

Rio Grande Valley Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association



District Meeting Minutes Edcouch, Texas April 6, 2025



The Rio Grande Valley Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association held their quarterly meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2025 in Edcouch, Texas.

Board Members Present:

- President Victor Nieves
- 1st Vice President Oscar Rodriguez
- 3rd Vice President Aurelio Cadena
- 4th Vice President Alfred Pena
- Secretary Maricruz Tovar
- Admin. Coord. Ruben Balboa
- Treasurer Leticia Salinas
- Training Coordinator Ubaldo Perez
- Chaplain Gary Wilburn
- Historian/Parliamentarian Richard Trevino
- Mascot Zaylina Nieves
- Immediate Past President Dallas Renfrew

Board Members Not Present:

- 2nd Vice President Jesus Martinez (removed from board)

Note: Gerardo Gomez (McAllen FD) retired and will no longer be serving as our Sgt. at Arms. Congratulations Gerry!!!!

Memorial Services:

Conducted by 3rd VP Aurelio Cadena. 3rd Vice President Cadena asked for a motion to insert the resolution into the minutes. Motion made; all in favor; motion approved.

Mascot Zaylina Nieves led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag.

Pipes and Drums: Brownsville FD, Harlingen FD, McAllen FD and Pharr FD.

Honor Guard: Edinburg FD, McAllen FD and Pharr FD.

Call to Order:

President Nieves called the meeting to order at 10:26 a.m.

Welcome:

Marisela Aguilar, City Manager welcomed the RGVFFMA to the City of Edcouch.

Response:

Richard Trevino, Historian thanked Marisela Aguilar, City Manager and the Edcouch Fire Department for their hospitality and for hosting the meeting.

Invocation:

Gary Wilburn led the group in prayer.

Introduction of Guest:

President Nieves recognized the following Past Presidents in attendance and introduced the following guest:

Past Presidents in Attendance:

- Leroy Salinas, La Joya
- Gilbert Chavero, McAllen
- Frankie Joe Salinas, Edinburg
- Hector Rodriguez, Raymondville
- Ruben Balboa, Harlingen

Guest:

- Mark Wobus, SFFMA
- RJ Thomas, SFFMA
- Donny Boggs, SFFMA
- Chuck Richardson, SFFMA
- John Hudson, VFIS
- Heather Trevino, TFA President

Roll Call

District Secretary Mari Tovar conducted roll call of cities present. There were nineteen (19) cities and five Past Presidents in attendance. Secretary/President verified that a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

President Nieves asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last District Meeting.

Motion made by Frankie Joe Salinas (Edinburg/Past President) to approve the minutes, 2nd by Daniel Gutierrez (Sebastian), all in favor; motion passed.

Finance Report

Treasurer Leticia Salinas presented Finance Report:

Motion made by Frankie Joe Salinas (Edinburg/Past President) to approve the Finance Report, 2nd by Gilbert Chavero (Past President), all in favor, motion passed (see attached).

Officer's Report

1st Vice President Rodriguez:

- Thanked Edcouch Fire Department and Chief Nieves for hosting.
- Fishing Tournament was held on October 12, 2024 at Jim's Pier in South Padre Island.
- Thanked all the sponsors.
- Collected: \$6,400
- Expenses: \$3,160.61
- Profit: \$3,239.33

3rd Vice President Cadena:

- Thanked Edcouch Fire Department and Chief Nieves for hosting.
- VP Cadena presented JOSE CORTINA, JR. from La Joya Fire Department with the 2024 Richard Drewry Firefighter of the Year Award. and

CONGRATULATIONS JOSE CORTINA, JR.!!!!

- VP Cadena presented ARMANDO GUERRERO, from La Joya Fire Department with the EMS of the Year Award.

CONGRATULATIONS ARMANDO GUERRERO!!!!

4th Vice President Pena:

- VP Pena announced the nominees for the 3rd and 4th VP positions:
 - Nominees 3rd VP:
Richard Trevino (Edinburg)
 - Nominees 4th VP:
Jaime Garcia (Elsa)
Joshua Garza (SPI)

Training Coordinator Ubaldo Perez:

- Summary of 75th Annual Fire and Public Safety Academy
 - Special Thanks:
Pharr FD for facilitating the rescue classes.
South Texas College for the facilities.
VFIS for sponsoring the meal.
- Upcoming Training:
 - HazMat Summit hosted by NVFC:
April 25 – 26, 2025
April 25 – All day (1 class)
April 26 – All Day (4 class to choose from)
Meal provided

- SFFMA Convention:
 - June 19 – 22, 2025
 - Frisco, Tx

Training Coor. Perez, Zone 5 Coor. for the SFFMA Certification Board encourages everyone to enter training hours on portal, if you need assistance please contact me at (956) 279-8056.

SFFMA Report:

- Presented by RJ Tomas, SFFMA (see attached).

Old Business: No old business to discuss.

New Business:

Frankie Joe Salinas:

- NFPA Summit
July 29, 2025 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Hosted in Edinburg).

Immediate Past President Dallas Renfrew:

- Discussed Membership for NVFC.
- Register for Municipal School.
- Thanked everyone for their assistance during his time on the board.
- Need to make sure you take the following classes:
 - CTBS
 - TIMS
 - Cancer
- Adding two more employees to TEEX for our region.
- Running unopposed for 1st VP at NVFC.
- Great Memorial Service

Donny Boggs, “Thanked the RGVFFMA for all their support and personally thanked Ruben Balboa”.

Leticia Salinas, “Asked for a motion to purchase a camera for Memorial Service and for Training Coordinator”?

Frankie Joe Salinas (Edinburg/Past President), made a motion to allocate \$600 to purchase a camera; 2nd by Jaime Garcia (Elsa); all in favor; motion approved.

Fire Prevention Poster Contest:

Frankie Joe Salinas, “Posters and trophies listed in the back. Encouraged all departments to participate in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest next year. Thanked all departments that participated”.

- Harlingen Fire Department – Grand Champion
- Edinburg Fire Department – Reserve Champion

Ubaldo Perez, "Asked for a motion to approve \$7,000 for the training field for maintenance"?

Frankie Joe Salinas (Edinburg/Past President), made a motion to approve \$7,000 for the training field; 2nd by Joel Llanos (Linn San Manuel); all in favor; motion approved.

4th VP Alfred Pena, read letter from Rick Isaacks running for 4th VP SFFMA and thanked John Hudson for being a part of the Memorial Service.

Elections:

Presidents Last Comments:

Victor Nieves thanked Mari Tovar, Ruben Balboa and Letty Salinas for all their help with the District.

Elevation of Officers:

Victor Nieves, asked for "A motion to elevate the officers"?

Ubaldo Perez, made a motion to elevate the officers; Hector Rodriguez (Past President/Raymondville) 2nd the motion, all in favor; motion approved.

4th Vice President Alfred Pena:

- Richard Trevino running for 3rd VP
- VP Pena asked for nominations from the floor (none)
- Ubaldo Perez (Edinburg FD) made a motion to cease nominations and vote in by acclamation; 2nd by Hector Rodriguez (Past President/Raymondville); all in favor; motion passed; approved.
- Congratulations Richard Trevino!!!!

- Nominees for 4th VP:
 - Joshua Garza (Port Isabel FD)
 - Jaime Garcia (Elsa FD)
- VP Pena asked for nominations 3x, no nominations.
- Results: Joshua Garza (Port Isabel FD). Congratulations Joshua!!!

- Chaplain Position:
Gary Wilburn running unopposed. Alfred Pena asked for nominations from the floor 3x, no nominations.
Ubaldo Perez (Edinburg FD) made a motion to cease nominations and vote in by acclamation; 2nd by Joshua Garza (Port Isabel FD); all in favor; motion approved.

Newly elected President:

President Oscar Rodriguez thanked all nominees and congratulated all winners.

President Rodriguez appointed the following individuals to the board:

- Ubaldo Perez, Training Coor.
- Ruben Balboa, Adm. Coor.
- Mari Tovar, Secretary
- Leticia Salinas, Treasurer
- Melissa Pena, Historian/Parliamentarian

- Gilbert Chavero, Sgt. at Arms
- Ian Wilburn, Mascot

Swearing in of new board was conducted by Mark Wobus, SFFMA.

Appoint of Committees will be done at a later date.

SFFMA presented Victor Nieves with a plaque and the RGVFFMA presented him with the axe plaque and challenge coins.

- Historian Report:

Presented by Richard Trevino (see attached).

Next Meeting: TBD

Victor Nieves did meal announcement.

Adjournment:

President Rodriguez asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Gilbert Chavero (Past President); 2nd by Dallas Renfrew (Past President); all in favor; meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m.

Oscar Rodriguez

Oscar Rodriguez, President

Submitted by: Mari Tovar, Secretary

June 8, 2025

Date of Approval

Reviewed by: Ruben Balboa, Adm. Coord.