

Texas Chefs Association

Winter Board Meeting

February 3, 2019

The Pearl

South Padre Island, TX



American Culinary Federation
Texas Chefs Association

I. Administrative

A. Call to Order: President Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC called the meeting to order at 8:45 am. He welcomed all to the Winter Board Meeting of the Texas Chefs Association.

B. Invocation: Len Pawelek, CEC performed the invocation

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

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC |
| 1 st Vice President | Len Pawelek, CEC |
| 2 nd Vice President | Rick Neal, CEC |
| Chairman of the Board | Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC |
| AAC Chair | Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC |
| Community Outreach Chair | Larry Delgado |
| Austin Chapter | Robert Hale |
| Brazos Valley Chapter | Mark Torres |
| Chefs of the Coastal Bend | Dean Sprague, CEC |
| Dallas Chapter | Gene Christiano |
| East Texas Chapter | Brett Keckeisen |
| Fort Worth Chapter | Heather Kurima |
| Heart of Texas Chapter | Anthony Gully |
| Rio Grande Valley Chapter | Dustin Stair, CEC |
| TCA Administrator | Sam Brewster |
| Guests: | |
| Rio Grande Valley | Douglas O'Neil |

D. Sergeant at Arms: Len Pawelek, CEC was appointed as Sergeant at Arms.

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

F. Review of Minutes: Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC referenced the 2018 Summer Board Meeting minutes and 2018 General Session meeting minutes. Mark Torres presented a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dean Sprague, CEC and moved by the Board.

G. Review of Meeting Agenda: Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC requested additions to the meeting agenda under New Business. Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC proposed: H. Application

Review for Jack Bretzke Education Fund and Bernard Urban Competition Fund. Heather Kurima proposed: I. Review of Director Rap Session Notes.

The agenda was approved as amended.

II. Officer Reports

A. Chairman of the Board: Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC had no grievances to report.

B. President: President Kelly explained that his new job has consumed much of his time but he'd been in consistent contact with the State Office and continues to welcome calls from the membership. Kelly announced that Robert Hale had been appointed interim Director for the Austin Chapter. President Kelly recently visited the South Plains Chapter in the Lubbock area and expressed optimism that they will rejoin as a chapter of the Texas Chefs Association. He extended an invitation for them to attend our 2019 State Convention. Finally, Kelly addressed the 2020 ACF National Convention and announced that the TCA will have a role in welcoming everyone to Texas at the conclusion of the 2019 ACF Convention in Orlando.

C. 1st Vice President: Len Pawalek, CEC referenced the status of the Finance Committee and stated no need to organize the committee due to the stability of financial reporting. Pawalek acknowledged one Chef Relief disbursement in June for the passing of Jerry Opperman. Additionally, a distribution for Josef Meier had been approved. Chef Pawalek addressed progress with renewals for Culinary Vision Partners for 2019 and asked representatives of the Board to follow up with any companies they had relationships with. He emphasized the importance of retaining and recruiting new CVPs and also offering services to them.

D. 2nd Vice President: Rick Neal, CEC expressed his excitement for the 2019 State Convention in South Padre Island and thanked Dustin Stair, CEC for his leadership in hosting the convention. Neal has reached out to NewChef about custom chef's coats for the convention. He encouraged the Rio Grande Valley Chapter to create a custom logo for the State Convention to incorporate onto the coats. Chef Neal addressed the Treats of Christmas event and expressed his gratitude to the Dallas Chapter for hosting the event and including the East Texas Chapter and the Fort Worth Chapter.

E. State Culinary Student Ambassador: Lateisha Hayes was not present. Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC recommended a new Student Ambassador who will be more engaged. President Kelly stated that he will accept recommendations.

F. Certification Chair: Eva Barrios, CEC was not present but her Certification Report was included in the meeting handbook.

G. Social Media Chair: Heather Kurima had volunteered to fill this role at the 2018 State Convention. Mrs. Kurima stated that she needs to obtain the password for the Face Book page and Gene Christiano agreed to follow up with Pete Nolasco. Chef Kurima expressed her desire to create an Instagram account and explained that it needs to be a collaborative effort with consistent activity on the feed.

H. Community Outreach Chair: Larry Delgado addressed the Chef Relief lapel pins and announced that \$1,620 was raised at the 2018 State Convention. He stressed the importance of fundraising for the Chef Relief fund, now that the TCA is self-funding death benefits. Delgado explained that the ACF insurance policy distribution diminishes as member's age. The scale is as follows:

Up to the age of 64: \$5,000

Ages 65 – 69: \$2,500

Ages 70+: \$1,000

Delgado stated that if the TCA wishes to maintain a \$5,000 distribution despite a member's age, fundraising for Chef Relief needs to remain a high priority. Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC reminded the Board that funds are raised through the lapel pins, member donations, Chapter donations and CVP revenue.

I. American Academy of Chefs Chair: Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC explained that membership remains stagnant. He stated that he's willing to coach people through the process but the pursuit of AAC is an individual journey. Mitchell hopes to have a push for membership due to the 2020 ACF Convention taking place in Dallas. Lastly, Mitchell explained his desire to host an AAC dinner in Dallas to honor Karl Haas.

III. New Business

A. Financial Report: Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC stated that the association is financially stable. Schneider addressed the balance sheet and explained the need to clean up some line items that are no longer relevant due to the change in chapter management. He also encouraged Chapters to claim their funds in the Escrow accounts. Schneider continued to review the 2018 Profit & Loss report, which showed a Net Loss of -\$6,743.78. Schneider attributed the loss to the \$10,000 expense in Professional Fees, which was required to address a legal matter. Chef Schneider stressed the importance of retention and growth in membership and Culinary Vision Partners. His goal is to increase membership by 10% in 2019. Additionally, he asked all Chapters to tithe \$500 to the TCA's operating account, Schneider proceeded to review the Restricted Accounts and the activity of each account to date. The Restricted Accounts had the following balances:

Global Chef Fund - \$2,177.62

Bernard Urban Competition Fund - \$14,541.29

Certification Reimbursement - \$6,838.95

Chef Relief - \$30,197.27

Jack Bretzke Education Fund - \$18,571.03

State Convention Scholarship - \$13,381.22

Willy Rosel Endowment - \$5,375.00

Heather Kurima presented a motion to replenish the Chapter Start-up restricted account with a \$500 balance. Mark Torres seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board. Schneider stated that he will explore options to invest funds from the Willy Rosel restricted account into an interest bearing account. Chef Schneider addressed the Global Chef Fund and recommended renaming the account as "Patrick Mitchell National/Global Competition Fund." Dean Sprague, CEC presented a motion to rename the account accordingly. The motion was seconded by Rick Neal, CEC and moved by the Board. Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC expressed

gratitude for the honor. Finally, Schneider revisited the 2019 budget and outlined the following goals:

- Increase membership by 10%
- Retain all Culinary Vision Partners
- Each Chapter tithes \$500 to the state operating account

In conclusion, Schneider expressed his enjoyment for serving as Treasurer and the Board thanked him for his efforts.

B. State Convention Report: Rio Grande Valley Chapter Director, Dustin Stair, CEC expressed his excitement to host the 2019 State Convention in South Padre Island. He welcomed any resources from chapters who had previously hosted a State Convention and explained that the State Office had also provided some tools. Stair explained the Board discussed several concepts that the RGV chapter has for the Ice Breaker and those. President Cook encouraged the RGV to produce some preliminary information to distribute to the membership to begin creating excitement. Chef Delagdo stated the importance of promoting family attractions to encourage attendees to bring family members. Schneider recommended inviting local chefs to the Ice Breaker as a membership recruitment opportunity.

C. ACF National Convention: President Cook referenced the 2020 ACF National Convention, which will take place in Dallas. He stated that he'd had informal conversations with the ACF office and their focus will switch to Dallas at the conclusion of the 2019 Convention in Orlando. Cook expressed his desire to bring local Texas cuisine to the Convention asked the Board to think of creative Texas-themed swag to sell or give away at the Convention. Currently, Fort Worth is scheduled to host the 2020 State Convention and Cook suggested that Dallas step in to serve as host with a potential Awards Luncheon to take place prior to the start of the ACF Convention. Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC suggested that Chapter Directors should get support of local Chapters to host State Conventions, prior to volunteering to host at the Winter Board Meeting. President Cook agreed; and as a result, ask Chapter Directors to discuss hosting future State Conventions with their Chapters and the Board will assign host sites at the Summer Board Meeting.

D. Culinary Vision Partner Report: Len Pawalek reviewed the 2019 CVP Partners as follows:

Platinum – Ben E. Keith - \$6,000

Platinum – Texas Beef Americas Council - \$6,000

Silver – Boiron - \$1,200

Bronze – Seafood Supply - \$600

Chef Pawalek will contact our un-renewed sponsors. He stressed the importance of acknowledging our partners and giving them the opportunity to gain business from our members. Schneider reminded Chapter Directors that a commission for new CVP partners is sent back to Chapters for recruiting new partners.

E. Chapter Contributions: Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC reminded Chapter Directors to tithes \$500 to the TCA operating account. He encouraged additional contributions for the Restricted Accounts.

F. State Awards: Sam Brewster reminded Chapter Directors of the Chapter/State Awards timeline as follows:

March – accept nominations at Chapter meetings

April – elect Chapter award recipients and submit to State Office by April 30th

May – State candidates should submit applications to State Office by May 31st

August – State Awards winners recognized at TCA State Convention

G. Legal Discussion: The Board entered into a closed session to discuss a pending legal matter. The discussion was closed to voting members only.

H. Restricted Account Applications: Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC presented application proposals for the Jack Bretzke Education Fund and the Bernard Urban Competition Fund. Schneider reviewed the application process and policies for each fund. Rick Neal, CEC presented a motion to approve both applications. The motion was seconded by Gene Christiano and approved by the Board. Both applications will be posted on the TCA website.

I. Director’s Rap Session Review: Heather Kurima referenced notes from the Chapter Director’s Rap Session and described their goal to unify Chapters through membership, technology and teamwork. Gene Christiano described their strategy to approach culinary-minded corporations to encourage them to promote the benefits of the TCA to their members. The result would lead to more members among all TCA Chapters. The discussion shifted to resources to educate potential members of the benefits of the TCA. President Cook suggested a video to post on the website as well as feature at the 2019 ACF Convention to promote Dallas in 2020. The video needs to appeal to the younger generation and feature all 13 TCA Chapters and the benefits of membership. Following a brief discussion, Mark Torres presented a motion to allocate \$1,000 towards the production of a TCA video. Gene Christiano seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board. President Cook appointed Heather Kurima to organize content for the video. Ms. Kurima agreed to set up a Google drive and will ask Chapter Directors to submit photography for the video.

IV. Nominations & Elections

A. Honorary Members: President Kelly announced no nominations for Honorary membership.

B. State Officer Elections: President Kelly opened the floor to nominations for the offices of President, 1st Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Rick Neal, CEC nominated Len Pawalek, CEC to serve a second term as 1st Vice President.

Pawalek accepted the nomination.

Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC nominated Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC to serve a second term as President.

Cook accepted the nomination.

No nominations were made for Secretary/Treasurer. President Kelly announced that all nominees must accept their nomination by submitting a letter to the State Office. Additionally, the State Office will follow up with nominees to collect necessary information to post on the website.

V. State Convention:

A. 2019 Rio Grande Valley: August 9th – 11th

B. 2020 Fort Worth / Dallas Chapter

C. 2021 East Texas Chapter

VI. Roundtable/Adjournment

All members of the Board thanked Dustin Stair, CEC for conducting a wonderful Winter Board Meeting. President Cook asked Chapter Directors to encourage all past State Chefs of the Year to attend the 2019 State Convention to get their pictures re-taken with the trophy. Cook continued to express his pride in the TCA and it's reputation and involvement at the National level. Dustin Stair, CEC presented a \$1,000 contribution to the Chef Relief account on behalf of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter. Larry Delgado proposed the idea of a fishing tournament to take place the day before the start of the State Convention.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:16 pm was presented by Mark Torres, seconded by Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC and moved by the Board.

Approved by:

Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC
Secretary/Treasurer

Date