

2026 SFFMA Spring Speaking Points (V8)

Austin Office

- ❖ Edward Palacio and Heather Lundy have recently left the Austin office.
- ❖ Two new staff members have been hired recently, Nikki Petrokovich in the SFFMA Store Rachel Guyette in SFFMA Membership and Erica Rodriguez as Certification Assistant, please welcome these new employees as you see them.
- ❖ We have hired a contractor, Eva Kiedel, to support this year's conference planning and on-site operations.
- ❖ Teresa Junkin has announced that she will be retiring soon, we wish her the best.

Membership & Benefits

- ❖ Reminder that benefits are January 1 through December 31. There are still departments that have not been renewed.
- ❖ VFIS Insurance: Remember to keep beneficiary forms up to date and on file; this is crucial for ensuring timely benefit distribution.

Certification

- ❖ **See attachment.**

Conference

- ❖ 150th Conference and Convention will be held in Waco June 11-14. The host hotel is full, and overflow lodging is available at the Waco Courtyard by Marriott, which is located across the street.
- ❖ Conference registration is open and available through your portal. **Early Bird rates (\$275) expired on April 15 at midnight.**
- ❖ FF Gauntlet will be on Thursday evening.
- ❖ Pumper Races have been cancelled for now due to funding for permits with the City of Waco.

- ❖ Delegate registration can be completed either by completing the form and emailing to events@sffma.org or by the end of March you should be able to complete it in Portal. Remember the Delegate Form needs to be turned in by the end of the first Business meeting.
- ❖ Additional hotels have been added in Waco, check the website for more information.
- ❖ TEEX course registration is now open.
 - Participants must register through the TEEX portal linked on the conference website. All course descriptions and session details are available on the website.
 - Reminder: registrants must have a TEEX portal account to complete registration.

Legislative

- ❖ Always thank your state Reps and Senators for the backlog funding last session and encourage them to support the budget request for 2604 that comes through the forest service, specially the additional \$22 million or so each year to avoid another backlog.
- ❖ The only issue right now that we know for sure will come up on the interim is radio inoperability. The Speaker is making it a priority.
- ❖ If you want to be involved and come to Austin and walk the halls during session, let us know.

2026 Constitutional Bylaws & Amendments

- ❖ ***Review proposed changes***

SAFER Recruitment & Retention

- ❖ SFFMA membership dues may be paid through SAFER; income requirement: department must have an annual operating budget of less than \$50,000. Can cover up to \$2,000 per department.
- ❖ SAFER cannot cover additional/optional insurance coverage (VFIS and NVFC).
- ❖ With the gov't shutdown, FEMA is not processing any submissions for reimbursement, so that process is delayed. This means a delay in reimbursement.
- ❖ SFFMA SAFER Grant Accident & Health Benefit-coverage provided by Provident, this is additional coverage provided to All volunteer classes of membership, including but not limited to a Volunteer Member, Emergency Volunteer, Auxiliary Member, Fire Corps, Community Volunteer, Board Member, Trustee, Administrative Personnel, Junior Member, Member in Training, Probationary Member, and Part-Time Employees of the Policyholder. (*See the flyer.*)

Cargo Trailer for Sale

The Executive Board voted to sell the Cargo Trailer located at the Austin Office. Offering the trailer to SFFMA Districts in a Sealed Bid opportunity.

Minimum bid \$3500

Bid dated May 1-May 20

Bids to Exec. Director Abel

❖ **See Flyer**

150th Yearbook and Conference Photos

To celebrate our 150th year of supporting Texas firefighters, SFFMA is compiling a commemorative yearbook. And we want your department to be included!

Deadline for written pieces and photos: April 30, 2026.

The yearbook will cover the history of the association as well as individual departments. Your fire department is a vital part of your community, and we know many of you have long and storied histories. Let's share them!

We're requesting that fire departments across Texas submit the following:

1. Written history including original founders, year created, special notes, highlights, etc. Please keep write-ups to 200 words or less.
2. Photos - include a few from the past, a few recent pics and one of your current members (group photo); photos may also include original and new fire trucks.

Each photo must include a brief description explaining who/what is in the photo and when it was taken (or approx. year if unknown).

Write-ups and photos can be submitted digitally to info@sffma.org and please use the email title 150th Yearbook Submission.

SFFMA welcomes all Texas fire departments to submit their histories and photos for inclusion in the yearbook. Sales will begin following this year's June conference in Waco. At that time, we will be taking pre-orders for books.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of SFFMA's history!

150th Conference Coin

- ❖ We are asking for the Districts to help with purchasing a 150th SFFMA Conference Coin. The request is for \$100-\$150 to help offset the cost of coins.
- ❖ We would like for each registered individual at conference to receive a coin.
- ❖ The coins will be in the shape of the SFFMA logo and be approximately 2-2.5 inches in size and have an antique color.