

Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Hosted by the President Frank Treanor via ZOOM

August 6, 2020, at 1900Hrs.

-CALL MEETING TO ORDER at 7:08 PM

President Treanor called the meeting to order and thanked all for attending this meeting in this new format.

-SELF INTRODUCTIONS / PASS THE ROSTER

President Treanor said thank you to all for attending and introduced the following members in ZOOM.

Name	District		Name	District
Bill Adams	Merrill, Arnone, Jones Law		Paul Barry	Cazadero
Bob Briare	SCFD		Carol Giovannatto	Cloverdale
John Hamann	SCFD		Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe
Ernie Loveless	Schell Vista		Bill Norton	Sonoma Valley
Jason Nunes	Graton		Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast
Fred Peterson	North County		Gary So	SCFD
Freak Treanor	SCFD		Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley
Doug Williams	Retired		Joe Petersen	Gold Ridge
Dan Fein	Monte Rio		Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay

-APPROVE/AMEND MEETING AGENDA

President Treanor asked if anyone had any changes to the agenda. Cloverdale moved to approve the agenda as presented, 2nd by Sonoma Valley, Motion approved by all.

-TREASURER'S REPORT:

Sec/Tres Grinnell had no treasurer's report this month.

-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FDAC & FDAC/EBA:

Chief Akre reported that he assumed the role of EBA President (Georgette retirement); Premium rates will be relatively flat; Chief Kovac has announced his retirement and will be stepping down.

LAFCO:

President Treanor thanked Director Lovelace for his work on LAFCO and wished him luck in the upcoming election.

President Treanor reported that Mark Bramfitt was supposed to attend but did not. President Treanor told the group that Rep Bob Taylor had sent out a report on the 5th about the LAFCO Meeting. No vote on the Sphere of Influences, just an informal discussion, the Commission would like the FSWG to report in September or October on their recommendations for SOI. The Commission Chair gave the current status with a focus on moving the CSA 40 into nearby districts said they would like a map of the proposed area, a matrix that answers the criteria already in place by the Commission. Director Peterson asked if there was anyone here tonight that attended the meeting? Director Loveless told the group that he (as LAFCO Chair) place the discussion item on the agenda in order to get the commission to learn all they can about this very complex set of issues; ask, learn and talk about this SOI, to come back in Sept/Oct to decide a direction. Director Dan Fein said he also attended the meeting and asked to them to not lock us in in west county like RRF and BDB were in Sonoma County Fire. We have a new group-Monte Rio, Occidental, Camp Meeker, Cazadero, Ft Ross and Gold Ridge, we are focused on Operations right now and ways to unite more operational aspects. Our ask was to let that place out a little longer. Director Loveless added in reference to Director Fein's comment, "We Heard You".

POLITICAL ACTION:

President Treanor reported our support of Cal Chiefs versus EMSA Rules was well received and the Courts ruled in our favor on July 15th. EMSA has been against fire-based EMS for a long time.

From the State: SB1199 to develop a commission on home hardening in WUI. SB 429 to create an inventory of seismically "at risk" buildings, SB 431 cell tower back up power, SB1089 telecoms facility to give quick notice for when a cell tower will be down, AB 291 Local emergency preparedness mitigation funding, AB 664 Work Comp communicable disease-Covid, AB 932 Work Comp extends protections to off duty incidents even outside of state. And Forty pages remain. Director Hemmendinger said he has noticed recently that CA is looking at law that requires employers to report exposed employees. He will keep us informed.

FAIRA/FASIS:

President Treanor said we received two reports, one from Susan From FAIRA and one from Carol G, which were sent out via email.

Chief Akre told the group that Fie Chief Glen Weeks retired, and the Presidency will be covered by long time member, Vacaville Chief Howard Wood.

-PROGRAM: No Program

OLD BUSINESS:

-Approve January 23, 2020 Meeting minutes (Action Item)

President Treanor asked if there were any changes to the minutes as presented- None were mentioned. Sonoma Valley moved to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd was made by Cloverdale, there was no further discussion, all voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Nominations for Vice President

President Treanor started the discussion with a reminder that our Vice- President becomes the President and we nominate and vote in our new Vice-President (Sec/Tres appears to be a life sentence) in October, for the



next year. This time around we have two candidates (accepted nominations up til August 1st.) Both are here tonight. Fred Peterson nominated by Rancho Adobe Director Mark Hemmendinger; and Bill Norton nominated by Sonoma Valley Director Brian Brady.

President Treanor said he wanted to give them the chance to speak tonight and to provide the association with a written statement/bio between now and October (we will then vote for VP). Starting with Director Bill Norton: who said he is a past president of the association, on the VOM Board for over ten years, and currently the President of the Board for Sonoma Valley Fire. President Trainor asked him how long he has been in the fire service-33 years, 3 with Daily City and 30 year at San Francisco. Director Fred Peterson “is throwing his hat in the ring” largely because his frustration over the last 6 years; fire districts, next to the county are the biggest players in the consolidation. We need to step up our game in order to lead in the future. We can’t keep taking what the county gives us, we need to lead the effort. We can’t go backwards in this. Director Peterson has been a volunteer since the mid-80’s, served in the forest service during college, and been involved ever since.

Director Hemmendinger asked if President Treanor was going handle this with a mail in or electronic ballot? A) What would the group the group think? I will send out the candidate statements and ask for electronic mail be sent to me and I will tally them...Director Peterson suggested the FAIRA/FASIS model of one vote per district.

Chief Akre ask that we confirm our process against our by-laws. President Treanor said he will review the by-laws and send an email out to the group with what he finds out.

Chief Plakos also expressed her like for a mail/email ballot and/or representative that can attend and vote on behalf of member districts, especially her district that is a long way away so travel to meetings can be difficult.

Director Joe Petersen said he liked all that everyone said and added that the voting process is outlined in the by-laws, however, he wanted the “who” will count the ballots, a second person to be ID’d-for transparency. President Treanor said that Sean or another volunteer could be ID’d, Director Petersen said Sean is fine, its just a process step to be ID’d for now and in the future.

President Treanor said that he and Sean will count the votes, one per district, and then post the results. Sean agreed as did the group.

Director Fred Peterson asked when would Frank like the candidate statements? President Treanor said the 19th of August.

-Discussion of having more frequent meetings:

President Treanor brought up the idea that he and Sean talked about, the need for more meetings in order maintain relevance of our association. Current meeting schedule might not be enough; and asked what are your thoughts on this? Director Hemmendinger agreed that there are times when do not have much to discuss, but on other occasions there is a lot to talk about, plus he felt that we had ceded its ability to bring things together to the county or to other groups. I have mixed emotions, but with all that is going on, it is worth consideration. President Trainor offered this would be like an ad hoc, as we would keep our usual schedule, but we could hold special or extra meetings. Director Peterson offered that we set a monthly meeting date and if there are issues, we can meet, and if not then no meeting. In terms of political action, we have not seen what will happen with the PG&E settlement which was in part due to the Northern end of the county that burned. I see these monthly meetings are more like working meetings and the quarterly meetings are more social, when we can get back to that. President Trainor asked Sec/Tres Grinnell his



thoughts. I want to maintain relevance; I want us to be proactive and not reactive as an organization. You all are the elected members who set policy, you are the ones that tell us chiefs what to do.

Chief Plakos added the silver lining to Covid is the new ways in which we can meet now-virtually. So going forward, we can still use a hybrid meeting model and likely get more participation.

Chief Akre shared his thoughts. The importance of being relevant as VP and as a member of FSWG, we have a great opportunity as an association and to have a strong voice for fire services in the county. There have been many strong individual voices, but now we can have a strong united voice as an association. Quarterly meetings are not enough. Currently, we could bring up an issue and not be able to act on it for almost 5 months. I encourage monthly meetings with flexibility to cancel those if the meeting is not needed. Director Norton voice his support for quarterly meetings and monthly zoom meetings. Director Hemmendinger asked if one voice was enough or should the group discuss issues as they are brought up.

President Trainor suggested we decide the fate of more meetings are the next meeting in October. In the meantime, we will hold monthly zoom meetings if needed or desired. Chief Akre suggested the E-Board discuss items as they are brought up to see if they warrant a meeting or not. Director Fred Petersen added maybe we can look at a hybrid model for a meeting and or a single member solicits enough interest for a meeting as well.

-Discussion of where do we go from here:

President Trainor asked the question, where do we go from here and mentioned several concepts mentioned already and said he was disappointed in the way the fire service approached the election in March, little or nothing done in campaign and political action and only lost by a couple of votes and now everyone is going to place something on a future ballot and we need something to finance the silver plan, what should we do? Director Loveless said fire districts need to be more involved in the silver plan and consolidations etc, we need to be more involved. Director Petersen said, the process with the Sups was difficult and the process was flawed. How do we proceed to get commitment in the future and now it is more difficult. Director Hemmendinger was surprised that local union took a neutral position on the tax and interestingly enough the only thing we were promised was to get our staff to parody with other agencies, but labor did not appear to be fully behind the measure. President Treanor brought all this up to get us thinking, we need to be proactive if given the chance again. We need to form a PAC, we need to support this if and when we get the chance again.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

-Sec/Tres Grinnell mentioned that he added a link to the current by-laws at the bottom of our page on the Chiefs website.

NEXT MEETING:

-President Treanor said our next regular meeting will be October 22, 2020, likely a virtual meeting. In the meantime, we will hold a special virtual meeting at the end of the month. Reach to any of the E-Board members if you need anything.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING (20:14)

-Valley of the Moon moved to close the meeting, 2nd made by Sonoma County Fire, and approved by all.



Minutes respectfully submitted by Sean Grinnell, SCFDA Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes Approved: _____ *Date:* _____
SCFDA Board Secretary