

# **Southern Association of Forensic Scientists**

## **2025 Business Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

### Agenda:

- Call to order by President Amanda Venable at 2:03pm
- Introduction of current Board members
- Counted voting members present to establish quorum:
  - 20 members present
- Secretary Karlie McManaman read summary of the 2024 Business Meeting minutes
  - Motion to approve minutes passes
- Treasurer Laura Lawrence provided current account balances: \*
  - Dues email has been sent, late fee after June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - CD: \$13,942.53
  - Other meeting account: \$2,000
  - Main meeting (this meeting, before bills are settled): \$59, 805.52
  - Regular account: \$18,294.96
- Audit committee: Laura Lawrence read Tara Ransom's report\*
  - Reviewed accounts and all looked to be in order
- Ethics committee: Kristen Fripp\*
  - One complaint received, most committee members were replaced due to a conflict of interest within the agency. Temporary committee decided the complaint was unfounded and did not proceed.
- Membership committee: President-Elect Tanja Kopp read the names of 15 applicants:
  - Full membership:
    - Shannon Gordon (NC)
    - Amanda Lieu (GBI)
    - Stephanie Menendez (GBI)
    - Katina Robbins (Jackson PD)
    - Tara Weinreich (GBI)
  - Associate membership:
    - Jeffery Richardson (Sumter County SO)
    - Staphany Echeverria (CBP)
    - Stephanie Foley (GBI)
    - Laura Friederich (DHHS NC)
    - Hannah Mitchell (MDPS)
    - Honore Mylar (GBI)

- Hanna Oughton (MDPS)
  - Dashia Shorter (Warner Robbins PD)
  - Sydney Stephens (GBI)
  - Haley Sutcliffe (BCSO)
- Motion to approve all applicants passes
- Full members have voting privileges for the remainder of the meeting
- Nominations committee: Part-President Allison Galassie presented the candidates:
  - President-Elect
    - Rachael Looney (NC)
    - Nominations from the floor (none)
    - Motion to elect Rachael as President-Elect passes
  - Board members-at-large nominees
    - Collin Shuford (NC)
    - Sara Roper (USACIL)
    - Allison Galassie (NC)
  - Paper passed around to all voting members present to vote for one name
  - Collin and Allison elected for two-year terms
- Historical committee: no report, Mike Healy not present
- Training, Education, and Research committee: Rachael Looney read Erin Tracy's report\*
  - Members are Erin Tracy, Amber Carroll, Bianca Fulks, Bob Ollis, Kouwendy Baawo, and Rachael Looney
  - Meeting monthly
  - Brainstorming ideas for SAFS workshops, reaching out to students to join SAFS, discussing ideas for future training outside of the annual meeting
- Awards & Communication committee: Amanda Venable 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
    - Ed Rhodes – ABC sitting fee
    - New Scientist, Outstanding Scientist, and Distinguished Service awards
  - Awards for this year's meeting planners:
    - Emily Boswell – Workshop Coordinator for Biology
    - Erin Tracy – Workshop Coordinator for Drug Chemistry & Toxicology
    - Tanja Kopp – Social Chair, coordinated all evening activities (brewery, baseball game and dinner, nerd herd lounge)
    - Kristen Fripp – Program Chair, hotel coordination and planning for years leading up to this meeting (she and Tanja also coordinating Hilton Head)
- ABC representative: Allison Galassie read Erin Tracy's report\*
  - Still developing Seized Drug exam, process is ~18 months and nearing the end, people will find out whether they passed or not.

- As of July 1, all exams will be electronic. Anyone can host; a proctor will still be onsite. Regional/national meetings will no longer offer ABC exams.
- Certificates are now all digital (can request and pay for paper copy).
- Forensic Biological Screening, DNA, and Foundational Knowledge exams are currently accredited, and Seized Drugs will be accredited once finalized.
- \*Motions to approve all Officer and Committee reports passed
- Old business:
  - Future meetings:
    - Greenville, SC – April 13-17, 2026 – Allison presented images of Greenville and the hotel (Embassy Suites, on a golf course)
    - Hilton Head, SC – April 26-30, 2027 – rented out an entire hotel on the beach
    - Hopefully joint meeting with MAAFS in Virginia – Spring 2028
- New business:
  - Update to Bylaws – key changes read by Amanda
    - Change application process to biannual voting by Board.
      - This will allow more applicants to become members prior to the Annual Meeting (i.e. get member pricing and vote during the Business Meeting).
      - Members will still be provided a list of applicants for review and comment prior to the Board voting each time.
    - Allow electronic voting to recall a Board member.
    - Change several committees to not require as many members (previous numbers are still allowed, but not required).
    - Change order of committees to match Admin Rules.
    - Change Ethics Committee definition to allow the President (or the recipient of the complaint, if on the President) to determine conflicts of interest and replace members as needed.
    - Remove requirement for an entire committee to be present for quorum if meeting virtually (simple majority will establish a quorum, same as in person).
    - Other minor formatting tweaks for consistency.
  - Motion to update the Bylaws passes – will be active on Mon May 12<sup>th</sup>
- If you are not a member, talk to a Board member to get a sponsor and join!
- Please consider volunteering to help at future meetings or joining committees to be more involved in SAFS!
- Open floor:
  - Raffle by Tanja:
    - Laptop bag and water bottle – Ariel Miles
    - Sweet Pete's gift card and water bottle – Carter Depew
    - Water bottle – Stephanie Dewaith

- Family pass to Catty Shack – Laura Levik
- Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm