



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
February 10, 2021 at 8:30 AM
Conference Call In**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood	Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire
Cyndi Foreman	FPO's	Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire
Bill Bullard	Graton	Bonnie Plakos	North Coast Fire
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Caerlon Stafford	Sonoma County
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa	James Williams	Sonoma County
Matt Gustafson	Sonoma County Fire	Shana Jones	CALFIRE
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa	KT McNulty	REDCOM
Jacqui Jorgeson	Volunteer Fire Foundation	Brian Henricksen	AMR
Mike Mickelson	North Bay Fire	Bill Braga	Sebastopol
James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Steve Suter	Santa Rosa	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale
Dave Franceschi	Forestville	Michael Nicholls	
Mike Bates	RPPS	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE
Ron Bush	Sonoma County Fire		

Call to Order: Chief Heine began the meeting at 0830 and led the pledge.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Heine

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Heine welcomed everyone on the Conference Call

Presidents Report: Tango Tango App, starting to move forward for a 3 year agreement.

Changes to the Agenda:

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Chief Grinnell, 2nd: Chief Westrope, All AYE

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

Chiefs General Fund:	\$773.12
Survivors Fund:	\$103,396.31
Receivable from Agencies	(\$2,650.00)
OP's/TO's Fund:	\$19.92
TO's Command Grant	\$0
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$10,456.90
Career Succession:	\$875.64
FPO General Fund:	\$2834.08

Youth Fire Setter Fund	\$1,041.53
FITF	\$2,163.49
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$23,200.47
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$144,728.51

Correspondence: None

Presentation: Volunteer Fire Foundation Jacqui Jorgeson spoke about the Foundation and how it exists to support critically underfunded volunteer firefighters from recruitment to retirement in the County. For more information visit volunteerfire.org. 707-708-4780

Old Business: Formation of EMS Ad Hoc Committee – Chief Heine reported the desire to stand up an EMS subcommittee. We had a great turn out for people that are interested in being on the committee. Chief Akre, Chief Schach, Chief Suter and Chief Herzberger have been chosen for the EMS Subcommittee.

New Business: County of Sonoma CWPP Update – Caerleon Stafford reported on several grants and projects that are being worked on. Wildfire Adaptive Sonoma County (1) project, Wildfire (2) and the CWPP Multi Jurisdiction. The Wildfire Adaptive Sonoma County (1) project is a \$6.7 million dollar project that was submitted right after the Tubbs Fire. This program is providing educational defensive space and structural hardening in 10 areas of the County. Phase 2 will be providing property owners with funding to get the work done. Roughly 5,400 parcels effected. Rebates will pay for 75% of the project costs which makes a 25% property owner cost match. The overall purpose is education and not enforcement. The CWPP intension is to bring together the stakeholders in the WUI from the federal level all the way down to the community level to identify wildfire issues and reduce risk. GIS has come up with a draft wildfire hazard index that predicts wildfire hazard on the landscape, fire potential and suppression difficulties. The Multi Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan is underway and should be complete by 2021.

Carl Harrison Award Policy proposal – Chief Grinnell reported on an updated policy to the Carl Harrison Award. Chief Grinnell is offering an Article 9, Awards to the bylaws to be added. Sec. 9.1 references the Carl Harrison Award. This award is offered/given to those members (or non-members) who have a proven track record of supporting, not only the Mission of the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association, but also embodies our values and a desire to enhance public safety services overall.

Our Mission:

"To Unite, Coordinate, and Represent all Fire Service Agencies of Sonoma County."

Our Values:

- **Firefighter Safety, Unity, Efficiency, Service, Leadership, Respect, Trust, Excellence and Ethics**

Carl moved to Sonoma County as a child (late 1930s). He joined the Santa Rosa Fire Department in the late 1950s and went on to serve as a fire inspector.

He next joined the Roseland Fire District and again became a fire inspector. Upon the departure of Chief Jim Groom, the Roseland board selected Carl to be the chief.

During his time in Roseland, Carl negotiated the agreement that ultimately would lead to the City of Santa Rosa becoming the contract fire provider for Roseland. The trigger to implement the contract was the point when annexed territory exceeded ten per cent of the assessed value of the district.

In 1979, prior to the Santa Rosa contract being triggered, Carl applied and was selected as the Rincon Valley Fire Chief. He served Rincon Valley from 1979 to 1996. During that time several changes to the fire service would occur. As an example, the 9-1-1 system was implemented, and most fire districts joined in a Central Dispatch concept. The fire district itself, would see the addition of the Sonoma County Airport, the Bellevue Fire District, and the West Santa Rosa area.

Enhancements were made in the area of mutual aid and Carl served as one of the alternates for the Operational Area. He was also probably the first one in the state to sign a mutual threat zone agreement with the city and state.

On the fire prevention side, he oversaw the adoption of the first fire code ordinance after the Greene-Hansen bill was passed. Again, this may have been a first within the state.

Another achievement was participating in the creation of FASIS.

Section 9.2 The Process:

In October, notice will be sent to the membership asking for nominations for the Carl Harrison Award.

In November the SCFDA, through the President, will create an ad hoc to review the nominations and recommend to the E-Board who will be selected for this award (consider using former recipients to help evaluate nominees). The Award does not need to be given every year, it would lessen the importance of the award.

In December the award will be created in order to be presented in January at the Annual Luncheon.

Article 9.3 Special Recognition Awards will be given to those individuals or organizations who have supported the SCFCA during the previous year.

Awards to be offered and presented in accordance with Section 9.2.

Next meeting any edits will be proposed and voted on next month.

County wide KNOX key update – Cyndi Foreman reported on the fire station KNOX Keys County wide. Cyndi is looking to see how many keys are out there and to get the serial numbers of those keys. Also if anyone is in need of more keys to please contact her.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Heine reported that the Working Group meets every other Wednesday afternoon and have been working on the support with the MSR and LAFCO in Zone 6. Starting to look at a County wide ½ cent fire service sales tax.

SMART: Doug Williams reported the Board is still undergoing some changes. Some of the new members are Supervisor Gorin and the Mayer of San Rafael. Will be having meetings that will focus on the goals and challenges of the system. Will be starting a COVID ramp-up program in hopes that COVID will be going away in the future. Passenger riding levels are still down. The second track across Airport Blvd. has been completed. Still working on AVL capabilities for Marin County. Training with Napa County and City on bridge repelling and rescues has been completed. Upcoming training in Petaluma on February 27, March 13 and March 27 Contact Petaluma Fire for more information. Freight service is still being worked on.

PG & E: No Report

Sonoma County Emergency Management: No report

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Nicholls reported the possibility of early March hires due to the low amount of rain to date. Pushing hard on the fuel reduction around Mt. Jackson and Oak Ridge repeaters. Defensible space inspections have started in the Guerneville and Jenner area.

Zone 3: Chief Akre reported a joint effort with Kenwood to put on a new volunteer firefighter academy. Sonoma Valley Fire BC John Franceschi retired January 11th. Brian Cyr has promoted to Battalion 33 for A shift. The Board of Directors approved the Administrative Battalion Chiefs position. Sean Lacy has been promoted into that position. Chief Bellach announced the passing of long time Director Jim Kempers for Kenwood. The Board announced that vacancy and will be accepting letters of interest starting today through February 25th.

Zone 4 No Report

Zone 5: No Report

Zone 6: Chief Jenkins reported they will be having a volunteer Firefighter academy hosted by Dry Creek starting next week. Chief Boaz reported they have ordered their new ladder truck, a Peirce 107 ft. rear steer. Chief Collister and Chief Boaz have working on their fire substation and should be breaking ground around 2022. Open recruitment for a firefighter spot coming out soon.

Zone 7: Chief Westrope reported Travers Collins has been moved into the interim Deputy Chief position until the Fire Chief recruitment is complete. Entry level academy of 5 finishing the academy this Friday. The city and SO are looking at the possibility of going away from Nixile due to the high costs and decrease in service. The city and the SO are looking into going with Civics Plus. Chief Heine reported that he has about 7 FF Medics going into backgrounds. The bid on the County's ambulance bid RFP is coming up in late spring. They had a mandatory bidder's conference this week with 4 companies attending the conference. New fire impact fee program with the County to implement is moving forward. Filling the EMS Chief position and a Public Educator fulltime position.

Zone 8: Chief Grinnell reported the Board of Directors of Bodega Bay voted to endorse Measure B.

Zone 9: Chief Bates reported Sonoma County Office of Education started a vaccination clinic at Rancho Cotati High School on Monday, This will be going on for 10 to 12 weeks. The plan is to have this be the central location for all the school districts with-in the County to get vaccinations. When the time comes, Chief Bates is asking for all agencies send in personnel to help vaccinate.

OES: No report

Training OP's: No report

FPO's: No report

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported SCFDA if focused on Prop 19 and its impacts. Measure G 2.0 making sure that we have input as well as a united voice in support. They will have a February meeting and have moved from quarterly to monthly meeting. At the State level, the EBA has an opening on the Board. EBA and FASIS have signed a shared services agreement to consolidate administration and overhead.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Mickelson reported their volunteer academy has started and the Board still has to meet in regards to an agreement with the County.

Vegetation Management: Chief Williams reported that they are moving forward with the abatement process. Currently have 15-20 properties under the abatement process. This will be starting in late February, early March.

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported the OES reimbursement for the vaccinations will be a more direct channel. There has been a lot of positive reinforcement coming back from areas outside of our area, in regards to having paramedics working in the hospitals.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

Fire/EMS: No report

County Alerting System: No report

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported that the deployment of medics and EMT's to PVH has been completed. Friday Chief Heine will be participating in a State wide operational area coordinator call with OES on the fire services role on vaccinations.

REDCOM: No report

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Chief Grinnell reported that during his last 2 weeks working at PVH he has a deeper appreciation for the staff that is on the floors working in the hospital. He had a great experience while he was there.

Chief Akre reported REDCOM is working on supporting Pulse Point and Tango Tango. They are also working on the infrastructure on our Control Channels. He wanted to thank Schell Vista FD and Sonoma Valley FD with the help on vaccination clinics. Sonoma Valley FD hired 2 lateral FF Paramedics who have completed their academy.

James Salvante reported regarding the Survivors Reunion and if it's a good thing to get a large group of people together during the pandemic. More to follow on ways to make this event happen for the future.

Adjournment: @ 0945

Next Meeting: March 10th Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary