



The Society of Flavor Chemists, Inc.®

3301 Route 66, Suite 205 Bldg C
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www.flavorchemists.com

Society of Flavor Chemists Business Meeting (#476) Minutes October 16, 2025

The General Business Meeting (#476) of the Society of Flavor Chemists was held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Newark Airport, Newark, NJ and virtually on the ZOOM platform. The meeting was called to order by President Scott Michaluk @ 4:35 p.m. Eastern time.

Quorum was satisfied.

I. Approval of meeting minutes – Scott Michaluk

1. *Approval of the minutes of the September 25, 2025, General Business Meeting*
2. A motion was made to accept the minutes of September 25, 2025, Business Meeting as submitted. Motion seconded and minutes approved.

II. Presentation of Candidates for voting - Membership Committee

1. 2 candidates were presented for membership.
 - a. Michael Gotera – Symrise, Upgrade to Certified
 - i. Yinyin Xu spoke on their behalf.
 - b. Yuhao Tian – Sensapure, Apprentice member
 - i. Doug Gledhill spoke on their behalf.
 - c. Vote was tallied and both candidates were voted in.
 - d. Membership notes the format of the exam has been updated in recent years and mentors should be aware of the change. The new syllabus will be posted in 2026

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after board approval. No questions will be asked of the candidates until the syllabus has been published.

- e. Scott added that the wait time is reduced so new applicants should be prepared to test shortly after applying. Sincere appreciation to the membership committee for their hard work to shorten the wait times and update the syllabus.

III. Board of Directors' Reports

1. Assistant Secretary: Elsa Howerth

- a. No Report

2. Secretary: Jennifer Tartaglia

- a. The society upgraded its computer this summer and is in the midst of cleaning up the older one to make it useful for Society business. Zoom issues for this meeting were causing Zoom participants to not see slides advancing.

3. Treasurer: Terry Miesle

- a. Financial Details Report –

	July	August	September
Starting Checking Balance	314027.05	311714.58	318,648.15
Savings	11304.2	11304.3	11,304.39
Paypal	707.12	100	70
Total starting balance	326038.37	323118.88	330022.54
Total income	300	2350.71	17017.24
Total expenses	-2612.47	-400.47	-12033.91
Closing Final Total	323725.9	325069.12	335005.87

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- b. The Chicago Meeting was profitable. Great turnout with 98 attendees and first positive income for Chicago.

Hotel costs	3187.5	
Venue costs	7377.44	
Eventbrite income	14400	98 attendees
Net income	3835.06	

4. Vice President: *Marissa Pasky (not in attendance)*

- a. No Report

5. President: *Scott Michaluk*

- a. The February meeting will be February 12th in Atlanta, GA which will be located down the road from Coca-Cola with a World of Coke tour. Looking to see if we can get flavor houses from the Georgia area to participate in the meeting. This date will be updated on the website shortly.
- b. The California meeting will be held at Chapman University in January.
- c. Dues will be opened on December 1st.
- d. By-law change regarding membership syllabus will not be moving forward. Legal counsel advised against moving this one forward.

6. Chairman: *Justin Kozlowski*

- a. Justin is working with the board to get liability insurance.
- b. Working on updating and finalizing the symposium location.

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IV. Committee Reports

1. Arrangements Committee: *Chris Williams (not in attendance) & Rex Jackson (Zoom)*

- a. February 12th for Atlanta meeting.
- b. All 2026 dates are booked.

2. Audit Committee: *Paul Ricciardi*

- a. Gathering documents for audit.

3. By-Laws Committee: *Mariano Gascon (not in attendance)*

- a. No Report

4. History Committee: *Sharon Tortola (Zoom)*

- a. No report

5. Library Committee: *Sam Tharpe*

- a. Our library is housed at SHI. They just acquired the collection of the first photo of the DNA double helix
- b. They are in the process of interviewing Alfred Gossen for an oral history. When it is available, Sam will let the SFC know. Other interviews will need to be funded.
- c. John Leffingwell's archives are in our collection. Eventually, we will need to hire a fellow to organize our collections.
- d. SHI's October 25th event will be the history of spices. SHI is always eager to learn about flavor chemistry and SFC.
- e. In February, SHI will host a "Wine, Roses, and Chocolate" event.

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- f. Please go to the SHI website to explore. If you see a book that would be good to digitize, let us know so we can find a way to fund it.

6. Media Committee: *Alison Freedman (Zoom)*

- a. A new survey will be coming out with more specific areas in the tri-state/east coast region. Please take the time to fill out this new quick survey so we can take it into consideration to ensure great participation in the event.
- b. The survey indicated that the east coast was preferred. Greater than 40% selected the tri-state area as the most preferred.

7. Membership Committee: *Aparna Oak (not in attendance) & Ashley Rizzo & Jacque Finner*

- a. Report given during the Presentation of Candidates (see above)

8. Nominating Committee: *Justin Kozlowski*

- a. Justin will head a nomination committee to look for a new secretary shortly.

9. Program Committees

a. Chicago Program: *Lauren Hammerschmidt & Greg Griffin*

- i. Report

b. Midwest Program: *Katie Crowley (not in attendance)*

- i. Report

c. East Coast Program: *Kim Bendickson & Tara Strober*

- i. Scott and Elsa thank the East Coast committee for the fun and interactive events.

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- ii. 69 in person attendees and 14 online attendees. We would love to increase attendance at this event so please continue to encourage friends and colleagues to attend.
 - iii. Budget now to attend the Atlanta meeting on February 12th.
- d. **West Coast Program:** *Alex Scott (Zoom)*
- i. Back at Chapman University in January as they are excited to host us again. Some great speakers are lined up.

10. Sponsorship Committee: *Alpa Roman (not in attendance)*

- a. No Report

11. Recognition Committee: *Mary Robertson (not in attendance)*

- a. No Report

12. Scholarship Committee: *Katie Beaver (not in attendance)*

- a. Report

13. Symposium Committee: *OPEN (to be filled next year)*

14. Website Committee: *Elsa Howerth*

- a. Looking to have a new website management company. We will be in the process of terminating our current one. Elsa is working to make it as seamless a transition as possible so the membership experience is maintained.
- b. Presentations from the meetings are accessible to members only. PDFs will be under documents.
- c. If you have any comments about the website experience, please reach out to the website's email address.

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- d. Elsa indicated that YouTube channel had some presentations. The membership was curious about whether it is still active. Elsa will investigate this.
- e. Do we have a feature where each member can give consent to share contact information? It would be an approval message to divulge contact information. Another idea is to see if we can upload the directory only after the person has given consent. We could also add it to the dues payment distribution. Display of member since or certified since was also discussed.

V. Unfinished Business – Scott Michaluk

1. For today's meeting, parking validation is a discounted rate at \$12 at the front desk.

VI. New Business – Scott Michaluk

1. Cathianne Leonardi would like to volunteer to help with the industry calendar. Jennifer will be in touch.
2. Karen Xu asked if there are any plans for the SFC app for the phones.

VII. Adjournment

1. President Scott Michaluk thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 5:26 P.M. Central time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Tartaglia
SFC Secretary 2024 – 2026

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