

Texas Chefs Association

Winter Board Meeting

July 31, 2023

Virtual Format



I. Administrative

A. Call to Order: President Len Pawelek, CEC called the meeting to order at 1:02. He welcomed all to the Summer 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:

President	Len Pawelek, CEC
1st Vice President	Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC
2nd Vice President	Dean Sprague, CEC
Secretary/Treasurer	Larry Matson CEC, CCE, AAC
Chairman of the Board	Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC
American Academy of Chefs Ambassador	Patrick Mitchell CEC AAC
Community Outreach Chair	Rick Neal, CEC, AAC
TCA Administrator	Sam Brewster
Austin Chapter	Robert Hale, CC
Chefs of the Coastal Bend	Michael Smith, CEC, CEPC, CCA, WCEC
Dallas Chapter	Cassandra Armstrong, CC
East Texas Chapter	Anthony Petrecca
Fort Worth Chapter	Caroline Taylor
Heart of Texas Chapter	Reannon Ruark
Houston Chapter	Paul Newman
Red River Chapter	Rusty Weatherly
Rio Grande Valley Chapter	Omar Duran

D. Sergeant at Arms: Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC was appointed as Sergeant at Arms.

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

F. Review of Meeting Agenda: Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC welcomed additions to the meeting agenda under New Business. None were requested and the agenda was approved as presented.

G. Review of Minutes: Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC presented a motion to approve the minutes from the 2023 Winter Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dean Sprague, CEC and approved by the Board.

II. Officer Reports

A. Chairman of the Board: Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC reported no grievances and expressed his appreciate to serve on the TCA's Culinary Hall of Fame committee.

B. President: President Pawelek expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as TCA President and represent the TCA at the ACF's National Convention. Pawelek discussed the ACF Board of Governor's meeting, where several contentious bylaw revisions were presented, relating to student member voting and qualifications to run for a National office. President Pawelek explained that he voted with the best interests of the TCA in mind and will remain open-minded if these topics arise again. He asked the TCA Board to be engaged with their National associations governance and to provide feedback to him on their opinions. Pawelek complimented Texas Chefs who competed or were recognized during the National Convention:

Chad Burnett CEC, Chef of the Year

Lauren Aleman, Pastry Chef of the Year

Patrick Mitchell CEC, AAC, Hermann G. Rusch Chef's Achievement Award

Cassandra Armstrong, CC, L. Edwin Brown Leadership Award

Rick Neal CEC, AAC, Induction into AAC, and Cutting Edge Award

Chef Pawelek expressed excitement for the 60th State Convention in Tyler and encouraged everyone to celebrate the rich history of the Texas Chefs Association.

C. 1st Vice President: Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC opened with comments on his appreciation to serve the Texas Chefs Association for 22 years and expressed full support to Caroline Taylor as Incoming 1st Vice President. Chef Schneider reviewed the duties of the 1st Vice President as follows:

- Finance Committee – no call for audit or financial review
- Chef Relief is stable with a healthy balance, nearing the \$50,000 cap
- Marketing – Ainsley Hale continues to do a great job with social media platforms. Chapter Directors are encouraged to send content to Robert Hale and engage with social media posts. TCA hats and side towels were ordered through New Chef to distribute at the State Convention. Extras will be used in new member packets. The decision on a new TCA logo will be deferred to the incoming 1st VP. It was suggested that the TCA uses the old toque logo until a new logo is designed.
- Website – recommended updating imagery and layout
- Culinary Vision Partners:

Company	Level	Amount	Paid
Texas Beef Council	Diamond	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Ben E. Keith	Platinum	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Zwilling JA Henckels	Gold	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
FreshPasta	Silver	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Smithfield Culinary	Silver	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Mercer Culinary	Bronze	\$600.00	\$600.00
Pirl Bakery	Bronze	\$600.00	\$600.00
Seafood Supply	Bronze	\$600.00	\$600.00
		\$23,200.00	\$23,200.00

D. 2nd Vice President: Dean Sprague, CEC offered his continued support to assist chapters with membership recruitment and fundraising. Caroline Taylor inquired about a membership drive and Chef Sprague replied that it would require Board discussion.

F. Certification Chair: Michael Smith, CEC, CCA was absent but submitted a written report.

G. Social Media Chair: Robert Hale explained Ainsley Hale's role as the TCA's social media consultant. Chef Hale explained that efforts need to be made to expand the social media audience beyond the membership. He also encouraged the TCA Board to engage with social media posts and submit content as well. Finally, he suggested adding a LinkedIn page to post more professional content. Chef Pawelek encouraged the capture of video testimonials during the State Convention to be used on social media platforms. Additionally, it was suggested that the Hall of Fame induction be captured on video.

H. Community Outreach Chair: Rick Neal, CEC had no report.

I. American Academy of Chefs Chair: Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC shared his pride for the recent AAC induction of Rick Neal, CEC, AAC. The Board enthusiastically congratulated Chef Neal. Chef Mitchell explained his goal to host two AAC fundraising dinners in the Dallas and Houston markets before the end of the year. He also encouraged those seeking admission into the AAC to contact the ACF to review their membership files.

III. Old Business

A. TCA Marketing Committee: Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC referenced previous comments from his 1st Vice President's report. He also suggested that the President's Challenge Coin concept be pursued by the sitting TCA President.

B. TCA Culinarian Hall of Fame: Rick Neal, CEC, AAC thanked the committee for their help in creating the Culinarian Hall of Fame and expressed excitement to induct the inaugural class during the Awards Luncheon during the 2023 State Convention. The inaugural class includes:

Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC, HGT
 James Goering, CEC, CCE
 Ernst Gruch, CMC, AAC
 Karl Haas, CEC, AAC
 Krista Holmes, CEC, CEPC
 Carol Irwin, CEC
 Ernest Jimenez, CEC, AAC
 Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC, PhD
 Walter Kayser, CEC, AAC
 Dieter Paul
 Isaac Pina, CEC, AAC
 Bernard Urban, CEC, AAC, HOF
 Werner Vogeli, CEC, AAC

C. Chef Relief Pin: Rick Neal, CEC, AAC stated that new Chef Relief pins will be delivered in time to sell at the 2023 State Convention.

D. Storage Unit: No update

IV. New Business

A. Financial Report: Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC reviewed the 2023 financial reports, beginning with the Balance Sheet. The asset accounts showed balances of:

Operating - \$47,201.90

Savings - \$108,655.12

The Restricted account balances were as follows:

Restricted Funds		Fund Cap
Bernard Urban & Patrick Mitchell Competition Fund	\$7,459.44	10,000.00
Certification Reimbursement	\$5,000.00	5,000.00
Chef's Charity Relief	\$47,140.27	50,000.00
Jack Bretzke Education Fund	\$15,000.00	15,000.00
State Convention Scholarship	\$5,000.00	5,000.00
New Chapter	\$500.00	500.00
Willy Rossel Funds	\$20,587.12	50,000.00
Total Restricted *	\$108,655.12	

Chef Matson stressed the importance of supporting our Culinary Vision Partners, citing a conversation he'd had with a partner who wasn't receiving the value they'd hoped for. The Board discussed creative ways to highlight our partners, including adding logos of our CVP partners to the annual State Convention chef coat.

B. State Convention: Anthony Petrecca expressed excitement to welcome everyone to Tyler for the 60th TCA State Convention.

1. **Host Chapter Volunteer Discussion:** Chef Pawelek explained conversations he'd conducted with members of the East Texas Chapter, who wanted to offer complimentary convention registration to Chapter volunteers. The discussions resulted in Pawelek extending eight complimentary passes for the East TX Chapter to assign to their Convention volunteers. The passes include all meals, except the President's Dinner, which volunteers are asked to purchase a ticket for. Pawelek suggested that this be documented as a best practice going forward. Chef Matson recommended that Convention Committees include members from the previous year and ensuing year. Schneider replied that the TCA 2nd Vice President's duties include service on the Convention Committee. The Board agreed that an updated State Convention policy manual should be drafted to serve as a resource going forward.

C. Travel Reimbursement Discussion: The Board discussed the policy relating to reimbursement when travel receipts surpassed budgeted amounts. It was concluded that travel budgets should be addressed more accurately in the budgeting process to account for travel distances and obligations from the various Officer positions.

V. Nominations & Elections

A. Isaac Pina Chapter Award: One Chapter had submitted an application for Chapter of the Year. Len encouraged Chapter Directors to get involved to raise the profile of the award to make it an annual competition among Chapters.

B. State Officer Elections: Nominations for the following Offices are closed.

President - Len Pawelek, CEC

1st Vice President – Caroline Taylor

C. 2023 – 2025 Chapter Directors:

Austin Chapter	Robert Hale
Brazos Valley Chapter	Mark Torres
Coastal Bend Chapter	Michael Smith, CEC, CEPC, CCA, WCEC
Concho Valley Chapter	Chad Lowry
Dallas Chapter	Katrina Warner, MS
East Texas Chapter	Anthony Petrecca
Fort Worth Chapter	Natasha Bruton (appointment)
Golden Triangle Chapter	Charles Duit, CEC, AAC
Heart of Texas Chapter	Reannon Ruark
Houston Chapter	Paul Newman
Red River Chapter	Rusty Weatherly
Rio Grande Valley Chapter	Omar Duran

D. Honorary Members: No honorary members were presented.

VI. State Convention:

A. 2024 San Antonio Chapter

VII. Roundtable/Adjournment

Robert Hale referenced opportunities to partner with the Texas Restaurant Association (TRA). The Board was in agreement that the two associations can benefit one another, and Chef Pawelek agreed to appoint a task force to discuss opportunities with the TRA.

President Pawelek thanked the members for their time. Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:29. The motion was seconded by Caroline Taylor and approved by the Board.

Approved by:

Date

Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC
Secretary/Treasurer