

Texas Chefs Association

# General Session Meeting

July 11<sup>th</sup>

8 am – 10:30 am

Casa De Palmas Hotel – McAllen, Texas



## I ADMINISTRATIVE

**A. Call to Order:** Mark R. Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC called the meeting to order at 8:27 am.

**B. Invocation:** Dr. Ewart Jones CEC, AAC gave the invocation.

**C. Roll Call, Sign In, Quorum:** Jack Rayome stated a quorum was not present so we could not conduct official business. We will do an electronic vote on motions. Those in attendance were Jack Rayome, Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC, Charles Duit CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC, Dr. Ewart Jones CEC, AAC, Debbie Bando-Duit CEC, AAC, Leslie Bartosh CEC, Andre Bedouret, Lester Binnick CEC, ACE, Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC, Jesse Castellon, Dina Cooper, Larry Delgado, Stephen DeShazo CEC, Casey Gates, Traci Gates, Patrick Hershorn, Klaus Mittelhauser, Ron Smith, Adam Cavazos, Adam Heath, Lynn Krause CEPC, AAC, George LeBlanc, Ruben Lemus, Claudia Lopez, Thomas McGrath III, Patrick Mitchell CEC AAC, Evan Morgan CEC, Marshie Morgan, Rick Neal, Pete Nolasco, Jorge Ramos, Phillip Salinas CEC, Michael Schuster, Stephanie Smith CC, Dustin Stair, Michael Stephens CEC, Caroline Taylor, Mark Torres, Stefania Trimboli-Wright, Stephan Trummel, Rudy Underwood, Justin Wilson, and Dieter Paul. Non-Voting Members: Adam Atterberry CC, Carolyn Becerra, Carlos Cancino, Juan Castillo, Paola Chamberlain, Mayra Cheever, Andi Dee, Juan Garza, Michelle Massey, Regina Pinkard, Ashley Pitts, Conchetta Richard, Alicia Rodriguez, and Melba Tijerina. Guests: Adam Cavazos, Nelson Millan, Tammy Hernandez, Griselda Salazar, Adrian Valle, Joel Barohn, Raquel Gonzalez, Alberto Salazar, and Amanda Mendoza.

**D. Sergeant At Arms:** Jack Bretzke CEC AAC was appointed Sergeant at Arms.

**E. Welcome / Introductions:** Charles Duit CEC, CCE ACE, AAC welcomed everyone to McAllen. Larry Delgado spoke about the Rio Grande Valley Chapter and what a great team the valley had.

**F. Review of Minutes:** Jack Rayome asked for any additions, changes, deletions to the 2014 General Session minutes. Lester Binnick CEC ACE made motion to accept minutes as written. Jack Bretzke CEC AAC made second. Jack Rayome asked if there was any discussion. All in favor, ayes carried, motion passed.

**G. Agenda Approval:** Jack Rayome asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the General Session Agenda. Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC requested to add under II. Report of the Officers: L. AAC Ambassador, Patrick Mitchell CEC, AAC, and under F. New Chapter Development: F2 should be Lufkin and not Longview.

## II REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

**A. Chairman of the Board:** Charles Duit CEC, ACE, AAC, CDM, CFPP no current grievances. Earlier in year there was a grievance and it has been resolved.

**B. President:** Mark R. Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC stated that due to grievance earlier in the year, the board has been focusing on Policy and Procedures. There is now a procedure on how to file a grievance. Chef Schneider appointed Casey Gates as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President since Len Pawelek CEC resigned. Chef Schneider announced 3 new chairs were appointed: Community Outreach-Lynn Krause CEPC, AAC, Social Media Chair-Stephanie Smith CC, and AAC Ambassador-Patrick Mitchell CEC, AAC. We need everyone to start recruiting members. Bring a potential member to a meeting. Call people, have a phone tree where all members call someone. Now posted on website are 12 Quick Fire Challenges. Use these at your monthly meetings, get members excited about attending meetings. In closing Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC said it was an honor being the TCA President for the past 2 years.

**C. 1st Vice President:** Dr. Ewart Jones CEC AAC reported that he is working on revitalizing the Galveston Chapter. Since Dr. Jones has unfinished business in Galveston, he will once again be running for 1<sup>st</sup> VP position. Dr. Jones requested we all encourage one another and help one another, especially in the area of certification.

**D. 2nd Vice President:** Casey Gates is always up for a challenge and that is why he accepted the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. Casey stressed that chapters need to follow procedures for meetings and that

includes getting in their minutes to the state office. As 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Casey has been focusing on Chapter Development, developing leaders within chapters, recruiting and retention of members. Chef Gates announced the 1<sup>st</sup> time Attendee Convention Scholarship Recipients: Marshie Morgan, Austin Chapter, Michelle Massey, Dallas Chapter and Conchetta Richard with Golden Triangle Chapter. Please take the time to say hi to each of these recipients. Because of chapters tithing to state we are able to award these scholarships. Other funds available due to chapters tithing: Jr. Education, Certification Reimbursement Scholarship and Chefs Relief Fund.

**E. Secretary Treasurer:** Jack Rayome has noticed over the years that when there is an increase in memberships there is a direct correlation between the amount of activity, participation, cooking and fundraising in the chapters. TCA has plenty of cash to cover escrows and restricted funds. Between January and April of 2014 we lost approximately 30 members which resulted in an \$8,000 loss in revenue. In 2015 Jack forecasted that TCA will gain \$8,000 contingent on memberships and Culinary Visions support. Diane Butler will be moving on due to other interests in life. The challenge for this year will be to get a replacement for Diane Butler. Debbie Bando-Duit CEC, AAC encouraged all chapters to give their 10% tithe to assist with Other Expenses and feels it would be a good idea to let general membership know which chapters give and how much they give. Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC agreed that we should recognize chapters who tithe.

**H. State Culinary Student Ambassador:** Position is vacant and need to find a replacement. If interested please contact Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC. TCA needs someone who would be willing to reach out to students in culinary arts programs across the state. Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC thanked Eduardo De La Cruz for his time as Culinary Student Ambassador; he did a great job.

**I. ACF Certification:** Mark R. Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC has a few potential candidates to replace himself as Certification Chair. Phillip Salinas CEC has requested to take on the position of Certification Chair. Chef Mark has been Certification Chair for 9 years. He would like to relinquish himself as ACE evaluator and be a certification coach.

**J. Social Media Chair:** Stephanie Smith CC has been following all the chapters. Her information is on the TCA website and she would appreciate any information your chapter would be willing to share. There is a photo contest for this convention and it closes Saturday night.

**K. Community Outreach Chair:** Lynn Krause, CEPC, AAC commented it has been a busy year already. She is heavily involved with the Mercy Chefs. Mercy Chefs is a faith based group of chefs. Mercy Chefs has a disaster relief trailer in Texas. During disasters, they serve 3 course hot meals. Mercy Chefs is 100% privately funded and has served over 38,000 meals this year. Chef Krause would like TCA to get more involved in their communities. When not out on disaster relief missions, the chefs in Dallas serve migrants who live under the bridge. They do this the third Sunday of each month. She would be very happy to come to your chapters to speak with members. Debbie Bando-Duit CEC, AAC suggested we do something state wide such as Meals on Wheels.

**L. AAC Ambassador:** Patrick Mitchell CEC, AAC is honored to be AAC Ambassador, following Chef Bernard Urban CEC, AAC, HOF. Currently, there are 30 members in the academy. Jackson York CEC will be inducted this year. The best way to drive members to the AAC is to focus on certification. You have to be certified to be an AAC member. Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC asked for a moment of silence in memory of Chef Urban.

### III NEW BUSINESS

**A. Membership By-Law Change:** Mark R. Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC reported that by-laws have been an ongoing process. TCA bylaws are now aligned with ACF memberships and the board approved the by-law changes at the board meeting. All categories of memberships can join as a TCA member and if they so choose they can now upgrade to ACF membership. Students will, under the by-law change, be granted 1/3 vote in TCA matters. Jack Rayome will send out an electronic vote to voting members to approve Membership By-Law change.

**B. Chapter By-Law Change:** Mark R. Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC reported this by-law change basically says that a chapter needs 8 chefs to start a chapter and the chapter needs to maintain at least 6 chefs. The chapter goal is to grow to 12 chefs. All by-law changes will go into effect once quorum is met thru electronic voting.

**C. Policy & Procedures Update:** Mark R. Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC reported there is now a Grievance Procedure. If anyone needs to file a grievance there is a procedure on how to do this.

**D. Mid East Texas Chapter Dissolution:** Mark R. Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC stated that the

Mid East Texas Chapter will be dissolved since they currently have 1 member. They had a year to grow the chapter and it has not taken place. Any money in escrow will remain for 2 years as seed money. After that, money will go into General Fund.

**E. Concho Valley Chapter Dissolution:** Mark R. Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC reported Concho Valley currently has 3 members. Chef Mark will send Concho Valley Chapter a letter informing them they have a year to bring membership up.

**F. New Chapter Development**

**F1 – Galveston:** Dr. Ewart Jones CEC, AAC is working on revitalizing this chapter.

**F2 – Lufkin:** Jorge Ramos reported he currently has 8 chefs who have joined and hopefully he will have 10 chefs total.

**G. TCA Budget – 2016:** Jack Rayome reported that the budget for 2016 is based on 560 members. Budget reflects \$62,600 in Revenue and \$62,445 in Expenses. There have been no changes in expenses over the last few years except for Life Insurance. Life Insurance is going up due to all of us getting older. Culinary Visions is being projected at \$15,000. TCA needs Other Expenses to decrease. A possibility to cut expenses might be to look at another credit card company because we are paying 3% to run credit cards. Different options were discussed on use of credit cards.

**IV. NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS**

**A. Honorary Members:** Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC reported that when voted on Klaus Mittelhauser and Ed Bocanegra will be Honorary Members. Chef Mark asked if there were any other Honorary Members that should be considered. No other nominees were nominated at this time.

**B. State Officer Elections:**

**1. President:** Jack Bretzke CEC, AAC reported that for 2015-2017 there are two candidates running for President, Mark R. Schneider CEC CCE ACE AAC and Casey Gates. Each candidate was given the chance to speak to membership.

**2. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Jack Bretzke CEC, AAC reported that for 2015-2017 there are two candidates running for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Santiago De la Cruz and Dr. Ewart Jones CEC, AAC. Dr. Ewart Jones CEC, AAC was given time to speak; Santiago De la Cruz was not present. Larry Delgado, incoming director, spoke on behalf of Santiago De la Cruz. Jack Bretzke CEC AAC closed nominations. Electronic voting will be sent for State Officer Elections.

**C. Ratify Elected Chapter Directors – 2015-2017**

**Fort Worth Chapter Director 2015-2017 – Heather Kurima**

**Golden Triangle Chapter Director 2015-2017 – Traci Gates**

**Houston Chapter Director 2015-2017 – Adam Heath CEC**

**Permian Basin Chapter Director 2015-2017 - Manuel Garcia**

**Rio Grande Valley Chapter Director 2015-2017 – Larry Delgado**

Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC reviewed list of incoming directors. Motion to ratify Directors will be done via electronic voting since we don't have quorum.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Report of Permanent Committee Chairs**

**1. Fin Commit. Outreach, Chef Relief, Technology, CVP, AAC**

**2. TCA Convention, Culinary Arts, PR, Education, Chapter Development, Membership, Apprenticeship**

Mark Schneider CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC mentioned we covered Old Business within other areas of agenda.

**VI. Site of Future Conventions:**

**2016 Dallas:** Pete Nolasco presented information on the 2016 Convention. The Chapter is planning on holding the convention on the Carnival Liberty. Ship will depart from Galveston and cruise to Mexico. Pricing structure was discussed. Food and room is included in the price of \$458.

**2017 Chefs of Coastal Bend**

**VII. CLOSING / ROUND TABLE:** Please take time to put Willy Rossell in your thoughts and prayers, he has fallen ill. Roundtable. Meeting was adjourned at 11 am.