

Texas Chefs Association

General Session Meeting

August 7, 2021

8:30 am

The Worthington Hotel – Fort Worth, TX



I. Administrative

- a. **Call to Order:** President Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC called the General Session to order at 8:33 am.
- b. **Invocation:** Len Pawelek, CEC performed the invocation.
- c. **Roll Call, Sign In & Quorum:** President Cook, CEC, AAC asked if a quorum was present. Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC confirmed the presence of a quorum. Those in attendance were:

Jennifer Adams
Cassandra Armstrong
Jason Avelson, CCC, CCE
Matthew Axtell, CEC
Chris Belanger
Kelley Benson
Sam Boisjoly
Jackson Bretzke, CEC, AAC
Sam Brewster
Janice Brooks
Natasha Bruton
Joanna Bryant, CCC, CCE
Chad Burnett, CEC
Bill Bush
Julia Buttermore
Jennifer Carlin
Jessica Chappell
Gene Christiano, CEC
Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC
Chris Cukjati
Larry Delgado
Marka Dempsey
Stephen DeShazo, CEC, FMP
Julia Dunaway
Maggie Evans
Emily Guynes
Robert Hale
Patrick Hershorn, CEC
Hermann Hiemeyer

Heather Kurima
Laurence Lambert, CEC
Belkis Lane
Chad Lowry
Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC
Sergio Meraz
Caitlin Miorin
Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC
John Munoz
Rick Neal, CEC
Cooper Nichols
Pete Nolasco
Jesus Olivares
Vanguelis Pablopulos, CCC
Dieter Paul
Len Pawelek, CEC
Anthony Petrecca
Ronald Reczek
Vernee Reese
Linda Rogers
Morris Salerno, HAAC
Mary Jane Sampson
Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC
Michael Scott, CEC, AAC
Sherry Siphon
Toni Sloane, CC
Michael Smith, CEC, CEPC, CCA, WCEC
Andrew Snyder
Caroline Taylor

Tamara Hill
Bill Hodges
Alison Hodges, CC, CPC
Robby Hooker, CEC, CCE
Victoria Hooker, CCC, CCE
Andrea Huerta
Justin Huerta
Carol Irwin, CEC
Dr. Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC
Kevin Karnes

Stephen Trummel
Lavaris Truss
Paula Wallace
Katrina Warner
Sabin Warrick
Brian Weale
Rusty Weatherly
Zameika Williams
Russell Woodward
Jackson York, CEC, AAC

- d. **Sergeant at Arms:** Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC was appointed as Sergeant at Arms.
- e. **Welcome:** President Cook, CEC, AAC welcomed those in attendance and acknowledged the difficulties faced over the past 16 months, due to the Covid pandemic. He expressed joy in seeing everyone in-person and pride in the fact that Chefs have stepped up to meet the challenges of the current day.
- f. **Review of Minutes:** President Cook, CEC, AAC referenced the minutes from the 2020 General Session. Cook requested a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jason Avelson, CCC, CCE presented a motion, which was seconded by Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC and approved by the members.
- g. **Agenda Approval:** Cook reviewed the General Session agenda and asked for additions and/or revisions. Gene Christiano, CEC presented a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Michael Scott, CEC, AAC and approved by the membership.

II. Report of the Officers

- a. **Chairman of the Board:** Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC reported no grievances and expressed his pleasure in serving as Chairman of the Board of the Texas Chefs Association.
- b. **President:** President Cook referenced the recent ACF National Convention in Orlando, Florida. He stated that Chapter Presidents conducted a breakout session for the first time to discuss how individual Chapters can support each. Additionally, the Chapter Presidents stressed the importance of gaining a voice at the national level. The Convention hosted approximately 550 attendees in-person and an additional 500 participated virtually. Despite the fact that Texas Chefs didn't win any competitions, Cook stated that the TCA was well represented and he acknowledged those who participated. Cook acknowledged that the ACF had sold their office building and purchased a smaller facility in the Jacksonville, FL area. Additionally, the ACF staff has been reduced. These measures were taken to address the significant debt faced by the ACF. President Cook congratulated Victoria Hooker, CCC, CCE and the Byron Nelson High School for becoming an ACF accredited program. Finally, President Cook thanked Caroline Taylor and Heather Kurima for their efforts in organizing the 63rd TCA State Convention in Fort Worth, TX.
- c. **1st Vice President:** Len Pawelek, CEC referenced our Culinary Vision Partners and State Convention sponsors. He expressed the importance of supporting our partners and referenced our 2021 CVP partners as follows:

Texas Beef Council:	Diamond	\$10,000
Ben E Keith:	Platinum	\$6,000
Sysco Foods	Platinum	\$6,000

Zwilling J.A. Henckels	Gold	\$3,000
AccuTemp	Gold	\$3,000
IACC – Texas	Silver	\$1,200
Fresh Pasta Delights	Silver	\$1,200
Seafood Supply	Bronze	\$600

Finally, Chef Pawelek acknowledged how the TCA has benefitted him personally and professionally and thanked the members for their support.

d. 2nd Vice President: Rick Neal, CEC thanked Caroline Taylor, Heather Kurima and the Fort Worth Chapter for hosting the State Convention. Neal referenced the TCA membership survey and encouraged the membership to provide their feedback. The survey results will be used to conduct a strategic plan for the direction of the TCA. Chef Neal stated that a marketing committee had been formed to evaluate TCA branding and how the association can reach the next generation of Chefs. The committee includes Heather Kurima, Larry Delgado and Rick Neal. Additionally, the committee is in discussion with NewChef to offer TCA branded merchandise. In conclusion, Rick Neal, CEC acknowledged Morris Salerno, HAAC and Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC for their recent honors at the American Academy of Chefs dinner.

e. Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Schneider, CEC, CCE, AAC stated that the association is financially stable. Schneider addressed the balance sheet and restricted accounts, which had balances as follows:

Bernard Urban & Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC Competition Fund	\$13,449.62
Certification Reimbursement	\$5,000.00
Chef Relief	\$36,035.27
Jack Bretzke Education Fund	\$15,000.00
State Convention Scholarship	\$5,000.00
Willy Rossel Marketing Funds	\$28,557.62

Chef Schneider explained that funds from the Bernard Urban and Patrick Mitchell restricted accounts had been combined to create one account for local, regional, national and international competitions. The Willy Rossel restricted account funds have been assigned to the TCA marketing initiative. Schneider continued to address the income statement activity. Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC presented a motion to approve the financial reports. The motion was seconded by Morris Salerno, HAAC and approved by the membership.

III. Nominations & Elections

a. State Officer Elections: President Cook announced two uncontested candidates for the offices of TCA President and 1st Vice President. Rick Neal, CEC presented a motion to name Len Pawelek, CEC as President of the Texas Chefs Association. The motion was seconded by Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC and approved unanimously by the membership. Robert Hale presented a motion to name Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC as 1st Vice President of the Texas Chefs Association. The motion was seconded by Steve DeShazo, CEC, FMP and approved unanimously by the membership.

b. Ratify Chapter Directors: The following new Chapter Directors were ratified:

Austin Chapter – Robert Hale
 Brazos Valley Chapter – Mark Torres
 Chefs of the Coastal Bend Chapter – Michael Smith, CEC, CEPC, CCA, WCEC
 Concho Valley Chapter – Chad Lowry
 Dallas Chapter – Cassandra Armstrong
 East Texas Chapter – Brett Keckeisen
 Fort Worth Chapter – Caroline Taylor

Golden Triangle Chapter – Charles Duit, CEC, AAC

Heart of Texas Chapter – Reannon Ruark

Houston Chapter – Reginald Martin, CEC, CCE

Red River Chapter – Rusty Weatherly

San Antonio Chapter – Sam Boisjoly

Chef Larry Delgado announced that the Rio Grande Valley Chapter is currently evaluating candidates to fulfill the role of Chapter Director. Once identified, that candidate will be appointed Chapter Director by President Pawelek. Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC presented a motion to ratify the Chapter Directors. The motion was seconded by Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC and approved by the membership.

- c. **Site of Future Conventions:** President Cook announced the following hosts for future TCA Convention:
2022 – Red River Chapter

- IV. **Closing & Roundtable:** In closing, President Cook thanked the membership for allowing him to serve the past four years at TCA President. He also thanked the TCA Board and the general membership for the time they've volunteered to the TCA. Jackson York, CEC, AAC acknowledged the Fort Worth Chapter, stating that he joined the TCA over 20 years ago as a member of the Fort Worth Chapter and he was glad to be back. Chef cook recognized 20+ and 30+ members of the TCA. Caroline Taylor thanked everyone for attending the State Convention in Fort Worth. Chef Taylor referenced the #TCACARES service project at the Tarrant Area Food Bank and encouraged future host chapters to have a service project that benefits the local community. Chris Belanger presented a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Jackson York, CEC, AAC. The General Session was adjourned at 9:33 am.