



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING**
MEETING MINUTES
 Feb 14th 2018 at 9:30 AM
 Hosted By Windsor

Attendance:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| James Colangelo | Sonoma County | Steve Akre | Sonoma Valley |
| Aaron Abbott | REDCOM | Dave Francheschi | Forestville |
| Tim Aboudara | Santa Rosa/Local 1401 | Mike Mickelson | Wilmar |
| Rob Cassidy | Russian River | Bill Braga | Sebastopol |
| Tony Gossner | Santa Rosa | Doug Williams | Retired |
| Bill Bullard | Graton | Randy Collins | SRJC ARTP |
| James Salvante | CVEMS | Mark Henie | Windsor/RV |
| Loren Davis | Mountain | James Williams | Sonoma County |
| Sean Grinnell | Bodega Bay | Mike Williams | Abaris Group |
| Cindi Foreman | Rincon Valley | Jason Boaz | Healdsburg |
| Dan George | GR/BV | | |

Call to Order: Chief Boaz called the meeting to order at 0935 and led the pledge.

Host Chief Intro/Pledge: Chief Henie welcomed the group, spoke to the great transition he is experiencing and shared logistics.

President's Report: Chief Boaz indicated he wished to add Mike Williams under presentations along with Tim Aboudara.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion was made by Chief Braga & seconded by Chief George. Unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report submitted by Hans showed the following balances.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Chiefs General Fund: | \$3,535.19 |
| Survivors Fund: | \$108,031.28 |
| OP's/TO's Fund: | \$18,031.28 |
| FPO General Fund: | \$2,210.44 |
| FPO Safety Trailer: | \$6,106.90 |
| FITF | \$1,720.09 |
| Career Succession: | \$4,637.28 |
| Safety Pals Gen. Fund: | \$41,155.31 |
| Safety Pals Trailer: | \$2,500.00 |
| | \$187,994.71 |

Randy shared he had received an invoice from Director Abbot for the REDCOM event Jan 26 for \$425.00 and Reviewed the reimbursement procedures.

Correspondence: None received although Randy shared he had forwarded a recent email reminder RSVP from Pam at the Petaluma Elks for tomorrow night's FF Appreciation dinner. Chief Boaz spoke briefly to the Fido Bags that according to his understanding were being distributed by Zone.

Presentations:

Mike Williams from the Abaris Group shared that he has been retained by the County to handle the Ambulance RFP project. He spoke a bit to the process and that they also will be including a planning component. Their first meeting was last Friday which was well attended. He extended an invitation to anyone who would like to be interviewed to give feedback on the process: He can be contacted at: mwilliams@abarisgroup.com. Chief Akre added that he has been in contact with Mike and will be reporting back regularly under the EMS Committee agenda item.

Chief Gossner introduced Local 1401 President Tim Aboudara who is heading up the Peer Support program for SR. He described himself as an accidental behaviorist in mental health and identified it as the number 1 problem in the industry with 1-1/2 deaths occurring for each lost to LODD & cancer. He indicated that because FF's are more open to speaking to each other rather than outsiders, the International felt the need to develop the program a few years ago. They use a team concept with clinicians, FF, and others. The training is 16 hours and SFRD has 17 who have completed the training. The program was 9 months old when the October fires occurred and in response to the events, they utilized a mutual aid concept with multiple agencies and Canine Companions. They are hoping to use some of the Secret Santa funds to provide for more training. The long term goal is to make it a regular branch of the department. As an example as to the extent of the program, he indicated they have 30 active cases at this time. One website that covers much of the activities they perform can be found at: www.firestrong.com. Their program works closely with over 12 EAP providers and maintains strict confidentiality. He shared it can also substitute for CIS programs with an emphasis on trying to return a sense of control to the affected individual. They will be conducting another training in May with a cost of \$250 per student. He referred us to their "A Commitment to Firefighter behavioral Health" document (see attachments to the se minutes) and encouraged each respective agency to commit to the program by having Labor and Management sign and return to:

Behavioral health Task Force, C/O CPFF, 1780 Creekside Oaks Dr. Sacramento 95883

He also expressed his desire for it to grow this into a collaborative model that works as a 501c3. He ended by speaking to an effort to include those qualified in the program to be put in ROSS. In response to Chief George's question, he indicated that with Workers Comp, there is no clear path and to that end, they are working on a legislative solution. Chief Akre shared this issue is on his insurance carrier's radar. He also made a plug for the Anguin program, IAFF Centers for Excellence and spoke to their benefits. Chief Akre thanked Tim and Tony for the assistance they have provided to his own agency.

Chief Boaz used this opportunity to speak to the conference call he was on regarding the Secret Santa Program. There is \$50K available to the three counties and the outcome will be to develop a training schedule for Peer Support with a possible subscription to the Fire Strong program for the county as a whole. He also queried the group as to their suggestions. Chief Akre reminded the group that we had committed to this at an earlier meeting. June 26 & 27 is the tentative date for the Sonoma County training.

Old Business:

- **Boundary Drop Follow-up:** Chief Colangelo indicated the feedback he has received shows it to be working well and we can remove from future agendas.

2018 Goals Discussion Adoption: Chief Boaz opened by indicating he felt we had reviewed these in detail at the January meeting and asked for a motion to approve. Chief George made a motion to adopt, seconded by Chief Braga. Cindy Gossner asked for direction on the FPO goal and the consensus was to leave the specifics to them. Chief Gossner added that if we are implementing veg management programs, we need to prioritize areas by fire history. Chief Colangelo indicated they plan on making a comprehensive presentation to the BOS in March and to share any concerns with Chief Williams. Chief Gossner spoke to the need to all by-in on this to make it successful. A brief discussion on funding sources followed. The vote was unanimous to adopt the goals as presented in the attachment to these minutes.

New Business:

- **Peer Support & Secret Santa Gift/Peer Support:** Covered under presentations

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Training/OP's:** No report
- **FPO's:** Cindy shared the FEMA Fire Prevention grant is out. Safety Pals recently received \$31k from Wine County to the Rescue and is looking at developing a Pub Ed comic style book as well as redoing the "Living with Fire" document
- **Fire Districts:** No report
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson indicated they have received proposals from the RFP which they will be working through. The next meeting is Wednesday Feb 21.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

- **Fire EMS Committee:** Chief Akre shared they met last Friday and it was well attended although as an introductory meeting it was mostly background. They plan on one more meeting and then establishing next steps and whittle down the size of the group so it can be more effective. He assured the group that they will remain to be well represented. A discussion about the EMS Ordinance occurring before the RFP followed. James Salvante felt that the RFP should come first. Chief Henie shared that these discussions are also occurring at the State level with the appellate courts and may ultimately be determined by the Supreme Court. The consensus of the group was not to take a position on this issue at this time. Chief's Akre and Gossner reminded the group that there is a tight timeline and we may want to contemplate an extension to the existing contract. Some frank and sensitive discussion followed. Next meeting TBA.
- **Fire Recovery/AAR:** Chief Gossner reported that it is turning out to be an enormous project. SR's EOC is doing their own review and has hired a consultant. He feels we need to look at this from an overall County wide response and feels any outcome will help us down the road but it will be an expensive process (one consultant = \$50K). The added OES is performing one as part of their responsibilities that accompany a gubernatorial declaration. Chief Colangelo shared that they have reached out to OES for an independent review of the alerting system and how they respond will depend on the findings in that report. Chief Gossner will contact the zones asking for feedback on what the scope of the AAR should include.
- **County Alerting System:** Chief Colangelo clarified some misrepresentations made at the January BOS meeting and that a more comprehensive report will occur this month but feels we can start looking into this on our level before the OES AAR report is issued. Chief Boaz supported that concept and also include looking at adopting common terminology, tiered access to impacted areas, shelter in place protocols and uniform notification protocols. Director Abbott spoke to the need for having clear MOU's for the notification and evacuation process that contemplates the legal implications. He added that with the number of calls that they received for the recent Fountain Grove accident, notifications have become a very sensitive issue with the public. This may also be impacted if the Disaster Management part of Emergency Services moves to the SO which will be considered at the BOS meeting on the 27th. It was agreed to have a meeting of the stakeholders in this group meet prior to that meeting. Chief George suggested we let the media (Julie Johnson) know that this is one of our goals to among other things, show we are being pro-active. Caution was voiced that we should have some details established by the subcommittee prior to doing so, especially the public education component.

REDCOM: Chief Abbott reported they have a lot going on including the Priority dispatch protocols with Feb 22 9 AM being the kick-off meeting in Windsor. They will then contact each of us about translating the protocols into our event types. The protocols include procedures for civilians being trapped in wildland fires. They have also created a Geo-Cluster automated alert system that if there are a series of incidents, it will automatically send an alert out to the surrounding area which other First Responders can be given the authority to implement and indicated training will be forth-coming. He also shared Chief Andreis has completed the "All-Call" alert which Chief Gossner suggested testing. He ended by thanking the group for the 15th anniversary party. Chief Braga asked if he could share what type of fee increases he can expect. He expects a 2% increase but that is not a final number.

Closed Session: There was no closed session.

Good of the Order:

- Chief Gossner shared he will be conducting testimony at multiple venues related to the fires and will keep the group apprised. He indicated he will be going to the Nor-Cal Hero's event at the capital and offered a ride to anyone who wants to go.
- Randy shared his experience last semester conducting testing of FFI candidates who performed their training at outside agencies and despite their assurances that they had practiced all the skill and were ready for the test, they proved to be unprepared and almost failed. Because he recognizes there may be larger issues for an agency at stake such as employment and staffing at stake, he felt a certification from the Chief, attesting to the candidates readiness and the procedures should they fail would be prudent. To that end, he circulated a draft for the group's feedback. He shared how his identity had been used to apply fraudulently for FEMA disaster relief and having to freeze his credit. He also reminded the group he will be contacting members to schedule interviews for his talking fire history project.
- Chief Braga reported he is getting new turn-outs.
- Chief Akre felt that the Homeland Security grant for \$30K will not fund the maps project and suggested we pursue other sources. He will meet with Chief Colangelo
- Chief George reported he will be taking delivery of two new Type IIIs
- RR is using Captains to fill the Chief's position and the item is on the Bd agenda for tonight. They will also be taking delivery of a Type III.
- Chief Boaz reminded the group of a Leadership class they will be hosting May 6th (see enclosed flyer)

Next Meeting: March 14th at Healdsburg

Respectfully Submitted: Feb 20, 2018

Randy Collins,
SCFCA Secretary