



Organized Feb. 9, 1949

SABINE-NECHES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

~ P.O. Box 2257 Nederland, Texas 77627 ~
Phone: (409) 985-0237, Fax: (409) 985-0540

Email: HYPERLINK

"mailto:SabineNechesChiefsAssn@gmail.com"

SabineNechesChiefsAssn@gmail.com Web: HYPERLINK

"http://www.snchiefs.com" www.snchiefs.com

24-Hour Activation Phone: **409-838-6371**

2024 Board of Directors

Tim Ocnaschek
President 23 - 24

Tommy Shelton
Vice-President 23 - 24

Chris Gonzales
Secretary/Treasurer 23 - 24

Shaqueena Nobles
Sergeant-at-Arms 23 - 24

Larry McBride
Fire Director 24 - 25

Terry Morton
Fire Director 23 - 24

Tommy Wells
Industry Director 24 - 25

Scott McDonald
Industry Director 23 - 24

Donta Miller
Police Director 24 - 25

Sparky Robinson
Police Director 23 - 24

Joel Ardoin
At-Large Director 23 - 24

Stephanie Garsea
EMS Director 23 - 24

Sharon Whitley
Health Director 23 - 24

Quorum is (10) Voting Members at Regular Meeting

The 887th meeting of the SNCA was held on February 7, 2024 at the Rockin A Café. The meeting was hosted by Natgasoline.

President Ocnaschek (BPD) called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM

Matt Dulaney (Chaplain) led the membership in an invocation.
President Ocnaschek led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Board members not in attendance; Tommy Shelton (Goodyear), Chris Gonzales (JCESD#1) Larry McBride (JCESD#1), Sharon Whitley (HCHD).

Self-Introductions were made by those members present.

HOST WELCOME

President Ocnaschek recognized host representative Zach Brackin, Emergency Response Specialist. Mr. Brackin then introduced Natgasoline's Plant Manager Larry Richards.

READING OF THE MINUTES

President Ocnaschek asked for a motion to approve the January 2024 Meeting Minutes sent out via email. A motion was made by Jody Herrera (JCESD#1) to accept the January 2024 Minutes as read and seconded by Scott McDonald (BASF), there was no opposition to the motion, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

TREASURERS REPORT:

In the absence of Secretary/Treasurer Chris Gonzales, President Ocnaschek provided the Financial Report:

Beginning January Balance..... \$ 55,635.84
 Deposits..... \$ 8,627.56 (Membership dues)
 Withdrawals..... \$ 9,705.99
 Ending January Balance\$ 54,557.41
 PayPal Balance.....\$ 1,353.51
 Certificate of Deposit..... \$ 5,187.73 (2/3/24)
Combined Ending Balance\$ 61,098.65

Trans.	Payee	Purpose	Amount
Debit card	Juxtapose	Monthly web fee	\$ 90.00
Ck. #1679	Compro Center	Balance for 75 th Anniversary Event	\$4,235.00
Ck. #1680	Two Southern Widflowers Events	75 th Anniversary – Decorations	\$1,392.00
Debit card	Classic Forms	75 th Anniversary – Classic Pens	\$1,672.03
Debit card	Arnolds Billiard Supplies	75 th Anniversary Patches	\$1,930.00
Debit card	Rockin A Café	Board meeting meal	\$ 386.96

President Ocnaschek asked if there were any comments or changes regarding the Treasurers Report, there were none. President Ocnaschek then asked for a motion and second to accept the Treasurers Report. A motion was then made by Louie Havens (PAFD) to accept the Treasurer’s Report as read and seconded by Scott McDonald (BASf), there was no opposition to the motion, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- President Ocnaschek told the membership the 2024 membership dues date was January 31st and as of this date there was approximately 50 organizations that have yet to pay dues. President Ocnaschek reminded the membership that per the SNCA Constitution a member is in remiss and voting rights are suspended until appropriate payment is received. President Ocnaschek asked that that they check into whether their organization’s dues have been paid or not.

NEW BUSINESS:

- President Ocnaschek told the membership that Matt Dulaney has recently retired from Hardin County ESD #6 and is no longer affiliated with a voting organization. Matt has served in the SNCA for nearly 40 years and at the 1st Qtr. The Board agreed unanimously that Matt Dulaney be made an Honorary Member. **CONGRADULATIONS MATT!!**

- With Matt Dulaney's retirement and him not being affiliated with a voting organization, per the Constitution he can no longer serve on the Board of Directors. Matt has recommended his replacement be long-standing member Larry McBride. Larry has served in the SNCA in previous years with ExxonMobil, now retired from industry, serves as Fire Chief for Jasper County ESD #1. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Larry to replace Matt Dulaney.
- Long time member Tommy Wells (Energy Transfer) who serves as the Oil Spill Committee Chair has asked that he transition the Committee Chair position and recommended Heather Low (Phillips 66) to take the seat. Heather is willing and a regular attendee at Chief's meetings. The Board agreed unanimously with this replacement.
- Chairperson Shaqueena Nobles (BEM) asked that she transition the Training Committee Chair to Jeff Phillips (JCEM). Jeff has many years with the Beaumont FD, private training company, Beaumont Emergency Management and now Jefferson County Emergency Management. The Board agreed unanimously with this transition.
- Another appointment was made at the Board of Directors meeting. Matt Dulaney was appointed SNCA Chaplain. Per the **Constitution Article VII, Sec. 2** the President can appoint an Ad Hoc Committee as deemed necessary. Matt is willing to learn more and even attend classes to provide member services in the Chaplain capacity. This position would serve the Association well. There was unanimous concurrence by the Board to develop the Ad Hoc Committee, Chaplain position.
- President Ocnaschek told the membership the Board discussed members not being properly classified when joining. By not properly classifying these members, they are not paying dues or hosting meetings. A more thorough review of all the membership is being conducted.
- President Ocnaschek told the membership the Board had discussions regarding membership dues regarding fiscal management. After a substantial amount of work between the Treasurer and Edgar, Kiker and Cross (EKC), a solid and detailed budget has been established and even without the 75th anniversary would be insufficient to fund the current basic needs of maintaining this Association. After cutting back on several lines, to include the Training and Exercise category and funds to supplement scholarships, we still need several thousand dollars to stay within a balanced budget. There has been a misconception that the Association was limited to a funding threshold by nature of the 501-C4 classification; however, that really was just a matter of which IRS documents we file. To continue to perform the minimal expectations the Committees and Board want, an additional \$15-20,000 is needed. The suggestion has been made to raise dues; however, if a restructuring of what members should pay is made, a small adjustment may be sufficient for the short term. A recommendation was made during the Board meeting to form an Ad-Hoc committee to review the Strategic Plan, looking out 3, 5 or even 15 years from now and where we want to be, what we want to do, and what funding would be needed to progress. For instance, some members have suggested a management function to assist with the business of the organization, helping to coordinate mutual aid, etc. President is requesting a volunteer from membership to head up that review/committee. Chief Vega (PNFD) volunteered to head this Ad Hoc Committee and was appointed by Ocnaschek as the Chair.

- Within the discussion of membership classifications, research identified several apparent inconsistencies - mainly with industry members. Some came down to an organization having some absorbent pads, a golf cart, or a little hose and had the same dues payment as someone bringing a host of expensive resources and experts to the mutual aid table. President reviewed CIMA's approach and received a copy of their guidance that included tiering of industrial membership based on what each brought to the table. Industry Board Director Scott McDonald advised his Industrial Fire and Safety Committee team had already been discussing tiering of industry members and providing more definition to what "resources" are and mean. This will tie into the potential for a re-alignment recommendation and possible dues restructuring suggestion. The Strategic plan update would give us a better understanding what dues need to be able to cover.
- Membership Database – The database is being found outdated with primary & secondary contacts. Pat Grimes reminds the membership monthly to assure information is current but Board Directors are finding outdated information. It is each member's responsibility to keep response equipment in the database current as well. President Ocnashek also advised the membership of benefits in past incidents where vendor or non-voting organizations provided a list of resources so that if members are looking for something and unfamiliar with all vendor products, resources could be found- knowing there will be a charge if requested. Anyone without access to the database was advised to see Pat Grimes for assistance.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- None

RECENT EMERGENCIES/ ISSUES:

(It was verified there was no media in the room)

SNCA Activations YTD – 10

Industry: Energy Transfer

Municipal Fire: Port Arthur- new ladder truck

Law Enforcement: None

EMS: None

Health: Several West Nile cases have been reported in this area; Port Arthur Health Department has a new facility at 5860 9th Avenue.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Matt Dulaney - Chairperson

No Report

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Mark Czerwiec - Chairperson

One application pending; Louie Havens and others spoke up about future membership solicitation. One recommendation was for more LE involvement, adding a recruitment plan to

the Strategic Plan, and spending more time throughout industry advising leadership of SNCA and benefits of membership.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS: Steve Curren - Chairperson

Not present

WEBSITE: Stephanie Garsea – Chairperson

There will be more updates coming; Work in progress but the big design changes have been done. If you have any pictures from incidents, events, etc. from SNCA, please send to Stephanie Garsea (sgarsea@acadian.com). We are lacking a lot of our history and we need everyone to help put together our story. The 75th Anniversary Committee will also be working on this for the rest of the year.

AWARDS: Stephanie Garsea – Chairperson

No Report

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Stephanie Garsea – Chairperson

*It's that time of the year for our annual event to be held Friday April 26th. We are still in need for a few cooking teams, team prizes and teams to sign up. Please see Stephanie Garsea for registration forms. Her email is: sgarsea@acadian.com ; Currently there are 3 teams registered to play. We have a long way to go and a short time to get there....so please turn in your intent to be involved to Stephanie.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Stephanie Garsea – Chairperson

75th SNCA Anniversary:

*Today we celebrate the 75th anniversary at our general meeting; Sharing some pictures and celebrating with cake; We all should be proud of our organization.

*We are looking forward to our main celebration to be held on Friday February 9, 2024 - 75 years exactly to the date from the first meeting. What a great night for this historical event.

MARINE FIREFIGHTING, SALVAGE, AND RECOVERY COMMITTEE: Louie Havens – Chairperson – No Report

COMMUNICATIONS: Chief Eloy Vega - Chairperson

Reminder for Tuesday radio checks, upcoming grant opportunities; advised that Mike Rowell (TDEM) was assisting with this committee.

INVENTORY: Pat Grimes – Chairperson

Inventory

Please review your inventory regularly. If you have a resource that is not listed in the inventory but you want to add, please let Chair Grimes know. All Voting members are required to have resources in the inventory.

Remember, you are not obligated to commit all the items listed in the inventory to an event. That is the primary members decision. The inventory gives us an idea of what resources are available in the region.

Database

Please let Chair Grimes know if there are any changes to the primary member, alternate member, agency name change, or address change of your agency.

If you are not getting text messages or emails from the SNCA please let Chair Grimes know. Text and emails meeting reminders are sent before each monthly meeting.

Chair Grimes is currently verifying agency's data that have not been updated since 2022. Chair Grimes has contacted several agencies over the past month. This only takes a few minutes so I appreciate your cooperation.

Everbridge (Mass Notification Vendor)

Everbridge has been purchased by Thomas Bravo which is one of the most experienced and successful software investors in the world. At this point there is point there are no plans to change the company name or brand and our current team has assured us there will be no change in service.

TRAINING & EDUCATION: Jeff Phillips - Chairperson

Jeff Phillips provided an update regarding various training opportunities occurring in the area.

For more training information see *Preparingtexas.org*

HOMELAND SECURITY: Jeremy Hansen – Chairperson

Mike Hiatt spoke about the upcoming Port Security Grant and need to get with him if wanting to brief him of potential project applications.

BOSSSES NIGHT: David Frenzel - Chairperson

No Report

OIL SPILL: Heather Low - Chairperson

Not present

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM: Tim Ocnaschek - Chairperson

One member being sent by Beaumont to the AHIMTA Symposium in late March

INDUSTRIAL FIRE & SAFETY: Scott McDonald - Chairperson

Chair McDonald reminded the industry group of the first quarter meeting on March 12th at 10am. Indorama will host the meeting. Email invites will be sent out with reporting instructions when arriving at the facility. Chair McDonald encouraged attendance as the group will be

working on important documents and goals for the industrial group. He also reminded the membership that if you are an Industrial member and not getting emails from him to please provide your contact to be added to the group.

PROGRAM:

- Natgasoline provide the membership a look into the operations of Natgasoline.
- There was a presentation of the Beaumont Fire Museum by Dana Ward.
- There was a presentation from the CISA Office for Bombing Prevention. Information was provided about an upcoming opportunity for a regional technical assistance approach in doing a 5-phase community level assessment/survey so CISA could provide a qualitative report regarding counter-terrorist capabilities. This survey will leverage the existing regional MJIED and CCTA plans. Another meeting regarding this opportunity will occur Wednesday, February 27th at SETRPC.

NEXT MEETING: The 888th meeting will be March 6, 2024, hosted by Energy Transfer Spindletop and will be held at Courville’s beginning at 10AM.

ADJOURN:

With no further business to discuss President Ocnashek asked for a motion to adjourn. Jody Herrera (JCESD#3) made the motion to adjourn and seconded by Louie Havens (PAFD). There was no opposition to the motion, motion passes. Meeting was adjourned at 11:39AM.

2024 Meetings/Hosts

TENATIVE HOST SCHEDULE FOR 2024

Meeting Host 2024	Meeting Number	Meeting Date	Meeting Location
Port of Beaumont	886	January 3, 2024	Rockin A Cafe
Natgasoline	887	February 7, 2024	Rockin A Cafe
Energy Transfer Spindletop	888	March 6, 2024	Courville’s
Valero Pipeline and Logistics	889	April 3, 2024	Rockin A Cafe
Jefferson County Long Term Recovery Group	890	May 1, 2024	Rockin A Cafe
Port of Port Arthur	891	June 5, 2024	Carl Parker Multipurpose Center, 1800 Lakeshore Dr, Pt. Arthur
CTEH	892	July 3, 2024	Courville’s
DRC	893	August 7, 2024	Rockin A Cafe
Golden Triangle Polymers	894	September 4, 2024	Rockin A Cafe
AMPOL	895	October 2, 2024	Rockin A Cafe
Jasper County E.S.D. #1	896	November 6, 2024	Rockin A Cafe
Dooley Tackaberry	897	December 4, 2024	TBD