



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
December 14th, 2022 at 8:30 AM  
Rancho Adobe Fire**

**ATTENDANCE**

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale Fire
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Evonne Stevens	REDCOM
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire	Tony Gossner	Rancho Adobe Fire
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg Fire	KT McNulty	REDCOM
Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE
Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire	Mike McCallum	Santa Rosa Fire
Jeff Veliquette	Rancho Adobe Fire	Kempen Robbins	Santa Rosa Fire
Matt Epstein	Dry Creek Rancheria	Steve Mosiurchak	County of Sonoma
Doug Williams	SMART	Aaron Johnson	RPPS
Mike Marcucci	CALFIRE	Hans Henneberque	H & S Associates
Kelly Bradley	North Bay Fire	Charles Funkhouser	Coast Guard
Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire	Anthony Westergaard	Santa Rosa Fire
Bill Bullard	Graton Fire	Sean Grinnell	Sonoma County Fire
Herb Wandel	Rancho Adobe Fire	Ray Mulas	Schell Vista Fire
Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire		

**Call to Order:** Chief Heine began the meeting at 8:30am and led the pledge.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chief Heine

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief Veliquette welcomed everyone

**Presidents Report:** Chief Heine reported they have been busy with EMS. This will be the last meeting that he will run. It has been a pleasure and an honor to lead the organization.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved

**Treasurer’s Report:** Hans reported:

Chief’s General Fund	\$3,889.71
Survivor’s Fund	\$96,396.31
Training Officer’s Fund	\$2,050.44
Training Officer’s – Command Tablets	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$4,082.90
FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$13,306.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$388.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$2,176.36
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53
Safety Pals general Fund	\$24,890.62
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,463.92</b>

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentation:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Election of Officers: We had several folks interested in the different positions. Per the bylaws, every member in the organization can vote. A ballot was created through the nominating committee. A ballot was passed out to all present members. Members on the Zoom call will have their ballot emailed to them.

Website hosting: Chief Bellach reported that our website was down for almost a week. This was due to the company hosting our website forgot to pay for our domain. He was finally contacted and paid the domain. The website is back online. Some discussion was done on maybe finding a new host and having the page redesigned. We have gotten some suggestions from other agencies regarding who they are using. The SRJC computer class has offered to redesign our page for free for us. If anyone has any other suggestions, please email me and the E Board will meet later to discuss the options.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Akre reported their focus has been on a fire sales tax initiative. They have been speaking with legal counsel, looking at the process and seeing what things can be and cannot be done. They are also talking with campaign consultants figuring a path forward. Looking at 2024 for this to happen. The new updated numbers are looking at about \$60M for a half cent sales tax. There will be a meeting in the middle of January to go over a lot of the details. Sometime in February they will be reaching out to all the agencies and elected officials to give updates on wants and needs. A citizens-based initiative vote requiring 50% signatures to pass would be done to pass. There is a measure trying to get passed to eliminate this type of vote and may require a 2/3rds vote to pass.

**SMART:** Doug Williams reported the ridership is running at about 80% pre pandemic. They had a successful toy drive on the train. For 2023 if you have SMART property in your jurisdiction and there are things that you think need attention, please get it to Doug early in the year so he can get it on the calendar. If anyone has any interest in training with SMART, please get that in early as well.

**PG & E:** No report

### **Regional Zone Reports:**

**CALFIRE:** Chief Marcucci reported effective Monday will be in winter preparedness. This closed 14 of the 21 engines that were open. The FF hand crew will be on until Monday. Working on the augmentation for staffing next year to hopefully get us up and running early. Aircraft has all been returned to wear it goes. We will have the exclusive copter back at Sonoma and Napa for next year.

Chief Nicholls reported Station 48 (Healdsburg) is the station for State response. Day to day they will be out working on the Bat. 13 projects and will be on an extended delay. Station 41 (Santa Rosa) and Station 42 (Occidental) we be doing the critical pre fire fuel

work in the county. They will be working in Santa Rosa, Annadel, Trinity Rd., River area and Fort Ross. The winter vegetation transition with REDCOM has ran into some issues, a lot of the ESZ adjustments have not taken into account the SRA/LRA lines. They will be working with the agencies and REDCOM to help clear it up. Chief McCallum, Westergaard and Tuberville have been working to put together a presentation for lessons learned from the 2017 fires as well as improvements from the Op Area. This will be free to the Op Area. Only 58 have signed up and they are thinking about cancelling if more do not sign up. The dates are March 11, 8AM – 5PM and 12, 8AM – 2PM.

**Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported they are in the final phase of a build up for a new Type 3 from High Tech as well as a new ambulance. Have been doing some good training. Had a company officer leadership training class with Petaluma. The partnership with Kenwood in providing serve is going very well. Chief Bellach and Akre are continuing to meet with the Boards and talking about moving forward and what those steps look like. A thank you to the Volunteer Firefighter Foundation and providing Sonoma with an FF spa day. When this opportunity comes around, please consider sending your folks to this great event. The foundation is also doing a pilot program for a long term 6-month period of wellness and treatments for firefighters exposed to all the elements and determining the toxins and providing therapy treatments for them.

**Zone 4:** No report

**Zone 5:** No report

**Zone 6:** Chief Jenkins reported they have placed an order for 3 type 3's from BME. Now looking at a new type 6. Busy with vegetation management projects at the Healdsburg dump area. Working on the high fire severity zones on the west side of Cloverdale. Chief Epstein reported that they have a vacant captains position open and looking to fill.

**Zone 7:** Chief Heine reported they have been working on their prep for the county's RFP. In addition to ambulance 811 in Bodega Bay, 576 in the river, 570 in Windsor and 571 in Forestville they will be stepping up 572 in the next 24 hours that will be a back-up to the existing zones. Have a new type 1 in Larkfield and another type 1 on order. Also have a type 6 on order. They have received a Federal Port Security Grant for a new Fire/Rescue boat for Bodega Bay. Sonoma County 1 copter program is running strongly.

**Zone 8:** Chief Shepley Schroth-Cary reported Gold Ridge is continuing to work through the LAFCO process with North Bay Fire and the Volunteer Companies and hope to have the consolidation completed by July 2023. Chief Braga will be retiring just after Christmas this year, Chief Jack Piccinini will be the new Chief for Sebastopol.

**Zone 9:** Chief Schach reported as of yesterday Captain Matt Martin was promoted to the vacant Battalion Chief position.

Chief Veliquette reported he is meeting everyone and his feet on the ground. He is looking to get a strategic goal setting session with his Board of Directors.

**OES:** No report

**Training OP's:** No report

**FPO's:** Kemplen reported they are wrapping up the code adoption process. They are updating their committees and membership. They did a call for E Board nominations that they will be voting on next week. Looking for nominations for the Harry Quinlan Award to be given out in January at the Installation Luncheon. They have updated their 2023 meeting schedule; they will now be at 10:30am and more opportunities to meet in person/hybrid. They will be setting their 2023 goals next week. The next meeting will be at Sonoma County Fire District next Wednesday at 10am.

**Fire Districts:** Chief Akre reported they are looking at elections for President and VP, they are accepting nominations now. He would like to have the nominations in by December 21<sup>st</sup>. Ballots will be sent out to all Districts for voting. The next meeting will be in person and hosted by Geyserville Fire in-person on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. The state wide conference for the Fire Districts Association has been sent out. Registration is now open. The dates are March 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> in Napa.

**Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Bradley reported they are finishing up their second round of volunteer applications. They have 4 that are almost done. Still working with LAFCO and Gold Ridge Fire on consolidation, the application has been submitted. Approved a purchase for a new Type 6. Station 94 received their new medium rescue and should be in-service by mid-January.

**Vegetation Management:** Chief Mosiurchak reported he sent out an email to all the Chiefs who are participating in the inspections program, they hope to get all the invoices by December 19<sup>th</sup>. They hope you get all the data in the system by this date so improvements can be made for next year. CWPP will be meeting in February to get it on the agenda for acceptance by the BOS.

**Coastal Valley EMS:** Chief Akre reported for James due to him not being able to attend today. They are still waiting on questions from potential proposers on the RFP. The proposer's conference is still scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>. They have released a revised version of the paramedic accreditation policy, any questions on this policy should be directed to James. There are two policies out for comment, one is on Naloxone and the other is on local evaluators and preceptors. The comment page is on the Coastal Valleys website under draft policies. The revisions of the preceptor and evaluation policy are intended to allow qualified paramedics to receive an approval for one evaluator rather than two.

**Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:** No report

**Fire/EMS:** Chief Heine reported they have been working on a correspondence between the County and AMR to address the concerns of AMR terminating their contract with the County on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The County responded saying you just cannot terminate a contract. The EMS committee has been working with the County on what the impacts would be of this issue.

Chief Akre reported they have been monitoring and evaluating policies that have been coming out from Coastal Valleys EMS. They have been having discussions regarding ambulance fee structures.

**DEM:** No report

**Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief Heine reported they had the Fall OES Region II meeting and had a good update on the close out of fire season. If you're a Local Government Agency and have any specialty wildfire resources that your looking to send out, please reach out to Chief Heine so the Op Area Coordinators can work with you to make that happen.

**REDCOM:** Evonne reported they have turned in three grant proposals. One is for the potential REDCOM expansion, this would allow 4-5 new consoles. Another grant would be for Control 3 improvements and one for Control 2 and 4 improvements. Currently recruiting for a new Operations Manager. They currently have about 5 applicants so far. The REDCOM 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party will be on January 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-8:00pm at the Sheriff's Office Training Room. Tours of REDCOM will be around 500pm-5:30pm. Please come and celebrate.

**Closed Session:** None

**Good of the Order:** Hans mentioned the Healdsburg American Legion Post is having a crab feed on February 4<sup>th</sup> and tickets are going fast. The CalFire crab feed is the same day. February 11<sup>th</sup> is the Kenwood crab feed.

**Adjournment:** @ 9:50AM

**Next Meeting:** January 11<sup>th</sup> location TBD

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach  
SCFCA Secretary