

Texas Chefs Association

Summer Board Meeting

August 4, 2017

Corpus Christi, TX



American Culinary Federation
Texas Chefs Association

I. Administrative

A. Call to Order: President Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. He welcomed all to the Summer Board Meeting of the Texas Chefs Association and expressed appreciation to the Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter for hosting the meeting in Corpus Christi.

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
2 nd Vice President	Santiago Delacruz
Chairman of the Board	Charles Duit, CEC, AAC
AAC Chair	Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC
Austin Chapter	Eva Barrios, CEC
Brazos Valley Chapter	Mark Torres
Chefs of the Coastal Bend	Michael Stephans, CEC
Dallas Chapter	Pete Nolasco
East Texas Chapter	Rick Neal
Fort Worth Chapter	Heather Kurima
Golden Triangle Chapter	Deborah Bando-Duit, CEC, AAC
Heart of Texas Chapter	Anthony Gully
Rio Grande Valley Chapter	Larry Delgado
TCA Administrator	Sam Brewster
Guests:	
East Texas Chapter	Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC
Rio Grande Valley	Dustin Stair, CEC

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

E. Welcome & Introductions: Introductions of the Officers and Directors were performed.

F. Review of Minutes: Charles Duit, CEC, AAC, ACE referenced the 2017 Winter Board Meeting minutes. Rick Neal motioned to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Santiago Delacruz and moved by the Board. President Schneider announced that Pete Nolasco had not submitted his application for State Chef of the Year. The Board voted to not accept his application for consideration.

G. Review of Meeting Agenda: Charles Duit, CEC, AAC, ACE requested revisions to the meeting agenda. Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC requested the following:

III. New Business, F. Local State Dinners

The agenda was approved as amended.

II. Report of Officers

A. President: President Schneider expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Texas Chefs Association members as President over the last four years. Among his achievements, Chef Schneider noted the publication of the Chef Connect newsletter, a 6.3% growth in membership, the growth of the Culinary Visions Partnership program, bylaw ratification and membership alignment, a new TCA website and bringing in an association management company to manage the TCA affairs. Schneider expressed excitement about the candidates who have stepped up to lead the next era of the TCA. In conclusion, Chef Schneider recognized many of the culinary legends lost during his term as President. He once again thanked the members of the TCA for the honor to serve as President and promised to continue to serve the best interests of the association during his term as Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer.

B. Chairman of the Board: Charles Duit, CEC, AAC had no grievances to report.

C. 1st Vice President: Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC was not present.

D. 2nd Vice President: Santiago Delacruz apologize for not having a formal report and deferred comments on the Membership Drive for later on the agenda.

E. Secretary/Treasurer: Charles Duit, CEC, AAC stated that the association is financially stable and great progress had been made since the Winter Board Meeting. He deferred further comments for later on the agenda. President Schneider thanked Chef Duit for his efforts as Secretary/Treasurer and expressed excitement to take over the position.

F. Finance Committee Chair: President Schneider stressed the importance of getting the Finance Committee organized and reminded Chapter Directors to submit a Chapter Representative to serve on the committee.

G. State Culinary Student Ambassador: Mark Schneider announced that the seat remains vacant but he has a few candidates in mind to follow up with.

H. ACF Certification Chair: President Schneider stated that this would be his last year as Chair. He has asked Eva Barrios, CEC to step up when his term ends. Schneider expressed the importance of certification and the honor it has been for him to assist so many chefs to reach certification over the last ten years.

I. Social Media Chair: Schneider expressed the need to identify someone to fill the role of Social Media Chair to manage the various TCA social media accounts. Deborah Bando-Duit, CEC, AAC recommended identifying a culinary student. Eva Barrios, CEC volunteered to take over responsibilities temporarily until a full-time person is identified. Chef Schneider reminded Chapter Directors to submit photos and articles to him for the Chef Connect.

J. Community Outreach Chair: President Schneider stated that the chair remains vacant. He asked Directors to please submit names to assist and coordinate with disaster relief efforts. Deborah Bando-Duit, CEC, AAC commented that the individual needs to be someone with professional flexibility. The board discussed previous involvement with Mercy Chefs and Charles Duit, CEC, AAC recommended we reach out to Mercy Chefs to recruit a member.

K. American Academy of Chefs: Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC announced that growth in the academy has stalled and there needs to be an effort to identify chefs who are close to meeting the requirements. President Schneider offered to develop a template for the AAC application and post it on the website. Additionally, Eva Barrios, CEC offered to host a dinner after renovations are completed at Austin Country Club.

Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC called for a 15-minute recess.

III. New Business

A. 2017 ACF National Convention: President Schneider spoke to the honor to represent Texas at the ACF National Convention. He commented on the progress made to align the TCA with the ACF and announced that the Board conducted a conference call to discuss the ACF elections; adding that the TCA membership carries significant influence in the ACF voting process. He expressed excitement in the new ACF Officers, noting that many of them have ties and relationships with the TCA. Schneider recognized Rick Neal and Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC for performing seminars at the Convention and spoke to the efforts of all Texas Chefs who rallied to support their fellow members.

B. State Convention Handbook: President Schneider announced that the Executive Board is working to produce a State Convention manual to serve as a resource for future host committees.

C. 2017 Financial Statements: Charles Duit, CEC, AAC addressed the 2017 balance sheet and profit & loss statements. Duit noted that the layout of the profit & loss statement reflects the new structure that was decided upon at the Winter Board Meeting. Duit recognized the following Chapters for their contributions to the TCA: Brazos Valley Chapter (\$300), Rio Grande Valley (\$1,500) and the Heart of Texas Chapter (\$500). Additionally, Duit announced that the Heart of Chapter had contributed \$2,000 to offset expenses related to President's Travel. Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC inquired about the distribution of CVP revenue on the profit & loss statement. Duit replied that 20% of CVP funds is shown on the balance sheet in the restricted accounts, \$10,000 is shown on the P&L under CVP Convention Sponsorship and the remaining balance is listed as income in CVP revenue. After a brief discussion, Larry Delgado presented a

motion to approve the financial statements. The motion was seconded by Mark Torres and moved by the Board.

D. 2018 Budget: Charles Duit, CEC, AAC presented the 2018 operating budget and budget narrative. Chef Duit commented that the numbers are conservative and reasonable and should be used as a benchmark for operating performance. President Schneider expressed his desire to increase President's Travel funds to support the TCA President to attend ACF events as well as visiting TCA Chapters. After discussion, the Board concluded that it should be the TCA's policy to have the TCA President represent them at National events. As a result, Mark Torres presented a motion to increase CVP revenue by the amount of one Platinum partner (\$4,800) and increase President's Travel expense by the same amount. The motion to approve the amendment was seconded by Rick Neal and moved by the Board. President Schneider referenced the significant expense of insurance for dual members. Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC explained that the program was initially implemented to serve as a benefit to families as well as to encourage members to have dual memberships. Chef Delgado recommended focusing on Chef's Charity Relief fundraising as an alternative to the insurance policy. Chef Schneider concluded the discussion by stating that the decision will be up to the next President and Board. A motion to approve the amended budget was presented by Mark Torres, seconded by Larry Delgado and moved by the Board.

E. State Office: Charles Duit, CEC, AAC thanked Sam Brewster for his efforts. Sam Brewster thanked the Board for their support over the last two years. Brewster recommended moving to an electronic notice to remind members of delinquent dues. He added that email will save expense on postage and will be a more effective method of reaching people. The Board was in agreement.

F. Local State Dinners: President Schneider recommended the concept of hosting local dinners as a fundraising mechanism to raise funds for the TCA and to send Chapter members to the TCA Convention.

IV. Old Business

A. Constitution & Bylaw Alignment: President Schneider announced that the Constitution and Bylaws were ready to be presented to the membership at the General Session for a vote.

B. State Awards Procedures: Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC addressed the new State Awards application process that was installed at the Winter Board Meeting. Mitchell acknowledged that many applications were submitted after the deadline, which was due to a lack of communication as well as it being the first year of the process. Mitchell recommended reaching out to Chapter Award Winners directly in the future, instead of relying on Chapter Directors to communicate the process. Chef Mitchell also recommended conducting the vote in advance of the Summer Board Meeting and potentially using past award winners as the voting body. Chef Schneider liked the idea of conducting voting among past members and promised to draft a proposal to discuss at the Winter Board Meeting.

C. 2017 Membership Drive: Santiago Delacruz announced the winners of the Membership Drive as follows:

Christy Sykes – will receive complimentary TCA Convention registration for 2018

Christopher Dickens

Mike Stephans, CEC

Adam Cavazos

Mike Mrugala, CC

Chef Delacruz stated his desire to send letters to recently dropped members to encourage them to renew.

D. CVP Drive: President Schneider reviewed the CVP Drive guidelines, which incentivizes Chapters to bring in new CVP partners by returning to them a percentage of the CVP revenue. Schneider announced Frontier Reserve and Go Texan as new partners. Chef Larry Delgado stated that the Rio Grande Valley Chapter will defer the commission and donated it to the TCA operating funds. Deborah Bando-Duit, CEC, AAC suggested that Sodexo and Aramark be targeted for potential partnerships.

E. New Chapter Development: Schneider provided updates on progress made towards establishing TCA Chapters in Galveston and Longview. He added that Chef Delacruz would be tasked with following up to assist these Chapters in forming. Schneider concluded by stating that local Chapters require eight members to form and six members to maintain their charter.

F. 2017 State Convention: Chef Michael Stephans, CEC welcomed attendees to Corpus Christi and expressed appreciation of his fellow Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter members for their assistance in planning the Convention. Stephans addressed the theme of “Kickin’ it Old School,” referencing the fact that current culinary trends seem to be reverting back to classic techniques. The education programming was designed with this in mind.

V. Nominations & Elections

A. Honorary Members: No nominations were presented.

B. State Officer Elections: President Schneider announced the following nominations:

President: Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC and Larry Delgado

1st Vice President: Pete Nolasco and Len Pawalek, CEC

Schneider stated that each nominee would receive five minutes during the General Session to address the membership. The appointed Sergeant of Arms, Secretary/Treasurer and a local Chapter represented will be tasked with counting the votes. Lastly, Schneider added that the new Officer terms will begin on September 1st.

Chef Larry Delgado stated that he wishes to withdraw his nomination for President. Delgado explained his belief that the leader of the association should hold his/her certification and, until this moment, certification had not been a priority for his professional career. He continued to discuss the challenges he’s facing personally and professionally and stated that the timing isn’t right. Several members of the Board encouraged him to reconsider and President Schneider

stated that his resignation would not be officially accepted until the start of the General Session.

C. TCA Awards: The awards ballots were distributed and Jack Bretzek, CEC, AAC and Sam Brewster were asked to count the votes. The winners are to be announced at the President's Dinner.

Chapter Directors addressed the Board for consideration for the Isaac Pina Chapter Award. The following Chapters were represented: Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter, Dallas Chapter, East Texas Chapter, Heart of Texas Chapter and Rio Grande Valley Chapter. Voting was conducted and Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC and Sam Brewster counted votes. The winner will be announced at the Awards Luncheon.

Deborah Bando-Duit, CEC, AAC recommended an application process and guidelines for the Isaac Pina Award. Chef Mitchell spoke to the benefits of having Chapter Directors address the Board but agreed that an application could compliment the process. Mitchell volunteered to draft an application to review at the Winter Board Meeting.

President Schneider reviewed guidelines for the ACF's Hermann G. Rusch Chef's Achievement Award and the ACF's Dr. L.J. Minor Chef Professionalism Award. After discussion, it was decided that Dr. Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC should be nominated for the Hermann Rusch Achievement Award. Schneider asked the Board to consider nominations for the Professionalism Award and submit them to Sam Brewster. He urged Charles Duit, CEC, AAC and Eva Barrios, CEC to consider applying. Finally, Schneider announced that the application deadline is September 30th.

VI. Site of Future Conventions

President Schneider announced future Convention locations as follows:

2018 – Houston Chapter

2019 – Rio Grande Valley Chapter

VII. Closing & Roundtable

Mark Torres expressed gratitude for his role as Chapter Director and stated that the Brazos Valley Chapter would like to host a Convention in the future.

Deborah Bando-Duit, CEC, AAC spoke to the importance of the TCA's history. She explained that disagreements are acceptable as long as we all have the best interests of the TCA in mind.

Dustin Stair, CEC complimented Larry Delgado for his leadership in the Rio Grande Valley Chapter and expressed a desire to keep in on the Board of Directors. Mark Schneider agreed and promised to recommend him for a Chair position.

Heather Kurima stated that Chef Walter Kaufmann will be turning 89 and the Fort Worth Chapter will be using their holiday party to celebrate the occasion. She welcomed all TCA members to attend.

Larry Delgado explained that he's more committed than ever to achieve his certification. Additionally, he expressed the importance of developing relationships at the Chapter level to increase member value.

Rick Neal spoke to the importance of mentorship in the East Texas Chapter and expressed gratitude to his mentors for their support.

Pete Nolasco stated that he's finishing his term as Dallas Chapter Director and reflected on many of the Chapter's achievements.

Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC commended Larry Delgado for his honesty and thanked Chef Schneider for his service as President.

Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC once again thanked the Board for the privilege to serve as President of the Texas Chefs Association.

Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC, motioned to adjourn the 2017 Summer Board Meeting at 2:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Santiago Delacruz and moved by the Board.

Prepared by:

Date

Charles Duit, CEC, AAC, ACE
Secretary/Treasurer