

Texas Chefs Association

General Session Meeting

August 4, 2018

8:00 – 9:30 am

Sheraton Brookhollow – Houston, TX



I. Administrative

- a. **Call to Order:** President Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC called the General Session to order at 8:00 am.
- b. **Invocation:** Len Pawelek, CEC performed the invocation.
- c. **Roll Call, Sign In & Quorum:** President Cook, CEC, AAC asked if a quorum was present. Sam Brewster confirmed the quorum. Those in attendance were:

Cassandra Armstrong
Eva Barrios, CEC
Leslie Bartosh, CEC
Klaus Baumbach
Carolyn Becerra
Luis Becerra, CEC
Kelley Benson
Deja Black
Stacy Bowers
Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC
Sam Brewster
Janice Brooks
Wesley Brown
Joanna Bryant
Cicillia Bunting
Bill Bush
Paola Chamberlain, CC
Gene Christiano
Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC
Jimmy De La Cruz
Stafford DeCambra, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC
Larry Delgado
Dana Demers, CC
Adam Deviney, CEC
Sarah Dilling
Randy Douglas
Anthony Gully
Chelsea Gumm
Edward Gutierrez
Michael Hackman
Adam Heath, CEC
Whitey Hershorn, CEC
William Hillis

Michael Kirchman
Beth Kirkpatrick
Heather Kurima
Diana Larkins
Rory Larkins
Diane Larsen, CEC, ACE
Alexander Mann
Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC
Robert Mayberry
Thomas McGrath, III
Joselyn Mejia
Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC
George Morfin
Mike Mrugala, CC
Rick Neal, CEC
Douglas O'Neil
Jesus Olivares
Vanguelis Pablopulos, CCC
Dieter Paul
Len Pawelek, CEC
Regina Pinkard, CC
Felicia Rodriguez
Nicholas Ruiz-Pina
Morris Salerno
Phillip Salinas, CEC
Veronica Samples
Michael Scott, CEC, AAC
Sherry Siphon
Dean Sprague, CEC
Dustin Stair, CEC
Caroline Taylor
Katelyn Tisdale
Mark Torres

Alison Hodges, CC, CPC
Bill Hodges
Alison Hodges, CC, CPC
Krista Holmes
Carol Irwin, CEC
Michael Jaster, CEC, CWPC, ACE
Brett Keckeisen

Rae Torres
Gayle Van Sant, CCC
Israel Villanueva, MS, CC
Katrina Warner
James Welliver
Wanda White

- d. **Sergeant at Arms:** George Morfin was appointed as Sergeant at Arms.
- e. **Welcome:** President Cook, CEC, AAC welcomed those in attendance and thanked the Houston Chapter for hosting the TCA Convention.
- f. **Review of Minutes:** President Cook, CEC, AAC referenced the minutes from the 2017 General Session. Cook requested a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC presented a motion, which was seconded by Michael Hackman and approved by the members.
- g. **Agenda Approval:** Cook reviewed the General Session agenda and asked for additions to New Business. No amendments were presented and Michael Scott, CEC, AAC presented a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Morris Salerno and approved by the members.

II. Report of the Officers

- a. **Chairman of the Board:** President Kelly explained that Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC regretted his absence and had no grievances to report.
- b. **President:** President Cook, CEC, AAC recognized Stafford DeCambra, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC, President of the American Culinary Federation, and thanked him for attending the TCA Convention. Cook also acknowledged Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC and thanked him for serving two roles in Chairman of the Board and Secretary/Treasurer. Cook continued to thank Adam Heath, CEC for hosting the Convention as well as all Chapter Directors for their leadership. He commended members of the TCA who assisted in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. President Cook expressed his desire to see Texas Chefs play a larger role at the national level and announced that Leslie Bartosh, CEC will serve on the ACF Ethics Committee and Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC will serve on the AAC Committee. Cook announced that the 2020 ACF National Convention will take place in Dallas and encouraged all to get involved in the planning and hosting process. Finally, President Cook recognized the attendance of Krista Holmes, who was the first female member of the Texas Chefs Association.
- c. **1st Vice President:** Len Pawelek, CEC expressed gratitude for all who had contributed to the Chef Relief fund to assist those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Pawelek also thanked Larry Delgado for initiating the Chef Relief lapel pin program, which will help raise funds for Chef Relief. Chef Pawelek stated that revenue from the Culinary Vision Partnership program is down from last year, due to one of the major partners dropping their partnership level; however, several new partners have joined to help offset the loss in revenue. In conclusion, Pawelek challenged all chapters to recruit and sign up a new CVP partner prior to December 15th.
- d. **2nd Vice President:** Santiago DeLaCruz announced that the Concho Valley Chapter had met the requirements to ratify the Chapter and will take the appropriate measures to make it official.
- e. **Secretary/Treasurer:** With the absence of Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, ACE, President Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC provided the Secretary/Treasurer's report. Cook referenced the 2018 financial report, which projected a year-end net income of \$10,058.85. He announced the following changes to the Restricted Accounts:
 - The East Texas Chapter has voted to rename the East Texas Education Fund to the Jack Bretzke Education Fund. Funds will be available to Chapters to subsidize education expenses.

- The Bernard Urban Education Fund will be repurposed and renamed to the Bernard Urban Competition Fund. Funds will be used to assist Texas Chefs when competing at regional and national events.

President Cook continued to review the 2019 Operating Budget, which projected \$116,612.11 in revenue, \$113,109.74 in expenses for a net income of \$3,502.37. Cook stated the importance of maintaining members and recruiting new members in order to meet budget expectations.

III. New Business

- TCA Insurance Policy:** President Cook stated that the Board voted to terminate the Chapter life insurance policy at the Winter Board Meeting. As an alternative, the Chapter will self fund life insurance through the Chapter's Chef Relief restricted account.
- 2018 National Convention:** President Cook described his experience in New Orleans, LA at the ACF Cook, Craft & Create National Conference. He applauded the ACF for a wonderful event.
- ACF National Report:** ACF National President, Stafford DeCambra, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC addressed the membership and thanked them for hosting him in Texas. DeCambra expressed the support of the ACF Board of Directors and their determination to move the Association in a positive direction. President DeCambra reviewed several initiatives, including:
 - Chef to Chef recruiting program, which provides incentives to attract new members;
 - Improve membership value and benefits;
 - Increased communication from ACF leadership and bilingual education resources;
 - Redesigned ACF website with improved resources;
 - Improved advocacy efforts to prevent food waste, promote diversity and eliminate harassment;
 - Access to health insurance for all members and resources to promote mental and physical wellness;
 - Young Chefs Club to connect the next generation of chefs;
 - Increase the visibility of the ACF and help establish culinary industry standards;
 - Continue to evaluate certification standards to ensure that they exceed minimum standards;
 - Expand certifications to the Asian-Pacific territory and other 2nd World markets;
 - More online learning platforms;
 - Opened ACF competitions to Military members;
 - Online auction platform to raise proceeds for USA Culinary Teams;

In conclusion, President DeCambra emphasized that the ACF is "our" organization and pledged to leave the organization in a better place at the end of his term.

- AAC Report:** Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC acknowledged Craig Meyer, CEC, AAC as the newest member of the Academy. He described the process as an individual journey and encouraged chefs to document throughout their career. Lastly, Mitchell announced that he will be organizing an AAC dinner in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in 2019. President Kelly congratulated Chef Mitchell for his accomplishment in placing 8th at the Global Chef Competition. Following a standing ovation, Chef Mitchell expressed his pride in representing the USA but even more so, Texas Chefs.

IV. Old Business

- New Chapter Development:** Chad Lowry and William Hills joined President Kelly at the podium. Cook congratulated and thanked them for their leadership in reorganizing the Concho Valley Chapter. Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC presented a motion to ratify the Concho Valley Chapter. The motion was seconded by Leslie Bartosh, CEC and approved by the membership.

- b. **2018 Convention:** Adam Heath, CEC welcomed all to Houston and expressed his excitement to host the Convention. He thanked members of the host committee as well as the Convention sponsors for their support.

V. Nominations & Elections

- a. **State Officer Elections:** President Cook announced that there were no nominations for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. As a result, Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC will retain the position. Cook called forward candidates for the office of 2nd Vice President. Rick Neal, CEC and Phillip Salinas, CEC, CACP, PCII each addressed the audience. President Cook called for a five minute recess for voting and appointed Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC, Bill Hodges and George Morfin of the Houston Chapter to tally the votes.

President Cook called the meeting back to order and announced the election results and the 2018 – 2020 officers of the Texas Chefs Association.

President	Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC
1st Vice President	Len Pawelek, CEC
2nd Vice President	Rick Neal, CEC
Secretary/Treasurer	Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC
Chairman	Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC

A motion to approve the election was presented by Morris Salerno, seconded by Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC and approved by the membership. President Cook announced, in accordance with TCA policies, the Secretary/Treasurer and President will be added as authorized signers on the TCA accounts.

- b. **Ratify Elected Chapter Directors: 2018 – 2020:** President Cook called for a motion to ratify the following Chapter Directors:

Chefs of the Coastal Bend – Dean Sprague, CEC

East Texas Chapter – Brett Keckeisen

Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC presented the motion, which was seconded by Morris Salerno and approved by the members.

- c. **Site of Future Conventions:** President Cook announced the following hosts for future TCA Conventions:

2019 – Rio Grande Valley Chapter

2020 – Fort Worth Chapter

2021 – East Texas Chapter

- VI. **Closing & Roundtable:** In closing, President Cook recognized 1st time Convention attendees, and those who had attended more than 10 TCA State Conventions. Cook announced that the board voted to divert billing for dual members (ACF/TCA) to the ACF office. TCA-only members will continue to be billed by the State Office; however, dual members will receive renewal invoices from the ACF office beginning in November. Larry Delgado announced that the first \$1,000 had been raised for Chef Relief through the lapel pin program. President DeCambra thanked the members for hosting him and encourage them to contact him directly with any questions or concerns. He proceeded to present President Cook with a gift for hosting him. Patrick Mitchell presented a motion to adjourn the General Session at 9:45 am. Carol Irwin, CEC seconded the motion, which was approved by the members.