



# SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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# SONOMA COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES ASSOCIATION

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## Widow and Orphans Fund Special Meeting



### JOINT MEETING AGENDA

Hosted by Forestville Fire Dist

October 12, 2011, 6:00pm.

#### Attendance

Randy Collins	SRJC	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Dan Northern	Forestville	Darin DeCarli	Gold Ridge
Mark Aston	County Fire	John Lantz	Central
Rob Daugherty	Cal Fire	Max Ming	Forestville
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Bryan Cleaver	EMS
Dean Anderson	SLS/AMR	Kent Coxen	EMS
Doug Williams	Central	Mark McCormick	Santa Rosa
Henry Baker	Camp Meeker	Tim Williams	Camp Meeker
Al Mello	Wilmar	Gary Duignan	Red Cross
Mike Jones	Santa Rosa	Loren Davis	Mountain
Nick Neisius	Valley Ford	Caerleon Safford	Fire Safe Son.
Ron Albini	Bodega	Brian Perry	San Antonio
Augie Grube	Knights Valley	Bill Braga	Sebastopol

**Call to Order:** 6:15pm

#### Host Chief Introduction:

President Collins opened the meeting for the Fire Chiefs Association and for the Volunteer Fire Companies Association. Vice President Dan Northern welcome everyone to Forestville and asked the group to please excuse the renovations. The meeting room will become dorm rooms and the portable building outside will become the new training/meeting room for the District. Chief Northern thanked County Fire for all their help and thanked former Chief Duignan laying the foundation.

#### Approval of Minutes:

- Sonoma County Volunteer Fire Companies Association: Chief Aston asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting. Chief Davis so moved and Al Mello seconded. All were in favor.

- Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association: President Collins asked for a motion to approve the September regular meeting minutes. Chief Williams moved and Chief Aston seconded, all were in favor.

**President's Report:**

- Sonoma County Volunteer Fire Companies Association: Chief Aston reported that Chief Horne called him last night with the reminder that association by-law changes are being worked on and he hopes to have something for everyone by the next meeting.
- Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association: President Collins reported the third workshop (on FLSA) was presented by Chief Northern September 25 and thanked him for his efforts. The Power Point Presentation has been posted on the chiefs website. He also reminded the Safety Pals (our local version of Fire PALS) is moving forward and credited Cyndi Foreman of Central Fire and Suzie Blankenship of Calfire for their efforts. He also encouraged those present to all allow their staff to participate.

**Treasurer's Report: As of October 1<sup>st</sup>**

- Sonoma County Volunteer Fire Companies Association: Checking \$1,433.33 and savings is \$1,644.40.
- Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association

Chiefs Checking Account:	\$679.13	As of 10/1/11
W&O Fund 7 Month CD:	\$116,664.36	As of 10/1/1011
<u>W&amp;O Checking Account:</u>	<u>\$15,662.81</u>	<u>As of 10/1/11</u>
Total:	\$133,006.30	

One Bill received and was paid: annual website fee.

**Correspondence:**

- Sonoma County Volunteer Fire Companies Association: None
- Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association: None

**Presentations: None**

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire Safe Sonoma-**Caerleon Safford reported the Chipper grant is winding down and only a few thousand dollars are left. Up until December you can get on the waiting list but please hold off on creating new piles. She reported on attending the California Fire Safe Council last week and the revisions being discussed on the US wildland fire plan, a new strategy may be considered; going toward the use of stewardship programs. Do not expect new fuels treatment money. This will change how the fire safe councils will work in the future with an emphasis on collaboration. Chief Aston asked if political action is needed? Caerleon said that was unknown at this point. The biggest priority right now is road side funding. The grant is on track and moving forward. B/C DeCarli asked how deep is the list? **A)** empty now, maybe another 25 projects can be completed but it would be best if the projects were near each other.

**Training Section-**B/C Holden reported that with the split of the Marin Sonoma Training Officers Association they are going to merge with the Operations group and they are currently focusing on re-organization and their By-Laws. The TO and Ops will continue to meet on the same day and the group will then become the Sonoma Operations and Training group. President and Vice President will be maintained for both Ops and Training and the meeting times will follow each other. TO's will keep checking account

and annual memberships will be combined with the Chiefs billing cycle. A planning meeting has been scheduled prior to chiefs planning session. This will be a year of transition and moving ahead with primary functions.

**Prevention Section-** Chief Williams reported the Prevention Officers meeting was September Nor Cal which was hosted by Petaluma.

**Operations Section-** B/C DeCarli reported the Ops Group will be meeting at 0900 just before the TO's and their planning meeting has been scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Rancho Adobe Cotati station at 9am. Tom Forester will facilitate. More information is being posted to the website. Chief Adams is working on a fire ground injury SOG. Active status was reviewed and a updates have been recommended by Chief Northern and B/C Cornelson. The 2011 goals were reviewed.

**District Chiefs-** Chief Northern reported that Districts met on September 26 in Monte Rio. Efren Carrillo was the speaker. Meetings will be moving to quarterly with January 26 is being considered for the next meeting. On the agenda: new officers, quarterly meetings and LAFCO would like to speak to the group.

**Volunteer FF Association-** No report

**REDCOM-** Director Luttrell reported that REDCOM will not hold a board meeting until January, unless one is needed sooner and that the board created four task force groups: organizational structure, finance, expansion, technology (mostly radio related stuff). REDCOM now has funds in place to simulcast Control 2 and 4. This will change characteristics of radio operations. REDCOM will still look at acquisitions of frequency pairs. Work with Petaluma is going well as well as dealing with the increased call volume. He added that REDCOM had an incident response team work with the Grand Fondo event.

**CAD Group-** Chief Williams reported the next meeting is Tuesday in Windsor. It should be a routine meeting with general updates and funding for fire run book is expected at the maintenance level.

**Cal E-M-A Operational Area-** Chief Williams reported little activity and that Chief Northern has worked on a draft to makes things current. The region two winter meeting is scheduled for the end of November. Chief Aston asked for Amador plan date. B/C Daugherty said November 17<sup>th</sup> is the first possible date for Amador start.

**County Fire-** Chief Aston reminded everyone of the annual Flood meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the new Graton Fire Station. Chief Aston thanked Forestville for the many years of ICP service and also thanked Graton for becoming the new ICP for flood events along the Russian River. Chief Aston also informed the group that Logistics has been moved to the airport for its central location. Chief Aston said he is conducting an internal promotion process for the training officer position and an open recruitment for the Emergency Coordinator position. He added that County Fire was successful in getting a board seat on UASI which will be filled by himself.

**EMCC-** Chair Anderson reported that the meeting will be on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Legislation-** No Report

**Grants-** Chief Aston reported the homeland security grant group met. The projects moving forward will be the county fire mapping at the base level, AVL support; simulcast was not funded since other moneys will be used to complete this. Smaller fire district grants were granted money as well. A repeater for coastal north county area will also funded, Thanks were extended to Chief Anderson who attended the grant meeting while he was on vacation.

**SRJC advisory-** Next meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup>

**CHP liaison-** No report

**Red Cross-** Gary Duignan reminded the group that Red Cross is here to help 24/7.

**Marin Chiefs-** Chief Williams reported that cooperative ventures are in the works between several agencies. Sausalito and Southern Marin voted 3/2 for annexation and Ross and Ross Valley are moving towards a JPA. Solano Chiefs have a reoccurring topic-They have 8 PSAPs.

**Cal Fire-** B/C Daugherty Cal Fire got word to down size sooner; 11 engines, no fixed wings starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. Kirk Van Wormer is the temporary winter command in the Southern end of the county.

#### **Old Business:**

- **SRA Fees-** Chief Northern reported on the meeting with Wes Chesbro and his two aids. He supports our cause. We offered to help and met for two hours. Two things-we all know the fees are for prevention, but suppression fees might come back. He will propose an alternative measure for a compromise and will look for our support in drafting legislation. President Collins added that such an option would likely involve High Fire Severity Zone mapping and fire history. Chief McCormick added that \$700 million in the hole for triggers at the state level. We will see a significant change to Cal Fire for lack of funds. President Collins asked when we might see the Bills? Chief Williams added that BOE will split us into 10 zones, and this year's funding will occur (likely) after the first of the year. President Collins added that we will continue to meet with other state representatives.
- **New EMS Agency Fees-** Bryan Cleaver said that by 2012/13 the EMS agency is tasked with how to maintain the system we have without the funding we had. Mr. Cleaver sent notice out to everyone not to surprise the providers but to talk about many different options and to solicit different ideas. A work group weighted with ALS fire providers was created to find solutions. Chief McCormick added that the EMS Agency should work together in an informal setting. A diverse group might provide some good ideas and out of the box thinking. Mr. Cleaver liked the idea of working together in the informal setting. Maybe a sub-committee of the EMCC? Chief Aston suggested that Bryan meet with Chiefs Anderson and Garcia. More to come.
- **W/O Revised By-Laws-** The regular meeting adjourned to call to order the Special Meeting of the Widows and Orphan Fund which occurred at 7:20pm. In order to establish a quorum of 25% of the W/O Fund member agencies, Sec/Treas Grinnell called for a show of hands from the senior representative from each agency represented in the room. 19 of 52 agencies were represented which exceed the required threshold of 13 and a quorum was established. President Collins asked Chief Williams to provide a brief history of the W/O Fund. The Fund was created in the 1960's by the Sonoma County Firemen's Association and Howard Reeser who established of all fireman and began collecting dues of \$.25 per year. Other fund raisers were held by the association. The Sonoma County Firemen's Association faded away and the chiefs association assumed the role of administration of the fund. Right now we have caps in place to ensure the fund will be able to fund benefits in the future. President Collins thanked Chief Williams for his presentation and explained the 2011 goal to update the By-Laws and of the sub-committee that was formed to create the draft which was introduced at the August meeting and given a 2 month comment period with none received. President Collins reviewed the major changes on last time and asked for final questions. Chief Grub asked if membership in the chiefs association creates membership in the fund. **A)** Yes it does. Chief Williams moved for adoption of the revised By-laws and Al Mello seconded. All were in favor. President Collins thanked Chiefs Treanor and Grinnell for the revision work (note Randy Collins was also a great help).

The W/O Fund Special meeting was adjourned and the Chief's meeting re-convened at 7:30.

- **AB 1387** (formerly AB 210)-no action
- **Nominations Committee-** Chief Williams reported that no volunteers have come forward.

**New Business:**

- **2012 Planning session-** President Collins shared that after querying the availability of the membership, he has set aside December 1<sup>st</sup> for the group's 2012 planning meeting and has reserved a room in Bertollini Hall at the Junior College to hold the session. The sub-groups will also be asked to participate.....more to come soon
- **State Fire Training Realignment-** President Collins reported that State Fire Training is looking for persons to participate in a realignment process to develop more efficient ways to deliver their programs including expanded use of technology. If you have staff who are interested to contact him.
- **REDCOM-** Chief McCormick asked that the REDCOM agenda item be moved to the end of future meetings over concerns of possible Brown Act violations and the desire to maintain a presence in the chiefs meeting. So noted.

**Improving Efficiencies:**

- Chief Northern reported that he came across a new DOL letter for FLSA concerns. It allows for the payment of wages to volunteers for some instances. Chief Aston to send out the letter.
- President Collins asked for input for potential topics of the final training session of the Chiefs.

**Customer Service:** None**Good of the order:**

- Chief Aston was presented with a number of ICP phones from Chief Northern.
- Chief Braga reminded the group of John Zanzi's retirement party.
- Chief Williams reminded the group that the January meeting should have a location switch between Petaluma and Rancho Adobe if the Lucchesi center is available.

**Closed Session:** None**Adjourned:** 7:42pm**Next Meeting:** November 9 – Rancho Adobe