



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
February 8th, 2023 at 8:30 AM
Sonoma County Fire – Forestville Station**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa Fire
Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire	Evonne Stevens	REDCOM
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire	Mike Marcucci	CALFIRE
Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley Fire	Steve Mosiurchak	County of Sonoma
Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire	Jeff Veliquette	Rancho Adobe Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Brenda Bacigalupi	REDCOM
Aaron Johnson	RPPS	Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Hans Henneberque	H & S Associates	Bill Bullard	Graton Fire
Chris Godley	Sonoma County DEM	Ryan Estes	Sonoma County Fire
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa Fire	Mark Courson	OES
Mike McCallum	Santa Rosa Fire	Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast
Trevor Collins	Santa Rosa Fire	James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS
Charles Funkhouser	Coast Guard		

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Akre

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Busch welcomed everyone.

Presidents Report: Chief Akre

Approval of Minutes: Motion , 2nd: All AYE

Treasurer’s Report: Hans reported:

Chief’s General Fund	\$3,778.17
Survivor’s Fund	\$96,396.31
Training Officer’s Fund	\$2,050.44
Training Officer’s – Command Tablets	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$3,397.53
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
Total	\$149,666.91

Correspondence: None

Presentation: Chief Akre asked if anyone has any good ideas for presentations, please email any one of us on the E Board so we can get them scheduled. Chief Bullard stated that Erin Olsen from SRMH would like to come and talk about the trauma service with-in the County. Hans also stated he would like to do a Fire Code update presentation.

Old Business: SCFCA Member Agencies to contribute an initial funding amount towards the new County Sales Tax Initiative process, new due's structure – E Board: Chief Akre reported we need funds to start the polling and getting a consultant. We took some of the ideas presented last month and had an E Board meeting to talk about the ideas. Chief Westrope took three of the ideas and put them into spreadsheets. The spreadsheets were handed out to the group for review.

Chief Westrope spoke about the spreadsheets in detail. The best way to calculate the dues was based on call volume and to capture the different sizes of the organizations. The different spreadsheets showed agency call volumes and REDCOM fees for 2022. Different ranges were then created based on the call volumes for the different agencies.

Ranges 1, 2 and 3 have an assessment of \$10,000.00, Ranges 4, 5 and 6 have an assessment of 5,000.00, Range 7 has an assessment of \$2,500.00 and Range 8 has an assessment of \$2,500.00. The needed seed money is around \$150,000.00. Another option was to charge based on budgets. For the Districts, the current Prop 4 limit was used, as for the cities, those budgets were straight forward. The other option was to use the number of calls and charge \$2.00 per call.

The Range assessment option would bring in \$97,500.00. The charge based on budgets would bring in \$136,217.00. The charge based on \$2.00 per call would bring in \$144,764.00. Chief Akre opened it up for discussion. Chief Plakos stated that we would have to go to our Boards for approval and asked if there would be some material to present to them. Yes, we would distribute out the material that would be agreed upon charging the agencies. Hans would be putting out the dues request in the next few weeks so agencies could bring it to their boards and/or city management. We would also share the information that was shared at the SCFDA meeting from FSWG talking about the sales tax initiative to help support the document. FSWG will be contacting agencies soon to revise the need and ask for each agency. The new totals projected for this measure could be over \$60mil. a year. Direction from the group was asked and what would work for your agency. Discussion on the agencies affected on the ranges 7 and 8. These agencies may not be able to afford the amount asked for due to their budget size and call volume. It was discussed to help make it affordable to these agencies and maybe create more ranges to lower those amounts for the 7 and 8 ranges. A motion was made by Chief Bullard to except option 1 with the adjustment to range 8 from \$2,500.00 to \$1,000.00 with the caveat that it would be equitably redistributed. 2nd by Chief Busch. All AYE. 1 abstain from Hans.

Hans asked about the agencies that are not currently members of the association and how we would handle those. Chief Akre and Hans will follow up on this and discuss an option for this issue.

Chief Bullard made a motion to allow the E Board to negotiate as it needs to with the agencies to determine how to deal with the non-member agencies. 2nd by Chief Lacy, all AYE.

Chief Schach stated that this is not to kick agencies out of the association if their boards don't approve of these one-time dues or agencies simply cannot afford it. There will be

opportunities and offers to help support any agency that is struggling to find the funds or get behind the measure.

Local 1401 has started to position themselves to take on the campaign part of this. They are also lining up donors.

SCFCA website update – Chief Bellach reported on the SCFCA website. The SRJC Computer Class has offered to re-design our website at no charge. This will affect the Fire Chiefs Group, Fire Prevention Group, Fire Districts Group, Ops Group and Fire Investigation Task Force Group. We will need any information and ideas for each of those groups so we can add it to the website. Links will be sent out to each group member in charge of their sub-pages to view the page while it is being built for input. The SRJC will also be able to provide a new domain host. Any updated or changed information requests will go through me. For example, photos, mission statements, links, and artwork.

New Business:

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Akre reported the last time they met they were focusing on the LAFCO process with Gold Ridge Fire and North Bay Fire. There were some positive steps for Gold Ridge based on last week's meeting with LAFCO. The group also did work a lot with Bill Adams on the presentation for the district's dinner regarding the future county tax measure.

SMART: Doug Williams reported that the passenger loading has been effected a bit by the weather. SMART is one of the highest percentage recovery agencies post pandemic. They are currently running 2000+ passengers per day. Looking at funding for Healdsburg including the bridge over the Russian River. SMART may be looking into extending their sales tax measure and possibly have something on the ballot for 2024. The freight system continues to operate. If anybody would like to do any training related to SMART, please let me know with some lead time I can get it set up. If anybody would like a tour or take a ride let me know, this is available to everybody. The Golden Gate Railroad Museum was talking about trucking some of the equipment up to Cloverdale and running excursions between Cloverdale and Geyserville This is just a rumor and is not a SMART operation.

PG & E: No report, but they will have a presentation for next month's meeting.

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Marcucci reported they are tracking to be back into fire season by the 10th of April. There is talk right now of trying to bump this up a little sooner.

Chief Nicholls reported they are helping out Sonoma Valley with a fuel brake grant and trying to line out those areas. Engines are working in Geysers Peak and Annadel doing prep and burning.

Zone 3: Chief Bellach reported this Saturday is our crab feed. We have about 20 tickets left. We just submitted a grant for Motorola portable radios.

Chief Akre reported they have a type 3 in the final stages of being built and should receive it in the next month or two. They also have an ambulance coming in the next month as well. Thank you to the agencies that have sent out proctors for their testing process for Engineers and Captains.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: No report

Zone 7: Chief Busch reported Chief Heine is out until Monday. They have some promotional opportunities coming up soon and will be reaching out to agencies soon.

Zone 8: No report

Zone 9: Chief Schach reported this week they are teaching hands only CPR to 7th graders in Petaluma. By the end of this week, they will have taught over 1400 students hands only CPR. They will be applying for the SAFER grant for 3 positions to staff the ladder truck permanently.

Chief Johnson reported on the 23rd they will be holding Fire Marshall interviews; they have 10 applicants. He wants to reach out to the group for their opinion to build their fire prevention bureau for succession. He will be reaching out to individuals that have done this for more information. They will be doing a CPR day, date to follow. They will be doing some scenario based training, please disregard any radio traffic requesting resources unless it comes from REDCOM.

OES: Chief Courson reported CFAA review is almost complete waiting on BIA for final signature. Chief Franklin will be retiring at the end of this month and wanted me to express his thanks to all of you in Region II. If anyone has any questions for OES, please reach out.

Training OP's: No report

FPO's: Devon reported she apologized for the technical difficulties. My report was that we will not have a meeting this month due to most of our members will be attending a training in Santa Barbara next week. We are working on securing multiple fire prevention classes locally so that we don't have to send members out of the area for training. Our next meeting will be March 15th at Rancho Adobe, where will be tackling our 2023 goals. FITF is meeting later this morning to make up for missed meeting at the beginning of the month due to the storm. We would be happy to provide a code update presentation to the chief's group. Just let me know what meeting you would like us to present at.

Hans reported Petaluma is hosting some fire prevention/inspector classes. Notices have been sent out.

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported they had their quarterly in person dinner meeting in Geyserville in January. This was the meeting we changes officers, Steve Klick the Board President from Sonoma County Fire District is now the President for SCFDA and Chief Schroth-Cary is the VP. The rotation for the district's association is an elected official and then a chief elected. The Kincade Fire movie was viewed right after dinner, Supervisor Gore attended as well as several others that had big roles on the incident.

Volunteer Fire Companies: No report

Vegetation Management: Steve Mosiurchak reported the CWPP is going to the BOS at the end of April. For DSI, the contracts going to the districts will expire at the end of the fiscal year. We will be renegotiating for another 3-year contract. If agencies need any additional funding to support this, please let me know. The parcel selectable layers should be live sometime this week so you can go in there and select the areas for this year to be inspected. The complaint section should be live in May. AB38 will also be live so agencies can go out and do the real estate inspections. Chief Nicholls asked that you please coordinate with the local BC so that inspections are correctly coordinated between local government and state agencies. They recently sent out a series of emails regarding some one-on-one meetings about the national resources division which has a lot of money through grants to support fuel break projects. We're coordinating through Cal Fire and some of the fire districts within the zone. We are working with Marshal Tuberville and Jason Jenkins along with Sonoma Valley Fire. The Chipper program will be starting up in late April or May. Anyone needing damage assessment from a structure fire to a tree into a house, we will come out and do a damage assessment, so you don't have to wait for a building inspector. They are available through a request from REDCOM.

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported there are treatment guideline updates posted on the website that are in public comment until March 21st. Please check out the website and look for the draft policies for more details. They did finish the public comment period for preceptor evaluator and leave behind Narcan administrative policies, we are just waiting for any comments received to be reviewed. They are looking at addressing OB receiving, this has to do with the possibility of Petaluma Valley Hospital losing their OB services.

CAL Chiefs Report: Chief Akre reported the CAL Chiefs Board met yesterday. The CFED conference will be the last week in May in Palm Springs. Prior to this, there will be a two-day CAL Chiefs leadership symposium. One day will be about everything that you want to know about the current EMS in the state. The second day will be largely about wildfire prevention planning and insurance related topics. Please consider attending if you can, this conference has a lot of value. They have established a legislative task force with the district's association and CPF. They are working on the legislative agenda, one of the things they are working on is trying to make a change to State Firefighter Training so they can receive general fund revenue. They are trying to get up to \$2 million as an initial allocation out of the general fund, this would be used to wave fees for entry level programs.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: No report

Fire/EMS: Chief Schach reported the tiered response work group met in October. BLS ambulances are getting auto dispatched in the EOA. There still is an ALS ambulance being dispatched to every EMS call. They are evaluating on what's happening and plan to update in the future. Chief Akre asked if what heard was true, the tiered response will be going to the DOAG committee. Chief Schach confirmed this was true.

DEM: Chris Godley reported that he wanted to thank everyone for the help during the storm surges. They have grant funds of \$650,000.00 + the requests are for over \$3mil. mostly from fire agencies. There are a bunch of fire agencies asking for Haz Mat, Swift water and Tablet Command. He asked the group how excited they are about Tablet Command, what is the demand. The group agreed that TC was a must and important to keep it on the list of needs. We could spend half now on TC and then fund the rest later.

There will be an Alert and Warning exercise at the end of March, this will be far north in the county. They are finishing up their plans for extreme temperatures hot and cold. This has been an issue especially with the homeless populations. Jorge Rodriguez was promoted in their department from emergency coordinator to supervising coordinator. Chief Bellach asked for an update on the LED signs. Pretty much everybody will get one, they will put out a letter this week and then following contracts that everybody will have to sign.

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: No report

REDCOM: Evonne reported she wanted to thank everyone who attended the anniversary party. All positions are filled except for the operations manager which they are working to complete the process.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Doug Williams reminded everyone that the Survivors Reunion will be May 25th. If you have any cases that you would like to put forward please do so soon. The cut off for this is coming soon. The easiest way to do this is to go to the Sonoma County Paramedics Association website and follow the link to the Survivors Reunion to enter the information.

Chief Bullard stated that the daughter from the save they had from Save Lives Sonoma just joined their department as a volunteer.

Adjournment: @ 10:30am

Next Meeting: March 8th location Graton Fire

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary