas, out, you know, in the Davis Mountains and Big Bend country. That's good news, but some of us it's going to be a tough summer. But good news, and I'll end with this, the weather folks, you know, who are getting paid to be wrong, you know, which is a great job, I guess, but they are telling us that we're going -- we have about a 50 percent or better chance of having El Nino. And, you know, El Nino is good for Texas, so it's going to suck for California and probably Oregon, but it's great for us. That means we could have a better than average rainfall and cooler temperatures in the fall and winter, and I'm looking forward to that.

But most of all, I just want to tell y'all again, thank you for all you do. I appreciate the job that you're doing, and I appreciate the partnership that we have, even though, you know, you didn't treat me well today, but I'll -- I'm going to go hold my granddaughter, and I'll forget all about it by tomorrow. I promise. And I'll try not to hold it against you. But thank y'all. Appreciate it. (Applause.)

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: I'd like to just say that we thank for the work you done with us, and you're a great partner, and that's just a little token of our appreciation. Thank you. Next up is TEEX update, Director Gary Sera.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Let's take a break --

TEEX DIRECTOR GARY SERA: Yes. Hurry up and leave, Tom. This will be the last time I get to say this to this very distinguished crowd out here, howdy.

AUDIENCE: Howdy.

TEEX DIRECTOR GARY SERA: I'm Gary Sera. I'm the director of the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service known as TEEX. You've heard a lot about Harvey. I'll give a brief recap of what our role was with Harvey, talk a little bit about TEEX. I'm not going to say a whole lot about the best fire school in the world because Chief Moore will talk a lot about that. But basically, on August 25th of 2017, all of our lives changed. We were deployed for about 30 days as Texas Task Force 1. We saved 30,000 people, and these are people that were in imminent danger of losing life or limb. Those of you that participated in Texas Task Force 1 out there, I know there's some representation, thank you very much for what you did. You are true heroes of the day, and I wanted to give you a round of applause. (Applause.)

So something else happened after August 25th, I got a phone call basically saying that our chancellor or leader of the A&M system, John Sharp, was named the commissioner of Rebuild Harvey -- Rebuild Texas, and all of a sudden, our lives really changed, and they haven't -- they haven't stopped since then. In partnership with Texas Forest Service and with Ag Extension, we became a -- very, very active in recovery, and still are to the point where, the next session comes up, we will be seeking some big support from legislature to execute the things we learned in the recovery operation, and to see if -- even though I think it was many, many people that did great work, we can do a better job next time during the recovery phase because there's still a lot of people. I mean, as much as hard work as we undertook, you got to feel for the people on the Gulf Coast from Aransas all the way to Beaumont who really suffered and who are still suffering because of that. We're working towards that and we're hoping that Recovery Texas will be among the best in the country on doing something, not if the next big hurricane hits, but when the next hurricane hits we'll be even better prepared.

Along those lines, what we're also seeking to do in the next legislative section is expand the regional task force system with an emphasis on the six DPS regions, but we want to make sure -- I think the events last weekend in the Valley indicated that we think one of the priorities ought to be to deploy more equipment and resources for the Valley. From a Texas Task Force 1 standpoint, it's hard to get there. So we think it's better to have resources and assets in place in the Valley when it happens so that the response time could be much reduced.

TEEX DIRECTOR GARY SERA: And that's something we'll be seeking help in the next legislative session. So with that being said, we'll be seeking your help in helping us get that message across to the legislature. As an agency, the A&M Extension Service, TEEX, is doing very well. We are serving about 170,000 participants every year. We have a goal by 2030 to more than double that with 300,000, mainly because, as I tell the people at TEEX, our mission is so valiant, so solid that I just want to do more of it. So we're on a mission to be able to really expand our services. Finally, what I want to say is, 11 years ago I was -- we were in Amarillo, Texas at my first SFFMA conference. And I was a rookie up there, pretty nervous, not from the emergency response sector. I'm an engineer by trade and by experience, so please forgive me for that.

I have to say that the embrace, the support, especially from the SFFMA, and from Chris Barron and the presidents has been amazing. You really helped me. And as I depart -- I'm leaving August 31st. I'm retiring. And we actually went out and bought an Airstream and we bought a -- we didn't have anything to pull it with, so we bought a truck. So actually, I probably need to work longer to afford this stuff. So we're going to be hitting the road as a family and doing some things that we've always wanted to do. So I want to thank you all personally for all the support, and let you know that the next director of TEEX will have the best job in the world. Thank you very much.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Gary, in appreciation for you being such a great partner and working with us for this time, we want to -- we wanted -- we want to present you with this plaque. It was made and we want you to enjoy your retirement.

TEEX DIRECTOR GARY SERA: Thank you very much. Wow.
(Applause.)

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: All right. While they're getting their picture done, next up, ESTI, Mr. Robert Moore, Chief Moore.

ESTI DIRECTOR CHIEF ROBERT MOORE: Good afternoon. I'll apologize to y'all before I get started, I speak a lot slower than Chad does, and Gary and Tom, so just bear with me. It takes a while for me to -- for my brain to comprehend. Man, that guy was awesome, wasn't he? What I could comprehend. But anyway, I wanted to just talk a little bit about the fire school. How many of y'all are guest instructors at the fire school? A lot of people in here that do support the fire school, and we really, really do appreciate that. You know, we're a big -- we try to be a very big supporter of the SFFMA. The SFFMA is a big supporter of the fire school, and we do appreciate that. And as Chris said, you know, I saw we are a gold sponsor now, so that's great. How many of my staff -- TEEX staff, would y'all stand up for a minute, please? (Applause.) And all these guys spent a lot of time during this conference, you know, setting up the video and the conferencing, and teaching classes, and things like that, so I really do appreciate everything that they do.

ESTI DIRECTOR CHIEF ROBERT MOORE: As far as Gabi, you -- are you the -- are you the button pusher over there? Okay. Good. You know, we do have an advisory board and we've got quite a few members that attend or are a part of SFFMA also on the advisory board. Gary currently serves as chairman, but as he said, he will be retiring shortly. And congratulations, Gary, on that. You know, he's retiring and makes me start thinking about it a little bit. But, you know, I'm very appreciative of what he's done for the fire school since he has been the TEEEX director, and also what he has done for SFFMA. So let's give Gary one more round of applause. (Applause.)

As far as -- you know, again, we've been a longstanding partner. We want to continue that, being that longstanding partner with the SFFMA. You know, we currently are the testing provider for y'all's certification program. You know, hopefully y'all are not having any problems in that area, but if you are, I need to hear about it. I need to understand what -- what your challenges are, what your problems are in that. We want to be that unbiased third-party so that your certification is viewed as valid as any of the other certifications that are out there. So, you know, let me know. We're going to continue to do that and we'll continue on as long as the SFFMA wants us to do that.

You know, this year we've already had the TFOP or the leadership school back in January. Our next one, the 11th, will be on the 19 -- or in 2019 at Frisco, Texas. If you remember, we started off in Frisco, and we started swapping it back and forth from San Marcos to Frisco, and this year -- this next year will be in Frisco. In 2018 school or in January, we had -- 269 people attended that symposium. It's grown every year and we -- we will promise you we will keep it going every year and keep that free tuition for that that we have offered in the past. So please, if you haven't attended or even if you have, come back to it. It's really a

Annual schools, the spring school, again, we had a -- we had a good increase in the spring school, 389 students. You know, we hope that's a sign of things to come, but, you know, we had a very good spring school. And then if you look at the -- the arson conference, you know, it maintained at 251. And, again, it was also a very good conference that was held in Austin. All right.

Annual schools, you know, for -- for last year we had our 52nd, or we're going to have our 52nd Annual Spanish School. Our Spanish school is suffering, let me just say that right now. We're doing everything we can to get the numbers back up, but not sure where it's going to go. Now, what does that mean? Why am I talking to you about the Spanish school? Well, SFFMA has an international presence out there in the Spanish-speaking countries, international program. And so, you know, it -- it does affect not only TEEEX, but it affects the SFFMA if eventually that school no longer is offered. I'm not saying that's what we're going to do, but at some point in time we will have to make a hard decision on that school.

ESTI DIRECTOR CHIEF ROBERT MOORE: The 56th industrial school, you can take a look at it. Last year they had 610 students. That was down. We're doing what we need to do to get that back up, and I'll give you some numbers here in a few minutes for preregistration for this next year's school, but, you know, that's another one of our annual schools. Now, how many of y'all think we only do -- we only burn in September or in July? How many of y'all think that? You would not believe the number of firefighters out there that said, hey, TEEX fire school is only in July. Okay. Just to let you know a little bit, you know, we -- we do have schools year-round, and we trained over 104,000 students last year, ESTI did, TEEX-ESTI, the fire school did. So, you know, I mean, we're -- we're working very hard to give you low-cost training. If you look at Frisco, free training. And try to make sure that you have that ability. It's out there.

The 89th Municipal School will happen, you know, again, in July. And last year we had 1558. It was down. It was kind of a trend last year; all the schools were down. And, again, we're hoping to get that back up. Okay. The current enrollment for this year so far, as you can see, Spanish school is still hurting. 182 students are preregistered right now. Industrial school we're up to 528, which is a very good number. That's ahead of where we've been in the past, so we're hoping to see really good things there. And if you look at your municipal school, we're at 1,140 already preregistered. Again, it's up. It's about 200 students up compared to this date last year. Now, one thing that we did start is online registration for the -- the municipal school. This was our first year with that. So I'm hoping that the increase is not just due to online registration, that it's going to continue, and we're going to continue seeing better numbers.

But, you know, if you haven't registered for summer school, please do so. Please come in and -- you're going to be in -- you know, the instruction is going to be from your own -- from your own folks, okay, members of the SFFMA that come in as guest instructors. We're trying to go to the 21st century, I guess, you know, with online registration, online certificates, online -- you know, all that electronic stuff. I'm electronically challenged, I'll tell y'all that right now. You know, he was talking about Facebook and Twitters and this and that, and, you know, my Twitter has been broke for many, many years, okay, due to age, part of it, and due to electronically challenged. All right.

Grants and stuff like that, I want to make sure that you don't forget about that. Okay. You know, we talk about the cost of training, but there is the ability out there to get free training. 2604 money from the Forest Service, how many of y'all know about that? Not everybody raised their hand. Okay. But you can apply for a grant through the Forest Service through 2604 money and you can get free training at Texas A&M. Okay. Last year during annual schools alone there was \$729,000 worth of grants from the Texas Fire Service. That's huge. Tom and them have about \$2 million a year that they set aside for training for the 2604. Use it. Make sure that you use it.

ESTI DIRECTOR CHIEF ROBERT MOORE: Start a legislative session. You know, if we can't show the need, especially after the Hurricane Harvey situation and the cost of the state, well, they're going to be looking for places to take money from to help pay for the recovery processes and all of that. Please use that money.

Hazardous materials and stuff like that, your site TDM. TDM has a grant, it's a federal grant. We have been doing the course delivery for quite a few years, you can go on Preparing Texas website, PreparingTexas.org, and register for classes for free. Okay. I want to make sure that y'all know about that. If you don't know that, please get with one of our TEEEX folks, and they can help you understand better that opportunity.

Then we have a TxDOT training. This year was \$469,000. And what that is, is for ECA and EMT training at your site. It's for -- it's originally established for rural counties in Texas, rural Texas. If you need a class, let us know. We'll figure out how to make that happen, okay, let me just say that. So, please, know that there is free training out there for you. All right. During the legislative year or the summer before a legislative session starts, the SFFMA sponsors a legislative day, okay, at the municipal -- annual municipal fire school. This year is going to be the 25th. July the 25th we'll have legislators come in through the fire school. They'll also come into the Forest Service. They'll see presentations on what we do, and then they'll have an opportunity to go out and talk to you that are attending the fire school to talk about what your needs are and things like that.

So just -- just know that that's going to happen this year. Legislative session starts in January, so it will happen this year. And we need your help and your support out there when a legisla- -- when one of the legislators come and ask you a question, make sure you give them an honest and good answer. If it's about 2604 money, as Tom Boggus said, that might be a challenge keeping all that money this year. Okay. The legislature may say, hey, we're going to pull some of that to pay for this other stuff. We need your help in making sure that that doesn't happen. Okay. New and on the horizon, again, we went to online registration. I'm happy to say that it is working better than what I thought it would. Okay. I did have some concerns, but Jeff and Rachel -- is Rachel in here? Has she stepped out?

Rachel Moore, okay, let me make sure everybody knows who she is, because she has done an excellent job in helping get this online registration stuff going, helping people when they have problems doing their registration. So she's done an excellent job. Thanks, Rachel. Appreciate it. And again, Rachel Moore, Robert Moore, no kin, make sure y'all understand that now. I think she's already had one phone call that somebody thought she was my daughter. You know, well, what -- what's her saying, it's like Smith and Jones. Smith, Jones, and Moore, okay, there's a bunch of us out there. Again, Rachel and Jeff, Jeff -- Jeff Rhodes -- is Jeff in here?

ESTI DIRECTOR CHIEF ROBERT MOORE: There's Jeff sitting beside her. Yeah, it's the dynamic duo right there. Okay. Jeff has come in and taken over as the annual school's manager for this year schools. And you know, we're trying to take the schools to another level. Okay. We are trying to do that. And so Jeff has had some great ideas and stuff to do that. The new student portal, has everybody got your new -- your student ID number? Okay. It's very important. If you don't and you're going to go to one of our schools, sign up on the student portal to get your ID number. And then that will be your personal ID number, and you'll be able to do stuff. Like if you lose certificates, you can go back and you can reprint certificates. Classes that you've had, you can get a history of the classes that you've taken. All right. So please do that. Again, if you don't know how to do that, get with one of our TEEEX staff, and we can help you in making that happen. One of the new things that you're going to see this year and we try to -- we try to do something new every year. Well, we have what they call a protective housing project. I call it a dome simulator. Inside that building you have the doors that's all the -- the big doors that raise up and all that.

Go ahead and go to the next picture. And you'll see that we have an elevated platform the length of that building. And up on that platform are all the different types of protective housings or domes that you would see on transportation rail cars and things. It's designed where we can cause those to leak liquid, vapor, whatever that we need them to leak, and you can get up there and you can work on those domes in your Level A suits or whatever you need to be in, but you can also get the other people in your class up there. Instead of trying to cram 10 people up on top of a rail car in that little bitty space, this gives the opportunity for everybody to be involved in the class.

Okay. Go ahead -- and that's what you'll see up on top. You'll see all the different types of rail car domes that you can work on. Okay. Memorial wall, currently we have 16 names going on the memorial wall. You know, it seems like year after year after year we -- we kind of hit that average of 16, 15 to 20, let's say, names going on the memorial wall. We will have our memorial service that Wednesday morning of annual schools. And, you know, hopefully you'll all be able to be there as students and attend that memorial service. With that said, I just want to say thank you, thank you for the opportunity for us to work with the SFFMA. Thank you for the support that the SFFMA gives us, and, you know, we're here to serve you. Okay. We're here to try to make your training opportunities easier, more quality, better training. So just let us know what we can do. That's what I'm going to ask. Let us know what we can do. Thanks a lot. Appreciate it. (Applause.)

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Robert, as a token of our appreciation, we have a little something for you. And we appreciate the partnership we have with you and everything you've done for us. (Applause.) All right. I'd like to ask Chaplain Ben Kennedy and Barbara Marzean of VFIS Texas to come up and bring us the results of our SFFMA firefighter of the year and EMS responder of the year.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you. I'm not sure where Barb is, but -- you little sneaker. Okay. I thought maybe I was going to get to do it all.

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: We're going to do this real fast. This year our firefighter of the year and EMS responder of the year, we're grateful that we had the people that were nominated, but, folks, I'm going to chastise you a little bit before we give it up. We had 9 out of 16 districts send in nominees. The rules are posted on the website. They're simple. The same is true for the EMS responder of the year, and I'm not even going to go into that one, but we're in danger of losing that one if people don't start nominating folks. Folks, these are big honors. Why can districts not take a few minutes and care about the people in the fire service. It's not -- doesn't necessarily have to be what somebody did so great today. It can be over a lifetime of service. Take some time, honor the people in your district, and make the people that are having to choose the firefighter and EMS responders of the year, make them have to chew on their fingernails trying to figure out what we're going to do and make this the toughest committee that we've got to be on. So that being said, please pick up your feet and get folks nominated for responder of the year. Right now I'm going to go ahead and name -- name the past winners. I'm not going to -- not going to name those this year that -- well, I am too. 1986 is Jay L. "Jody" Evans from Eden, deceased; Charles Ray Smith, 1987, Cedar Hill; 1988, Tim Watson, Haskell, deceased; 1989, Les Collins, El Campo, deceased; 1990, W -- Clayton W. "Bill" Day, Kermit; 1991, Jerry Lee Rust, Del Rio; 1992, Gary A. Tilton, deceased; 1993, Alfred E. "Freddy" Gerik, deceased, from West; 1994, Carl Teaff, Sonora; 1995, Mike Hafer, Richmond; 1996, Johnny Merrill, Winters; 1997, Alex Kvapil, Ballinger; 1998, Donnie Pickard, Ovilla; 1999, Fred Ramirez, Raymondville; 2000, Don Pullin, Refugio; 2001, Jerry Mutschler, Seminole; 2002, Kenneth Kvapil, Ballinger; 2003, Kip Workman, La Vernia; 2004, Matthew Cornell, Richmond; 2005, Patrick Hlavaty, El Campo; 2006, Perry Thomson, Jr., Anson; 2007, Ricardo Saldana, Mission; 2008, Anthony Cargile, Santa Fe; 2009, Ubaldo B. Perez, Edinburg; 2010, Richard Drewry, Edinburg; 2011, Richard Van Winkle, Alvarado; 2012, Clemente Sanchez, Sinton; 2013, Dennis Gage, Kilgore; 2014, David Wade, Deer Park; 2015, Shawn Snider, Edinburg; 2016, Curtis Brown, Dalhart; 2017, Alonzo Morales, Jr., Goliad, who was runner-up as the VFIS firefighter of the year. So congratulations, Alonzo.

EMS responder of the year, in 2012 the inaugural was Karen Pickard from Ovilla; 2013 was Edward Konick, III, from Alvarado; 2014, James Carr, Decatur; 2015, Gerald Weniger from McQueeney -- that's easy for you to say; 2016, Timothy Keirn from Chisholm Trail; and in 2017 it was Scott White from Hartley.

I am now going to turn this over to Barbara to introduce the nominees from this year, and she will also introduce the winner, because she's here.

VFIS OF TEXAS DIRECTOR BARBARA MARZEAN: I'm here. I'm here, not to worry. And will the previous winners for the firefighter of the year and the EMS responder of the year, we failed to take a picture this morning after the breakfast. So if -- after we announce the winners, if we could meet over here so we could take some photos before you guys head out.

So on behalf of VFIS of Texas, it's our pressure and privilege to once again sponsor this annual firefighter of the year award. This year we had nine nominees for firefighter of the year. To be nominated for this award and to be selected from all of the firefighters in the state of the Texas is a very huge honor, and we commend all of the nominees for being selected and recognized by their districts. This is a tough job for our committee, but one that we take seriously to select one deserving firefighter to represent the great state of Texas.

Now I'm going to call the names of the nominees. If you'll please all come forward to be recognized. Dennis Bailey, Sunset Fire Department, Red River; Tim Bogisch, McQueeney Fire Department, Guadalupe District; Mable Bird, Natalia Fire Department, Wintergarden District; Clyde Cresta, Ballinger Fire Department, Hill Country District; Steven Loving, Ingleside Fire Department, South Central District; John Robinson, Retreat Fire Department, North Texas District; Josh Sebastian, Brenham Fire Department, Central District; Alexander Smith, Baird Fire Department, Midwest District; and lastly, Randy Tallant, Shamrock Fire Department, Panhandle District.

So these are the nominees for the firefighter of the year award this year. Let's give them all a round of applause. (Applause.) The three finalists that we selected are Dennis Bailey from Sunset, Tim Bogisch from McQueeney, and Steven Loving from Ingleside.

As always, selecting one winner is a very, very tough decision, and one that we don't take lightly. We drilled these -- I mean interviewed these firemen yesterday. We put them in the hot seat and we spent a great deal of time trying to decide which was the right decision in selecting this year's firefighter of the year.

We're very proud to present to the winner and their department a \$1,000 check from VFIS of Texas, and a very, very nice helmet trophy from Casco Industries. It gives me great pleasure to announce this year's firefighter of the year is Steven Loving. Steven. (Applause.)

FIRE CHIEF STEVEN LOVING: First off, I'd like to say thank you to the SFFMA. Sorry my voice is a little shaky. I wasn't sure how all this was going to turn out, and I'm extremely honored to be in the company of all the other gentlemen that y'all read off earlier and the previous winner of this award and this honor. I'd like to thank VFIS for offering this and continuing to. Excuse me. I'd like to thank my community, my fire department, my family over there in the corner, which all of them currently are firefighters with us. I'd like to say thank you to the great state of Texas and to all the firefighters who get up every day and continue to do this as volunteers, as paid, as ESD, it doesn't matter because we're all here to do the same job, and that's protect our citizens. Thank you, folks. (Applause.) Thank you, folks, very, very much.

VFIS OF TEXAS DIRECTOR BARBARA MARZEAN: This is now our seventh year to sponsor the distinguished EMS responder of the year award. As with the firefighter of the year award, this award honors and recognizes outstanding EMS responders for their leadership, accomplishments, and involvement as an emergency service responder. This year we received one nomination for this award. As Ben said, we need to pick this up. Next year we need to receive 16 nominations for the EMS responder of the year and the firefighter of the year award. There's no reason why we don't get those every year because there's so many deserving individuals out there that have such distinguished careers that we want to recognize them. With that said, I want to bring up our 2018 EMS responder of the year nominee, Terry Hanks from Friberg-Cooper VFD in the Red River District. (Applause.)

So even though we received one nomination, we did review it, we did interview him anyway, put him through the task, and we did make sure he was worthy of this award. He's receiving a \$1,000 check from VFIS of Texas and a beautiful eagle trophy that's sponsored by Government Capital. Congratulations, Terry.

MR. TERRY HANKS: I want to thank SFFMA and VFIS for this award. I appreciate it very much. I wish there was more guys whose names were submitted, like she was talking about earlier. I'm -- with God's grace, maybe I can serve my community as a firefighter and an EMS responder for the next five or seven years before I get too old to do some of this stuff, because age does creep up on you after a while and your abilities -- or my abilities are getting less and less. But I do thank everybody who had a part in this very much. Thank you very, very much. Appreciate it. (Applause.)

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: All right. Congratulations to those winners today. It's really remarkable to see those -- to see the accomplishments those people have done throughout the state and this association. It's really remarkable, and I'm proud of each and every one of them. Next we're going to have an update from NFPA. We have with us today the Southwest Regional Director, Robert Sullivan.

NFPA REGIONAL DIRECTOR ROBERT SULLIVAN: Thank you, Chief. Good afternoon, everybody. And congratulations to Steve and to Terry. Those are great honors. I'm Bob Sullivan, like Chief said. I'm the new Southwest Regional Director of NFPA. If any of you knew Randy Safer, he retired in December, and I'm taking over his position. I come to you with 31 years of service in the fire service, both as a firefighter and a fire marshal. I started in Pennsylvania many years ago, spent a couple years in Massachusetts, and have been in Colorado for the last 17 years, and that's where I came from today.

And usually when people hear that I came from Colorado, they want to know if I brought samples of marijuana with me. And I say, well, I tried to but they didn't quite make it all the way here, so I'll try again next time. But as the Southwest Regional Director, I cover eight states; Texas, of course, and Oklahoma, and Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico is my region, here to help any way we can, hope to get involved with training and all those sorts of things.

NFPA REGIONAL DIRECTOR ROBERT SULLIVAN: I had the opportunity to meet Chief Richardson back in May, and we had a great chat about the Texas Fire Service, and he invited me to your conference today. So thank you very much for having me. I'll keep it real brief. I'm just going to talk about a couple of things. First off, I know sometimes within NFPA standards sometimes there's a little bit of learning and burning. And I just want to let you know, in case you didn't know, that everybody in this room can be part of the NFPA standards making process. Some people know that, some people don't. It's a public process that's open to everybody. You can go on the website and provide comments and public input on any of our standards any time.

You don't have to be a member of the fire service; you don't have to be a member of NFPA. It's free access for everybody. I would encourage you to get involved because it's your standards. The other thing I want to mention with that is, as an NFPA employee, I'm not allowed to be involved in the standards making process. The standards are made by technical committees that are made up of your peers.

And I'm curious to know, is there anybody in the room who's on an NFPA technical committee today? One? Okay. Thank you for your service. We always encourage more people to get involved, but whether you're on a technical committee or not, you can always go on the website and provide public input, so I encourage you to do that. I know committees are looking for input from the people who use our standards every day. One standard that you might have heard about that has just come out as of May 1st is the NFPA 3000 dealing with active shooter preparation plans. Of course, you know, tragedies like Sutherland Springs and Santa Fe here recently, Las Vegas, Parkland, many others have led to the development of a standard.

And it's a shame that in today's society we have to be talking about a standard that deals with those kind of situations, but that's where we are. And the technical committee that made this standard is made up of law enforcement and fire service and homeland security, FBI, and many other agencies all came together to provide this standard as kind of like a framework for the first responder community to use to develop plans on how to respond to active shooter situations. I will be giving a presentation on it over in Flower Mound on Tuesday morning, if anybody will be attending that. We'll get into a lot of detail as to what's in the standard and how you can apply it. And certainly, if you have any questions about it, feel free to contact me at anytime. My contact information is on -- on the website. Just a couple other standards that we're working on, energy storage systems are starting to become a big thing today with strings on the power grid, we're developing a standard for that. We're developing a standard for -- guide for community health care programs. If you have any paramedicine programs or things like that, standards that has to do with that. NFPA 1300 will deal with community risk reduction, 1802 is going to deal with portable two-way radios for firefighters and first responders, 1971 has some changes for protective gear, 2400 is being developed for drones.

NFPA REGIONAL DIRECTOR ROBERT SULLIVAN: And then, of course, NFPA is involved in many other initiatives, including residential fire sprinklers, firefighter health and wellness, including cancer research, and many other issues. And speaking of marijuana, yes, we're dealing in the marijuana field now also with all the fire code regulations that go along with that. So that's my update for now. I'll be around after the meeting if anybody wants a card. I hope to see you at future trainings, and thanks again for having me at your conference. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: And, Mr. Sullivan, we have a little token of our appreciation for coming and giving your report today. Next up -- next report is a report from the finance committee past president, Patrick Hlavaty.

PAST PRESIDENT PATRICK HLAVATY: Good afternoon, everyone. I know there's been some questions during this conference about dues. And as the finance chairman, I'd like to include that in my financial report, but before I do that, I'd like to call upon First Vice President Mike Richardson to kind of give you a lead-in to what I'm fixing to say.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: There -- today they brought up that there were some questions, and we've gone through each of the districts, as everyone knows, we've talked about this dues increase and what were the reasons for it. So they asked that we just clarify again the reasons one more time, and I kind of took, also, one question out of those that we'll go over some of them over the next few days, but it's a good example.

First off was we looked at our -- our finances over the last couple of years, and we've seen that steady downward trend and -- on what we had leftover at the end of the year. Today is just like any other day. I mean, it's a business that we run and we have to have the revenue to equal the services we provide. We've cut back our budget for several years in a row, and we just didn't see where we could do that any more, and continue to provide you with service. One interesting number that we talked about was that right now at your \$30 due rate, the association, what you get back from that, our budget spent on you through the course of a year is \$42.97. And so, you know, that's operating at a net loss on -- on our standard sections of revenue.

Now we have other revenue, other revenue that are sales, some other small elements that help to make that up, but as -- as was talked about earlier, you know, we're short on revenue sales. Our revenue sales have been dropping off. We're down about \$300,000 this year on those sales. So -- and it's not healthy. And most of you in here, most of you are fire chiefs or you've had some administrative responsibility in a fire department, and it's -- it's the same. When talking about those two things, to me, is the same as whether you are -- or your taxation in your city or your county, you have property tax and you have sales tax. If -- if you build your budget every year simply, period, on property tax -- I mean on sales tax, you know that that can fluctuate and it doesn't
16 give you a solid base in which to budget each and every year.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Same thing here. Our solid base budget each and every year must be our membership dues. It must be something we know we have a relatively steady form of revenue. So looking at the fact that we're, again, spending \$42.97 per person, we felt that we needed to go to the \$50 due rate. And what does that do, what we looked at it doing in our plan. We actually -- we've been asked do we have a three-year spending plan on it. We actually have a five-year plan on it.

Now, first off, the main thing for this is to take care of -- more than anything is maintenance and operations of this organization. We haven't had a dues increase for maintenance and operations in -- somebody -- 17 years. We did raise the dues. I know what you're thinking. We raised the dues for constructing the building. And it is -- it is specifically earmarked that it was for constructing the building and for the debt service. It doesn't go to our daily maintenance and operations. So think about that. 17 years ago was last increase, you know. What -- what is your own house or your own business, what's changed in that amount of time? Are you still on that same budget? So we had to bring that forward. We had to bring that forward and we had to look at that as how are we going to get ourselves on solid ground. We want to be able to do the things that we've done. One thing -- and I know all of you in the district meetings heard me talk about this pretty solid.

The two things we do mostly in this association, the two most important things, one is we have a certification program. Certification program to give your training and your -- your operation in this business credibility. Number two, and not necessarily second, is legislative activity. Each -- each buy-in every two years, you know the legislature goes into session, and we have a robust response to that each and every time. And we go in there to, one, bring forward ideas like 2604, like a couple other grant programs, we bring those ideas forward to serve the volunteers and combination officers in this state. We also -- which you may not know because we spend a great deal of time sometimes, there are other businesses, organizations that our -- our vision and mission in our organization and theirs don't necessarily align. And they seek to get legislation passed to fit that alignment for them. Well, it hurts us or it can hurt us. It's not to say they went in there and intentionally hurt us in that legislation, but it can. We have to have a measured -- a hard monitored position in that legislative activity. To me, this is probably -- probably about the most important thing that protects you, of course, many years. You-all remember the last few years where we've had problems where we were going to be regulated completely, and we fought that where we didn't have protection for our firefighters, that where -- last session where they were going to remove part of the 2604. Since it had been sitting there, and had a fund balance, they were going to take part of that fund balance and move it into other uses, which we worked to protect that. So it's very important that we -- we are out there as a legislative voice for you. That is a significant cost.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: We're actually a little bit behind this year on getting there, and we've recently got -- got our representation to help us work. We still need you to work with that too. Just as an aside, you've got to make -- get relationships with your representatives and your senators in your area, your state people, and get a close relationship with those people you deal with, and have them to understand that you're the best return on investment on anything that they can spend down there in Austin because you're volunteer firefighters. You're giving a whole lot for very little in that budget, and they ought to be willing to spend a ton of money on you.

We also are looking at our building being a little bit old. We've got a little bit more maintenance issues on it after a few years, and we're looking at extending some membership benefits. They're looking at going to \$10,000 accidental death and dismemberment, on-duty/off-duty with severe burn policy. Staff, we've been cutting staff. At one point we had nine, and we're down to six. And to tell you the truth, I mean, I was in the board meeting when we got down to six; probably a mistake. Probably a mistake going to that six, and I think we can tell you that at this point, because what are we lacking right now? We're barely able to keep up. Each person in an office really is responsible for 3,500 of you out there that we -- that many people by only six people, having to deal with your daily needs, phone calls and all that and trying to service you is difficult.

The one thing we don't have that I think is very important, we don't have an outreach, because long-term, let's look at this, if we -- if we -- we can raise our dues and these dues are well within reason of other types of organizations, but we don't want to keep doing that. So what do we do to fix that? We got to get our numbers up, folks. I don't know how many of you remember when I campaigned for 4th vice president, that was one thing I kept saying that we had just done a study prior to that that there are 30,000 volunteer firefighters out there in the state of Texas that don't belong to this association, on estimate. That's a shame on us, that we ought to be out there, and so that they see the importance to this to the volunteer firefighter and bring them into the fold of this organization. Yet, also, 30,000 new members or 15,000 new members gives us a tremendous amount of power. So we're looking at that we probably went down too far by one, and we need to get that one position back that we have a service and outreach person out there helping us to keep those numbers up so that we don't have to keep coming back and doing dues increases.

And lastly, we have no reserve fund. Our association runs on a net zero basis at this time. So if something were to happen, any large scale emergencies in the operation of our organization, there's no way to fund that without coming to you like we just did with the line-of-duty death fund that we don't have a way to sustain that at the moment so we need someone to donate for it. We should, just like in your organizations if you're -- especially if you're in any sort of government, we should have some sort of reserve funding in here.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: And we're just looking at trying to do about a 60-day cycle at this time. Long-term, certainly with our strategic plan, we should get that stretched out. Right now we're trying to get that built over three years to a 60-day. So the first thing we'll do in year one is hire legislative representative, add the AD&D, add a budget line for 60-day reserve fund and start setting that aside, and hire that one person to do outreach. Year two, we'd maintain legislative representation staff, put a quarter of the increase in a 60-day reserve account, allocate funds to future build out. Future build out, that's the upper floor in our headquarters. It's just a shell right now. We'd like to build it out at some point, and then lease that space out to a partner organization of some sort to where we would be able to have revenue from that second floor and -- but we want -- certainly want someone in

there that shares our values. And this is the plan that goes out one to five years. I can assure you none of us up here want to raise dues, none of us wanted to -- don't want to raise our own dues and -- but, you know, we're trying to run this in a prudent business fashion to make sure you have the services you need. And those were the questions they asked me to present today.

PAST PRESIDENT PATRICK HLAVATY: Thank you, Mike. The board asked me to include one of the members of the executive board here to be part of the financial report, which I gladly agreed to because of the fact that they work with these numbers on a daily basis, and they're the ones that ultimately make the final decision on what we do. I'd like to give you some numbers, just to show you what our assets and liabilities are.

Currently, we have assets of about \$564,000, but with that it includes, like, prepaid expenses, inventory, accounts receivable, et cetera, that we -- that's not really money money, but that's money we've spent, but yet it is a current asset. We do have an operating account, about 408,000. But if you don't have the income, that number will shrink in a hurry, and there are a lot of expenses out there that got to be covered, and it will be coming out of that particular account. As far as property and equipment, we have roughly \$3,492,000. That gives us total assets of a little over 4 million. Now, you're probably thinking, \$4 million, woo, we're worth a lot of money, man, we don't need no dues increase, look what we got. Well, let me tell you, folks, we got a liability of a little over \$2 million worth of loans that we got to pay for that building, so that cuts that total assets down tremendously. So you don't have all what you think you got in that 4 million until you pay the note off. So that kind of gives you an idea of what kind of assets and liabilities we have. And I'd like to touch base a little bit on the dues.

I know that I hate dues increases, but sometimes it's a must to continue operations. Like Mike said, we're down in sales \$300,000. We got to make it up somewhere, folks. Increasing the dues is -- is one avenue. And I think the board is committed to look at other areas to gain revenue so in future years we don't have to increase dues again.

PAST PRESIDENT PATRICK HLAVATY: Not saying it will pass, but if it don't pass, we're in a little bit of trouble. Any of you folks that own a business knows that as your expenses go up, you have to increase your price on goods sold. Your customers might not like it, and if they don't pay, you don't operate anymore, you got to shut the door. And that's what's going to happen here if we don't get this -- these dues passed. I'm going to bring you back in history. When I first got appointed to the finance committee, it was prior to the El Paso convention by Wendy Acosta, which was our president at that time.

Boy, I went to the first finance committee meeting, I looked at the financial statement, and I wanted to turn in my resignation. We had \$105,000 worth of debt and only 100,000 in the savings account. That don't balance out too good. How we were operating I have no clue because I had just got on the board. But the finance committee made a recommendation to the board that we pay that debt off with that savings account and start from ground zero, which we did. We even passed the hat at that convention to collect money to operate. Then we started a new system where you pay every six months so we could accumulate funds to operate, and we took off from there.

Well, we were going down a little bit again, and we got fortunate enough to get with this telemarketing group, which paid us a lot of money, and we really was running then. Well, the telemarketing deal kind of faded out because of all the complaints and government regulations, so that dried up. And we had to find other avenues to create some income to operate, and through the years, we did well. But the Internet and the Amazons and all them folks has created a hardship on our sales of books or whatever we sell, so that's why we're down \$300,000. So if you want to keep this association functioning, think about it when it comes Wednesday, Okay. Thanks. That's my report.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Pat. Next up is the president's report, President Harvie Cheshire.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: All right. Before we get started, everybody stand. Stretch up, stretch outside, careful, careful. Let some blood rush back into other areas, because when your behind goes numb, your brain goes numb, right? Okay. Everybody take a deep breath and release and sit. Thank you. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to disturb your nap, Chief. Sorry about that. Okay. I'm going to make my comments brief. I know we're all itching to get to the hospitality rooms here in just a little bit. And I can certainly appreciate that because my hospitality room is going to be in 1915. That's the room number, not the year, okay, just to let you know. I want to start off by saying that if you would have told me back on January 17th, 1977, that I would be standing here today addressing you, the membership, as president of the SFFMA, I would have just shook my head and, man, you're just sadly disillusioned. Okay. But I am very, very humbled and I'm very honored to have been your president during these past -- during this past year. I'm going to touch on three subjects, because there are a lot of things, but I want to reiterate one thing that I've been saying all the way through this, it's not about me.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: It's never been about me. It's about we. Okay. It's about us. So the first thing I want to talk to you about, and I kind of alluded to this a little bit earlier, which was the Hurricane Harvey. And you've heard other people talk about Hurricane Harvey and the response to Hurricane Harvey, and the remediation, and the recovery, and the rebuilding of our great state. Okay. But how many of our brothers and sisters were directly impacted on a personal note from Hurricane Harvey? Does anybody have any idea? It's hundreds. How many departments were completely destroyed, devastated, they lost everything? We're talking hundreds of millions of dollars in apparatus, in PPE, and other things. Some of the departments have yet to come back. Okay. That's why I said it's so important to reach out to these people every chance that you get, how can we help.

One of the ways that we helped -- and I keep saying "we" because it was a concerted effort. The SFFMA was able to raise \$300,000 to help the individual volunteer firefighters get back on their feet. Okay. When you had your insurance premiums that you couldn't even pay because now you're living out of a hotel or a camper trailer or something like that and you are trying your best just to survive, you didn't have the money to pay your insurance deductible to get the ball rolling so you could find a new place to live. We helped with that, okay, to the tune of \$300,000. 225,000 of that came from a donation from the Georgia Fire Chiefs' Association. The Greater Georgia Fire Chiefs, and it was done through this organization and with the guidance and assistance of our Executive Director Chris Barron. We went down and we went and we actually took checks to several different departments and personnel and handed to them, and they were humbled and they were grateful, and we were honored to be able to do that for them. Okay. So when you look at the big picture -- but like I said, folks, there are still people out there hurting badly. And we need to keep that ear open, and we need to keep that watchful eye on them every chance that we get. Okay.

A subject that's dear to everyone's heart is the new database, and the new system that we're trying to put out. Okay. I know that some people are getting a little frustrated because, hey, how come you haven't flipped the switch. Hey, how come I can't do this? Hey, how come I can't do that? You're holding me back, I'm ready to go. Right? Well, we want to make sure that it's right instead of right now. Okay. The last thing we want to do, and I'm -- I'm not casting shade. I'm just bringing a reference to you. The Texas Commission on Fire Protection launched their new program, and what happened? It crashed, it burned, they had to pull it back, and start all over from square one again. Okay. I know that doesn't affect a majority of you, but it could impact you if we had followed the same pathway. So that's why we made sure that we were very, very, very particular about the actual time that we launched this. So we asked for a little more patience until we had this thing ready to launch and it's right. Now, in return for that, what we ask you to do is this: Please make sure that your computers that you're using are not 10, 11, 12 years old. Okay.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Make sure you're not still using a Commodore 64 or an Apple IIe or something like that with that beautiful monochrome screen. It was great for Aliens when you played Aliens. Any of y'all ever played Aliens? Yeah, I see you. I see you. Yeah. It was great for that. And it had a wonderful 64k memory. And we thought that, man, we'll never fill this thing up, right? Yeah. Wrong. Okay. Folks, we still have people out there on stidget (phonetic), because I've asked this at every district meeting I've been to, what is the age of the computer that you're using. Less than one percent will say, well, my computer is less than five years old. Most people's computers are 10 years old. Ain't nothing wrong with it, it's still working. But, yeah, technology has bypassed you a little bit. Okay. Just a little bit. So, please, help meet us halfway by making sure that you have the latest, greatest, most up-to-date stuff.

So I'm going to use this analogy because I used the same thing with the extension guys not too long ago. And here goes: in order to make this work, we have to figure out a way to generate the 1.21 gigawatts of energy to go into the flux capacitor, okay, put the flux capacitor into the DeLorean, get the DeLorean up to 88 miles an hour so we can get back to the future. How many of y'all relate to that? Let me see your hands. There you go. Back to the future, right? Okay. We can do this. We can do this, but all we're asking is just a little bit more patience, please. Okay.

Lastly, the last thing I'm going to speak on is the fire chiefs' academy that we host. How many of y'all, please stand, if you have been through or you are currently in our fire chiefs' academy? Thank y'all for being here. Okay. (Applause.) Thank y'all for being a part of that. Okay. This particular academy is funded by Texas Mutual Insurance and the Rural Volunteer Fire Department grants programs. Okay. It is designed for that person who one Thursday night go, hey, welcome to the fold, welcome to the fire service. And then like two or three Thursday nights later, they go, poof, you're the new fire chief. What do I do? Figure it out. How many of y'all have been in that -- any of those shoes? Let me see your hands. Yeah, you're out there. Me too. Okay. I don't know how you do it. Figure it out. That's what I had to do, right? That's what this is designed for. It's to help you figure out things like personnel and budgeting and all these other things, how to apply for a grant and all these other different vital programs to help you be a successful chief and to be a successful department and to successfully take care of your communities. But like I said, I'm not going to sit here and preach for a long time because, I mean, that's not what this is all about. We just want to make sure that you understand that. That's what this executive board does day after day after day. We're here to make sure that you're taken care of, okay, whatever aspects we can. Now, you know, always understand this, too, please, and then I'll shut up, even God answers questions in one of three answers. Okay. Yes, no, and not right now. Okay. So sometimes when you get that answer of, no, we can't do it, just remember, even God says that to you every once in a while.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Okay. Just keep that in mind, and everything's going to be great. But here's to the future, we got the DeLorean parked out front. If y'all want to ride, jump in with us. Okay. All right. Thank you. God bless you. I love you.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Harvie. All right. We're going to move into the nomination procedures, so I'd like to ask Secretary Ondrasek to come up here and go over those procedures.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Thank you, Mike. This will be real quick. We do follow our rules of order for the nomination process. The executive board has given an allotted seven minutes to make your nomination, your second, your presentation or whatever you want to make, so make sure you have that, kind of, worked out ahead of time. We're going to do 1st vice president come up here in a minute, call for nominations for each of the openings, and then just come up in alphabetic order for these that we know that are running. And, again, make sure you speak clearly, say who you are and where you're from so we can get that on the -- in the minutes. I think that's it.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: And as you said, remember, you may have turned the microphone out there but it may be on. All right. We're ready to start the procedure. So at this time, we'd like to recognize Past President Deloss Edwards to speak.

PAST PRESIDENT DELOSS EDWARDS: Yeah, it's on now. Mr. Chairman, executive board members, and guests, as Mike says, I'm Deloss Edwards, past president. I'd like to make a motion to elevate the chairs, this motion includes Mike Richardson for president; Tim Smith, 1st vice president; Richard Van Winkle, 2nd vice president; Chuck Richardson, 3rd vice president; and since we have a -- since our Secretary Joe Ondrasek is retiring or stepping down, we'll have an opening for secretary. So this motion will include that we have a contested race for the secretary's position. It will include Jim White for assistant secretary and Ben Kennedy for chaplain. Mr. Chairman, this will be my motion.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: All right. We have a motion by Past President Edwards to elevate the chairs.

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: Kyle Stephens, past president 2007. I'd like to second that motion.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. We have a second by past president Stephens. We have a motion and second to elevate the chairs. Do we have any discussion on the motion? Question? Question is called. All those in favor, please say, aye.

AUDIENCE: Aye.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Any opposed, say nay. Motion carries. All right. At this time we'll open the floor for nominations for 4th vice president.

MS. MELISSA ROBINSON: I'm Melissa Robinson, secretary-treasurer for the North Texas District, sergeant secretary-treasurer of the Corsicana Emergency Board, and firefighter at Chatfield Volunteer Fire Department, all members of this great organization. I'd like to nominate Frank Marcinkiewicz for the seat of 4th vice president for the State Firemen -- Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association. He is one of leadership, friendship and loyalty to this association. I've never seen a mad face or heard a bad word from him. Therefore, I am nominating Frank Marcinkiewicz for 4th vice president of SFFMA. He's also known as "ABC" or "Alphabet."

MALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: I guess I missed my queue. I thought the other one was going first. But anyway, I'd like to second the nomination for Frankie, Alphabet as they call him. And Frankie spent 20 years in the fire service and served as secretary and past president of his district. He is an instructor at Texas A&M. He's from the Cat Springs Fire Department. He would like to very much serve as 4th vice president. And this is a tough nomination to make because I think both guys that are candidates are great people. Frankie's done a good job. He announced several years ago that this is what he was going to do, so I -- it gives me great pleasure to second Frank Marcinkiewicz as 4th vice president.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. We have a nomination for Frankie Marcinkiewicz for 4th vice president.

4TH VP NOMINEE FRANKIE MARCINKIEWICZ: You hit it on the nail.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Mr. Marcinkiewicz would you like to speak?

4TH VP NOMINEE FRANKIE MARCINKIEWICZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members of the SFFMA, for being here. My name is Frankie Marcinkiewicz, common spelling. I'll get with you after that, if you'd like. I humbly accept this nomination and second for 4th vice president SFFMA. As you all know, I've been here for several years, came here from Lubbock. In 2014 announced my intentions after consulting with my district, was encouraged by Mr. Rosendo Garcia just down the road here in McAllen -- not McAllen, Mesquite a few years ago to consider running for this position. After talking with him, several past presidents, and members of our organization or district across the state, I decided that I would do this, and I would decide today was going to be my time. And the reason why I decided 2018, I humbly believe and forcefully believe that as a member of the executive board of SFFMA you need to serve your district. You need to go through the chairs of the district, get your experience, and know how this organization works, know the ins and outs and know the different people. I have done that. I have served this organization with the certification board. I also served this organization at the convention on the pump race committee.

4TH VP NOMINEE FRANKIE MARCINKIEWICZ: You can take my word, you can take the red book word, but all I've got to say, when you're running for 4th vice president, you're not running for 4th vice president. You're running for the president of this organization in four years. That's where it eventually leads. I have proven my commitment. I'm not just words. There's -- my actions speak for themselves. I have a hospitality room tonight, Room 823. I'm sure y'all will probably be more than happy to discuss this a lot more then. But I have a very good opponent. I think this association is going to be in great shape, no matter 4th vice president or secretary, but all I can say is, my opponent is a great guy, but I can tell you this, I'm not just words. I've done it, I've proved it. And if you have any questions, I'd love to talk to you. I'd appreciate your vote, and thank you very much for your time. I yield the floor.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. Thank you. Do we have any further nominations for 4th vice president?

CHIEF LYNN BIZZELL: Mr. President, executive board, members of this great association, my name is Lynn Bizzell. I'm the fire chief for the City of Fredericksburg. I would like to -- it is an honor and a privilege to be here before you today, and I would like to nominate Chief Donny Boggs as 4th vice president to this -- for this great association. I will tell you I've had the opportunity to work with Donny for 11 years. I've known him through the fire school for 40 years. He is indeed -- he has a passion, a determination, the will, and a way to get it done. He's -- he's a great listener. He will listen to anybody. You can call him day or night. He is an outstanding individual who will serve this association with a passion that it deserves, and with the integrity and the determination to get whatever job that needs to get done done for this association. So, again, it's a pleasure to come before you today. I appreciate the opportunity. I think Donny would be a great asset to this organization and move it in the right direction. Thank you very much.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Chief Bizzell.

PAST PRESIDENT DALLAS RENFREW: Mr. President, executive board, my name is Dallas Renfrew, past president of this organization. I'd like to second the nomination for Donny Boggs. I think we have great candidates, but I think Donny will do a better job. Thank you.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right.

PAST PRESIDENT PATRICK HLAVATY: Patrick Hlavaty, past president, I'd like to say a few words on behalf of Donny Boggs, if you'll allow me to.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Yes, sir.

PAST PRESIDENT PATRICK HLAVATY: I -- I've known Donny for a long, long time, and he's a good man. Not only a good man, but a good firefighter. He's -- his -- the fire service has been his life and he would be a great asset to your board, our board. So I look forward to working with Donny as a past president as a member of the executive board. Good man.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. Have nomination second for Chief Boggs, Donny Boggs? Chief Boggs, I don't see you, but there you are. Would you like to have a word?

4TH VP NOMINEE CHIEF DONNY BOGGS: I'll try to make this quick. I know they took a lot of my seven minutes. I thank the board. I want to thank this great association for the journey I've been on seeking that 4th vice president seat. I've met firefighters from all across this state, and I've listened, and I've really heard some of the cries that they have. The one thing I -- I can't do is any more than I've done. 40,000 plus miles traveling in eight months tells you the passion I have and the commitment I have. 46 years, it's been my life. I'm married to the fire service. My wife is my mistress, and that's how she feels. But I can say this, my opponent, I don't look at him as an opponent, I look at him as a friend. We both have a desire to serve and do for our membership what's right. And like Chief Cheshire said, it's not about me. It's about the membership and what's best for them. I'm ready and willing and able to take on the issues that we face. I am a problem solver, turning a program around that was in the red for 30 plus years in 18 months to a solvent program that is still solvent today. Hospitality room tonight from 6:00 till 8:00 in the Hall of Fame room on second floor. Hope you stop by. I'd appreciate your support and your vote Wednesday morning. At least you have a choice this year, a choice to put the person you feel is right, right, now to lead this organization on down the road that we're going. Thank you so much.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Okay. Are there any other nominations for 4th vice president? Are there any other nominations for 4th vice president? Are there any other nominations for 4th vice president? All right. We entertain nominations for secretary.

PAST PRESIDENT PAUL HAMILTON: In the means of alphabetical order, I'm Paul Hamilton, past president of the Panhandle District, past president of the SFFMA. I'm here to make a nomination for Brent Allen for secretary for 2018. Brent wants to be the -- will hold the office of secretary. I've known Brent many, many years, been to many district meetings with him and during the tenure of my presidency of this association. He is currently serving the Hill Country Firemen's Association as secretary, and has 30 years of service through his fire department in his community. Brent is a very active member within his community, and has been a member of the Runnels County Child Welfare Board, serving for the past 20 years, and currently serving as the president for the last 15 years. He is in the Ministerial Alliance of Ballinger churches to help those in the community with needs. He's a 21-year member of the 7th Street Baptist Church, and has been a deacon for 15 years, and also is currently deacon chairman for the last six years. He's a member of the Ballinger Noon Lions Club, he's also served the Ballinger Chamber of Commerce for three years. It is evident Brent has a desire to serve. He has stepped forward to commit to serving this association as SFFMA secretary. He currently serves his association through the certification board, finance committee, and just recently, the T*FLAG committee.

PAST PRESIDENT PAUL HAMILTON: It is his servant attitude that will serve him in the future endeavor as SFFMA secretary. And with that, I am pleased to bring forth this nomination for Brent Allen who is running for the office of secretary of the SFFMA. Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: All right. We have a nomination for secretary for Brent Allen.

MR. JAMES FARRELL: Good afternoon, Mr. President, executive board. My name is James Farrell. I'm the current president of the Rio Grande Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association.

MR. RUBEN BALBOA: And I'm the immediate past president of the RGV, Ruben Balboa. And at this time we'd like to second the nomination for Brent Allen.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Okay. Thank you. I have nomination and a second for secretary for Brent Allen, Ballinger. Brent, would you like to have a word?

SECRETARY NOMINEE BRENT ALLEN: I'll make it short. Yes. Thank you, board members, Mr. President, or future president, sorry about that, guest members. I want to thank everybody for the hospitality, especially when I went on -- on tour, as you call it, campaign trail. All of us and the candidates have traveled many, many miles. And so I just want to say that I had a lot of fun, enjoyed it, learned a lot, traveled a lot, and enjoyed mostly getting to know all the districts that I got to go to. And I apologize for the districts that I didn't get to go to. Unfortunately, sometimes that just happens. Having 30 years of experience doesn't make me a know-it-all, but I'm here to work with the board and to go the distance with them, and especially to take care of the members of this great association. And with that, I thank you, and I accept this nomination. Thank you. Oh, I forgot. 1223 is the hospitality room for me.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Okay. Thank you. Do we have any other nominations for secretary?

CHIEF JERRY TAYLOR: My name is Jerry Taylor. I'm the Chief of Gilmore Volunteer Fire Department with the Northeast Texas District. And I would like to nominate Mike Richter for Secretary of the state association. Mike has been a member of the Needville Volunteer Fire Department for 48 years, been assistant chief since 1988. He assisted in starting the industrial fire brigade at the Houston Lighting & Power. He's past president of Gulf Coast and Tri-River Firemen's Association. He is also past secretary of Gulf Coast and Tri-River Association, and he's a current treasurer of the Gulf Coast/Tri-River Association. He's a firefighter level 1 and level 2, and he's a certification coordinator for Needville Volunteer Fire Department. I've known Mike for probably 25 years, and I do not believe you could find a better person to fill Joe's position as secretary of this great association, but I'd like to nominate him for secretary.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: We have a nomination for Mike Richter for secretary.

PAST PRESIDENT DAVID LUEDEKE: I sat too long. I'd like to second the nomination for Mike Richter. I'm David Luedeke, past president 2004. Mike and I go back a long ways. We -- that 48 years him being in the fire department actually coincides to about 60 something years that we've known each other. We come from the same place and same town and did some of the same things, belonged to the same church. And Mike, his family was a firefighting family. His dad had over 57 years in the department when he passed away. He also has two brothers that are in -- currently in the department with us, and a nephew and a niece that all belong to our fire department. He's been a guest instructor at A&M for 25 years already, and lead instructor for the portable extinguisher project. He is a member of Brazoria Fort Bend County Instructor's Association, and has been active in our church in the building which we also attend together on occasion. He's been on the church council three times, been president twice already. One of the things that I have to say about Mike, him and I made some -- I guess you could call it a pact back when I ran for president of Tri-Rivers and Gulf Coast Association. And I said, at that time if he would be my secretary, I'd like to run for those positions, and he did. He was my secretary. Of course, I had to follow suit, I had to be his secretary. I don't think I did as good a job as he did because he had a little bit more practice because he's been our treasurer in our department for several years already also. I'd like to second the nomination of Mike Richter for secretary.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you, sir. Do we have any other nominations for secretary? Do we have any other nominations for secretary -- oh, I'm sorry. Mike, would you like to come up and speak?

SECRETARY NOMINEE MIKE RICHTER: Maybe.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: I apologize.

SECRETARY NOMINEE MIKE RICHTER: Chairman, executive board, members of the association, I accept the -- my nomination for secretary. My name is Mike Richter. I mostly get called Mike, so that's what I normally go by. I attended my first convention in 1983 in Beaumont, and I don't remember that I've missed any years. If my calculations are right, this would be my 35th convention. I've been on the truck driving committee since 1987, and served as chairman of that committee since 1997. I'm retired, and that's one reason I've decided to run for this position. I have time to travel; I have time to dedicate myself to the position, and to do a good job for the association. It's been one of my goals for a long time. I'd like to have sat on the board for this association. I just have to find the right time and this -- and seemed to be a good fit for me. I ask for your support and your vote for office of the secretary of this great association, and it would be my honor to serve you on that board. And our hospitality or my hospitality room is in 823 also. Thank you.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mike. All right. Now, do we have any other nominations for secretary? Do we have any other nominations for secretary?

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Do we have any other nominations for secretary? All right. We'll move on to nominations for mascot. Do we have any nominations for mascot?

PAST PRESIDENT CHIEF BILL GARDNER: Mr. Chairman, board, my name is Bill Gardner. I'm the fire chief of the Leander Fire Department, past president of this association. I would like to nominate Kylie Maples from the Alvin Fire Department. Kylie and her family I've known for my time coming to this convention, serving during this time here with her mother during that time, serving the TFA president. Kylie has come from a long family history with her parents, Gene, Pam, her grandfather, Ed Maples, she has been attending this conference, this convention since her birth. On top of her activities here and involvement with the Alvin Fire Department, she's in the top 7 percent of her class, which shows that she has the drive and the need which would work well with the mascot and her ability to raise funds for MDA. She has the ability to reach out and interact. She participates in FFA showing rabbits, showing pigs, and is active in her community. She's active in her fire department there in Alvin with their open house and also with -- involved with rehab and support during fire events with sandwiches, water, those things that are necessary. So she comes from that type of family, has that type of background. I think she'd do a great job as the mascot of this association. Thank you.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you. Do we have a nomination for mascot?

MR. ANTHONY CARGILE: Mr. Chairman, I'm Anthony Cargile. I'm the secretary for Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers, and this baby has been coming here for years and wants to step in the same steps as her brother that served as a very good mascot. I forget which one of y'all he served for, but she wants to travel in the same footsteps, do the same. They said a while ago, you know, about family, it's all about family. And the family supports her, she supports the fire family, and I want to second that nomination.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. Thank you. Do we have a nomination and -- second for Kylie Maples? Ms. Maples, would you like to speak?

MS. KYLIE MAPLES: Hello, Mr. President. Hello, executive board, and hello, SFFMA members. I am Kylie Maples. And as they've said, I have done a lot for the fire service and for this program and have not missed a convention in 16 years. I can handle a lot of stuff and I can juggle a lot of things. I was in FFA this year, I was in marching band, and I was able to attend a lot of district meetings to announce that I was running. I also think it's good to have a young representative on the board because sometimes younger thoughts are good to have. I would greatly appreciate everybody's support. Thank you.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you. Do we have any other nominations for mascot?

MR. KURT JASINSKI: Hello, Mr. Chairman, board, SFFMA. My name is Kurt Jasinski, 4th vice president for Central Texas District. I want to nominate my brother, Kelby Jasinski for mascot. I feel he would be a great asset to this great association of Texas. Thank you.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. We have a nomination for Kelby Jasinski from -- I can't believe I forgot that.

MR. ALVIN FAIL: Mr. Chairman, I'm Alvin Fail, Central Texas District assistant secretary, and I'd like to second that motion.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. We have a nomination and second for Kelby Jasinski. Kelby, would you like to say a few words? My brain is starting to die off up here.

MR. KELBY JASINSKI: Hi. My name is Kelby Jasinski, and I am running for the SFFMA's mascot. I have been in the fire department since I was born alongside my dad. I would greatly appreciate your vote to be your SFFMA mascot. Thank you again.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. Thank you. Are there any other -- other nominations for mascot? Are there any other nominations for mascot? Any other nominations for mascot? Are there any other nominations for any other positions? Any other nominations for any other position?

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: I have a motion the nomination cease.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: And I have a second. I have no -- motion nominations to cease and I have a second. Any discussion? Hearing? Question called. All those in favor, say aye.

AUDIENCE: Aye.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All those opposed, say nay. Nominations are ceased. All right. Next we have -- we need Dennis Gifford to come up and go over the constitution and by-laws proposals, hopefully briefly.

MR. DENNIS GIFFORD: Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, member business of the executive board, SFFMA members in the audience. My name is Dennis Gifford. I am the chairman of the Constitution and By-laws Committee representing East Texas District. In January this year, when we met at the planning conference, we received a proposal from the executive board and a package of proposals from the Mid-West Texas District. It's our job to receive those proposals every year in January, consult with our current constitution and by-laws, and make sure that the proposals are provided to us in a format and prepared in such a way that they can be presented to the membership as long as they're presented properly and don't cause too much of a conflict with the constitution and by-laws as it's currently written. We have a pretty standardized format for submitting your proposal.

MR. DENNIS GIFFORD: And we request, of course, that the proposing entity provide some input or some background, if you will, as to what the proposal's outcome is for the perceived benefit that the change will provide. I think you've already heard from the executive board and the finance committee pertaining to the executive board proposal to increase the dues, so there's no sense in beating a dead horse. With any proposal, you cross a bridge or a timeline to where some of those proposals may not appeal to all members. They can be scary and somewhat formidable at times. But in submission of both of these proposals, both groups took a good long look at the business at hand and submitted these truly in benefit of providing a better future for the organization. So we're hoping that the members have done their homework, looked at the proposals. They were sent out to the district prior to our March 15th timeline. They have been posted on the website soon after. We hope you studied and looked at those and you've done your own background, your investigating to find the merit in those proposals. The Mid-West Texas District, we worked with them between January and the March 15th deadline to polish their proposals and change those somewhat, working mutually. And those, again, were submitted and posted on the website. Due to the number of changes in the Mid-West proposal, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make the following motion that -- to streamline our business on Wednesday, that for our balloting purposes we would have one ballot initiative for the dues proposal, and one ballot initiative as a whole for all of the Mid-west Texas proposals.

BOARD MEMBER: Okay. I have a motion to deviate from Robert's rules to put two questions on the ballot relative -- two ballots -- two questions on one ballot: one for the dues increase and one for the overall proposal, Mid-West proposal. Is that correct? After further consulting with the executive board, based on our previous actions, I'll go ahead and withdraw my motion. However, the -- the request will stand. We will have two proposals to vote on, yes/no for Proposal 1, and yes/no for Proposal 2. The additional background I would offer is the Mid-west proposal is pretty lengthy and involves a number of changes. If we change one or two instead of all eight or ten, those changes will be for naught and our constitution would be full of holes, and we'll never be able to work this new method through. So it's imperative it all pass or it all fail.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Dennis. All right. We're going to move into announcements, but on the front end of the announcements I would like to recognize Ms. Sandra Wylie. She wanted to speak for a moment and I think Ken is going to come up with her, and Cowboy.

MR. KEN KING: Yes, board, I appreciate the chance to be here. My name is Ken King. I'm Region 8 training manager for TEEX. Last year at this convention I was made aware of a -- one of our members who was needing assistance and I went to the right person.

MR. KEN KING: I turned it over to my wife Jerry King, and she had spoken with Cowboy Wylie here. And I'll let Jerry speak for just a moment.

MS. JERRY KING: I just wanted to say thank-you to everyone that supported Sandra's dream to see again. Your support was through prayers, through your gifts of money. She can see again, and it's thanks to all of you guys and women, and thanks to God for making it all possible. She's a sweet woman with a kind heart. Cowboy is a good man, and you-all helped, and I thank you so much for that.

MS. SANDRA WYLIE: Hello. My name is Sandra Wylie. And I just want to thank everybody and say God bless you for letting me see again. I appreciate it. Thank you. (Applause.)

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you. And next in that, Mr. R.J. Thomas is going to come up, wanted to present a --

MR. RJ THOMAS: Thank you, board. Thank you, members. If you sit in the front, you have no idea how many people have left at this point because you've never seen the whole room. I have a distinct privilege here -- if the other guys can come on up. We've talked a lot about the hurricane, talked a lot about the hurricane that hit -- in the South Central District area, pulled back out, came back up, and walloped up around the Houston area and Southeast Texas area, and there was a lot of stuff went on with that. We'd heard a lot of stats, statistics. And I was given a privilege of reading a letter. And I think this kind of brings it home to -- to the association, to the different members, different departments as to what really happened during the storm, what still continues today, and what we really need to make sure is packed up in that DeLorean outside. I'll get in there with you. But this is a letter from a firefighter from Rockport. It's basically to Chris, but it's about the Association and I'm just going to go ahead and read it. And it starts off, Brothers, this past fall, little town -- our little town experienced the destruction of Hurricane Harvey, different spelling. We may have thought that we were prepared, but it turned out that we had more surprises than we could imagine. And we -- at sunrise on August 26th we realized that we may be in trouble. Over the next couple of days we discovered that one-fifth of our membership had completely lost their homes -- or a fifth, a fifth of the membership lost their homes, and only a few members had secure incomes after that. With a hit of a hurricane like that, if your business goes -- goes under or gets knocked out, you no longer have a job. For the following several weeks we operated in a haze of managing the crisis of the moment on a day-to-day basis. There were struggles we never could have expected and blessings beyond anything we could have imagined. Sometimes -- sometime during that first week or two, honestly, the days run together, Chris Barron walked into our station. I had no idea what the SFFMA wanted or what they might do to help us. Chris explained to me that he was traveling the state, checking on everyone, and seeing what we needed. At that time I had no idea what to ask for, no grasp of what our brothers near Houston were dealing with, and no time for entertaining guests.

MR. RJ THOMAS: It had been five to six years since I had participated in the SFFMA events. Life has just taken me in a different direction, and I just wasn't sure what possible agenda the SFFMA had. Over the course of the next weeks and months, Chris and the SFFMA continued to offer their support, assistance, and to be available to us. Sometimes Chris just listened to me vent and helped me get back on my task. I want to give some examples of a few of the things that the SFFMA assisted us with: Collecting donations and distributing them to our members; collecting and providing direct financial assistance to those of us suffering damage and losses; sending clean fire department T-shirts from across the nation to keep us clothed and fresh. These are now the prized possessions of many of our guys and gals. And then direct -- directing peer support our way, and filtering through the offers for assistance, to direct those we really needed, and to deflect or redirect those that were more a drain on our limited resources.

I cannot express my gratefulness or that of my department. Thank you to all the members of the SFFMA who made the assistance possible. If you have neighboring departments who are not an SFFMA member, please relay this story on my behalf. I encourage everyone to remember that the SFFMA is here because of us, serving our needs. If you find your department in need of help, even when you are unsure exactly what you may need, please reach out to the SFFMA and allow them to provide guidance and support.

Please do not forget about us here in Rockport. We are getting back up and running. Come visit, fish, shop, or just lay on the beach. Tourism is our main industry, but also please don't forget our neighbors. Refugio, Tivoli, Bayside, Woodsboro, and many others are still struggling to repair their firefighter buildings and equipment, and will need all of our continued support for months and years to come. Thank you all for your time. Please enjoy the conference and each other's company. If there's one thing I have learned from this disaster, it was that my firefighting family is bigger and stronger than I could have imagined. I will not take that for granted ever again. Chris, please accept this coin from the Rockport Volunteer Fire Department to the SFFMA, our challenge coin to represent volunteerism. And we thank you for your support of our mission, and we encourage you to continue supporting the volunteers throughout our communities. And it's signed, Gillian Cox, RN FFP, captain public information officer, Rockport Volunteer Fire Department.

For a redirection -- incidentally, just a side note, she -- she became an RN, a registered nurse, and now she's a practicing registered nurse now, so she's pretty heavily tied up in school. But thank you all for listening to the letter. Thank you all for your support. Here's some of the chiefs from our area that went through the wind part of Hurricane Harvey. It was a record breaker for us down there. I know that when it came in in Southeast Texas and up around Houston, the National Weather Service had to change their color chart because they didn't have water that went that deep. So it was a big deal, and we thank you. (Applause.)

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Now, into the regular announcements with Secretary Joe Ondrasek.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Before I forget, for Ms. Gabi, if you have not provided her the hospitality suites, please do. She's loading them into the guidebook. Also, there's a shuttle service for the ball game tomorrow night, for those that are going, from the Crowne Plaza and the Sheraton to the ballpark and back, a couple of the trolley buses with our -- our network signage on it. The LaQuinta is doing its own shuttle. So if you're going to the ball game, that would -- that may benefit you. Also, tomorrow the Sheraton is doing a luncheon here at the restaurant for \$13, including the soft drinks, so if you need a meal before you go. Real quickly, districts, reminder about district reports, annual district reports for the red book, committee reports for the red book, get those from me or Ms. Gabi. Candidates for all three of the positions, meet me at the close of the business at the base of the stage so we can set the ballot for Wednesday.

Again, the committee appointments, Mike may talk about that later, but don't forget to get your committee appointments in timely. The Northeast District after the meeting is going to caucus over here at the back of the room. You can see where I'm pointing. I don't know what direction that is, but my left, your right, toward the back end back there. That's all I got. Matt, I think Matt had some lost items real quick from the sergeant-at-arms.

MR. MATT CORNELL: Thank you. Matt Cornell, sergeant-at-arms co-chair. I almost need a box up here or all the lost and found and everything. But one of these lost and founds kind of concerned me about a certain chaplain. I don't know about you, would you be questioning a chaplain's faithfulness if they had left their Bible behind? And this same chaplain was also kind of charged with taking care of something else here. So I don't know, should we give him a two-for-one deal maybe or two-for-twenty?

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: Have mercy.

MR. MATT CORNELL: (Inaudible) -- a few items and see if someone would bail you out.

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: Those were placed in somebody's hands and loaned to somebody to use.

MR. MATT CORNELL: Oh, do tell. And who was supposed to --

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: I'm not going to say her name.

BOARD MEMBER: It's a her, huh?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: And it's not my wife.

BOARD MEMBER: No, he's not looking for change. Put it right in.

BOARD MEMBER: He doesn't even trust me now.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I never liked you anyway.

MR. MATT CORNELL: All right. Folks, I've got a make-up kit, a little turquoise make-up kit. It says, I don't have some time or something like that. So I have a little woman's make-up kit, I have some reading glasses, I have a room key also. So if you're missing those items, see me here in the back corner. We have one other item that is missing we have not found is, we do have an individual that has lost their name badge, and it had a credit card in it. So if you find a name badge or a stray credit card, please get one -- get to one of us. Thank you.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. At this point, it gives me pleasure to move into the president's tribute. If there are no other announcements -- wait. Wait.

MS. NANCY HALL: My name is Nancy Hall. I'm the chairman of the poster committee. All of the posters are hung up and if y'all will, please take them. If you wait till Tuesday to get them and -- because after dinner, we're going to start taking them down. So please pick up your posters and carry back to your districts. Thank you.

MR. ANDY DEXTER: My name is Andy Dexter. I'm the chairman of the EMS committee and Texas Emergency Medical Services Board. We've been working hard and we were able to take existing classes that are going to be offered tomorrow and on Tuesday and be able to provide separate EMS level CE for those who attend and who want it. So there will be a separate sign-in sheet for these specific classes. We're going to try to get that all in the guidebook and try to make sure it gets talked about in each class. So we have a total of 11.25 hours of CE that's going to be awarded if you take those classes, some of these classes are concurrent, so: Stop the Drops, Reducing Patient Handling Incidents; Sutherland Springs Church Shooting; Working With Older Adults, Awareness, Safety, and Prevention; Firefighter Health and Safety, Take Care of Yourself; Firefighter Cancer, The Silent Threat. All of those have concurrent EMS CE that we'll provide for you. Thank you.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Any other announcements? Let me back up a little bit, and we'd like to do a special recognition for our secretary, Joe Ondrasek. This is Joe's last -- you'll still be here Wednesday, so second-to-last meeting. Joe will be moving on. As I keep kidding him that he's just leaving us so he can have more time to mess around up in Colorado on his days off. But we certainly appreciate Joe's service and we have a little bit of a special recognition for Joe. Joe?

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: You build them, you give them to people, but we wanted to give you one, give you a -- for your coin, and just to show you how much all of us here appreciate your service, and we're going to miss you.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Thank you. (Applause.) I know we're wrapping things up. Again, I just want to thank everyone for the time I had on the board, all the hospitality and kindness that the district showed us when we traveled.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: And, again, I just loved being on the board. I loved working with these guys. It's just an extraordinary experience. And I know whichever new board members that come on board, they're just going to love it as well. So, again, I thank everyone for all the support they gave me during this wonderful, wonderful time on my board -- on your board. Thank you. (Applause.)

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: And now we move into the presidential tribute. So I'm glad to be able to do that. Those in here that have expressed the desire you'd like to provide some recognition and tribute to President Cheshire, then, please, if you come up, come up around this end, and come through, and then go off the other side of the stage. I'm trying to get the Chief's driver to come up here and be with him, so I'm going to shame her into coming up.

PAST PRESIDENT HENRY PERRY: Hi. I'm Henry Perry, Immediate Past President. President Harvie, from the board as a whole, congratulations. It's been a pleasure.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Thank you, sir.

PAST PRESIDENT HENRY PERRY: You are a true friend to the crown. Dilly Dilly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: And I do have something for you. I -- my chief's driver forgot to bring it to me so -- but anyway, thank you so much, Daisy. Yeah, come on. Thank you, Daisy. Appreciate it, sweetie.

FEMALE: The North Texas District, we actually consider our district as Harvie's home district because that's where he's originally from, so I'd like to present you this.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: It's not ticking so... thank y'all so, so very much. They hit on the favorite topic. I love to eat so -- and that's okay. Thank y'all so much.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Harvie, in appreciation of your leadership to the board, to the association, all the firefighters. It's been a tough year to be an outgoing president. I think they named a storm in your honor, if that's an honor. So we want to present this small token of our appreciation from the Galveston County Firefighters' Association. Thank you for your leadership.

PAST PRESIDENT DAVID WADE: David Wade, past president, 2013. Harvie, as I was moving into the president's chair, you moved onto the board in 4th vice president 2013. And I knew that you were a good addition to the board, knew you'd go a good job, and I do appreciate the leadership you brought to this great association. Not only that, you're a good friend of mine. You've helped me as a mentor through the annual schools and gave me good leadership there. And so with that, I just want to present you and, really, this is for your wife as well, a little token of appreciation for all the work you've done.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Thank you so much, David.

TEEX MEMBER: This is on behalf of TEEX-ESTI. We appreciate your service as president for SFFMA and your service at TEEX. Congratulations.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Thank you so much, Chief. I appreciate you.

MALE: President Cheshire, on behalf of the (unintelligible) District, this is a gift for you. Thank you for your service and all your time spent serving our district and the state. Thank you very much, sir.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Yes, sir. He did tell you the story about the majestic mustache, right? Just want to make sure everyone knows about that.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mr. Majestic. President Cheshire, thank you for spending time with us in the Rio Grande Valley, and you spent a lot of quality time with us -- (inaudible).

MR. FRANKIE SALINAS: Good afternoon. My name is Frankie Joe. I'm the past president of the Rio Grande Valley Fire Marshal Conference Association. Also here we have Jim Farrell, president of the Rio Grande Valley and immediate past president. President Harvie, I know that his long six years or five years being on the board, traveling all over the place, and if you know him as well as we all know him, all he's posting up is roll'em tight, roll'em tight. So it's that time but it's not the rolling time for the Rio Grande Valley, but the district and the Rio Grande Valley got him four tickets for him and his four best friends of his call to a night game this year for Texas Aggies.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Gig'em. Thank you so much.

MR. MARK LANCASTER: Mark Lancaster, president of the Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers District. Hey, this is my turn. (Inaudible.)

MR. CLEMENTE SANCHEZ: This is Clemente Sanchez and my wife, Elena. We would like to present a special gift to Harvie. I received dispatch in 2012 when I became firefighter of the year. It was in my possession for all these years, and I'm now going to return it back to Harvie, and I hope he wears it very proudly.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: I know exactly what it is, too, because I remember. Thank you.

MR. CLEMENTE SANCHEZ: Yes, sir.

(Session Adjourned.)

CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018 - 8:00 A.M.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: All right. Let's get to the business at hand. I hereby re-call this 142nd SFFMA State Convention to order. Your presiding officer for today will be 2nd Vice President Tim Smith.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: All right. Here we are. I want to say thank you all for getting up this morning, attending this final closing business session. At this point in time, I'd like to call Chaplain Ben Kennedy up to the podium. Ben?

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY: If you would pray with me, please. Gracious God, thank you for the day you've blessed us with, the opportunity we have to be here today to finish conducting business of this association, to elect officers, and move forward with next year and legislature year as we strive to make the fire service better for all of the citizens of this great state. We ask now, Lord, that you be with our friends and neighbors who have lost loved ones, and friends who are grieving at this time, and strengthen them and help them know that they are loved, they're cared for by all of us here. Thank you, Father, for blessing us, for being with us. And it's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen. One other announcement, at the ball game Monday night, somebody left a knife with some folks. If you lost a knife, if you will come up and describe it to me, I will give you your knife back. So thank you.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you, Ben. All right. We're going to get started this morning with our 4th VP candidates. They get to come up and say a few words. Do we have a mic? There's only one mic. Well, we'll have all our candidates come up for VP as well as secretary, mascot, sweetheart. Each will have three minutes to state your vision of the future of this organization, what your -- what your thoughts are. We'll do it in alphabetical order. We'll start with the 4th VP, so Mr. Allen.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Do you need a ballot?

2ND VP TIM SMITH: I did say 4th VP. Donny Boggs, where you at?

4TH VP NOMINEE CHIEF DONNY BOGGS: Right here.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: All right. Come on up.

4TH VP NOMINEE CHIEF DONNY BOGGS: Good morning, everybody.

AUDIENCE: Morning.

4TH VP NOMINEE CHIEF DONNY BOGGS: You know, when I saw that we were going to have a little bit of time to talk to the membership

on this closing session, I went back to my room and I started trying to think about what is it I want to relay to y'all. So I sat back in that chair in that room and started thinking a little bit. You know, in 2019 we go to Longview. My vision is, we're going to double the attendance we had at this one. Then in 2020, when we go Lubbock, we're going to double that. Then I woke up. And what I'm trying to say is, in my journey across this state, as well as just some of the things I've witnessed here, I'm a traditionalist, very much so, folks. Coming into this fire service in 1972, you couldn't help be a traditionalist. That's one thing I will tell you, I'm a traditionalist up to the point it impedes or prevents progress. If we don't change the way we're doing certain things, this conference is going to die. I think we see that. I think we know that. I think all stakeholders ought to have input and have a say in what goes on. You know, our past presidents are very similar to what our NFL legends are. They're enshrined in the hall of fame. I look at our past presidents as that as well, they're enshrined in the past president's club, and we ought to extend that as well to our Ladies Auxiliary, because I'm going to tell you, some of the decisions we make affect the Ladies Auxiliary. So as far as when we appoint committees, we need to include them if it's going to affect them. Site selection committee, for example. So do I believe in breaking away from traditional? Absolutely, if it's going to progress us through. This board has some hard decisions to make. If we're paying nearly \$43 per member and only collecting \$30, those numbers don't add up, even with a Florence High School education. And that's where I graduated from. So all I'm trying to say is, I'm someone that calls it as I see it. I do it with respect. But at the same time, if that isn't the direction the board wants to go, and more importantly, what the membership wants -- it needs to be put in your hands, and you tell this board what you want and we act on it. And I'm a team player. I'll grab the reins away from the driver, and I'll whip that horse down the road. So I've met a lot of you on my journey. I wouldn't trade it for anything. Those of you that are supporting me, I thank you deeply. The tide's in your hands now as far as who you're going to put on this board. I ask for your support. I ask for your vote. Thank you for being a part of my extended family.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you, Donny. Frankie, come on up.

4TH VP NOMINEE FRANK MARCINKIEWICZ: I'm going to stand down here because, one, I believe everybody can see me, and, two, I believe everybody can hear me, and, three, I'm not worthy enough to be up there. Until I get elected, I don't think I should be on that stage. But anyway, my name is Frankie Marcinkiewicz, Frankie Alphabet, Frankie ABC, whatever you want to say it, M-A-R-C-I-N-K-I-E-W-I-C-Z, M-O-U-S-E. Okay. Now we got that out of the way, I'm going to tell you a little bit about myself first before I go into my vision. You all know me. I've been around here for years. I'm an actor, I'm a doer, I'm not a sayer. I'm not going to tell you, I want to do this. I'm not going to tell you, I'm going to do this.

4TH VP NOMINEE FRANK MARCINKIEWICZ: Those of you who have seen me around convention here every year for the last ten years, seen me serving on the committee, have seen me serving at district, know that I do, I don't say. That being said, where are we headed? Well, we got a by-law proposal on the books today for dues increase. It's very important to this association. I'll tell you right now, as a delegate, I'm voting for it. I am in favor of it. But I'm also going to tell you, I think we, as an association, need to go to the Forest Service and say, y'all need to take a million dollars out of your training fund that you're always talking about needing to spend and needing to deplete. Let's allocate that for training dues, for certification dues for this association to help each department, especially those that are having a hard time to pay the dues, to help pay for the certification dues. That will help us as an organization, it will help the Forest Service as an organization, it will help us as a volunteer service to take care of ourselves. That's one way we can look at or paying for this.

We also need to look at getting our young people involved, not just here at convention but on a district level. How many people here at state convention actually went to their district meeting? How many people went to their district meeting and aren't here at the convention? I guarantee you there were a lot more at district that aren't here today. By helping to pay those dues, we can take some money out of our fire department budget and make sure we send somebody here. And I also want you to know -- and take a look around, there's a bag on every one of these chairs in this room. It's not much. It's not much. But there's a bag for every person here, not just a delegate, because it's every person that's here that counts, that matters. It's not just who can vote for me. That's what I want to do for you. I want to grow this organization. We can talk about doubling attendance and it's great, we need to do that. But as you all know, we can talk and -- out of one side of our mouth and our hand and do something else with the other. We know which one is going to fill out first. Until we challenge ourselves and make each other mad, when we get off our butt and start getting people and dragging them up here, we're not going to grow.

So I thank you for your time, I thank you for your support. If you want somebody that's going to work for you and has proven that they're going to work for you, I appreciate your time and your vote. And I look forward to seeing y'all for the next year and the next year after that and the year after that. Because, remember, we're not running for 4th vice president. You don't run for this position to stay in this position. You run for president in four years. Keep that in mind. Thank y'all very much for your time, and I appreciate the board's time.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you, Frankie. All right. We'll give the secretary candidates about three minutes a piece. If you want to come start heading this way, save a little time. Mr. Brent Allen, you'll be up first.

SECRETARY NOMINEE BRENT ALLEN: I'll stand down here, too. All right. Hello, everybody. My name is Brent Allen, and I am running for secretary. But as I went through the state this year, some of y'all's districts I didn't make it to, and I apologize for that, but I've always talked about being involved, just like Frankie said. We need to be involved, every day, whether it be in your department, your district, or here. You need to pull those people in with you that you think are going to make somebody a good person or good, you know, a good ally for you. We have not done that, I don't think. We need to be more involved. Whether you're involved in your department more or less, you still need to have all those people involved, taking care of that stuff. You need to make sure that they make an impact. You need to be a mentor to them. Do something to make them get involved and want to come to this association because it is the greatest association there ever is, as far as I'm concerned.

It's given me my certification through the 500 and -- what was it, 560 hours that you had to take when they first started out. That's what my -- I did. I did that, and then I challenged to test through TCFP and this is where I'm at. So I owe this association a lot. It gave me my certification, put food on the table for my family. And so with that, I'm not going to speak any -- much more longer. I appreciate your vote, and thank y'all very much.

SECRETARY NOMINEE MIKE RICHTER: My name is Michael Richter. I am a candidate for secretary of this association. I've been in the fire service a long time, seen a lot of changes, been to conventions when there have been a lot of people there. I'd like to see this convention grow and try to work towards ways that we can make it grow. There's a lot of things we probably need to talk about to get that done. I've been involved in my district. I've been on the board there. I was a secretary for a while, ran in the chairs, and then I went back as secretary and I was secretary from 1997 until 2015. I'm still on the board. I'm only on the board as a treasurer now, but I am still on that board. And I think I have the same dedication towards this board as I do towards my local district board. I am available more now to run this -- to be where I need to be at different times. I'm dedicated to whatever position I run for or am voted into or run for. If I am elected, I will do my best to do a good job as secretary for this association. I made some districts, some I didn't. I had a family commitment during the middle of the campaign season, so I kind of put my family in there to where they were my choice for that time, so I did miss a few district meetings. I tried to touch base with everyone with a letter. I apologize if I did not make your meeting. I look forward to making them in the future. I, again, am running for secretary, and would appreciate your vote and support. Thank you.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you, both secretary candidates. How about the mascot? We'll go with Ms. Kylie Maples first, if you'd like to say a couple words.

MS. KYLIE MAPLES: Good morning, everyone.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

MS. KYLIE MAPLES: Some of y'all may or may not know me. My name is Kylie Maples, and I'm running for mascot. Throughout my whole campaign a lot of people have asked me what are my goals. And if you may or may not know, my brother was mascot back a couple years ago. And I've always said we love a little family competition, and I want to raise more money than he did for MDA. I've gone to a lot of districts this year, and those districts I could not make I had letters read. And I just -- I want to -- all this being said, I just want to thank my fire department and everybody who supported me through my campaign process, and I would really appreciate your support. Thank you.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you, Kylie. Kelby?

MR. KELBY JASINSKI: Howdy.

AUDIENCE: Howdy.

MR. KELBY JASINSKI: My name is Kelby Jasinski. I am running for SFFMA mascot. My grandpa was in the fire industry for 34 years, along with my father, 23, and my brother, 8 years. Being a part of this industry has taught me a lot of growing up. I've gotten many things that stick throughout my head, and one is kissing babies. When I come to these convention meetings, all of you make this feel like a family function. I greatly appreciate your vote and represent the SFFMA proudly. Thank you.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you, Kelby. All right. At this point in time, we'll have Secretary Ondrasek come up and discuss the election procedure.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Thank you, Tim. So I want to make sure, first of all, that all of the delegates right here -- did they move elsewhere, Matt? Are they all right here? Wow, delegates. Wow, big crowd. So again, if you're a delegate, we want to make sure that you have a ballot. Everyone have a ballot that needs to vote? Just making sure we don't need to issue anyone out. And then just a couple of things, reminder on our by -- what happened? Oh, Chuck needs a -- we need some up here. All right. Let's hang on for a second. A couple of them up here, Anthony, a couple of ballots for the board. All right. Just a reminder, the by-laws have to get a two-thirds majority vote and the candidate -- one of the candidates has to get more than 50 percent. Also reminder, if you're on the ballot, that you can have a representative go with Chaplain Kennedy on the tally committee. So as -- as we wrap up the vote and the votes are being -- ballots are being collected, you can send your representative with him. Now, does everybody have a ballot now? Oh, we still need one here, just one. He just gets one. Here, I have one that's already filled out for you. Now, everyone have a ballot? So if you remember, you mark an "X" for what you're voting for. So the ballot is two-sided, remember that, both on both sides.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: So if you will mark an "X" on what you're voting for, and remember the executive board as well, each division on the executive board. So at this time, mark an "X" of who you're voting for. So, Matt, as you -- I didn't get a chance to ask you, we're going to pass everyone to the middle. What do you want to do on the outside aisle? Pass them inward, pass them to one of the outside aisles. Except on the outside, pass them all inwards, and we'll have the sergeant-at-arms collect them. Pass them to the end of the aisle, pass your ballot to one of the sergeant-at-arms moving down the aisle. Sergeant-at-arms, come up here. They're moving their way up. You'll have to wait. Just a reminder, pass your -- to one of the sergeant-at-arms moving up and down the aisle. There's some right back there. Raise your ballot up if it hadn't been collected. All right. Raise -- has any ballots not been collected? Raise your ballot up if it's not been collected. All the ballots been collected? Last call, any more ballots that need to be checked? Anthony, that looks like them all. Yes, sir. Tim?

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Continuing on, I guess we'll need -- we'll ask TFA President Brandy Tidwell to come up here and recognize her officers.

TFA PRESIDENT BRANDY TIDWELL: Good morning, everyone. I would like to introduce myself -- there we go. I'm Brandy Tidwell, and I would also like to introduce my board to y'all. 1st Vice President is Ms. Leslie Nixon; 2nd Vice President is Patty Jones; 3rd Vice President is Melissa Thomson; 4th Vice President is Ashley Anderson; our Immediate Past President is Ms. Anggie Sumrall; our Secretary is Donna Svatek; Treasurer is Kendra Charbula; Historian, Jerri Locknane -- I'm sorry, Parliamentarian is Jerri Locknane; Historian is Penny Horelica; Chaplain is Ms. Mary Jane Cargile; and our Sweetheart is Kambree Charbula. (Applause.)

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Anggie, if you'd hold right there for a second. All right. Come on. It's okay. Anggie, on behalf of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, we'd like to give you a little gift. Thank you for your service, thank you for everything you do for the TFA. Thank you.

TFA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT ANGGIE SUMRALL: It's been a great year. Thank you.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: I guess we got a little out of order here. Sorry. Mike made me do it.

TFA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT ANGGIE SUMRALL: Mr. Perry, the TFA just wanted to say thank you for everything that you did for us as when we were in presidency. Mary Jane Cargile and her daughter or -- excuse me, Penny Horelica and her daughter always do an album for all of the past presidents, and we wanted to make you one as well.

PAST PRESIDENT HENRY PERRY: Thank you.

TFA PAST PRESIDENT BILLIE SMITH: I'm Billie Smith, and I was immediate past president, now I'm just in the past presidents, and I'm happy.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: One more time before the TFA exits the room. We thank you for what you do, and let's give them a round of applause. (Applause.) All right. I guess we'll call Executive Director Barron up for his director's report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: Where is Gabi when I need her?

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Probably putting out fires somewhere else.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: Is my PowerPoint on here, Gabi? Okay. I'm Chris Barron, the executive director with the association, and I just want to go through our annual report, give you report of our numbers for the last year's activities for the association for the last year. As of December 31st, 2017, we ended off the year with 23,043 members. You can see here we had over 417 fire departments, and 19,000 individual members that are usually paid for by those individual fire departments. You see the list on the board. One of the key things to point out here is our international membership has grown tremendously. With the assistance of some of our international committee members, that number is now 549 international members. I just wish they were going to all be here to go to the A&M Fire School here in a couple of weeks. One of the big key things that we have been focusing on over the last two years is a search for a new software, association management software and certification platform. We have spent probably three years on trying to find a vendor that would be capable of doing all of the things we do in the office from roster maintenance to event registration to certification, and last year we finally found one. I was in Nebraska at Nebraska's Firefighter Association conference for the National Volunteer Fire Council, and happened to come across one of their members. We were talking about association management software and they recommended this particular vendor. We then started engaging with them on what it would take, if they could handle our membership, you know, what type of platform they had, and so we finally found one. But as you can see here in the graph, our cost for this particular software that we've been using has been rising for a great amount of time. So much so that we almost topped out at 180 grand spending money in a year on this software that we used to use. And when we topped that number and continued to see the customer service decline and their support decline and the stability of the product decline, we said, enough is enough. We had to do something, not only for our benefit but for yours because we couldn't waste that money anymore. So we found a vendor. And as you can tell here, the cost is going to dramatically decline, and that's going to be a huge savings to the association. The nice thing about this new platform is that we are able to have continuous updates at no cost, unlimited support at no cost, customized reporting at no additional cost. And granted, it has taken some time to roll out, but the benefits are going to far exceed the little time that we're having to wait in delays, because the power that's going to be in the hands of the fire chiefs and coordinators for administrative purposes is going to be far beyond anything we've ever seen.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: It's going to take a tremendous load off the staff in the office. It's going to put it in the hands of the fire chief and those individuals so they can update their records, and we don't have to do that anymore in the office. It's just we're limited in staff, and, you know, there is a delay in us processing stuff. So we are rolling out this software. As of last week we started rolling it out to the certification board. We had a beta group testing this software and doing certain reports and tasks, and those groups have seen some great progress in that, and have approved us moving forward. So now it's in the hands of the certification board. Over the next couple of weeks, the certification board will be reviewing the software, making any recommendations, recommendations on how-to videos, on things that we can make sure you know how to do because now the power is in your hands.

Once that happens and the certification gives their thumbs up, we will then roll it out to all fire chiefs and all coordinators across the state. And as you can tell, this is a progression. It's just not, hey, we're going to release it to 30,000 members and expect that all 30,000 people are probably going to call us because they don't know how to do something. So it's a slow, methodical progression of rolling this out, and I think it's going to benefit everybody. And so that software is internet-based, so if you have the latest browser on your phone or computer, that is essential, along with a good internet connection. But we're happy to see this. We have been through ups and downs, and this little picture kind of depicts it. One week we're happy, we're ready to launch, and then all of the sudden we get notice from one of the beta testers like, hey, look, I can just -- I found out where I can systematically change something in the whole entire system, and that's not right. We put a complete stop on that progress because of what this beta tester found, and it was one of our own from Cy-Fair. So we began testing in February, went through multiple sets of revisions and testing, and revisions and testing. Originally, 14 million records were moved over into this system, and that was one of our key things that we wanted to make sure was going to happen is all the old data transfer over. Well, then we thought, well, we need to bring in the old, old data, and the old, old data that was in the old system that was no longer supported. And we thought, well, what are our chances? Let's try and see if we can get that data in the system. Well, sure enough, the folks were able to do it, so that 14 million grew to 22 million records. We have records going back to I don't know when, but I happened to pull up one of our past president's records, Don Hoffman, and he had a certification in there from 1983 that got pulled over. And once I saw that, I thought, we're on the right track here. All the information that we're needing from the historical records has been moved over. I'm going to put it out there that if you get it into your hands and you see where you're missing some stuff, please let us know, because with a huge database this size, there's going to be some problems and there's going to be some things that didn't quite line up. But if you see that, once you get into your department records, please let us know that so that we can go back and adjust your records as needed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: Moving on, we didn't launch the new website as part of this new software. The old software did include a website portion to it that allowed us to log in in the back office and update the website. This one has that same capabilities, but it's two separate programs. So if the website for some reason goes down, however there's a 99.99 percent chance that it's -- I mean that it's always going to be up. That's their guarantee. But if it, for some reason, ever goes down, it's not going to affect the back-end office. So if you call in and say, hey, I need to update our records and for some reason our website is down, it's not going to affect one another.

So new website was launched. I hope you've been able to view it and check out the features that it offers. On the back end for the chiefs and the coordinators and the staff, this is the screen that you'll see -- that you will see. If you see a purple and orange -- is that what's showing? I can't quite tell from here. Yes. If you see that, then you are going to know that you're in the right area for administrative access. You'll have the ability to activate/deactivate your personnel, run customized reports, create your own customized reports, and once you create them, save them so you don't have to recreate them. A lot of features to this new software. Overview of an individual certification status, so now that individual will be able to see where they're at in their certification process, along with the chiefs and coordinators. The features are just endless, and I'm not going to go through every single one, but one thing I do want to point out is the how-to section of our website. You scroll to the top of our website or once you go to our website, you'll see something called how-to. That is the area that is going to contain videos on how to do certain things within our website, how to activate members, how to enroll objectives in a training class. All that is right there. And if you find that, hey, you know, we would really like to see a video on, you know, basket weaving 101, let us know, and we'll see if we can get that created for you. I wanted to point this out, and I thought this was an interesting figure and fact. This is the number of SFFMA to TCFP certifications that have gone through. These are the folks that have become certified in SFFMA and decide to go challenge the state test. So since the beginning, in 1998 SFA firefighters' dues bridge the TCFP certification. You see where it starts off fairly low. And over the last 20 years, over an average of 55 firefighters go and challenge that test every year. 88 percent of those folks successfully passed the TCFP certification on the first pick. So congratulations. (Applause.)

I was one of those individuals also that decided to challenge the test, and I could not have done it without my SFFMA certification. So this is something that we have greatly -- are proud of and we have built. And with the help of TCFP Chief Moore as the chairperson, this is something that helps volunteers and helps your fire department out. So you see the progress, and it continues to go up. You see in 2018 it's low, because we're only halfway through the year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: I want to let you know that we have six staff working for you. Here's a list of those staff -- but for each staff person, we have 3,600 individuals that we are accountable to. That's a big number, which means that at any point in time 3,600 people could be calling in, asking for Kevin, myself, or whoever it might be. In this last year I got -- added myself to the general phone tree. Now when somebody dials zero, every single staff persons' phone rings, including myself. And sometimes I will pick up that phone if I'm not busy or tied up on another call. I'll answer the phone as a general staff person, how can I help you. And oftentimes I get people, this is Chris Barron, Executive Director? Yeah, it is, and how can I help you. Now, oftentimes, I'm not as entrenched in the organization's database as my staff are, but I'll do my best. And if I can't, I will make sure one of the staff members can help you out. But I want to let you know that our -- you have a great staff working for you. They have been tremendously active over the last, I would say, eight months if not nine months, rolling out into this new software, making sure that things are right, in addition to our normal task of membership processing, sales, events, conferences, newsletters. So we have had a tremendous load on us. And my staff, if you're in here, I know some are over here, and Kevin is over there, and I'm not sure where Jon is. Please stand up. (Applause.) Thank you all.

Just roll through a couple view -- view photos I found. I know they're going to probably be embarrassed, but that's okay. You have a dedicated staff in the Austin office. I couldn't do it without them. Thank you very much, staff. I appreciate you all. And here's our mystery person. I can't find a picture of Luis anywhere, so here's a stand-in for Luis. Apparently he avoided the cameras in the last year.

For the fire chief's academy, folks from the fire chief academy that are in it or have graduated or are instructors, please stand up. (Applause.) This is a shining star for the organization and, you know, way back when -- Bill, when we sat down and decided that we needed something for the volunteers, needed something for the EMT fire chiefs to help them with their leadership. This has been a tremendous success. And if it weren't for VFIS of Texas, Texas Mutual Insurance, and the Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program, this would not be possible. This is a fully paid chief's academy. All you got to do is get there. And if you can't get there, don't have fuel do get there, we have some available funds through VFIS to help you get there. But fire chief academy is going strong. We're in our third year, even though it says second, third year of the academy, and we have a waiting list for the next one.

We also, last year, prior to the Spanish Fire School, rolled out an extrication training that was primarily put on by Alantro. But with the assistance of Manchaca Fire Rescue, Holmatro, and the association, we were able to put this on for about however many students you see there. Small class, but they got a lot out of it. They were really engaged with the training.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: This is something that we could put on as an extra training for those folks. Right now, as far as I know, TEEEX still doesn't offer it at Spanish Fire School, the vehicle extrication training, because it's very costly. And we can do it for free. We have a junkyard in our area that just gives us the cars. So we're going to roll that out again this year. That's prior to the Spanish Fire School, and it's going to be put on by the association and my fire department. And I think we're going to get some assistance from the Austin Fire Department. It's a couple day training on vehicle extrication techniques. All right.

I want to call out one of the special projects that's near and dear to my heart, which was Hurricane Harvey Response. When this thing made landfall and I started to see the devastation, I actually got a call from Chief Hoffman from the Texas Forest Service, and says, hey, I think you need to get over here to the state operation's center in College Station, we need to sit down with our partners from TEEEX, TFS, Texas Fire Chief Association, and TIFMAS, related to a response and mechanism, and also tender asset recognition where we can identify tenders across the state and be able to send those tenders to those areas hit. And so I went over there within about 24 hours, loaded up, went over there, and we sat down, started identifying their needs, which was we needed some water in those areas that didn't have -- they had a lot of water, just not in the right spots. So we identified tenders from all over the state. So if you're one of those folks that sent a tender, thank you very much. We were able to get you credentialed and qualified in the TIFMAS system and get you down to Beaumont or Port A or wherever it might have been, so we're assisting in that. Soon after that, we decided, hey, we really need an assessment tool to figure out what is it the fire department needs, maybe they've lost trucks, maybe they've lost stations, maybe they've lost personnel, and how many of their firefighters were affected by the storm. So we sat down with all those individuals.

Chief Bunte actually came over and led that particular assessment tool development. We sat there on a spreadsheet and started working out key items we needed to ask. Within 24 hours, we then took that spreadsheet, handed it over to the Texas A&M Corps Service folks, the gurus, and within 24 hours they had an app built that we could take on the road that we can use when there was no cell phone coverage, or we can use on a computer. And we started deploying this assessment tool out to the TIFMAS coordinators, myself, the Fire Chiefs' Association folks that were out there, and the TFS folks to start assessing the fire service. As y'all saw in the slide that Tom Boggus put out the other day, we had over 23 fire stations destroyed or damaged, over 100-plus apparatus. And we -- from our side as an association, over 300 firefighters affected by this storm, either lost their homes or heavily damaged. So we took that information back to the association and said, what can we do to help these folks, what can we do as an association. We need to raise some money. And so we engaged with our foundation to help start raising money for you all.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: It started off pretty slow because there was so many different foundations that have come to light that wanted to rebuild Texas. And all these different converts, but they were pretty much hanging onto the money. They weren't distributing it out to the firefighters. They came up with a slogan, firefighters have homes too. And that was the whole purpose is that we wanted to give back to the firefighters of Texas, whether you're a paid volunteer, a member of the association or not. We were able to raise some money, came in about 30,000 or so, and we're like, that's just not enough. What else can we do? I got a phone call from the Georgia -- Metro Atlanta Fire Chiefs' Association, says, hey, we got a little money here, we're going to do some more fundraising, we're going to do some boots-on-the-ground, fill-the-boot campaign, and we're also going to bring you a big check, 75,000, 100,000, something like that, but we're working on this weekend to do that.

Next -- the following week, I got a phone call from my contact there. And he says, well, we did pretty good, we're going to be bringing you guys a check for \$225,000. And I mean, I almost fell out the chair at that point in time. I said, well, you're going to do better than that. We're going to bring you to Texas and we're going to hand deliver that check and we're going to have a press conference in Port Aransas with the folks from the Gulf Coast, and we're going to make this happen. So with the help of Southwest Airlines, we flew them in, didn't cost us a dime. We took them to the devastated areas. And it wasn't so bad when we were coming out of Corpus into -- onto the island from the south side, didn't see a whole lot of damage. As we got closer and closer to Port Aransas, all of a sudden, that's when things went -- went south. When they started seeing the power, utility lines, and all of the debris that was piled up, there must have been a pile of debris that was 10 stories or more just sitting on the side of the road where they started moving this debris over to the side in one central location. Their eyes -- their mouths, all started dropping, the tears started flowing. They could not believe what they saw. We ended up in the Port Aransas Fire Station which was under four foot of water, talked to the firefighters, walked next door to one of the firefighter's home and he showed him, his house was destroyed. So much water in there, you could see the line where the water had went down. It was an impactful event, and it really left a mark on them. We then went from Port Aransas to Aransas Pass, then Ingleside, Fulton, Rockport, ultimately to end up at Aransas Pass where he has the press release and the press conference to announce this large donation from the Metro Atlanta Fire Chiefs' Association, and it went very well. So we added that to -- added some more fundraising, got close to about \$300,000, if I remember right. We put out the notice to every firefighter out there that we could, hey, we've got this money, we want to help. And everybody who put in application received a check. They received a check for either \$500, \$1,000, or \$2,000 to assist them with their insurance deductible, or to just get back to their feet, or however the funds were used, I don't know, but we wanted to help.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: And we had several folks that would call in and say, you know, I can't thank you enough for what you did. I'm not even a member of the association, but you guys have helped me out, get back on our feet for our family, and we've been living in a trailer, been living in a hotel, and now we're able to kind of get back on our feet. So thank you all so much as an association, because we challenged some of you folks to do a fill-the-boot campaign and see how much money you could raise, and you did it. So we were able to help those firefighters, and I can't thank you enough. Just a few pictures as I was on deployment, because I personally went down there along with Chief Cheshire, and several other board members, Mike Richardson -- or, excuse me. Yeah. Mike was down there, and Chuck Richardson, and Richard Van Winkle, we were all down there to help you out and see what we could do to help with your needs. Just a few pictures of us doing the fundraiser. One of the things that -- with the executive board's motion and by-law change proposal for raising dues is we needed to make sure that we got information out to our members in the spring of this year of what it is and where it is that your dues goes. So we put out some information in our magazine.

And by the way, if you're not getting our magazine, let me remind you, you get one print publication in the spring and a digital magazine in the fall, and in between there, you get all of our e-newsletters which comes via e-mail. So if we don't have your e-mail address, you're not getting our magazines and there's no way we can get it to you. Or if we have an old e-mail address that you need to update it with us so we can get this information out to you. But if you don't get the print publication, we can blame it on our postal service or blame it on somebody else, but we're sending it out to your address and we need to know if you're not getting that. So that should be coming out in the spring, and that usually comes out in the March, April time frame. But we wanted to, in this particular edition, show you and remind you of your benefits. In one of the finance meetings someone brought up, well, why don't we take a dollar bill with our current dues structure, \$30 per individual, and show us where all that dues goes to, you know, what do you buy with that. You know, does it go to the building maintenance, the utilities, et cetera. So we showed that in the magazine, you can't see it probably from there because it's microscopic, and then we took a dollar bill with a \$50, if the dues increase were to go through, where it would go, not a real big change.

We also wanted to remind you of some of the benefits of our association and the fact that in one month, if you use our benefits, the savings that you could have to your fire department and/or individual member of the association to you. And so we took one example and showed you that for your \$30 in dues, in one month you can save \$515. And we wanted to remind you of those membership benefits and those programs that are out there available to you. And if you're not taking advantage of them, you're losing out.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: Our annual budget just real quickly, 45 percent of our income comes from dues, 4 percent comes from certification fees, 8 percent of our income comes from the conference. For our expenses, salaries and benefits, which in any organization take up most of your expenses, 25 percent go to the salaries and benefits of the association staff members, 14 percent of your dues goes to the building and operations for our merchandise, and publication expenses, it takes up 29 percent. So we ask that you are reminded to, when you need to, go out and buy books. That helps our income. That helps with our operations of our organization, and we would appreciate you buying from us.

I'm going to remind you of just a few of the benefit programs. These are some logos that you'll see. LaQuinta, we still have our LaQuinta discount program, our Dell computer program. Hotel Engine, if you want to take a family vacation, you want a great deal on a hotel, check out our Hotel Engine discount program, Aflac, Amazon, Amazon Smile, PBR Ammo, Apple computers, just to name a few.

Now I'm going to transition from our association report into our National Volunteer Fire Council report. Myself, and Dallas Renfrew serve as your delegates to the National Volunteer Fire Council and wanted to quickly go over some of their activities for the year. First off, as serving on the Radio Communications Technology Committee, if you're not aware, AT&T won the bid for the first NET data platform for nationwide data coverage. And they are building out a higher level data platform so that, as first responders, you have priority access to data when a disaster hits. You also now have the ability with what's currently in place to get priority access to phone service. So if you have AT&T and you haven't looked into the first NET program, contact us, we can put you in touch with the right folks. But what will happen is they can get you a better plan for your data with AT&T. And they can get you priority access, which means, if you're out in a disaster and everybody is on their phone, you go to dial a number, it's going to bump somebody off and give you that access because you are a first responder. We're working with several federal agencies and associations related to drones and robotics in the fire industry. This is a new upcoming thing that we need to get ahead of. The FDA has put a committee together to try and come up with some standards on this. The National Volunteer Fire Council is serving on that. I'm actually on that particular committee for drones. NVFC, National Volunteer Fire Council, has finally reached 22,000 members. They had a membership drive over the last couple of years to reach 20,000 members, and they did it. They have now 22,000 members. They also offer additional AT&T and LODD policies available to you. So if you choose that optional benefit within our association, those benefits are offered to you, along with your NVFC membership. I'm going to remind you of the Globe Gear Giveaway Program. You have access as members of our association to apply for Globe fire PPE gear. And that actually is available to you right now. NVFC offers free online training through their virtual classroom.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: They do have staff available. I think they're up to 12 or 15 staff, if I recall, available to serve us. They have a lot of grants for recruitment/retention of firefighters, and this being one of them is Find the Firefighter In You. It's a free tool available to your fire department to recruit new members. And when somebody logs into this particular website, they put in their address, your fire department address and your fire department contact information shows up. Let me also point out on this particular slide that the NVFC dues are going up. They voted to increase dues by 20 percent. So their annual dues, I believe, are going to \$20, 18 or \$20 a year for the nation, the entire nation. So another example of the times, people are going up on their dues. Lastly, I want to thank you for your support, your patience, your membership in the association, and your input. There's not a week, there's not a day that goes by that our phones don't ring and we hear from you. Sometimes they're all ringing at once and we don't even have enough staff to answer all the phone calls. Even with the power of Internet and e-mails, we still receive tons of phone calls, and we've tried our best to automate that process and answer those phone calls as soon as possible, but sometimes you're just going to have to wait on hold until one of those other members gets off or staff members gets off and we get to you. So we're glad you're here, we're glad you're a member of this great organization, and thank you all for your support. God bless.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you, Chris. We appreciate your hard work. All right. At this time we'll ask Dan Key to come up and give us the legislative update.

AUDIENCE: Dan is not here. Dan is not here.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Does Dan have somebody to give legislative -- T*FLAG want to take a stab at it?

PAST PRESIDENT BILL GARDNER: Sure. Sure.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Our new co-chair.

PAST PRESIDENT BILL GARDNER: Good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

PAST PRESIDENT BILL GARDNER: For those of you that don't know me, my name is Bill Gardner. I am the previous co-chair of T*FLAG, and after this week and moving in, if you're not aware, our -- my counterpart, Dan Key, is going to be stepping down as co-chair to do some other things in his world and take care of some of those business, so we'll be continuing on with those. Dan and I maintain some things, that I would spend time in the hallways at the capitol, and the associated buildings around there, and he would take care of things like this report and communications, but we are moving forward. Those of you that aren't aware, the board has met, we have looked for and needed to bring into the fold a lobbyist. And we have gone through that process and we have found a gentleman that I think will serve us extremely well.

PAST PRESIDENT BILL GARDNER: You may be familiar with the name of Laney, as in Pete Laney from being at the capitol a few times. Well, this is Jay Pete Laney, which is his son. The first conversation I had with him I thought I was talking to his dad again, and that tells me a couple of things right then. He understands fire service, he understands the role of fire service, and more importantly, he was a bulldog to make sure that everyone got what was fair and correct. JP comes from a background of growing up in Hale Center, his family being involved in Texas politics, but also has the involvement of being around the Dent family, which some of you old-timers that know have been and seen them for years. So he has the ability to represent this association. We're going into what is going to be a very interesting session. As of this time, which we are months usually ahead of this, they have not been able to come to a consensus and figure out who the speaker of the house will be. There is an internal battle taking place there. We have just shy of a billion, that is with a "B," expenses still floating out there that have not been reimbursed, probably will not be reimbursed, and are not designated on how they're going to be taken care of on response from Harvey and other events over the past two years that they're walking into session with. That's the first thing. You may have heard some rumor or a little bit of discussion about there may be some thought of changing property tax. If you haven't heard that, that's really an interesting item. There has been two draft items that people have started drafting that I find very funny when there's not a speaker of the house yet designated to go through a legislative administration, and that no one knows where legislative law is going to be with that. But there are a couple of items that will change and do away with the State of Texas property tax and convert all of that to a flat sales tax.

Did I mention the billion dollars up front that they had to figure out? So they've got to take care of that, and then to make this change, if they want to do this, that everyone that was running promised they were going to do. They have to figure out how to take care of school funding and make sure that they get back and meet the state constitutional rights of where they are with school funding. They haven't been able to figure out how to do school funding in a long time. So that's the challenges. All of that means is they're looking for money. They're looking for lots of money. Funds that have been designated or associated to go to responders dealing with these events will be targeted. Do not fool yourself. They're going to look at our funds. They're going to look at the rural volunteer fire assistance programs, they're going to look at every one of those programs and see what the funding is there and do they need to divert or change that funding. They're looking under every rock to find money this year. Here's what we need from everybody in this room. If you do not know your state senator or your state house rep, in the next 60 days you need to have an opportunity to get -- to meet them. More importantly, if you could meet their chief of staff, because that's actually the people that make a difference, meet them, get a phone number.

PAST PRESIDENT BILL GARDNER: Because during this session, we will be reaching out to you to get you to call those people because we're going to need assistance to make sure that the programs we have not be taken away, and that our people that are impacted during the response are funded appropriately. That means that we need to make sure we appropriate resources at the Texas A&M University System Forest Service. We need to make sure that appropriation of funds are put together for the Texas A&M University System Engineering Extension Programs. All those programs we need to make sure they're taken care of and our partners are taken care of while we do not have our funding separated. So it's going to be fun. We won't be bored.

There's a reason we don't let them stay in Austin at the end of Congress all the time because our hope is that we limit it to just over 100 days. They can't break a whole lot of things. So that's our hope that we're going to have. So thank you. That's kind of where we are, so it's going to be an interesting time. If you have any questions, let me know, and we'll be more than happy to talk about it. If your district doesn't have somebody from T*FLAG represented there, you need to fix that when you get home. Thank y'all.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Mr. Gardner, I appreciate it. Thanks for walking those halls and knocking those doors. I know you like it. Let's see. We'd ask Gary Williams to come on up, give us an update on the certification board.

CERTIFICATION BOARD CHAIRMAN GARY WILLIAMS: Morning.

AUDIENCE: Morning.

MR. GARY WILLIAMS: Well, again, I'd like to thank Chris for giving a big report on the online system so I don't have to give it. He's been more involved in it than I have, but I would really like to thank them and the staff for what they've done. And probably a lot of y'all out there have tried to get a hold of Kevin on the certification issues, can't get through. He's spending a lot of his time on this program also. But there is a list of names that I'm fixing to give you that, if you do have a question, I would like for you to call them, and that is the certification board. So if the board would stand as I call your name. I've got Brian Scheffer from Zone 1, Edwin Baker, Zone 2; Frank Marcinkiewicz from Zone 3; R.J. Thomas from Zone 4; Ubaldo Perez, he's from Zone 5. He couldn't make it this year because of all the problems down there. Got myself, Zone 6, chairman of the board. I got a new member on the board, Zone 7 is Willow Sylestine; Zone 8 is Patrick Dooley; Zone 9, Brad Hargrove; Zone 10 is Dayton Morrow; Zone 11 is Clay Deatherage; Zone 12 is William Tidwell; Zone 13, which is another fairly new member, Jeromy Dawson; got Zone 14, Brent Allen; Zone 15, Scott Garris; Zone 16 is Josh Constancio; Zone 17 is vacant. If anybody out in the El Paso area knows of somebody that would like to be on the board, we'd really appreciate it. Zone 18 is Andy Dexter, Zone 19 is Curtis Brown. And then our TEEEX rep is Cary Roccaforte, TFS representative is Steven Carter, and then again, we've got Kevin Creamer in the Austin office.

MR. GARY WILLIAMS: If you do have a question, please get a hold of one of us before you call the Austin office. That will save them time and we can probably answer your question. Just some numbers, I'm not going to go into all of them, but over the last year for Firefighter I we have sent out certifications for 240 people; for Firefighter II, we have sent out certifications to over 227 people. Those numbers keep going up. They're getting better. Let's keep it up. There's a lot of others that I could go on, probably up here another ten minutes, and give you a lot of numbers, but I'll bypass on those. Prior -- or since July of last year, we've approved 24 master's applications, and then last Friday at our meeting we approved another 21 master's applications. And what I'd like to do at this point, if you hold that master certification, would y'all please stand? (Applause.)

You know, that's a lot of time and a lot of work to get to that level. If anybody is interested in applying for that master's, I want to refer you back to the board before you go to the Austin office. If you send that application in to the Austin office along with your check and it's not right, it's going to get sent back to you, but the Austin office is going to keep your check. So that will give you an incentive to hurry up and get it back in.

As Chris said a minute ago talking about the new company, probably in the last eight months that company has done more in that eight months than our programmers have done in the last three years. I've had an opportunity to look at the program quite a bit. I still need a lot of help, but I think we're definitely on the right track. So please be patient a little bit longer. I know y'all have heard that quite a bit. Our next board meeting will be on Sunday, July the 22nd at 9:00 a.m. at Reed Arena, and y'all are more than welcome to attend our meetings. And with that, that will be my report. (Applause.)

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Gary, we just want to thank you. We know that it's probably your last report as chairman of this board. After 37 years of service to our certification board, this man needs a round of applause. (Applause.) Furthermore, we have a really, really nice gift that he will be presented in July, just didn't quite get all the gears in motion this time, but you're going to be happy, but we want to show our appreciation to you for your service. Thank you again, Gary. (Applause.) All right. Well, right now we're going to give our Credentials Committee report. Danny, come up.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DANNY HURT: I'm not going to come on stage. Okay. The 2018 committee -- Credentials Committees report, we had 10 elected officials present, we had 20 of the past presidents, we had 217 registered delegates, 51 spouses, 60 TFA members, 66 children, 225 non-voting members, this includes 43 first-time attendees. The exhibit hall representatives, we had 146, vendors were 56. It all come to a grand total of 699 people. We are up 35 people from last year. We were up 21 people last year, so we're going in a good system right now. We need to keep going up, not going down.

MR. DANNY HURT: But anyway, that's the credential report. I ask that the -- Credentials Committee asked that this be put in the minutes of the meeting, and you do have that.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: All right. Thank you, Danny. We appreciate y'all's hard work. Moving right along, I'm going to ask Chairman Robert Kleen, Sergeant-At-Arms Committee, come up for a little recognition.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS ROBERT KLEEN: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to present to you the hardest-working committee at the convention. They do a job that is tremendous, but they take care of it. They do it in a very good fashion, and I am very proud of each and every member of them. But before I introduce them by name, I'm going to make a challenge. I have six districts that do not have a member on my committee. I want to see a member from every district if at all possible next year. Now, Northeast District, North District, Red River District, Midwest District, Permian Basin District, North Central District, I need someone from your district. If you would, get with your board. If you are willing to serve and be a busy, but a very active part, where you meet a lot of people and have a very good time, get them to get a letter to our president coming in and to our secretary so that we can have a member from every district. Now, we have two members that we're not going to have here, Anthony Cargile, Brian Chenault, they are helping with the tally committee. We have Jerry Gomez, James Cargile, Rickey Cearly, Pat Olivas, Cowboy Wylie, Sarah Harbrough, Peter Duran. I'm going to have to do a little quick switch so I can see their faces. We have Matt Carnell, we have Melissa Sanchez, we have Tommy Sanchez. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you would give them a great big round of applause because they're some very special people. (Applause.)

And I do want to see next year, when I get the magazine in the fall, that says I have that many new members. You will have to be somebody that's going to be very active. You will still have plenty of time to go to training sessions, so don't think you're going to get knocked out of training sessions, because you have plenty of time. Now, my last thing, I have a badge here a young lady may be looking for, Elizabeth Ketchens, and I would love to give it to her because she may want to have that to keep. But I'm going to let y'all have it back, and this is a very fine bunch of people. Thank y'all. (Applause.)

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you, Robert. Thank you all the sergeant-at-arms. We do know they work very hard. At this time I would ask Chairwoman Nancy Hall to come up and present our poster contest winner.

POSTER COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN NANCY HALL: My committee, if you'd come up here. Frankie, are you in here? We had nine districts to turn in posters this year, and we had a total of 121, so all the districts are not bringing any in. Please try to do that and get some in your district. Kindergarten Division, first place goes to Abraham McBride from the Guadalupe District; second place, Tonesha Tavari from North Texas District;

MS. NANCY HALL: third place, Omna Kasan from the North Texas; Primary first place, McKenna Huseley from North Texas District; second place is Anika Wong from the North Texas District; third place, Austin Dechu from the North Texas District; first place, Isabella Wang, North Texas District; second place, somebody from North Texas District. At the district meeting, we can't pronounce half of them. Third place, Aaron Gonzalez from the Central District. Middle Division, first place, Anaya Ramesh from the North Texas District; second place, Yovani -- something from Gulf Coast; third place, Anthony Hernandez from the Midwest District. Junior High first place, Lucy Kai, North Texas District; second place, Olivia Bonds, North Texas District; third place, Friendship Padomo from the Rio Grande Valley District. The High School third place, Ellie Rons, North Texas District; second place, Estella Hernandez, from Rio Grande Valley; third place, Serta from the Rio Grande Valley. (Applause.)

MALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mr. Chairman?

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Yes, sir.

MALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'd like to ask a question. All of the trophies that come from -- I mean the posters that came in and in this winning thing, where are they?

2ND VP TIM SMITH: (Inaudible).

MALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: So I need to take them back.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Big thanks to the poster committee. You know, we talk about getting our youth involved, and this is one of the first times they have exposure to our organization, so I think it's a fantastic -- fantastic way to get our youth involved. All right. We'll get Director Barron back here, and we'll do a photo contest winner.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON: Okay. First place in Education and Public Safety, Javier Garcia. Javier? No. And another first place in Fire-Related, Javier Garcia; second place in Fire-Related, JoAnne Bogitch (Applause.) Congratulations. First place in Life-Saving goes to Thomas McDonald; second place in Life Saving goes to Angela Kendrick; second place in Education Public Safety goes to Thomas McDonald; and best in show, Javier Garcia. So you'll see some of these photos on our website. You'll see them probably in magazines again, and we had them in a photo binder at our desk during conference. So thank you all very much. (Applause.)

2ND VP TIM SMITH: All right. How is everybody doing? We doing okay? Let's keep rolling then. Okay. At this time we're going to -- still waiting on election results, so we will deviate just a hair and go to our recognition of our mascot. So, Daisy, as part of the board and as going off the board, you get your -- it is my honor to give you your past mascot badge, and a gift from the board. We really appreciate everything you've done for the board this year, and we know you'll do great things for this world.

MS. DAISY SVATEK: Good morning. I can't believe this year being mascot went by so fast. It feels like yesterday I was up here saying thank you for voting for me, and raising money for an amazing, caring organization called MDA. With that being said, we have raised \$4,000, because without your -- without your help, this foundation would not be happening, even sending kids to camp. So thank you for all y'all's support, and making the kids smile and having fun, because that's what it's all about, the kids.

But I would like to appreciate and say thank you to my family for supporting me and driving all me over to district meetings in order for me to raise money, and my fire department for supporting me as well. Thank you. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Daisy, thank you, number one, for your infectious smile. Every time you came into the room, every time you came to a meeting, you brought life to the meeting just with that infectious smile that you have. But most of all, thank you for all of your hard work that you have done, especially for MDA, and here's a little token of my esteem. Thank you so much.

BOARD MEMBER: Daisy, as they said, you've done tremendous service to this organization, raised \$4,000 for MDA. That's pretty impressive. Again, we thank you. My wife and I would like to give you a little token of our appreciation, and we look forward to see you in the future.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Daisy, thank you. \$4,000 is an amazing accomplishment. I'm going to miss you dragging that thing around, but I know you're glad to get rid of it. Don't be a stranger. And from Billie and I, we want to say thank you.

3RD VP RICHARD VAN WINKLE: From my wife -- well, I won't lie, I don't shop. You got a gift card. My wife got you a very nice present and we appreciate everything.

BOARD MEMBER: Thank you so much for your dedication to the position you had, and we look for you to do great things in the future.

MS. DAISY SVATEK: Thank you.

PAST PRESIDENT HENRY PERRY: Daisy, thank you very much for all that you have done. I appreciate working with you, sweetheart. Just like Richard, my wife got you a very nice gift from her and I and Jim. Thank you very much for everything.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Anyone in the crowd like to come up and recognize Daisy, that would be fine.

MR. DWAYNE SVATEK: Dwayne and Donna Svatek, Daisy's mom and dad. Daisy, we're very proud of you representing your association, and we got you a little something to -- you can wrap yourself in your memories. (Applause.)

MRS. DONNA SVATEK: And also she'll be getting a paver at the state office with her name and year as mascot. We're very proud of her.

PAST PRESIDENT DAVID WADE: David Wade, past president 2013. Daisy, just as everyone else has said, I really appreciate everything you've done, not only for your association, you've done an outstanding job of representing this association, but also everything you've done for MDA. So just a small token of my appreciation for what you've done.

MS. DAISY SVATEK: Thank you. Thank you.

PAST PRESIDENT PAUL HAMILTON: Hi. Paul Hamilton, past president 2016. Just a little something from Lauren and I. She wishes you well.

MS. DAISY SVATEK: Thank you.

MRS. BILLIE SVATEK: Billie and Joe Svatek, or grandma and grandpa. Daisy, you've done a fantastic job, from being sweetheart in our auxiliary, to the men's department, to the district, both sides, and now the State, TFA, and SFFMA. We are very proud of you. A little something.

MS. DAISY SVATEK: Thank you. (Applause.)

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Thank you again, Daisy. That blanket will come in handy down there on those cool nights in South Texas. All right. Folks, at this point in time, we'll take a break, waiting on election results. And we'll convene as soon as we can. So take a break. (Recess.)

2ND VP TIM SMITH: All right. We'll come back to order here. Also, if we could get Joe Ondrasek up here for the election results.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: So I'm just going to read down the ballot on the results. Mike Richardson, President, 186; Tim Smith, Vice President -- 1st Vice President, 186; Richard Van Winkle, 2nd Vice President, 186; Chuck Richardson, 3rd Vice President, 187; F. Jim White, Assistant Secretary, 184; Ben Kennedy, Chaplain 186; Harvie Cheshire, Immediate Past President, 185. And so now to the meat. For the 4th vice president with 104 votes -- why don't we go the other way -- with 89 votes, Frank Marcinkiewicz, with 104 votes, Donny Boggs. The new 4th Vice President is Donny Boggs. (Applause.) For secretary, 59 votes, Michael Richter; 136, Brent Allen. New secretary, Brent Allen. (Applause.) SFFMA mascot, Kelby Jasinski, 48 votes; Kylie Maples 147. Your new mascot, Kylie Maples. (Applause.) On the by-law proposals, Proposal 1 for the dues increase, 30 votes against it, with 170 votes pass it. The Proposal 1 passes. (Applause.) Proposal 2, the Midwest Texas Voting Proposal, 68 votes for it, 127 against it. That proposal fails. Our site selection for 2021, 48 votes for Corpus, 148 for McAllen, and we're going to McAllen. (Applause.) These are the results. Congratulations to all those that won and those that were candidates.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Folks, thank you -- thank you, gentlemen, for that information. I'd also entertain a motion from the floor to destroy the ballots.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: So moved.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Second?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Discussion? Question be called. All those in favor, say aye.

AUDIENCE: Aye.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Opposed, say no. Motion carried.

PAST PRESIDENT HENRY PERRY: So President Cheshire, if you'll have a -- stand up. It's my honor and privilege to give you your presidential plaque in the coveted life membership, and thank you for your service to all of us, and from the board, and from me, thank you. (Applause.)

2ND VP TIM SMITH: All right. Mr. Kyle Stephens, will you come forward and elevate the new officers. We need to get the new candidates on stage, got to have the new candidates up here.

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: I'm Kyle Stephens, past president, 2007, co-chairman of the past presidents' club. First thing I want to do is, with our immediate past president that is now coming over to the past president's club, in case none of y'all heard the ruckus out there last night, we had a couple of gentlemen at a club that acquired a couple of Harley-Davidson motorcycles. I don't want to tell you where they got them, don't want to know. But they had chairs lined up and built ramps, and they was fixing to jump the pool. We gathered up, we finally talked them out of it. And I don't want to call any names of who those gentlemen was, I don't want to embarrass them, but Gerald Matheus and maybe David Luedeke were involved in this, but that's beside the point. But we -- somebody mentioned that we hadn't voted to bring in and allow Henry to be part of our club. And so the nomination -- I said, all right, we'll call a meeting in order right now, because all of us was down there, and we took a vote or had a motion, a second. And we sat there discussing it, and about four hours later we finally voted, and it was a unanimous decision. (Applause.)

At this time, in a tradition that we started last year, the plaque that is normally up here that has been taken over there and laid on that table, it's a tradition that this plaque is a symbol of both tradition and culture of this organization and of the past presidents. If any of you haven't taken a look at it and read it, I encourage you to do that. This plaque will be presented to the immediate past president, and he will take that plaque and will be at every convention that we hold. Right now what we're going to do, we're going to have the immediate past president, Henry, go over there and sign that plaque. If y'all look, there's signatures of every past president on that plaque, dating back to 1922. That's a long history in that plaque. We've had two names on there that aren't the original signatures because of not signing it when they received the plaque, and that's why we started this tradition.

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: As past presidents, we wanted it to be signed immediately; therefore, we don't acquire that again, that we have their signature. I'm sorry. I'm kind of like a church mouse.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: I want to say something right quick. Thank y'all. For if it wasn't for you, the membership of this great organization, I wouldn't be where I'm at today. I was unable to have my family here today, so two of my past president family who I believe I'm as close to as my own family are going to take care of me.

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: At this time, Bill's going to present him with his red coat. This red coat is a symbol of past presidents, and it's an honor to get to wear it. Another tradition that we'll -- y'all didn't hear that, did you?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, but Jack did. (Laughter.)

BOARD MEMBER: You know who you're going to meet when you get there. Love you, brother.

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: When I walk out of here, y'all gather around me. (Inaudible.) (Laughter.) This is the badge of the past presidents that we wear. Rusty's going to pin it on him.

PAST PRESIDENT RUSTY KATTNER: This badge carries its own weight. Your name is etched on that plaque for an eternity. Your name will be engraved on the bell at the state office. Every proceeding will have your name in there from now on. The program will have your name in there for now on. So the badge carries its own weight, the weight of tradition, the weight of being a past president, but more importantly, the weight of not have -- of being a very, very good man. And, Henry, it's indeed a real pleasure for me to give you this. I know your dad is looking down on you right now and he is tearful because his son now is a past president. Thank you. (Applause.)

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: All right. At this time we're going to have the passing of the badge. We'll start with the president and go down.

BOARD MEMBER: Thank you again, Harvie. You have had a great year, a great five years. We started at 2012 campaign, me, you, and Rick. We spent a lot of times and lot of hours and met a lot, a lot of great people throughout this state. This is the culmination. You finally fell off the edge. You get to sit at the end of the table. The work is not over, it is never done, but you can relax. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Let me get this badge up here for you. Brother Mike, I'm going to be honest with you, it comes in a blur. And, you know, before you know it, you'll be stepping down as well. But let me tell you something, there's no greater duty than to serve this great organization as a president.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: It has been my honor, it is -- I'm very humbled by everything that each and every one of you have given back to me anytime we asked for help, and I want to pass that on to you, because I can't think of a better guy to take the place.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE: Love you, brother.

1ST VP MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you. All right. Here we are once again. We've gone through several years. We campaigned against each other, and we became the best of friends throughout that campaign process. I've been able to hand a badge to him each year since I've been going through the chairs, and it's each and every time been an outstanding honor to do this. I've learned to not only love him as a friend and a brother, but to absolutely respect him as a fire chief and a member of this association. So with the 1st vice president's badge, Tim, come a lot of responsibilities also. Supporting the president in the -- the items that he has to take care of in that final year, and -- but it's just getting ready, getting ready to take the helm and being ready to lead this organization in a way that does these members proud. So, Tim, I am exceptionally proud to hand you the 1st vice president. (Applause.)

2ND VP TIM SMITH: Oh, Richard, you know, I've always said, as we go through these chairs, I couldn't be between two better people. The knowledge base that both Mike has and that Richard has is unbelievable. And I lean on both of them constantly to help -- help me, help us make the right decision for this association. So we had a little talk about the duties of 3rd vice president, and that moves up now.

2ND VP TIM SMITH: And now you get to run the meetings for us and you get your chance up here. I can't think of a better person to do it. We didn't campaign against each other, but we sure have grown close, and I respect you as a board. So with that, I give you this 2nd vice president badge. (Applause.)

3RD VP RICHARD VAN WINKLE: Before I get to you, Chuck, Henry, I appreciate you getting one last dig at me about that lecture. Last year I was given this badge as 3rd vice president. I want you to know, since they've reformatted the way we do things, next year, like I was told, your only duty at convention is to sit there and look pretty. I got a pass for that and took care of it. We're going to leave it to somebody else. Anyway, I can't think of a better guy to give this to. Look forward to working with you. (Applause.)

4TH VP CHUCK RICHARDSON: Donny Boggs, first and foremost, have a box. (Laughter.) Donny Boggs, I love you, brother.

CHIEF DONNY BOGGS: Love you, too.

4TH VP CHUCK RICHARDSON: There's a lot of responsibility that goes with this badge, and there's a lot -- a very steep learning curve, but I have the utmost faith that you're going to uphold the fire service in this organization. Congratulations, and you'll do well.

CHIEF DONNY BOGGS: Thank you. Thank you, the membership. Frankie, I never ever looked at you as an opponent. I looked at you as a brother. I looked at you as someone that had ideas just like I did, and I truly feel that we have a mutual respect for one another, at least I do for you. You have some really good ideas we've talked about on the road. Don't let those fall, don't let those dreams fall. Not one individual can make change. It takes a group of individuals with like thinking to do that. So I'm there for you. I'm there for the whole membership, for -- for what you want to bring forward to discuss. I know it's not going to be easy. There's going to have to be some discussion and dialogue in what we do to go forward and move forward. I accept this responsibility humbly. I'm going to work hard for those that didn't originally want me here, and that's fine. We have to have that, but I'm going to try to earn your -- your respect and your backing and your support. And in the famous words of Jack King to Chief Van Winkle, I'll try not to screw it up. And, Beverly, those handcuffs, I need to put this on my arm. Okay? Thank y'all so much. (Applause.)

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: We got mascot and the secretary right now. Where -- oh. Standing in white, don't even stand out.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Brent, I want to tell you something you already know, it's a great association, great board, and a great staff, and I know you're going to do a great job. Thank you. (Applause.)

MS. DAISY SVATEK: You might get tired of it, but it's all worth it in the end. And then here's the badge. What you will get out of this is a family, the board will be your family and your backup, you can trust them in everything, and raising good money for kids, putting smiles on their faces, and have the journey. Congratulations. (Applause.)

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: Okay. If everybody will line up. Okay. Henry, you can stand down. We'll have a swearing in of the officers. If you will, face the crowd, please. Those are your people you serve. Raise your right hand. Repeat after me. (Board of Directors sworn.) Ladies and gentlemen, welcome me -- help me in welcoming your 2018/2019 Board of Directors. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: Thank you. Thank you. Such an honor. But before he gets away from us, we'd like to call up our past secretary, Joe Ondrasek. All right. Joe has served this association as our secretary for the last eight years. Joe's done an outstanding job in a position that sometimes you don't get a lot of people run for that spot because there's a lot of work involved in it, a lot of work. Joe's done it in an outstanding fashion. Joe's done it as a contributing member of the executive board. Joe is active in the Texas fire service, and, therefore, he has ideas that he presents and they're acted upon. We really -- we're excited about our newcomer, but we really hate to see Joe go. But I'll say once again, like I said the other day, we all know the reason he's doing this, so he can spend more time up in Colorado and mess around.

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: But I just wanted to present this plaque from the association, presented to Joe Ondrasek, SFFMA Secretary 2010 to 2018, presented to this 142nd Annual SFFMA Training Conference and Convention. (Applause.) And also I would like to present him as has been voted on by the executive board this life member card, and Joe shall be a life member of this association.

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Thank you, Mike. And again, I just want to thank all the support that I've had while on the board and, again, just a lot of incredible people.

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: Joe, most of you know Joe replaced me as secretary when I retired from that position on the board. Since that day, he and I have gotten pretty close. I think he's a very good friend. There was something Pam got you for your service. Thank you, Joe.

PAST SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: Thank you, Richard, and thank you, Joe. Some of the other board and folks that got me gifts too, so thank you, guys.

MS. JODEE ONDRASEK: We just wanted to give a little gift to our -- my dad, Joe Ondrasek. We just want to appreciate all the hard work and time he spent in this organization. We're just very proud of him.

PAST SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK: If y'all don't know it, I'm a Cowboys fan. (Applause.) So thank you. Again, thank you.

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: Another bit of recognition for our -- our host city for having hosted this great convention this year. If you would, John Yovanovitch from the Arlington Fire Department, if you would step up. Somebody might have to help him because he may be too short to get up the steps. John, this organization expresses its gratitude to the Arlington Fire Department for the contributions to the 142nd Annual SFFMA Training Conference and Convention. John, we especially appreciate your participation and your helping us with classes and being there for each and every one of us throughout this -- this conference. Thank you. (Applause.) A rep from the North Texas District, come on up. Want me to come down there?

FEMALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: No, I can come up there. I'm good.

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: Representative of the North Texas District, I'd like to present this plaque as gratitude for your work and dedication to making this conference go off -- (inaudible) -- the 142nd Annual SFFMA Conference. Thank you so much for your hard work, thanks from everyone. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. A few announcements we're going to get to. First, I'd like to say a few words. You know, I kind of wrote out a speech and I thought that I would get up here and go over a few things we've all talked about, especially this last year, but a lot of those things worked themselves out and were discussed during this conference.

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: So I want to take you back a little bit to when I first took -- I first came before you and asked to be your 4th vice president. I told you that my over 40 years of service in the fire service, I had tried to model it after specific philosophy, and it was based upon a philosophy that I learned about many, many years ago as a young man. And that man said, last night I -- I slept and I dreamed that life is a joy. I awoke to the realization that life is service. I acted and, behold, service is a joy. To me, throughout this career, that has exemplified the fire service in the United States. Each and every one of you live that -- you live that philosophy each and every day, and I'm proud to know each and every one of you. Then we transitioned from that into what is the mission of this organization; to promote, to unify, to represent, to educate Texas fire service. We carry out that mission constantly, and each and every one of you, you -- you -- in a shining example, you do that in your communities. We represent, and we're the only organization. I've been a volunteer and a career firefighter for over 40 years. The only organization in this state, fire organization that looks at the whole of the fire service, that appreciates the whole of this Texas fire service is the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas. That's it. Every other of them have a specific agenda or a specific focus. This one doesn't. It takes care of all. We're the only one that represents, that takes care of the volunteers who make up 80 percent of the firefighters in this state. We protect 80 percent of the land area of our great state. We -- we focused on them, but we also -- we welcomed in and we have career firefighters, combination firefighters, part-time firefighters, each and every one of them are part of this association, and have been for years and years and years. But now we get to the point where our numbers have seemed to slow down. Other organizations that are our friends but sometimes we have to have disagreements with them and we have to go to things like the legislature and take opposing points, not have animosity, but because we have a different business view, we have a different business model. So where are we at with that? We have to change. And we've talked about it a lot this week. Alan Brunacini, the godfather of the current -- or the modern American fire service said firefighters hate two things, change and leaving things the way they are. So we're going to have -- you take that, we're going to have those times that as we discuss change over the coming years, as we do that so that we can bring our organization back up to a more powerful legislative organization, an organization that has relevance in everything that goes on in the Texas fire service, we're going to have hard discussions sometimes. That's okay. Remember who we are. Remember that philosophy I talked about in the beginning, and remember the PURE, to promote, unify, represent, and educate Texas fire service. Keep that at the forefront of your thoughts, and we can have those disagreements, and we can all work because each and every one of us, I know every one of you, no matter what you say to me at any point, I know that every one of these men up here and young lady, I know that each and every one of you want nothing but this association to flourish.

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: Could I possibly be wrong? Absolutely not. So let's -- let's -- let's get ready for the hard work that's before us. Let's bring this organization back up to a position it's been in in the past. Let's regain some of that power in the state. Let's go forward, let's work together, let's be brothers, and let's mix up our ideas so that we do pick the right path. I -- I can't tell you how much I appreciate being able to stand in this spot. I appreciate each and every one of you, and I pledge that I will serve you diligently through the coming year. Thank you. (Applause.) All right. Another announcement from Gabi. We have some extra red books back in the back. Gabi would not like to have to lug them home. So if any of you have not gotten a red book from the past year, please see her back there and pick one up. Also, if there's no other -- excuse me a second. All right. We'll have Assistant Secretary F. Jim come up and present the resolutions.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. JIM WHITE: Good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. JIM WHITE: If you'll open your programs to page 12. You have printed Resolution 1 and 2. At this time I'd like to have a motion from the floor. Would you please stand and state your name and district or fire department to accept Resolution 1?

PAST PRESIDENT PAUL HAMILTON: Paul Hamilton, Panhandle, 2016. Accept Resolution No. 1.

PAST PRESIDENT REX KLESEL: Rex Klesel, past president from Alvin Fire Department. Second the motion.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. JIM WHITE: Is there any discussion?

BOARD MEMBER: Question.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. JIM WHITE: Question been called for. New 1st Vice President, Tim Smith.

1ST VP TIM SMITH: Jim, we have a motion on the floor and a second. All those in favor, signify by saying, aye. Signify for nay. Motion carries.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. JIM WHITE: Also, I call for a motion to accept Resolution 2 with the same stipulations. Is there motions to accept Resolution 2?

PAST PRESIDENT KYLE STEPHENS: Kyle Stephens, past president 2007, Decatur Fire Department. Make a motion that we accept Resolution 2.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. JIM WHITE: Is there a second?

PAST PRESIDENT DAVID WADE: David Wade, past president 2013, Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department. I second the motion.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. JIM WHITE: Is there any discussion?

BOARD MEMBER: Question.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. JIM WHITE: Question being called for.

1ST VP TIM SMITH: We've got a motion on the floor and a second. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

AUDIENCE: Aye.

1ST VP TIM SMITH: Nay, same sign. Motion carries.

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: Chair recognizes--(unintelligible.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Unintelligible) -- Northeast Texas mascot would like to give the new mascot something.

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: Okay. We'll have another -- another presentation recognition for the mascot, for the new mascot.

MS. KALEY JOHNSON: I'm Kaley Johnson, and I'm mascot for the Northeast Texas District. At our fall and spring district meeting I raised \$303.10 for MDA. I would like to present you with a check for this amount to help start you with the MDA 2018.

MS. KYLIE MAPLES: Thank you so much. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: All right. Now we're going to take announcements from the floor. If you would, if you need a microphone, come up. And if you have any announcements to make, please step forward. Chair recognizes Bill Gardner.

PAST PRESIDENT BILL GARDNER: I won't come up this time. Board, association, today I'm not speaking for myself, but I wanted to do an announcement for Mr. Curtis Brown. Curtis had to return back to the city of Dalhart to go to work and do some items there, but he wanted to pass along that his intention to run for 4th vice president of this great association this coming year. He apologizes that he couldn't be here today, but he will see each and every one of you in July at that board meeting and start the conversations with you. He has had the conversation, and I participate in some of those conversations. As you start this run, you always ask, what's the time commitment, what's the cost, and where are we going. We've had those conversations, we've had those conversations with his family, and we've had those conversations with his employer, and they're all on board to support that. So he just wanted to let you know, apologized for not being here, but Curtis Brown is throwing his hat in the ring for the run, 4th vice president this coming year. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: Any other announcements?

MR. CASEY JOHNSON: Good morning, Mr. President and secretary, board members. My name is Casey Johnson. I'm 13 years old. I live in Long Beach, Texas. Next year I'll be in eighth grade, and I play violin in my school's orchestra, and I'm a member of the student council. For the last four years I've been practicing taekwondo, and I currently have a first-degree black belt with four stars. As of December 1, when I test for my fifth star, I'll be able to test for my second degree black belt. Achieving this goal has taught me discipline and the value of hard work. Through student council and my family, I've learned the importance of service to others.

MR. CASEY JOHNSON: Both my dad -- (unintelligible) -- and my Grandpa Chuck Richardson are active leaders in the Northeast Fire Department, and are members of the Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers District. Watching them has shown me why we must help others; therefore, I would like to run for SFFMA mascot in 2019 pending the approval of Gulf Coast District. Thank you for listening to me this morning. (Applause.)

MR. LANDON FLISOWSKI: Hi. My name is Landon Flisowski. I'm 11 years old. I live in Brenham, Texas. My dad is with Brenham Fire Department. I have been -- (unintelligible) -- mascot. I am now Central District's mascot. Next year I would like to run for SFFMA mascot. Thank you. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: Do we have any other announcements from the floor? Do we have any other announcements? No other announcements. Do we have any other business that needs to come before this body? Any other business that needs to come before this body? All right. Matt?

MR. MATT CORNELL: Sorry. Several folks have asked us about the critique sheets and everything. There will be an e-mail that will go out later, and you'll have an opportunity to click to a link and everything. Is that correct, Gabi? And she's going to give us a critique on what we can do better for y'all.

PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON: Any other business come before the body? With no other business to come before the body, then I take great pleasure in announcing close of the 142nd SFFMA Convention. By this, adjourned. (Applause.)

RESOLUTION 1

WHEREAS, the delegates and visitors of the 142nd Annual Training Conference and Convention of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas have enjoyed and appreciated the generous hospitality and courtesy shown them by the people of the City of Arlington, Fire Chief Don Crowson, members of the Arlington Fire Department, and the officers and members of the North Texas District.

WHEREAS, we are fully aware of the money, effort, energy and time spent to make this Training Conference and Convention so highly successful, entertaining, and educational:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Association expresses its sincere appreciation, and heartfelt thanks to all these and all others who have worked so hard and so long to make this a successful undertaking.

Submitted this 27th day of June 2018

RESOLUTION 2

WHEREAS, the continued growth, service, effectiveness and future of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas is due to the untiring efforts of many dedicated and devoted individuals; and

WHEREAS we, the Firefighters of Texas, are pleased and gratified with the accomplishments made through the efforts of these people,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this association commends and expresses deep appreciation to:

- PresidentHarvie Cheshire
 - 1st Vice PresidentMike Richardson
 - 2nd Vice PresidentTim Smith
 - 3rd Vice PresidentRichard Van Winkle
 - 4th Vice President..... Chuck Richardson
 - SecretaryJoe Ondrasek
 - Assistant SecretaryF. Jim White
 - ChaplainBen Kennedy
 - Mascot Daisy Svatek
 - Past President Henry Perry
 - Board Appointed ParliamentarianRayford Gibson
- Executive Director Chris Barron, and the State Staff for their efforts; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that our appreciation be expressed to the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, and its Director Gary Sera, and Emergency Services Training Institute Division Director Robert Moore and his staff, the volunteer instructors, and the officials of the Texas A&M University for their continued efforts on behalf of the Firefighters of Texas and also Texas A&M Forest Service, and its Director Tom G. Boggus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that special appreciation be exhibited for the work done by the Past Presidents of the association, and to the Districts Officers who have so diligently worked on our behalf.

Submitted this 27th day of June 2018

DRIVING CONTEST

The truck driving contest was conducted on Sunday morning June 24, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. in parking lot 'F'. We had nine drivers to sign up and nine drivers to show up on Sunday morning. In third place with a time of 2:24.47 was Cody Neutzler of Brenham Fire Department. In second place with a time of 2:20.13 was Jason January of Huntsville Fire Department and in first place with a time of 2:20.03 was Alvin Fail of Cameron Fire Department.

The Truck Driving Committee this year consisted of Michael Richter, Gulf Coast District Chairman; Dennis Gage, Northeast Texas District, Alvin Fail, Central Texas District and Scott Charbula, Guadalupe District, We were assisted this year by Kurt Jasinski, Central Texas District, Charlie Smith, North Texas District and Shirley Richter, Gulf Coast District. A special thanks to my committee and helpers who were in the parking lot at 6:00am to set up the course, Charlie Smith for arranging for the fire truck. A very special thanks to the North Texas District (John Robinson, Melissa Robinson and John Yovanovitch) for arranging for the parking lot to be used.

Submitted by,

Michael Richter
Chairman

GARY TILTON MEMORIAL POSTER CONTEST

Total number of districts represented: 9
Total number of posters submitted: 121

*Kindergarten Division (grade Pre-K – K)
21 posters from 9 districts*

First Place: ABRAHAM MCBRIDE
School: St Rose of Lima
Fire Department: Schulenburg
District: Guadalupe

Second Place: ANISHA TIWARI
School: Barksdale Elementary
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

Third Place: ANNA AHSAN
School: Haun Elementary
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

*Primary Division (grades 1 - 2)
21 posters from 9 districts*

First Place: MAKENNA HUSLIG
School: Stinson Elementary
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

Second Place: ANNIKA WONG
School: Schell Elementary
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

Third Place: AUSTIN SAECHY
School: Barksdale Elementary
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

*Intermediate Division (grades 3 - 4)
24 posters from 9 districts*

First Place: ISABELLA WANG
School: Skaggs Elementary
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

Second Place: AADHYA GAUR
School: Hagggar Elementary
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

Third Place: AARON GONZALEZ
School: Sul Ross Elementary
Fire Department: Bryan FD
District: Central Texas

*Middle Division (grades 5 - 6)
22 posters from 9 districts*

First Place: ANANYA RAMESH
School: Centennial Elementary
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

Second Place: GIOVANNY MONTES DEOCA
School:
Fire Department: Pasadena
District: Gulf Coast/ Tri-Rivers

Third Place: ANTHONY HERNANDEZ
School: Anson Elementary
Fire Department: Anson FD
District: Mid-West Texas

*Junior High Division (grades 7 – 8)
17 posters from 9 districts*

First Place: LUCY CAI
School: Schimelpfenig Middle
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

Second Place: OLIVIA FAN
School: Rice
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

Third Place: PRINCESS ROSE PERDOMO
School: Stell
Fire Department:
District: Rio Grande Valley

*High School Division (grades 9 – 12)
16 posters from 9 districts*

First Place: ELLIE RUAN
School: Clark
Fire Department: Plano Fire & Rescue
District: North Texas

Second Place: ESTELA HERNANDEZ
School: Rio Hondo
Fire Department: Rio Hondo
District: Rio Grande Valley

Third Place: CELESTE CERDA
School: Rio Hondo
Fire Department: Rio Hondo
District: Rio Grande Valley

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS ANNUAL REPORT

During the 2018 Conference and Convention in Arlington the Sergeants noted the following items;

The Exhibit Hall move in on Friday went very well and completed on time.

Saturday's Exhibit Hall was good and with several new vendors. We checked on the new vendors and helped them feel welcomed.

The registration packets were not put together and led to some issues of attendees not getting everything. We understand that this is a result of staffing issues. We suggest a registration committee to prepare these packets and review the registration process on Friday.

At the close of the Exhibit Hall, trucks began moving before the floor was clear of all attendees. This was unsafe and should not happen again.

Sunday's Memorial service went very well. Set up and practice on Saturday continues to serve us best. We have a good plan for our LODD families, but somehow were still surprised by the attendance of one LODD family.

Hospitality on Sunday night went well, and we are not aware of any problems. Rooms shut down as scheduled and halls were quiet on time.

Monday's classes had some sign in issues, equipment should be checked prior to the day classes begin. The baseball game was a nice change in schedule and a great family event. There were some complaints that tickets sold out quickly and not everyone had an opportunity to purchase tickets.

Tuesday's classes were well attended. Offering a full 16 hours of training helps to justify the expense of attending the full conference. Tuesday night's award banquet was great.

Wednesday's session went smoothly, and the Sergeants were recognized with good response.

Having a key staff member responsible for the packing and shipping of convention supplies has been a tremendous help. Every year the amount of supplies and equipment grows, thus something is always left behind. We recommend a loading list be completed as the trailers are unloaded after the conference and used as a check list for loading the next year.

We recommend that this list be stored electronically and posted in the trailer to be checked off as each item is loaded for the next convention. Including pictures of the items would also be helpful. Overall the 142nd SFFMA Training Conference and Convention was a great success with very few complaints and problems.

We look forward to serving again in Longview.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Kleen, Chairman

PUMPER RACES

3-LADIES (0 Teams)

6-LADIES (0 Teams)

There were no ladies teams.

3-MAN

- 1st Place Central Texas - 14.39**
- 2nd Place Rockdale - 14.81**
- 3rd Place Brenham - 15.19**

Judges:

- Jeffery Thompson Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers District
- Glenn Johnson North East Texas District
- Frank Marcinkiewicz Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers District

Timekeepers:

- Vic Einspahr Guadalupe District
- Toni Smith
- Dina WeissCentral Texas District
- Patti JonesEast Texas District

6-MAN

- 1st Place Panhandle District - 24.9**
- 2nd Place Central Texas District - 25.62**
- 3rd Place Gulf Coast - NT**

Judges:

- Jeffery Thompson Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers District
- Glenn JohnsonNorth East Texas District
- Frank Marcinkiewicz Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers District

Timekeepers:

- Vic Einspahr Guadalupe District
- Toni Smith
- Dina WeissCentral Texas District
- Patti JonesEast Texas District

TEXAS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD

The following report is respectfully submitted to account for the activities of the Texas Emergency Medical Services Board (TEMSB) from June 10, 2017 thru June 23, 2018.

Creation of an EMS-related Certification Program

The TEMSB initiated a program for the development of a certification program for EMS related positions. The intent of this initiative is to develop a marketable product to begin to bring Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and First Responder Organization (FRO), whether fire based or not, to our association in a tangible way as does the existing SFFMA Certification Program. The TEMSB developed several future certification programs which will not only bridge the perceived gap between fire and EMS; but also create certifications that nationally do not exist, and thus provide the TEMSB and SFFMA with the monumental opportunity in creating the future industry standard. The TEMSB will not be creating clinically related certification programs as these are already in existence and highly regulated.

The TEMSB is looking to create the following future certification within the SFFMA Certification Program:

- EMS Instructor
- Field Training Officer
- EMS Training Officer
- EMS Officer or Supervisor
- EMS Administrator

The EMS Instructor Program has already been created, presented, and adopted as a certification by the Certification Board on July 23, 2017 and became effective as a certification on January 1, 2018. This program was drafted from a national exiting program (National Association of EMS Educators - NAEMSE), was enhanced using the NFPA 1041 objectives, skills sheets and worksheet were created to address all psychomotor skills sets, and a NFPA 1041 to NAEMSE crossover matrix was created. The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) has been contacted and the request has been made for the SFFMA EMS Certification Program to be acceptable as course work for their TDSHS EMS Instructor certification. As of date, TDSHS has not provided any communications as for or against this request.

The TEMSB has also started the process to create the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program. Except for the EMS Instructor, there is not a standardized certification program for FTO or any of the other future certification we hope to achieve. There is a readily identifiable need for these certifications and the TEMSB is committed to create these curriculums as a benefit to EMS systems and FROs.

Future Training Conference Track for EMS-Related Courses

The TEMSB was deeply disappointed in the removal of the EMS Tracks from the 141st Annual SFFMA Training Conference and Convention and the 142nd Annual SFFMA Training Conference and Convention. As such, we understand that any class offered through our training conference would not be considered as continuing education credit for the attendees of each class as we would require a TDSHS Continuing Education Provider license and number for the attendee to be able to use the course for recertification of a TDSHS EMS Certification. Therefore, Karen Pickard agreed to run several classes selected by the Speaker Selection Committee and will offer a total 11.25 hours of EMS CE credit with existing classes and no available EMS Track. Mrs. Pickard will also be working on creating an EMS CE Program specifically for SFFMA, so EMS CE credit can be offered to our membership for class at next and future training conferences and conventions. Our goal in this initiative is to provide value-added service from the TEMSB to our membership.

TEMSB Leadership

Andy Dexter was confirmed as the Chairman of the TEMSB on June 10, 2017 by the members of the EMS Committee. During the meeting on June 23, 2018, the following officers were elected by the members present of the EMS Committee for a one-year term:

- Chairman - Andy Dexter LP
- Vice-Chairman - James Carr
- Secretary - Billie Smith

Other Projects

The TEMSB will be working on a business plan for the sustainment of the TEMSB. The goal will be to continue to develop EMS based certification programs and market those programs and the benefits of the association to EMS agencies and First Responder Organizations (FRO). As of date, the membership in the TEMSB is in the single digits. This is an historically fragmented market that is looking for a voice. SFFMA already provides that voice in membership benefits and through the work of T-Flag in the Texas Legislature. Increasing membership into the TEMSB will result in an increased revenue in membership dues collected by the association, along with other future opportunities in the sales market. It is our belief that the association and the Executive Board should support the TEMSB in working towards these common and mutually beneficial goals.

Conclusion

The TEMSB is committed to developing a product for the future of the association with the intent of bringing in new membership. We understand that the TEMSB in its current state has not been able to increase membership or maintain more than a handful of members at any given time.

As EMS-related responses for much of our fire departments equates to a conservative easement of 65% of all responses, we know as a Board that we must endeavor to improve the system and provide valuable tools, initiatives, representation, and training to the fire service of the state of Texas; while endeavoring to bring in existing EMS agencies who are unrepresented to date. The mission of the SFFMA is to Promote, Unify, Represent, and Educate the Fire Service of Texas. The TEMSB believes in this mission and will hold true to its values.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Dexter LP
Chairman - Texas Emergency Medical Services Board

DISTRICT REPORTS

CENTRAL TEXAS DISTRICT

Meeting Called to Order – 10am President Ryan Hudson

Invocation – Ben Kennedy

Pledge of Allegiance – Shaw Devries

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting Announcement – President Hudson

Welcome – Host City – Bill Gardner

Response to Welcome – 2nd VP – Billy Jasinski

Roll Call – Secretary – Brian Scheffer

Past Presidents - 7

Departments - 12

Introduction of Vendors, SFFMA Board Members Present, and Guests-
4th VP Lynn Bizzel

Approval of Minutes of the 161st Convention – President Ryan Hudson

Motion by Henry Perry to accept minutes, Seconded by Frank Rubio,

Motion passed

Dollar Bill Drawing Announcement – 2nd VP Billy Jasinski

Appointment of Committees – President Ryan Hudson

Credentials - 4th VP Lynn Bizzel

Registration – 4th VP Lynn Bizzel

Resolution – Secretary Brian Scheffer

Constitution and By-laws - 2nd VP Billy Jasinski

Past Presidents – PP Mike Pratt

Audit – PP Mike Pratt

Nominations – PP Mike Pratt

State Officers Reports – SFFMA Board

SFFMA Past President Henry Perry reported on the following

Hurricane Harvey Response

Website for SFFMA and Certification - Will be going with a different vendor, but the progress report page should be working. The SFFMA chief class will be having the last class next month and the class is going very well.

The Executive Board is looking at a possible dues increase. The last dues increase was to cover the cost of building the new office. Now the operating costs are more than expected and need more money.

Old Business – President Ryan Hudson

President Hudson discussed fundraising for the District

Possibly doing a gun raffle for the District and have all FDs participate

Each FD that wanted to participate would provide a gun for the raffle and would have to sell a certain dollar amount. Anything above that dollar amount would be profit to the fire department selling the tickets.

President Hudson appointed a Fundraising committee to research and come up with something by the spring 2018 Meeting.

Committee members would be:

Janet Bizzel – Serve as Chairperson

Past President Charles Alford

Auxiliary member Krista DeVrise

Auxiliary members to be named later

Members from district to be named later

New Business – President Ryan Hudson

Past President Randy Parkison questioned the board on the endorsement of Donny Boggs for SFFMA 4th VP. Randy wanted to know why the Executive Board acted on that before a business meeting. President Hudson addressed the issue. Due to the time constraints on the SFFMA magazine and giving Donny enough time to get something in the magazine, it was decided by the Executive Board to complete the endorsement before the business meeting. The Executive Board had a conference call to take action on the endorsement. Donny Boggs also addressed the membership in regards to the endorsement. Donny explained if it would not have been for the time deficit, he would have come before the membership prior to asking for the endorsement.

Report on FFOY – Secretary - Brian Scheffer – Josh Sebastian of Brenham FD.

Report on EMSOY – Secretary – Brian Scheffer – Dani Vacek – Brazos Co. Pct 4.

Announcements

Donny Boggs announced he is running for 4th VP for SFFMA. Michael Richter announced he was running for Secretary/Treasurer of SFFMA. Brian Scheffer read a letter from Brent Allen of Ballinger FD announcing that he is running for SFFMA Secretary/Treasurer in 2018. Kurt Jasinski read a letter from Frank Marcinkiewicz announcing that he is running for SFFMA's 4th VP in 2018. Frank Rubio announced that he would be running for 4th VP of SFFMA in 2019. TEEX Regional Coordinator Darren Smith announced that the Region Manager for TEEX Region 7 has moved to Annual Schools and there will be a new Regional Manager. Kelby Jasinski announced he would be running for SFFMA Mascot in 2018.

Committee Reports

Credentials Report – 4th VP Lynn Bizzel reported

Fire Departments – 12, Past Presidents – 7, SFFMA Executive Board Members – 2, TFA Executive Board Members – 4, Vendors – 0, Special Guests – 3, FD Members – 32, TFA Members – 6, Spouses – 8, Kids under 12 – 6, Total Attendance – 80

Attendance Trophy – Brazos Co. Pct 4 – 14 registered

Mileage Trophy – Brazos Co. Pct 4 – 1218 miles

Past Presidents Report – PP Mike Pratt (notes from the PP Breakfast)
Past President announced that the Past Presidents would like to endorse Frank Rubio for 4th VP for SFFMA in 2019. Past President Henry Perry made a motion that the Central Texas District endorse Frank Rubio for 4th VP in 2019, Seconded by Charles Alford. Motion passed.

Auditing Committee Report – PP Mike Pratt

Past President Pratt reported that all transactions were audited and found the books to be in good standing.

Resolutions Committee Report – Secretary Brian Scheffer read a resolution in regards to thanking the Leander Fire Department for hosting the Convention. Motion by Randy Parkison to accept the Resolution, seconded by Henry Perry. Motion passed.

Constitution and By-laws Committee Report – Secretary Brian Scheffer read the following proposed by-laws changes. By-laws Proposed Change #1 – Meetings. Motion made by Henry Perry to accept the change and seconded by Bill Gardner. Motion passed. By-laws Proposed Change #2 – By-Law Amendments . Motion by Randy Parkison to accept the change and seconded by Bryan Janes. Motion passed.

Golf Committee Report – PP Mike Pratt - 1st – Rockdale; 2nd – Burton, Weir, Latium; 3rd – Brenham; 4th – Latium; Nominations Committee Report – PP Mike Pratt

Announcements from potential candidates that want to run for **Executive Board positions:**

Kurt Jasinski - 4th VP

Landon Flisowski – Mascot

Brian Scheffer – Secretary/Treasurer

Ladies Auxiliary Report:

Introduce Officers – President Sara Gresham

Incentive Award - President Gresham announced that Latium and Leander would receive the \$75 incentive awards

Elevation of Officers – PP Mike Pratt - Elevate 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, PP Motion by Henry Perry to elevate the officers - Secretary/Treasurer – Brian Scheffer, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Alvin Fail, Past President – Ryan Hudson, President – Richard Mueck, 1st VP – Billy Jo Jasinski, 2nd VP – Ben Kennedy, 3rd VP – Lynn Bizzel, Seconded by David Miller (Gatesville FD), Motion Passed.

Election of Officers - 4th Vice President Nomination of Kurt Jasinski by Henry Perry and seconded by Frank Rubio. Motion by Randy Parkison that nominations cease. Seconded by Henry Perry. Motion passed. Mascot - Nomination of Landon Flisowski by Josh Sebastian and seconded by Randy Parkison - Motion nominations ceased and Landon be elected by acclamation by Henry Perry, seconded by Bill Gardner. Motion passed, Landon elected as Mascot.

Passing of Badges & Trophies - Presentation of Mikolaj Trophy - Mike to Ryan. Presentation of Past President Badge & Lifetime Membership - Mike to Ryan. Presentation of Randolph Trophy - Ryan to Richard. Passing of VP Badges. Presentation of Mascot Badge - Shawn to Landon. Swearing in of officers - Past President Henry Perry swore in the new Central Texas Fireman's & Fire Marshals Association Executive Board.

Dollar Bill Drawing - Billy Jo Jasinski. Terri Parkison won.

Site Selection (Spring 2018) - Randy Parkison announced that the spring Convention will be May 19-20 in Brenham and the Washington County Firefighters Association will be hosting.

Closing Prayer - Ben Kennedy

Adjournment - Motion made by Henry Perry and seconded Kurt Jasinski, motion passed.

Lunch Break

Memorial Service

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Scheffer

Secretary/Treasurer

Spring Meeting, May 20, 10 a.m.
Brenham, TX

Meeting Called to Order - President Richard Mueck

Invocation - Ben Kennedy

Post of Colors - Troop 577 Christ Lutheran Church of Brenham

Pledge of Allegiance - Landon Flisowski

Introductions & Recognition of Elected Officials - Doyle Dahmann

Welcome - Doyle Dahmann

Response to Welcome - 2nd VP Ben Kennedy

Announcement of Ladies Auxiliary Meeting Location - President Sharon Flisowski announced the ladies would be meeting in the meeting room.

Roll Call - Secretary - Brian Scheffer

Past Presidents

Departments

Approval of Minutes of the 162nd Convention - President Richard Mueck - A motion was made by Joe Ondrasek and seconded by Brian Janes to accept the minutes as written, the motion passed.

Dollar Bill Drawing Announcement - 2nd VP Ben Kennedy

Report on Raffle - President Richard Mueck - Gun raffle tickets would be handed out.

Appointment of Committees - President Richard Mueck

Credentials Committee - 2nd VP Ben Kennedy

Audit Committee - PP Mike Pratt

Past President Committee - PP Mike Pratt

Registration Committee - Assistant Sec./Treasurer Alvin Fail

Resolutions Committee - Sec./Treasurer Brian Scheffer

Constitution & By-Laws Committee - 2nd VP Ben Kennedy

Poster - 3rd VP Lynn Bizzel

Nomination Committee - PP Mike Pratt

Golf Liaison - Assistant Sec./Treasure Alvin Fail

Pumper Race Committee - Assistant Sec./Treasurer Alvin Fail

Introduction of Vendors - Assistant Sec./Treasurer Alvin Fail

- 2 vendors were present, VFIS and AMBA

Introduction of SFFMA Executive Board - Assistant Sec./Treasurer Alvin Fail - President Harvie Cheshire reported that SFFMA Convention was approaching and registration could be completed online. President Cheshire also reported that the SFFMA website was very close to being completed and should be available soon. Also it was reported that the SFFMA is searching for a new lobbyist to represent the SFFMA in Austin. Certification Administrator Kevin Creamer gave a presentation on the new SFFMA Website and the features that could be utilized by the Fire departments.

SFFMA Committee Reports - Certification, Constitution & Bylaws, Credentials, Driving Contest, EMS, Exhibits, Finance, Golf, Site Selection

Guest Speaker - Joe Ondrasek

Chief Ondrasek gave a presentation on leadership and how to be prepared for any emergency that may occur on any incident.

Old Business - President Richard Mueck

No old business

New Business - President Richard Mueck

No new business

Committee Reports

Credentials Committee - Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail presented the following - 15 - Fire Departments, 7 - Past Presidents, 5 - SFFMA Executive Board members, 3 - TFA Executive Board Members, 2 - Vendors, 70 - Fire Department Members, 3 - Kids under 12, 12 - Spouses, 3 - TFA Members, 88 - Total Attendees

Attendance Trophy - Cameron FD

Mileage Trophy - Cameron FD

Audit Committee - PP Mike Pratt

It was reported there were no issues or problems with the finances.

Past President Committee - PP Mike Pratt - It was reported that 7 of the past presidents were in attendance for the breakfast and attendance was discussed but no decisions were made.

Registration Committee – Assistant Sec./Treasurer Alvin Fail

Resolutions Committee – Sec./Treasurer Brian Scheffer - A resolution thanking the Washington County firefighters was presented. A motion was made by Brian Janes and seconded by Randy Parkison to accept the resolution, the motion passed.

Constitution & By-Laws Committee – 2nd VP Ben Kennedy - It was reported that the By-Laws Committee would be working on a couple by-laws and would have something to present at the next meeting

Nomination Committee – PP Mike Pratt - No nominations were presented

Golf Liaison – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail - 7 teams total
1st Place - 56 Score - Henry Horlica, John Mendoza, Dustin Thomas, Josh Charanza, Phillip Dohnalk; 2nd Place - 58 Score - Billy Jo Jasinski, Kurt Jasinsk, Alvin Fail, Reese Fail; 3rd Place - 63 Score - Derrick Kenjura, Andrew Venables, R.J. Abernathy, Cliff Jankowski; Closet to Pin - John Mendoza; Longest Drive - Jonathan Schramm

Pumper Races Committee (previous yr. results) – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail. There were no pumper races in Leander.

Announcement of Racing Captain Meeting – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Alvin Fail. There will be no pumper races today, due to the lack of participation.

Announcement from the Floor – President Richard Mueck - SFFMA 4th VP Candidates announced their intentions to run for the 4th VP were Donny Boggs and Frank Marcinkiewicz. SFFMA Secretary candidates announced their intentions to run for secretary, present was Brent Allen and Brian Scheffer read a letter from Michael Richter.

Announcements from Board – President Richard Mueck- There were no announcements

Poster Contest Results – 3rd VP Lynn Bizzel

Kindergarten Division - Maddox McAndrew - Gatesville FD, River Hughitt - Gatesville FD, Renata Silva-Hernandez - Gatesville FD

Intermediate Division - Allie Henson - Cameron FD, Aaron Gonzales - Bryan FD, Seth Baize - Gatesville FD

Primary Division - Olivia Coates - Gatesville FD, Logan Juarez - Gatesville FD, Jacqueline Noyola - Bryan FD

Middle Division - Brant Pruitt - Gatesville FD, Cade Balch - Cameron FD, Truett Foote - Jonesboro FD

Junior High Division - Maddi Brookshire - Jonesboro FD, Alexandra Acoff - Jonesboro FD

High School Division - Mackenzie Suggs - Jonesboro FD

Trophies were presented to the fire departments of the winners and the winner posters will be taken to the SFFMA Convention in Arlington, TX in June.

Delegate for State Convention Appointment - President Richard Mueck

A discussion was had by the membership about not designating a delegate for the SFFMA Convention. One reason is that the district may not be able to support the delegate financially. Another reason is that everyone was going to be at the convention anyways and registered under their own fire department and it may be too late to get someone registered. Therefore, the decision was not to appoint a delegate for the District at the SFFMA convention.

Ladies Auxiliary Report - President Sharon Flisowski

There was no report to give. Sharon did announce that the Texas Fireman's Ladies Auxiliary would be having a golf tournament at the TEEX Municipal School in July and if anyone wanted information, please see her.

Site Selection - 2nd VP Ben Kennedy

Fall 2018 - Cameron, October 6-7, 2018

Spring 2019 - Fredricksburg, TX date to be announced

Closing Prayer - 2nd VP Ben Kennedy**Door Prizes** - Doyle Dahmann**Adjournment** - President Richard Mueck

A motion was made by Alvin Fail and seconded by Justin Bosse to adjourn, the motion passed.

Attendees

Past Presidents: Henry Horlica, Randy Parkison, Joe Ondrasek, Brian Janes, Teri Parkison, Alvin Fail, Michael Pratt

Fire Departments: Brazos Co. Pct. 3, TEEX-ESTI, Gatesville FD, Fredricksburg FD, Cameron FD, Berlin-Mill Creek, Zionsville FD, Brenham FD, Burton FD, Chappell Hill FD, Gay Hill FD, Latium-Wesley-Greenvine FD, Meyersville FD, Prairie Hill-Rocky Hill FD, Rocky Creek, Salem FD

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Scheffer

Central Texas Fireman's & Fire Marshal Association
Secretary

EAST TEXAS DISTRICT

(no report available)

GUADALUPE DISTRICT

Fall Meeting Location: No fall meeting due to Hurricane Harvey.

Spring Meeting Location: Cuero Municipal Park, Cuero, Tx.

Meeting Date: April 7, 2018

District Board Members Present: President Louise Watts of South East CC, 1st VP J Paul Bruhn of La Grange, Chaplain Mark Smith of Ganado, Secretary Kent Watts of Luling and Assistant Secretary Edwin Baker of Stockdale.

There were 110 attendees, 39 delegates and 23 departments represented.

SFFMA Executive Board present: President Harvie Cheshire, Past President Henry Perry, Event Coordinator Gabi Glass, Mascot Daisy Svatek and TFA Secretary Donna Svatek.

Unfinished Business was discussed about the SFFMA Convention in San Marcos in June of 2017. The District furnished pulled pork sandwiches, nachos, desserts, sausage wraps and chicken quarters, BBQ sandwiches and chips and hot sauce.

New Business: Gabi Glass of the SFFMA and Past President Henry Perry passed out awards from the SFFMA to several member cities and the District for their participation at the Annual Conference in San Marcos. Discussion was held about meeting annually instead of semi-annually. President Watts will send out questionnaire and get responses and bring the results to the meeting in the fall. Guest Speaker was Jon Zeitler from the National Weather Service and Harvie Cheshire on TEEEX. President Louise Watts introduced the Guadalupe Past Presidents. Present were Jerry Krenek, Don Pullin, Rudy Schmidt, Vic Einsphar, Alonzo Morales, Cary Roccaforte, Butch Tolbert, Kent Watts, Edwin Baker, Gerald Weniger, Tina Bohlmann, Mark Wobus and Paul Lesak. Also in attendance was SFFMA 2010 Past President Kent Watts and 1999 Terry Mayfield. Asst. Secretary Baker announced there would be no pumper races. Attendance trophy was won by La Grange having the most members present and having traveled the farthest. Poster contest winners were announced. President Louise Watts announced Tim Bogisch of McQueeney won Guadalupe Firefighter of the Year and David Rice of Stockdale won Guadalupe EMS Responder of the Year. Memorial was held, and the District honored 2 Line of Duty Deaths, 1 GFFFMA Past President, 5 firefighters, 1 Ladies Auxiliary Past President and 3 Auxiliary Members. Meeting adjourned.

GULF COAST/ TRI-RIVERS DISTRICT

Meeting Location: Alvin VFD

Meeting Date/Time: March 10, 2018

District Officers:

President Andy Van Dine

1st VP Mark Lancaster

2nd VP Jim Cargile

Past Pres. Frank Marcinkiewicz

Secretary- Anthony Cargile

Treasurer- Michael Richter

Mascot- Makenzie Marks

SFFMA Board present:

President Harvie Cheshire

3rd VP Richard Van Winkle

4th VP Chuck Richardson

Number of attendees present: 33

Number of departments present: 9

Old Business:

1. Relative Assistance Program: No active account, there needs to be a decision made as to where the monies will be dispersed. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to roll the money over to Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers. A second motion was made to allow the funds to go to LODD and was seconded. Motion passed.
2. Before the next meeting on September the 8th in Santa Fe the 501c3 on our way to handling that issue.

New Business:

1. Delegates to the Convention will be Mark Lancaster and Jim Cargile, motion by Tommy Anderson, seconded by Rex Klesel. Motion carried.
2. Gary Williams announced he will be retiring in July and is requesting Kendal Hunting to take his place on the certification board. Motion made by Tommy Anderson and 2nd by Rex Klesel for Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers to support Kendal Hunting in an appointment to the certification board in July. Motion passed.
3. Motion by Frankie to buy a new laptop estimated \$500+, 2nd by Rusty Kattner. Motion carried.
4. Constitution and By-Laws change for SFFMA Midwest proposal motion to vote against, and 2nd to vote no. Motion passed.
5. Elevation of the Chairs and Election of Officers. Mark Lancaster to President, Jim Cargile to 1st Vice President, Joel Sumrall to 2nd Vice President, Immediate Past President Andy Van Dine. Treasurer-Michael Richter, Secretary - Anthony Cargile, Mascot-Makenzie Marks, Chaplain - Tito Rodriguez

Next Meeting Place:

Santa Fe Fire and Rescue, September 8, 2018 at 5:30

Submitted by:

Mark Lancaster, President

HILL COUNTRY DISTRICT

Meeting Location: Ballinger, Texas

Meeting Date/Time: Oct 7, 2017 9:00 a.m.

District Board Members:

President Jeremy Estep - Menard FD
1st Vice President Todd Clary - Ballinger FD
2nd Vice President Jesse Slaughter - Brady FD
3rd weVice President Curly Wagner - Menard FD
4th Vice President -
Secretary Brent Allen - Ballinger FD
Chaplain Billy Sherman - Winters FD

Number of departments present: 4

SFFMA Board Present: 3

Guest: 2

Total Attendees Present: 38

Old Business: None

New Business: As not having a quorum, no business was conducted. After some discussion, the officers of the association were elevated.

President - Todd Clary - Ballinger FD
1st Vice President - Jesse Slaughter - Brady FD
2nd Vice President - Curly Wagoner - Menard FD
3rd Vice President -
4th Vice President -
Secretary / Treasurer - Brent Allen - Ballinger FD
Chaplain - Billy Sherman - Winters FD
Meeting was adjourned, and the auto extrication class was begun.

Submitted by:

Brent Allen, HCFA Secretary

Meeting Location: Ballinger, Texas

Meeting Date/ Time: April 7, 2018 9:00 a.m.

District Board Members:

President - Todd Clary - Ballinger FD

1st Vice President - Jesse Slaughter - Brady FD

2nd Vice President - Curly Wagoner - Menard FD

3rd Vice President -

4th Vice President -

Secretary / Treasurer - Brent Allen - Ballinger FD

Chaplain - Billy Sherman - Winters FD

Number of departments present: 10

SFFMA Board Present: 2

TFA Past President: 1

Guest: 2

Total Attendees Present: 68

Old Business: None

New Business:

The H.C.F.A. executive board brought proposals to the association to conduct one annual convention and 3 business meetings to be spread around the district. Also, the executive board brought two other proposals to the association, one to create a 501 c3 for our association and the other to reduce to a president and two vice presidents, secretary/treasurer, chaplain, and one mascot. Firefighter of the Year was chosen from the two applications received from Ballinger FD and Menard FD. The applications were read and voted upon, with Clyde Kresta, from Ballinger FD being selected as Firefighter of the Year on April 7, 2018.

The proposal from the Mid-West Texas district was brought before the meeting, members were encouraged to read the proposal, along with the proposal from the SFFMA executive board on dues changes. Letters from candidates running for SFFMA 4th V.P, SFFMA Secretary and SFFMA Mascot were read to the membership. With no other business to conduct, the memorial service was conducted, with the names of the deceased being read aloud as follows: Billy Kelley, Ballinger FD, 3/23/18, Maxie Cole, Ballinger FD, 9/5/17, Johnnie D. Elliot, Brady FD, 8/2/17, James T. Sprinkle, Winters FD, 3/19/2018, at conclusion of the service, the business was adjourned, the afternoon meal was given. Racing activities were suspended for the weather.

Submitted by: Brent Allen, HCFA Secretary

MID-WEST TEXAS DISTRICT

Meeting Location: Anson, Texas; Lawrence Hall Women's Building

Meeting Date/Time: 04-14-2018 13:30hrs

District Board Members:

President - Jason Hull, Rotan VFD

1st Vice President - Randy Teague, Lake Coleman VFD

2nd Vice - Alex Smith, Baird VFD

3rd Vice - OPEN POSITION

4th Vice - OPEN POSITION

Past President - Clay Deatherage, Shackelford County FD

Secretary/Treasurer - Kris Hester, Merkel VFD & Abilene Regional Airport FD

Parliamentarian - Mike Koncsak, Baird VFD

Chaplain - Danny Campbell, Shackelford County FD

Number of attendees present: 10

Number of departments present: 5

SFFMA Board Present: 0

Sect/Treas. Candidates:

Brent Allen - Ballinger FD

Micheal Richter - Needville FD

Meeting opened by: President Jason Hull

Roll Call: S/T Hester

Credentials Report by 2nd Vice Smith; 5 departments

Financials: S/T Hester, motion to accept M.Koncsak, second by: M.Deatherage, motion passed

Minutes: S/T Hester, motion to accept C.Deatherage, second by: M.Koncsak, motion passed

Old Business

-Review of committee members for C&BL Committee to re-write to allow for "1 meeting annually"

Clay Deatherage & Mike Koncsak are the committee members

-C.Deatherage gave report on status of the District's C&BL proposal for 2017 State Convention, resolution will be submitted again for approval to State for 2018 voting

-K.Hester gave report of State Convention, San Marcos June 2017

New Business

-M.Koncsak nominated Alex Smith for District FFOY

-State Sect/Treas. Candidates given time to speak

-Letters read by K.Hester on behalf of 4th VP Candidates

Frank Marcinkiewicz, Cat Springs FD

Donny Boggs, TEEX

2018 Spring Convention site will be: Anson

2018 Fall Convention site picked as: Baird

Motion by: Jr Garcia , second by: Perry Thomson, motion carried

Motion to adjourn made by M.Koncsak, second by M.Deatherage,
meeting adjourned by President Hull

Meeting Location: Baird, Texas; Community Center

Meeting Date/Time: 10-13-2018, 13:00hrs

District Board Members:

President - Randy Teague, Lake Coleman VFD

1st Vice - Alex Smith, Baird VFD

2nd Vice - Billy Tidwell, Ralls VFD

3rd Vice - Robert Wheeler, Hamby VFD

4th Vice - Clyde Patterson, Anson VFD

Past President - Jason Hull, Rotan VFD

Secretary/Treasurer - Kris Hester, Merkel VFD & Abilene Regional
Airport FD

Parliamentarian - Clay Deatherage, Albany VFD

Chaplain - Danny Campbell, Shackelford County FD

Number of attendees present: 29

Number of departments present: 7

SFFMA Board Present: NA

~Memorial Service was performed before business session was
opened by 1st Vice President Teague~

Old Business

~Minutes and financial report from October 2017 both read, motion
to accept, voted and approved.

~Past Pres. Deatherage gave a synopsis of the district's C&BL
proposal submitted to the State office for June vote.

New Business

~TDEM Haz-Mat Training Presentation

~SFFMA 2nd Vice President Tim Smith gave State E-Board &
Association report

~Air Evac discount program presentation given by Randy Teague

~Poster Committee appointed by 1st VP Teague, winners to be
announced during evening meal

~Officers were elevated,

New 2nd Vice President Billy Tidwell voted onto EBoard

New 3rd Vice President Robert Wheeler voted onto EBoard

New 4th Vice President Clyde Patterson was voted onto EBoard

Parliamentarian Mike Koncsak stepped down and nominated Clay Deatherage

All unopposed EBoard positions remained filled by incumbents

~Alex Smith of Baird was announced as District's FFOY nominee for State Convention, along with District sponsorship of \$250.00

~4th Vice President candidate letters were read, District chose to support Donny Boggs

~District chose to support Brent Allen as State Board Secretary

~Motion made to have District pay 1 night hotel stay for any member attending a State Board meeting, State Convention meeting excluded, voted and passed.

~Motion made for District to pay \$150.00 towards any Board member's purchase of a Class A uniform, voted and approved

~Baird VFD announced they would like to host the Fall Convention in Baird

~Hamby announced they would like to host the Spring 2019 Convention in Hamby.

~Meeting closed by President Teague

Respectfully submitted by:
Sect./Tres. Kris Hester

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS DISTRICT

SFFMA Meeting Stephenville, Texas, 1pm

Call to order - 5-26-2018 @1300

- Invocation
- Introduced all guests
Donny Boggs - 4th Vice President candidate
Brent Allen - Secretary candidate
Representation of Frankie Marcinkiewicz
- Recognition of Erath County Volunteer Fire department
- Chief Richardson Report - Reported on SFFMA software in regards to records management.

New SFFMA website is up and running.

Fire Chief Development Program - currently in the 3rd class, 4 part program Friday thru Sunday.

Conference June 22-27, 2018, Monday-Tuesday trainings, Tuesday AT&T Stadium Tour.

Legislative updates - Update on the law firm that represents SFFMA with legislation, Legislative day at the capital in March 2019.

LODD Fundraiser - SFFMA pays the family \$5000 on a line of duty death, after the LODD is approved from the state fire marshal. They paid out 5 times last year and are needing to re-coop funds to continue this program. Call the office for more information.

By-Law Changes - Go to the website and read over the bylaws to see what changes are proposed. Each department can have up to 5 delegates and each delegate has to be designated by their fire chief. In doing so, each department has 5 votes on these changes.

Dues increase - current member price is \$30.00 per member is being proposed to raise to \$50.00. Department dues are proposed to increase as well.

Chief Richardson opened the floor to any questions

- Billy Langford - Texas Emergency Services Retirement System Update on the program - See attachment®

Donny Boggs-4th VP candidate introduced himself and provided his history as well as the key points of his candidacy.

Brent Allen, Secretary, candidate introduced himself and provided his history as well as the key points of his candidacy.

Frankie Marcinkiewicz - 4th VP candidate, sent a letter (due to health reasons could not attend). The letter explained his history and expressed his points for his candidacy.

Report of Officers:

President Ingram - spoke about dues

Secretary Brooks - Provided financial statement

1st VP Richardson - need more dist. 16 officer meetings

Training - Tony Constancio spoke about working with the local departments as to educate them of the core values of the SFFMA. He also stated that he would like to see the skills sheets simplified through the website. Increase communication with department.

•Officer Elections

President - Matt Richardson, approved by acclamation

1st VP - Sam Williams, approved by acclamation

2nd VP - Josh Costancio, Approved

Secretary/Treasurer - Chris Brooks, Approved

Training Coordinator - Josh Constancio, approved by acclamation

Chaplin - Father Jay Attwood, approved by acclamation

All elections executed per the SFFMA by-laws.

•New Business

•Old Business

•Dismiss time - 1540

NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT

Meeting Location: Everman High School, Everman, TX

Meeting Date/ Time: March 24, 2018

District Board Members:

President, Charlie Smith

1st Vice President, Neil Sims

2nd Vice President, Brian Burkhart

3rd Vice President, Jeff Ballew

4th Vice President, Nathan Huhn

Immediate Past President, Steve Deffibaugh

Secretary/Treasurer, Melissa Robinson

Chaplain, John Robinson

Zone Certification Coordinator, Brad Hargrove

Mascot, Lexi Sims

Number of attendees present: 86

Number of departments present: 16

SFFMA Board Present:

Harvie Cheshire, President

Richard Van Winkle, 3rd VP

Chuck Richardson, 4th VP

Gabi Glass, SFFMA Meeting Planner

Old Business: None

New Business: Prayer & Meal

Memorial Service

Vendor Recognition

SFFMA Board Announcements/Reports

Certification Report - Brad Hargrove

Attendance Trophy - Edgecliff Village Fire Dept

Bucket Brigade - Charlie Smith

Poster Contest Awards - Ken Isom

Memorial Scholarships - Chatfield

FFOY - John Robinson - Retreat VFD

EMSOY - Ismael Quintero, Everman EMS/VFD

Fall Meeting - Whitney, TX

NTFFMA - 4th VP Nomination - Nathan Huhn

Presentation of new officers - President Charlie Smith

Past President Nomination to Steve Deffibaugh

Door Prizes & Adjourn

Submitted by:

Melissa Robinson, Secretary/Treasurer

NORTHEAST TEXAS DISTRICT

On Saturday, September 30th, 2017 at 1:00 pm the Fall Convention of the Northeast Texas Firemen's Association was called to order by President Marc Nichols. Rayford Gibson led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. All officers were in attendance. President Nichols introduced Past-President Chris Moore who welcomed everyone to Athens. 2nd Vice-President Jerry Taylor gave the response. President Nichols introduced Harvey Cheshire who went over the State speaking points. Chaplain Rayford called the names of Tommy Bledsoe, James Hall, Bobby Shelton, Dean Raymond and Huff Huffman and presided over the Bell Ceremony for our fallen firefighters.

Steve Heim went over the latest Northeast Texas Fire School information. President Nichols introduced Donny Boggs who spoke and read a letter from Frankie Marcinkiewicz who is running for 4th Vice-President, SFFMA; and Michael Richter who spoke and read a letter from Brent Allen who is running for secretary of the SFFMA.

Secretary, Jim White called roll and twenty departments (20) and fifty (50) members were in attendance. He awarded the distance plaque to Avery (144 miles) and the attendance plaque to Chaney City, with six fire persons registered. He also asked for a motion to accept the minutes as typed. Motion by Glenn Johnson and second by Ray Jackson to accept the minutes as printed. Motion Passed

Old business: None

New Business: Motion by Nancy Hall to continue our VFIS insurance for the next year, second by Andy Killian. Motion Passed. Motion made by Andy Killian to elevate the chairs, second by Nancy Hall; Marc Nichols to Past President, Steve Heim to President, Jerry Taylor to 1st Vice-President, F. Jim White Secretary/Treasurer, and Rayford Gibson Asst-Secretary/Treasurer/Chaplain. Motion Passed. Chris Moore presented his past president badge to Marc Nichols. Marc presented his President's badge and the gavel to President Steve Heim. Steve presented his badge to Jerry Taylor. President Heim asked for nomination for 2nd Vice-President, and Chris Osborn was elected by acclamation. President Heim asked for nominations for mascot and Kayley Johnson was elected mascot by acclamation.

After the passing of the badges, and elections, Harvie Cheshire, President of the SFFMA Executive Board, led the oath of office to the new Board. Mascot Kayley Johnson passed the fireman's boot and one hundred and seven dollars was collected for MDA.

President Heim announced that FFOY and EMSOY applications were due to the secretary by March 1st of 2018.

President Heim announced that the spring meeting of 2018 will be in

Winona and the fall meeting will be in Tatum. On Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 1:00pm President Steve Heim, Ore City Office of Emergency Management, called the Spring Convention of the Northeast Texas Firefighters Association to order. Smith County ESD#2 Chaplain, Roy Linn gave the opening prayer. President Heim asked Winona Jr. Fire Fighter Laney Pilcher, to lead the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance. Winona Mayor and the Winona ISD Superintendent welcomed everyone to Winona for the spring convention, 2nd Vice-President Chris Osborn gave the response. All officers were in attendance except Past-President Marc Nichols. 1st Vice-President Mike Richardson, and 3rd Vice-President Richard Van Winkle went over the speaking points from the SFFMA.

Secretary, F. Jim White called roll and nineteen (34) departments and sixty-five (65) delegates were in attendance. Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept as typed was made by Glen Johnson, Center, and seconded by Danny Hurt, Overton, Motion passed. The attendance award went to Jackson Heights, with six (6) in attendance and the distance award went to Wake Village, (110 miles).. The Jack Taylor Scholarship winner to the SFFMA State Convention is Glen Johnson, Center VFD, and Harry Simms, Pleasant Grove was alternate. Motion by Past President Dennis Gage, Overton and was seconded by Past President Ray Jackson, Pittsburg to destroy the ballots. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion and second from the floor to change the Constitutions and By-laws. Article 9. Change the spring meeting from the first Saturday in April to the first Sunday in April and the fall meeting will stay the last Saturday in September. Motion carried. (1st reading) Gilmer Firefighter Marc Nichols was elected the NETFFMA Firefighter of the Year, to be submitted to SFFMA; and Billy Williams was elected NETFFMA EMS of the Year, to be submitted to the SFFMA. Dennis Gage passed the boot among the firefighters for MDA, as NETFFMA always makes a donation to the incoming mascot at the Wednesday business meeting. The firefighters made a donation of \$196.10 to start the 2018-19 year off right. President Heim, announced the fall meeting of 2018 will be hosted by Tatum VFD; the spring meeting of 2019 will be Texas Eastman plant and the fall meeting will be in Jackson Heights, spring of 2020 will be in Gilmer, fall meeting of 2020 will be in Flint Grisham. Motion to adjourn by Danny Hurt, second by Ray Jackson. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Heim, President
F. Jim White, Secretary

PANHANDLE DISTRICT

On May 19, 2018 at 8:32 a.m. the Panhandle Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association held the 127th annual convention at the Cole Community Center in Canyon Texas. Officers present were President Morris Locknane, 1st Vice President Matt Warren, 2nd Vice President Craig Jusiak, 3rd Vice President Billy Tidwell, 4th Vice President Joe Koch, Chaplain Mike Kendrick, Mascot Mathew Jusiak, Sweetheart Deanne Rice, Past President Randall Sims, and Secretary Treasurer Wiley Harp. Sweetheart Deanne Rice and Mascot Mathew Jusiak led pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Mike Kendrick gave the invocation. Canyon Fire Chief Mike Webb and Canyon city commissioner welcomed the attendees to the city of Canyon, 1st Vice President Matt Warren provided the response to the welcome. President Locknane recognized the State SFFMA Officers in attendance: 1st Vice President Mike Richardson, 2nd Vice President Tim Smith, 3rd Vice President Richard Van Winkle, Past President Paul Hamilton, Past President Bob Looney and Past President Henry Perry.

1st Vice-President Matt Warren introduced the State auxiliary officers in attendance and the president of the PFFMA Auxiliary Brandy Tidwell. President Locknane introduced State 4th Vice President candidate Donny Boggs and Secretary Wiley Harp read a letter from Frank Marcinkiewicz. President Locknane introduced State secretary candidates Michael Richter and Brent Allen.

2nd SFFMA Vice President Tim Smith provided an update of State activities to the Association membership. Executive Director of the SFFMA Chris Barron provided an update of the new membership software. Past President Kelly Vandygriff provided an update on the State Fire Marshal's Office. Past President Paul Hamilton provided an update on the 100 Club.

3rd Vice President Craig Jusiak recognized the past presidents in attendance. 2016 Firefighter of the Year Curtis Brown recognized past firefighters of the year award winners and awarded the 2017 Firefighter of the Year to Randall County Fire and PFFMA Chaplain Wylie Chaney. 2016 EMS Responder of the Year Rhonda Gutherie awarded the 2017 EMS Responder of the Year to Hartley County Fire Scott White. Chaplain Wiley Chaney led the memorial service. President Randell Sims opened the business meeting. President Sims presented former Mascot Hannah Brown and Sweetheart Danielle Rice with their plaques. Past Presidents Bill Ho-gland and Scott Johnson made a presentation to Chaplain Wylie Chaney.

Nominations:

President Sims announced Wiley Harp was the only nominee for Secretary/Treasurer. A motion was made from the floor to elect Wiley

Harp by acclamation. The motion was seconded, all voted in favor motion passed. President Sims announced Joe Koch was the only nominee for 4th Vice President. A motion was made from the floor to elect Joe Koch by acclamation, the motion was seconded, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

President Sims announced Mike Kendrick was the only nominee for chaplain. A motion was made from the floor to elect Mike Kendrick by acclamation. The motion was seconded, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Secretary Dennis Rice presented the Secretary/Treasurer report. Minutes of the 125th Convention were read. Financial report also presented. A motion was made from Past President David Jusiak to accept the reports and a second was made by Past President Curtis Brown. All voted in favor motion passed.

Nominations for Mascot:

Wiley Harp nominated Aiden Sparks

David Jusiak nominated Matthew Jusiak

Nominations for Sweetheart:

Dennis Gwyn nominated Deanne Rice

Wiley Harp nominated Haley Sparks

Committee Reports:

President Sims asked if there were any committee reports.

Parliamentarian - No action

Finance - The treasurer books were checked and no problems noted.

Resolution - No action

Memorial - Wylie provided an update to encourage your department to participate in the Relief fund.

Poster - No action

By-Laws - No action.

Sergeant - at- Arms - No action.

Registration - Thanks to the ladies' auxiliary.

Golf - No issues.

Contest Events - Games will begin at 1:00. Teams need to meet with the co-chairs of this committee.

Training - Training went well, get with committee with suggestions.

A motion was made from the floor to accept the committee reports, a second was received. All voted in favor - motion passed.

Report on Elections:

President Sims announced that Matt Jusiak was elected Mascot and Deanne Rice was elected Sweetheart. A motion was made from the floor to install the new officers, a second was received. All voted in favor - motion passed.

Installation of Officers:

New officers were sworn in by SFFMO President Perry

President	Morris Locknane, West Carlisle
1st Vice President	Matt Warren, Briscoe Fire Department
2nd Vice President	Craig Jusiak, Potter County
3rd Vice President	Billy Tidwell, Ralls
4th Vice President	Joe Koch, Randall County
Chaplain	Mike Kendrick, Potter County
Secretary/Treasurer	Wiley Harp, Canyon
Past President	Randell Sims, Floydada
Sweetheart	Deanne Rice, Randall County/Canyon
Mascot	Matthew Jusiak, Potter County

President Locknane called 2nd Vice President Craig Jusiak and Dennis Rice to make a presentation. A presentation was made by the Executive Board to rename the PFFMA Relief Fund the Wiley Chaney Relief Fund.

No other business. Chaplain Mike Kendrick closed in prayer. President Morris Locknane made closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Rice
Secretary

PERMIAN BASIN DISTRICT

(no report available)

RED RIVER DISTRICT

Meeting Location: Decatur Fire Department

Meeting Date/ Time: April 7, 2018 12:30 pm

District Board Members:

James Daniel Carr	Secretary
Rodney Ryalls	President
Jeremy Jennings	1st Vice President
Cory Brinkley	2nd Vice President
Dennis Bailey	3rd Vice President
Michael Albert	4th Vice President
Paul McBroom	Chaplain
Emmi Mercer	Mascot
Nathan Ray Mara	Immediate President

Number of attendees present: 20

Number of departments present: 6

SFFMA Board Present: Executive Director Chris Barron

Items not on new or old business: we recognized our Firefighter and EMS Responder of the Year as well as the poster contest winners. We also were presented the SFFMA report from Executive Director Chris Barron. We also heard from committee members.

Old Business:

Agenda topic Old Business | Presenter Rodney Ryalls
 Discussion: Rodney Ryalls - Mr. Carr you want to mention the Spring School. James Carr - The Spring School is May 4-6 and you must register with TEEEX and the RRFMA. Rodney Ryalls - Discussed the Wichita Falls Area Fund and requested donations for the Fund. The Fund goes towards tuition assistance towards going to the convention. The account was opened with \$2500.00. To apply, send your letter to rrrfma@gmail.com. Rodney Ryalls - I would like to ask for a motion to setup the first \$500.00 scholarship. Is there any discussion first? Nate Mara - made motion to create an exploratory scholarship for \$500.00 for a member of our district with a simple letter application. Motion seconded from the floor. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Conclusion: Moved on to New Business

Action items, Person responsible

Discussed Wichita Falls Spring School

Discussed Wichita Falls Area Relief Fund

New Business:

Agenda topic New Business | Presenter Rodney Ryalls

Discussion: Rodney Ryalls - The Texas A&M Forest Service has changed its policy on HB2604. They are no longer paying any departments that do not have a dedicated service area. This affects Friberg-Cooper. This is going to be problematic in the future. We need to look in to this more to see what we can do.

Rodney Ryalls - Discussed going to the SFFMA 142nd Convention on June 22-27 in Arlington. James Carr - Mr. President we have several letters to read from candidates running for officer at the state level. (Letters from Frank Marcinkiewicz and Donnie Boggs for 4th Vice President, Brent Allen and Michael Richter for Secretary, and Kylie Maples for Mascot)

Conclusion: Moved on to date and location of next quarterly meeting
Action items, person responsible.

Discussed Texas A&M HB2604 change.

Mentioned SFFMA Convention in Arlington.

Read letters from SFFMA candidates.

President

Rodney Ryalls

RRFFMA Board

Members

Submitted by:

James Carr

RRFFMA Secretary / Treasurer

RIO GRANDE VALLEY DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 15, 2018 the Rio Grande Valley Firefighter's and Fire Marshal's Association held their quarterly meeting (memorial services) in Harlingen, Texas.

The following individuals were elected/appointed to office for 2018-2019:

James Farrell - President (McAllen Fire Department)
Eloy Salazar - 1st Vice President (Pharr Fire Department)
Dawn Rodriguez - 2nd Vice President (La Villa Fire Department)
Leroy Salinas - 3rd Vice President (La Joya Fire Department)
Jacob Mercado - 4th Vice President (Edcouch Fire Department)
Mari Tovar - Secretary (Edinburg Fire Department)
Ubaldo D. Perez - Training Coordinator (Edinburg Fire Department)
Leticia Quintero Salinas - Treasurer (La Joya Fire Department)
Rolando Espinoza - Historian (Alamo Fire Department)
Gary Wilburn - Chaplain (South Padre Island Fire Department)
Sgt. At Arms - Johnny Flores (Elsa Fire Department)
Albert Alviar (La Villa Fire Department)
Lauren Farrell - Mascot (McAllen Fire Department)
Ruben Balboa - Immediate Past President (Harlingen Fire Department)

The RGVFFMA held the following meetings for FY 2017 - 2018:

District Meetings:

July 9, 2017 - Los Fresnos; October 15, 2017 - South Padre Island;

January 21, 2018 - Laguna Vista; April 15, 2018 - Harlingen (Memorial Services)

The Rio Grande Valley Firefighter's and Fire Marshal's Association hosted its 69th Annual Fire & Public Safety Academy with an overall total of 518 firefighters, instructors and staff in attendance, with a total of 14,824 training/working hours. The Rio Grande Valley Firefighter's and Fire Marshal's Association named Gabriel Espinoza, Jr. (Edinburg Fire Department) - Firefighter of the Year for 2018.

Submitted by:

Mari Tovar
RGVFFMA Secretary

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

The South Central District Firemen and Fire Marshals' Association have met two times since the last SFFMA Conference and Convention.

Ingleside 10/21/17

The fall meeting was held in Ingleside with 7 departments in attendance. The Ingleside fall meeting had 40 members and guests in attendance. This meeting was the annual business and election meeting. The attendance trophy went to Freer. There were updates from all the committees. SFFMA President Harvie Cheshire and 1st VP Mike Richardson were in attendance and gave updates on the SFFMA. FFOY and EMSOY nominees and names of any firefighters that have passed away for the memorial service need to be turned in before the next meeting. Posters will be judged at the next meeting and the winners will be taken to the State convention. Donna Loving gave an update on the Burial Assoc.

President, Mary Lou Mendieta from Freer; 1st VP, Steve Loving from Ingleside; 2nd VP, Matt Valdez from San Diego; 3rd VP, Larry Norotsky from Ingleside; 4th VP, Margaret F. Contreras; Sec/Treas., Elena Sanchez from Sinton; Chaplain, Clemente Sanchez from Sinton; Mascot, Donovan Mireles from Freer, Past Pres., Adrian Ramirez, Sr. from Mathis.

San Diego 4/14/18

The spring meeting was held in San Diego with 10 departments in attendance. The spring meeting had 62 members and guests in attendance. This meeting was the annual business and memorial. The attendance trophy went to Freer. There were updates from all the committees. SFFMA 1st Vice-President Mike Richardson gave updates on the SFFMA.

There was one entry for the FFOY & no EMSOY for SFFMA. The next meeting is scheduled in Freer in October, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Elena Sanchez
Secretary/Treasurer

TRI-RIVERS DISTRICT

(see Gulf Coast District Report)

WINTERGARDEN DISTRICT

The fall convention was held in Dilley, TX on September 24, 2017. President Juan Zamora called the meeting to order. Cory Bradley gave the invocation and the Sweetheart and Mascot led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome was given by Mayor Rudy Alvarez. He stated that this was the first event to be held in the new building. JD Earls gave the response.

Jerry Rust had the first roll call with 9 towns and 57 members in attendance. He also gave the reading of the minutes and treasury report of the spring convention. Motion was made to second to accept, motion passed.

Committee Report: Jerry Rust gave a report on the upcoming October School in Uvalde. 4th VP SFFMA gave a report about SFFMA's response to Hurricane Harvey, also he talked about the online certification program that work is progressing. The 2018 conference in Arlington will be June 22 - 27. He also stated that the sales at SFFMA were down significantly.

Guest speaker: Richard Van Winkle spoke on state certification. Dues will increase to \$200 per year for departments and will increase to \$50 per individual. (if by-laws proposal passes in June). Donny Boggs and Frankie Marcinkiewicz asked for our vote for SFFMA's 4th VP. Michael Richter asked for our vote for Secretary SFFMA and Kylie Maples asked for our vote for Mascot SFFMA.

Old Business, New Business, Host City and Motion to elevate Chairs - No Action taken due to not having a quorum. Ten minute break and drawing for racing order.

Second Roll Call with 9 towns and 57 members present.

Racing order:

Dilley - All

Devine - 3 and Water Polo

Moore - All

Meeting adjourned for the noon meal and Pumper Races to follow.
Racing results:

3-Man

Moore 18.64
Devine 23.40

6-Man

Moore 40.23

Water Polo

1st Devine
2nd Moore

Bill Zorn Trophy Moore 18.64
Travelling Trophy Moore 58.87

The spring convention was held in Poteet, TX on March 25, 2018. President Juan Zamora called the meeting to order. Cory Bradley gave the invocation and the Sweetheart and Mascot led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome was given by Tina Neely and JD Earls gave the response.

Jerry Rust had the first roll call with 11 towns and 63 members in attendance. He also gave the reading of the minutes and treasury report of the fall convention. Motion was made to second to accept, motion passed.

Committee reports: Jerry Rust gave a report on the upcoming spring area school. He also stated we need more participation of students at the schools.

SFFMA 4th VP Chuck Richardson gave a report on the status of the association. The new software should be up and running soon. The Progress Report has been extended and certification workshops have been put on hold until the new system is rolled out. The Conference this year will be in Arlington.

Old Business: The resolution was read for the second time for all departments to use the SFFMA Racing Rules. Motion passed.

New Business: None.

Nomination for Host City:

Pleasanton - fall 2018
Castroville - spring 2019

Ten Minute break and drawing for racing order.

Poteet - all

Carrizo Springs - all

Moore - 3 man

Pleasanton - all

Castroville - 3 man

Hondo - all

Meeting adjourned for the noon meal and Pumper Races to follow.

Racing results:

6-Man

Pleasanton 56.66

Hondo 113.67

Carrizo Springs 123.77

3-Man

Castroville 19.26

Hondo 25.61

Pleasanton 28.41

Water Polo

1st Pleasanton

2nd Carrizo Springs

Bill Zorn Trophy Castroville 19.26

Traveling Trophy Pleasanton 85.07

Submitted by:

Jerry Rust

Secretary

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas
as amended on June 27, 2018

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - Name

Section 1. This Association shall be known as the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Section 1.1. The definition of firemen as it is used in this Association shall pertain to either male or female members of any organized fire department.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 1. The various classifications of membership in this Association shall consist of **Active, Sustaining, Organization, Life, Honorary Life, Honorary, Individual and International.**

Section 2. **Active membership** shall consist of regularly organized fire departments, emergency services districts, rescue & first responder organizations and 9-1-1 emergency medical service providers of the State, whether civilian, military, or industrial; the regularly appointed or duly-elected fire marshals of any city, town, county, or political subdivision in the state; the state fire marshal and assistant fire marshal; representatives of each of the respective district associations; county associations; rescue organizations, all of which now exist or are hereafter formed or created and which are recognized by the Executive Board of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Section 3. **Sustaining membership** shall be limited to the manufacturers, jobbers, distributors, and/or sales personnel of fire apparatus, equipment and accessories, and companies having a genuine interest in the betterment of the fire service of Texas. Membership under this classification may exhibit products, equipment, and goods and services at the annual training conference and convention. This type of membership is available when qualified as provided in the by-laws of this association.

Section 4. **Organization membership** shall be limited to state agencies, nonprofit entities, support organizations, fire marshal offices, and 16 district organizations having a genuine interest in the betterment of the fire service of Texas. Membership under this classification is available when qualified as provided in the by-laws of this association.

*Section 5. **Life membership*** shall be limited to all past presidents of the Association who shall, upon expiration of their respective terms of office, be and become life members. They shall be entitled to vote on all matters.

*Section 6. **Honorary life membership*** shall be granted to such persons whom the Association wishes to honor in recognition for distinguished, meritorious, or long, faithful service to this Association, and who are or have been active members of a member department of this Association. Election to honorary life membership under this section shall be subject to the provisions of the bylaws of this Association. They shall be qualified to vote only, provided they are otherwise qualified under the provision of this constitution and by-laws.

*Section 7. **Honorary membership*** shall be confined to those who are not members of any member department in this State Association, but whom the Association desires to honor in recognition for distinguished service to the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas or to the fire departments of the State. Election to honorary membership shall be subject to the provisions of the bylaws of this Association. They shall not be entitled to vote, nor shall they be eligible to hold office.

*Section 8. **Individual membership*** in this Association shall be available to any person interested in the support of the fire service. Individual memberships are separate and apart from active memberships. Each individual member shall receive, upon paying annual dues, a membership card. Said membership shall entitle the holder hereof to vote upon matters coming before the delegate body of the State Association at the Annual Training Conference and Convention if they are a "Delegate". Failure to pay individual membership dues shall terminate that individual membership in the State Association, but shall in no matter affect the membership or status in or of the individual's local fire department or company.

*Section 8.1. **Individual membership*** is required to participate in the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' of Texas Certification Program.

*Section 9. **International membership*** in this association shall be available to any person interested in the support of the fire service, not residing or volunteering in the fire service in Texas or other U.S. states. International memberships are separate and apart from active memberships. Each individual international member shall receive, upon paying annual dues, a membership card. Only international members that belong to a dues-paying department or organization can participate in the association International Certification Program. Said membership shall not entitle the member cardholder to vote upon

matters coming before the delegate body of the state association at the annual training conference and convention. Said membership shall follow the guidelines and specifications set forth by the association International Committee. Failure to pay individual membership dues shall terminate that international membership in the state association.

Section 9.1 International membership is required to participate in the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' of Texas International Certification Program (available in Spanish).

ARTICLE III - Officers

Section 1. The elected officers of this Association shall consist of a president; a first, second, third, and fourth vice president; a secretary; an assistant secretary; and a chaplain.

Section 1.1. Every elected officer of this Association, except chaplain, shall be from the active or retired membership of a recognized active member department of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas and shall be endorsed by the Executive Board of a District Association that is recognized by the Executive Board of the State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, where they currently live or formerly lived.

Section 2. The foregoing officers and a mascot shall be elected annually by the Association at the last session of the last day of the Annual Training Conference and Convention, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be elected and qualified. Their duties shall be as defined by the bylaws of this Association.

Section 3. The elected officers of this Association, plus the immediate past president, shall constitute the Executive Board and Board of Directors, a majority of which shall be a quorum for transaction of business.

Section 3.1. Voting members of the Executive Board shall consist of the president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president, fourth vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, chaplain, and immediate past president.

Section 4. The executive director of this Association shall be selected, employed and salary or compensation set by a majority vote of the Executive Board present and voting. The Executive Director, for reasonable cause or failure to perform assigned duties, may, upon majority vote of the Executive Board present and voting, be discharged and a successor appointed by an Executive Board order or resolution.

ARTICLE IV - Standing Boards

Section 1. The Legislative Board shall consist of the Executive Board of this Association whose appointment to this Board shall be automatic upon their election to office. This Board will work closely with the working committee SFFMA General Purpose Committee (T*FLAG).

Section 2. The Volunteer Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Certification Board shall consist of not less than 16 members, nor more than 25 members, with each serving a term of four (4) years. The Board shall be organized so that the appropriate numbers of members' terms expire each year, and the incoming president shall appoint or reappoint members to the expired terms.

Section 3. The Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board: A program of industrial fire training shall be established in the state of Texas on a voluntary basis, and said program be administered through the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association to become effective June 18, 1980.

Section 3.1. Board Members: That a board of not less than 12 or more than 20 voting members, in addition to any non-voting members appointed by the president of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association to administer the program. The board will be known as the Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board.

- A) 1. Voting members to be appointed to serve four-year terms on the board.
2. Nonvoting members to be appointed to serve terms as approved by a majority of voting members of the board.
- B) 1. The members appointed to the first board will draw for one-, two-, three-, and four-year terms, and thereafter equal number of voting members will be appointed on rotating years.
- C) 1. Voting board members will be appointed by the president from among the representatives offered by participating industrial members, and confirmed by a majority of the SFFMA Executive Board members present and voting.
2. Nonvoting board members will be appointed by the president from among individuals submitted and confirmed by a majority of voting members of the board and confirmed by a majority of the SFFMA Executive Board.

ARTICLE V - Working Committees

Section 1. The following committees shall be appointed by the incoming president with approval of the majority of the Executive Board present and voting and shall serve until the next Annual Training Conference and Convention adjourns or their specific term expires.

- a. Credentials Committee
- b. Finance Committee
- c. Memorial Committee
- d. Racing Committee
- e. Poster Committee
- f. Constitution & By-Laws Committee
- g. Sergeant-at-Arms Committee
- h. Training/ Speaker Selection Committee
- i. Driving Contest Committee
- j. Exhibitors Committee
- k. Firefighter & EMS Responder of the Year Committee
- 1. SFFMA General Purpose (T*Flag)
- m. Golf Tournament Committee
- n. Site Selection Committee
- o. International Committee
- p. EMS Committee
- q. Fire Marshals' Committee
- r. Health and Safety Committee
- s. Combination Department Committee
- t. As deemed necessary

ARTICLE VI - Delegates

Section 1. Each regularly organized fire department shall be entitled to five delegates at the Annual Training Conference and Convention, provided that all sections to the by-laws have been complied with.

Section 2. All delegates must be current individual dues paying members, except Industrial members. Industrial Members must be from a participating Industrial Organization to be delegates, and each participating Industrial Organization can have up to five voting delegates. No member delegate shall be allowed to be represented by proxy.

Section 3. Lists of delegates from each member department or organization shall be furnished to the secretary upon registration at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Section 4. Each regularly organized district, county, fire service organization and rescue association, and Fire Marshals' Office as recognized by the Executive Board shall be eligible for one delegate to the Annual Training Conference and Convention upon payment of the proper annual dues to this Association.

ARTICLE VII - Recognition of SFFMA District Associations

The following SFFMA districts or associations and the counties they serve have long been mutually established and accepted and are hereby officially recognized by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas as the regional conduits of this association.

1. Central Texas- Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Burnet, Coryell, Falls, Gillespie, Hamilton, Lampasas, Lee, Limestone, Llano, McLennan, Milam, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, Travis, Washington, Williamson

- 2. Guadalupe-** Aransas, Bee, Bexar, Caldwell, Calhoun, Comal, DeWitt, Fayette, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Jackson, Karnes, Lavaca, Refugio, Victoria, Wilson
- 3. Tri-Rivers-** Austin, Colorado, Matagorda, Wharton
- 4. South Central-** Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleburg, Live Oak, Nueces, San Patricio
- 5. Rio Grande Valley-** Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Willacy, Zapata
- 6. Gulf Coast-** Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Waller
- 7. East Texas-** Anderson, Angelina, Freestone, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Walker
- 8. Northeast Texas-** Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Marion, Morris, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood
- 9. North Texas-** Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Grayson, Hill, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Rockwall, Tarrant
- 10. Red River-** Archer, Baylor, Clay, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Knox, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, Wise, Young
- 11. Mid-West Texas-** Borden, Callahan, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Howard, Jones, Kent, Lynn, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton
- 12. Panhandle-** Armstrong, Bailey, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Gray, Hale, Hall, Handsford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Hutchinson, King, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Moore, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler
- 13. Permian Basin-** Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Culberson, Dawson, Ector, El Paso, Gaines, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winkler, Yoakum
- 14. Hill Country-** Brown, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crockett, Glasscock, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green
- 15. Wintergarden-** Atascosa, Bandera, Dimmit, Edwards, Frio, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb, Zavala

16. North Central Texas- Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Stephens

17. Texas Emergency Services Industrial Board - All industrial-based emergency service providers

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

Section 1. The constitution of this Association may be amended at any Annual Training Conference and Convention by two-thirds of the delegates present and voting.

Section 2. Any amendment to the constitution of this Association presented at the Annual Training Conference and Convention must be prepared in writing and submitted to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee prior to the close of the Annual Training Conference and Convention planning conference held in January of each year. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will review, study, edit, with the submitting body's approval, and publish and distribute with the committee's recommendations for approval or rejection to all district secretaries on or before March 15. The proposed amendment will then be presented to the Annual Training Conference and Convention by the committee for final action by the voting delegates, and all such amendments must be submitted by a recognized district association or the Executive Board of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - Annual Meetings

Section 1. The Association shall meet during June of each year and shall begin with a business session on Sunday, beginning with an afternoon session and continuing for three days.

Section 2. In the event of no selection, or if any selected Annual Training Conference and Convention host city should fail, refuse, or for any reason be unable to accommodate the annual meeting of this Association at the time so fixed, then the place of holding the annual meeting and the date thereof may be changed or fixed at some other place or time by a majority vote of the Executive Board of this Association.

ARTICLE II - Duties of Officers

THE PRESIDENT:

Section 1. The President shall preside over the meetings of this Association and perform all duties usually incumbent upon presiding officers of deliberative bodies.

Section 2. The President shall appoint, with the approval of the majority of the Executive Board present and voting, the membership of all Working Committees and Standing Boards.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the President, with approval of the majority of the Executive Board present and voting, to fill by appointment any vacancy or position of any Officer, except that of 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, 4th Vice President, and Secretary, who for any cause may be unable to fulfill or failure to perform the duties incumbent upon that particular office.

Section 4. The President shall appoint, with the approval of the majority of the Executive Board present and voting, a member to the Advisory Board of the State Firemen's Training School. No member shall be eligible for appointment to more than three consecutive four-year terms.

Section 5. The President, with approval of the majority of the Executive Board present and voting, shall submit a list of three (3) to five (5) nominees for each vacancy to the Governor every odd number year for appointment to the State Board of Trustees of the Statewide Volunteer Fire Fighters' Retirement Fund.

Section 5.1. The State Board of Trustees of the Statewide Volunteer Fire Fighters' Retirement Fund is composed of nine (9) members, of whom six (6) Trustees must be members of the Fund, and three (3) Trustees must be persons who have experience in the fields of finance, securities investment, or pension administration.

Section 6. The President, with approval of the majority of the Executive Board present and voting, shall submit a list of not fewer than three (3) nor more than ten (10) nominees to the Governor every odd number year for appointment to the Fire Fighters' Pension Commissioner.

Section 7. The President shall appoint, with approval of the majority of the Executive Board present and voting, the state director and an alternate state director to the National Volunteer Fire Council. The state director and the alternate state director must be an active or retired member of a fire department.

THE VICE PRESIDENTS:

Section 1. In the case of absence, resignation, or death of the president, the Vice Presidents shall preside in the order in which they were elected, and act as presidents pro tem. They shall preside over such sessions of the Annual Training Conference and Convention as are assigned them and perform such duties as assigned them by the president.

THE SECRETARY:

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep minutes of all Executive Board meetings and a record of the proceedings of this Association's Annual Training Conference and Convention, and perform such duties as assigned by the president.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

Section 1. The Assistant Secretary shall assist the secretary in the discharge of that office's duties, and in the absence of the secretary for any cause, perform the duties of the secretary and any duties as assigned by the President. The Assistant Secretary shall present at the Annual Training Conference and Convention any resolution offered to the Association from a recognized district and or the Executive Board.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Section 1. The Executive Director shall receive and receipt all revenues and monies received by this Association and shall make an annual report thereof at the Annual Training Conference and Convention each year, and in such reports render an itemized statement of all receipts and disbursements handled by the office. The Executive Director shall attach to such report a statement from the bank or other institution wherein such funds are deposited, showing the cash balance of deposit by the Association, as near the first day of June preceding the Annual Training Conference and Convention as possible.

Section 2. The Executive Director shall perform such activities of the Association as may be required by the Executive Board.

Section 3. The Executive Director and all staff members that have check signing authority shall give an indemnity bond in a sum not less than \$100,000 and all other staff members will be \$25,000. Said bond to be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Texas and approved by the Executive Board of the Association. The premium of such bond is to be paid by the Association.

Section 4. The Executive Director shall keep an accurate alphabetical list and roll of the departments paying annual membership dues or assessments of individual members paying dues, and of the districts and other organizations including sustaining members paying dues

or assessments, and shall present a report thereof to the secretary and Finance committee of the Association for their use as provided in the by-laws of the Association.

Section 5. The Executive Director shall be responsible for all files and property belonging to the Association.

Section 6. The Executive Director shall be provided with the services of the personnel, the furniture, equipment, supplies, postage, and travel expenses necessarily expended in the performance of the duties of that position.

Section 7. The Executive Director shall withdraw funds of the Association for the depository bank, selected by the Executive Board of the Association upon official Association check forms, signed by the Executive Director.

Section 7.1. The Executive Director or any elected officers of this Association may not use any asset or property of this Association for the purpose of borrowing money or collateral without the approval of the majority of the Executive Board present and voting at a called meeting and approval of a corporate resolution with like resolution recorded in the Executive Board minutes.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Section 1. The President and Executive Director of this Association shall be required to make written reports at the Annual Training Conference and Convention. Other officers may be required to report at the request of the President.

ARTICLE III - Duties of Standing Boards

Section 1. **LEGISLATIVE BOARD:** It shall be the duty of this committee to study and take necessary action on such legislative matters as may come to their attention; to initiate and promote such legislation as may be necessary to preserve and promote the best interests of the firefighters of Texas.

Section 2. The members of the **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S AND FIRE MARSHAL'S CERTIFICATION BOARD** shall meet and select from their membership a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and assistant secretary.

Section 2.1. Meetings of the board may be called either by the chairman or by the written request of five (5) members. The meetings of the board may be called at such times and places as deemed necessary.

Section 2.2. In order to conduct business, a majority of the members must be present.

Section 2.3. The board shall be responsible for certification of all volunteer certification coordinators.

Section 2.4. The board shall set, update, and publish the minimum standards for volunteer firefighter and fire marshal certification.

Section 3. THE TEXAS INDUSTRIAL EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD: A program for industrial emergency services training shall be established in the State of Texas on a voluntary basis, and said program administered through the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association to become effective June 18, 1980.

Section 3. 1. Board Members: That a board of not less than 12 or more than 20 voting members in addition to any non-voting members be appointed by the president of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association to administer the program. The board will be known as the Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board.

A)1. Voting members will be appointed to serve four-year terms on the board.

2. Non-voting members will be appointed to serve terms as approved by a majority of voting members of the board.

B) 1. The members appointed to the first board will draw for one-, two-, three-, and four-year terms, and thereafter equal number of voting members will be appointed on rotating years.

C) 1. Voting board members will be appointed by the president from among representatives offered by participating industrial members, and confirmed by a majority of the SFFMA Executive Board members present and voting.

2. Non-voting board members will be appointed by the president from among individuals submitted and confirmed by a majority of voting members of the board and confirmed by a majority of the SFFMA Executive Board.

Section 3.2. Procedures of the Board

A) Meetings

1. Board shall meet at such times and places in the State of Texas as it deems proper.

2. Meetings shall be called by the chairman upon his/her own motion, or upon the written request of five (5) voting members. The minimum number of meetings will be once per year.

3. Meetings shall be announced at least one week in advance by written notice to all board members, and to the executive director. Emergency meetings can be called by the chairman with 24-hour notice to all board members and the executive director.

B) Quorum. A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum.

C) Order of Business. Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail for all meetings.

D) Officers

1. Officers of the board shall consist of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and assistant secretary.
2. The board shall elect its officers from the appointed voting members at its first meeting and thereafter at its first meeting succeeding new appointments to fill regular terms.

E) Industrial Advisory Board. The officers of the board shall constitute an "Industrial Advisory Board" to advise the Executive Board of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association on matters pertaining to industrial fire protection.

Section 3.3. Training Implementation Method

A) General Statement.

1. It shall be clearly understood that programs suggested by the board are minimum programs wherever possible. Nothing in the provisions shall limit or be construed as limiting industrial members from establishing additional programs.
2. Resource materials for minimum industrial fire training program shall be established from materials as outlined in appropriate international fire service training manuals, the NFPA Industrial Fire Brigade Training Manual, the API Industrial Fire Service, or other equal material as approved by the board. Each participating installation or organization shall verify, to the board, that such manuals and resources have been provided.

B) Objectives.

1. The objective of the board is to promote the competence of industrial emergency services programs.
2. The board has the authority:
 - a) to develop and administer a voluntary program for industrial emergency services training in the State of Texas. Programs developed by the board are subject to confirmation by the SFFMA Executive Board.
 - b) to approve industrial emergency services training and educational programs as meeting the minimum criteria expressed by the board, and
 - c) to outline more comprehensive training programs.

C) Definitions:

1. Certain definitions are used in describing the training programs and related subjects suggested by the board.
2. Definitions used include:
 - a) "**Board**" is the Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board.
 - b) "**Chairman**" is the presiding officer of the board.
 - c) "**Fire Chief**" is the head of an industrial fire department.
 - d) "**Training Coordinator**" is the individual designated by his/her management to be in charge of the industrial emergency services training programs.

- e) "**Trainee**" is any member of an industrial department who is participating in training programs.
- f) "**Department**" is an industrial fire department or fire brigade.
- g) "**School**" is any college, school, university, academy, or local training program which offers fire service training and includes within its meaning the combination of course curriculum, instructors, and facilities.
- h) "**Industrial Member**" is an industrial business establishment belonging to the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association.
- i) "**Participating Industrial Member**" is an industrial member that has a current certificate of participation from the board.
- j) "**Executive Director**" is the executive director of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.
- k) "**Executive Board**" is the Executive Board of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Section 3.4. Participation Requirements

1. Each industrial organization or installation that wishes to become a participating industrial member must be a current members of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, and employ a minimum of 10 employees at the specific installation. To meet the minimum 10 employee participation requirement, several installations, each having less than 10 employees and belonging to a common business organization, may be grouped together to qualify as a single participating industrial member.

2. Each participating industrial organization or installation shall remit to the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association the annual membership fee of \$500 per department.

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the industrial organization membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs or addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

3. Industrial members shall not be required to pay individual membership dues for any employee(s).

Section 3.5. Minimum Programs.

1. Although the board strongly endorses and supports adequate physical qualifications, this matter is left to each industrial installation or organization.

2. All training will be conducted and/or supervised by a training coordinator for that particular organization or installation who has been approved by the industrial member company's management. The training coordinator can designate any member from that department as an instructor. The board has the power to revoke program approval if they feel that the training is not being conducted in accord with the approved program.

3. Training may be received from any school, college, university, academy, or local training program which offers fire service training and is recognized by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association; additionally, training may also be provided by in-house programs under the supervision of the training coordinator.
4. Any personnel change in training coordinator's or fire chief's position will be sent to the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association office in Austin for updating of records.

Section 3.6. Recognitions.

Certificates of participation will be issued to each industrial installation or organization that has a training program approved by the board. These certificates will be reissued annually so long as the industrial member continues to conduct training programs in accord with the minimum standards of the board.

ARTICLE IV - Duties of SFFMA District Associations

Section 1 - Each SFFMA district association shall communicate and coordinate the activities and business of the state association on the local level, assisting departments and their members in their areas.

Each SFFMA district association shall provide a written record or report of their district activities at the SFFMA annual conference and convention each year.

Each SFFMA district association shall submit a list of eligible candidates at the SFFMA annual conference and convention each year to serve on each state committee to assist and perform the business of the State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

ARTICLE V - Duties of Working Committees

Section 1. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of the Credentials Committee to report immediately after the Association convenes for the purpose of passing on the credentials of delegates and their membership dues, and to make their annual report to the Association as soon as they have completed their duties.

Section 2. FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee shall review all bills paid by the Association, review the books of the executive director, and review the ensuing year's proposed budget, making recommendations if needed, and report in full regarding the finances of the Association at the annual meeting. This committee shall recommend to the Executive Board registration fees for the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Section 3. MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: The Memorial Committee shall compile a list of deceased members of this Association for the past year and make all arrangements for holding an appropriate memorial service during the Annual Training Conference and Convention. The Memorial

Committee may present the memorial resolution to the delegates for their approval during the memorial service.

Section 4. RACING COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to consult the host city committee on races, to cooperate in the selection of suitable sites and hydrants for the annual Association pumper races, to see that all necessary equipment is available and in place for the running of such races, and that the races are conducted in accordance with the Association's pumper racing rules.

Section 5. POSTER CONTEST COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to receive from the delegates of the several district associations of this State the winning posters from their respective districts, to see that they are suitably displayed by division, in an area or room assigned to them and to select a competent staff judge and report the first, second, and third place winners in each of the kindergarden, primary, middle, intermediate, junior high, and high school divisions at the final session of the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Section 6. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will review, study, and edit all proposed changes with the submitting body's approval, publish and distribute with the committee's recommendation for approval or rejection to all District Secretaries on or before March 15. All proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws will be presented at the Annual Training Conference and Convention by the committee for final action by the voting delegates. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee is charged with the duty of keeping the Constitution and By-Laws current and correct and in keeping with the goals of the Association. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee may submit changes to the Constitution and By-Laws that are a clarification of an Article or Section, correct grammar or misspelling, and submit any Article or Section at the direction and approval of the Executive Board.

Section 7. ANNUAL TRAINING WORKSHOP/ SPEAKER SELECTION COMMITTEE:

This committee shall consist of one (1) member from the Certification Board, Fire Marshal Committee, EMS Committee, TIESB Board, TEEX, International and an Executive Board Liaison.

Section 7. 1. It shall be the duty of this committee to select speakers and training workshops for the upcoming Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Section 7.2. This committee shall contact potential speakers, collect speaker proposals, select workshops (speakers) for the upcoming Annual Training Conference and Convention and work with the Association Meeting

Planner on scheduling selected workshops.

Section 7.3. The president shall appoint such subcommittees for this committee as deemed necessary to perform the duties of the committee.

Section 8. DRIVING CONTEST COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to work closely with the host liaison on driving contest requirements, the selection of a suitable site for the annual Association Driving Contest, to see that all necessary equipment is available and in place and that the contest is conducted in accordance with the Association's Driving Contest rules.

Section 9. EXHIBITORS COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to work closely with host liaison, exhibitors, and the State Office in planning and layout of the indoor/outdoor exhibit area.

Section 10. FIREFIGHTER & EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to review all nominees, and select the State Firefighter of the Year and the State EMS Responder of the Year.

*Section 11. SFFMA GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE (T*FLAG):* It shall be the duty of this committee to work closely with the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association Executive Board to study and take necessary action on such legislative matters as may come to their attention; to initiate and promote such legislation as may be necessary to preserve and promote the best interests of the firefighters of Texas.

Section 12. GOLF COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to work closely with the host liaison on the golf tournament requirements, and the selection of a suitable site for the annual Association Golf Tournament.

Section 13. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to assist as necessary and at the request of the President.

Section 14. SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE: It will be the duty of the committee to receive proposals, visit all prospective sites, and negotiate with the appropriate facilities. All proposals will be reviewed and the top three (3) sites shall be visited. All sites shall be visited before the Annual Conference in June, so recommendations could be made to the Executive Board. Then the Executive Board shall recommend three (3) sites for the Convention Delegates to vote for acceptance or rejection. The Executive Board shall have their recommendations submitted by the end of the Annual Conference so prospective sites can be placed on the ballots for the Annual Conference & Convention Proceedings. This Committee shall consist of the Executive Director, the Association Meeting Planner, two (2) representatives from the current Executive Board

and two (2) Past Presidents who shall be appointed by the incoming Association President after the Annual Conference and Convention Proceedings.

Section 15. EMS COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to coordinate and represent the SFFMA Members and Member Departments that provide Emergency Medical or First Responder Services regarding matters of legislation, training, recruitment and EMS Business and Leadership certifications.

Section 16. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to coordinate and represent non-U.S.-based SFFMA Members and Departments regarding matters of training, recruitment and certification.

Section 17. FIRE MARSHALS' COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to meet and confer as often as needed in order to:

1. Provide ample opportunities for exchange of fire safety information, code enforcement and technical developments.
2. Review and discuss methods to foster closer cooperation and a better understanding between governmental or industrial fire service organizations, law enforcement agencies, news media, the insurance industry, local fire prevention committees, and state and local agencies.
3. Encourage high professional standards of conduct among Fire Marshals and to continually strive to eliminate all factors which interfere with administration of fire prevention and life safety advancements for the common good.
4. Unite for mutual benefit those public officials and private persons to promote fire prevention and life safety in Texas.
5. Work closely with the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association Executive Board and the **SFFMA GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE (T*FLAG)** to study, make recommendations and take necessary action on such legislative matters as may come to their attention to initiate and promote such legislation as may be necessary to preserve and promote the best interests of the firefighters and citizens of Texas.

Section 18. HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to meet and confer as often as needed in order to:

1. Provide recommendations and guidelines for actions to help eliminate firefighter injury and death by increasing firefighters' health, wellness and fitness.
2. Provide recommendations and guidelines for safety considerations to fire departments in managing fire department duties and responsibilities.

3. Work with regulatory groups to help review, investigate and assist in determining the factors surrounding line of duty deaths, line of duty injuries, and near-miss situations. Take that information and provide lessons learned to the association members to help prevent further, similar events.
4. Committee members will be comprised of subject-matter experts in health and safety.

Section 19. COMBINATION DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE: It shall be the duty of this committee to meet and confer as often as needed in order to:

1. Determine and make recommendations for education, training, and support for departments that have both volunteers and career members.
2. The committee makeup shall be chief officers of combination departments or career chiefs serving combination departments.

ARTICLE VI - Membership Dues

Section 1. A regularly organized fire department within the meaning of the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association shall consist of any combination of personnel with apparatus properly manned and officered, with sufficient personnel to operate such apparatus in the prevention and extinguishment of fire.

Section 2. The dues of each department shall be \$200 per department per year.

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the department membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs and addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

Section 3. Each regularly organized fire department and industrial member shall be required to pay the Association annually the dues herein provided. The dues year runs concurrent with the fiscal year beginning January 1 through December 31, effective January 1.

Section 4. Fire Marshals offices, when duly certified by their political sub-division, shall be eligible to membership in this Association on the basis of \$200 annual membership dues.

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the organization membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs and addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

Section 5. The regularly organized district, county, rescue association, industrial and other fire service organization or individuals herein after

recognized by the Executive Board of this Association shall be eligible for membership in this Association upon payment of \$200 annual dues.

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the organization membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs and addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

Section 6. Sustaining members of the Association, which includes manufacturers, jobbers, distributors, and/or sales personnel of fire apparatus, equipment, and accessories, may obtain sustaining membership in this Association upon payment of \$200 annual dues. Only sustaining members will be eligible to contract for exhibit space at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the sustaining membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs and addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

Section 7. Life members shall be exempt from the payment of all Association dues and registration fees.

Section 8. Honorary life and honorary members shall be exempt from the payment of Association dues, but shall not be exempt from payment of the Annual Training Conference and Convention registration fees.

Section 9. Any person interested in the fire service may become an individual member of this Association by the payment of annual dues in the amount of \$50 per year which includes individual membership and allows for the eligibility of any other benefits which may be available to individual members.

The Association shall dedicate \$20 of the individual membership dues to a building fund to be used exclusively for the construction, purchase, renovation, repairs and addition to a building or for the purchase of land.

Section 9.1. The magazine subscription is included as a part of all membership dues categories.

Section 9.2. The individual membership is required to participate in the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' of Texas Certification Program.

ARTICLE VII - Honorary Life and Honorary Members

Section 1. All names presented to this Association for honorary life or honorary membership in this Association shall be referred to a committee of three, appointed by the president, for the purpose of

approving or disapproving such membership. Such names shall not be acted on until such committee reporting thereon shall have been named to the Association.

Section 2. An official badge and plaque shall be awarded to the past presidents of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII - Nominations of Officers and Selection of Meeting Place

Section 1. Nominations of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the hour designated on the official Annual Training Conference and Convention program, during the first (1st) business session of the annual conference.

Section 2. The selection of the host city for the Annual Training Conference and Convention of this Association shall be made at least three years in advance of the meeting, beginning with the conference and convention in the year 2005.

Section 2.1. The selection for the host city for the Annual Training Conference and Convention of this Association shall be contingent on the host city to provide ample indoor exhibit area.

Section 2.2. There shall be a Site Selection Committee consisting of two representatives from the Executive Board, the Executive Director, the Meeting Planner and two Past Presidents, appointed by the association President.

Section 2.3. The Site Selection Committee shall visit prospective sites, negotiate with the appropriate facilities and bring the recommendations to the Executive Board for approval and then to the Convention delegates for a vote of acceptance or rejection.

Section 3. After nominations of the respective officers and mascot have been declared, it shall be the duty of the recording secretary to have prepared and printed ballots showing the names of the nominees for such officers in duplicate; one ballot being marked "first ballot" and the other being marked "second ballot."

ARTICLE IX - Voting and Elections

Section 1. Each properly accredited delegate shall be entitled to one vote at the annual meeting.

Section 2. All elections held by this Association shall be by secret ballot with a majority vote deciding.

Section 3. Ballots shall be distributed to the Delegates by the Sergeant-at-Arms at such time as their attendance cards are taken up at the last

session. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall act as tellers during balloting, the president shall appoint a committee to count all ballots and return a total count to the secretary.

Section 4. Each delegate entitled to vote shall indicate his/her choice by placing either an "X" or check mark (p) in the "Box" on said ballot next to the name of the person for the respective office, and the city for the place of the next meeting.

Section 5. Vacancies of any elected position, except that of Assistant Secretary, Chaplain, and 4th Vice President, shall be filled by elevation of the chairs in the order they were elected. Vacancies of elected positions of Assistant Secretary, Chaplain, and 4th Vice President may be filled by appointment on interim basis at the discretion of the President, with the approval of the majority of the Executive Board present and voting. Any interim appointment shall expire on the last day of the next Annual Training Conference and Convention.

ARTICLE X - Reporting Deceased

Section 1. All members are requested to submit a list of their deceased fellow firemen to the chairman of the Memorial Committee, not later than May 31, preceeding the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

ARTICLE XI - Appeals and Grievances

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall constitute a board of appeals to determine any question submitted to them by a member, company, department or organization or delegate thereof.

ARTICLE XII - Amendments

Section 1. The by-laws of the Association may be amended at any Annual Training Conference and Convention by two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.

Section 2. Any amendment to the by-laws of this Association presented at the Annual Training Conference and Convention must be prepared in writing and submitted to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee prior to the close of the Annual Training Conference and Convention planning conference held in January of each year. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will review, study, edit, with the submitting body's approval, and publish and distribute with the committee's recommendations for approval or rejection to all district secretaries on or before March 15.

The proposed amendment will then be presented to the Annual Training Conference and Convention by the committee for final action by the

voting delegates, and all such amendments must be submitted by a recognized district association or the Executive Board of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association.

Section 3. In the absence of any specific parliamentary rules or regulations, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.

GUIDELINES DRIVING CONTEST

1. Must be registered for convention.
2. Must have a valid driver's license.
3. No contestant will be allowed in truck before contest begins.
4. Contestants must be present at driving course by 7:15 am. Entrance to the Truck Driving Contest will end at 7:30 am.
5. Contestants will be disqualified when any three wheels of the apparatus leaves the course at the same time.
(Duals count as two).
6. Contestants will be penalized five (5) seconds for each time a pylon or barrel is touched. This will be added to the overall time.
7. In case of a tie, a re-run will only be done in the first three places.
8. Decision of the judges is final.
9. This is an equal opportunity contest.
10. At the time you register for the contest, you will draw for the position in which you will drive in the contest.
11. This will be a timed event.
12. Only one (1) driver per town or industry.
13. No one will be permitted to enter the contest after 7:30 am on the date of the contest.
14. Only one occupant per vehicle.
15. Failure to complete course will result in disqualification.
16. Sliding or squealing the truck tires anywhere on the course will be disqualified.

RULES FOR DRIVING CONTEST

1. Contestants will not be allowed to consume alcoholic beverages before or during the contest.
2. The contestant will be required to wear the seat belts at all times.
3. The contestant is required to handle his/her vehicle in a safe manner and to maintain a normal driving position on the field test course.
4. At the starting line, each contestant shall be given a reasonable amount of time and such assistance as he/she may require to satisfactorily adjust his/her seat and mirrors and get comfortable.
5. The rules and the field course may be subject to change due to the Host City facility.

FIELD COURSE

1. Offset Alley

Objective: To test the drivers' ability to steer, judge distances at all points on the vehicle, and to properly control speed while maneuvering in a continuous forward motion through the confined space simulating the avoidance of parked vehicles or maneuvering through narrow alleys.

Standard Operating Procedure: Driver is required to move through one set of traffic cones, turn right or left and proceed through a second set of traffic cones without touching any of the cones comprising the problem.

Problem Dimension (1): Width between traffic cones in each set - eleven feet (11'). Distance between each set - twenty-four feet (24').

2. Loading Dock

Objective: To test the driver's ability to back his/her vehicle into a narrow space and stop with the rear of the vehicle within a specific distance of the back limits of the space.

Standard Operating Procedure: The driver is required to drive forward past the opening of the simulated dock, position the vehicle and then back into the dock stopping with the rear of the unit within 24 inches of the door. After completing the stop, proceed to the next object (serpentine). You must stop within the line of 0 to 24 inches for a valid score. Anything out of the 24 inch line will count as a five (5) second penalty on your overall time.

3. Controlled Cornering (New 2003 Driving Contest)

Objective: To test the driver's ability to maneuver the vehicle in a controlled manner through sharp corner.

Standard Operating Procedure: Driver is required to move through a set of traffic cones placed in a continuous corner without touching any of the cones compromising the problem.

Problem Dimension: 14 cones, width between cones is 11 feet (11').

4. The Serpentine

Objective: to test the driver's ability to maneuver the vehicle in and out of tight places in both forward and backward movement.

Standard Operating Procedure: The driver is required to drive in a figure eight (8) pattern around a line of obstacles. He/she is required to maintain a continuous movement forward and backwards with the only authorized stops being those required to change direction to complete negotiation of the problem.

Problem Dimension: Three (3) barrels in a straight line 32 feet (32') apart (from center to center).

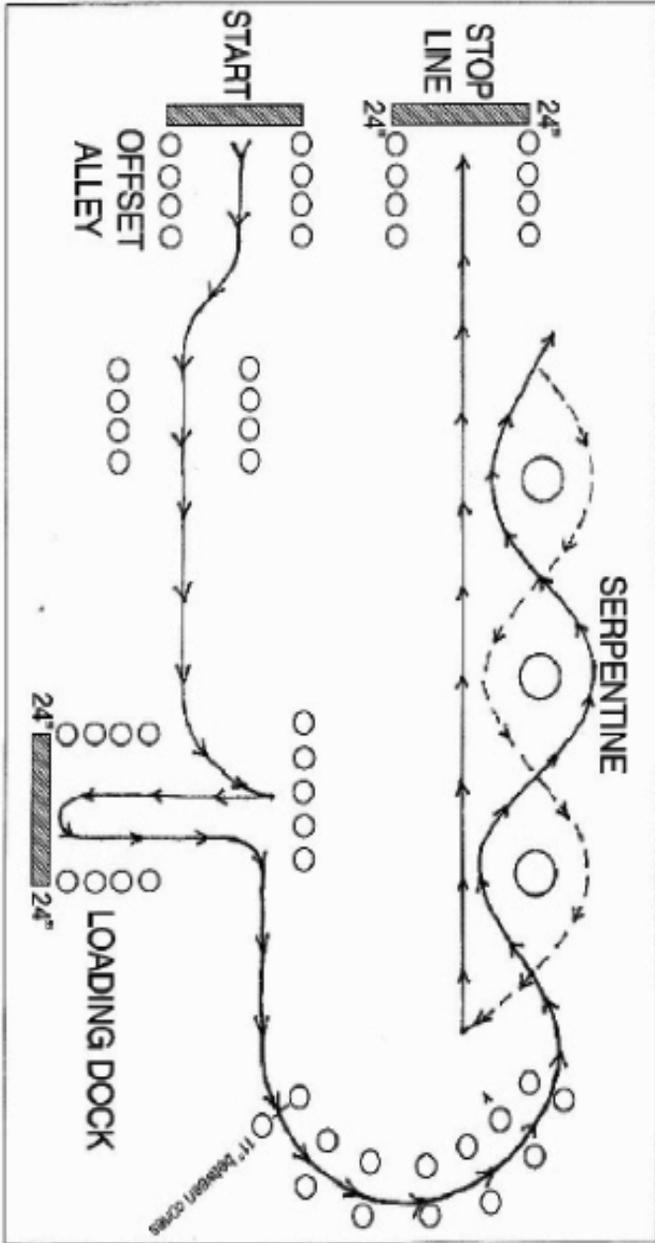
5. The Stop Line

Objective: To test the driver's ability to judge the position of his/her front bumper with respect to a fixed line.

Standard Operating Procedure: The driver is required to approach the line moving forward and maintaining a normal driving position. Only one (1) stop is allowed and once stopped, a measurement will be taken. The front bumper of the unit shall be within 24 inches of the required stopping line. There will be no score if the contestant moves his/her vehicle forward or backward after making a stop at approach or at the stop line.

Stop Line: You must stop within the line of 0 to 24 inches for a valid score. Anything out of the 24 inch line will count as a five (5) second penalty on your overall time.

DRIVING CONTEST COURSE LAYOUT



FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

(Revised September 1, 2010)

SELECTION GUIDELINES

Nominee's department MUST be a member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

A nominee must hold current individual membership in the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Each nominee will be considered on a point system to determine the three finalists. The area to be considered are:

1. Leadership abilities including: *Leadership positions held, Work knowledge, Communications, Creativity and Innovation, Attitude, Interaction with others*
2. Dedication to training and/or introduction of new and innovative training methods
3. Involvement in SFFMA, both state and district level
4. Community involvement, both church and civic
5. Acts of heroism in a fire-related act or act of bravery
6. Accomplishments/awards received
7. Certifications held
8. Letters of Recommendation (no more than 4, please)
9. Pictures may be submitted (no more than 4, please)

All nominations must be submitted to local Districts by a fire department on or before the District's Spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from the fire department and signed by Fire Chief, Assistant Chief or President.

One nominee from each District should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the state SFFMA office no later than the 4th Monday in May. Submissions must be received with a letter from the District and signed by the District President or Secretary.

The state SFFMA office will log in the submissions as received and will leave the submissions unopened. The FFOY committee will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists based on the above criteria. The nominees will be notified of the results.

The three finalists will be interviewed by the FFOY committee on Saturday morning at the state convention. All nominees will be recognized and the winner will be announced on Sunday at the 1st Business Meeting. All submissions will be returned to the Districts after the state convention.

EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

SELECTION GUIDELINES

Nominee's department or agency MUST be a current active member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominee must be a current individual member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

A nominee could be considered because of past heroism in EMS-related act, act of bravery, dedication to training or introduction of new and innovative training methods.

Leadership abilities to be considered are:

1. work knowledge
2. communications
3. creative ability
4. innovation
5. attitude
6. interaction with other people

Community involvement considered, either church or civic.

A nominee should be considered for the committees he/she may have chaired or served on and how these committees functioned under his/her guidance.

Nominees will be considered on a point system, giving points for their contributions in the above various areas.

There will be a personal interview conducted with the top three finalists.

To win the State award as EMS Responder of the Year, nominees do not have to be an agency officer or chief.

All nominations for EMS Responder of the Year must be submitted to a local District Association, on department or agency letterhead and signed by the department or agency chief officer or executive, assistant chief or executive and/or department or agency President.

The district offices will conduct submissions of District nominations to the SFFMA State Office. Submission of winning nominees must be on a district letterhead, and/or signed by the President or Secretary of the district.

One nomination from each District President/Secretary shall be submitted to the SFFMA State Office by fax, email, or postal mail by the 3rd Monday in May.

Copies of Certificates and pictures may be included (but no more than four (4) of each.

GARY TILTON MEMORIAL FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST RULES

As revised by committee, February 2018

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: INSTRUCTION ON RULES

This contest is open to all students in grades Pre K through 12 enrolled in any school (public, private, parochial, etc.) or home schooled.

The following grades will fall into six divisions:

Kindergarten Division - Grades Pre K, K.

Primary Division - Grades 1, 2.

Intermediate Division - Grades 3, 4.

Middle Division - Grades 5, 6.

Junior High Division - Grades 7, 8.

High School Division - Grades 9,10,11,12

The poster must be original and may be on any phase of fire prevention and/or fire safety. Only individual work by the student, and one entry per student will be accepted. Posters must conform to the following description: Size of poster: 14 inches by 22 inches.

Kind: Any art medium including painted, cut-outs, pen and ink, crayons, chalks, pencils, computer graphics, but not limited to these.

NO objects over one half inch in height are to be placed on the poster.

NO live matches may be used on the poster.

NO glass may be used in the poster.

The following information must be placed in a sealed envelope attached to the back of the poster. Inside the envelope on a card or piece of paper, insert:

- a. Name of student
- b. Name of school
- c. Address of school
- d. Grade of student
- e. Name of fire department
- f. Name of district association

On front of envelope: division only

All posters must contain full information and conform to size to avoid disqualification.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All fire departments and/or fire marshal's offices that are active in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest and are members of the different district associations and the state association may send their winning posters, by their fire marshal or representative to the district contest.

Each District may select three posters only from each division and send them to the state contest. (District Representative - it is your responsibility to see that all posters entered from your district conform to all the state rules. Posters must be submitted to the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association Fire Prevention Poster Committee at the host city before 4:00 p.m., Saturday of convention week. Poster Committee will have a booth at the exhibit hall for all posters to be submitted.

First, Second, and Third place trophies will be given in each division. Three, five or seven judges will be selected by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association Fire Prevention Poster Committee.

The decision of the judges will be announced at the convention. The decision of the judges is final.

All posters will become the property of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association to be exhibited at the state contest. Winning posters will be displayed for one year at the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas - PO Box 1709, Manchaca, TX 78652-1709.

It is the district's responsibility to pick up the last year's winners from the chairman or his representative.

It shall be the responsibility of the chairman to:

Secure trophies for first, second, and third place in each division. Trophies will be presented to the district representative for presentation to the winner. Provide ribbons for each place. Ribbons will be attached to the posters.

The cost of the trophies and the ribbons shall be paid by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association.

Any prize money that is awarded to any poster contestant will be awarded by that company and/or group, and will not involve the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association. All departments and /or districts who have posters in the state contest *must pick them up* Tuesday after the awards banquet. Any poster not picked up at awards banquet will be disposed of that night.

TEXAS FIREMEN PHOTO CONTEST

Anyone can enter the contest *with the exception of professional photographers*; there is no minimum age requirement. If you were in the right place in time to capture that special moment, we encourage you to enter the contest.

All photos submitted will be exhibited at the SFFMA Annual Training Conference and Convention. Some of the winning photographs will also be published in the *Texas Firemen* magazine and *InfoFire* newsletter throughout the year.

CONTEST RULES

- 1) Department membership is not required. (Professional photographers *are not allowed* to submit entries.)
- 2) Photos must be 8" X 10", color or black and white, un-matted, ALL OTHERS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. Please include prints and digital files on a disk.
- 3) You must fill out the Photo Contest Entry Form and attach to the back of EACH photo submitted. Make as many copies of the entry form as needed.
- 4) ONLY three (3) photos PER CATEGORY may be entered. (If more than three per category are submitted, the first 3 will be considered, all others will be disqualified.)
- 5) Entries (printed copies) become the property of *Texas Firemen* magazine and the State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, and may be displayed by SFFMA at fire service events.
- 6) A 'Best of Show' plaque will be awarded to the highest scoring photograph. Additionally, 1st and 2nd place plaques will be given in each category based on creative composition, visual appeal, originality and good fire fighting or EMS practices and techniques.

CATEGORIES

- a. Fire-related acts, any variety; *must be "real life" incident*
- b. Lifesaving acts, any variety; *must be "real life" incident*
- c. Education and public safety - any "*staged*" fires such as at fire training schools and anything relating to public safety (presentations at schools, "*staged*" disaster drills, etc.)

PUMPER RACES

CONTEST RULES FOR SIX-MAN PUMPER DRILL

The President shall appoint the chairman and co-chairman, judges, timekeepers, and starter. There shall be three judges, three timekeepers, and a starter. The chairman shall have charge of the drawing for places, getting equipment, and spotting of truck at the hydrant. The chairman of the contest shall not keep time, but must accept the time given him by the timekeepers. All judges and timekeepers shall be entitled to a vote on any questions that may arise. The chairman shall not vote except in case of tie. The racing chairman shall be empowered to replace any committeeman incompetent to perform his duties. The judges shall be three in number: one at the rear of the pumper and one on each side of the pumper. The three timekeepers shall position themselves as near as possible to the 100-foot line painted on the street. Any team trying to win by fraud, deception, or foul play, or in any dishonorable or ungentlemanly way, or shall disobey, infringe upon or evade any of the requirements of these rules and regulations before or during the contest, shall be barred from competing in that race, the judges to decide on the matter. The chairman shall take up all complaints of the contest with the judges, and their findings shall be final. All complaints must be made immediately following a team's run. At the state convention the racing team chairman shall be in charge.

Any team captain or member of his team who violates these rules, automatically disqualifies the team for that particular meet. Sufficient room for the competing teams to operate in during their race shall be maintained by the judge during the race. At the end of the races the data shall be assembled by the secretary, and after the results have been announced, the official copy shall be filed as part of the regular minutes of the meeting.

FIREMEN'S PUMPER DRILL

The working order of the drill shall be as follows: pumper to be set at hydrant, motor silent, hydrant wrench in the seat on the floorboard, wrench will be allowed to extend out of the cab as each team sees fit as it will not fall off (in cab-forward design trucks, judges may designate wrench in a more appropriate position), doors open, hard suction in its regular position if at all possible, unlocked with swivel at either end as team captain desires. After drill has started, position

of pumper cannot be changed. After truck is set, a white line six inches (6") wide and ten feet (10') long shall be painted on the street 100 feet from the tailboard of the truck.

The same nozzle and non-adjustable hydrant wrench shall be used by all teams and these shall be furnished by the host city or the State Association. Enough 2½ inch hose shall be provided so that no sections shall have to be used more than five (5) times during the race. It shall be the duty of the judges to check all couplings to see that they shall be the same for all teams. The judges shall see that all hoses have water run through immediately prior to the start of the race. All connections shall be checked by the judges to see that all are the same for all teams before each team runs, and all caps shall be on the plug, the hard suction intake, and the discharge, and shall be set by the judges prior to each run.

No team member of any competing teams shall make any connection at any position before their team runs. If any doubt arises regarding any coupling or threads, the judges shall try that coupling to the team's satisfaction and that it will operate efficiently.

The number of men in the drill team shall not exceed six (6), or more than one at any position on the truck. Position of men at starting signal shall be as follows: two men on seat of pumper, sitting in natural position, facing forward, one man on each side of truck on running board forward of the hard suction intake, facing truck, and two men on rear platform, body erect, toes forward and, if possible, feet entirely on the running boards. Both men on the side running boards and men on the rear platform may have their heels hanging off the running board in case of the running board being too narrow for the feet to be accommodated, provided the toes shall touch the body of the truck. Men must remain in this position, hands extended overhead, until starting signal is given. After signal is given, the men may work as they choose to accomplish the following: connect hard suction hose to hydrant and to pump. Pull continuously 100 feet (100') of 2½ inch hose from the hose bed and in an approximate straight line to a point where the coupling at end of said 100-foot (100') hose clears the hose bed (not the rear platform), take play pipe nozzle from rear platform of truck and connect to end of hose.

Connect other end of hose to pumper, open valve on hydrant and truck and allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. Hose may be extended to its full length as long as the nozzle is behind the 100-foot (100') marker on the street when the water comes through

it. Hose may be loaded as the team desires, but must come out of the hose bed in approximately a straight line. No skid, twist or other loads on the third section of the hose that will permit hose to come out in any other manner than a straight line shall be allowed.

After all the hose has been loaded into the hose bed, the judge shall ask the team captain of the team on the truck if his hose is loaded and ready for inspection. The judge shall set the coupling to be broken in the race after the competing team completes its loading, immediately before the team runs. This coupling shall be set the same for each team. Nobody, except those pulling the hose, shall grab the hose until the coupling at the 100-foot section clears the hose bed (not rear platform). Teams do not have to touch the 100-foot (100') mark on the street, but must pull off 100 feet (100') of the hose. The first pullman off the rear platform shall be the only man to reach into the hose bed.

The time of the contest shall be judged from the time the starting signal is given until a continuous flow (not a surge or spurt) of water passes from the nozzle over the line 100 feet (100') from the rear of the truck. Timekeepers shall clock the time when a continuous stream of water passes over the 100-foot (100') mark. Any team that has a blow-off at any connection or of the nozzle before time is clocked at the 100-foot (100') line shall be given a "no-time" by the judge. All connections must be screwed on in such a manner that it will remain in place without being held on until time is clocked by the timekeepers. Only the team member at the nozzle may be touching the hose with his hands, and person at hydrant may still be turning the hydrant on. Any team deliberately aiming, or tossing hard suction in the eyes of the judge shall be disqualified.

After a team has established a valid time (or received a valid no-time) it shall not be permitted to rerun in the event if the equipment shall become inoperative, replaced or relocated. All teams with valid time or valid no-time shall retain their established times and shall be eligible for all prizes. No team shall be given a second chance to run unless a defect in equipment occurs while said team is running. In such an event, this team shall be allowed to rerun.

Any conditions that may arise that are not covered by these rules shall be governed by the racing committee and one representative of each competing team before races start. After races start any conditions that arise shall be governed by a ruling of the judges only.

The chairman of the subcommittee may be authorized to employ four men to assist in handling hose and equipment during races. The host city shall not be allowed to enter the contest for prize money. Host

team at the state convention will be allowed to compete for trophy. Also, the host city shall run first. Only one team from each city can enter the contest at the state convention. Each district may enter one team at the state convention. No racing team or city shall use the host city's pumper to practice or drill on within a period of three (3) months prior to the convention date. If pumper races are held at night, all positions shall be well-lit (both sides of truck, plug, rear of truck, and hose running area).

The same starting cadence shall be used for every contest—timekeepers ready, judges ready, team ready, hands in air, get set, go (or shoot gun). A set of racing rules shall be given each judge prior to races and shall remain in his possession until after completion of the races. He shall study and fully familiarize himself with these rules before the races start. After the races, he shall return the rules to the pumper races chairman. To be eligible, all team members of competing teams must be active or retired members of an organized fire department, that has paid their state dues, and is in good standing with the state association. All team members must be registered and can participate on only one six-man team at any convention. Departments may combine members to make one team, but the name of the team must be designated at the time of registration. Combination teams will only represent one department or district. The cost of all convention badges, trophies given, or prizes, including pumper races awards, shall be deducted from the total convention entertainment fee derived from convention registration fees paid by delegates and visitors and shall never be paid out of funds collected for annual dues.

CONTEST RULES FOR THREE-MAN PUMPER DRILL

The president shall appoint the chairman and co-chairman, judges, timekeepers and starter. There shall be three judges, three timekeepers, and a starter. The chairman shall have charge of the drawing for places, getting of equipment, and spotting of truck at hydrant. The chairman of the contest shall not keep time, but must accept the time given by the timekeepers. All judges and timekeepers shall be entitled to a vote on any questions that may arise. The chairman shall not vote except in case of a tie.

The racing chairman shall be empowered to replace any committeeman incompetent to perform his duties.

The judges shall be three in number, one at the discharge of the pumper, one at the center coupling set, and one at the nozzle. Three timekeepers shall position themselves as near as possible to the 100-foot line painted on the street. Any team trying to win by fraud, deception, foul play or in any dishonorable or ungentlemanly way or shall disobey, infringe upon, or evade any of the requirements of these rules and regulations before or during the contest, shall be barred from competing in that race; the judges to decide on the matter. The chairman shall take up all complaints of the contest with the judges, and their findings shall be final. All complaints must be made immediately following a team's run, by a racing team captain. Any team captain or member of his team who violates these rules automatically disqualifies the team for that particular meet. Sufficient room for the competing teams to operate in shall be maintained by the judges during the race.

At the end of the races, the data shall be assembled by the chairman, and after the results have been announced, the official copy shall be filed as part of the regular minutes of the meeting.

WORKING ORDER OF THREE-MAN PUMPER DRILL

A fire truck will be selected by the chairman. The fire truck will be fitted with a $\frac{1}{4}$ turn $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch gated valve (if necessary). The fire hydrant will be turned to the "full on" position allowing full water flow to be controlled by the $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch valve. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch valve will include a $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch cap. One hundred feet of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch hose will be laid on the ground in a straight line from the discharge side of the fire truck with all couplings unattached. A straight bore $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch nozzle shall be provided and the same nozzle used throughout the contest by all teams. The location in which the nozzle will be placed is at least one nozzle length from either side of the end of the hose. The number of persons in the drill team shall not exceed three. The team members shall stand perpendicular to the hose, with hands extended overhead and knees locked. Starting positions will be at the truck connection, center connection or nozzle connection. Team members will remain in their starting positions until the starting signal is given. After the starting signal is given, each person must run no less than

50 feet to accomplish the following:

- connect 2½ inch hose to 2½ inch valve on the fire truck
- connect center coupling set
- attach nozzle to end of hose
- charge hose line with water using the 2½ inch valve on the fire truck, producing a full water stream from the nozzle.

It shall be the duty of the judges to check all couplings, the nozzle, and the 2½ inch valve connections to assure that all threads are compatible and will make up easily. The judges shall see that water has been run through the entire hose immediately prior to the start of the race. The hose will be drained of water following the run of each team. The threads at each female connection can be set by team members. This shall be done in a timely manner. No connection shall be made by the team members before run of race. If any doubt arises regarding any coupling or threads, the judges shall try that coupling to the team's satisfaction that it will operate satisfactorily.

The judges shall see that the cap placed on the fire truck is set to the proper position prior to start of each run and also see that all hose couplings are disconnected and that the ends of the hose are folded back not more than five (5) feet. It will be the duty of the judge to set all connections with sufficient slack to make each connection without having to drag the hose from its original position. Team members may approve the amount of slack at each connection.

Participants will be allowed to utilize their feet to kick couplings in position if they so desire, and if by the judgement of the judges this does no damage to any hose couplings or subject anyone to bodily injury.

The same starting cadence shall be used for each contest: timekeepers ready, judges ready, team ready, hands in the air, get set, go (or shoot gun). The time of the contest shall be judged from the time the starting signal is given until a continuous flow (not a surge or spurt) of water passes from the nozzle over the line 100 feet from the rear of the truck. Timekeepers shall clock the time when a continuous stream of water passes over the 100-foot mark.

Any team that has a blow-off at any connection or nozzle before time is clocked shall be given a "no-time" by the judge. All connections must be screwed on in such a manner that they will remain in place without being held until time is clocked by the timekeepers. Only the team member making the nozzle connection may be touching the hose with his hands. After a team has established a valid time

(or received a valid no-time) it shall not be permitted to rerun if the equipment shall become inoperative, replaced or relocated. All teams with valid time or valid no-time shall retain their established times and shall be eligible for all prizes. No team shall be given a second chance to run unless a defect in the equipment occurs while said team is running. In such event, this team shall be allowed a rerun. The host city shall not be allowed to enter contests for money. Host team at the state convention will be allowed to compete for trophy. Also, the host city shall run first.

Only one team from each city can enter the contest at the state convention. No racing team or city shall use the host city's pumper to practice or drill on within a period of three (3) months prior to the convention date.

If races are held at night, all positions shall be well-lit. A set of racing rules shall be given each judge prior to races and shall remain in his/her possession until after completion of the races. He/she shall study and fully familiarize him/herself with these rules before the races start. After the races, he/she shall return the rules to the pumper race chairman.

To be eligible, each racing team member who runs must be registered at the state convention, and be a member of an organized fire department who has paid their state dues and is in good standing with the State Association. Any conditions that may arise that are not covered by these rules shall be governed by the racing committee and one representative of each competing team before races start. After races start, any conditions that arise shall be governed by a ruling of the judges.

TEXAS FIREMEN'S AUXILIARY RACING CONTEST RULES FOR SIX-LADY PUMPER DRILL

First Vice President shall be the racing chairman and she shall appoint a racing committee. The association's general chairman shall appoint the judges, timekeepers and starter, and be in charge of getting the necessary equipment and spotting of truck at hydrant. The Auxiliary Racing Committee shall have charge of drawing of places and verifying eligibility of each team entering. The general chairman and Auxiliary Racing Committee shall not keep time, but must accept the time given them by the timekeepers. All judges and timekeepers shall be entitled to a vote on any questions that may arise. The general chairman shall not vote except in case of a tie.

Members of the racing team shall not be a member of any organized fire department. However, they must be an immediate relative (wife, widow, mother, daughter, sister, or a ward of a legal guardian) of an active or retired member of a regularly organized fire department who pays dues to the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association. Only teams whose fire departments have paid state dues and are in good standing with the state association shall be eligible and all racing team members who run must be registered at the convention. Teams representing districts must meet these same requirements in addition to their district paying state dues. Only teams who have paid the state auxiliary dues shall be eligible. Each team must have at least one racing team member or female representative present at the business meeting and draw for places at the end of the business meeting. (Drawing for places may be held prior to business meeting when races are held prior to business meeting - See Section 2 of Article II, TFA By-Laws.)

Only one team from each city can enter the contest at the state convention. Each district may have only one district team enter the contest at the state convention. Members of a district racing team must be from the same district and not participate on any local auxiliary or city team at the state convention. No racing team shall use the host city's pumper to practice or drill on within a period of three (3) months prior to the convention date. Any team trying to win by fraud, deception, foul play or in any dishonorable or unladylike manner, or shall disobey, infringe upon or evade any of the requirements of these rules and regulations before or during the contest, shall be barred from competing in that race, the judges to decide on the matter. The chairman shall take up all complaints of the contest with the judges, and their findings shall be final. All complaints must be made immediately following a team's run. At the state convention, the racing team captains shall be in charge. Any team captain or member of her team who violates these rules automatically disqualifies that team for that particular meet. The judges shall be three in number, one at the rear of the pumper, one on each side of the pumper.

The timekeepers shall position themselves as near as possible to the 100-foot line painted on the street. Sufficient room for the competing teams to operate in during their race shall be maintained by the judges during the race. If pumper races are held at night, all positions shall be well-lit (both sides of truck, plug, rear of truck and hose running area). The host city shall not be allowed to enter contests for prize money. Host team at the state convention will not be allowed to

compete for trophy. The host city shall run first. At the end of the races the data shall be assembled by the secretary and after the results have been announced, the official copy shall be filed as part of the regular minutes of the meeting.

AUXILIARY PUMPER DRILL

The working order of the drill shall be as follows: Pumper to be set at hydrant, motor silent, hydrant wrench in front of seat on the floorboard, wrench will be allowed to extend out of the cab as each team sees fit, as long, as it will not fall off, (in cab-forward designated trucks, judges may designate wrench area in a more appropriate position), doors open, suction hose will be laid from truck to plug with ends folded back about six inches or one foot. The suction hose will be 2½ inch soft cushion. After drill has started, position of pumper cannot be changed. After truck is set, a white line six inches (6") wide and ten feet (10') long shall be painted on the street 100 feet (100') from the tailboard of truck.

The same nozzle and non-adjustable hydrant wrench shall be used by all teams, the nozzle being furnished by the auxiliary and the wrench being furnished by the host city. Enough 1½ inch or 1¾ inch hose shall be provided so that no section shall have to be used more than five (5) times during the race. It shall be the duty of the judges to check all couplings to see that they shall be the same for all teams. The judges shall see that all hose must have water run through it immediately prior to the start of the race.

All connections shall be checked by the judges to see that all are the same for all teams before each team runs, and all caps shall be on the plug, the suction intake, and the discharge, and shall be set by the judges prior to the run.

No team member of any of the competing teams shall make any connection at any position before their team runs. If any doubt arises regarding any coupling or threads, the judges shall try that coupling to the team's satisfaction that it will operate efficiently. The number of ladies in the drill team shall not be less than four and shall not exceed six, or more than one at any position on the truck. Position of ladies at starting signal shall be as follows: two ladies on seat on

pumper, sitting in natural position, facing forward, one lady on each side of truck on running boards forward of the suction intake, facing truck, and two ladies on the rear platform, body erect, toes forward and if possible, feet entirely on running boards. Both ladies on the side running board and ladies on the rear platform may have their heels hanging off the running boards in case of the running boards being too narrow for the feet to be accommodated, provided the toes shall touch the body of the truck. Ladies must remain in this position, hands extended over the head, until starting signal is given.

Note: Should there be less than six (four or five only) members running on the team, position of ladies at starting signal shall be as stated above with the option to drop any two positions.

After signal is given, the ladies may work as they choose to accomplish the following: connect suction hose to hydrant and to pump. Pull continuously 100 feet (100') of 1½ inch or 1¾ inch hose from hose bed and in an approximate straight line to a point where the coupling at the end of said 100-foot (100') hose clears the hose bed (not the rear platform), take nozzle from rear platform of truck and connect to the end of the hose. Connect other end of hose to pumper, open valve on hydrant and truck, and allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. Hose may be extended to its full length as long as nozzle is behind the 100-foot (100') mark on the street when the water comes through it.

Hose may be loaded as the team desires, but must come out of the hose bed in approximately a straight line. No skid, twist or other loads on the third section of hose that will permit hose to come out in any other manner than a straight line shall be allowed.

After all the hose has been loaded into the hose bed, the judges shall ask the team captain of the team on the truck if her hose is loaded and ready for inspection. The judge shall set the coupling to be broken in the race after the competing team completes its loading, immediately before the team runs. This coupling shall be set the same for each team. Nobody, except those pulling the hose, shall grab the hose until the coupling at the 100-foot (100') section clears the hose bed (not rear platform). Teams do not have to touch the 100-foot (100') mark on the street, but must pull off 100 feet (100') of hose.

The first pullman off the rear platform shall be the only lady to reach into the hose bed. The time of the contest shall be judged from the time the starting signal is given until a continuous flow (not a surge or spurt) of water passes from the nozzle over the line 100 feet (100') from the rear of the truck. Timekeepers shall clock the time when a continuous stream of water passes over the 100-foot (100') mark. Any team that has a blow-off at any connection or of the nozzle before the time is clocked at the 100-foot (100') line shall be given a "no-time" by the judges. All connections must be screwed on in such a manner that it will remain in place without being held on until time is clocked by the timekeepers. After a team has established a valid time (or received a valid no-time), it shall not be permitted to rerun in the event the equipment shall become inoperative, replaced or relocated. All teams with valid times or valid no-times shall retain their established time and shall be eligible for all prizes. No team shall be given a second chance to run unless a defect in equipment occurs while said team is running, in such event this team shall be allowed a rerun. Any conditions that may arise that are not covered by these rules shall be governed by the racing committee and one representative of each competing team before the races start. After races start, any conditions that arise shall be governed by a ruling of the judges only. The same starting cadence shall be used for every contest - timekeepers ready, judges ready, team ready, hands in the air, get set, go (or shoot gun).

A set of racing rules shall be given each judge prior to races and shall remain in his or her possession until after completion of the races. He shall study and fully familiarize himself with these rules before the races start. After the races, he shall return the rules to the pumper races chairman.

TEXAS FIREMEN'S AUXILIARY THREE-LADY RACING RULES

First Vice President shall be the racing chairman and she shall appoint a racing committee. The Association's general chairman shall appoint the judges, timekeepers, and starter, and be in charge of getting the necessary equipment and setting it up. The Auxiliary Racing Chairman shall have charge of receiving the Convention Racing

Entry Form, drawing of places and to verify eligibility of each team entering. The general chairman and Auxiliary racing chairman and committee shall not keep time, but must accept the time given them by the timekeepers. All judges and timekeepers shall be entitled to a vote on any question that may arise. The general chairman shall not vote except in case of a tie. Members of the racing team shall not be a member of any organized fire department, however; they must be an immediate relative (wife, widow, mother, daughter, sister, or a ward of a legal guardian) of an active or retired member of a regularly organized fire department who pays dues to the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association. Only teams whose fire departments have paid state dues and are in good standing with the State Association shall be eligible, and all racing team members who run must be registered at the convention.

Only teams who have paid the State Auxiliary dues shall be eligible. Each team must have at least one Auxiliary member present at the business meeting of the Texas Firemen's Auxiliary. Any team trying to win by fraud, deception, foul play or in any dishonorable or unlady-like manner, or shall disobey, infringe upon or evade any of the requirements of these rules and regulations before or during the contest, shall be barred from competing in that race; the judges to decide on the matter. The chairman shall take up all complaints of the contest with the judges and their finds shall be final.

All complaints must be made immediately following a team's run. At the State Convention, the racing team captains shall be in charge. Working order of the drill shall be as follows: a line at hydrant, runner must be behind and parallel to hose, or runner may run from nozzle; two runners in center facing each other, two sections of 1½ inch or 1¾ inch hose and 1½ inch play-pipe nozzle and one adjustable hydrant wrench. Each runner must run 50 feet (50') before doing anything. Each end of the hose will be folded back 18 inches (18"). The same nozzle and adjustable hydrant wrench shall be used by all teams and these shall be furnished by the host city. Enough 1½ inch or 1¾ inch hose shall be provided so that no section shall have to be used more than five (5) time during the race. It shall be the duty of the judges to check all couplings to see that they are the same for all teams. The judges shall see that all hose must have enough water run through it immediately prior to the start of the race.

All connections shall be checked by the judges to see that all are the same for all teams before each team runs, and all caps shall be on the plug or truck. The fire plug's or the truck's 2½ inch discharge shall be reduced from a 2½ inch to a 1½ inch gated valve. The plug will be opened and gated valve blocked and capped.

No team member of any competing team shall make any connection at any position before their run. The judges can start the coupling, then team member may undo coupling in front of the judge.

All team members can participate on only one three-lady team at any convention. The time of the contest shall be judged from the time the starting signal is given until a continuous flow of water passes from the nozzle.

Any team that has a blow-off at any connection, or of the nozzle before time is clocked, shall be given a "no-time" by the judge. All connections must be screwed on in such a manner that it will remain in place without being held on until time is clocked by the timekeepers. After a team has established a valid time or received a no-time, it shall not be permitted to rerun in the event the equipment shall become inoperable, replaced or relocated. All teams with valid times or valid no-times shall retain their established times and shall be eligible for all prizes. No team shall be given a second chance to run, unless a defect in equipment occurs while said team is running; in such event, this team shall be allowed a rerun.

Any conditions that may arise that are not covered by these rules shall be governed by the racing committee and one representative of each competing team before races start. After races start, any condition that arise shall be governed by a ruling of the judge only.

No racing team or city shall use the host city's equipment or hydrant used in the races within a period of three (3) months prior to convention date. The same starting cadence shall be used for every contest: timekeepers ready, judges ready, team ready, hand in the air, get set, go (or shoot gun).

A set of racing rules shall be given to each judge prior to races and shall remain in his or her possession until after completion of the races. He shall study and fully familiarize himself with these rules before the races start. After the races, he shall return the rules to the pumper racing chairman.

STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION SIX-MAN PUMPER RACES

Yr.	Teams			Winners			Time					
	Conv.	City	Entered	1 st Place	Time	2 nd Place		Time	3 rd Place	Time		
1931	Bryan	.....	22	Belton	.....	24.6	Hearne-San Marcos	.....	Tie	.....	27.2	
1932	Austin	.....	27	Bellville	.....	26.0	New Braunfels	.....	26.6	Belton	.....	27.0
1933	Corpus Christi	.....	32	Cameron	.....	21.8	Seguin	.....	22.6	San Marcos	.....	22.2
1934	Mineral Wells	.....	44	New Braunfels	.....	19.0	Memphis	.....	19.4	Claude-Lamesa	.....	19.6
1935	El Paso	.....	17	Cameron	.....	20.0	Lamesa-Claude-Schulenburg	.....	19.4	Tie	.....	21.0
1936	Fort Worth	.....	36	Yorktown	.....	18.4	Brownwood	.....	19.8	Baytown	.....	19.6
1937	Port Arthur	.....	28	Brownwood	.....	19.0	Claude	.....	21.8	Hearne	.....	20.0
1938	Amarillo	.....	22	Harlingen-Childress	.....	Tie	Memphis-Baytown	.....	18.0	Hearne	.....	21.9
1939	Harlingen	.....	37	San Benito	.....	18.0	San Benito	.....	23.2	Memphis	.....	20.0
1940	Houston	.....	47	Harlingen	.....	17.4	Rosenberg	.....	No Races -	Memphis	.....	18.1
1941	Wichita Falls	.....	31	Vernon	.....	22.0	No Races -	World War II	Seguin	.....	23.5	
1942	No Races -			No Races -			No Races -	World War II	No Races -			
1945	World War II			World War II			World War II	World War II	World War II			
1946	Waco	.....	29	Cameron	.....	19.0	Dalhart-Brenham	.....	Tie	.....	19.4	
1947	Amarillo	.....	28	Seguin	.....	21.0	Harlingen	.....	21.1	Rosenberg	.....	21.2
1948	San Antonio	.....	26	Edinburg	.....	17.3	Bellview-Rosenberg	.....	Tie	.....	19.0	
1949	Galveston	.....	39	La Grange	.....	22.0	Elgin-Hearne	.....	Tie	.....	23.0	
1950	Wichita Falls	.....	35	Brownwood	.....	18.3	Elgin	.....	20.1	San Marcos	.....	20.2
1951	Dallas	.....	42	Richmond	.....	16.3	Edinburg	.....	17.0	Brownwood	.....	17.6
1952	San Antonio	.....	42	Taylor	.....	19.0	Rosenberg	.....	19.1	Baytown	.....	20.0
1953	Austin	.....	45	Edinburg	.....	17.3	Pineland	.....	18.0	Arlington	.....	19.4
1954	San Antonio	.....	43	Edinburg	.....	17.7	Bay City	.....	18.7	Richmond	.....	18.8

STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION SIX-MAN PUMPER RACES

Yr.	Teams		Winners				Time	
	Conv.	City Entered	1 st Place	Time	2 nd Place	Time		3 rd Place	Time
1955	Dallas	44	Richmond	17.9	Seguin	18.9	Rosenberg	19.0
1956	Edinburg	19	Seguin	18.5	Richmond	19.0	Belton	20.3
1957	Waco	33	Edinburg-Rosenberg	19.6	Wharton-Granger	Tie		21.2
1958	San Antonio	39	Richmond	17.4	Baytown	18.5	Sugar Land	19.3
1959	Fort Worth	38	Brownwood	18.0	Edinburg	18.4	Richmond-Taylor	18.5
1960	Galveston	39	Brownwood	18.5	Killeen-Rosenberg	Tie		19.5
1961	Austin	39	Rosenberg	19.3	Alice	19.4	Killeen	21.8
1962	McAllen	26	Rosenberg	17.3	Alice	17.5	Edinburg	17.7
1963	San Antonio	44	Edinburg	17.9	Killeen	18.7	Beeville	19.4
1964	Dallas	33	Edinburg	17.1	Friona-Highlands	Tie		17.2
1965	Laredo	26	Rosenberg	14.9	Livingston	15.8	Alvin	16.2
1966	Fort Worth	29	Rosenberg	16.5	McAllen	18.4	Pasadena	18.6
1967	Lubbock	27	Livingston	15.9	Killeen-Rosenberg	Tie		17.9
1968	Austin	29	McAllen	15.0	Deer Park	15.2	Nacogdoches	15.6
1969	McAllen	23	Livingston	15.4	Snyder-Rosenberg	Tie		16.0
1970	San Antonio	29	Livingston	15.4	West Columbia	15.6	Rosenberg	15.7
1971	Dallas	28	Richmond	17.0	Rosenberg-Livingston	Tie		17.2
1972	Galveston	30	Channelview	13.0	Livingston	13.5	Highlands	13.7
1973	Brownsville	21	Channelview	16.8	Deer Park	17.7	Livingston	17.9
1974	Laredo	18	Livingston	13.5	Rosenberg-Richmond	Tie		18.5
1975	Houston	27	Rosenberg-LaMarque	Tie		17.6	Richmond	18.5
1976	Austin	23	Beeville	14.9	Richmond	15.0	Eagle Pass	16.0

STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION SIX-MAN PUMPER RACES

Teams		Winners						
Yr.	Conv. City Entered	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	Time	Time	Time	
1977	Longview	15	Rosenberg.....	15.0	LaMarque	15.9	Channelview	16.00
1978	Lubbock	22	Channelview	15.10	Seguin	15.14	LaMarque	15.22
1979	McAllen	18	Deer Park	13.92	Livingston	14.05	Rosenberg.....	14.28
1980	Dallas	14	Rosenberg.....	17.79	Hearne	17.88	Channelview.....	18.04
1981	San Antonio.....	21	Rosenberg.....	15.26	Seguin	15.36	Hearne	15.78
1982	Abilene.....	16	Seguin	13.94	Richmond.....	14.75	Rosenberg.....	14.99
1983	Beaumont.....	24	Rosenberg.....	16.46	Harker Heights.....	16.68	Livingston	17.48
1984	McAllen	28	Rockport.....	15.08	Seguin	15.28	Highlands	15.35
1985	Waco	17	Seguin	15.90	Rosenberg.....	16.47	Brenham.....	16.54
1986	Austin.....	19	Channelview	14.04	Deer Park	17.49	Marshall	18.00
1987	Amarillo.....	21	Fulton	13.11	Richmond	13.66	Beeville	14.73
1988	Beaumont.....	47	Livingston	16.04	Uvalde	16.27	Seguin	17.36
1989	Arlington.....	20	Fulton	18.10	Conroe	18.11	Scenic Loop	18.66
1990	El Paso	14	Fulton	15.70	Scenic Loop	16.21	Rosenberg.....	17.50
1991	Longview	17	Conroe.....	15.47	Needville.....	15.71	Richmond.....	16.19
1992	McAllen	17	Conroe.....	15.38	Channelview	15.99	Elgin	16.00
1993	Waco.....	16	Elgin.....	16.09	Fulton.....	16.79	Channelview	16.85
1994	Beaumont.....	19	Kirbyville.....	18.67	Needville.....	18.92	Elgin.....	19.93
1995	Abilene.....	19	Needville.....	15.26	Deer Park	15.75	Richmond.....	16.30
1996	Amarillo.....	18	Conroe.....	16.87	Rosebud.....	17.02	Hearne.....	17.12
1997	Galveston.....	20	Richmond.....	14.63	Rosebud.....	15.17	Elgin.....	16.29
1998	Wichita Falls	17	Cameron.....	18.56	Elgin.....	18.57	Conroe.....	19.38

STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION SIX-MAN PUMPER RACES

Teams		Winners					
Yr.	Conv. City Entered	1 st Place	Time	2 nd Place	Time	3 rd Place	Time
1999	Lubbock	Deer Park	16.51	Rosenberg.....	17.18	Canyon	17.44
2000	Waco.....	Cameron.....	16.09	Rosenberg.....	17.01	Conroe.....	17.69
2001	McAllen.....	Rockport.....	16.07	Cameron.....	16.28	Elgin.....	20.26
2002	Beaumont	Cameron.....	19.80	Elgin.....	20.93	Deer Park	21.32
2003	Galveston	Rockport.....	17.31	Elgin.....	17.87	Brenham.....	20.28
2004	Corpus Christi	Races on the flight deck of the Lexington were cancelled due to inclement weather.					
2005	Wichita Falls.....	Scenic Loop	21.51	Rosenberg	22.33	Center	24.82
2006	Waco.....	Needville.....	19.51	Central Texas.....	23.56	Brenham.....	24.16
2007	Amarillo	Gulf Coast	20.60	Canyon	21.30	Dimmitt.....	23.00
2008	Beaumont	Brazos County Pct #4.....	21.33	Cameron.....	22.55	Brenham.....	23.41
2009	McAllen	Cameron	19.40	Brazos County Pct #4.....	21.30	Needville	22.40
2010	Corpus Christi	Cameron	20.30	Needville	20.58	Corpus Christi	22.48
2011	Mesquite	Brazos County Pct #4	19.90	Uvalde	20.90	Cameron	21.03
2012	Houston	Cameron	20.69	Latium-Wesley-Greenville	21.47	Brazos County Pct #4	22.23
2013	The Woodlands	Gulf Coast District	22.61	Past Presidents	24.82	Bastrop	26.24
2014	Lubbock	Gulf Coast District	17.87	Latium-Wesley-Greenville	19.69	West Carlisle	20.86
2015	Galveston	Races were cancelled due to inclement weather.					
2016	McAllen	Latium-Wesley-Greenville	24.31	Milam County	27.38	Brenham	30.18
2017	San Marcos.....	Latium-Wesley-Greenville	33.94	Gulf Coast.....	36.20	Rockdale	40.15
2018	Arlington	Panhandle District	24.9	Central Texas District	25.62	Gulf Coast	NT

STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION SIX-WOMAN PUMPER RACES

Teams		Winners						
Yr.	Conv. City	Entered	1 st Place	Time	2 nd Place	Time	3 rd Place	Time
1954	San Antonio	2	Round Rock	24.5	Seguin	26.3		
1955	Dallas	3	Brownwood	24.5	Round Rock	33.5	Killeen	N/T
1956	Edinburg	2	Round Rock	23.5	Seguin	26.1		
1957	Waco	5	Round Rock	24.2	Granger	26.2	Seguin	31.0
1958	San Antonio	7	Belton	19.1	Killeen	20.5	Alice	21.6
1959	Fort Worth	10	Alice	21.0	Lake Worth	21.3	Killeen	21.8
1960	Galveston	9	Weimer	19.3	Round Rock	20.1	Killeen	21.6
1961	Austin	18	Alice	20.5	Sinton	21.6	Killeen	22.5
1962	McAllen	9	Port Lavaca	18.8	Alice	19.2	Killeen	19.5
1963	San Antonio	16	Brazoria	20.0	Sugarland	21.2	Richmond	
1964	Dallas	15	Sugarland	19.8	Friena	20.2	Richmond	21.5
1965	Laredo	14	Sugarland	17.5	Orange Grove	18.4	LaMarque	19.1
1966	Fort Worth	17	Lampasas	23.5	Livingston	24.0	Killeen	25.7
1967	Lubbock	12	Snyder	19.0	Deer Park	19.9	Sugarland	
1968	Austin	14	LaMarque	16.4	Pasadena	16.6	Snyder	17.6
1969	McAllen	14	LaMarque	15.8	Deer Park	15.9	Richmond	16.7
1970	San Antonio	17	Deer Park	16.4	Channelview	17.1	LaMarque	17.5
1971	Dallas	20	Deer Park	16.1	Richmond	16.9	Monahans	17.6
1972	Galveston	17	Channelview	15.5	LaPorte	17.4	Richmond	17.7
1973	Brownsville	13	Channelview	13.0	Rosenberg		Deer Park	15.4
1974	Laredo	13	LaPorte	16.4	Rosenberg	17.1	LaMarque	18.1
1975	Houston	17	Deer Park	17.8	LaPorte	18.0	Spur	19.2
1976	Austin	25	Seguin	14.5	Rosenberg	15.1	Deer Park	16.0

STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION SIX-WOMAN PUMPER RACES

Yr.	Teams		Winners			Time		
	Conv.	City Entered	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place			
1977	Longview	17	Seguin	17.0	Rosenberg	17.5	LaMarque	17.9
1978	Lubbock	16	Seguin	16.6	Weatherford	19.5	Sugarland	20.5
1979	McAllen	13	Rosenberg	15.77	Heame	16.33	Rotan	17.1
1980	Dallas	9	Deer Park	17.94	Rosenberg	18.03	Alvarado	18.34
1981	San Antonio	14	Seguin	15.52	Rosenberg	16.03	Heame	16.72
1982	Abilene	11	Seguin	15.47	Rosenberg	15.71	Heame	15.87
1983	Beaumont	16	Livingston	16.41	Seguin	17.04	Deer Park	17.4
1984	McAllen	18	Normangee	14.6	Rosenberg	14.88	Alvin	15.05
1985	Waco	18	Seguin	15.14	Georgetown	16.59	Needville	17.12
1986	Austin	19	Del Rio	16.41	Deer Park	17.49	Marshall	18.0
1987	Amarillo	16	Fulton	14.67	Livingston	15.11	Alvin	16.1
1988	Beaumont	14	Alvin	13.75	Deer Park	15.3	Brenham	15.72
1989	Arlington	14	Alvin	15.33	Livingston	16.78	Needville	17.41
1990	El Paso	9	Alvin	16.04	Pasadena	16.48	Fulton	16.55
1991	Longview	7	Alvin	15.13	Rosenberg	15.32	Seguin	16.5
1992	McAllen	9	Deer Park	15.99	Heame	16.53	Rosenberg	16.85
1993	Waco	9	Elgin	15.59	Alvin	15.71	Deer Park	15.78
1994	Beaumont	13	Pasadena	13.17	Deer Park	14.28	Alvin	14.4
1995	Abilene	8	Needville	15.49	Heame	15.51	Pasadena	17.19
1996	Amarillo	9	Seguin	16.14	Alvin	16.47	Deer Park	17.24
1997	Galveston	11	Deer Park	15.36	Seguin	16.01	Elgin	16.89
1998	Wichita Falls	8	Conroe	15.52	Seguin	15.68	Rosebud	15.89

