



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Dec 11th 2019 at 9:30 AM
Hosted By Santa Rosa FD**

ATTENDANCE

Ken Reese	REDCOM	Steve Akre	SVFRA
Randy Collins	SRJC ARTP	Dean Anderson	AMR
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Mike Mickelson	North Bay Fire
Ben Nicholls	CAL FIRE	Mike Bates	RPDPS
Jeff Schach	Petaluma/RA	Ron Lunardi	Occidental
Marshall Turbeville	N. Sonoma County	Kempen Robbins	Santa Rosa
Dave Francheschi	Forestville	Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Darrin DeCarli	North Bay
Doug Williams	SMART	James Williams	Sonoma County
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Mark Courson	OES
Tim Mattos	RPDPS	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale
Dan George	Gold Ridge	Paul Fleckenstein	CAL FIRE
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Scott McKinnon	SCSO

Call to Order: Chief Boaz began the meeting at 0937 and led the pledge.

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Boaz introduced Chief Westrope who welcomed the group and explained logistics. (Chief Gossner is at the League of Cities Conference).

Presidents Report: Chief Boaz introduced Randi Rossman from the PD and had everyone do self-introductions for her benefit. Randi announced she would be retiring at the end of the month and thanked the group for their assistance, candor, patience and tolerance over the years.

Changes to the Agenda: Chief Boaz reminded the group that this meeting also represents the official “Annual Meeting”, per the By-Laws, we are required to identify the meeting locations for 2020 and asked we added this topic under New Business.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes by Chief Akre, second by Chief George. Unanimous vote.

Treasurer’s Report: Submitted by Hans reported the following:

Chiefs General Fund:	\$2,398 .66
Survivors Fund:	\$105,896.31
OP’s/TO’s Fund:	\$8,401.92
TO’s Command Grant	\$25,000.00
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$8,956.90
Career Succession:	\$1,375.64
FPO General Fund:	\$2,325.35
Youth Fire Setter Fund	\$41.53
FITF	\$1,613.49
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$36,850.47
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
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	\$195,360.62

Correspondence: Chief Boaz inquired about our annual contribution to the Survivor's Reunion event to which Chief Williams shared some background and Randy referenced the By-Laws giving the E-Board the authority to donate up to \$1,000. Randy also reported he has received a request from Pam at the Petaluma Elks of their intent to conduct another FF Appreciation dinner in March or April with more to come.

Presentation: On behalf of the FITF, BC Darrin DeCarli and SO Deputy Scott McKinnon reported on the recent increase in investigation activity. He also handed out cards that identify how to access the group and reviewed the process. Deputy McKinnon asked we look at fires as a crime scene and shared their office can assist with interviewing and scene control. He stressed if it is a fatal fire, things will slow down considerably and to be patient. If requested they respond with two Deputies. In these cases, they will provide the PIO so as not to compromise the investigation and that all information releases go through that person. He ended by encouraging the group to contact him if you have any questions at: scott.mckinnon@sonoma-county.org or 707 230-0270.

Old Business:

- **2020 Installation Ceremony:** Chief's Boaz, Mattos, Boaz and Inspector Robbins reported the luncheon will be in Windsor at Tu Mole Madre. The meeting prior to the lunch will be at the same location. Randy reminded the group to use it as a platform to recognize staff in their agencies who have gone above and beyond.
- **Nominations and Election of 2020 Officers:** Chief Braga shared he Chief Grinnell and Williams met and established the following slate of candidates for 2020: Jason Boaz as President, Mark Heine VP, Darren Bellach Secretary and Hans Henneberque as Treasurer. Chief Willams shared Chief Bellach may miss a few meetings. A motion was made by Chief Grinnell to accept the slate. Seconded by Chief Akre. Unanimous vote. Congratulations gentlemen.

New Business:

- **2020 Meeting Locations:** Chief Boaz inquired to the group if the same meeting locations will work. After a brief discussion, the following changes were agreed to: January in Windsor, April's at Graton and May hosted by SMART or Petaluma (TBD).
- **Fire Program White Paper:** Randy provided some of the background that led to the development of the document. This included: conflicts with other programs with the use of the PSTC, the longer time needed to deliver academies, being unable to keep pace with growing academy enrollment due to being at capacity, the inability to meet future SFT mandates to deliver testing for FFII, Driver Operator, Company Officer and other certification tracks, being prohibited from flowing water during drought conditions and being understaffed for the services he is required to provide under the terms of his accreditation. While he has identified this in internal reports and documents for over three years, his efforts have not been successful, hence the reasons for it. He did bring it to the program's Advisory Committee last month who unanimously supported it and this group's endorsement as well as the Marin and Napa Chiefs represent the next step and then presenting to the President and the College Board. After a brief discussion, motion Chief Turbeville, second by Chief Grinnell. Unanimous vote.

He also shared the other items of interest occurring with the program.

- Demand for "stand-alone" FFI testing has warranted delivery of a test class that begins next week
- When presented with the options for the delivery of the new 2019 FFI & II, the Advisory Committee directed the program to deliver a FFI & II academy and continue to offer stand-alone testing for both. The delivery of the 2019 FFI & II will begin in Fall 2020
- The new Company Officer Associates Degree is available and approved unanimously by the Advisory Committee. A handout identifying the classes required for the program was distributed.
- With an 8 hour unit on Cancer Awareness and Behavioral Health being added to the 2019 curriculum, after live burns, the academy will be incorporating "decon" activities into the exercise as student exit burn props
- The fire program will be working with the EMC dept. to explore options on how to increase enrollment and graduation rates to better meet the need for qualified FF/Medics.
- As many of you may be aware, effective July 1, SFT fees go up significantly (\$20 to \$70 for an FSTEP class and \$80 to \$140 for CFSTES classes). To that end, Randy has begun working with Assemblyman Jim Wood's office for a SFT budget increase to make them fee neutral. He will continue to work on after he leaves his position and may look a letter of support from this group
- The program will be requesting a 6 month extension on the program's SFT accreditation (due in May 2020) to give the new Director a chance to get settled. Speaking of,

- A candidate is going through the background process this week with the goal of having him on-board by Dec 16 to create a transition period
- The FFI Academy will graduate Friday the 20th and Chief Nicholls will be the speaker.

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Akre shared the main efforts have been educating the public and City Councils on the sales tax measure as well as working to build alliances. It will be identified as Measure "G". The deadline for the ballot measure language is Monday. One of the other action items being worked on is payment of LEXIPOL services. Chief Boaz shared he has a conference call on this topic tomorrow and should have more to report soon. The next meeting with the BOS Ad-Hoc committee is tomorrow. He also shared that LAFCO will be looking for a recommendation on sphere's on influence early next year. A short discussion about LAFCO, and tax groups followed. In response to Chief Mickelson's question, Chief George shared the county appears to be ready to support funding of all-risk activities and just not fire responses.
- **Regional Zone Reports:** Chief Boaz asked for and received the following reports:
 - CALFIRE:** Chief Nichols shared they transitioned to winter mode on Monday and the burn ban has been lifted. He added if there is an escaped burn, you will get a Cal Fire response
 - Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported Glen Ellen and Valley of the Moon Boards voted to consolidate with a target of June or July 2020 (Kenwood's Bd tabled the item). The business model is sustainable although they continue to have difficulties hiring. He also thanked those agencies that provided evaluators for their recent Captains assessment center. They will be testing FF/Medic's next.
 - Zone 4:** No report although Marshall reported Pole Mountain is looking for donations to rehab the lookout.
 - Zone 5:** Chief Lunardi shared their measure passed with 80% of the vote and he is working on a staffing plan with Chief George's help. Chief Franchesci shared for now, his Board has voted not to consolidate with So Co
 - Zone 6:** Chief Jenkins shared it is status quo for the most part. Chief Turbeville shared there will be changes from the County on tax assessments for the Kincade area. He also shared efforts are being made at the State level to backfill funding shortfalls and support letters would help.
 - Zone 7:** Chief Westrope shared they continue to compete for FF/Medic candidates with SVFRA & Petaluma and have 5 in their new hire academy but will still be short when they hit the line.
 - Zone 8:** Chief Braga shared they met last week and agreed to begin monthly meetings in January. Chief Schroth-Cary will be the new Zone Chief. Chief Grinnell shared the Bodega Bay Board voted yesterday to participate in the annexation process with Sonoma County.
 - Zone 9:** Chief Schach shared they are working to schedule a Zone 9 drill early next year and reported on the Measure G presentation Supervisor Rabbit and Chief Heine made in Petaluma. Chief Westrope spoke to how the same presentation went at Santa Rosa's Council meeting and it is on their council's Dec 17 agenda.
 - OES:** Chief Coursen reported they were hoping to have their mud-debris flow matrix complete soon. He will distribute the FIRESCOPE matrix so it can be updated to reflect the recent consolidations in the county
- **Training/OP's:** Chief Akre shared they continue to work on implementing Tablet Command
- **FPO's:** Kemplen Robbins reported they will be looking at holding joint meetings with the Marin FPO's and be re-evaluating the use of Safety Pals and the need to perform some maintenance on the Safety Trailer. At their meeting they will be recognizing Glen Schainblatt.
- **Fire Districts:** Chief Akre shared their next meeting is Jan 23rd at the Glen Ellen station
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson shared the NB Board signed an agreement with SV to administer Mayacamas. They are also providing guidance for the rest of the CSA's including Cazadero, Fort Ross and Camp Meeker.
- **Vegetation Management:** Chief Williams shared the Fire Code was approved by the BOS last week. Veg management invoicing is occurring and if you have any problems to let him know. They plan to have an After Action report to the BOS late January/early Feb.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

- **Fire/EMS Committee:** Chief Akre reported on Monday the 16th, the County will be hosting a kick-off meeting for the new ordinance. Chief Schach shared Bob Norbom was elected as the Chair of the EMCC.
- **County Alerting System:** Chief Braga shared Sam Wallace is their new Community Alert & Warning Manager.
- **Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief George added that he needs each agency to stay on top of remitting their invoices as he does not turn them in until he has them all and one delay can impact everyone.

REDCOM: Ken Reese reported they have just filled their open supervisor positions and they are going through training. They will be starting a CAD upgrade soon and introducing the IPAD product which is very robust and thinks will be a good alternative to MDC's. They also continue to work on the implementation of Tablet Command. They are also implementing a "Real Time" program that should help create better incident awareness for his staff. They are actively going through the hiring process for the Director and have 3 candidates they will be submitting to the Board.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order:

- Chief George shared Graton will host the April meeting instead of Gold Ridge
- Chief Nicholl's is working on scheduling a Kincade Fire After-Action meeting to coincide with the TO's/OP's meeting.
- Chief Mickelson reported the Forestry Crab Feed is Feb 1 (see enclosed flyer)
- Retired Chief Williams shared Bellevue Chief Bordessa passed away last week. SMART is having a big week with the opening of the Larkspur and North Novato stations. He also welcomed any training the group may wish to conduct with SMART including helping with deployments in remote areas
- Chief Braga will be going for Council approval of an Engineer's position next week (40 hour).
- Chief Boaz shared they are training 8 Reserve Firefighters.
- Randy shared at the January 10 STEAC meeting, Chief Ronny Coleman is retiring and will be recognized for his 30 plus years serving as its Chair and would be glad to carpool. He thanked the group for the privilege of serving as its Secretary for the last 6 years

Adjournment: At 11:25

Next Meeting: January 8, 2020 Installation Luncheon at Tu Mole Madre, 8465 Old Redwood Hwy Windsor
RSVP required before Jan 3 to <http://handsassociates.net/classes/>

Respectfully Submitted: Dec 12, 2019

Randy Collins,
SCFCA Secretary