



# **SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 9:30 AM**  
**Hosted By Gold Ridge**

## **ATTENDANCE**

Arron Abbott	REDCOM	Steve Akre	SVFRA
James Salvante	Coastal Valleys EMS	James Williams	Sonoma County
Randy Collins	SRJC ARTP	Bonnie Plakos	NSCFPD
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Bill Braga	Sebastopol
Mike Bates	Rohnert Park	James Salvante	CVEMS
Ron Lunardi	Occidental	Ray Mulas	Schell Vista
Mark Heine	SCFD	Darren DiCarli	Gold Ridge
Ron Busch	SCFD	Mike Bates	Rohnert Park
Dave Francheschi	Forestville	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Matt Epstein	Dry Creek	Bill Bullard	Graton
Mike Mickelson	Wilmar	Rob Cassady	Russian River
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa
Dean Anderson	AMR	Mike Nicholls	Cazadero
Darren Bellach	Kenwood	Hans Henneberque	H & S Associates
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Vern Losh	CSFA
Dan George	Gold Ridge		

**Call to Order:** Chief Boaz began the meeting at 0942 and led the pledge

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief George welcomed the group and explained logistics

**Presidents Report:** Chief Boaz shared the loss of two leaders in the fire service, Ed Poe and Brian Elliot. He also read short bio on Ed's activities in WWII and shared a few remarks on Brian

**Changes to the Agenda:** Kurt Henke was removed under Presentations and Red Flags were added under Old Business.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Chief Grinnell. Second by Chief Akre. Unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report submitted by Hans was as follows:

Chiefs General Fund:	\$6,717.61
Survivors Fund:	\$105,896.31
OP's/TO's Fund:	\$20,613.79
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$8,956.90
Career Succession:	\$2,294.09
FPO General Fund:	\$3,687.22
FITF	\$2,498.05
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$42,300.47
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$195,464.44

**Correspondence:** None

**Old Business:**

- **Funding of Triton Group:** Chief Boaz began by reviewing the January 2019 minutes when this issue was first discussed and clarified the group voted to approved \$10,000 if the funding could not be obtained from the SLG group. Chief Heine reminded the group we voted to approve the MOU with CALCHIEFs for \$20K at our

March meeting. Chief George made a motion to make the payment by using funds from the groups as follows: \$3k Chiefs, \$10k TO's/OP's, \$1k FPO General fund, \$1k FPO Career Succession & \$5k from Safety Pals. Second by Chief Gossner. In the discussion that followed Hans cautioned the group that the Safety Pal funds may be allocated for their activities but indicated it is moral, not a legal issue. Unanimous vote.

- **Red Flags:** Chief Boaz provided a brief background on this topic, which included an offer by Fire Safe Sonoma to fund the purchase (confirmed by Vern Losh). A short discussion on the inability of the lettering on the flags to be read on flagpoles followed. In the end, it was agreed Fire Safe Sonoma will purchase the flags from the original quote with the lettering and fly them as banners. A guidance document will be prepared by Cyndi Foreman to issue to the membership along with a press release.

#### **New Business:**

- **Notify Law Enforcement on Cardiac Arrest Incidents:** Chief Bullard shared a recent cardiac arrest call where the SO also responded due to suspicious circumstances and how the additional personnel on scene helped with a successful outcome. He brought the item to the group to see if there was widespread interest in approaching the SO to implement this County-wide. Director Abbott indicated he would reach out to the SO and report back. Director Anderson added this dove-tails with Pulse Point that is up and running and he asked the group to share with him events where the APP contributes resources to these incidents so they can measure the success of the program. Commander Bates offered to bring to the law community as their rep on the EMCC. An extended discussion about the use of Pulse Point followed.

#### **Standing Committee Reports:**

- **Strategic Leadership Group:** Chief Heine shared at the March 19 BOS the VFC's were placed under Gold Ridge. Part of the presentation also included continuing the existing SLG but adding a Labor and Fire Districts rep. Once they commit to being on board, the plan is to start working on implementation of the Silver Plan and sales tax measure. Chief George added they are working with the County Administrator's office to manage the VFCs and are pushing for them (the County) to be the entity that negotiates with all the outlying agencies rather than themselves. Chief Heine ended by inquiring if the intent is to still operate the SLG under this group? (to be ironed out with the Ad-Hoc group).
- **Regional Zone Reports:** Chief Boaz asked for and received the following reports from the Zones:
  - Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported tax rates were established by their Boards at \$150. A Zone 3 volunteer academy is in progress. They will also be asking LAFCO to conduct a MSR for the Valley
  - Zone 4:** Chief Plakos shared they are working on a contract with Calfire
  - Zone 5:** Chief Lunardi shared they will be approaching the County for a funding increase next year and will be asking for this group's support. Interim Chief Cassidy said they are working on the getting a Chief.
  - Zone 6:** Chief Boaz shared they are performing a significant amount of COPE training. Dry Creek is sponsoring a Resiliency training April 19 (by Molly Hendricks from San Mateo Office of Education) and if interested to contact Chief Epstein. Chief Boaz shared Fitch Mtn's Wildfire Prevention Plan is done and gave kudo's to Linda Collister and Roberta MacIntrye. He ended by sharing they have been approved by CVEMS to deliver NARCAN.
  - Zone 7:** Chief Gossner shared they will be delivering their After Action review to the council April 30<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. There are also two meetings in SF on PG&E shut-down workshops on April 15 & 26 (per Chief Heine, these shut-downs will include all of Sonoma County with no exceptions). Chief's Sebastiani and Basque have retired and Steve Suter has been promoted to BC. They are also beginning their wildfire Prevention plan. The gang of 5 has also convened to decide on Homeland Security funds. San Jose State will be hosting a Wildfire Weather class that will be using the Tubbs Fire as an example. SB 670 (requiring a 1-hour notification to OES if phone lines go down) is being considered and he has testified twice indicating an hour is too long. He suggested this group support this effort and Randy suggested a letter of support. He added the United Way will be taking over the 211 program and we will want to remain engaged to help develop protocols. Santa Rosa PD is delivering NARCAN. Chief Heine shared the Sonoma County Fire District consolidation is complete and has some lessons learned but overall, it went fairly smooth. They have sent conditional job offers to 18 with the goal of getting them on the floor by July 1.
  - Zone 8:** Chief George shared they are working with Bodega Bay on advanced EMT. Chief Braga shared Sebastopol PD carries NARCAN and AED's and subsequently they are not considering carrying it at this time. A lengthy discussion on the delivery of NARCAN followed.

**Zone 9:** Chief Schach said they will be offering an expanded scope EMT training for themselves and RA. Now that the dust has settled, they will begin some regional training using Jeff Holden. They also have eight in background and will be staffing a third ambulance at Station 2 and RA will be staffing a medic at the Cotati station. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, FEMA will be hosting a “Prep Talk” at the LBC on recovery issues with short presentations on a variety of topics with SME’s and encouraged the group to bring their elected officials. **CALFIRE:** Chief Nicholls said they start training & staffing on the 20<sup>th</sup> with veg management inspections also occurring. Aircraft are scheduled to begin June 1.

- **Training/OP’s:** Chief Akre shared you should be getting test pages from Chief Andreis for the wet-hiring process. Randy shared the JC Fire Program has a number of specialized classes coming up including CA-219, Skills Evaluator, RIO and Ethical Leadership for Instructors (updated version) and passed out flyers. They will also be introducing a Truck Academy class to be offered the week of May 6 & 13. He has been holding spots for folks in the County and if you have an interest in attending to contact Heather by the end of the week as Monday he will release them to outside fire agencies.
- **FPO’s:** Hans shared they are working on the code adoption process. The State Model Code will be published July 1 starting the 180 day window to make amendments. NORCAL will be hosting the SFT Inspector series next month.
- **Fire Districts:** Chief George shared the next meeting is April 25<sup>th</sup> in Cloverdale and asked his name be removed as the rep. for this report. Chief Akre shared the Napa conference last week was well attended (they will host again next year). They will be hosting a leadership academy (for aspiring Fire Officers) in October 21-23 in Sacramento
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson shared they are working through the transition and funding issues. Chief George added they will be discussing continuing Duty Chief 29.
- **Vegetation Management:** Chief Williams shared the BOS has approved a plan to promote this topic beginning with training for local agencies. Up to \$19k will be available to each agency to fund inspection services. A total of \$12m of veg, management projects have been submitted for approval so stay tuned.

#### **Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:**

- **Fire EMS Committee:** Chief Akre shared their next meeting is April 15.
- **County Alerting System:** Chief Williams shared they have been conducting interviews for the County Outreach position.
- **Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief George shared they are amending the current agreement to cover responses related to the floods. He will be getting together with CALFIRE to make sure our practices are consistent with the rest of the region.

**REDCOM:** Director Abbott reported the consolidation went well from their perspective and it took a solid two weeks with kudo’s to Ken for his work. Chief Heine thanked Director Abbott for the outstanding job by him and his staff. The REDCOM/Marin Chief’s Ad-Hoc group have commissioned a feasibility study to look at the proposal in more detail. He assured the group that whatever they do will not result in any adverse impacts to the current REDCOM members. In response to Chief George’s question, one outcome he would like to see is the creation of a Command Center if they do assume Marin’s dispatch responsibilities. Their budget was approved which each agency should receive. On alert warnings, they are moving forward with establishing a MOU to outline their use, which will go to the BOS before the RECOM Bd. It will include training and establishing levels of competencies with REDCOM staff.

**Closed Session:** None

#### **Good of the Order:**

- Vern Losh shared FSS is at a crossroads and as an all-volunteer group is looking for support with day-to-day operations. The Ready-Set-Go flyers are out and 3 million have been printed and the Spanish version is going through final edits. On the CSFA front, they have received a \$1.9m grant for Recruitment/Retention to help with training, PPE, etc (both are in the attachments section of the website). A second grant by Jenny Jones is also available to local agencies. [https://www.csfa.net/CSFA/CalFF/articles/Jenny\\_s\\_Heroes\\_CA.aspx](https://www.csfa.net/CSFA/CalFF/articles/Jenny_s_Heroes_CA.aspx). Their leg day is April 29.
- Chief Franchesichi took delivery of a new tender. He also shared his Board is receptive to discussing consolidations

- Cazadero shared on being in the dark due to the loss of cell & phone coverage during the floods and how acute the problem is. He added as part of First Net, ATT will be adding towers but he does not see it solving the problem. On a broader scale, Director Abbott shared this will create more problems as the 5G towers that will be going up do not have as good of coverage as 4G towers.
- Chief Akre reported the Districts are looking into establishing a legal consortium to provide contract services (a presentation by Liebert & Cassidy is being worked on).
- Chief Epstein said he is happy to help agencies with legislative issues as the CSFA legislative rep.
- Chief Schach spoke to the need to have a plan in place if PG&E's planned shut-offs occur. Hans reminded the group that care facilities are required to have tested plans for this contingency and you should have your staff review and approve them when they conduct inspections
- Randy shared the next meeting will be at the PSTC and he has arranged to have Dan Silvestri a member of the NFPA 1851 committee and a principal of one of the largest turn-out cleaning companies give a presentation on changes to this standard.
- Director Abbott said next week is Public Communication week and asked the group to show their appreciation to his staff for their work.

**Adjournment:** At 12:19.

**Next Meeting:** May 8<sup>th</sup>, PSTC, 5743 Skylane Blvd

Respectfully Submitted: April 11, 2019

Randy Collins,  
SCFCA Secretary