

Southern Association of Forensic Scientists – Executive Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026

Present: President Tanja Kopp; President-Elect Rachael Looney; Past-President Amanda Venable; Members-at-Large April Brown, Erin Tracy, Allison Galassie, and Collin Shuford

Next Meeting: March 5, 2026 at 12:00pm

Meeting called to order at 12:04pm, meeting adjourned at 12:53pm.

- AAFS/RAC Rep
 - Erin received an email from NEAFS asking about SAFS's status. Per their AAFS rep, the SAFS rep wasn't present at the AAFS meeting and there was a rumor that we are disbanding.
 - RAC committee co-chair said SAFS rep does not respond to emails and wants us to assign a new rep.
 - Kristen was last rep listed. Minutes from Aug 2022 state we will post on the website to find a new rep, but it appears we never did.
 - Unsure why that created the jump to we are disbanding?!
 - Need to send a call to membership to find a new rep, preferably someone who is or wants to be a member of AAFS.
 - Erin to reach out to the RAC committee co-chair again to get background on what they are looking for in a rep and the requirements, term limits, financial responsibility, etc.
 - Erin remembers from her selection as ABC rep that she applied and had a small interview with some board members (not all)
 - Everyone to consider if we need to wrap up all the outside orgs reps into a committee? TER? New committee?
 - For now, it will be under "temporary committee" until we can find a better place
 - Current outside org reps: ABC (Erin), SWGDRUG (Melissa), AAFS (vacant)
- Discussion in establishing regular (monthly or quarterly) BOD meetings
 - Next meeting March 5 12 pm
- 2026 meeting
 - GBI sending fewer people than previous – told to limit spending
 - 35 people registered so far (mostly workshop presenters and NC)
 - Member from FDLE – will be prioritizing attending CLIC rather than anywhere else
- Memberships
 - 9 applicants for new members
 - Tanja to order new ID badge swipecy things for new member swag
- SAFS logo

- Need high-res image, maybe updated design
 - Rachael contacting designer on Etsy - going to order a new high-res image of the current so we can get something for the 2026 meeting
- Put it into ChatGPT and asked it to update our logo... it was laughable
- Plan: Ask membership to create our new updated logo (make announcement at the 2026 meeting). Do a full buildup of what is selected and show it at the 2027 meeting.
- Nominations
 - No nominations for BOD received yet
 - Probably will need to recruit people to nominate themselves
- Point from Erin
 - ABC specifically recruits from underrepresented state. Should we attempt to do that?