

Texas Chefs Association General Session Meeting

August 5, 2016

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Carnival Liberty Cruise Ship



I. Administrative

- a. **Call to Order:** Chef Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC called the General Session to order at 3:00 pm.
- b. **Invocation:** Chef Patrick Mitchell, CEC, CCE performed the invocation.
- c. **Roll Call, Sign In & Quorum:** President Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC asked if a quorum was present. Sam Brewster confirmed the quorum. Those in attendance were:

Chastity Alexander
Cassandra Armstrong
John Bretzke, CEC, AAC
Kimberly Brock Brown, CEPC, CCA, AAC
Kristina Brown
Tina Buice
Juan Castillo
Dina Cooper
Jodi Duryea
Rudy Garza
Traci Gates
Melvin Guevara Sr.
Adam Heath, CEC
Alison Hodges, CC, CPC
Carol Irwin, CEC
Michelle Laurette Massey
Malexi McPhee
Klaus Mittelhauser
Rick Neal
Dieter Paul
Gay Prewitt
Agustin Rodriguez
Veronica Samples
Ewald Scholz
Michael Scott, CEC, AAC
Mark Spelman, CEC, AAC
Michael Stephans, CEC
Ethel Stewart-Cooper
Juan Torres
Gregory True, CC
Rudy Underwood

Alexandrea Arevalo
Andre Bedouret
Sam Brewster
Janice Brooks
Michelle Brown
Kathleen Carter
Eugene Christiano
Stephen DeShazo, CEC, FMP
Roman Fuentes
Casey Gates
Ernst Gruch, CMC, AAC
Lateisha Hayes
Hermann Hiemeyer
William Hodges
Heather Kurima
Cheever Mayra
Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC
Michael Mrugala, CC
Pete Nolasco
Regina Pinkard, CC
Gabrielle Richmond
Morris Salerno
Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC
Michael Schuster
Stephanie Southall
Dean Sprague, CEC
Hans Stettler
Christy Sykes
Mark Torres
Stephen Trummel

- d. **Sergeant at Arms:** Chef Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC was appointed as Sergeant at Arms.
- e. **Welcome:** President Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC welcomed those in attendance and thanked the Dallas Chapter for their amazing efforts to pull off the first ever "Convention at Sea." Schneider stated his amazement to have a quorum present on the cruise and he thanked everyone for the honor to address them as TCA President.
- f. **Review of Minutes:** Chef Schneider requested a motion to approve the minutes of the 2015 General Session. Chef Casey Gates presented a motion, which was seconded by Chef Traci Gates and moved by the members.
- g. **Agenda Approval:** Schneider reviewed the General Session agenda and asked for additions to New Business. Chef Pete Nolasco requested adding New Business h) Kimberly Brock-Brown to discuss Legal Shield, an initiative offered by the ACF Ethics Committee. Chef Michael Scott, CEC, AAC presented a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Chef Michelle Brown seconded the motion, which was moved by the members.

II. Report of the Officers

- a. **Chairman of the Board:** President Schneider announced that Chairman of the Board, Charles Duit, CEC, AAC, ACE had no grievances to report.
- b. **President:** President Schneider stated that he's entering the last year of his second term as TCA President. Among his remaining goals to accomplish are to visit and cook with each local Chapter and to strengthen the relationship with the Texas Restaurant Association (TRA) and Texas Lone Star Chapter (TLSC) of the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA).
- c. **1st Vice President:** Chef Casey Gates announced the results of the 2016 Membership Drive, which saw 111 new members join the TCA. The top five new member recruiters were awarded with a TCA embroidered Chef's bag. They were Adam Heath, CEC, Tiara Guard, Cassondra Armstrong, Larry Delgado and Dina Cooper. Chef Gates encouraged local Chapters to retain these new members and thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to serve as 1st Vice President.
- d. **2nd Vice President:** Dr. Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC was not in attendance and had no report
- e. **Secretary/Treasurer:** Jack Rayome was not in attendance and had no report

III. New Business

- a. **TCA Website:** President Schneider announced his excitement for the new TCA website to debut in September. He expressed his pleasure of working with the committee and the design company.
- b. **Concho Valley Dissolution:** Schneider provided a report on the status of the Concho Valley Chapter, which had been on probation for 18 months. Chef Schneider stated that the Chapter had no members and no funds in its account. Schneider explained that, under normal circumstances, any funds would remain in a dormant Chapter's account for a period of one year in the event that someone wanted to restart the Chapter. After the one-year period, the Texas Chefs Association would absorb said funds. Schneider concluded by confirming the Concho Valley Chapter as officially dissolved.
- c. **Honorary Board Members-TRA & CMAA:** President Schneider reiterated one of his goals as President to strengthen the relationship with the TRA and TLSC. Schneider explained his proposal to the TCA Board of Directors to offer an honorary (non-voting) seat on the TCA Board of Directors. The result of the discussion among the TCA Board of Directors led to the alternative to invite leaders of each organization to attend and speak at the TCA's annual General Session. Chef Schneider has agreed to draft a letter to extend a formal invitation to each organization.

- d. - **f. Financial Reports:** Due to the absence of Secretary/Treasurer, Jack Rayome, President Schneider tabled the discussion and review of financial statements. He added that the Board of Directors will host a conference call and vote electronically to approve the 2017 budget.
- g. **2017 State Convention:** Michael Stephans, CEC, Director of the Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter, addressed the membership to announce Corpus Christi, TX as the site of the 2017 TCA Convention. Chef Stephans described plans and efforts underway and stated that the Omni Hotel will serve as the Convention site. Chef Dean Sprague, CEC announced the first week of August at the target dates for the 2017 TCA Convention.
- h. **Legal Shield Report:** Chef Kimberly Brock Brown provided a report on Legal Shield, a legal consultation service offered through ACF's Ethics Committee.

IV. Old Business

- a. **Bylaws & Constitution:** President Schneider commended the committee's work on revising and aligning both the TCA Bylaws and Constitution documents. The committee has finalized its proposal and will distribute both a "struck copy" and a "clean copy" to Chapter Directors to distribute to their Chapter members. Chef Schneider asked Chapter Directors to return comments to the Committee within 60 days. The Board of Directors will vote to approve both documents at the 2017 Winter Board Meeting and the Chapter will vote at the 2017 General Session in Corpus Christi.
- b. **New Chapter Development:** President Schneider remarked that Dr. Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC continues working to develop a Chapter in Galveston. Additionally, the Lufkin Chapter is ready to be resurrected after dissolution. Chef Schneider will appoint an Interim Director, who will be ratified at the 2017 General Session. Schneider referenced his new role with TSTC, mentioning the fact that he'll be spending significant time in Abilene. He expressed hope to get a chapter going in that area. Lastly, Chef Schneider referenced the possibility of the Lubbock Chapter being restarted.
- c. **ACF Voting Rights:** President Schneider expressed his hope and desire to formalize a "State Model" proposal to recommend to ACF, so other Chapters can follow suit.
- d. **ACF Culinary Graduate Program:** President Schneider described his ACF proposal to create and launch a Culinary Graduate Program, using Texas as the pilot market. The program would accomplish two significant goals: 1. Help retain student members after they finish school; 2. Give students the opportunity to achieve Sous Chef status one year early. Schneider announced that his proposal was submitted in the spring and he has not yet heard back from the ACF committee.

V. Nominations & Elections

- a. **2nd Vice President:** President Schneider announced Santiago "Jimmy" DeLaCruz as the uncontested candidate for the office of 2nd Vice President. Chef Rick Neal stated a motion to vote Chef DeLaCruz as 2nd Vice President. Chef Rudy Underwood seconded the motion, which was moved by the membership unanimously.
- b. **Secretary/Treasurer:** President Schneider announced that Jack Rayome is stepping down as Secretary/Treasurer after decades of dedicated service to this association. Schneider added that we are all indebted to Mr. Rayome for his diligence and leadership and the TCA is in a better place because of his involvement. Chef Schneider then announced Michael Schuster as the uncontested candidate for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. A motion to vote Chef Michael Schuster as Secretary/Treasurer was offered from the floor seconded from the floor and approved by the membership. President Schneider requested nominations from the floor for the offices of 2nd Vice President and/or Secretary/Treasurer. No nominations from the floor were presented.

- VI. Ratify Elected Chapter Directors:** President Schneider reviewed the candidates for Chapter Directors as follows: Brazos Valley Chapter: Mark Torres; Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter: Michael Stephans, CEC; Dallas Chapter: Pete Nolasco; East Texas Chapter: Rick Neal; Heart of Texas Chapter: Anthony Gully; San Antonio Chapter: Ron Smith; Permian Basin Chapter: Manny Garcia. Chef Traci Gates presented a motion to approve both TCA Officer positions and all Chapter Director positions as presented. Chef Casey Gates seconded the motion and the membership was in favor. President Schneider thanked all new Officers & Directors for their willingness to volunteer and serve as leaders of the Texas Chefs Association.
- VII. Closing & Roundtable:** President Schneider recognized and applauded Chef Steve DeShazo, CEC, FMP for his leadership role in the tragic shootings which took place at El Centro College in Dallas, TX. Schneider also noted that he anticipates a nomination on behalf of Lynn Krause, CEPC, AAC for the ACF Professionalism Award due to her work with the Mercy Chefs and Church Under the Bridge. Chef Pete Nolasco recognized Michael Scott, CEC, AAC, Gene Christiano and his entire committee for the work they put into organizing the convention. Nolasco announced the committee's anticipation to come in under budget and presented the TCA with a check for \$2,000. Chef Roman Fuentes of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter presented a check to the TCA for \$1,500. Chef Casey Gates presented a motion to adjourn the General Session. The motion was seconded by Chef Traci Gates, moved by all and the session adjourned at 4:55 pm.