

# SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL DECEMBER MEETING and W/O ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Hosted by Santa Rosa Fire Department  
At the  
Transit Department Conference Room, 55 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa

December 8, 2010

### Attendance:

Bill Braga	SFD/REDCOM	John Marty	Rohnert Park
Bruce Varner	Santa Rosa	John Lantz	Rincon Valley
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Randy Collins	Sotoyome
Doug Williams	Rincon Valley	Ron Collier	Windsor
Frank Treanor	Rancho Adobe	Eric Hoffman	Cal Fire
Larry Anderson	Petaluma	John Zanzi	Sebastopol
Andy Pforsich	Gold Ridge/B Valley	Kent Coxen	Coastal Velleys EMS
Mark Aston	Sonoma County	Brian Elliot	Cloverdale
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Chuck Abshear	Cal Fire retired
Gary Duignan	Red Cross	Peter VanFleet	Glen Ellen
		Karlene Silva	PG&E

### Call to Order:

- Chief Collins called the December annual meeting to order at 09:43 and turned the meeting over to Chief Varner for the host Chief introduction.

### Host Chief Introduction:

- Chief Varner welcomed the Chiefs to Santa Rosa, thanked EMS Division Chief Bill Shubin for setting up the room and shared that a change in his travel plans permitted his attendance. He also announced that Deputy Chief Mark McCormick has been appointed as the Interim Chief of Santa Rosa and that despite the recently passed sales tax measure, they expect to lose at least one office staff and part of a Prevention position although thanks to efforts by the Local, no line positions will be lost. Other staff changes include Tony Gosner replacing Mike Jones as the Training Battalion Chief and Sage Howell as the Training Captain. The Burn Room at the tower remains out of service for the foreseeable future with the department looking at alternatives for this activity. He ended by sharing that after 43 years, he will be retiring to Phoenix and thanked the group for his time in the County and the support and camaraderie. A round of applause followed.

### Approval of Minutes:

- Motioned by Chief Williams to approve the minutes of the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Chief Treanor, approved unanimously.

### President's Report:

- Chief Collins wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday for other faiths as well. Chief Collins also welcomed retired members Chuck Abshear and Gary Duignan and then asked for a moment of silence for former Sebastopol Fire Chief Russ Shura who recently passed away. Russ spent 32 years with Sebastopol, was Chief from 1977-1992 and was President of this organization in 1980.

**Treasurer's Report as of December 1, 2010:**

Chiefs Checking Account:	1,672.31\$	As of 12/1/10
W&O Fund 7 Month CD:	17,660.20\$	As of 10/31/10
<u>W&amp;O Checking Account:</u>	<u>116,316.38\$</u>	<u>As of 11/1/10</u>
Total:	135,648.89\$	

**Correspondence:** Petaluma Parks and Recreation.

Chief Collins asked that the agenda be amended to include the following: reports from the nomination and audit committees' and participation in air museum 9-11 tribute, and planning session report. A motion to accept the revised agenda made by Chief Elliot and seconded by Chief Pforsich. Motion approved by all.

**Presentations:**

Chief Collins introduced Karlene Silva, Gas Transmission Supervisor for PG & E. Karlene came to provide an overview of PG&E's gas transmission system for the north coast and apologized for co-workers who could not make the meeting. The main transmission line of 720 PSI serving the area comes in from the central valley through the Napa area (Jamison Canyon by Kelly Road) and Schellville, splits to serve Napa and then runs northward paralleling the rail lines for the most part. Lines are charged to 350-450 psi, then down to 60 psi to feed the customer and finally down to one psi at individual residential meters. The main serving Sonoma County continues north to end at Willits. Areas further north are serviced by a line coming over Hwy 36. Inspections are on-going and continuous. Audits are conducted by the engineering section and reported to CPUC. Surveys are conducted once a year for high traffic use areas/sometimes twice with airborne inspections. Several pigging (inside the line inspection device) projects are in process at this time and most pipelines were installed between the 1940s through the 60's. Anodes installed as well as low voltage impressed current is introduced to the pipelines to minimize corrosion. Questions asked included; do anodes get changed out? **A.** Yes, the life-time is about one year, but it's relative to what's going on around them, where does this 450 pound pressure come from? **A.** some of the pressure is pumped and some of it comes naturally from the ground. The main gas control is in San Francisco, where PG&E monitors pipelines and their pressures throughout the system. Alarms are activated when the pressure drops too low or rises too high. No storage facilities are in this area, it all comes from the Valley. Chief Hoffman asked if a line breaks (example-a single line from here to Willits, but it breaks upstream-what stops the flow?). **A.** Check valves. This scenario could limit the supply, but check valves in places will limit the overall loss and effect on customers. Chief Collins related a story about a line that was struck by a backhoe off of Shiloh and later ruptured requiring PG&E reducing the supply to all non-essential users in the Healdsburg area. **A.** PG&E has a program to large users to provide them a lower rate in exchange for the right to shut them down in the event of a catastrophic system failure. In these instances, LNG and CNG can be brought in via tankers to supplement the supply. In these instances, the fuel must be warmed prior to injection in order to be converted into a gas. These situations are good for about 24 hours to keep the line hot. This was used was when a tanker was brought out to serve the east side of Geyserville when the bridge was damaged several years ago. Chief Treanor asked if seismic valves are on transmission lines. **A.** No, check valves provide the same function. Dick Luttrell asked if PG&E has GIS based maps that REDCOM could use to share information with emergency responders. **A.** Yes, but the maps are not for public use and she does not have the authority to give great details for line locations. Chief Aston said they have met with PG&E for GIS databases purposes and the information is available through the SO. Chief Elliot asked about a PG&E project in front of the Cal-Fire station in which they were not notified. Karlene indicated they have a list of contact numbers, but they are generally for dispatch centers, not individual departments and they are currently working to improve communications using the 211-411 systems. If there are better ways to improve communications, Karlene is interested to hear them. To that end, Chief Collins stated he will provide the numbers of the four fire dispatch systems currently in place in Sonoma County to Karlene. Dick Luttrell indicated he will work on the communication issues on his end. Chief Elliot asked if a process is in place for weld repairs or other types of work. **A.** Yes, contacts are made with as many as possible, but it impossible to notify the public at large. Sometimes more issues are created by notifications. Chief Williams asked how to enter the PG&E system to make contact in an emergency and

shared a story about a contractor cutting a 4 inch main and it taking hours before the first person from PG&E showed up (other incidents were shared as well). **A.** It takes time to assemble a crew during holidays, etc. plus with no residency requirements, crews might be traveling from far away. PG&E is like the rest of us is downsizing and undergoing consolidations that impact service delivery. **A.** Will PG&E look past the meter? Everything on the downstream side is the owners responsibility. Should we do anything more than secure the leak? **A.** Secure, isolate, deny entry and wait for PG&E. Chief Collier asked if prior to San Bruno PG&E was patrolling by air? **A.** Yes, but we are also doing by foot. In the Shiloh incident-had they made the patrol by air, they might have noticed the construction. Any kind of construction must have a minimum depth of cover to protect piping from heavy equipment. Chief Hoffman shared some incidents where PG&E workers had caused fires and offered the services of CalFire to provide basic fire awareness and hot work procedures for welding operations and offered a document that can be used as a template to be used for those working in the wild land area. Chief Collins will share the contact info in the minutes and will make sure you have the numbers needed for contact. Karlene Silva:707-579-6305, Internal number: 321-6305, Fax: 707-579-6110, Cell: 707-486-2784, and email at [kdk5@pge.com](mailto:kdk5@pge.com)

Randy will keep the maps. Contact him at [rcollins@santarosa.edu](mailto:rcollins@santarosa.edu) if you wish to review.

Chief Collins thanked Karlene for her presentation and called for a short recess.

Chief Collins called the Widows and Orphans fund portion of the meeting back to order at 10:50 and asked Chief Williams to provide a brief history of the W/O fund. Doug shared that the fund began as a function of the Sonoma County Firemen's Association by Howard Reeser of Sebastopol FD and the original fee was \$.25 per year, supplemented by fund raisers. After the group went defunct, the Chiefs Association assumed oversight of the fund which it has done for some twenty years. There are currently two benefits. One for non-line of duty death of an active member which is \$2000 or 2% of fund (whichever is less). The second benefit is for a line of duty death with a benefit amount of \$5000 or 5% of the fund (whichever is less). There has been no use of the benefits recently-thankfully. Chief Pforsich asked if we are going to broaden the benefits of the fund? **A.** It is a tentative goal of the organization for 2011 to amend the procedures to do so but will be dependent upon approval of that goal.

Chief Collins asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes of the 2009 W/O annual meeting. Chief Treanor moved to approve the 12-9-09 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Williams no discussion and all were in favor.

Treasures report: As stated in the beginning of the meeting with no disbursements for the year.

Chief Collins adjourned the W/O meeting and reconvened back to Chiefs meeting.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Training Section:** Chief Treanor – Joint OP's and Training Planning session to be held December 14, at 09:00 Rancho station 1. RSVP to Jeff Holden in Petaluma or Steve Davidson at Rancho if you wish to attend.
- **Prevention Section:** Chief Zanzi – Next meeting Dec 15 at Sebastopol Fire holiday luncheon.
- **Operations Section:** Chief Lantz – as stated by Chief Treanor already.
- **District Chiefs:** Chief Aston reported last months meeting hosted by County Fire in Bloomfield at Stormy's was well attended. The District's E-Board established a committee to deal with the issue of County auditing fees. Chief Treanor reported he has scheduled a meeting with Rod Dole regarding this matter. A discussion regarding auditing fees followed which ended with a cautionary statement from Chief Collier that Rod Dole has been very supportive of the districts so we should proceed carefully.
- **Sonoma County VFD:** Chief Aston – last meeting was joint October meeting in Gold Ridge. Next meeting is tonight at the County. Randy reported that since he will be resigning as the Sotoyome Chief at the end of the month he will no longer be the liaison and that Chief Aston has agreed to serve in this capacity.

- **REDCOM:** Director Luttrell / Bill Braga – Dick reported that as most of us are aware, REDCOM has been close to reaching a cap on the frequencies available to us. With a recent search revealing 3 available frequencies and the funding present, they are planning to move forward with their purchase (approx. \$100,000 each). Dick also shared that a F/T position is transitioning to a P/T, opening another P/T position.

Chief Collins shared that following the report at last month's meeting from ISD & CTA Communications there was much concern about the CAG group. Rather than send a letter to CAO to address them, Chief Williams reported it was agreed by the E-Board that it would be more beneficial to meet with her which occurred last Monday. Chief Williams reported the meeting was very positive with both himself and Chief Zanzi assured that the group indeed has a seat at the table. Chief Aston added the impetus for the committee is related to general fund budget issues since they have been the primary revenue source but have been cut almost 55% which changes how funding (and policy) will be implemented in the future. The CAG formation was to serve as an advisory panel to the CAO on what the impacts of what these cut backs are likely to have. After looking into 700 Mhz and the costs, the Law and Fire representatives rejected the 700 Mhz option. The focus is now to look at enhancing the existing system with the CAG providing guidance.

Chief Lantz added that the system should be what the users want and that the Chiefs need to be involved. Chief Collins reminded the group that although the direction of last month's closed session was to send a letter to the CAO (see above), this meeting was pursued as an alternate with positive results and he queried the group to verify there were no current outstanding issues. None were voiced.

- **CAD Group:** Chief Williams – No report, next meeting will be in February.
- **Cal EMA Operational Area:** Chief Williams thanked Dick Luttrell for hosting the Region II meeting in the SO's conference room. He reported that it was a light year for responses. Very little activity on the fire front but that he does expect refinements to come along with mutual aid as we use it more.
- **County Fire:** Chief Aston stated the Training/Ops Chief recruitment announcement will be out soon and will close by the end of January. He cautioned the group if you use the County radio shop to be specific on repair instructions (he recently met with Charlie Fleischman after \$800 in repairs were made to a \$700 radio) Charlie has offered to address the group for any questions regarding narrow banding. Chief Pforsich asked when he needs the radio inventory sheets returned (distributed last month). Chief Lantz advised that they will not be needed until after the radio committee meeting January 3<sup>rd</sup>. He also shared the goal was to only have to touch each radio once a year; April 2011 for all tactical and control channels (to coincide with the CalFire change over) and the REDCOM frequency in May of 2012. Chief Collins asked that the radio committee prepare a to-do list for agencies to use to meet the narrow banding requirements in bullet format for the next Chief's meeting. The Radio group continues to work on this and will keep us updated. Kent Coxen asked that we keep in communication with the EMS Agency.

Emergency council meets next Tuesday (Dec. 14) at the Sonoma County Water Agency on Aviation Blvd. The Annual Flood meeting held last week in Forestville was well attended.

- **EMCC:** Kent Coxon reported the next meeting is January 24<sup>th</sup>. With furloughs EMS will be closed from December 23 to January 3. Advanced EMT project continues, currently looking at protocols and equipment. Sonoma County got tagged to complete a survey for pediatric emergencies from the State EMSA. Please keep an eye out for it in the next couple of days. Please complete ASAP and return to Joanne Chapman.
- **Legislative:** Chief Collier reminded the group of the changes DMV codified from the recently signed AB 1648 and that it was clearly opposite from the intent of the legislation (the 35 question test anyone with a F/F endorsement must take and the new medical sign offs – which includes Body mass Index

Kaiser providers). He added that we should have a two year window to comply with the Medical requirements and does expect clarifying legislation to follow as he has already been in contact with Chesbro's office. He recommends agencies complete the health questionnaire as well as the DMV endorsement test for Commercial A and B drivers.

Chief Collier speculated that given the new political climate, Prop-13 might get some revisions and expect to see efforts for employees to pay for their own retirement. He ended by cautioning the group that with the passage of Prop 26, to check with your legal counsel before adopting any fees.

- **Grants:** Chief Zanzi reported that our 2010 AFG has passed the first review and that we have not received any denial letters yet is a positive sign.
- **SRJC Advisory:** Chief Collins reported there has been no meeting since the last Chiefs. The 73<sup>rd</sup> Firefighter I Academy's graduation is 1000 on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Windsor PSTC and all agencies are encouraged to attend.
- **CHP Liaison:** No report
- **Red Cross:** Gary Duignan wished us all a happy holiday and to be sure to let Red Cross know if their help is needed. Chief Collier said he used them recently and was very pleased.
- **Marin Chiefs Liaison:** No report.
- **Fire Safe Sonoma:** No report.

#### **Old Business:**

**Roll-Out of the Website** - Chuck Abshear and Chief Zanzi showed the group the progress on the new website that can be accessed at: <http://sites4.wildfireweb.com/sonomafirechiefs/>. Chuck and John are looking for feedback. Chief Zanzi asked for input regarding the location of the Mission and Values, the consensus was to leave it. Chief Treanor likes the new logo. Chief Collins pointed out the new logo was on the agenda and it will be an action item to vote for adoption next month. He also volunteered to assist with the website and thanked them for their help. Chief Lantz suggested a presentation at the next Ops/Training meeting. Kent Coxon asked if there is a place for contact info or if there is venue to send information out. Chief Hoffman asked about a member's only section and the reply was that it depends on the specific needs of the group. Chief Collins asked what steps are necessary to formalize it? **A.** Submit payment of \$500 to secure the domain registration ([www.sonomachiefs.org](http://www.sonomachiefs.org)). Chief Collins further commented that everyone must realize the site will be a work in progress for next several months and recommended we incorporate the Active Status feature first. Randy will contact Dan to work with Chuck to implement. As for now, the E-Board will be the account administrators and Chiefs Treanor, Hoffman, Aston, Collins, and Grinnell will volunteer to help with the blog section.

**Nomination committee:** Chief Williams reported the recommendation of the committee is to retain the same officers for the coming year; Randy Collins as President, Dan Northern as vice-president and Sean Grinnell as Secretary/Treasurer. Chief Collins opened the floor for additional nominations. Seeing none, the nominations were closed and a motion was made by Chief Williams to vote for the slate as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Treanor. Unanimous vote.

**Audit Committee:** Chief's Treanor and Pforsich will meet with the Sec/Treas before the next meeting to complete the audit.

**Air Show / September 11 tribute:** Chief Varner reported that the Sonoma County Air Museum will receive the F-15 which was the first military aircraft to take up station over New York on 9-11. As part of the ceremony to be conducted by the museum on 9/11, the event chairperson Bruce Penske has requested

participation from local law and fire agencies including a parade of apparatus on September 11, 2011. The aircraft will arrive next week, but needs to be assembled. As the agency that includes the airport Chief Williams will serve as liaison for the event. More to follow.

**New Business:**

**New Chief's Logo:** Chief Collins asked everyone review the logo so we can consider adopting at the January meeting.

**Planning Session:** The 2011 planning session was on November 16<sup>th</sup> and the draft goals (slightly revised from those previously sent out) have been presented (and enclosed with these minutes). Please review between now and the January meeting in order to vote on during the January meeting.

**Improving Efficiency:**

Chief Bill Shubin advised the group on the aerosolized OSHA regulations. Santa Rosa has had all medics fit tested to the P-100's to meet the new requirement and the rest of the crews to be tested later. Chief Shubin will share the policy since all agencies need to adhere to the new standard. Kent Coxen indicated Kaiser conducts "Train the Trainer" for these masks. The N-95 mask can still be used for other purposes. The P-100 is required as well required as is fit testing.

**Customer Service:**

Chief Collins reminded the group of Chief Varner's retirement party on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1600-1900 at the Finley center.

Dean Anderson shared that the survey (prepared by Herb Williams & Delphi) results were in and the results were overwhelmingly positive. Some follow up training will also occur as an outcome.

Chief Hoffman informed the group that the proceeds from the Crab feed will be used to purchase internment flags for the B/C's and will be available to all agencies if they experience a LODD or respond to the death of an off-duty emergency responder. Tickets are on sale now for the event on Feb. 5, 2210 at the Holy Ghost Hall in Sebastopol. Chief Collier shared that the American Legion's Crab feed is the same day. A discussion about who's event was superior followed. Chief Hoffman also shared that Karen Shubin will be replacing Mike Michelson who recently retired. 1410 is Ken Dougherty.

**Good of the Order:** None reported.

**Closed Session (if necessary):** Not requested.

**Next Meeting:**

Annual Luncheon with past members at Rancho Adobe-Penngrove Station on January 12th. Cost is expected to be about \$18-20 person. RSVP to Chief Treanor. Agencies are encouraged to bring past members of the organization who's lunches will be complements of the organization.