

Southern Association of Forensic Scientists – Executive Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2026

Present: President Rachael Looney; Past-President Tanja Kopp; Treasurer Laura Lawrence; Secretary Karlie McManaman; Members-at-Large Erin Tracy, Adam Lewis, and Jennifer Sullivan

Next Meeting: TBD

Meeting called to order at 2:01pm, meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.

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- Virtual training update – Erin
 - Second half of webinars (discipline breakouts) ready – moderators, topics confirmed
 - No confirmed speakers for general topic, hoping for expert testimony panel for first half
 - Multiple people/agencies contacted but all have backed out or stopped responding
 - Other names suggested – Erin will continue reaching out to lock in ASAP
 - Collin is getting names/numbers together for fall membership vote – will send names to membership two weeks before in-person meeting when the Board will vote
 - Looking at in-person Board meeting in Hilton Head last week of September into early October – Tanja will reach out to hotel for dates
 - Update from Allison via Rachael – just found out about a pending murder trial for a longtime SAFS supporter’s family member, and a non-profit that was created in her honor. Proposed doing a walk/5k one morning at the next meeting to raise awareness, and sharing the non-profit’s info for anyone who wants to donate.
 - If the person does not want the attention at the meeting, the Board will vote to send a donation directly from SAFS.
 - AAFS RAC – still no volunteers, trying to think of anyone who may already be a member of AAFS
 - Erin will reach back out to original contacts to see if we can be virtual only
 - May cover someone’s AAFS membership dues if they are willing to join and represent SAFS
 - Karlie – regularly updating training opportunities on our website. There is a permanent list of virtual trainings, but we could add vendors’ webinars too (Cayman is only one currently, could add 10 or so more) – Board agreed as long as everyone has equal opportunity to be represented on the website, it could also help get more traffic to our site.
 - ANAB said they never received a check from 2024. Laura confirmed it was never cashed, so she sent a new check.