

Louisiana State Firemen's Association  
August 07, 2019  
Board Meeting Minutes

Board meeting called to order by Charles Hudson at 2:00 PM at Newsberry Room, New Orleans, Louisiana. Brian Lindberg led us in the opening prayer and Sergeant at Arms Bruce Brewer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Dwayne Thevis called roll call. The following members were present: SEE ATTACHED ROLL CALL SHEET.

President Charles Hudson introduced special guests in attendance at the meeting, Conference Coordinators Ryan Guidroz, Lonnie Taylor and Keith Bouvier, all from Westwego Fire Department. Mr, Guidroz reported that they were looking forward to a good conference and thanked everyone for their help in preparing for the conference.

Motion to accept minutes of April board meeting, which were emailed to the board, was presented by William Parker, second by Sonny Coffey. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report, which was emailed to the board, was presented by Mark Treadway, second by Sonny Coffey. Motion carried. Brian Lindberg questioned if the association had any C.D.'s. Treasurer Labruzzo reported that we did have some C.D.'s

Yearbook Coordinator Mike Labruzzo reported that the last years yearbook was complete and mailed out. Mike stated that it was a wise choice to go with a softcover yearbook, the savings were substantial.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:**

No Reports of special interest reported

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee Report:

2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature Acts Signed by the Governor:

Act 11 by Representative Berthelot-FDID Numbers:

Provides that a fire department in order to be official to possess a fire department identification number (FDID) issued by the State Fire Marshal. This will protect from unauthorized creations of departments through a non-profit status who attempt to circumvent official and authorized departments.

Act 267 by Senator Carter-Defines a Fire Employee:

Defines a fire employee for the purposes of investigations who is under investigations and possibly subject to discipline also include employees of non-profit corporations who are under contract with a fire protection district or political subdivision. This act only allows the due process of the investigation and in no way provides for civil service protection.

Act 122 by Senator Gatti- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):

This adds PTSD as the list of covered illness to fire personal compensated coverages.

Act 10 Line Item funding by Representative Berthelot- Volunteer Firefighter Tuition Reimbursement:

This funds \$250,000.00 into the Volunteer Firefighter Tuition Reimbursement program and will allow benefit of college tuition funding to active volunteer firefighters. The Committee is very excited to meet at the conference to map out future legislative activities on behalf of the LSFA.

PIAL Committee Report: Brett Doumitt thanked the board for allowing him the opportunity to serve on the PIAL Committee. Brett offered business cards to everyone and encouraged everyone to forward him concerns about PIAL. He stated that even though he has been sitting on PIAL Committee for over a year and has not given a report that from this point forward he would Secretary Thevis a report after each meeting. He stated that PIAL will now recognized battery operated rescue tools, H.O.T. Drill Training will be credited pending proper documentation. There is some discussion on training grounds getting credit that may not have been credited before due to some changes. Changes would include a 5-year lease on the property, all weather surfaces and bringing in mobile props. Kenn Fontenot questioned Brett on the 24/7 access to NFPA Standards and a complete library.

NVFC Report: Kenn Fontenot reported that as Saturday he will no longer be our NVFC State Director. He will remain on many of the NVFC Committees that he currently serves on. Many of these committees he can participate on via phone call. Charles Hudson thanked Kenn Fontenot for his many years of hard and dedication to the NVFC.

#### **OFFICERS REPORT:**

##### LSFA Presidents Report:

Since our last meeting I have been working on the 114<sup>th</sup> conference none stop. We have plan what we believe will be a very education conference by day and an enjoyable entertaining social events by night.

The Westwego VFD has been so supportive and working very hard to put this program together to meet the needs of the association and to meet the standards set forth by the Past Presidents.

I've attended several meeting that I was invited to and represented our association at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial, which was an honor bestowed upon me to address the gathering. You truly don't know the importance of this memorial until you've had a chance to visit it.

Respectfully,

Charles M. Hudson

LSFA President

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report:

To all Board Members:

I have been going to the Northeast Firefighters Association meetings in May, June, and July. Talking to the members about joining the LSFA and the upcoming conference this year and next year. I have moved my conference in 2020 from West Monroe to Marksville, La, due to unforeseen circumstances. The dates are still the same July 23-25, 2020. I have been working hard the past few months getting training classes scheduled as well as speakers for my

conference. I have enjoyed working with the board members this and I look forward to being president for this next year.

Joe Thompson

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President LSFA

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report:

LSFA Board and Membership

I have attended several fire department meetings and Fire Chiefs meetings. I have sent out many emails and information from the state. As exhibit coordinator for President Hudson I have been busy contacting vendors by emails, letters, faxes to attend the conference. I have answered many phone calls and emails answering question from vendors. Secretary Thevis and I have been contact almost daily. It has been a pleasure working with the vendors. I would like to thank all board members for help.

Sincerely,

Danny Mayet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

#### 1<sup>st</sup> District Report:

Since our last Board meeting, I have forwarded email information received to 1<sup>st</sup> District departments. I attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Plaquemines Parish Presidents' and Fire Chiefs' Association. I have been assisting 1<sup>st</sup> District departments with dues issues and email address issues. I have begun drafting the LSFA 2019-2020 proposed budget which will be presented to the Executive Board at the September 2019 Board meeting.

Melvin P. Kiff, LSFA 1<sup>st</sup> District Representative

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> District:

Since our last meeting, I have been visiting the departments in my area while promoting and spreading the word of the upcoming conference in New Orleans, La. I have been busy assisting Secretary Thevis and President Hudson with the Event Brite page for Online Conference Registration, Vendor Registration, and Bowling and Golf Registrations. I have attended multiple award banquets and installations of officers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Departments. I have shared any and all information to the departments and my district. I'm currently in talks with two departments to try and get them to join the LSFA. I attended the Hot Drills and want to thank President Hudson and his #Herewego crew and LSU FETI for putting on an awesome Hot Drills. Looking forward to a great conference.

Thank you

William Parker, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> District Report:

- As requested, I sent out all correspondence that I received from LSFA to the members of my District.
- I attended the following meetings: Terrebonne Fire Chiefs Association, Lafourche Parish Chiefs Association, & attended the Grosse Tete Volunteer Fire Department meeting in April.
- I have answered and returned phone calls to members that reached out to me by phone in a timely manner.

Respectfully,  
Michael C. DeLaune, LSFA 3rd. District Representative

4<sup>th</sup> District Report:

General membership and Executive board,

First, I want to say it is an honor and privilege being able to serve the Louisiana fire service! This opportunity of service has allowed me to take the passion I have for our great service and continue to make it progressive!

The 2018-2019 term:

Statewide:

I have attended majority of the LSFA board meetings, served on the LSU Feti Commision, served on the statewide EMS task force, represented Louisiana in Washington D.C. at the Congressional Fire Service Institute, and worked on several legislative needs for our states fire service. I have assisted departments with trainings, assisted departments with strategic planning, and made numerous charitable events etc.

4th District: (local district)

I have assisted 4th district departments with getting membership needs taken care of, answering questions pertaining to benefits that our association offers, delivering life-time memberships, attending funerals, attending departmental board meetings, departmental trainings, attending Fire Chief's meetings etc. I look forward to serving on the LSFA Executive Board representing the 4th District and the entire states fire service for the 2019-2020 term. I want to thank each and every one of you for your endless dedication and service, the men and women of this great states fire service are truly a blessing and make me proud that I can serve along side of them.

Respectfully, Brian S. Lindberg

5<sup>th</sup> District Report:

As 5<sup>th</sup> District Representative I have attended meetings of the Northeast Firefighters Association, several Parish Association meetings, including Fire Chief Association meetings throughout the District. I have forward emails from the LSFA to fire departments and Chief's within the 5<sup>th</sup> District. I have made several contacts with other Fire Chief via phone calls and emails, met with several Fire Chiefs!! I spoke with members of the Northeast Firemen's Association around the 5<sup>th</sup> District in reference to the upcoming 114<sup>th</sup> Annual LSFA Conference in New Orleans. I have participated in the conference calls requested by the LA State Fire Marshall Butch Browning.

Mark Treadway, LSFA 5<sup>th</sup> District Representative

6<sup>th</sup> District Report:

Since our last board meeting, I have made several departmental meetings throughout my area promoting the benefits of our association. Since our last conference, I have launched a newsletter, The District, which have received many positive reviews. This will allow me to reach out and touch more departments in my area. We help add new LSFA decals to the spirit of Louisiana to allow this organization to shine, as it should. Over the last several months have attended meeting at the State Fire Marshal's Office, one of promoting use of Sprinkler Systems

, attended the Louisiana State Fireman's Memorial, there we remembered our fallen brothers and sisters, at this particular Memorial I listen to Keynote speaker, Chief Caterer not only did he speak about fire service but how in these time we need to lean on the lord, I also had opportunity to travel to D.C. (Congressional Fire Services) there representing our organization in order to secure funding for all fire department state wide not just LSFA members but nonmembers as well, LSFA stand for all, Please during this conference stop me, lets shake hands, exchange numbers, Email address, let's sow a seed of greatness back to our LSFA organization.  
Thanks, Tim Crockett, 6th District Representative

#### 7<sup>th</sup> District Report:

Since the last board meeting, I have forwarded emails regarding the LSFA to the 7th district. I have also been to a few meetings in the 7th district that include Vermillion, St. Martin, Richard, and Henry. I have also handed out life membership certificates and pins. I attended the Delcambre fire department benefit with other board members as a judge for the cook off. I reached out to several of the departments that were in the path of Tropical Storm Barry to check on them and to see if they needed anything.  
Thank you, Sonny Coffey, District 7 Representative

#### 8<sup>th</sup> District Report:

During this past quarter, I forwarded e-mails I received to contacts I have in District 8. I have helped some departments with membership renewal and conference registration. I was asked along with several other board members to help judge a shrimp cook off in Delcambre last June. I presented some lifetime membership awards. I have been working with 1st Vice-President, Joe Thompson, on his conference as vendor coordinator and any other way I can help.  
Thank you, Bob White, District 8 Representative

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

2019 Conference Report: Charles Hudson reported that for food fest on Friday night there will be 15 fire departments cooking. Also, a D.J. will be provided and Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser will speak during for food fest. He thanked Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser for providing some of the seafood for food fest. Charles reported that we have many awards this year to handed out at the banquet, Legislative Awards, Firefighter of The Year and two Medal of Valor Awards. There are 67 vendor booths inside and 18 apparatus outside. He encouraged everyone to please visit the vendors as they are the very important to all of our conferences. Charles reported as of this afternoon registration was at 560, and his contract was for 800. The hotel is working very close with us to make the room blocks. Kenn Fontenot encouraged not to become frustrated and offered some words of encouragement. Charles stated that there would be four hospitality homes on the second floor, they are Grenta/Harvey, West Baton Rouge, Lafourche Parish and Westwego.

2019 Exhibit Chairman Report: Danny Mayet reported that vendors were setting up and it looks like we will have a very good vendor showing.

Dues increase update: Bob White discussed the possibility of increasing dues for the organization. His plan was to increase dues from \$6.00 to \$10.00, then increase by \$1.00 or \$2.00 for the next 10 years. He stated that he belongs to a retirement association and pays \$18.00 per year for membership and has no benefits. Dwayne mentioned that he had meet VFIS earlier in the week and they the LSFA A \$10,000 LODD policy for \$4.00 per member per year. Charlie Metcalf responded and stated if we raised dues, we could possibly fund that as organization. Mike suggested that increase the death benefit might would be a good selling point to increase dues. Bob stated that he emailed members within his district to get their opinion on increasing dues and only got three responses back. Bob stated that we should follow our mission statement and provide more training to our members. Kenn Fontenot suggested that some vendors may be interested in hosting training and we should approach them and ask. Brian Lindberg suggested that maybe would should training from other organizations rather than relying on LSU FETI. Brian also suggested that maybe we should start offering other training such as Officer Classes, EMT, EMR, etc. and not just basic firefighting classes.

Competitive Drill Poll Taken: William Parker discussed the recent poll taken by the Training Committee on keeping the tradition of the Jason Simon Competitive Drill or switching the event to H.O.T Drills. The poll taken was **unanimous** to switch to H.O.T Drills. Results were 163 to switch to H.O.T. Drills, 32 to change to something similar to Scott Combat Challenge and 3 to keep it the same. Motion by Melvin Kiff to keep the name of H.O.T. Drills in memory of Jason Simon, second by Bob White. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Fallen Firefighter Memorial Board: Dwayne Thevis stated that he had some concerns has to who sits on the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Board. The concerns arouse when a name added to the wall this year may not have been a L.O.D.D. by standard. After some discussion it was decided that we would talk to V.J. Bella and voice our concerns. Donald Bock stated that LFCA donates \$1,000 per year for the memorial and should have representation, also. Brian Lindberg stated that all three state fire organizations should be represented on this board.

Vendor Reimbursement: Charles Hudson questioned the vendors that wanted reimbursement. Dwayne stated to date there was three vendors asking for reimbursement, but only vendor was outside the seven days dues to cancel. William stated that our Eventbrite registration has a policy that cancellation within seven days is non-refundable. This may cause some conflict due to the fact that our mail-in registration has no cancellation policy. Judge Cascio stated that if that is the online registration policy then that is it. He also stated that would should consider doing something similar with out mail out to vendors. Motion by Mike Labruzzo to refund the vendor that cancelled outside the seven days, and the other two that were within the seven days not to refund. Second by Brian Lindberg, motion carried. William Parker made a motion to include a seven day no refund cancellation policy to our mail out to vendors, second by Mark Treadway. Motion carried.

Lynda Vince CISM Memorial Fund: Dwayne discussed a meeting he had at Special Risk Insurance with David, Brandon and Keith about establishing a memorial fund in Lynda Vince's name. Special Risk Insurance liked to idea very much and agreed to sponsor CISM Training. Special Risk Insurance agreed to donate \$5,000.00 a year to sponsor two classes each. Mike was asked to add a line item for incoming funds for the memorial fund, instead of adding a new account. Charlie Metcalf suggested name the fund Lynda Vince Memorial Fund for Mental Health, this way all aspect of mental health would be covered. Motion was made by Tim Crockett to create the memorial fund in honor of Lynda Vince, second by William Parker. Motion carried.

Members not in good standing attending conference: Dwayne stated that some members seem to think they can attend conference if their department dues have not been paid and only seem to want to pay dues when they want to attend a conference. Mike stated that we should follow our By-Laws and that member should pay dues in a timely matter.

Association Challenge Coin: Charlie Metcalf discussed the possibility of the association purchasing challenge coins to sell. Charlie stated that he thought one side of the coin would be our logo and the other side the Spirit of Louisiana. Mike stated that he would like to see our seal on one side of the coin. Charlie reported that funds raised go towards the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial to add the 42 names which are not on the prior to 1982. Tim Crockett said the raffle he was doing this weekend was that reason and those funds raised could be used to pay for the coins. Mike Labruzzo suggested that Charlie discuss this issue at the general membership meeting on Saturday.

Building Donation to House the Spirit of Louisiana: Dwayne stated that he was contacted by Michael Cammarosano in reference to a donation that the LSFA had committed to for a building to put the Spirit of Louisiana. After some research it was discovered that in April of 2012 Gerald Dellucky made a motion to donate \$3,000.00 to this cause. Motion carried. After some discussion Mike felt certain at one point it was budgeted, but had never been paid. Mike agreed to research this issue and report back to the board.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Bruce Brewer thank the board and Charlie Metcalf for all the prayers and thoughtful actions that were done recently with his mom passing. He stated that the LSFA is one big family and he was deeply touched with the board's actions.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Past President luncheon has been moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Next board meeting will be held in Marksville, La. Saturday, September 10, 2019 at the Paragon Casino. Meeting room location will be announced later.

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Brian Lindberg led us in the closing prayer.

Motion to Adjourn meeting was made by Mark Treadway. Meeting adjourned at 4:38 PM.

**Louisiana State Firemen's Association Roll Call**

**Board Meeting**

**New Orleans, La.**

**August 10, 2019**

Board Member	Present	Absent	Excused
President Charles Hudson	X		
1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. Joe Thompson	X		
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. Danny Mayet	X		
Immediate Past Pres. Charlie Metcalf	X		
Secretary Dwayne Thevis	X		
Treasurer Mike Labruzzo	X		
1 <sup>st</sup> District Representative Melvin Kiff	X		
2 <sup>nd</sup> District Representative William Parker	X		
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Representative Mike DeLaune	X		
4 <sup>th</sup> District Representative Brian Lindberg	X		
5 <sup>th</sup> District Representative Mark Treadway	X		
6 <sup>th</sup> District Representative Tim Crockett	X		
7 <sup>th</sup> District Representative Sonny Coffey	X		
8 <sup>th</sup> District Representative Bob White	X		
Sergeant of Arms Bruce Brewer	X		
N.V.F.C. Chairman Kenn Fontenot	X		
Parliamentarian Donald Bock	X		
Chaplain Father John Talamo			X
Counselor Roy Cascio	X		
Government and Public Affairs Chairman Butch Browning			X