

# Texas Chefs Association

## General Session Meeting

August 11, 2019

8:30 – 10:00 am

South Padre Island, TX



### I. Administrative

- a. **Call to Order:** President Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC called the General Session to order at 8:30 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:

Jesse Adames  
Jennifer Adams  
Luis Aguilera  
Adan Aleman  
Cassandra Armstrong  
Shelby Armstrong  
Christopher Belanger  
Dominique Bocquier, CEPC  
Sam Boisjoly  
Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC  
Elisa Brewer  
Janice Brooks  
Michele Brown, CEPC  
Joanna Bryant  
Oliver Burgos  
Bill Bush  
Mateo Cervantes  
Gene Christiano, CEC  
Sandy Cohen  
Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC  
Samantha DeLaVega  
Larry Delgado  
Dana Demers, CC  
Marka Dempsey  
Darla Elizondo  
Emily Garcia  
Chris Gaytan  
Annette Greenslade  
Carlos Grimaldo  
Anthony Gully  
Robert Hale  
Whitey Hershorn, CEC  
Alison Hodges, CC, CPC

Michael Kirchman  
Heather Kurima  
Rory Larkins  
Chad Lowry  
Michelle Luna  
Reginald Martin, CEC, CCE  
JoAnna Martinez  
Lynne McDonald  
Thomas McGrath  
Samantha Mendez  
Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC  
Jesse Moreno-Valle  
Rick Neal, CEC  
Douglas O'Neil  
Len Pawelek, CEC  
Nathan Price  
Harold Ramos  
Guillermo Rodriguez  
Nick Ruiz-Pina  
Morris Salerno  
Phillip Salinas, CEC  
Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC  
Michael Schuster  
Dean Sprague, CEC  
Dustin Stair, CEC  
Paula Szczepanek  
Quentin Tacker  
Caroline Taylor  
David Terrazas  
Seth Thomas  
Mark Torres  
Stephen Trummel  
Angel Vasquez

William Hodges  
Krista Holmes  
Keli Hughes  
Carol Irwin, CEC  
Brett Keckeisen  
Nate King

Katrina Warner  
Rusty Weatherly  
Brandon Widick  
Gregory Williams, CEC  
Jackson York, CEC, AAC

- d. **Sergeant at Arms:** Len Pawelek, CEC was appointed as Sergeant at Arms.
- e. **Welcome:** President Cook, CEC, AAC welcomed those in attendance and thanked the Rio Grande Chapter for hosting the TCA Convention.
- f. **Review of Minutes:** President Cook, CEC, AAC referenced the minutes from the 2018 General Session. Cook requested a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC presented a motion, which was seconded by Michele Brown, CEPC and approved by the members.
- g. **Agenda Approval:** Cook reviewed the General Session agenda and asked for additions and/or revisions. Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC stated that the position of Secretary/Treasurer was not up for election and should be removed from the agenda. Gene Christiano, CEC presented a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Thomas McGrath and approved by the membership.

## II. Report of the Officers

- a. **Chairman of the Board:** Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC reported no grievances and expressed his pleasure in serving as Chairman of the Board of the Texas Chefs Association.
- b. **President:** President Kelly Cook, CEC thanked everyone for attending the TCA State Convention, especially those who traveled from the ACF National Convention in Orlando. He explained that the focus this year would be on hosting the 2020 ACF National Convention in Dallas at the Hilton Anatole on July 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. As a result of the National Convention being in Dallas, the TCA will host an abbreviated State Convention on July 18th. President Kelly referenced the closings of several culinary schools and the impact it has had on the ACF membership. As a result, each ACF Chapter is asked to increase their current roster by seven new members. Kelly encouraged all TCA members to think about eligible members to reach out to. President Cook recapped the year, which included Joanna Bryant competing and Grayson College being recognized at Nationals, Debbie Bando-Duite, CEC, AAC receiving the AAC Good Taste Award and Johnny Curet, CEC, AAC being inducted into the American Academy of Chefs. Cook also thanked Heather Kurima for her word to produce a video, which was played at the ACF Convention to invite everyone to Dallas in 2020. Lastly, President Cook recognized the Texas Beef Council and Go Texan for their donations, which were featured at the 2019 ACF Convention.
- c. **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Len Pawelek, CEC stated that the Finance Committee will be reestablished and will feature Chapter Treasurers and several members-at-large. The goal of the committee will be to review finances on a regular basis and encourage the distribution of funds from the Restricted Accounts. Chef Pawelek reported on the status of the Culinary Visions Partnership program and encouraged members to refer new CVP partners, as their support is critical to the success of the TCA.
- d. **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Rick Neal, CEC was absent. President Cook reported on his work to develop new Chapters, including the Red River Chapter and the Panhandle Chapter.
- e. **Secretary/Treasurer:** Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC reviewed the financial statements. The balance sheet chart of accounts had been cleaned up to eliminate several irrelevant line items. As Secretary/Treasurer, Schneider will work with the Finance Committee to continue to improve the reporting process. He added that Houston had claimed funds in their escrow account and he encouraged the East Texas, San Antonio and Fort Worth Chapters to request their funds. Schneider

reviewed balances of the Restricted Accounts and encouraged members to take advantage of the various scholarships available. Chef Schneider also announced the new CVP allocation structure to fund the Restricted Accounts. On the profit & loss report, Schneider explained that member dues revenue is behind budget; however, expenses are below budget so he anticipates being in the black at year-end. The 2020 operating budget will be composed and finalized this fall with the input of the Finance Committee.

### III. New Business

- a. **2019 ACF National Convention:** President Cook described the great energy of the recent ACF Convention and excitement that so many TCA members were in attendance. He discussed the increase profile of the culinary industry and the great opportunity to grow the association. Cook announced Steve Jilleba, CMC, CCE, AAC as the new Vice President of the Central Region.
- b. **2020 ACF National Convention:** President Cook referenced the 2020 ACF National Convention, which will take place at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas on July 19 – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cook announced that the TCA State Convention will likely take place at the Anatole on July 18<sup>th</sup> and will feature a working breakfast with a General Session and an Awards Luncheon. Cook explained that members of the ACF National office would be conducting a site visit in the fall, which will give the TCA more direction on their responsibility as the host Chapter. President Cook announced a change in the ACF’s competition format. Going forward, both Regional and National competitions will take place at the Annual Convention, which will allow a more equitable experience for contestants. President Cook also discussed identifying a location for the “Meal of the Century” dinner event. Monthly planning conference calls will begin taking place in October to discuss TCA involvement at the 2020 ACF Convention.
- c. **New Chapter Development**
  - i. **Panhandle Chapter:** President Cook explained that the process of recruiting the TX Panhandle Chapter into the TCA is ongoing. He acknowledged Chef Mark Dempsey and thanked her for her support throughout the process.
  - ii. **Red River Chapter:** President Cook announced that the Board of Directors had ratified the Red River Chapter (Sherman County) to become the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Texas Chefs Association. Cook acknowledged Chef Joanna Bryant, who addressed the TCA and expressed excitement in growing the Chapter in North Texas.

### IV. Nominations & Elections

- a. **State Officer Elections:** The offices of President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President were uncontested. As a result, with a quorum present, the following slate was approved:  
President – Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Len Pawelek, CEC  
Cook stated that nominations are open for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, which will be voted on at the 2020 General Session.
- b. **New Chapter Directors:** The following new Chapter Directors were ratified:

Dallas Chapter	Gene Christiano, CEC
Fort Worth Chapter	Monte Davis, CEC, CCA
Heart of Texas Chapter	Reannon Ruark
Houston Chapter	Reginald Martin, CEC, CCE
Rio Grande Valley Chapter	Mike Stephans, CEC
San Antonio Chapter	Sam Boisjoly

- c. Site of Future Conventions:** President Cook announced the following hosts for future TCA Conventions:
  - 2020 – Dallas Chapter
  - 2021 – East Texas Chapter
  - 2022 – Fort Worth Chapter

**V. Closing & Roundtable:** In closing, President Cook recognized Marka Dempsey, Carol Irwin and Christa Holmes as female pioneers of the Texas Chefs Association. He expressed gratitude to each of them for their support. Chef Larry Delgado recognized Joanna Martinez and the students of South Texas College for their volunteer efforts throughout the State Convention. Delgado announced that the equipment from the Quick Fire Challenge was being donated to the School and the East Texas Chapter was also donating some gift cards. Delgado expressed the importance of investing in future culinary students. Jackson York, CEC, AAC presented a motion to adjourn. Chris Belanger seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 am.