

LSFA Board Meeting
September 7, 2019
Chiqui Ball Room, Paragon Casino,
Marksville, La.

Meeting called to order by President Joseph W. Thompson at 9:13 AM. Brian Lindberg led the opening prayer. Sergeant at Arms Bruce Brewer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Dwayne Thevis called roll. See Attached Roll Call Sheet.

Guest Speakers:

David Coco with LSU-FETI- Spoke of classes being offered such as a Fire Apparatus Extrication class in Winnsboro scheduled for October 18th and 19th. There will be a lecture on Friday night and Saturday is scheduled to be the practical with 6 fire trucks available for the class.

Chief Flower spoke of the Company officer Conference recently hosted in Alexandria, La. He stated the it was well attended with approximately 120 firefighters from around the state in attendance. Completed HOT Drills in New Orleans and looking to increase participant numbers.

Reading of minutes by Secretary Dwayne Thevis. Minutes of the last meeting were emailed. Motion to accept minutes by Brian Lindberg, Second by Danny Mayet. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report by Michael Labruzzo. Report was emailed. Motion to accept treasurer report by William Parker, Second by Mark Treadway. Motion carried.

Yearbook Report by Coordinator Michael Labruzzo. Michael stated that the due date for the yearbook entries is September 30th and by the latest November 1st. It will be a soft cover yearbook. He requested the board encourage their districts to participate by placing ads and submitting pictures. Motion to accept report made by Charles Hudson, Second by Bob White.

There were no reports of Special Interest.

Committee Reports:

Benefits Committee: Met to discuss a fundraising event and will discuss in New Business.

Legislative Committee: Butch Browning. 2% increase... Firefighter License plates... Ethics laws in Volunteer Firefighters... trying to get the date of the legislative breakfast set. Fire Marshall's office has a GoFundMe account set up for the building to house The Spirit of Louisiana. FM office pushing for the public to make donations by placing it on social media in an attempt to raise \$200,000 this week. The memorial date is set for March 28, 2020 at 11:00 AM. NFPA Summit is scheduled for March 27, 2020.

Officers Reports:

All emailed to Secretary. Secretary Dwayne Thevis announced that he has the updated letterhead and will transfer data to District Representative's thumb drives if they brought them to the meeting. Treasurer Michael Labruzzo stated that he has District Rep pins and for the District Reps to get with him after the meeting.

President Report: I have attended 1 Northeast Firefighters Association meeting since the past conference. Meeting with everyone and discussing the upcoming 2020 LSFA Conference to be held in Marksville. I have been meeting with several different company reps. On sponsorship and donations for my conference to get prepared for donations at first of the year. My department members are steady doing fundraisers to help support me.

Sincerely,

Joe Thompson, PRESIDENT

1st Vice President Report: Since the past conference I have attended 2 dept. meeting. I had a very successful fund raiser (shrimp boil) and a football pool. I continue to select my different conference committee chairman. The ladies' program is being worked on and completed. I have begun working on the program book, outlining times for various events.

Again, thanks for everyone's help.

Daniel A. Mayet

LSFA 1st Vice President

2nd Vice President Report: I want to thank Charles Hudson for his Leadership as President this past year and for a Great Conference. Your Dedication to This organization truly was shown. Since our last meeting at the Conference in New Orleans I have been working with President Joe Thompson with the conference next year as Vendor coordinator. I have worked with President Joe and Donald Milligan to help arrange the meeting in Marksville. I have worked with my conference coordinator Donald Milligan, we have signed some contracts with the casino and working on other programs. I have been in contact with departments that want to join LSFA and given them information needed, Donald and I will be working with them. I am excited about being your 2nd Vice President, I have enjoyed meeting many members of District 8. I will always be available to District 8 members and looking forward to meeting and helping anyone in the LSFA. I am here for you. Many Blessings to you.

Thank You, Bob White

2nd Vice President

First District Report: Since our last Board meeting I have forwarded a few emails to 1st District departments. I reached out to two 1st District departments concerning Conference register reimbursements. I have prepared the 2019-2020 LSFA Proposed Budget for consideration at the September 7, 2019 Board meeting.

Melvin P. Kiff

Second District Report: Nothing to report at this time!

2nd District Representative William Parker

Third District Report: Since our last Board meeting of August 7, 2019, I have forwarded the email to 3rd. District Departments in reference to the survey. I assisted 1st. Vice President Danny Mayet on his fund raiser dated Friday August 16th, delivering plate lunches in the surrounding areas.

Respectfully, Mike Delaune

3rd. District Representative

Fourth District Report: Nothing to report at this time!

Respectfully, Brian S. Lindberg

Fifth District Report: At this time there isn't anything to report from the 5th District!

I was unable to attend the Northeast Firefighter Association due to illness!! I have spoken to a few Chiefs about the 2020 conference!

Respectfully, Mark Treadway

LSFA 5th District

Sixth District Report: Since our last board meeting, I have attended departmental meetings and distributed Life membership certificates. I also attended the annual Delcambre Water fights hosted by the Delcambre Volunteer Fire Department. I will be looking to bring this example of revelry back to my parish and host a Lobdell Volunteer Fire Department Water Fight to bring some fun to a job that can be mentally taxing. I continue to work with State representative Edmond Jordan on issues that plague the Fire service.

Thanks, Tim Crockett

6th District Representative

Seventh District Report: President Thompson and Fellow Board Members, I have nothing to report at this time.

Respectfully, Sonny Coffey
LSFA District 7 Representative

Old Business:

2019 Conference: Charles Hudson thanked everyone who helped in his conference. He stated that the total bill for the conference was \$95,874.35. Rooms 14400.00...Food 78156.00...parking... He reported that the quota was not achieved and the penalty for the rooms is \$22,890.00... food \$22315.87...for a total of \$46,124.87.00. There is a \$6,000.00 credit/rebate with the pending bill total being \$40,099.87. He stated that he and Treasurer Michael Labruzzo met with the hotel to negotiate and work to reduce the penalties. The hotel wanted a guarantee of future conferences to be held there and that was not possible to agree to. Secretary Dwayne Thevis reported that there is still approximately \$8,000.00 in PayPal which is expected to be released very soon. Charles stated that he still has 6 to 8 thousand dollars available in his conference account.

2020 Conference: Joseph Thompson reported that he is raising money and getting instructors through VFIS. A meeting was held last night to iron out details of the Ladies Program.

2021 Conference: Danny Mayet reported that they are progressing well. He stated that he has 3 hotels booked and under contract. He has contracts with The Crown Plaza, Holiday Inn and the Embassy Suites. He is working with his chair people and working on training classes. Ken Himel is in charge of training. He stated he would like to do HOT drills on Wednesday and Thursday mornings with LSU. Danny reported that he is working on Fundraisers and has already hosted a shrimp boil and Football pool. He is working on the program and needs to fill in the locations of meetings and names of trainers and such.

Association Challenge Coin project: No report. Dwayne said he has the seal but it is not digitized. Mike stated that the 100 year commemorative coin has the seal on it.

MDA: Mike Delaune reported for Chris Boudreaux, MDA chair. He stated that a check was mailed to MDA in the amount of \$2,253.00 from the ½ and ½ raffle at the conference.

New Business:

Reading of Annual Report: William Parker asked if the reports had to be read aloud at the annual board meeting. Secretary Dwayne Thevis stated that there is nothing in the guidelines that states it must be read aloud. Treasurer Michael Labruzzo agreed and stated that if the reports are posted on the web site for everyone to read, it should not be necessary. Bob White, 2nd VP, added that if the Board Member wants to and has something he would like to talk about, he should be able to. Motion made to suspend reading of the Board Reports at the annual meeting made by Mark Treadway, Second by Melvin Kiff. Motion carried.

Lynda Vince Memorial Fund: the CISM Committee is in place and they discussed the fund covering the cost of 2 classes per year with 10 people attending a class. Dwayne Thevis stated that it would be a first come first served type of registration in that the 1st 10 people to register would have the tuition of the class covered.

Doodle Poll for Conference: Secretary Dwayne Thevis reported that the Doodle poll results were as follows: The conference was 300 people short in attendance. Only 55 people responded who have previously attended conference and 5 or 6 people responded who had never attended conference before. 40% said it was the cost of attending conference in New Orleans; 20% said it was due to the choice of instructors; 20% said none of the above; 10% said it was because of the starting of school date. Dwayne stated that the majority of the individuals who did not come to conference in New Orleans who usually do go to conference were from the 3rd and 7th district. Mike suggested sending out a letter to those departments to see if they would respond and say what the problem was for them not to attend when they normally would. Dwayne stated that he thought it could be done and he would try. Donald Milligan, District 8 Rep., reported that in Avoyelles Parish, the factor was the date and the cost of

attending conference that kept his people from attending. Donald Bock stated that conference used to be held on the first weekend in August but that was when school didn't start until after Labor Day. There was a discussion held about whether it was time to talk about changing the date of conference to July or even to the middle of June. Mike stated that the dates for conference are not in the bylaws and that the span of time proposed would give 6 weeks to schedule in. Butch stated that often people have to choose between several conferences to attend and that the LSFA might need to look at 4 locations in the state to host conference in and this may guarantee better pricing and negotiations. Danny Mayet spoke of looking into an insurance policy to protect the LSFA from such great losses in the future such as if a hurricane forces cancellation. Dwayne asked Danny to check into pricing and to check with caps of different dollar amounts that would be covered. Willie suggested if the conference would rotate that it not be every 4 years at a certain location but maybe a guarantee that it would take place in a location twice in a 10 year period and that would give some flexibility to the then President to have it in a location that is convenient to him. Butch stated that some organizations have done away with the banquet as a way of saving money.

Dress Code at Conference: Secretary Dwayne Thevis stated that he had been approached at conference and spoken to since conference regarding several issues. Issues brought up were: red and white name badges, polo shirts without name/ position on it, wearing of a maroon past president shirt color on Saturday by a board member who is not a past president, a board member removing his jacket at the head table at the banquet and why board members were wearing Class A uniforms and not the designated LSFA uniform for board members. There was some discussion with Dwayne, Melvin, Bob, Bruce and Mike stating that it had been voted on by the membership to wear the blue blazer at any LSFA function with an exception being attending Congressional. Willie stated that it had been voted on but it was shot down and was an all or nothing issue. Brian stated that his membership wants him to wear his class A and that he feels he is representing his district when he does. Dwayne stated that he would research the minutes and inform the group. No further discussion on this topic at this time.

2019-2020 Budget: Melvin Kiff reported that there is a deficit of \$29,000.00. Melvin stated that this number does not reflect the \$3,000.00 pledged to the building for The Spirit. Michael Labruzzo reported membership dues of \$56,700.00. There was some discussion of hiring a marketing firm to be paid on a percentage of funds raised, which was the discussion regarding the Benefits and Fundraising Committee meeting. Fire Marshall Butch Browning spoke of the benefits seen by the Chiefs and the Fire Marshalls regarding what a marketing firm can do for an organization. There was talk of a donation tier for conference and organizing the exhibits according to the support given. There are several firms being considered. Motion made by William Parker for the committee to choose one prior to the next meeting scheduled and to poll the board for final approval via email, Second by Danny Mayet. Motion Carried. Treasurer Michael Labruzzo stated there is money which was a designated amount and not all used which could be directed to balance the budget. Motion was made by William to use reserve funds from checking in the amount of \$8,457.00 in order to balance, Second by Brian Lindberg.

Walk of Honor Foundation Board Appointment: Dwayne Thevis stated that V.J. Bella would like to know who will be appointed to serve on the board from the LSFA. William Parker nominated Dwayne since he is involved with the Foundation, Second by Mike. Motion carried.

Benefits and Fund-Raising Committee Report: Dwayne spoke on the possibility of hiring a marketing firm to help with fund raising and to not raise dues if this would work. There was some discussion of hiring a marketing firm to be paid on a percentage of funds raised, which was the discussion regarding the Benefits and Fundraising Committee meeting. Fire Marshall Butch Browning spoke of the benefits seen by the Chiefs and the Fire Marshalls regarding what a marketing firm can do for an organization. Dwayne stated that he and Butch have been consulting with a couple of firms. There was talk of a donation tier for conference and organizing the exhibits according to the support given. The firms asked that the committee provide some type of guideline for fund-raising. Dwayne proposed

the following after a committee meeting on Friday evening. **Platinum Sponsorship \$20,000.00**

Donation: Four booth spaces, 6 rolling stock slots, 6 Golf Hole Sponsorships, 6 Bowling Lane Sponsorships, Sponsorship Recognition at Annual H.O.T. Drills, Sponsorship Table at the Annual Banquet and three (3) free Motel rooms for three (3) nights at the conference. **Diamond Sponsorship \$15,000.00**

Donation: Three booth spaces, 4 rolling stock slots, 4 Golf Hole Sponsorships, 4 Bowling Lane Sponsorships, Sponsorship Recognition at Annual H.O.T. Drills, Sponsorship Table at the Annual Banquet and two (2) free Motel rooms for two (2) nights at the conference.

Gold Sponsorship \$10,000.00 Donation: Two booth spaces, 3 rolling stock slots, 3 Golf Hole Sponsorships, 3 Bowling Lane Sponsorships, Sponsorship Table at the Annual Banquet.

Silver Sponsorship \$7,500.00 Donation: Two booth spaces, 3 rolling stock slots, 2 Golf Hole Sponsorships, 2 Bowling Lane Sponsorships, Sponsorship Table at the Annual Banquet.

Bronze Sponsorship \$5,000.00 Donation: Two booth spaces, 2 rolling stock slots, 1 Golf Hole Sponsorships, 1 Bowling Lane Sponsorships, Sponsorship Table at the Annual Banquet.

Brass Sponsorship \$2,500.00 Donation: One booth space, one rolling stock slots, 1 Golf Hole Sponsorships, 1 Bowling Lane Sponsorships.

After some discussion on the matter it was moved that the Benefits and Fund-Raising Committee proceed with this endeavor and report back to the LSFA Board with findings via email, before signing contract with any vendor. Upon Board Members approval, the committee could then proceed with contracting a marketing firm. Motion by William Parker, seconded by Danny Mayet. Motion carried.

Committee Appointments: President Joe Thompson announced the formation of a new committee; the Photograph Committee. He appointed Chris Mickal and John Vollenwieder to the committee.

Good to the Order: Dwayne read a thank you card from the family of Lynda Vince to the board members who donated to send a plant to the funeral home. He read a note from Lt. Gov. B. Nungesser thanking Charles Hudson for inviting him to speak at the Convention.

Melvin spoke of the commitment to the donation of \$3,000.00 to the building fund for the Spirit of Louisiana that was made several years ago and never completed. Mike made a motion to take the money out of savings and pay it now, Second by Melvin.

Announcements: The next board meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM at the LSU Equipment show on Saturday, January 25th in Baton Rouge.

Closing Prayer was led by Bruce Brewer
Motion to adjourn by Bob White. Meeting adjourned.

ROLL CALL ATTACHED BELOW:

Louisiana State Firemen's Association Roll Call
 Board Meeting
 September 7, 2019
 Marksville, La.

Board Member	Present	Absent	Excused
President Joe Thompson	X		
1 st V.P. Danny Mayet	X		
2 nd V.P. Bob White	X		
Immediate Past Pres. Charles Hudson	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 Mike DeLaune	X		
4 th District Representative Brian Lindberg	X		
5 th District Representative Mark Treadway	X		
6 th District Representative Tim Crockett	X		
7 th District Representative Sonny Coffey	X		X
8 th District Representative Donald Milligan	X		
Sergeant of Arms Bruce Brewer	X		
N.V.F.C. Chairman Charlie Metcalf			X
Parliamentarian Donald Bock	X		
Chaplain Father John Talamo			X
Counselor Judge Roy Cascio			X
Government and Public Affairs Chairman Butch Browning	X		

Reasons for excused absence:

Immediate Past President Charlie Metcalf – Recovering from a recent back surgery

7th District Representative Sonny Coffey – On Shift

Father John Talamo – Church Services

Counselor Judge Roy Cascio – Previous engagement planned