

Rio Grande Valley Firefighters' & Fire Marshals' Association



District Meeting Minutes Monte Alto, Tx April 26, 2026



The Rio Grande Valley Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association held their quarterly meeting and Memorial Service on Sunday, April 26, 2026 in Monte Alto, Texas.

Board Members Present:

- President Oscar Rodriguez
- 1st Vice President Aurelio Cadena
- 2nd Vice President Alfred Pena
- 3rd Vice President Richard Trevino
- 4th Vice President Joshua Garza
- Secretary Maricruz Tovar
- Adm. Coordinator Ruben Balboa
- Treasurer Leticia Salinas
- Training Coordinator Ubaldo Perez
- Chaplain Gary Wilburn
- Historian Melissa Pena
- Sgt. At Arms Gilbert Chavero
- Mascot Ian Wilburn

Board Members Not Present:

- Immediate Past President Victor Nieves

Memorial Services:

Conducted by 2nd Vice President Alfred Pena. 2nd Vice President Alfred Pena asked for a motion to insert the resolution into the minutes. Motion made; all in favor; motion approved.

Mascot Ian Wilburn led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag.

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

Honor Guard: McAllen FD, Pharr FD

2nd Vice President Alfred Pena thanked Mari Tovar and Ruben Balboa for all their help with the Memorial Services.

Call to Order:

President Oscar Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Invocation

Gary Wilburn led the group in prayer.

Introduction of Guest

President Rodriguez introduced the following guests:

- SFFMA President Mark Wobus
- RJ Thomas, SFFMA 1st Vice President
- Rick Isaaks, SFFMA 4th Vice President
- Michael Rishter, SFFMA Secretary
- Chuck Richardson, SFFMA Immediate Past President
- Heather Trevino, Past President
- Greg Atkinson, Heat Safety Equipment
- James Longbrake, Candidate for SFFMA 4th Vice President

Past Presidents in Attendance:

- Leroy Salinas, La Joya
- Gilbert Chavero, McAllen
- Frankie Joe Salinas, Edinburg
- Dallas Renfrew, La Feria

Roll Call

District Secretary Mari Tovar conducted roll call of cities present. There were fifteen (15) cities and four Past Presidents in attendance. Secretary/President verified that a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

President Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the District Meeting held October 26, 2025.

Action: Motion made to approve the minutes from October 26, 2025, all in favor; minutes approved

Finance Report

Treasurer Leticia Salinas presented Finance Report:

Action: Motion made to approve the Finance Report, all in favor, financial report approved [see attached]

Committee Reports

President Rodriguez:

- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

1st Vice President Aurelio Cadena:

- Discussed the fishing tournament held in October 2025 and extended thanks to Mari Tovar and Ruben Balboa for their assistance.

3rd Vice President Richard Trevino:

- 3rd VP Trevino presented ISIAAH DANIEL CANO from Elsa Fire Department with the Richard Drewry Firefighter of the Year Award.

CONGRATULATIONS ISIAAH DANIEL CANO!!!!!!!

- 3rd VP Trevino presented CRUZ LOPEZ from La Joya Fire Department with the EMS of the Year Award.

CONGRATULATIONS CRUZ LOPEZ!!!!!!!

4th Vice President Joshua Garza:

- No report. No activities will be held after the meeting.

Training Coordinator Ubaldo Perez:

- Presented an update and report on the Fire & Public Safety Academy. Thanked the Pharr Fire Department and STC for their assistance with the special courses.

SFFMA Report:

Presented by Mark Wobus, RJ Thomas, and Rick Issacks (see attached).

Old Business:

Discussed Fajita Throwdown to be held July 20, 2026 at Texas A&M.

New Business:

Greg Atkinson from Heat Fire & Safety provided grant information:

- Action: Motion made to have Mr. Atkinson submit a grant for the District; all in favor; motion approved.

Frankie Joe Salinas:

- Presented winners of the 2026 District Poster Contest (see attached).

President Rodriguez asked for a motion to donate \$300 to the Memorial Wall at Texas A&M.

Action: Motion made; all in favor; motion approved.

President's Last Comments:

- I was humbled and it was a privilege to serve you.
- Thanked everyone for all their help during his time on the board.

Elevation of Officers:

4th VP Joshua Garza requested a motion to elevate current officers.

Action: Motion made; all in favor; motion approved.

RGVFFMA presented the outgoing President with an axe, the SFFMA presented him with a plaque to honor his dedicated time on the board.

Election of Officers:

4th Vice President Joshua Garza conducted nominations and elections for the positions of 4th VP and Chaplain.

- Chaplain: A motion was made to cease nominations vote the Chaplain in by acclamation; all in favor; motion approved. Congratulations Gary!!
- 4th Vice President: The position was officially filled by Dallas Renfrew. Congratulations Dallas!!

Newly elected President Aurelio Cadena thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

New President Appointments of Board:

- Secretary Maricruz Tovar
- Adm. Coordinator Ruben Balboa
- Treasurer Leticia Salinas
- Training Coordinator Ubaldo Perez
- Historian/Parliamentarian Melissa Pena
- Sgt. At Arms Gilbert Chavero
- Mascot Ian Wilburn

Installation of Officers:

- Conducted by SFFMA President Mark Wobus.

Appointment of Committees President Aurelio Cadena:

- Will be done at a later date.

Historian Report:

- Presented by Melissa Pena.

Next Host City:

- Brownsville Fire Department.

Adjournment:

President Cadena asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Action: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. All in favor; motion approved.

Aurelio Cadena

Aurelio Cadena, President

Submitted by: Mari Tovar, Secretary

July 10, 2026

Date of Approval

Reviewed by: Ruben Balboa, Adm. Coord.