

# **Southern Association of Forensic Scientists**

## **2024 Business Meeting**

**Thursday, April 25, 2024**

### Agenda:

- Call to order by President Allison Galassie
- Introduction of current Board members
- Counted voting members present to establish quorum:
  - 18 members present
  - Called Kristen Fripp and Nicole Astor to establish quorum
- President-Elect Amanda Venable read the names of new member applicants:
  - Full membership:
    - Logan Landry
    - Dionna Lewis
    - Tamara Dizdarevic
    - Diane Guzman
    - Alexandra Winslow
    - Kouwendy Baawo
    - Melissa Hehir
    - Nikki Vatistas
    - Margaret Walker
    - Carlotta Stackhouse
    - Alison Gantt
    - John Lofaro
    - Thomas Rockhold
    - Brian Trost
    - Jennifer Bachman
    - Zoe Jurgensen
    - Madison Talley
  - Associate membership:
    - Wendy Pope
    - Shanna Cunningham
    - Diane Catlin
    - Mackenna Gentry
    - Robin Quinn
    - John Reddick
    - Hailey Short
    - Lauren Stenger

- Amanda Tranchitella
  - Motion to approve all applicants passes
  - Full members have voting privileges for remainder of the meeting; phone calls ended.
- Secretary Karlie McManaman read the 2023 Business Meeting minutes\*
- Treasurer Tanja Kopp provided current account balances:\*
  - Other meeting account: \$2,000
  - CD: \$13,941.02
  - Checking: \$19,793.91
  - This meeting: \$60,519.59
- Ethics committee: Lynn Black
  - Happy there is nothing to report!\*
- Audit committee: Allison read Tara Ransom's report\*
  - Reviewed accounts and all looked ok
- Historical committee: Allison read Mike Healy's report\*
  - Nothing to report (hopes to be present next year)
- Training, Education, and Research committee: Allison read Shannon Roy's report\*
  - Contacted schools in south but didn't have much luck recruiting
  - Had to cancel our student reception this year because we didn't get any registrants, but we will keep trying for future meetings
- Awards & Communication committee: Allison read Tiffany Vinson's report\*
  - New awards and details are all on the website. We did not have any applicants this year, so please consider applying in the future!
    - James W. Campbell – meeting attendance for a new or associate member
    - Lynn Henson – ABC application and sitting fees
      - Also Ed Rhodes – ABC sitting fee
    - New Scientist, Outstanding Scientist, and Distinguished Service awards
- \*Motions to approve all Officer and Committee reports passed
- Nominations committee: Allison Galassie on behalf of Kristen Fripp
  - President-Elect
    - Tanja Kopp
    - Nominations from the floor (none)
    - Motion to elect Tanja Kopp as President-Elect passes
  - Treasurer
    - Laura Lawrence
    - Nominations from the floor (none)
    - Motion to elect Laura Lawrence as Treasurer passes
  - Secretary
    - Karlie McManaman
    - Nominations from the floor (none)
    - Motion to re-elect Karlie McManaman passes

- Board members-at-large nominees: names, agencies, years in field and years in SAFS read by Karlie McManaman
  - April Brown
  - Meredith Lanford
  - Collin Shuford
  - Rachael Looney
  - Erin Tracy
- Paper passed around to all voting members present to vote for one name. Top two vote-receivers to serve a two-year term and third to serve a one-year term.
- April Brown and Erin Tracy elected for two-year terms, Collin Shuford elected for one-year term.
- ABC representative: Erin Tracy
  - Healys retired, Gretchen has taken over
  - They are digitizing records, considering electronic exams in the future
  - Field testing a new Seized Drug Analysis exam soon – will need ~200 testers
  - Foundational Knowledge exam now live
  - Biology, DNA, and FKE are all ISO accredited
  - Have not given out an Ed Rhodes scholarship in a very long time, so apply!
- SWGDRUG representative: Melissa Hehir
  - 5 new members (SAFS, SWAFS, NWAFA, ASCLD, NIST)
  - Bulletin and announcements posted to SAFS website in December, check SWGDRUG's Twitter for regular updates
  - They will be doing more webinars
- Old business:
  - Request to reduce meeting registration for retired members
  - Discussion: reduce meeting fee to same as students (currently \$100), workshops would be full price
  - Motion to passed
- New business: none
- Future meetings:
  - Jacksonville, FL – May 5-9, 2025
  - Greenville, SC – April 13-17, 2026
  - Hilton Head, SC – April 26-30, 2027
  - Discussion from the floor:
    - Erin Tracy: Can we consider joint meetings in the future?
      - Yes – we are always reaching out but haven't had any luck. Will be reaching out to MAAFS soon to consider meeting in the norther region of SAFS membership (WV or VA).
    - Bob Ollis: Who decides locations?
      - The Board, but we're always looking for suggestions.

- Bob: Consider staggering fun cities with business/highly attended/easy to get to cities to make more money (e.g. Atlanta, Charlotte).
- Board members: Jacksonville chosen for airport. Many states have their own meetings or are just not traveling as much any more because of free online trainings. We may need to consider joining a state meeting (ex: Alabama) if they're willing.
- John Lofaro: Can we consider offering virtual workshops at a reduced cost throughout the year?
  - Yes – the TER committee is working on it! Always open to suggestions.
- Please consider volunteering to help at future meetings, or joining committees to be more involved in SAFS!
- Meeting adjourned at 1:41pm