

## Southern Association of Forensic Scientists – Executive Board Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2026

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

*Next Meeting:* April 13, 2026 at 4:30pm

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm, meeting adjourned at 12:39pm.

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- Logo – updated/made high-res by Alison Gantt
    - She did not ask for payment but Board decided to cover her membership fee for the year as a thank you
  - AAFS/RAC Rep update – Tanja/Erin
    - Kristen served previously but did not attend AAFS meeting and is ready to pass it on to someone else
    - Min. 2-year commitment, two to three virtual meetings throughout year plus in-person at meeting and manning booths at AAFS, must be member of SAFS & AAFS
    - Collaborate with reps of other regional organizations to help each other – recruit people to join others, especially when they move states, and make a database of speakers/workshops
  - Will send email blast - Karlie
    - Reminder to nominate Board members – due by 13<sup>th</sup>
    - Request applicants for AAFS/RAC rep
      - Will include in this email now, follow up at meeting and in its own email in a couple months if no volunteers
    - Reminder to apply for scholarships/awards – extend deadline to 13<sup>th</sup>
    - Registration links
  - New members and Board nominations -> membership by 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Several members who were “removed for multiple years of unpaid dues” in 2023 had paid to be caught up but did not get updated in member list, therefore were still inactive on the website and were not receiving emails through mailchimp. Treasurer and Secretary’s lists have been cross-checked and updated. Webmaster has reset several passwords.
  - Dues will go out mid-month
  - Will update website Committees page to change “ABC Representatives” to “Representatives in Outside Organizations” to include ABC, SWGDRUG, and AAFS RAC
  - ABC update – Erin
    - Some talk of removing member organization fees – we currently pay \$500/year
    - Organizations to submit three names to let ABC pick one (for a 10-year term)
      - Some organizations revote on their rep each year – may want to consider this

- Almost an entirely new Board, same discussions about how to get more certificants
  - Considering a Forensic Science Week discount for people to sign up for exams
- Conference update – Allison
  - 57 currently registered (13 are presenters)
    - Only 3 are biologists – need to encourage biologists to apply
    - Lots of county labs in SC, decent number from NC, TN, WV, some interest from Ohio, Vermont. No one from GBI yet but several (~8-10) will register still.
  - Workshops have good numbers for Drugs, decent for General, need more for Bio
- How can we recruit more members and/or meeting registrants, especially students?
  - Conference planners should send emails to schools to recruit
  - Consider a task group or committee to help recruit
- Larry has been paid annual webmaster fees (\$111 for meeting website, \$867 for main website)
- DJ and photobooth invoices coming, to be paid or partially paid before meeting