

Southern Association of Forensic Scientists – Executive Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

Present: President Tanja Kopp; President-Elect Rachael Looney; 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 16, 2026 – Annual Business Meeting

Meeting called to order at 4:32pm, meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.

- RAC – no one applied, need to announce at Business meeting
- Awards & Scholarships:
 - New Scientist Award
 - Submission received for Staphany Maria Echeverria - with CBP for 5 years
 - Will comp future meeting registration or full day of workshops – her choice to use once in the next 3 years
 - Ask Larry where nominations get emailed to (is there an awards email?)
 - Tanja volunteered to take over Awards and Communication Committee
 - Lynn Henson Scholarship
 - Submission received from Karlie McManaman for CFM exam
 - Can use once in the next 2 years
 - Submit receipt to Treasurer for reimbursement
 - Post awardees on website
 - Will announce ongoing application still available for Ed Rhodes at Business meeting
 - ABC will waive one of the fees during Forensic Science Week
- 2029 proposal was received from Gainesville (unsolicited, outside of Helms Briscoe – we are not required to use them)
- Need to find someone to plan 2028 in Charlotte
 - Collin & Rachael willing to co-chair, will put out call for local assistance during business meeting
 - Allison created spreadsheets/electronic folder for meeting planning to share for future use
- Finalized Thursday's agenda
- Associate members
 - Amanda Tranchitella and Sydney Stephens registered to attend this year and have 3+ years of service. Will upgrade to full members following the meeting.
- TER update: proposing free fall webinar for members
 - First portion of meeting for general forensics, second half would be discipline specific breakouts

- May allow non-members for a small fee - need to determine current Cisco WebEx fee and base it off that
- Need to promote new membership and following us on Instagram, etc.
 - Switched Instagram to business account, public profile
 - Will monitor for creepy comments and block people if needed
 - Will shout out vendors on Instagram during the meeting (with tags and #s)
- Still need to follow up with Alison Gantt to waive membership fees this year – Laura will mark as paid
- 106 meeting registrants, 13 vendors for this year's meeting