



# **Louisiana State Firemen's Association**

**LSFA 01/28/2017 Board Meeting Minutes and District Reports**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 2100 hours**

**Louisiana State Firemen's Association**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 28, 2017**  
**LSU FETI Campus Classroom # 1**

Board Meeting was called to order at 12:32 PM. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Charlie Metcalf led us in the opening prayer. President Chris Boudreaux recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Dwayne Thevis made roll call and the following board members and appointed officers were in attendance and 3 members were excused.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Excused
President Chris Boudreaux	X		
1 <sup>st</sup> Charlie Metcalf	X		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Robby Smith		X	
Immediate Past Pres. Richard Parker, Jr.	X		
Secretary Dwayne Thevis	X		
Treasurer Mike Labruzzo	X		
1 <sup>st</sup> District Representative Melvin Kiff			X
2 <sup>nd</sup> District Representative Charles Hudson	X		
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Representative Danny Mayet	X		
4 <sup>th</sup> District Representative Brian Lindberg	X		
5 <sup>th</sup> District Representative Joe Thompson	X		
6 <sup>th</sup> District Representative Tim Crockett	X		
7 <sup>th</sup> District Representative Brian Castille	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		

Reasons for excused absent:

Melvin Kiff – Fire Department Banquet

Bruce Brewer – Family matters out of state

Kenn Fontenot – N.F.V.C. Meeting in D.C.

President Chris Boudreaux introduced guests that were in attendance. They were William Parker, Harvey Volunteer Fire Company # 2

Jarrold Naquin, Lafourche Crossing 308 VFD and 112<sup>th</sup> Conference Coordinator  
Russell DiSalvo, Coteau Fire Department and assisting with Vendor Registration  
Lee Cahanin, LSFA Past President  
Keith Davidson, Representative for VFIS Insurance

Motion to accept Secretary Dwayne Thevis' minutes as emailed with corrections was made by Immediate Past President Richard Parker, Jr. and second by Joe Thompson. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Treasurer Michael Labruzzo's report as emailed was made by Bob White, second by Richard Parker, Jr. Motion carried. (Treasurer's Report attached)

Michael Labruzzo reported on status of the yearbook. The yearbook is in the final stage and awaiting a proof to approve. District Representative and member departments need to purchase ads in the yearbook, if we are to continue producing hardcover yearbooks. Michael reported funds collected this year with ads were barely sufficient to cover the cost.

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:**

State Fire Marshall Butch Browning gave his report at the joint meeting between LFCA and LSFA. He discussed some possible legislative cuts and the possibility of the Louisiana Fire Service entering into a joint venture for a Legislative Night Out. The cost of the night out could possibly be covered by Fire Service Companies. He mentioned the national focus on new types of building construction. Butch discussed Health Care Benefits for volunteer firefighters as well as career. He reported that there will be a special legislative session this year. He reported on the status of EMS Director for state and some of the issues that are arising.

LSU FETI Director Dave Casey also gave his report at joint meeting with LFCA and LSFA. He reported that another Leadership Conference will be held at LSU-E Campus ON May 16 – 18, 2017. Dave reported that he has received \$1 million in AFG Grants for new training equipment, props and PPE. The new online Firefighter 1 program seems to be doing well. Several local departments have used it and seem to like it. He also reported that on 1/23/2017 Steve Gervais retired his position at LSU-FETI.

President Chad Majors of the Professional Fire Fighters Association discussed their upcoming legislation to add two new types of cancer to the current policy, testicular and prostate. He also discussed First Net selling off some of the D-Block to the consumer network. He said that he would e-mail a letter to the LFCA and LSFA Presidents in reference to non-support of this matter and suggested that we send letters to the appropriate person(s).

LSFA President Chris Boudreaux suggested that LFCA and LSFA boards meet at least once a year to discuss the top 10 legislative objectives for the year. LFCA President Michael Labruzzo agreed that both organizations should meet for this discussion topic. Michael also discussed legislation for a constitutional amendment for spouses of volunteers who have been killed in the line of duty to be exempt from paying property tax.

Boyd Petty with Louisiana Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial discussed the upcoming memorial service to be held on April 8, 2017. He asked for all departments to bring their department banner. He discussed the addition of a building to house the Spirit of Louisiana. The building would cost approximately \$270,000.00 and will announce the fundraising efforts at the memorial service. He thanked Michael Cammarosano for raising \$25,000 to start the building fund.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Governmental Affairs Chairman Butch Browning: Discussed the possibility of a joint legislative night out. The legislative night out will be held on May 9, 2017. Motion made by

Michael Labruzzo for the LSFA to spend up to \$1,000 on this venture instead of having a legislative breakfast and second by Joe Thompson. Motion carried.

Dwayne Thevis reported that a meeting was held at the office of OSFM on January 10, 2017 to discuss insurance issues for the volunteer firefighters. Present at the meeting was Kenn Fontenot, Michael Labruzzo and Butch Browning. We met with Provident Insurance and VFIS Insurance. They were asked to draft and provide quotes for different types of policies.

Competitive Drills Chairman Charlie Metcalf reported that drills will be held April 29, 2017 at DeSoto Fire District 9, 258 Stonewall Frierson, Frierson, Louisiana, 71027. Hotel accommodations are set up at the Comfort Inn, Burt Koon's Loop, Shreveport, Louisiana.

### **OFFICERS REPORT:**

Officers reports were submitted by email, please see attached.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Richard Parker, Jr. reported that all business related to the 2016 LSFA conference has been closed and balanced.

President Chris Boudreaux reported that all arrangements at the Houma Civic Center and the training schedule for the conference have been completed. The Past Presidents' luncheon will be held at the Houma Civic Center. He announced that registration for the conference will open March 1, 2017 at 8:00 AM on Eventbrite. Chris informed board members that it will be their responsibility to hand out packets for departments in their districts that have pre-registered and pre-paid.

William Parker informed the board that he is working on the APP for this year's LSFA conference. It will be up and running before conference. He also updated the LSFA Facebook page. The official Facebook page is titled "page", not "group".

Discussion to pay parking fees for the 2016 LSFA conference for 4<sup>th</sup> District Rep Brian Lindberg of \$196.00. Motion was made by Bob White and second by Joe Thompson. Motion carried.

During discussion of the surplus equipment in the LSFA trailer Michael Labruzzo made a motion to allow Dwayne to discard items deemed trash and maintain other items in trailer. Second by Charles Hudson. Motion carried.

Dues increase was discussed and it was decided by the board members not to pursue this issue any further.

Chris Boudreaux mentioned the fact that the LSFA owns an older fire truck that was donated by St. Landry Fire District # 3 sometime ago and inquired on the status. Dwayne Thevis reported that the truck was in Brusly. Tim Crockett offered check into details of truck and report back to the board.

Keith Davidson with VFIS Insurance updated on our policy and made several suggestions to board members. He advised him that they would take all suggestions under advisement and report back to him.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

There will be Legislative Reception at the Hilton Downtown, Baton Rouge, La. the evening of April 11, 2017. Motion made Michael Labruzzo for the LSFA support this event, and second by Brian Lindberg. Motion carried.

Secretary Dwayne Thevis advised the board that a Mr. Clarence Polk with St. George Fire Department contacted him inquiring about special recognition for a member in good standing with 50 years of service in the LSFA recognized at the annual banquet. After the discussing the

issue it was decided that all members of the LSFA with 50 plus years of service will be asked to stand and be recognized at the annual banquet each year.

Michael Labruzzo discussed the issues of dealing with First Net and made a motion for the LSFA President write a letter of concern to all parties involved. Motion was second by Bob White. Motion carried.

The board discussed approaching legislation on a constitutional amendment on providing same tax exemption as career firefighters to volunteer firefighters. Motion was made by Michael Labruzzo to pursue the issue and second by Danny Mayet. Motion carried.

A law requiring a two (2) year exclusion from hiring a member of a board of commission to your local fire department was discussed. It was a general agreement that we were losing many good firefighters due to this law. Michael Labruzzo made a motion for legislation to remove the fire service from this law, second by Richard Parker, Jr.

President Chris Boudreaux stated that he received an e-mail from 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Robbie Smith of resignation from the board. Motion to move Charles Hudson, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President was made by Michael Labruzzo and second by Richard Parker, Jr. Motion carried. President Chris Boudreaux appointed William Parker to fill the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative seat until annual meeting. William was appointed due to fact that he had already stated his intentions of running for the seat in July.

Congressional Fire Service will be held on April 5 – 7, 2017 in Washington, D.C. The LSFA normally sends a delegation of four (4) people to this event. Motion was made by Charles Hudson for the following people to attend;

Charlie Metcalf, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Charles Hudson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Brian Lindberg, 4<sup>th</sup> District Representative

Richard Parker, Jr., Immediate Past President

Second by Joe Thompson, motion carried.

The board discussed some of the issues with LSU-FETI not providing classes, problems with certifications and other issues. The secretary was directed to provide a copy of the legislation that established the board of commission for LSU-FETI for the board to review before next meeting.

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

The board asked Treasurer Michael Labruzzo to please provide all board members with a current expense report form.

### **ANNOUNCMENTS:**

Next board meeting will be held at DeSoto Fire District # 9 in Frierson, La. after the Jason Simon Competitive Drills.

4<sup>th</sup> District Brian Lindberg led us in the closing prayer.  
Motion to adjourn by Michael Labruzzo at 4:31 PM

President Chris Boudreaux

Secretary Dwayne Thevis

## January 2017 District Representative Reports

In the time since we last met, I have been working on the 2018 LSFA Conference to be held at the Shreveport Convention Center. I have also attended meeting that I have been appointed to with the exception of the last LSU FETI Commission meeting due to sickness. The 2018 Jason Simone Competitive Drills will be held April 29, at DeSoto Fire District 9. Registration has been mailed out by Secretary Thevis for the drills.

Charlie Metcalf

LSFA 1st Vice President

LSFA 1st District Representative Report

Since the last Board meeting I have not have much going on. I assisted a 1st District department with the procedure for updating the department's roster. I forwarded all fire service email correspondence I received to all 1st District departments

Melvin Kiff

LSFA 1st District Representative

### DISTRICT 2 REPORT

LSFA 2nd District departments,

Today, we were notified of the immediate resignation of 2nd Vice President Robby Smith. President Boudreaux and the board have approved my appointment to 2nd Vice President as of this evening. President Boudreaux has also appointed our district representative position with William Parker to fill the vacancy immediately. Willie has previously made his intentions known that he was interested in running for this position upon me moving up. Willie has been very active in the association serving on several committees and handling all our IT work. Please welcome Willie aboard and work with him, as he completes this term.

Thanks

C. Hudson

LSFA 2nd Vice President

### DISTRICT 3 REPORT

President Boudreaux,

Since our last meeting I have attended several Dept. Banquets in my District and have also attended Chiefs meetings. I have sent out emails received for state.

I have also worked to assist the LSFA conference in Houma.

Danny Mayet, Dist.3 Rep.

### DISTRICT 5 REPORT

Since our last meeting I have help with uniforms at the LSU pine country. I met with several departments. Told them about the benefits of our organization. I have gone to several northeast firemans association meetings. I hope to get more of the small rural departments to join.

Joe Thompson

5th district rep.

#### DISTRICT 6 REPORT

I have been looking at state rosters of Volunteers as well as the LSFA roster, My goal is to reach out to departments that are not in the LSFA to help improve our membership quota. I fell that there are a lot of Departments that are not aware of what the LSFA has to offer. I will continue to move In this direction through out the first half of this year.

I will also continue to make rounds and visit Departments in my area.

Thanks

Tim Crockett, 6<sup>th</sup> District

#### DISTRICT 7 REPORT

I have been working on getting everything in line for our conference in Houma for July. I have worked with Dwayne on items that have come up in the last couple of months. I have worked with members and departments that have called with questions and helped them with questions. I have talked with AMBA on more benefits that the members could get from them. Worked with Butch on appointment of a person to a committee.

Brian Castille 7th District

#### DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Since our last meeting many interesting things have happened with me. I was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus, November 8 they remove most of my esophagus and the cancer. At this time I am cancer free thanks to your many prayers. THANK YOU

Since our last Meeting

I was able to continue to perform my duties and forwarded E-Mails and other information to my District. I contacted several departments to promote and ask them to buy ads in the yearbook.

I have had several departments ask many questions about the new rating system,

Especially Training Credit and Certification credit.

Bob White District 8