

# **Southern Association of Forensic Scientists**

## **2026 Business Meeting**

**Thursday, April 16, 2026**

### Agenda:

- Call to order by President Tanja Kopp at 1:30pm
- Introduction of current Board members
- Counted voting members present to establish quorum:
  - 24 voting members present
- Secretary Karlie McManaman summarized 2025 Business Meeting minutes, full minutes available on website
  - Motion to approve minutes passes
- Membership committee: President-Elect Rachael Looney announced fall and upgraded members, then read the names of 11 applicants:
  - Fall members:
    - Gena Brittain
    - Courtney Johnson
    - Stacey Mathew
    - Marcie Reese
    - Olivia Williams
    - Carly Marchman
    - Arielle Miles
    - Carter DePew
  - Associates upgraded to full:
    - Amanda Tranchitella
    - Sydney Stephens
  - Full membership applicants:
    - Jennifer Brown (FDLE)
    - Sharon Verona (Pinellas County)
    - Jennifer Mazzie (Anderson County)
    - Dee Anne Johnson (York County)
    - Kristen McCall (Greenville County)
    - Mary (Beth) Stuart (Southern Wesleyan Uni.)
  - Associate membership applicants:
    - Jack Dykes (Mississippi)
    - Genetta Young (North Carolina)
    - Nathalie Candanoza (Greenville County)
    - Mabrey Fraser (Beaufort County)

- Lauren Clark (Beaufort County)
  - Motion to approve all applicants passes
  - Full members have voting privileges for the remainder of the meeting
- Treasurer Laura Lawrence provided current account balances:\*
  - Meeting (this meeting, before bills are settled): \$77,811.44
  - Main account: \$74,119.20
  - CD: \$13,944.70
  - Checking account (used to be for other meetings, will close this year): \$2,000
  - Dues email has been sent:
    - Check your spam folder if you didn't receive it
    - Late fee after June 30<sup>th</sup> (up until Feb 2027)
    - Pay dues on the website, can print membership card immediately after
- Awards & Communication committee: Tanja Kopp on behalf Tiffany Vinson\*
  - New Scientist Award: awarding to Staphany Echeverria (CBP in Savannah)
    - Available to members with less than 5 years' experience
    - She will receive a free future meeting registration fee or full day or workshops
  - Also available: Outstanding Scientist Award, Distinguished Service Award, James Campbell Scholarship
  - Lynn Henson Memorial Scholarship: awarding to Karlie McManaman
    - To use for any forensic personal certification exam
  - Ed Rhodes – ongoing application, can still apply for ABC exam fees to be covered!
- Training, Education, and Research committee: Erin Tracy gave update\*
  - Free (to members) fall webinar
    - Scan QR code to submit ideas and/or bring them up in Friday's sessions
    - Will be mix of general forensic discussions and discipline-specific breakouts
- Audit committee: Karlie McManaman read Tara Ransom's report\*
  - Reviewed accounts: all items accounted for and the audit had no findings
- Ethics committee: Allison Galassie\*
  - No ethics complaints received
- Nominations committee: Past-President Amanda Venable presented the candidates
  - President-Elect
    - Collin Shuford (NC)
    - Nominations from the floor: none
    - Motion to elect Collin as President-Elect passes
  - Board members-at-large nominees
    - Lauren Stenger (GBI)
    - Adam Lewis (NC)
    - Erin Tracy (UNC)
    - Nominations from the floor: Jennifer Sullivan (TBI)

- Paper passed around to all voting members present to vote for one name
  - Jennifer Sullivan and Adam Lewis elected for two-year terms, Erin Tracy for one-year term
- \*Motions to approve all Officer and Committee reports passed
- Old business:
  - Any AAFS members? Looking for RAC representative – if you know anyone who is an AAFS member in your organization, please try to recruit them
- New business/open floor:
  - Future meetings:
    - Signed contract for Charlotte, NC – April 23-29, 2028 – Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte, ~10min from airport
      - Looking for local volunteers to assist – talk to Collin or Rachael
    - Thank you to Allison for planning this year’s meeting, April for coordinating vendors, and Collin and Rachael for being social chairs
    - Hilton Head, SC – April 26-30, 2027 – rented out an entire hotel on the beach
      - Tanja and Kristen are chairs for next year
  - You will be receiving a survey – please send your feedback on the meeting!
  - Beth Stuart – new professor at Southern Wesleyan University, retired analyst
    - Over past four semesters, she has created a curriculum that falls under FEPAC standards and will apply for accreditation once she graduates two years’ worth of students – will become the only accredited program in South Carolina
    - Wants to bring students with posters to future meetings! We will make a spot for them in the agenda (poster session, spot in vendor room, time in breakout, etc.). We are excited to welcome students back to our meetings!
  - If you are not a member, talk to a Board member to get a sponsor and join!
- Meeting adjourned at 2:12pm