

Rio Grande Valley Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association



District Meeting Minutes Port Isabel, Tx October 6, 2024



The Rio Grande Valley Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association held their quarterly meeting and Memorial Service on Sunday, October 6, 2024 in Port Isabel, Texas.

Board Members Present:

- 1st Vice President Oscar Rodriguez
- 2nd Vice President Jesus Martinez
- 3rd Vice President Aurelio Cadena
- Secretary Maricruz Tovar
- Treasurer Leticia Salinas
- Training Coordinator Ubaldo Perez
- Chaplain Gary Wilburn
- Historian/Parliamentarian Richard Trevino
- Sgt. At Arms Gerardo Gomez
- Immediate Past President Dallas Renfrew

Board Members Not Present:

- 4th Vice President Alfred Pena
- President Victor Nieves
- Adm. Coord. Ruben Balboa

Call to Order:

1st Vice President Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Sgt. at Arms Gerardo Gomez led the group in the pledge.

Welcome:

John Sandoval, Assistant City Manager welcomed the RGVFFMA to Port Isabel.

Response:

Richard Trevino, Historian thanked John Sandoval and the Port Isabel Fire Department for their hospitality and for hosting the meeting.

Invocation:

Gary Wilburn led the group in prayer.

Introduction of Guest:

1st Vice President Rodriguez introduced the following guests:

- RJ Thomas, SFFMA Vice President
- Cesar Pedraza
- Jesse Breedlove
- Eric DeArmitt

Past Presidents in Attendance:

- Leroy Salinas, La Joya
- Gilbert Chavero, McAllen

Roll Call

District Secretary Mari Tovar conducted roll call of cities present. There were fourteen (14) cities and two Past Presidents in attendance. Secretary/1st Vice President verified that a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

1st Vice President asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last District Meeting.

Motion made by Gilbert Chavero (Past President) to approve the minutes, 2nd by Leroy Salinas (La Joya FD), all in favor; motion passed.

Finance Report

Treasurer Leticia Salinas presented Finance Report:

Motion made by Jaime Garcia (Elsa FD) 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 John Sandoval and Port Isabel Fire Department for hosting.
- Fishing Tournament to be held Saturday, October 12, 2024 at Jim's Pier.

2nd Vice President Martinez:

- Thanked Port Isabel Fire Department for hosting the meeting.

- In charge of Memorial Services in April. Please make sure to submit names of individuals that have passed so that we can honor them. Submit names to jesusmtz1101@gmail.com.

3rd Vice President Cadena:

- In charge of Firefighter and EMS Responder of the Year. Applications to be sent out in January.
- Nomination form will also be sent out.

Training Coordinator Ubaldo Perez:

- Hosted the Planning Meeting with 30 instructors in attendance.
- Discussed upcoming 75th Annual Fire and Public Safety Academy scheduled for February 15 – March 9.
 - Registration will be through TEEX. All students and instructors must register on the TEEX portal.
 - All rescue classes will be held at STC in Pharr.
- Discussed SFFMA portal to track training. If any questions please contact Training Coordinator Ubaldo Perez at (956) 279-8056.

SFFMA Report:

Presented by RJ Thomas (see attached).

SFMO Report:

Presented by Eric DeArmitt

- Assist in investigations
- K9 available
- Assist with inspections
- 13 drones available to assist with fire investigations and law enforcement
- Assist with ISO
- Outreach (social media presence, items, etc.)
- Assist with TexFirs & NFIRS
- LODD all investigations. Classifications have changed within 24 hours of a structure fire for federal, state, local agencies.

Immediate Past President Renfrew:

- Send out OSHA Ruling
- NVFC – If not a member, sign up to become a member
- SFFMA – offers a lot of discounts and free items
- For training classes please contact Fire Coordinator/Manager

Historian Report:

Presented by Richard Trevino (see attached).

Adjournment:

1st VP Rodriguez asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Julio Serna (Los Fresnos); 2nd by Joel Llanos (Linn San Manuel); all in favor; meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Oscar Rodriguez

Oscar Rodriguez, 1st Vice President

Submitted by: Mari Tovar, Secretary

January 21, 2025

Date of Approval

Reviewed by: Ruben Balboa, Adm. Coord.