SPAAMFAA Board of Trustees Meeting

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Crown Royal Plaza Hotel

North Charleston, SC

**Minutes**

Voting members in attendance –

Steve Heaver Sr. Vice President

Justin Birchfield Vice President

Ron Driscoll District #1 Trustee

Bill Blunden District #2 Trustee

Jim Derstine District #3 Trustee

Tim “Cosgrove” Jones District #4 Trustee

Mike Healy District #5 Trustee

Ted Elder (proxy) District #6 Trustee

Chuck Buschardt District #8 Trustee

Kent Cullom District #9 Trustee

Excused –

John Zangerle District #6 Trustee

Peter West Executive Secretary

Dave Napier VP Elect

Absent-

Bill Killen District #7 Trustee

Non-voting members in attendance -

Ted Elder Immediate Past President

Scott Rollins Editor, Enjine! Enjine!

Candy Bennett Membership Secretary

Stan Socha Treasurer

Jim Debbie Davis Archives Committee Chair

Frank Tremel Endowment Fund Committee Chair

Anthony Buono Attorney (Pro Bono)

Jim Kurycki NY Trustee

The meeting was called to order by Acting President Steve Heaver at 10:10 am. The pledge of allegiance followed. The meeting was originally scheduled for 1:00 Wednesday February 27, 2019 however due to the situation following the special meeting, and the refusal of Mr. Dundas to leave the room, and to defuse the situation, the meeting was not called to order and Acting President Steven Heaver rescheduled the meeting to this date.

There is no agenda at this time due to the expulsion of Bill Dundas from the Society and his refusal to return all documents.

Steve Heaver began the meeting by explaining what had transpired in the morning session on

2/27/2019 to those in attendance. He explained that Bill Dundas had been expelled from the Society with cause. Mr. Dundas refused to leave the meeting and continually interrupted the meeting that was originally scheduled for 1:00 on 2/27/2019. Mr. Dundas introduced the attorney that he had hired because of a potential lawsuit that was being brought against the Society by Trustee Bill Killen. Mr. Buono met with the attorney in the hallway outside the meeting room to explain what had transpired in the morning meeting. The Board of Trustees then informed the attorney hired by Mr. Dundas that he was not retained by the board and that his legal fees and expenses would be the responsibility of Mr. Dundas personally. Mr. Dundas refused to follow the directions of the Board of Trustees and continued to threaten members with personal lawsuits. Because of this, the meeting was never called to order and the Trustees left the room.

Steve Heaver thanked Anthony Buono for all his hard work in representing the Board of Trustees pro bono.

It was announced that Pete West had submitted his letter of resignation effective immediately. A motion was made by Jim Derstine seconded by Tim jones to accept the resignation of Pete West and carried unanimously.

Bill Blunden then resigned as District #2 Trustee. On a motion by Jim Derstine, seconded by Chuck Buschardt, his resignation was accepted and carried unanimously.

On a motion by Chuck Buschardt, seconded by Ted Elder (Proxy for John Zangerle), it was recommended that Bill Blunden replace Pete West as Executive Secretary. Motion was carried on a unanimous vote.

On a motion by Mike Healy, seconded by Tim Jones, it was recommended that Jim Kurycki be named the District #2 Trustee. The motion was carried on a unanimous vote.

Stan Socha announced that he would be resigning as treasurer of SPAAMFAA effective 3/1/2019. Stan explained his why he had come to this and stated we need to have a treasurer who is more familiar with Quick Books in order to perform the duties. On a motion by Chuck Buschardt and seconded by Mike Healy, the resignation was accepted and Stan thanked for his service in taking this job during a bad period. The motion carried unanimously.

Candy Bennett welcomed everyone to South Carolina and reported that she had 13 members helping with the convention.

The Vice president then asked if the membership present in the audience had any questions. There were no questions at this time.

The next order of business was to approve the meeting minutes from the summer 2018 meeting in Cherry Hill. Because the minutes were not distributed by Mr. West, Steve Heaver suggested that we postpone the acceptance of the minutes at this time. The minutes will be electronically distributed electronically and then voted on electronically at a later date.

1. Trustees Reports – Questions or Updates Only
   1. Mike Healy reported that he had submitted one report in 2018, not zero reports.
   2. Chuck Buschardt reported that his report was not included in the packet but had been submitted.
   3. Debby Davis reported that her report was not in the packet. She also explained the archives reported budget discrepancy and that this will be worked out with the treasurer.
   4. Steve Heaver and David Lewis reported on the Soderbeck fund and the need to advertise more.
   5. Scott Rollins reported that the magazine was off schedule due to lack of president’s line on more than one occasion. He also stated that the muster edition will be space due to a lack of submissions. He asked for more article to be submitted.
   6. Bill Blunden reported that the Silver Trumpet was off schedule due to the same issue with the president’s line. He also asked for someone to replace him as editor of the Silver trumpet.
   7. Steve Heaver publicly thanked Tommy Herman and the safety committee for all their work last year.
   8. Steve Heaver praised the work of the various boards and committees and the direction they are going.
2. Executive Secretary Report – Bill Blunden
   1. Discussion of non-reporting chapters (those who have not sent in annual report and insurance money). The current report of those chapters is not available as the wrong report was included in the packet.
      * 1. **Motion was made/seconded to remind these chapters and then revisit at the summer meeting. The president tasked individual trustees to contact their delinquent chapters. Motion passed**

Candy Bennett then reported on an issue regarding the election process that she discovered while looking through the bylaws for an unrelated issue. This will need to be investigated. Jim Derstine will lead a committee composed of Ted Elder, Candy Bennett and Anthony Buono to investigate this issue with the by-laws.

OLD BUSINESS (11:34 am)

The election results were reported.

1. **PRESIDENT-** Dundas 807, Tremel 439. Dundas was expelled and therefore ineligible to hold office. Tremel named President
2. **SR.** **VP-** Heaver 773 Killen 548 Heaver named the winner **(Killen ineligible to run)**
3. **VICE PRESIDENT**- Napier 680, Birchfield 639. Napier named winner after recount
4. **DISTRICT #3-** Jim Derstine Un-opposed 130
5. **DISTRICT #6-** Warren Lun 81 Dan Lintz 66. Warren Lun named the winner
6. **DISTRICT #7-** Rodger Birchfield un-opposed
7. **BY-LAWS**- Yes- 521 No- 792 The by-law changes were defeated

Steve Heaver thanked John Zangerle, Bill Killen, and Justin Birchfield for their service and welcomed Frank Tremel, David Napier, Warren Lun, Rodger Birchfield and Jim Kurycki to the board.

Newly Elected President, Frank Tremel called for a recess at 11:42 am and the meeting to resume at 1:00 pm. Carried.

Meeting called back to order at 1:05 pm by President Tremel

NEW BUSINESS

President Tremel explained his meeting style, how he operates and his ground rules in meetings. We collectively work for the Board of Trustees and are answerable to the board. The editors of the publications have full authority but agreed that there would be no politics interjected into them. He stated that the by-law propositions failed and that we would continue to operate under the old by-laws as they have served us up until this point. We will be re-examining them in the future but for now will let them rest.

President Tremel encouraged everyone to reach out to the members of the society and to stay positive. From this point forward we move on and start to turn things around. President Tremel explained that he will respond to text messages, emails and phone calls around his personal schedule but will respond at the earliest time possible.

Damon Cackley, a life member from Iowa presented a proposal to the board regarding a group in Chile’ who are interested in possibly becoming a SPAAMFAA chapter. The group is the National Fire Board of Chile’, and they are dedicated to the preservation of history in the fire service and have the same values as our organization. Following a lengthy discussion on how to best achieve this, the following motion was made:

***On a motion made by Chuck Buschardt, seconded by Warren Lun SPAAMFAA has approved the National Fire Board of Chile as a “Museum Member” of the organization. This membership will entitle them quarterly copies of the Sliver Trumpet newsletter and Enjine-Enjine Magazine as well as access to the SPAAMFAA Archives at no cost. The motion was carried unanimously.***

Damon Cackley will be handling the mailing of the publications to the National Fire Board as well applications for individual membership in SPAAMFAA. It is the goal of the association to begin accepting new individual members to the organization and eventually have a SPAAMFAA Chapter formed in Chile.

The next order of business was the development of a budget for 2019. As there was no budget provided in the packet to the members, it was proposed to use the proposed budget for 2019 for now and then the committee will work on a new budget to be presented to the board in 30 days. The budget committee was formed on a motion by Chuck Buschardt, seconded by Mike Healy and carried to have John Zangerle as chairmen with Stan Socha, and Ted elder as members.

The next item of business was a report on the chapters that are in arrears for 2019. The list provided in the original packet has not been updated and Bill Blunden will get this list from Pete West. President Tremel directed the trustees to personally contact the chapters in their district. On a motion by Jim Derstine, seconded by Warren Lun, it was decided to put the chapters who have not reported or paid their insurance checks on probation for 6 months. This will be revisited at the summer meeting.

The Robinson Award for the last two years will be handled by a committee comprised of Ted Elder, Dave Napier and Frank Tremel. Bill Blunden presented the letters of recommendation for the award for the last two years to the committee.

The next topic of business was the Preservation Award. It was reported that Bill Killen has resigned from the lead on this project. There were a few names suggested as a replacement and President Tremel will contact them and choose a lead for this project.

Chuck Buschardt suggested that the organization develop a “Welcome Packet” for new members of the society. This was identified in a recent survey of both members and non-members who were not satisfied with the material they got when joining. A number of ideas to be included in this packet were discussed. Steve Heaver volunteered to chair this group consisting of Scott Rollins, Chuck Buschardt, Bill Davis and David Lewis.

The agenda for the chapter presidents meeting and the Friday membership meeting were discussed.

Steve Heaver mentioned the possibility of a scholarship or internship program the organization may want to pursue in the future.

The meeting was then recessed until 3/1/19 at 5:15 pm.

**CONTINUATION OF MEETING 3/1/19**

Meeting called back to order at 5:18 pm

A discussion was held on the audit of the books that will need to occur with the change in leadership. Anthony Buono will discuss this with Edie Lemire who has a great deal of experience with audits at the IRS.

Steve Heaver gave a report on the audio-visual equipment his committee has been working on. The endowment fund had previously allotted $800 for the purchase of the necessary equipment. Rodger Birchfield has a new proposal that may exceed that amount to purchase the equipment. The group will be requesting an additional amount of money, not to exceed $1,500 (- $800 already encumbered) with the endowment fund. The endowment committee is composed of Ted Elder, the treasurer (Stan Socha at this time), Bill Blunden, Kent Cullom and Frank Tremel.

The topic of the SPAAMFAA website was the next topic of discussion. There were a number of problems identified as well as the potential to update and make the website more intuitive and inviting to new members. The need to address the website concerns identified in the recent survey and through past experience were discussed. This issue will be addressed by a committee consisting of Candy Bennett, David Lewis, Mike Healy and Warren Lun. They will look at the possibilities of fixing the present site and the cost of a new platform.

Bill Blunden reported that he met with Pete West earlier in the day and has continued to work out the transition of executive secretary. This process is going very smoothly.

The agenda for the chapter presidents meeting was discussed. The meeting will start with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the deceased members. President Tremel will introduce the members of the board and then discuss the ground rules for the meeting. He will ask for concern and issues the chapters are having and not focus on musters and other things the chapters are doing. This meeting is to get problems into the forefront and begin to address them.

Kent Cullom suggested the need to have some ethics training for board members following the recent election. There was a lot of misinformation and personal attacks on people during this period on Facebook and other social media. President Tremel asked members not to post negative information or argue on these sites and stay positive. The topic of Facebook was discussed further. There is a SPAAMFAA Facebook group that is “owned” by Jeff Jones, a member who was allowed to use our name. There is also a SPAAMFAA page developed by David Lewis. Candy Bennett is also an administrator for the group. On a motion by Kent Cullom, seconded by Jim Derstine and carried, Candy was tasked to work with Jeff to stop negative items such as politics from being posted, and focus on fire truck and history. This issue will be revisited at the summer meeting and if there are still issues, the board may take the use of the SPAAMFAA name away.

With the potential of possible legal action to be taken by Bill Dundas and/or Bill Killen, Anthony Buono explained what members should do if they are served with a lawsuit. He stated that because this is a NY Corporation, the suit should be given to the NY State Dept of Corporations. If a member is personally served, they were instructed to contact President Tremel. President Tremel suggested that because there is no known registered agent in NY for the corporation, one should be appointed. On a motion by Mike Healy, seconded by Jim Derstine, Bill Blunden will be named as the registered agent for the SPAAMFAA corporation.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm on a motion by Mike Healy and seconded by Kent Cullom.