

STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MASRSHALS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
January 25, 2019  
Holiday Inn North, Bugatti Room  
Longview, Texas

**Meeting call to order at: 1:09 p.m.**

**by: President: Mike Richardson**

**Board Members present on site:**

**President Mike Richardson**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Tim Smith**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Richard van Winkle**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs**  
**Immediate Past President Harvie Cheshire**  
**Secretary Brent Allen**  
**Chaplain Ben Kennedy**

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

**Board Members Not PRESENT: N/A**

**Non -Voting Board Members NOT PRESENT: Mascot Kylie Maples**

**Office Staff Present: Executive Director Chris Barron**

**Guest present:** Brad Hardgrove, Bill Stutler, Andy Killian, Curtis Brown, Brian Scheffer, Pat Hlavaty, Leolie Nixon, Keegan Nixon, Billie Smith, Jerri Locknane, Morris Locknane, Dennis Gifford, Keith E. Tate, William R. Crawford, Greg Redden, Frankie Joe Salinas, Kyle e. Stephens, Paul Hamilton, Rusty Kattner, Charles Gallatin, Kevin Creamer, Mark Turvey

**Invocation given by: Chaplain Ben Kennedy**

**Roll Call of Board Members present: Secretary Brent Allen**

Motion: To approve the minutes from July 20, 2018, July 29, 2018, August 30, 2018 and October 15, 2018 as presented.

Motion by: I.P.P. Harvie Cheshire with needed corrections. Seconded by: 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson

**Motion Carried:** with **8** voting for the motion, **0** against the motion, and **0** abstaining.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**SFFMA Logo Policy** update by E.D. Chris Barron

- ❖ That a logo use policy was needed, along with getting the logo trademarked.
- ❖ Additional documentation on our logo use on merchandise.
- ❖ The logo use policy was provided to Board Members.
- ❖ The District's will go through a formal check process, but will be using the logo.
- ❖ President stated that private entities were using our logo without our knowledge.
- ❖ We not restricting our District's from use, just private entities.

**Motion:** To adopt the Logo Use Policy set forth to us by Executive Director Barron.

**Motion by:** Vice President Tim Smith   **Seconded by:** Vice President Donny Boggs

**Motion carried:** with **8** voting for the motion, **0** against the motion, and **0** abstaining.

**Executive Director Performance Review** by President Richardson

- ❖ It's similar to a City Manager Review
- ❖ Propose to review at the first Executive Board Meeting at each Conference.
- ❖ So that doesn't put a new 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President in the position having to do a review before he has been on the board.
- ❖ Board members will get the forms prior to the meeting. Members will go through the forms themselves and make notes.
- ❖ At the Executive Board meeting, members will go into executive session to discuss the review and form a single scored review.
- ❖ Once out of Executive session take action and then provide the Executive Director with the results.
- ❖ President handed out the review to the board members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Insurance Benefit to Members** by Laurie Biswiski

- ❖ **No show by the company.**

**SFFMA Safer Grant Update** by Greg Redden

- ❖ Greg Redden is our new Retention Coordinator for our SAFER grant.
- ❖ This a \$1,400,000.00 Grant for volunteer firefighters.
- ❖ Greg has managed SAFER grants for 16 years, in 15 different states.
- ❖ Components: Billboards, Public Relations, Recruitment Banners and an Interactive Website.
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> years budget is a \$174,000.00 for Billboards, Which will be placed in 127 locations around the state between April and May.
- ❖ Creation of "Real Texans Wear Uniforms"
- ❖ Banners/Recruitment Posters/200 Handouts for departments with their FD logo.
- ❖ The kit is paid for by the SAFER Grant.
- ❖ With this grant we have the ability to amend it and change things within it.

**Discussing Legislative Actions** by JP Laney, Lobbyist

- ❖ House Bill 518 by Springer is Inspection Bill has been filed.
- ❖ Springer is on the Leadership Team and Chairman House Ag Committee
- ❖ Working on HB 518 trying to shepherd through the process.
- ❖ 2604 Appropriations funding, the House and Senate have put out their proposed budgets for their starting points, which both are not that far apart from each other.
- ❖ Money for 2604 is in both budgets with no real increase there.
- ❖ Job protection bill for Volunteer Firefighter
- ❖ JP is doing an outstanding job and is very engaged, very good to work with.

**TIESB: Request to SFFMA to Purchase a Test Bank** by President Richardson

- ❖ Need a way to Certification
- ❖ Create a Texas Industrial Firefighter Certification
- ❖ TIESB will doing Validation on Test.

- ❖ The TIESB already has a packaged curriculum and everything else what they want included in that certification.
- ❖ Certification Board and the Industrial Board, work together to come up with a delivery process.

**Motion:** Move to allocate \$5694.00 to purchase this test bank and instruct or advise certification board to create certificate for issue by June 2019.

**Motion by:** Vice President Tim Smith **Seconded by:** Vice President Richard Van Winkle

**Motion carried:** with **8** voting for the motion, **0** against the motion, and **0** abstaining.

**SFFMA Replacement for TCFP Committee** by President Richardson

- ❖ Need a replacement for John McMakin
- ❖ Has be to Volunteer Chief Volunteer Firefighter
- ❖ Bill Gardner will be our primary person, has ties to Lubbock
- ❖ Alternates are Rodney Ralls, Tim Smith, Paul Hamilton
- ❖ This is a 6 year term.

**Motion:** Bill Gardner as the primary candidate for replacement of John McMakin into TCFP.

**Motion by:** Vice President Richard Van Winkle **Seconded by:** Vice President Chuck Richardson

**Motion carried:** with **8** voting for the motion, **0** against the motion, and **0** abstaining.

**Motion:** Rodney Ralls, Paul Hamilton and Tim Smith as alternates

**Motion by:** Vice President Richard Van Winkle **Seconded by:** Vice President Chuck Richardson

**Motion carried:** with **8** voting for the motion, **0** against the motion, and **0** abstaining

**Discuss issues pertaining to move TDEM to A&M and a Tx. Fire Response Agency** by President Richardson

- ❖ TDEM physically would not move, SOC will remain in Austin.
- ❖ Management would under Texas A&M System
- ❖ New Agency (Texas Fire Agency)- Modeled after Cal-FIRE
- ❖ Response, Recovery and Funding Issues, along with resource problems.
- ❖ Need all stakeholders on the same page, unless Volunteer Fire service had to onboard, we told them we were not interested.

**Plan for Budget Meeting** by President Richardson

- ❖ Flat budget, then come back and do amended budget.
- ❖ March 18, 2019, 10:00 a.m. SFFMA Office

**Discuss Strategic Planning** by President Richardson

- ❖ We can say we have one, but it's not very good.
- ❖ We need to be serious go at updating the plan.
- ❖ We have an initial kick off the same day of the budget meeting, develop a vision for it that day, then set a subsequent meeting to work on it further.

**Discuss a Resolution of Support for Dallas Renfrew for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the NVFC by President Richardson**

- ❖ He asked for Approval from the board.
- ❖ Draft a resolution for Dallas Renfrew
- ❖ Cost figure for the SFFMA is about \$1200.00

**Motion:** Motion to draft a Resolution of Support for Dallas Renfrew for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the NVFC

**Motion by:** Vice President Tim Smith **Seconded by:** Vice President Donny Boggs

**Motion carried:** with **8** voting for the motion, **0** against the motion, and **0** abstaining

**Comments for the floor;**

**Brad** – No

**Bill** – No, Sir

**Dennis Gifford** – Secretary, East Texas District, I'm here to present to the board from the East Texas District, our official endorsement for the candidate for 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Thom Jones, Fire Chief from Madisonville, Texas. Long time member of the East Texas District. Thom was very active in our district. Thom went through the chairs, He served as our 2002 President. He went through chairs for a second term. Thom's wife is currently active on the TFA as a board member. Thom is very interested in serving the SFFMA. And we certainly support him. I'm here today to deliver this letter as a requirement.

**Paul Hamilton** – Panhandle District, Looking for a a great conference, looking forward to being here, hope to get a few people here to participate, continue along with recruitment and retention, along with what Chris is got going on, being here from the panhandle pretty glad to be here, if there is anything we can do for you in any form or fashion or President Smith, just holler.

**Frankie Jo Salinas** – Rio Grande Valley, We're preparing ourselves for conference in 2021 in McAllen, also spoke to Vice President Van Winkle

**Thom Jones**, Fire Chief - Madisonville, Sorry for being late, I'm throwing my name in the hat for 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President. I wasn't plan on speaking, I know most everybody. I been in the fire service 37 years and I'm currently the fire chief. I'm employed by Williams Fire Control Service, very active with East Texas Association. With A&M over the years, I'm involved with Spring School, Municipal, Industrial and Spanish schools and several different schools. Got big background in municipal, industrial, wildland fire service, dealt both paid and volunteer fire service for 35 years, work in sales, service, manufacturing and support for the fire service, kind of got pretty rounded background in the fire service. Highly respected in the state association, like I said continue to grow. With the officers you have in place right now, I would be a good support and back these guys up.

**Andy Dexter** – EMS Committee Chairman, I'm coming to as the Chairman of the EMS Committee right now, on Sept 20, 2018 for a bylaw change from EMS Committee to the Texas Emergency Service Board. I had a chance encounter with Champ I haven't heard anything else.

**President Richardson** - We will research that and get back to you.

Board Member Comments:

**Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson:** Just glad to be here.

**Chaplain Ben Kennedy:**

**Immediate Past President Harvie Cheshire:** Going to do my best to push through this. Thank ya'll, I'm going to say from the bottom of my heart, God Bless each every one of ya'll, for being there with me, and for me, through these trying times. And I've always said from day one, it's about family. And I am blessed to have you as part of my family. So, I love ya, just wanted to tell you I love you.

**Secretary Brent Allen:** Still learning, everyday I'm learning something new, but enjoying it very much.

**4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs:** You know it's been an interesting 7 months, I know we've talk about what we liked seen done. I need to mention along the way lots of these people heard me, so maybe there's some direction we need to look at changing, a lot of us on the board agreed that it going to be hard to make that change. But, if we don't meet and I willing to meet, once a month if we have to. But we need to start talking about these issues that the membership brought to my attention. I kinda understand where we're at. We have met two times and have had 2 conference calls since June, and I don't see how we are going to be affective if we don't meet as a regular board. I got on this board, but not to ride it, I don't what to offend anybody, but at the same time ya'll know where I come from. If we need to meet in West Carlisle, I'll travel If need to go to Decatur, I've been there a few times, and I'll go back. Where ever we go, we've got to be active and really bring fourth some discussion of the issues that the membership is crying about. Get them engaged and faith back into this association.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson:** Great to be here and I understand what V.P. Boggs is talking about, we need to meet. I will be there, when and where. But we do have issues across the state, we're a dying organization. I wish I had an answer to that problem we need to work together, Thank You.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle:** I'm scared to say anything, I don't know where all the issues everybody is dealing with. I haven't heard too much, maybe that's some of the long range planning session other than that, That's all I have to say.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Tim Smith:** Sir, yes to an existent, I agree with you Chief Boggs, definitely a lot of work is yet to be done. It's no secret our membership is slowly dwindling, it's no secret our conference dwindling, it no secret we have to make change, change is hard, but growth out of that change is optional, that's the options we have today. So, I think, we as a board need to make sure our membership understands that the time for tough decisions is here. We either survive or not, hate to put it that way, but that's the truth of the matter. I'm not afraid to go against the grain, I'm not afraid to make

new changes, those that know me weather I do it politically correct or not, I'm not afraid to do that. So, it's time. I think you're going to see amazing things out of the steering committee we've got going. We will see what happens by June, be ready!

**Executive Director Chris Barron:** Nothing at this time.

**President Mike Richardson:** I agree with all of it, but there have been issues.

Two things come to mind, One is we do have meetings, but you have to have input from those people. If you are receiving issues and those issues are being expressed by membership to your area or what have you. Step forward and tell us, we need to have a meeting, we need a meeting on this issue. We need to do something or we need to have more meetings, tell us and process it. We don't want it to consume us, one of thing as I got on the board is absolutely intended that the overwriting issue is software and it has been for four years and each president next on the board has to deal with that issue and it the overarching issue of our organization it cause the most riffs in everything else that occurs in this organization in the last four years or 4 to 5 years. So, when we talk about a lot things back in June, about the directions we were going to take this year, But again we're consumed with the software issue. So, my challenge is right now with that is, your right all of you are right there's a lot of thing this organization got to work on an get some changes made. But we have to get this big elephant out of the room and we've got to get it out now. So, the challenge right now is to take care of this so it doesn't go to another President, so it's not something hanging over our heads so they can move forward. Otherwise issues and at some point, this is what our software dose and this is all its going to do. Might not be all we want but we've got to come to that point. We can't keep dealing with this constantly. Now, I'm hopeful, I'm hopeful that we have some solutions covered this weekend. But I've got to tell you, I'm skeptical it's got that taken care of. We got to get passed it. It's the number one thing that keeps rising it's ugly head, and the number one thing I get phone calls during the course of the week. I had to tell one guy this week, please don't take this the wrong but the City if Decatur pays my salary and expect me to work during the day and not take every phone call. And so, as we move forward tomorrow with all this, keep that in the forefront of your mind. Chris will be working with the Certification Board and make this software problem come to an end. Something has got to come to an end. I didn't come on the board with an answer, because I'm not Bill, I'm not an expert in this. But thinking these guys have done a lot of good work in the last year. We just haven't got there yet. How we get and how we get there be fore we pass this off to another President.

Bill, i would be pleased to hear you talk.

**Bill Stutler** - Mr. Chairman, Thank you for recognizing me, I'm probably going to aggravate people here, but I have one statement that applies great importance to the 4 years I've been here. I've seen over confidence and under perform. That's it.

**President Richardson** - So, my final statement, that's it in a nutshell. Let's hope in the next 24 hours we see a little bit of sunlight at the end of the tunnel. Let's get this fixed.

The Executive Board went in to executive session at 3:28p.m  
Discussion was held.

The Executive Board came out of executive session at 4:18 p.m. with no action taken.

Executive Director Barron had nothing at this time.

The Next schedule meeting will March 18, 2019 at Omni Southpark

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made

**Motion by:** I.P.P Harvie Cheshire **Seconded by:** Vice President Chuck Richardson

**Motion carried:** with **8** voting for the motion, **0** against the motion, and **0** abstaining