

Society of Former Agents (SOFA)

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2019

The third meeting in 2019 of SOFA was held at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 521 St. Andrews Road Columbia, SC at 10:30 am.

President Earl Wells called the meeting to order.

Chaplain David Tafaoa gave the invocation.

President Wells led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Dave Lawrence presented the minutes from the April 13, 2019 general membership meeting. Bill Graham made a motion to adopt the minutes as read and Bob Cathey seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted and approved as read.

SLED Chief Mark Keel and Former Assistant Chief Ben Thomas conducted the K-9 vest presentation for SLED.

Treasurer Jim Martin presented the financial report. At the time, the society has approximately \$4,199.51 and the foundation has approximately \$9,394.81. Martin explained the cost of the K-9 vest was \$3,164.04. The insurance reserve fund contributed \$2,000.00; an anonymous donor gifted \$1,000.00; and SOFA provided \$164.04 from the foundation. The society is a 501(c) 7 and the foundation is a 501(c) 3.

Retired SLED Agent Ron Cook gave a briefing on former and retired member's health conditions to keep the membership informed of fellow member's wellbeing. The following are agents that the society were aware of that were deceased since the last meeting: Chad Caldwell and Jimmy Freeman.

The guest speaker, David Tafaoa, explained the SC LEAP program. He advised that the program is also for retirees and their spouses. He also discussed the PEER program and both programs are expanding throughout the United States.

SLED Chief Keel gave a progress report on SLED activities and pending projects. He thanked SOFA for its contribution toward the K-9 vest. The plan for the new SLED lab is still in progress at 4700 Broad River Road. He is asking the legislature for 50 additional Special Agents in next fiscal year's budget. He discussed retention issues and how they are being addressed. Data has shown that 54% of law enforcement personnel leave the profession within the first five years.

President Wells discussed the elections procedures. He presented four nominees for the officers. They were: Tommy Robertson for President; Michael Greene for Vice-President; Jim Martin for Treasurer; and

David Black for Secretary. Ron Cook made a motion to adapt and present the four nominees for the new officers for the next term of 2020-2022. Mark Huguley seconded the motion.

Chaplain Tafaoa gave the blessing for lunch.

Lunch was catered by Hudson's Bar-B-Que.