

# Texas Chefs Association

## Summer Board Meeting

August 5, 2016

Carnival Liberty Cruise Ship



### I. Administrative

**A. Call to Order:** President Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, ACE, AAC called the meeting to order at 8:03 am.

**B. Invocation:** Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC performed the invocation

**C. Roll Call, Sign In & Quorum:** A quorum was present. Those in attendance were:

President	Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC, ACE
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Casey Gates
AAC Chair	Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC
Austin Chapter Director	Eva Barrios, CEC
Brazos Valley Chapter Director	Mark Torres
Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter	Michael Stephans, CEC
Dallas Chapter Director	Pete Nolasco
East Texas Chapter Director	Rick Neal
Fort Worth Chapter Director	Heather Kurima
Golden Triangle Chapter Director	Traci Gates
Heart of Texas Chapter Director	Rudy Garza
Houston Chapter Director	Adam Heath, CEC
Permian Basin Chapter	Rudy Underwood
Rio Grande Valley Chapter Director	Roman Fuentes
TCA Administrator	Sam Brewster
Guests:	
Past President	Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC

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

**E. Welcome & Introductions:** Chef Schneider welcomed those in attendance and thanked everyone for their time. Chef Schneider thanked Chef Pete Nolasco for his leadership in organizing the 2016 Convention and congratulated him on making his vision a reality.

**F. Review of Minutes:** President Schneider requested changes and/or modifications to the meeting minutes of the 2016 Winter Board of Directors Meeting. Casey Gates presented a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Traci Gates and moved by the board.

**G. Review of Meeting Agenda:** President Schneider opened the floor for modifications to the meeting agenda. With no modifications presented, Chef Schneider entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended. A motion was presented by Adam Heath, CEC, seconded by Rudy Garza and moved by the board.

### II. Report of the Officers

**A. Chairman of the Board:** Charles Duit, CEC, ACE, AAC, CDM, CFPP was not in attendance but reported no grievances.

**B. President:** President Schneider referenced his report in the meeting handbook and provided highlights from his report. Schneider outlined his goals as TCA President to visit and cook with every Chapter, address TCA voting rights with the ACF and strengthen the relationship with the Texas Restaurant Association (TRA) and Texas Lone Star Chapter (TLSC) of the Club Managers association of America (CMAA). Schneider stated that he still has four Chapters to visit: Fort Worth Chapter, Permian Basin Chapter, Brazos Valley Chapter and the Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter. Schneider added that he recently received a promotion as State Division Director of Culinary Arts. The new position will allow him to travel more, which he hopes will allow him the opportunity to spread the word of TCA to different areas throughout the state.

**C. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Dr. Ewart Jones was not present; however, his report was included in the handbook.

**D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Chef Casey Gates addressed the efforts of the committee to revise the Chapter bylaws and constitution. Additionally, Chef Gates encouraged Chapter Directors to work to retain new members added through the Membership Drive. Lastly, Gates reminded Chapters to tithe to the State Chapter at the end of the year and to submit meeting minutes to be posted on the website.

**E. Secretary/Treasurer:** Jack Rayome was absent; however President Schneider discussed potential policy changes to streamline and increase efficiency for certain procedures. Primarily, Chef Schneider recommended granting Brewster Association Services, LLC (BAS, LLC) online viewing privileges for the Chapter accounts. BAS would not have signing privileges, but would have the ability to pull electronic bank statements and view account balances to ensure balances reconcile with accounting software. Chef Bretzke warned to maintain a proper paper trail for any transactions. Chef Schneider agreed and stated that he would seek consultation on best practices and report back to the Board. The Board will need to vote electronically for any policy changes.

**F. State Culinary Student Ambassador:** President Schneider announced this position remains vacant and encouraged official nominations to fill the seat. Schneider added that the individual needs to be a student who is willing to travel, recruit and plan student activities during the State Convention. Chef Traci Gates noted the challenge with student turnover and recommended each Chapter to appoint a local Student Ambassador. President Schneider agreed and asked all Chapters to appoint a Student Ambassador and report back by October. Additionally, he requested names, pictures and bios to include in the Chef Connect.

**G. ACF Certification:** President Schneider announced that he has stepped down as an evaluator. He referenced two recent Practical Examinations in Waco and Adam Heath announced two upcoming Practical Examinations in Houston. Schneider complimented Eva Barrios, CEC on the great job she did to host two recent workshops in Austin. Schneider asked Chef Barrios to consider taking over as ACF Certification Chair and congratulated her on being approved as an evaluator. Lastly, Chef Schneider welcomed anyone interested to come practice in Waco.

**H. Social Media Chair:** Stephanie Smith was not in attendance; however, President Schneider reviewed her report in the handbook.

**I. Community Outreach Chair:** Lynn Krause, CEPC, AAC was not in attendance; however, President Schneider reviewed her report. The report addressed the incredible work being done by Mercy Chefs. Schneider encouraged Chapters to invite Lynn to visit with local members about the great work being done by Mercy Chefs.

**J. American Academy of Chefs:** Chef Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC referenced his report in the Board handbook. He announced no new inductees with 24 current AAC members. He described the certification process as a “personal journey” and encouraged those interested in pursuing the designation to print the application to review criteria.

### **III. New Business**

**A. Website:** President Schneider complimented the work done by the committee, which includes Eva Barrios, CEC, Adam Heath, CEC, Sam Brewster and himself. Additionally, he expressed his positive impressions of Clubessential and their professionalism. Schneider described the new website as contemporary and modern with improved navigation features. Sam Brewster described several new features including Chapter event calendars with the ability to email event information through the website. The membership page will promote TCA (only) memberships with the opportunity to upgrade to dual (ACF) status. Chef Patrick Mitchell warned against using the ACF brand to sell TCA memberships; adding to be clear that we’re promoting state-only memberships. Chef Mitchell inquired as to whether or not each local Chapter should have their own logo. Michael Stephans, CEC and Roman Fuentes commented that individual logos provide local identity. President Schneider encouraged Chapters to design and approve their logos at the local Chapter level. Chef Pete asked about website training for local Chapter Directors and Committee Chairs. Brewster explained training resources available through Clubessential and agreed to follow up with more information.

**B. Concho Valley Dissolution:** President Schneider explained that the Concho Valley Chapter had been on probation for four years and a vote is required to dissolve the Chapter. To President Schneider’s knowledge, the Chapter has no members or funds. Adam Heath, CEC presented a motion to dissolve the Concho Valley Chapter. The motion was seconded by Michael Stephans, CEC and moved by the Board. Chef Schneider explained that any existing funds will remain in the account for one year and would serve as seed money if someone has the desire to revitalize the Chapter. After such period, existing funds would go to the State Chapter.

**C. Honorary Board Members:** President Schneider referenced a letter included in the handbook regarding extending an invitation to the Texas Restaurant Association (TRA) and Texas Lone Star Chapter of CMAA (TLSC) an honorary non-voting seat on the TCA Board of Directors. Adam Heath, CEC presented a motion to vote to approve the addition of a TRA representative and TLSC representative to the TCA Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mark Torres and brought to the floor for discussion. A discussion ensued about the relationship between the TCA and TRA and the existing “friction” between the two organizations. The RGV Chapter was referenced as a success story with Chef Larry Delgado being a leader with both organizations. As an alternative to offering an honorary seat on the Board of Directors, Chef Bretzke recommended a formal invitation to attend the annual Convention as their organization’s representative. The invitation would include a brief speaking opportunity at the General Session. Members of the Board agreed with the approach and voted to deny the motion to offer an honorary seat on the Board of Directors. Chef Schneider agreed to draft a letter to send to each organization’s president, inviting them to the 2017 TCA Convention.

**D. State Office:** President Schneider announced no grievances with the State Office and complimented the relationship with Brewster Association Services, LLC.

**E. – G. Financial Reports:** Due to the absence of Secretary/Treasurer, Jack Rayome, President Schneider ruled to table the review of the financial reports. Chef Schneider asked the members of the Board to review the financial narrative and direct questions to Jack Rayome. Schneider added that an electronic vote would be necessary to approve the 2017 budget.

**F. 2017 State Convention:** Chef Michael Stephans, CEC expressed excitement for the Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter to host the 2017 TCA Convention in Corpus Christi. Chef announced the Omni Hotel as the host property and complimented Dean Sprague, CEC for the work he's done with preliminary preparations. Stephan's and the Chapter have targeted the first week of August to host the convention, to avoid the high tourist traffic in the month of July. Traci Gates recommended that we be sensitive to the proximity of the ACF Convention to avoid the requirement of back-to-back travel dates for members. After confirming the dates for the 2017 ACF Convention, the Board agreed to host the 2017 TCA Convention in early August.

#### **IV. Old Business**

**A. Constitution, Bylaws & Policy and Procedure Alignment:** President Schneider referenced the proposed bylaw and constitution revisions in the Board handbook. Chef Schneider announced that they are not ready to be voted on, since they had not been previously sent to Chapter Board members. Sam Brewster was asked to distribute the "strike" copy to all Chapter Directors for review. Schneider asked Directors to distribute bylaw and constitution revisions to their Chapters and report comments and recommendations back to the committee. Comments should be considered by the committee, implemented accordingly and the committee will present the final draft for a vote at the 2017 Winter Board Meeting. If approved by the Board at the Winter Board Meeting, the bylaw and constitution will be brought to the Chapter for a vote at the 2017 General Session.

**B. State Awards Procedures:** Chef Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC announced his committee, which includes Michelle Massey, Charles Duit, CEC, AAC, Michelle Brown and Traci Gates. The committee's goal is to raise the prestige and credibility of the State Chef of the Year Award. Chef Mitchell promised to have a formal proposal by the Winter Board Meeting; however, the new process will be modeled after the ACF's award and will require an application process by the State Chef of the Year in order to represent the TCA in national competitions. Applications would also be accepted from previous TCA State Chefs of the Year who are interested in competing at the national level. The Committee will work to develop guidelines to evaluate applications. Such criteria may include tenure, certification, mentoring, charitable involvement, etc. Chef Schneider stated that he liked the application process but would prefer that the evaluations and final decision take place at the Board level and not done by a committee.

**C. New Chapter Development:** Chef Casey Gates announced that Lufkin meets the current chapter-charter standards and is ready. President Schneider agreed to appoint an Interim Director and the Chapter will be officially ratified at the 2017 General Session. Chef Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC continues his work to establish a Galveston Chapter.

**D. State Voting Rights:** President Schneider expressed his continued desire to propose an official "State Model" to the ACF, using Texas as the example. He added that the involvement and recognition received by Texas chefs at the national level has given credibility to the TCA.

**E. ACF Culinary Graduate Program:** Chef Schneider revisited the proposal to the ACF to establish a culinary graduate program, using Texas as the pilot Chapter. Schneider cited their initial concern of not having enough chefs to accommodate the number of students interested

to enroll in such a program. As explained by President Schneider, the program would help retain student members and allow them an opportunity to achieve Sous Chef status one year early. President Schneider has not heard back from ACF with a final decision, but agreed to follow up.

**F. 2016 Convention:** Chef Pete Nolasco expressed his extreme appreciation to the Dallas Chapter for making the vision of hosting the 2016 Convention on the Carnival Liberty a reality. Chef Pete explained that his trial run was on a different ship, so there've been a few hiccups with the meeting venues. Chef acknowledged the number of older chefs on board and requested the opportunity to recognize the Convention Committee at the Awards reception.

**G. TCA Staff Feedback:** Sam Brewster recommended the following to the Board for consideration:

- Switch e-commerce providers from PayPal to Square. This would eliminate monthly service fees and minimize transaction costs. The Board agreed to establish Square as our new e-commerce provider.
- Minimize printing costs by eliminating Board of Director handbooks and only distributing "TCA Handbooks" to new members. As an alternative to the BOD handbooks, meeting materials will be stored and distributed from Dropbox. BOD members will have the opportunity to print their own materials and/or view meeting materials electronically. The Board agreed to approve both items.
- Review the existing Culinary Vision Partnership revenue breakdown. Brewster explained the current policy of dividing CVP revenue among four accounts:
  - TCA Convention – 50%
  - TCA Website – 20%
  - Semi Annual Publication – 20%
  - Restricted Scholarship Account – 10%

Brewster explained that a portion of funds should go directly to the Chapter operating account. The Board agreed to discuss the CVP distribution at the Winter Board Meeting.

## **V. Nominations & Elections**

**A. Honorary Members:** Chef Pete presented a motion to confirm the following chefs as Honorary Members: Andre Bedorout, Klaus Mittlehauser, Hans Stettler, Dieter Paul and Eduardo Bocanegra. The motion was seconded by Rick Neal and moved by the Board.

**B. State Officer Elections:** President Schneider announced the following uncontested officer candidates:

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Santiago "Jimmy" Delacruz

Secretary/Treasurer – Michael Schuster

Chef Schneider stated that both candidates will be voted in at the General Session meeting.

**C. TCA Awards:** The Board of Directors reviewed local Chapter Award winners in each category. Local Chapter Award winners for each category are provided in *Attachment 1*. Following the announcement of award recipients for each Chapter, Chef Schneider requested for each officer and director to complete the ballot for State Chef of the Year, State Pastry Chef of the Year, State Educator of the Year and Student Chef of the Year. Jack Bretzke, Patrick Mitchell and Sam Brewster were asked to count and verify the votes. Winners for the State Awards are to be announced at during the Awards Session on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Chef Schneider announced that current State Award Winners are ineligible to win back-to-back years, which disqualifies

Michelle Brown from being named 2016 Pastry Chef of the Year. President Schneider referenced the Isaac Pena Award and each Chapter Director provided a testimony of their Chapter's accomplishments and why they should be considered to receive the Isaac Pena Award. Ballots for the Isaac Pena Award were distributed. The winning Chapter will be recognized at the Awards Session on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VI. Site of Future Conventions**

2018 – Houston Chapter

2019 – Rio Grande Valley Chapter

2020 - TBD

#### **VII. Closing & Roundtable**

Chef Adam Heath, CEC presented a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Eva Barrios, CEC and moved by the Board. Chef Schneider adjourned the meeting at 11:39 am.



## 2016 Chapter Award Winners

### Brazos Valley Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Mark Torres
Pastry Chef of the Year:	Joshua Neubauer
Contributor of the Year:	Carolyn Becerra
Purveyor of the Year:	Jeff Bazar, Ben E. Keith



### Chefs of the Coastal Bend

Chef of the Year:	Paula Szczepanek
Pastry Chef of the Year:	Felicia Rodriguez
Student of the Year:	Cristina Franco-Olvera
Contributor of the Year:	Cory Matthews
Purveyor of the Year:	Groomers Seafood



### Dallas Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Hermann Hiemeyer
Pastry Chef of the Year:	Michelle Brown
Student of the Year:	Stephanie Southall
Contributor of the Year:	Michelle Massey
Purveyor of the Year:	Justin Pitts, Gourmet Foods
Educator of the Year:	Stephen DeShazo, CEC, FMP
ROMEO of the Year:	Dieter Paul



### East Texas Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Harry Kancyr
Contributor of the Year:	Bettie Smith
Purveyor of the Year:	Robert Rohde, Ben E. Keith
Educator of the Year:	Maurice Zeck, CEC, AAC



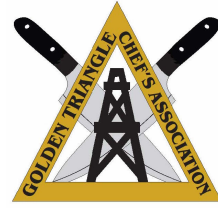
### Fort Worth Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Michael Hackman
Contributor of the Year:	Julia Dunaway
Purveyor of the Year:	Gourmet Foods



### Golden Triangle Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Casey Gates
Junior Chef of the Year:	Gabbie Richmond
Contributor of the Year:	Ashley Pitts, CC
Purveyor of the Year:	Nature's Best
Educator of the Year:	Dr. Ewart Jones CEC, AAC
Student of the Year:	Gabbie Richmond



### Heart of Texas Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Rudy Garza
Contributor of the Year:	Aramark
Purveyor of the Year:	Fresh Point
Educator of the Year:	Mark Schneider CEC,CCE,AAC,ACE



### Houston Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Adam Heath, CEC
Pastry Chef of the Year:	Melissa Menendez
Student of the Year:	Tiara Guard
Contributor of the Year:	George Morfin
Purveyor of the Year:	Lone Star Produce
Educator of the Year:	Christy Sykes



### Permian Basin Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Manny Garcia
Pastry Chef of the Year:	Rudy Underwood
Contributor of the Year:	Leo Garcia
Purveyor of the Year:	Steak 42



### Rio Grande Valley Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Adam Cavazos
Student of the Year:	Samantha Minarro
Contributor of the Year:	Juan Castillo
Purveyor of the Year:	Mike Salinas
Educator of the Year:	Claudia Lopez Jean



### San Antonio Chapter

Chef of the Year:	Phillip Salinas, CEC, PCII
Contributor of the Year:	Ron Smith
Purveyor of the Year:	Chris Cukjati, Ben E. Keith
Educator of the Year:	Amanda Tharpe

