

Southern Association of Forensic Scientists – Executive Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2023 – virtual

Present: President Allison Galassie; President-Elect Amanda Venable, Treasurer Tanja Kopp; Secretary Karlie McManaman; Past-President Kristen Fripp; Members-at-Large April Brown, Laura Lawrence, and Sara Roper

Next Meeting: TBD

Meeting called to order at 12:01pm, meeting adjourned at 12:26pm

- 2024 Annual Meeting Update – Allison and April
 - Vendor registration is open!
 - Workshops:
 - Agilent – Mass Hunter
 - Bob – IR and MS structural elucidation
 - Someone from NC (from Drugs) – Lean Six Sigma, efficiency
 - Qiagen – next Gen sequencing, FIG
 - DNA Labs International – interested, not sure on topic yet
 - Reached out to Florida and Luisiana– hopefully a workshop about rapid DNA
 - Will reach out to Thermo – possible troubleshooting class for DNA
 - Will reach out to ANAB for another quality workshop
 - Larry has tossed out ideas for a management workshop
 - Would like to get something for ethics and/or testimony
 - Plenary – probably Deneen and Ashley for resiliency
 - Working to incorporate Stripe fees into meeting costs (likely in registration fees)
 - Bob agreed to do hospitality suite, will stay in Presidential suite
 - Goal to have participant registration open by mid to late January
 - Kristen offered to process applications as they come in
- Website updates
 - *deceased removed from past presidents
 - Committee members added
 - Chair emails updated
 - “Join SAFS” page revamped with all levels of membership
 - Working on Awards and Scholarships page – possibly a dropdown list
 - Admin rules posted
 - “Voting” tab in user page and “Nominations” under “members area” were taken down (old lists)
 - Updated job opportunity submission to require location, include on main landing page
- Kristen will submit RAC stuff by end of the month
- MAFS still potentially interested in joint 2026 meeting (in Greenville, SC)

- They expect 150-200 attendees, need to check contract to see if hotel could accommodate that many people
 - Contract w/ Embassy Suites in progress – cook-to-order breakfasts, banquet one evening
- Savannah hotels so far requiring too high of food and beverage minimums (for 2027), will look into that more after next year's meeting
 - Probably too far south for MAFS to do joint meeting that year, wouldn't have as many attendees
- New member applicant didn't have sponsor – Amanda offered to chat with her over Teams to potentially sponsor her