



***R.G.V.F.F.M.A. Meeting
Sunday, January 31, 2021
Google Meets***

The Rio Grande Valley Firefighter's and Fire Marshals' Association held their quarterly meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2021 via google meets.

Board Members Present:

Leroy Salinas, 1st VP
Dallas Renfrew, 3rd VP
Victor Nieves, 4th VP
Eloy Salazar, Past President
Garry Wilbur, Chaplain
Leticia Quintero, Treasurer

Board Members Not Present:

Dawn Rodríguez, President
Stephanie, Secretary
Narciso Escobedo, Training Coordinator

Call Meeting to Order:

1st Vice President Leroy Salinas called meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Invocation:

Dallas Renfrew led the group in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance:

None

Introduction of Guests

1st Vice President Leroy Salinas introduced the following guests:

- Chuck Richardson, SSFMA
- Harvie Cheschire
- Curtis Brown
- Hannah Brown
- Jorge Jalomo
- Tim Smith

Devotional:

Garry Wilburn conducted the devotional

Roll Call:

District Treasurer conducted the roll call of cities present. There were 12 cities in attendance and 2 past presidents. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes :

No minutes were presented from the October Google Meets Meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

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

1st Vice President Leroy Salinas asked for a motion to approve Treasurer's Report.

Frankie Joe (Past President) made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, 2nd by John Whelan; all in favor; motion passed.

Frankie Joe Salinas questioned how many cities had already paid their dues. Treasurer responded that 13 cities had already paid dues and that invoices had been mailed out and emailed since January. More cities might have paid but mailbox in Edinburg has not been checked.

Leroy Salinas 1st Vice President:

VP Salinas thanked everyone for joining the google meets.

Presented the following items:

Apologized for the delay of the meeting. Informed members that President Rodriguez had an emergency and could not attend.

Dallas Renfrew 3rd Vice President:

3rd VP Renfrew thanked everyone and had no full report. He has been deployed due to Covid for 300 days now.

SFFMA Committee Report- Tim Smith:

Reported on State Convention

Presented the following items:

1. *Masks will be a must*
2. *Wants departments to understand what conference restrictions will be in placed due to Covid.*
3. *A decision as to whether or not the convention will take place will be determined by April 1st.*
4. *4th Vice President candidates' amendments*
5. *Voting*
6. *Change of site for Conventions*
7. *By-laws proposal to change*
8. *Budget Approved*
9. *Legislation coming up- They wanted to take of volunteer representations but was removed but it might come back to the table*
10. *Training material needs can be done by calling Julie at SFFMA.*

Harvie Cheshire-

Reported on behalf of TEEEX

Presented the following items:

1. Due to Covid rethink of how to better service the Fire Departments and help districts
2. Day 300 TDDM deployed for PPE/Testing Kits
3. Restrictions on funding (understand and have patience)
4. GR funding reduced
5. Classes will be done differently-Virtually working on different factors
6. Can reoffer area schools (asking districts to send him a request for training)
7. He is in charge of the whole state – Be patient
8. Area schools-Different format on how to conduct schools depends on the school, financials', will work with districts to continue with training to keep certified.
9. Continue with Covid Restrictions
10. MOU's will have restrictions for Covid
11. Certification testing- Trying to get testing back but not regionally only in 2 areas (Brian Texas and the SFFMA Office) 2x a month.
12. Working on Field Testing working with colleges to be testing facilitators
13. Ready to help the valley just reach out just keep in mind that Covid is not allowing to train like before. Contact himself or Dallas

Victor Nieves had some questions-

- Will training be virtually. Answer- Dallas answered -yes a few online 2-4 hour classes
- Moving to virtual testing Answer- Not at this time. Only TEEEX takes the computer with pre-loaded tests

SFFMA Chair/Poster Committee Franki Joe Salinas:

PP Frankie Joe Salinas reported

Presented the following items:

1. Zoom meeting with the State
2. Fire Marshal moving to next bill
3. Successful split
 - a. 120 to 160 Fire Investigator Certification
 - b. 921 Guidebook-Look into it
 - c. 2018 Edition
4. Legislation in March
 - a. 33 Bills filed by SFFMA
 - b. 1265 Fire Marshal Situations
5. By-Laws Committee-wanting online voting
6. Asking for support for 4th Vice President for the State
 - a. He informed the district that the RGV has always had a voice in the state
 - b. He also told the membership that if they need help to apply for the State grant to call him and take advantage of the opportunity.
7. Poster Contest- Committee met and some district submitted posters
 - a. Treasurer Letty presented a video made by La Joya ISD students and asked him and state to consider video submissions due to Pandemic. Proposed to make an amendment in By-Laws for poster contest. Mr. Smith said to submit a letter to state for the proposal of changing By-Laws to adapt to this new way of doing poster contest. Asked the RGVFFMA to take charge in that proposal since it was presented by Letty. Dallas suggested that Frankie Joe take charge in this By-Law change. Frankie Joe said he would get with 1st Vice President Leroy Salinas to draft the letter for By-Law change.

Curtis Brown:

Reported that a lot had been accomplished during their meeting.

Hannah Brown:

Hannah Brown thanked the organization for allowing her to speak. Hannah is currently running for mascot at the state level. She has been involved with Dalhart FD, 4H Participation, Food Shows, Livestock, Debate team, President of the student government. She ran for mascot last year. Her goal is to raise as much money as a mascot.

New Business:

1st Vice President Leroy Salinas announced:

- *that the State Convention is scheduled to take place in the Rio Grande Valley in McAllen.*
- *Fundraiser- Masks are being sold to contact Letty Treasurer*
- *Announced that he met with the state in McAllen and got some details as far as the state convention*

Frankie Joe suggested that the district call the State and find out how many departments have paid dues.

Old Business:

Frankie Joe asked about the current situation on the open position for 2nd Vice President. 1st Vice President Leroy Salinas answered that the position will get filled in the April meeting. Frankie Joe insisted that the position be filled and 1st Vice President Leroy responded that he was looking into getting a past president to fill that seat. Frankie Joe insisted that his Assistant Chief Alvin Patina served as a 2nd Vice President and 1st Vice President Salinas reminded Franki Joe that it would get filled in April. Past President Eloy Salazar suggested that Presidents could be moved up as per the last meeting minutes and he said he was looking for what is better for the district. Letty Treasurer reminded Past President Eloy Salazar that we did not have any minutes to base ourselves but that she had taken note and it was voted in the October meeting to wait for the April meeting to fill the seat.

Treasurer Letty reminded Presidents that the forms for the Firefighter/EMS of the year be sent out and that the only name for the previous year be recognized this year.

3rd Vice President Dallas Renfrew:

Wanted to discuss about District's Fire School. In order for Fire School to happen District needs a plan and Instructors. If District Fire School is being considered, district has to contact Mr. Cheshire to have an MOU in place.

Mr. Cheshire said it could be possible but the following had to be in place:

- MOU
- Instructor Certifications
- Sign In Sheets
- Registration Forms
- Safety Officer
- Instructor Briefings had to take place
- COVID restrictions had to be in place

It was suggested to have departments be part of the training committee for instructor meetings. Mr. Cheshire confirmed that if all work together to move forward with training it could be done. TEEEX would help out but certain things need to be met.

Past President Eloy Salazar:

Past President said he had 3 companies in mind to help out with trainings. He said he had gotten 3 quotes and would present it to the board. One being Fire Rescue 1 and 2nd being Mr. Jalomo.

Leroy Salinas-1st Vice President

Thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting. Hopes things can go back to normal in a couple of months. Foresees that the April Meeting will be hosted virtually and hopes everyone is able to join.

*Motion to adjourn at 11:27 a.m. made by
John Whelan
second by: Johnny Vallejo and Victor Nieves
Motion passes*

*Submitted by:
Treasurer Letty Quintero*