

Rio Grande Valley Firefighter's and Fire Marshals' Association



*District Quarterly Meeting
Sunday, April 18, 2021
La Villa City Hall/Google Meets*

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

*Dawn Rodriguez , President
Leroy Salinass, 1st VP
Dallas Renfrew, 3rd VP
Victor Nieves, 4th VP
Gary Wilburn, Chaplain
Narcisco Cavazos, Training Coordinator
Leticia Quintero, Treasurer*

BOARD MEMBERS Absent:

*Eloy Salazar, Past President
Stephanie Solis, Secretary*

CALL BUSINESS MEETING TO ORDER:

President Dawn Rodriguez called meeting to order at 9:23a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

President Dawn Rodriguez led the pledge

INVOCATION:

Chaplain Gary Wilburn

WELCOME:

Assistant Chief from La Villa welcomed the board and the membership

RESPONSE:

President Dawn Rodriguez thanked him for their hospitality

Memorial Resolution Reading:

Read by Treasurer Leticia Quintero

Maltese Cross Reading:

Read by Narciso Cavazos

Heavenly Gate Poem Reading:

Read by Victor Nieves

Auxiliary Scripture Reading:

Read by Gillie Vasquez

Firefighter Roll Call Video:

Video created by Treasurer Leticia Quintero

AirMed:

- *Juan Galvan 7/13/19*

Alamo:

- *Cipriano Castillo 1/9/20*

Brownsville:

- *Sean Hemmingway 6/3/20*
- *Oscar Anguiano 12/7/20*

Edinburg:

- *Kevin Roland Pena 12/23/19*
- *Alcario "Arkie" Villarreal Jr. 10/20/19*
- *Maria Noelia Salinas 7/16/19 (Ladies Auxilary)*

Elsa:

- *Federico "Lico" Garrza 7/10/19*
- *Pedro Gonzalez Jr. 4/10/19*

Harlingen:

- *Felix Hernandez 3/1/20*
- *Juan Lucion 1/20/21*

McAllen:

- *Juan M Martinez 4/12/19*
- *Ronnie Gomez 1/9/21*

Mission:

- *Michael "Mike" Saldana 7/8/20*
- *Jorge Cabrera 8/24/20*
- *Jose M Salinas Jr. 2/2/21*

Monte Alto:

- Rene Del Toro 6/9/19
- Elsa Dominguez 2/28/20

Penitas:

- Bryan Leyta 2/28/20

San Benito:

- Danny Watkins 1/12/21

Weslaco:

- Felipe Luna 9/27/19
- Joe Martinez Jr. 1/21/21
- Jesus "Jesse" De La Rosa

Memorial Benediction:

Done by Chaplin Gary Wilburn

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

President Dawn Rodriguez introduced guests:

*Tim Smith-SFFMA
Steven Loving-Ingleside
Orlando Garcia-Attorney
William Tidwell-Ralls FD
Donald Boggs-SFFMA*

ROLL CALL:

Letty Treasurer conducted roll call. 16 Cities present and 3 past Presidents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Treasurer emailed members present the minutes from last meeting and allowed them 10 minutes to review minutes for approval.

*Motion to approval minutes made by: Frankie Joe Salinas-La Joya Fire Dept
Second by Assistant Chief from Donna*

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer presented report and also emailed members a copy of the report. Members were allowed 10 minutes to review report for approval.

Frankie Joe Salinas had a question on the payment for two departments that showed a payment of \$120.47

Treasurer explained those departments had paid with a debit card and therefore there was a

charge of \$4.53 per transaction that the district gets deducted through square app.

*Motion to approval minutes made by: Frankie Joe Salinas-La Joya Fire Dept
Second by Assistant Chief from Donna*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: Nothing to report

1st Vice: Nothing to report

2nd Vice: Vacant

3rd Vice: Nothing to report. Still out of town with COVID Vaccinations in Corpus Office. Also reminded membership that TEEEX is still not sending anyone for in person trainings.

4th Vice: Nothing to report

Training Coordinator: Nothing to report. Due to COVID restrictions and hopes that everything can open up for trainings. Spoke to departments up north and they are willing to help the district with training.

Donald Boggs- Announced that it was difficult to make the decision to move convention to Lubbock but that hopes that they come back to the Valley. Also announced that this was a legislative year and the top priorities were the power grid failure, volunteer responders, training and to reduce property taxes. There is also a job protection bill. They are using lobbyist J.P Lenny. They are working on certification website to be more user friendly. He got disconnected so Chuck Richardson took over the report.

Chuck Richardson- Announced that they are customizing the website for the SFMMA. He is hoping it will be ready for the Lubbock convention to show case and show everyone how it works. He also spoke about the Industrial Certification. There is a contract with a company. Also asked membership to give them an opportunity to sell department books and boots. They have better prices. Mr Richardson mentioned that there were 3 constitution amendments that they are working on for the Lubbock convention. State wants to change the gulf coast region down to 4, change the way voting takes place. They also want to rewrite to constitution by laws since they are 147 years old, they don't want to do away with tradition but they do want to change to modern times. Change to electronic voting. These changes are listed on the SFFMA website. They are evaluating changes and vote on them in Lubbock. Conference this year will be held in Lubbock Texas. He stated once again that it was a hard decision to make but due to circumstances and membership they change had to be made. They will return to the valley. Conference will be held in June 25-27. Agenda can be found on the website. June 25th Reception and hospitality room. June 26 business meeting, no trainings or committee meetings. June 27 memorial services at 10 am. Also districts still have time to submit Firefighter of the year to state office.

RC Flores had a question: Asked if the convention will come back to McAllen in 2020-2023 since it was moved to Lubbock and did McAllen have to re-bit for Convention. Did they have to have a hospitality room so convention could come back to McAllen.

Chuck responded that in the Beaumont convention next year it would be discussed. Based on the By-laws. He also stated that current policy is a 5-region policy adopted by Executive Board. He

said hospitality room was irrelevant but he understands but makes no promises for golf coast.

Donald Boggs also stated that the Golf Coast try city included Galveston, McAllen, San Marcos, and Lubbock. He stated that there will be flexibility on the next conference due to circumstances.

Chuck Richardson stated he looks forward to seeing everyone at the Lubbock convention

1st Vice President Leroy Salinas asked if he heard correctly that there will be no training for this convention due to 2604 funds.

Chuck Richardson responded that no training will take place.

1st Vice President Leroy Salinas said that it will be hard for smaller cities to send anyone to the Lubbock convention due to no training.

GUESTS:

Orlando Garcia- Spoke about foam and the dangers of working with it. Gave membership information and will forward his contact information to President Dawn Rodriguez so it can be distributed to membership.

*RC Flores asked **about** the benefits for retired firefighters. Mr. Orlando Garcia said that retired firefighters would benefit **from** this and that he will send information to President Dawn Rodriguez.*

OLD BUSINESS:

President Dawn Rodriguez advised membership about position in 1st Vice. President Dawn Rodriguez appointed Past President Ruben Balboa for that position. As discussed in previous meetings that a Past President should be appointed due to their experience with all positions.

NEW BUSINESS:

4th Vice President Victor Nieves asked for a motion to elevate officers. Second by Captain Vasquez from La Villa FD.

President Dawn Rodriguez asked if there were any candidates for 4th Vice President. Treasurer Letty Quintero announced that there were 3 candidates running for 4th (Alvin Patina, Jesus Martinez and Oscar Rodriguez)

All 3 candidates spoke and gave information on themselves and why the membership should vote for them.

Treasurer Letty Quintero send out an electronic form to the membership for voting. Membership was given about 15 minutes to vote.

Membership voted and elected Oscar Rodriguez from Monte Alto as 4th Vice President. Results were shown to membership.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:

President Dawn Rodriguez made her last comments and **thanked** the district for their support throughout her Presidency.

NEW PRESIDENT:

President Leroy Salinas appointed the following individuals for his Presidency:

Secretary- Mari Tovar

Treasurer-Letty Quintero

Training Coordinator: Will be appointed at a later time

Mascot: Rozalie Garza

Sgt at Arms: Gerardo Gomez

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

Chuck Richardson swore in new officers. He congratulated the new board.

APPOINTMENT OF STATE COMMITTEES:

President Leroy Salinas appointed the following individuals for state committees:

Certification: Ubaldo Perez

Memorial: Gerardo Gomez

Racing: RC Flores and George Castillo

Finance: Ruben Balboa

Poster: Frankie Joe Salinas (**Asked to be removed**)

By-Laws: Ruben Balboa and Maricruz Tovar

Sergeant of Arms: Gerardo Gomez

Speaker Selection: Ubaldo Perez

Driving: George Castillo

T-Flag: Shawn Snider

EMS: **PENDING**

Fire Marshal: Juan Martinez and Leroy Salinas

Combination: Shawn Snider

International: Oskar Alaniz and Robert Riojas

Health/Safety: Maricruz Tovar and James Farrell

2040- RC Flores

Frankie Joe Salinas advised President Leroy Salinas that he was in the Fire Marshals committee and that he was Chair for that committee. President Salinas stated that he will check with the state to see what he could do. Frankie Joe Salinas then stated he wanted to be removed from the Poster Committee.

Introduction of the 4th Vice President Candidates for the State:

Steven Loving: Promises to foster lines of communication, honesty, and clarity. He states that there are certification issues that need to be addressed. He wants to move to future. He wants to move to progress.

William Tidwell: He states that it has been a trying year. He wants to strive to train and serve. He wants a platform for future. He wants amendments to be made. Updates need to be made especially with COVID.

Frankie Joe Salinas: He promises to amend the Constitution and by-laws. He said that we have a mission without a voice. He states that there is a growth zone and there are millions of dollars.

Last Comments:

President Salinas announced that we will still be accepting applications for Firefighter of the Year for 2020-2021. Deadline to submit to the state is May 24th therefore the membership extended to May 7, 2021.

Bryan Hawthorn announced a training that will be held in Elsa. President Leroy Salinas asked for him to send Mari the secretary the information to send out to all departments.

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn Meeting made by Gillie Vasquez (La Villa) Second by Aaron Uresti (Donna).

Meeting was adjourned at 12:24

Leticia Quintero

04/20/21

RGVFFMA Treasurer

Date Minutes Typed