

Texas Chefs Association

General Session Meeting

August 5, 2023

8:00 am

Tyler, Texas



I. Administrative

- a. **Call to Order:** President Len Pawelek, CCE called the General Session to order at 8:15 am.
- b. **Invocation:** Len Pawelek, CEC performed the invocation.
- c. **Roll Call, Sign In & Quorum:** Chairman Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC confirmed the presence of a quorum. Those in attendance were:

Lauren Aleman
Jason Avelson, CCC, CCE, CCA
Matthew Axtell, CEC
John Bogue
Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC
Sam Brewster
Margaret Bristow
Janice Brooks
Chad Burnett, CEC
Bill Bush
Robert Chan, CC
Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC
Anthony Cubit
Austin Davis
Marka Dempsey
Jennifer Denman
Mark Diamond
Maggie Evans
Riley Fish
Gabriel Gaitan
Joanna Garner, CCC, CCE
Cole Gibson
Christina Gonzalez
Yanalet Guerrero
Joseph Guzzetta
Phillip Harris
Santiago Hernandez
Hermann Hiemeyer
Travis Hill, CFC

Larry Matson, CEC, CCE, AAC
Thomas McGrath
Kortney McMillian
Caitlin Miorin
Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC
William Mosley
John Munoz
Rick Neal, CEC, AAC
Jesus Olivares
Kubilay Onder
Len Pawelek, CEC
Anthony Petrecca
Maggie Pierson
Regina Pinkard, CC
Rebekah Pool
John Prado, CEC
Gay Prewitt
Nathan Price
Jacquelynn Quinn
Tyler Raney
David Ray
LaToya Robles
Phillip Salinas, CEC
Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC
Michael Schuster
Michael Scott, CEC, AAC
Leola Scurry
Madrigale Sifuentes
Sherry Siphon

Alison Hodges, CEPC
Bill Hodges
Carol Irwin, CEC
Ewart Jones, CEC, AAC
Brett Keckeisen
Michael Kirchman
Jake Kovacs
Chef Krista, CEPC
Laurence Lambert, CEC
Nicole Lehman-Rematore
Ryan Love
Anneliese Martin

Michael Smith, CEC, CEPC, CCA, WCEC
Andrew Snyder
Tina Sparger-Buice
Dean Sprague, CEC
Mandy Stephens
Shelby Stidham
Caroline Taylor
Katrina Warner
Sabin Warrick
Rusty Weatherly, CEC, CCE
Jackson York, CEC, AAC

- d. **Sergeant at Arms:** Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC was appointed as Sergeant at Arms.
- e. **Review of Minutes:** Chairman Cook referenced the minutes from the 2022 General Session. Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC presented a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC and approved by the membership.
- f. **Agenda Approval:** Jack Bretzke, CEC, AAC presented a motion to approve the 2023 General Session meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC and approved by the membership.

II. Report of the Officers

- a. **Chairman of the Board:** Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC reported no grievances and expressed his appreciation to serve on the TCA's Culinary Hall of Fame committee.
- b. **President:** Len Pawelek, CEC 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 members to be engaged with their National association's 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 AwardChef Pawelek spoke to his appreciation of the Texas Chefs Association. He acknowledged several Chefs in the room and acknowledged the TCA's contribution to his culinary career. He encouraged TCA Chefs to continue the rich tradition of the TCA for another 60-years, by serving and mentoring the next generation of Chefs and TCA leaders.

c. **1st Vice President:** Chef Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC addressed the general membership, expressing gratitude for allowing him to serve the TCA over 22 years. Schneider added that this was his last year on the TCA Board but will remain available as a resource to the TCA. He 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. Chef Sprague also recognized those in the room who had achieved certifications within the last twelve months.

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

Bernard Urban & Patrick Mitchell, CEC, AAC Competition Fund	\$7,459.44
Certification Reimbursement	\$5,000.00
Chef Relief	\$47,140.27
Jack Bretzke Education Fund	\$15,000.00
State Convention Scholarship	\$5,000.00
New Chapter Development	\$500.00
Willy Rossel Marketing Fuds	\$20,587.12

Matson continued to address the income statement activity. He thanked the Red River Chapter for their contribution to the Bernard Urban & Patrick Mitchell Competition Fund. He also acknowledged the Red River Chapter for replacing the Isaac Pina Chapter of the Year Award. Jack

Bretzke, CEC, AAC made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Len Pawelek, CEC and approved by the Board.

III. Nominations & Elections

a. **State Officer Elections:** President Cook announced two uncontested candidates for the offices of President and 1st Vice President. By acclamation, Caroline Taylor was approved as 1st Vice President of the Texas Chefs Association for the 2023 - 2025 term. By acclamation, Len Pawelek, CEC was approved as President of the Texas Chefs Association for the 2023 - 2025 term.

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

Dallas Chapter – Katrina Warner, MS, CEC

East Texas Chapter – Anthony Petrecca

Fort Worth Chapter – Natasha Bruton (appointed by President Pawelek)

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

San Antonio Chapter – Eduardo Castillo, CEC

Mark Schneider, CEC, AAC presented a motion to ratify the Chapter Directors. The motion was seconded by Dean Sprague, CEC and approved by the membership.

c. **Site of Future Conventions:** President Pawelek announced the following hosts for future TCA Convention:

2024 – San Antonio Chapter

2025 – Chefs of the Coastal Bend

IV. Roundtable & Adjournment:

- Mike Schuster thanked the instructors for hosting the pre-convention workshops at Tyler Junior College and complimented them on the quality of the education program
- Larry Matson thanked the teams who competed during the opening Icebreaker event
- Jason Avelson announced efforts to help high schoolers achieve their Certified Fundamental Cook (CFC) designation, which has resulted in 411 students, from nine high schools, earning their CFC over the previous 12 months.
- Caroline Taylor thanked the TCA membership for their support and expressed excitement to serve the TCA as 1st Vice President.

In closing, President Pawelek thanked the East Texas Chapter for hosting the State Convention and thanked the TCA membership for attending. Kelly Cook, CEC, AAC presented a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dean Sprague, CEC. The General Session was adjourned at 9:04 am.