



R.G.V.F.F.M.A. District Meeting
Sunday, April 15, 2018
Harlingen, Texas

The Rio Grande Valley Firefighter's and Fire Marshals' Association held their quarterly meeting and Memorial Services on Sunday, April 15, 2018 in Harlingen, Texas.

Board Members Present:

Ruben Balboa, President
Eloy Salazar, 2nd VP
Leroy Salinas, 4th VP
Mari Tovar, Secretary
Gary Wilburn, Chaplain
Frankie Joe Salinas, Immediate Past President

James Farrell, 1st VP
Dawn Rodriguez, 3rd VP
Ubaldo Perez, Training Coor.
Annabelle White, Treasurer

Board Members Not Present:

Rolando Espinoza, Historian
Quintan Alvarez, Mascot

Eloy Salazar, 2nd Vice President - Memorial Services:

Conducted by 2nd VP Eloy Salazar. 2nd VP Salazar asked for a motion to insert the resolution into the minutes. Motion made; all in favor; motion approved. VP Salazar led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation of Colors:

McAllen Fire Department Honor Guard presented colors.

Call Business Meeting to Order:

President Balboa called meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag:

Lauren Farrell led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Flag.

Welcome:

Mayor Chris Boswell welcomed the RGVFFMA to the City of Harlingen.

Response:

Asst. Fire Chief Cirilo Rodriguez, Jr. (Harlingen) thanked Mayor Boswell, President Balboa and the Harlingen Fire Department for all their hard work.

Introduction of Guest:

President Balboa introduced the following guests:

- *Chris Barron, SFFMA Executive Director*
- *Harvey Cheshire, SFFMA President*
- *Mike Richardson, SFFMA 1st Vice President*
- *Richard Van Winkle, SFFMA 3rd Vice President*
- *Chuck Richardson, SFFMA 4th Vice President*
- *Brent Allen, SFFMA Candidate – Secretary*
- *Donny Boggs, SFFMA Candidate – 4th Vice President*

Roll Call:

District Secretary Mari Tovar conducted roll call of cities present. There were 15 cities in attendance and 6 Past Presidents. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes:

President Balboa asked for a motion to approve the minutes from January.

Jacob Mercado (Edcouch) made a motion to approve the minutes; 2nd by Gilbert Chavero (Past President); all in favor, motion passed, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report:

District Treasurer AnnaBelle White gave treasurer's report (see attachment).

President Balboa asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report.

Motion made by Hector Rodriguez (Past President) to approve the report; 2nd by Octaviano Hernandez (Pharr); all in favor; motion passed; report approved.

Audit Report – Herb Willich:

Thanked Fire Chief Roy Rubio and Mayor Chris Boswell for their hospitality.

Past President Herb Willich presented the audit report (see attached).

Motion was made by Richard Trevino (Edinburg) to accept the internal audit; 2nd by Hector Rodriguez (Past President); all in favor; motion passed; audit approved.

Ruben Balboa – President:

President Balboa thanked Chief Rubio and Asst. Chief Rodriguez for hosting the meeting.

*President Balboa thanked the Edinburg Fire Department for the use of the flag.
President Balboa presented AnnaBelle White (Treasurer) with gifts for her dedication, commitment and hard work during her time on the board.*

*AnnaBelle White was also presented with the **RGVFFMA Lifetime Member Award** by President Balboa. Thank you Ms. AnnaBelle you will be greatly missed.*

AnnaBelle White thanked President Balboa and the Executive Board.

James Farrell – 1st Vice President

Thanked Chief Roy Rubio, Asst. Chief Rodriguez and the Harlingen Fire Department for hosting the meeting.

Discussed the following:

Fundraiser:

- *Bowling Tournament*
 - *Event took place in Harlingen on February 11, 2018 at Creasey's Bowl*

Winners:

 - *1st Place – Harlingen Fire Department*
 - *2nd Place – McAllen Fire Department*
 - *3rd Place – Alton Fire Department*
 - *Silent Auction was a great success.*

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all who participated.

Eloy Salazar – 2nd Vice President:

2nd VP Salazar thanked the following Honor Guards for their assistance and participation with the Memorial Services:

- *Pharr Fire Department*
- *McAllen Fire Department*
- *Harlingen Fire Department*
- *Brownsville Fire Department*
- *Edinburg Fire Department*

VP Salazar thanked Alfredo Garza, Letty Quintero and Isela Salazar for their assistance with the Memorial Services.

Cover Photo Credit - Pilar Rodriguez (Pharr). Cover photo was awarded 3rd place at the SFFMA 2017 Convention in San Marcos. Photo features Pharr, Hidalgo and McAllen firefighters working the incident. Thank you Pilar.

Upcoming Training (Pharr):

Instructor 1 & 2 - \$350 each. For additional information log on to the TEEX website at www.teex.org.

VP Salazar presented the Edcouch Fire Department with the traveling trophy for having the most attendees at the District Meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS EDCOUCH!!!

Dawn Rodriguez – 3rd Vice President

3rd VP Rodriguez thanked the Harlingen Fire Department for hosting the meeting.

3rd VP Rodriguez was in charge of the RGVFFMA Richard L. Drewry Firefighter of the Year Award. The committee received three nominations, all were good candidates.

This year's RGVFFMA Richard L. Drewry Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to:

Lt. Gabriel Espinoza, Jr. (Edinburg)
CONGRATULATIONS GABRIEL!!!

Leroy Salinas – 4th Vice President

4th VP Salinas thanked Mayor Boswell, the City of Harlingen, Harlingen Fire Department, Chief Rubio and Asst. Chief Rodriguez for hosting the meeting.

4th VP Salinas thanked the members of the SFFMA for attending the meeting.

At our last district meeting in Laguna Vista, we did not have the Basketball Tournament as originally planned. However, pumper races will be held after the meeting, so please sign up your teams.

Ubaldo Perez – Training Coordinator:

Discussed the following:

- ***69th Annual Fire & Public Safety Academy***
 - *50 students registered – Firefighting I*
 - *A total of 304 students registered for classes*
 - *57 Students registered for the Fire Marshal Discussion*
 - *Total Instructors – 110*
 - *Total Training Hours – 13,373*

- *We need to increase the number of instructors & resources*
- *Thanked the board, students and instructors for all their help*

- ***Upcoming Training***
 - *Industrial School at College Station – July 15 – 20*
 - *Municipal School at College Station – July 22 – 27*
 - *South Texas Firefighter’s Safety & Wellness Summit – September 30 – October 3*

- ***State Convention – June 22 – 27, 2018***
 - *Please log on to www.sffma.org to obtain agenda of Convention*

Any upcoming training, please submit to bperez@cityofedinburg.com. Should you need assistance or additional information, please contact Ubaldo Perez at 956-383-7691 or 956-279-8056.

Vince Abrigo – Past President – P.E.E.R Organization Rep.

Thanked VP Salazar and the RGVFFMA Executive Board for the Memorial Services.

The following individuals organized the P.E.E.R. Organization:

- *Deputy Chief Juan A. Gloria (McAllen)*
- *Deputy Chief Ubaldo Perez (Edinburg)*
- *Asst. Chief Rene Alvarez (Mission)*
- *Captain Gary Wilburn (South Padre Island)*
- *Lt. Vince Abrigo (McAllen)*

To assist and bring awareness to our fellow firefighters in all subjects of Safety & Wellness.

The summit will take place September 30 – October 3 and will be free of charge. Additional information will be disseminating as it becomes available.

Lt. Abrigo (McAllen) and Past President of the RGVFFMA thanked the RGVFFMA for all their assistance and support during last years’ summit and presented President Balboa with a plaque for all his help and support.

Frankie Joe Salinas – Immediate Past President

Discussed the following:

Fire Prevention Poster Committee:

- *110 Participants*
- *This year’s Grand Champion was presented to: Brownsville and Rio Hondo*

**GRAND CHAMPION WINNERS
BROWNSVILLE AND RIO HONDO
CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

Please encourage your departments to submit fire prevention posters and go out and promote the fire service.

Fire Inspector/Plan Examiner:

- *Still working on this issue*

Chief Shawn Snider (Edinburg) addressed the members present and provided a brief narrative of Lt. Gabriel Espinoza, Jr. and congratulated him on a job well done.

President Balboa read Lt. Gabriel Espinoza's application for Firefighter of the Year.

SFFMA Committee Reports – President Harvie Cheshire:

President Cheshire provided report for SFFMA (see attached).

- *New Association and Certification Software*
- *Office Updates*
- *Membership*
- *Fire Chief Development Program*
- *Sales*
- *Certification*
- *Conference*
 - *To be held in Arlington – June 22 – 27, 2018*
 - *Fire Service Perspective Tour & Training of AT&T Cowboy Stadium*
 - *Texas Rangers Ball Game for attendees at \$45 per person*
 - *7 tracks of various trainings*
- *Legislative Updates*
 - *Inspector Certification – still working on this issue*
- *LODD Fundraiser*
- *Dues Increase Proposal*
- *2 Proposals submitted to SFFMA*
 - *Mid-West Proposal*
 - *Red River Proposal*
- *Hospitality will be on Sunday night*

Any questions, please contact the SFFMA Board.

SFFMA Executive Director – Chris Barron

Thanked the RGVFFMA Executive Board for the Memorial Services.

Discussed the following:

- *AT&T Training*
- *Certification Program*

***MEAL ANNOUNCEMENT
BREAK – 12:06 P.M.***

********RECONVENED AT 1:07 P.M.********

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donny Boggs – Candidate SFFMA 4th Vice President

Thanked the RGVFFMA Executive Board and members, the City of Harlingen, the Harlingen Fire Department for hosting the meeting and allowing him to address the members. Mr. Boggs asked for everyone's support at the convention in Arlington.

Brent Allen – Candidate SFFMA Secretary

Thanked the RGVFFMA and asked for everyone's support at the convention in Arlington.

President Balboa read Frank Marcinkiewicz's (Candidate SFFMA 4th Vice President) letter asking for the district's support at the convention in Arlington.

2nd Vice President Salazar thanked all the Fire Chief's that attended the District Meeting.

VP Salazar stated, "There are some departments that cannot afford to purchase uniforms, etc".

VP Salazar made a motion that the district donate \$500 to be distributed amongst departments that cannot afford to purchase uniforms; 2nd by Jacob Mercado (Edcouch); all in favor; motion passed

*President Balboa presented Mr. Dallas Renfrew with the **RGVFFMA Lifetime Member Award.***

Motion was made by Ubaldo Perez (Edinburg) to grant Mr. Dallas Renfrew voting privileges; 2nd by Richard Trevino (Edinburg); all in favor; motion passed.

Elevation of Officers – 4th Vice President Leroy Salinas

4th VP Salinas asked for a motion to elevate the officers.

Motion made by Octaviano Hernandez (Pharr) to elevate the officers; 2nd by Hector Rodriguez (Past President); all in favor; motion passed; officers elevated.

Election of Officers - 4th Vice President Leroy Salinas

4th VP Salinas announced that the Executive Board did not receive any nominations for 4th Vice President or Chaplain.

VP Salinas asked for any nominations from the floor for 4th Vice President 3x.

Chief Rick Lopez (Edcouch) nominated Jacob Mercado and Albert Guevara (Elsa) nominated Johnny Flores from the floor.

Mr. Jacob Mercado accepted the nomination and Mr. Johnny Flores declined the nomination.

Frankie Joe Salinas (Edinburg) made a motion to cease nominations and vote in by acclamation. 2nd by Ubaldo Perez (Edinburg); all in favor, motion passed.

CONGRATULATIONS JACOB MERCADO!!!

VP Salinas asked for nominations from the floor for Chaplain 3x.

Ubaldo Perez (Edinburg) made a motion to cease nominations and vote in by acclamation. 2nd by Frankie Joe Salinas (Edinburg); all in favor, motion passed.

CONGRATULATIONS GARY WILBURN!!!

********NO BALLOTS WERE ISSUED********

President's Last Comments:

Ruben Balboa thanked the Executive Board for all their hard work and Chief Rubio and Asst. Chief Cirilo Rodriguez for allowing him the opportunity to serve on the board.

Ruben Balboa presented the Executive Board with a token of appreciation for all their help throughout the years.

Comments from Harlingen Fire Department Fire Chief:

Chief Rubio and Asst. Chief Cirilo Rodriguez presented Ruben Balboa with a plaque for all his hard work during his tenure as President.

SFFMA Board presented Ruben Balboa with a plaque.

RGVFFMA Board presented Ruben Balboa with the traditional ax award.

Newly Elected President – James Farrell

President Farrell appointed the following individuals to the Executive Board:

- *Mari Tovar as District Secretary*
- *Rolando Espinoza as District Historian*
- *Ubaldo Perez as District Training Coordinator*
- *Leticia Quintero Salinas as District Treasurer*
- *Johnny Flores as Sgt. At Arms*
- *Albert Alviar as Sgt. At Arms*
- *Lauren Farrell as District Mascot.*

Installation of Officers:

Conducted by Mark Zamora (McAllen).

Appointment of State Committees – James Farrell - See attached list.

History of Host City:

No history presented.

Selection of Next Host City – James Farrell:

To be announced.

Announcements:

Door Prizes/Meal Announcement – Asst. Chief Cirilo Rodriguez.

Benediction – Gary Wilburn:

Chaplain Gary Wilburn led the group in the closing prayer.

Adjournment:

President Farrell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Motion made by Frankie Joe Salinas (Edinburg); 2nd by Jerry Gomez (McAllen); all in favor; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Submitted by:

Ruben Balboa
Ruben Balboa
Immediate Past President

Mari Tovar
Mari Tovar
Secretary

Pumper Race Results
April 15, 2018 - Harlingen, Texas

3-Man Pumper Races

1st Place – Edcouch/La Villa

- *Johnny Vallejo*
- *Alejandra Garcia*
- *Manuel Hinojosa*

2nd Place - Elsa

- *Joel*
- *Raul*
- *Jeremy*

3rd Place – Elsa

- *Johnny Flores*
- *Ivan Garza*
- *Mike Rodriguez*

2-Man Pumper Races

1st Place – Edcouch/La Villa

- *Johnny Vallejo*
- *Alejandra Garcia*

2nd Place – La Villa

- *Manuel Hinojosa*
- *Alejandra Garcia*

3rd Place – Elsa

- *Ivan Garza*
- *Johnny Flores*

Water Polo

1st Place – Elsa

- *Johnny Flores*
- *Ivan Garza*
- *Mike Rodriguez*

2nd Place – Elsa

- *Raul*
- *James*
- *Jeremy*
- *Gary*

3rd Place – Elsa

- *Chris*
- *Raul*
- *Albert*
- *Gomez*