



**R.G.V.F.F.M.A. District Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 21, 2018**  
**Port Mansfield, Texas**

*The Rio Grande Valley Firefighter's and Fire Marshals' Association held their quarterly meeting on Sunday, October 21, 2018 in Port Mansfield, Texas.*

***Board Members Present:***

*James Farrell, President*  
*Leroy Salinas, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP*  
*Ubaldo Perez, Training Coor.*  
*Letty Quintero, Treasurer*  
*Ruben Balboa, Immediate Past President*

*Dawn Rodriguez, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP*  
*Jacob Mercado, 4<sup>th</sup> VP*  
*Mari Tovar, Secretary*  
*Gary Wilburn, Chaplain*  
*Lauren Farrell, Mascot*

***Board Members Not Present:***

*Eloy Salazar, 1<sup>st</sup> VP*

***Called Meeting to Order:***

*President Farrell called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.*

***Invocation:***

*Gary Wilburn led the group in prayer.*

***Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag:***

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

***Introduction of Guests:***

*President Farrell introduced the following guests:*

- *Mike Richardson, SFFMA President*
- *Richard Van Winkle, SFFMA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP*
- *Donny Boggs, SFFMA 4<sup>th</sup> VP*
- *Tracey Granger, Air-Evac*
- *Diana Rodriguez, Air-Evac*
- *Jason Delattre, Air-Evac*
- *Tom Van Wyn Garden, VFIS*
- *JA Garcia, Scratch & Help*

**Welcome:**

*Fire Chief Whitey Thompson welcomed the RGVFFMA to Port Mansfield.*

**Response:**

*Immediate Past President Ruben Balboa (Harlingen) thanked Fire Chief Thompson and the Port Mansfield Fire Department for hosting the meeting.*

**Roll Call:**

*District Secretary Mari Tovar conducted roll call of cities present. There were 15 cities in attendance and 3 Past Presidents. A quorum was established.*

*Traveling Trophy went out to Edcouch Fire Department for having the most attendance at the meeting. Trophy was not presented due to 1<sup>st</sup> VP not being present at the meeting.*

**CONGRATULATIONS EDCOUCH!!**

**Approval of Minutes:**

*President Farrell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from July.*

*Herb Willich (Past President) made a motion to approve the minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ali Sanchez (Santa Monica); all in favor, motion passed, minutes approved.*

**Treasurer's Report:**

*District Treasurer Leticia Quintero gave treasurer's report (see attachment).*

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

*Hector Rodriguez (Past President) made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gwen Willich (Past President); all in favor; motion passed.*

**James Farrell – President:**

*President Farrell thanked Port Mansfield, Fire Chief Whitey Thompson and the Port Mansfield Fire Department for hosting the meeting.*

*Presented on the following items:*

- 1. Read thank you letter from SFFMA Past President Harvie Cheshire.*
- 2. Executive Board met on October 14, 2018 in Edcouch and discussed the following:*

- *RGVFFMA Website under construction. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President will be in-charge of updating the website and the District will no longer be paying someone \$500 to maintain the website.*
- *1<sup>st</sup> VP will possibly be doing a Top Golf fundraiser. Details will be sent out soon.*
- *SFFMA Planning Conference – January 26, 2019 in Longview, TX*
- *Leadership Conference – January 7 – 9, 2019 in Frisco, TX*
- *Historian position is still vacant. If anyone is interested, please contact President Farrell.*

***Dawn Rodriguez – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President***

*VP Rodriguez thanked Port Mansfield for hosting the meeting.*

*VP Rodriguez, stated “I will be in-charge of conducting the Memorial Services in April. Please submit information of members that have passed to [lvfdbravo08@gmail.com](mailto:lvfdbravo08@gmail.com) and cc: [mtovar@cityofedinburg.com](mailto:mtovar@cityofedinburg.com).*

*The following information will be needed:*

- *Department Name*
- *Name of Firefighter*
- *Rank*
- *Years of Service*
- *Picture*

***Leroy Salinas – 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President***

*VP Salinas thanked Fire Chief Whitey Thompson and Port Mansfield firefighters’ for hosting the meeting.*

*VP Salinas, stated “As mentioned earlier as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, I will be in-charge of the website, so if you have any upcoming events or information that you would like to share, please email it to [fire@cityofpenitas.com](mailto:fire@cityofpenitas.com)”.*

*Presented on the following:*

***Firefighter of the Year:***

*VP Salinas, stated “I will be in-charge of the RGVFFMA Richard L. Drewry Firefighter of the Year Award. Encouraged departments to submit applications. Applications will be sent out in January”.*

**Jacob Mercado – 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President**

*VP Mercado thanked Port Mansfield for hosting the meeting.*

*Pumper Races will not be held after the meeting. However, members are welcome to tailgate after the meeting, if they wish to do so.*

*VP Mercado, stated “I will be in-charge of nominations, if there is anyone interested in running for 4<sup>th</sup> VP or any other position available, please submit applications to [jmev0307@gmail.com](mailto:jmev0307@gmail.com) and cc: [mtovar@cityofedinburg.com](mailto:mtovar@cityofedinburg.com). Nomination forms will be sent out in January”.*

**Ubaldo Perez – Training Coordinator:**

*Training Coordinator Perez thanked Fire Chief Whitey Thompson and Port Mansfield for hosting the meeting.*

*Discussed the following:*

**70<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire & Public Safety Academy:**

- *Planning Meeting was canceled. We will be sending out email to instructors and also the equipment forms.*
- *MOU to be signed*
- *FPSA scheduled for the last two weekends in February and 1<sup>st</sup> two weekends in March*

**South Texas Firefighter’s Safety & Wellness Summit:**

- *211 participants*
- *Great speakers*
- *We had one student from Bedford, Tx attend the summit*
- *Conference Center was donated*
- *Cambria Hotel donated room for presentations*
- *We held classes for volunteers on Sunday and Monday*
- *NVFC was a great support in assisting with the event. They are ready to assist us with sending 8 instructors at no cost*
- *There is a big push around the State related to Safety and Wellness*

**SFFMA Certification Board:**

- *System is ready to log in to*
- *If there is an issue with the system, please contact Ubaldo Perez, Zone/District Training Coordinator*
- *Encourage your firefighters to continue training*
- *Anyone interested in attending the SFFMA Certification meetings may do so, you do not need to be on the committee to attend*

*President Farrell congratulated Deputy Chief Perez on completing the Chiefs Executive Officer Course. **Congratulations Chief Perez!!***

***SFFMA Committee Report – President Mike Richardson:***

*Please see attached report (submitted by SFFMA).*

***Old Business:***

*VFIS – Insurance renewed for training, etc.*

*CD – Up for renewal. Need to see if we can capitalize on better rates.*

*Called for old business 3X.....No more old business to discuss.*

***New Business:***

*Dallas Renfrew - TEEEX*

- *MOU to be signed with District*
- *Will be doing training in Raymondville*
- *Brush Country Medicine Training – DHR*

*Tom Van Wyn Garden – VFIS*

- *Health & Wellness Grant available through Texas Mutual and VFIS. Log on to website for additional information and additional resources*

*Tracey Granger – Air-Evac*

- *Thanked Port Mansfield for hosting*
- *If air-evac is needed, please activate early.*

*Diana Rodriguez – Air-Evac*

- *Membership information \$85 a year unlimited*

*Mr. JA Garcia – Scratch & Help*

- *Fundraiser opportunity for organization*

*Called for additional new business 3x.....No more new business to discuss.*

***History – Port Mansfield – Fire Chief Whitey Thompson:***

- *Department was established as a necessity 22 years ago with the help of the RGVFFMA.*
- *Building was built by members in 2001*
- *2 pumpers*
- *Several brush trucks*
- *18 active members*

***Next Host City:***

*La Feria – (Not confirmed at this time)*

***Announcements:***

*VFIS – Door Prize*

***Benediction:***

*Chaplain Gary Wilburn provided the benediction.*

***Adjournment:***

*President Farrell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Motion made by Herb Willich (Past President); 2<sup>nd</sup> by Manuel Montemayor (Edcouch FD); all in favor; motion passed.*

*Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.*

*Submitted by:*

*James Farrell*  
*James Farrell*  
*President*

*Mari Tovar*  
*Mari Tovar*  
*Secretary*