

Texas Chefs Association

Winter Board Meeting

February 4, 2024

Texas Beef Council

Austin, TX



I. Administrative

A. Call to Order: President Len Pawelek, CEC called the meeting to order at 8:15 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:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| President | Len Pawelek, CEC |
| 1st Vice President | Caroline Taylor |
| 2nd Vice President | Dean Sprague, CEC |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Larry Matson CEC, CCE, AAC |
| American Academy of Chefs Ambassador | Patrick Mitchell CEC AAC |
| Community Outreach Chair | Rick Neal, CEC |
| TCA Administrator | Sam Brewster |
| Austin Chapter | Robert Hale, CC |
| Chefs of the Coastal Bend | Michael Smith, CEC, CCA |
| Concho Valley Chapter | Marka Dempsey (Proxy for Larry Lambert, CEC) |
| Dallas Chapter | Katrina Warner, MS, CEC |
| East Texas Chapter | Anthony Petrecca |
| Fort Worth Chapter | Natasha Bruton |
| Red River Chapter | Rusty Weatherly |

Virtual Participants:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chairman of the Board | Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC |
| Houston Chapter | Paul Newman |
| San Antonio Chapter | Eduardo Castillo, CEC |

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 and President Pawelek thanked the Texas Beef Council for hosting the 2024 Winter Board Meeting.

F. Review of Meeting Agenda: Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC welcomed additions to the meeting agenda under New Business. The following additions were requested by Caroline Taylor:

- Move items C.1 and C.2 to New Business item G.

The agenda was approved as amended.

G. Review of Minutes: Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC referenced the 2023 Summer Board Meeting minutes and 2023 General Session meeting minutes. A motion was presented to approve the meeting minutes by Rusty Weatherly, which was seconded by Dean Sprague, CEC and approved by the Board.

II. Officer Reports

A. Chairman of the Board: Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC delivered his report virtually. He thanked the Texas Beef Council for their support and expressed pride in helping to establish the Texas Chefs Association Hall of Fame. There were no grievances to report.

B. President: President Pawelek expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as TCA President. Pawelek described ongoing virtual meetings with Chef Rejeev and the ACF Central Region. On the matter of chapter development, Chef Pawelek recapped visits to the San Antonio Chapter and a recent Certified Master Chef event with Larry Matson, CEC, AAC. He welcomed Chef Marka Dempsey and explained that the Lubbock Chapter is on the verge of rejoining the Texas Chefs Association and there's also a possibility of creating a TCA Amarillo Chapter. Pawelek explained that Larry Lambert, CEC was appointed Interim Director for the Concho Valley Chapter and acknowledge progress the Chapter has made under Chef Lambert's leadership. Chef Pawelek expressed gratitude to our CVP partners at Zwilling and explained the rebate program, which sends the TCA 10% of sales purchased through the TCA's micro-site. Chef thanked Anthony Petrecca and the East Texas Chapter for hosting the TCA's 60th anniversary State Convention.

C. 1st Vice President: Caroline Taylor expressed her pride in serving as TCA 1st Vice President and reviewed her report. Of note, Rick Neal, CEC will continue to serve as Community Outreach Chair. Chef Taylor commented that while marketing/branding strategies fall under her role, the Culinary Visions Partnership program is her number one priority. She updated the Board on Culinary Vision Partnership renewals and listed additional CVP partners he is working to recruit.

| Company | Level | Amount | Paid |
|--------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| Texas Beef Council | Diamond | \$10,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Mercer Culinary | Silver | \$1,200.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| Seafood Supply | Bronze | \$600.00 | \$600.00 |
| | | \$11,8000 | \$1,800.00 |

Chapters are going to be provided copy about our CVP partners to read at their monthly meetings as an added benefit for our partners.

The Chef Relief account had a balance of \$47,188. The Board discussed and approved the use of Chef Relief funds to purchase 500 Chef Relief lapel pins. Rick Neal, CEC was asked to lead the design.

D. 2nd Vice President: Dean Sprague, CEC offered his assistance to Chapters to help with chapter development and fundraising efforts. He also referenced inactive Chapters that need to be addressed.

E. Certification Chair: Michael Smith, CEC, CCA referenced four certifications awarded in 2023 and acknowledged three in process. He stated that most members seek the ACF for questions on certification. **Chef Pawelek suggested a State Convention session on Certification.** Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC encouraged Chapter Directors to send members to Chef Smith for certification advice.

F. Social Media Chair: Robert Hale explained Ainsley had stepped down to pursue her professional career, upon graduating from college. He will continue to fulfill the role and asked Chapter Directors to send him content and continue to engage TCA social media posts.

G. Community Outreach Chair: Rick Neal, CEC stated there had been no requests for financial assistance through the Chef Relief account. Neal will be working to order 500 lapel pins, which Chapter Directors will be asked to sell at meetings for \$10/pin.

H. American Academy of Chefs Chair: Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC announced 26 AAC members and stated that Len Pawelek, CEC had submitted his application to the Academy and Chef Sprague, CEC was working on his application.

III. Old Business

A. TCA Hall of Fame: Rick Neal, CEC thanked the Texas Beef Council for offering a wall display to honor TCA Hall of Fame members at their Austin headquarters. Chef Taylor recommended a QR code to link to any digital archives on Hall of Fame members. Neal suggested a more formal application process in the future to help compile information on Hall of Fame nominees. Kelly Cook, CEC recommended providing Directors with formal guidelines and recommended that nominees be submitted prior to the Winter Board Meeting. Mitchell added that the process should be:

- 1) nomination
- 2) complete application process
- 3) nominees are vetted by a committee
- 4) nominees are voted on by a committee, including TCA Executive Board and two Hall of Fame members.

Chef Neal stated that the 2024 vetting committee will include:

Rick Neal, CEC, AAC (chair)
Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC
Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC

The following nominations were made for the 2024 TCA Hall of Fame class:

Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC - nominated by Rick Neal, CEC, AAC
Jackson York, CEC, AAC - nominated by Rick Neal, CEC, AAC
Walter Kaufmann (posthumous) - nominated by Caroline Taylor

Nominations for the 2024 class will be voted upon by the TCA Executive Committee and two Hall of Fame members, including:

Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC - Chairman
Len Pawelek, CEC - President
Caroline Taylor - 1st Vice President
Dean Sprague, CEC, AAC - 2nd Vice President
Larry Matson, CEC, AAC - Secretary/Treasurer
Carol Irwin, CEC - TCA Hall of Fame
Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC - TCA Hall of Fame

Chef Neal will formalize guidelines, for the classes of 2025 and beyond, to be presented at the Summer Board Meeting.

B. Director's Rap Session: Rusty Weatherly summarized the Director's Rap session, which included Marka Dempsey, Katrina Warner, MS, CEC, Natasha Bruton and Rusty Weatherly. Directors discussed collaboration among local Chapters and ways to better engage students. It was requested that the Director's Rap Session be formalized with an itinerary in advance to help Directors bring ideas to share. Chef Pawelek agreed to be involved with creating an agenda and encouraged 2nd VP Sprague to participate in the session.

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 - \$10,061.77

Savings - \$105,219.20

The Restricted account balances were as follows:

| Restricted Funds | | Fund Cap |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Bernard Urban & Patrick Mitchell Competition Fund | 6,459.44 | 10,000.00 |
| Certification Reimbursement | 4,500.00 | 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 | 4,500.00 | 5,000.00 |
| New Chapter | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Willy Rossel Funds | 20,187.12 | 50,000.00 |
| Total Restricted * | 98,286.83 | |

Chef Matson continued to review the 2023 Profit & Loss report, 2023 State Convention P&L and the 2024 Operating Budget.

Rick Neal, CEC, AAC presented a motion to approve the 2024 operating budget. The motion was seconded by Dean Sprague, CEC and approved by the Board.

The Fort Worth and Dallas Chapters presented chapter contributions of \$250 and \$1,000 respectively.

B. Culinary Vision Partners: Chef Caroline Taylor had previously summarized CVP partner status and asked TCA Board members to send her prospects to generate more CVP revenue. A

discussion was generated on the topic of CVPs as they relate to the State Convention and Chapter convention sponsors. Chef Eduardo Castillo, CEC explained challenges when selling sponsorships for the State Convention and encouraged the TCA to standardize the sponsorship program so that host Chapters are recreating sponsorship programs each year. He also suggested collecting data on TCA member's purchasing power and employment demographics to help prospective sponsors know who their audience is. Chef Matson recommended a membership survey to solicit this information.

The Board discussed utilizing funds from the Jack Bretzke Education restricted account to help fund education for a State Convention. After discussion, Len Pawelek, CEC presented a motion to amend the Jack Bretzke Education Fund application to include a distribution up to \$750 for the State Convention. The motion was seconded by Eduardo Castillo, CEC.

C. TCA Chapters: President Pawelek stated that the following Chapters were in violation of TCA Bylaws for inactivity and/or lack of members:

- Brazos Valley Chapter
- Golden Triangle Chapter
- Heart of Texas Chapter
- Permian Basin Chapter

The Board discussed an approach to reach out to these inactive Chapters. It was decided that Chef Pawelek will contact each Chapter to grant them a probation period to become compliant with TCA Bylaws. If they fail to comply, Chapters will be dissolved, and any funds become the property of the TCA. Funds will be held in an escrow account for two years, in the event a Chapter is reestablished. Chefs Pawelek and Sprague will be contacting the delinquent Chapters to offer assistance.

Chef Dempsey noted that Chapter Directors require more guidance on their role in responsibly serving as Chapter Directors. Chef Cook recommended a Chapter Director training to take place during the State Convention. Chef Len agreed to work with Chefs Sprague and Cook on content to conduct a Chapter Director training session.

E. Chapter & 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
- July – State Awards winners recognized at TCA State Convention

F. New Chapter Development: Chef Pawelek expressed his excitement to welcome the Lubbock Chapter back to the TCA; adding that the bylaws do not allow ratification until the Summer Board Meeting. In the meantime, Chef Pawelek is appointing Chef Dewey as temporary Lubbock Chapter Director, pending the dissolution of the existing ACF Lubbock Chapter and ratification at the Summer Board Meeting. Current Lubbock ACF members were assigned the title of “provisional” TCA members and will be extended TCA-member registration pricing at the State Convention in San Antonio. Pawelek also alluded to the possibility of establishing a TCA Chapter in Amarillo.

G. TCA CVP Shirts: Chef Taylor presented a discussion to create t-shirts displaying the TCA and CVP logos as an added benefit to our partners and to gain visibility for the Texas Chefs Association. A recommendation was made to use the t-shirts as a give-away at the State Convention, in order to avoid excess expense and logistical efforts. The Board agreed and a motion was presented to allocate up to \$2,200 of Willy Rossel Marketing Funds to purchase shirts for the 2024 State Convention. The motion was seconded by Katrina Warner, MS, CEC and approved by the Board.

V. Nominations & Elections

A. Honorary Member Nominations: Robert Hale, CC suggested that all surviving TCA Hall of Fame members receive Honorary status. Rick Neal, CEC presented a motion to exempt TCA Hall of Fame members from paying TCA dues. The motion was seconded by Len Pawelek, CEC and approved by the Board.

B. State Officer Elections: The following nominations were made for the 2024 State Officer elections:

2nd Vice President - Dean Sprague, CEC was nominated to serve a second two-year term. Chef Sprague accepted the nomination.

Secretary/Treasurer - Larry Matson, CEC, AAC was nominated to serve a second two-year term. Chef Matson accepted the nomination.

VI. State Convention:

A. 2025 State Convention: Chefs of the Coastal Bend

VII. Roundtable/Adjournment

All members of the Board thanked Robert Hale and the Texas Beef Council for hosting a wonderful Winter Board Meeting. Chef Sprague, CEC offered to assist other Chapters and share some of the successful approaches the Coastal Bend Chapter has used for fundraising. Chef Pawelek again thanked Anthony Petrecca and the East Texas Chapter for hosting the 2023 State Convention and thanked Eduardo Castillo, CEC for his efforts on the 2024 State Convention. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 pm was presented by Rick Neal, CEC, seconded by Caroline Taylor and approved by the Board.

Approved by:

Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC
Secretary/Treasurer

Date