

Southern Association of Forensic Scientists – Executive Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2024 – virtual (Teams)

Present: President Amanda Venable; President-Elect Tanja Kopp; Treasurer Laura Lawrence; Past-President Allison Galassie; Members-at-Large Erin Tracy, Collin Shuford, April Brown

Next Meeting: February 7, 2025 @ 12pm

Meeting called to order at 12:02pm, meeting adjourned at 12:32pm

- 2028 Joint Meeting w/ MAAFS – Erin
 - Erin reached out to Cathy to let them know we are interested in joint hosting a 2028 meeting in Roanoke, VA, using their MOU template. She passed that along to her people and we are waiting to hear back.
- Jacksonville 2025 Annual Meeting update – Tanja
 - April and Marissa are in discussion with vendors. Vendor forms will be sent out December 20th.
 - Registration to open mid-January.
 - Sneak preview: Jacksonville slogan “flip side of Florida”
 - Need to keep brainstorming themes, ideas need to include flip flops
 - Schedule: Tuesday – plenary, Wednesday – workshops & vendor reception, Thursday – workshops & banquet, Friday – breakout session (Friday is the same as previous years)
 - Workshops – Erin
 - Co-chairing with Emily Boswell
 - Will send email to membership asking for ideas
 - Workshop meeting with TER next week, will send update to Kristen and Tanja
 - So far: ANAB, Cayman (Holli (manager NPS program) – emerging structures), Agilent, GBI legal (Smith vs. AZ)
 - Plenary session still in planning stages
 - No help needed yet
 - F&B: very low requirement (\$25k) but food is expensive
 - ABC exam will be Wednesday
 - W/S comp - Allison
 - SAFS won't comp any rooms for a Vendor that is also presenting. For a vendor that is presenting SAFS will offer free registration to the meeting.
 - Full day presenters get 2 nights, ½ day presenters get 1 night. All presenters get free registration.
 - Workshop deadline is January.
- Greenville, 2026 – Allison
 - Volunteers are reaching out to Allison. They'll meet in January to start the planning process.
 - Looking for challenge coin ideas

- Allison will work on a timeline manual as this meeting planning progresses
- Membership update – Tanja
 - 8 new
 - 6 rollovers from last year
 - 2 from Warner Robbins PD, looking into who the individual put as a sponsor
- Nomination committee update
 - Call for nominations will go out in early 2025
- Open floor
 - Will meet again first week of February
 - Kristen & Tanja to plan Hilton Head Meeting