

Texas Chefs Association

General Session Meeting

August 8, 2020

10:00 am

Zoom Virtual Meeting



I. Administrative

- a. **Call to Order:** President Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC called the General Session to order at 10:00 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 stated that a quorum had not yet been reached. Those in attendance were:

Jennifer Adams
Cassandra Armstrong
Leslie Bartosh, CEC
Christopher Belanger
Chad Blunston
Sam Boisjoly
Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC
Sam Brewster
Janice Brooks
Michele Brown, CEPC
Joanna Bryant, CCC, CCE
Wade Burch, CEC
Nadia Casaperalta
Gene Christiano, CEC
Marco Collins
Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC
Chris Cukjati
Monte Davis, CEC, CCA
Samantha DeLaVega
Larry Delgado
Marka Dempsey
Steve DeShazo, CEC, FMP
Charles Duit, CEC, AAC
Julia Dunaway
David Dunham
Rudy Garza
Henry Gentry
Annette Greenslade
Edward Gutierrez

Peter Maffei
Reginald Martin, CEC, CCE
Carlos Martinez
Joanna Martinez
Aamina Masood
Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC
David Meyers
Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC
Michael Mrugala
John Munoz
Rick Neal, CEC
Sophia Ogunbodede
Jacquelyn Parchman
Dieter Paul
Len Pawelek, CEC
Marjorie Pettigrove
Regina Pinkard
Gay Prewitt
Jack Rayome
Kim Richard
Alicia Rivera
Lisa Roark
Guillermo Rodriguez
Viana Rosenberg
Paul Rothe
Lois Roush
Reannon Ruark
Morris Salerno, AAC
Phillip Salinas, CEC

Michael Hackman
Robert Hale
Cecilia Henson, CEC
Mark Hitri
Alison Hodges, CC, CPC
William Hodges
Carol Irwin, CEC
Michael Jaster, CEC, AAC
Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC
Brett Keckeisen
Nate King
Michael Kirchman
Heather Kurima
Laurence Lambert
Johnique Lang
Diana Larkins
Rory Larkins
Rani Lerma
Shane Lovell
Chad Lowry
Frederman Macy

Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC
Michael Scott, CEC, AAC
Raymond Silva
Toni Sloane, CC, CPC
Michael Smith, CEC, CCA
Chris Snyder
Dean Sprague, CEC
James Stewart
Paula Szczepanek
Caroline Taylor
David Terrazas
Mark Torres
Stephen Trummel
Manuel Vasquez
Katrina Warner
Rusty Weatherly
David Werner
Wanda White
Russell Woodward
Jackson York, CEC, AAC

- d. **Sergeant at Arms:** Sam Brewster was appointed as Sergeant at Arms.
- e. **Welcome:** President Cook, CEC, AAC welcomed those in attendance and expressed disappointment for the inability to gather in person. He deferred his comments until later on the agenda.
- f. **Review of Minutes:** President Cook, CEC, AAC referenced the minutes from the 2019 General Session. Cook requested a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Larry Delgado presented a motion, which was seconded by Heather Kurima and approved by the members.
- g. **Agenda Approval:** Cook reviewed the General Session agenda and asked for additions and/or revisions. Leslie Bartosh, CEC, AAC presented a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC 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 thanked the members of the Board for attending the 2020 Summer Board Meeting. He acknowledged how much has changed since the Winter Board Meeting, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Kelly stated, as a result, he regrettably hasn't been able to support local Chapters to the extent that he wanted. He also expressed disappointment with missing the opportunity to host the ACF National Convention in Dallas but explained that the TCA will not be impacted financially from the event being moved to an online format. President Cook said that the ACF will be looking for the soonest opportunity to return to Texas for their National Convention. With Stafford DeCambra stepping down as ACF President, Chef Cook announced that Past President, Thomas Macrina, CEC, CCA, AAC will serve as President through the 2021 ACF

Convention in Orlando. Cook summarized several Board decisions made at the TCA's Summer Board Meeting, including the formation of a new \$10,000 "Diamond Level" CVP. He acknowledged difficulties in getting together at the local Chapter level and encouraged Chapter leaders to keep their members engaged through virtual meetings. Chef Cook recognized Leslie Bartosh, CEC, AAC, Timothy Prefontaine, CEC, AAC and Morris Salerno, AAC for their recent inductions into the American Academy of Chefs (AAC); additionally, Patrick Mitchell, CCE, AAC was honored with the AAC Chairman's Medallion.

- c. **1st Vice President:** Len Pawelek, CEC referenced the status of the Finance Committee, which was formed at the 2020 Winter Board Meeting. He expressed willingness to engage the committee at the request of the Board. Pawelek announced two \$5,000 Chef Relief distributions to the families of Karl Haas and Alphonse Widemer and he thanked Chefs Robert Hale, Larry Delgado and the Texas Beef Council for their efforts on the Chef Relief Pin fundraising campaign. Finally, Chef Pawelek addressed 2020 Culinary Vision Partners as follows:
- Ben E Keith – Platinum - \$6,000
 - Texas Beef Council – Platinum - \$6,000
 - Boiron Americas – Silver - \$1,200
 - FreshPoint – Silver - \$1,200
 - Fresh Pasta Delights – Silver - \$1,200
- d. **2nd Vice President:** Rick Neal, CEC discussed efforts towards the formation of a TCA Chapter in New Braunfels as well as the Panhandle. Chef Neal stated that the Fort Worth Chapter will host the 2021 State Convention and the East Texas Chapter will host in 2022. Finally, Chef Neal announced the donation of ACF Convention Chef Coats by NewChef. He asked those interested in a coat to contact him directly.
- e. **Secretary/Treasurer:** Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC stated that the association is financially stable. Schneider addressed the balance sheet and restricted accounts, which had balances as follows:
- Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC Competition Fund - \$2,609.62
 - Bernard Urban Competition Fund - \$15,537.29
 - Certification Reimbursement - \$8,182.95
 - Chef Relief - \$24,681.27
 - Jack Bretzke Education Fund - \$19,003.03
 - State Convention Scholarship - \$14,053.22
 - Willy Rosel Endowment - \$5,375.00

Schneider addressed the TCA's year to date revenue and expenses, explained that revenue is expected to be lower than budgeted due to the lack of revenue associated with the TCA Convention. CVP sponsorship revenue is a little bit lower, as marketing budgets have tightened due to the pandemic. Local Chapters are asked to contribute \$500 to the State on an annual basis. The TCA has streamlined operations as much as possible in order to minimize expenses. Our State Convention will have no expenses due to the virtual format and we don't expect any more expenses related to travel for the rest of the year. We were also very fortunate to be hosted by the Texas Beef Council for our Winter Board Meeting, which helped us avoid that expense. During our Summer Board Meeting earlier this week, the Board agreed to move \$6,000 from our unrestricted savings account to the Chef Relief fund. In conclusion, Chef Schneider stated that the 2021 Operating Budget will be presented to the Board in the fall in order to have a more realistic expectation for next year.

III. New Business

- a. **2020 ACF National Convention:** President Cook expressed regret that a lot of work was lost due to the ACF Convention moving to a virtual format; however, he reiterated that the TCA was not impacted financially. He commended the ACF for the work they put into making the virtual Convention a success.
- b. **TCA Chef Relief Pins:** President Cook discussed the Chef Relief fundraising campaign, for the TCA is currently selling commemorative lapel pins. Cook thanked the Texas Beef Council for their \$5,000 contribution to Chef Relief as well as Chef Larry Delgado for his work to design the pins and launch the program. Lapel pins are being sold by Chapter Directors and on the TCA website.

IV. Nominations & Elections

- a. **State Officer Elections:** The office of 2nd Vice President was uncontested. As a result, Rick Neal, CEC was elected by acclamation. No nominations were received for the office of Secretary/Treasurer, so Chairman of the Board, Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC, will continue to serve in that capacity. Cook stated that nominations are open President and 1st Vice President, which will be voted on at the 2021 General Session. Michele Brown, CEPC submitted her name for the office of Secretary/Treasurer.
- b. **New Chapter Directors:** The following new Chapter Directors were ratified:
 - Austin Chapter – Robert Hale
 - Brazos Valley Chapter – Mark Torres
 - Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter – Dean Sprague, CEC
 - Concho Valley Chapter – Chad Lowry
 - East Texas Chapter – Brett Keckeisen
 - Houston Chapter – Reginald Martin, CEC, CCE
- c. **Site of Future Conventions:** President Cook announced the following hosts for future TCA Conventions:
 - 2021 – Fort Worth Chapter
 - 2022 – East Texas Chapter

V. Awards & Recognition: President Cook recognized the Texas Chefs Association's corporate partners, Chapter Award Winners and State Award Winners.

- a. **Culinary Vision Partners:**
 - Ben E. Keith – Platinum Partner
 - Texas Beef Council – Platinum Partner
 - Les Vergers Boiron – Silver Partner
 - FreshPoint Foods – Silver Partner
 - Fresh Pasta Delights – Silver Partner
- b. **Chapter Award Winners:** President Cook recognized Chapter Awards winners for each Chapter who had submitted recipients. A list of Chapter Award winners is provided as an attachment to the minutes.
- c. **State Award Winners:** President Cook announced the 2020 Texas Chefs Association State Award winners:
 - Isaac Pina Chapter Award – Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter
 - State Student of the Year – Rory Larkins, Red River Chapter
 - State Educator of the Year – Rusty Weatherly, Red River Chapter
 - State Pastry Chef of the Year – Annette Greenslade, Red River Chapter

State Chef of the Year – Morris Salerno, Dallas Chapter

- VI. Closing & Roundtable:** In closing, President Cook thanked the membership for their time and flexibility with the virtual format. Cook opened the floor for comments from the membership. Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC thanked Sam Brewster for his work to organize the virtual General Session. Gay Prewitt stated that it was great to see everyone, even though it was online. Larry Delgado thanked Chapter Directors for raising money through the sale of Chef Relief pins. Joanna Martinez announced that the Rio Grande Valley Chapter will be donating \$1,000 to Chef Relief and \$500 to the TCA's operating account. Gay Prewitt presented a motion to adjourn the General Session, the motion was seconded by Phillip Salinas, CEC and the meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.



2020 Chapter Award Winners

Brazos Valley Chapter

Chef of the Year: Mark Torres
Pastry Chef of the Year: Aaron Burch
Contributor of the Year: Luis Becerra, CEC
Purveyor of the Year: Taylor Elkins



Chefs of the Coastal Bend

Chef of the Year: Richard Jones
Pastry Chef of the Year: Cassidy Talley
Educator of the Year: Claudia Hurt, CPC
Student of the Year: Michelle Luna



Concho Valley Chapter

Chef of the Year: Marka Dempsey
Pastry Chef of the Year: Brandon Widick
Contributor of the Year: Corpus Christi Produce
Purveyor of the Year: Bryan Baker



Dallas Chapter

Chef of the Year: Morris Salerno
Educator of the Year: Steve DeShazo, CEC, FMP
Contributor of the Year: Janice Brooks
Purveyor of the Year: FreshPoint Foods
R.O.M.E.O. Gay Prewitt



East Texas Chapter

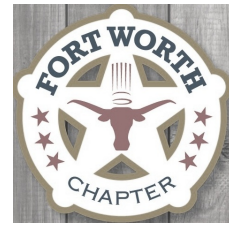
Chef of the Year: Bryan Jackson
Pastry Chef of the Year: Jackson York, CEC, AAC
Educator of the Year: Joseph Guzzetta
Student of the Year: Austin Davis
Contributor of the Year: Brett Keckeisen
Purveyor of the Year: Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC



Fort Worth Chapter

Chef of the Year:
Educator of the Year:
Contributor of the Year:
Purveyor of the Year:

Manuel Vasquez
Edward Gutierrez
Julia Dunaway
Manuel Vasquez



Heart of Texas Chapter

Chef of the Year:
Pastry Chef of the Year:
Educator of the Year:
Student of the Year:
Contributor of the Year:
Purveyor of the Year:

Reannon Ruark
Alicia Rivera
Paul Porras
Cici Bunting
Gary Ross
FreshPoint Foods



Red River Chapter

Chef of the Year:
Pastry Chef of the Year:
Educator of the Year:
Student of the Year:
Contributor of the Year:

Joanna Bryant, CCC, CCE
Annie Greenslade
Rusty Weatherly
Rory Larkins
Annie Greenslade



Rio Grande Valley Chapter

Chef of the Year:
Educator of the Year:
Student of the Year:
Contributor of the Year:
Purveyor of the Year:

Nadia Casaperalta
JoAnna Martinez
Angel Vasquez
Maria Hernandez
Luke Woolridge



San Antonio Chapter

Chef of the Year:
Pastry Chef of the Year:
Educator of the Year:
Purveyor of the Year:

Gary Rice
Phillip Salinas, CEC
Gregory Williams, CEC
Chris Cukjati

