

Louisiana State Firemen's Association

May 14, 2017 at 1330 hours

LSFA 04/29/2018 Board Meeting and District Reports

Louisiana State Firemen's Association
Board Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2017
DeSoto Fire District # 9
Frierson, La.

Board Meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM. 1st Vice President Charlie Metcalf led us in the opening prayer. Sergeant of Arms Bruce Brewer recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Dwayne Thevis made roll call and the following board members and appointed officers were in attendance and 2 members were excused.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Excused
President Chris Boudreaux	X		
1 st Vice President Charlie Metcalf	X		
2 nd Charles Hudson	X		
Immediate Past Pres. Richard Parker, Jr.	X		
Secretary Dwayne Thevis	X		
Treasurer Mike Labruzzo	X		
1 st District Representative Melvin Kiff	X		
2 nd District Representative William Parker	X		
3 rd District Representative Danny Mayet	X		
4 th District Representative Brian Lindberg	X		
5 th District Representative Joe Thompson	X		
6 th District Representative Tim Crockett	X		
7 th District Representative Brian Castille	X		
8 th District Representative Bob White	X		
Sergeant of Arms Bruce Brewer	X		
N.V.F.C. Chairman Kenn Fontenot	X		
Parliamentarian Donald Bock	X		X
Chaplain Father John Talamo			X
Counselor Roy Cascio	X		
Government and Public Affairs Chairman Butch Browning	X (via phone)		

Reasons for excused absent:

Donald Bock – Previous engagement scheduled

Father John Talamo

President Chris Boudreaux introduced guests that were in attendance. They were Wayne Cruz – LSU FETI, Melvin Lamont – West Baton Rouge Fire Protection District.

Motion to accept Secretary Dwayne Thevis' minutes as emailed was made by 2nd Vice President Charles Hudson, and second by Immediate Past President Richard Parker, Jr. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Treasurer Michael Labruzzo's report as emailed was made by 8th District Representative Bob White, second by 3rd District Representative Danny Mayet. Motion carried. (Treasurer's Report attached)

Michael Labruzzo reported on status of the yearbook. He handed out copies to the Board Members and stated he would mail out yearbooks to department that have paid. He also wanted to remind everyone that the deadline for ads, etc. is the end of September. He encouraged board members to remind departments and their members in their respective districts. He also discussed trying to replace yearbooks for St. Amant at no charge as they lost all of their yearbooks due to August 2016 floods. Immediate Past President Richard Parker, Jr. made a motion to support the endeavor to replace St. Amant yearbooks, second by 5th District Representative Joe Thompson. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

LSU FETI Regional Director Wayne Cruz discussed the issues they were having after acquiring safety training trailers. Mr. Cruz mentioned that House Bill (H.B.) 387 needed to be reviewed and changed in order to stop indemnities from the same issues in the future.

State Fire Marshall Butch Browning called in via conference call to discuss issues in this legislative session. Butch explained that this session will be light compared to some in the past. Concerns about Senate Bill (S.B.) 65, requiring at least one fire suppression employee in the rank of firefighter or firefighter/operator be assigned to and carried on each force during each shift. Butch spoke with Chad Majors on this bill and he insured that this bill would die in the house. A motion was made by Mike Labruzzo for the LSFA to oppose this bill, second by Richard Parker, Jr. Motion carried. H.B. 496 provides with respect to special plates for firefighters with twenty years of service. LSFA board members decided not to take a stand on this bill. H.B. 145 needs to be amended to include volunteers. H.B. 8 provides relative to membership restrictions of the Fighters' Retirement System, LSFA Board Members opposed this bill. H.B. 186 would allow firefighters to carry firearms. Needs to be amended to allow all volunteer and professional firefighters the right to carry. H.B. 387 has died in committee. H.B. 392 allowing insurance companies to do group ratings, LSFA Board Members opposed. S.B. 211 creates the crime of engaging in life safety and property protection contracting without authority. Motion made by Mike Labruzzo to support S.B. 211, second by Charles Hudson. Motion carried. H.B. 465 would lower speed limits on any interstate system. Motion made by William Parker to support H.B. 465, second by Richard Parker, Jr. Motion carried. H.B. 460 authorizes the state fire marshal to purchase a specified group insurance policy for the benefit of certain volunteer members of fire companies. Mike Labruzzo thanked Butch for pushing this bill through. Butch stated that benefits may be available as early as July or August.

Dwayne Thevis reported for Boyd Petty with Louisiana Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial that Boyd expressed a great deal of appreciation for all that attend and assisted with the memorial service. The unveiling of the new dispatcher's memorial began the ceremony by sounding a Q siren, which will be the opening of future services.

Louisiana Fire Service Honor Guard – No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governmental Affairs Chairman Butch Browning: Discussed all legislative issues during special interest report. (See Above, also attached is a list of all fire service bills)

2017 Exhibit, Chris Boudreaux reported that 16 vendors have paid and that another 12 have registered but have not paid, yet. Chris advised that he will be sending out another round letters to vendors. Chris also reported that Russell DiSalvo has stepped in to give him a hand with vendors and vendor setup at conference. Dwayne Thevis reported that we will have at least three new vendors.

Competitive Drills Chairman Charlie Metcalf reported that held April 29, 2017 at DeSoto Fire District 9, 258 Stonewall Frierson, Frierson, Louisiana, 71027 were a great success with four teams competing this year. 4th place team was Livingston Fire District # 9, 3rd place team was Mansura, 34:15.9 time, 2nd place team was DeSoto Fire District # 8 & # 9 19:21.7 time, and 1st place went to St. John Fire Department, 10:35.8. Charlie encouraged board members to get teams from their district to take part in drills.

N.F.V.C. Chairman Kenn Fontenot emailed his report. (See attached) Kenn also reported that he had purchased airline tickets for Washington D.C. but was unable to attend due to illness. He made a suggestion to repay the LSFA for airfare. Motion made by Charlie Metcalf to for Kenn to keep airfare credit and use at a later date. If airfare credit was not used the LSFA would absorb the cost due to the fact he was traveling on LSFA business, second Tim Crockett. Motion carried.

OFFICERS REPORT:

Officers reports were submitted by email, please see attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Chris Boudreaux reported that all arrangements at the Houma Civic Center and the training schedule for the conference have been completed. Chris stated they are finalizing transportation issues and the ladies program. Things are about 90% complete at this time.

William Parker informed the board that the APP for this year's LSFA should be operational on Goggle play by mid-week and on I Tunes by the end of next week. He also encouraged board members to get the word out. To find the App search LSFA.

6th District Representative Tim Crockett checked into details of truck and reported back to the board. He stated that the truck has been sitting outside since we took delivery of it. The truck does not run, has some brake issues and the fuel system is in need of repair. Mike Labruzzo and Charlie Metcalf agree on not moving forward repairing the truck. Tim was asked to check on the status of the title. Motion was made by Charlie Metcalf to contact St. Landry Fire District # 3 and inform them that we will move forward with this truck, and to see if they wanted it back or for us to donate the truck to a needy department. Second by Melvin Kiff, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Constitution and Bylaws changes were discussed and according to our constitution and bylaws any member can propose a change and that change must be presented to the general membership for a vote. Secretary Dwayne Thevis stated he would mail the proposed changes to membership.

Congressional Fire Service was held on April 5 – 7, 2017 in Washington, D.C. Charlie Metcalf reported that the trip was very successful this year. One of the issues of major concern in the fire service is the AFG and Safer Grant programs which was scheduled to sunset this year. During the trip they were able to see a new bill drafted extended the AFG and Safer Grant.

Charlie Metcalf reported that fund raising was in the forefront of his 2018 LSFA Conference at this time.

Charles Hudson reported that the 2019 LSFA Conference committee has met with Hilton, New Orleans and tentatively has scheduled August 8 – 10, 2019 as conference dates if the membership approves.

Joe Thompson reported on 2020 LSFA Conference would be held in Monroe, La. at the Ike Hamilton Center. There are 900 rooms in the immediate area of the conference center. All apparatus and vendors would be inside similar to Shreveport. The facility has a total of 7 acres under roof.

Chris Boudreaux stated that he was applying for a matching grant with Terrebonne Tourist Commission and needed a resolution to apply for grant. Motion was made by Mike Labruzzo to write the resolution and submit it. Second by Danny Mayet, motion carried.

Dwayne Thevis reported that he has been in contact American Income Life and they insured him that their policies and procedures have changed. Mike Labruzzo stated that have received inquiries from them and would to investigate the matter further. Issue was tabled to next meeting.

Dwayne Thevis reported that several of the flowers used for the memorial service at the opening ceremony were in bad shape and needed to be replaced. Joe Thompson made a motion to spend up to \$200.00 to purchase new flowers, and amend the budget at the next meeting to reflect the cost spent on flowers. Second by Mike Labruzzo, motion carried.

Chris Boudreaux had some LSFA ornaments made for his conference and 50 left over that we would like to sell to LSFA. Motion was made by William Parker to purchase the ornaments and sell them for \$15.00 at the conference this year. Second by Melvin Kiff, motion carried.

Charlie Metcalf mentioned that he was invited to the Benefits Summit in Austin, Texas in November. Dwayne Thevis advised that the Benefits is free and they usually provide for two members to attend.

Prescription Drug Program is still providing some moderate funds; all board members were encouraged to this program in their districts.

Charles Hudson reported that he would like to host the competitive drills in Baton Rouge in conjunction with LSU FETI Trade Show if LSU was in favor of it. The board meeting would probably be the Friday afternoon if the drills were held Saturday. The joint meeting between fire service organizations would be held Saturday morning and drills start at 10:00 AM. The board approved of Charles pursuing this endeavor.

Discussion on reviving The Blaze was determine that with social media and the internet we are doing what The Blaze was designed for the most part. Information about the LSFA is constantly being updated. With the App in the near future more news and events will available 24/7/365.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

ANNOUNMENCNTS:

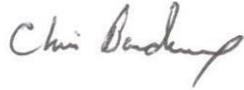
Next board meeting will be held at Courtyard Marriot, Wednesday July 19, 2017 at 3:30PM.

CLOSING PRAYER:

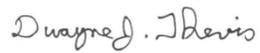
1st Vice President Charlie Metcalf led us in the closing prayer.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by Danny Mayet, 4:08 PM



President Chris Boudreaux



Secretary Dwayne Thevis

Board Member Reports:

Immediate Past President:

1. *I have continued to help Mike with the Yearbook Ads.*
2. *I have worked with Second VP Hudson on some plans for his Conference and introduced him to the Hilton Hotel Staff.*
3. *I have helped the new Second District Rep. learn the ropes and set up meetings with Second District departments.*
4. *I attended the PIAL Board meeting.*
5. *I attended the Supplemental Pay Board meeting.*
6. *I have also fielded some questions in reference to some of this year HB/SB.*

In closing I must add that, I am enjoying my term as Immediate Past President. I will also be seeking membership in the Past President's at the 2017 Conference.

President:

I have been working on my conference getting the trainings set the ladies program and all of the items for the conference. We can move in Tuesday afternoon with supplies and set up Wednesday morning. We are having meetings with committee members working through the details to make sure everything is in line. We are working with hotels to see if they have any problems so far, we have one hotel that was sold to another person and we are checking with them to see if they will honor the contract. I have been working with vendors and business owners to get donations that is going great. We are getting ready to start sending sponsors for the conference, Golf and bowling at the being of the month and reminders to vendors that have not registered yet. I have talked to Butch Browning on some items that came up since our last meeting and we talked about some of the bills that are up in committees now. I have written letters for support for the cancer policies on the federal and state. I attended the memorial at the Fire Marshal office and it was a great day to remember the firefighters on the wall. I have answered question that members and board members may have had and look forward on working with the members that may need help. I had planned to go give a presentation to the LFCA association at their conference but couldn't make it but asked Charles Hudson and he was able to give the presentation for the LSFA. Moving forward we will continue to plan and get things done for the conference.

1st Vice President:

No report submitted to the Secretary.

2nd Vice President:

As 2nd Vice President I attended several area fire department events and fundraisers since our last meeting. I attended the funeral of Marrero-Harvey VFD's first paid operator Charles "Charlie" Bellanger. C. Bellanger had over 50 years of service to the Marrero-Harvey VFD. He will be truly missed. I also representing President Boudreaux and the LSFA Board in giving a report of our association at the LA Fire Chiefs Association Conference held in Metairie, LA by LFCA President Michael Labruzzo. Finally, I have had to get a running start on planning the 2019

LSFA Conference in securing a location and date. Although a shorter than normal window for planning the conference due to the large volume of bookings in hotels large enough to hold an organization as large as ours, I have been able to work on a proposal for a hotel site in New Orleans, LA. Many details to come in our future meetings.

Secretary:

As of last board meeting I have been actively working on LSFA Membership with many departments. As of 4/26/2017 we currently have 270 departments and 9,036 members registered with the LSFA. Of the 9,036 members there are 1,866 Life Members. I would like to thank all the board members for contacting their departments and assisting with membership.

Conference registration opened March 1, 2017 and it is going very well. To date, we currently have 125 members registered and 75 guests.

1st District:

Since the last Board meeting I have been forwarding email information received to 1st District department. I have had discussing with various departments concerning competitive drills and the upcoming 2017 Annual Conference. I have been working with departments that have not yet paid 2017 dues. I have been catching up on Life Memberships that I am behind on.

2nd District:

Since my appointment at the last board meeting I have really spent the last couple months learning what to do in this position. I have begun reaching out to the departments in the 2nd district to learn what days and times they meet so I can get out to them to visit and promote the LSFA. I have attended a Jefferson Parish President and Chiefs meeting that allowed me to meet the higher ups of most of the departments of Jefferson Parish. I have sent the Legislative bills from Butch to all the contacts I have for the 2nd district to get their input. I have also sent them and talked to some on the few Constitution changes that were sent to us from Secretary Dwayne and got some feedback from the 2nd District. In-between learning my new position and reaching out to the departments I have been busy assisting with the Online-conference registration and banquet seating as well as working on the LSFA APP. I have also been straighten out dues problems as Secretary Dwayne forwards them to me for the 2nd district. My goal between this meeting and the conference is to try to get some of the departments that are no longer in the LSFA in the 2nd district back into our membership as well as trying to get my district more involved in the LSFA.

3rd District:

I have made several fire chiefs meetings making reports on the association. I have sent out all information I received. Assisted several members with year of service years. Working on getting a new dept. as a member.

As Foodfest chairman I have been working to secure departments and vendors to provide food. I have 12 commitments at this time. Any other Dist Departments that would like to provide food, please contact me.

4th District:

Since our last meeting I have met with several departments within District #4. Including several training meetings, Fire Chief Association meetings, incidents and department meetings.

I also represented the LSFA and all departments from this great state in Washington, D.C @ the CFSI. I must say this was a great experience and I want to thank the LSFA for the opportunity.

I look forward to the upcoming conference and serving, not only District #4, but the entire fire service of the great State of Louisiana !!!

As always, Thank You for the dedicated service and God Bless!

5th District:

I have been working on the memberships from the 5th district by calling several departments and going to different fire departments trying to get memberships paid for 2017.

I have been to several of the Northeast Louisiana Fire Fighters Association meetings to encourage the fireman to join and also to inform them about the benefits that we have and things that we do as an association.

6th District:

No report submitted to the Secretary.

7th District:

Since our last meeting I have visited several departments in my district and attended several Parish Chiefs Meetings. Worked with multiple departments on getting dues paid and registering for conference. I have attended several Department Fundraisers and Cook-Offs. I have forwarded all information that I receive to my district members to which I have e-mail addresses for. Attended LSU FETI Commission Meetings as one of the LSFA Representatives, attended the Fire Service Legislative Night in Baton Rouge.

8th District:

I have been sending information on what is happening in Baton Rouge and the Bills that affect the fire service to members of my District. I have been encouraging many departments to attend the competitive drills in Frierson and the conference in Houma. I have contacted many departments that have not renewed their membership yet and contacted some departments to join. I attended a district meeting for the northern part of my district and encouraged them to continue supporting the LSFA and to join if they were not members yet. I provided them with information on the benefits available to members.

NVFC:

In December, the full NACOSH committee reviewed the Emergency Response document we worked on for the previous 16 months; the document was unanimously approved and has been sent to the OSHA Director for further action. Will keep you updated on any new developments.

Set up and attended a meeting with Butch, Dwayne (LSFA), Mike (LFCA), VFIS and Provident Insurance to discuss the feasibility of having insurance to protect volunteer firefighters who have been diagnosed with certain cancers, heart, and lung disease. This will be a presumptive coverage. HB 460 was drafted and introduced this session to clear up some language letting Butch purchase the coverage; the bill passed Tuesday unanimously and is being sent to the Senate. This is a joint project between the LSFA and LFCA.

I was unable to attend the spring NVFC meeting in Washington; not moving around as well as I used to. My committee, the Health, Safety and Training, completed four projects and have them available to use for departmental training. These are: Diabetes, Medicals for Firefighters, Safe Driving of Tankers/Tenders and Methods to Minimize Cancer. Our group has really done a great job of developing these programs. We have also been tasked with developing management classes for officers, especially Company Officers.

Also, I have participated in many conference calls with the NVFC and NFPA.