



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 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	Kempen Robbins	FPO's
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa	James Williams	Sonoma County
Alex Roa	Sebastopol	Paul Lowenthal	Santa Rosa
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa	KT McNulty	REDCOM
Ken Reese	REDCOM	Brian Henricksen	AMR
Mike Mickelson	North Bay Fire	Bill Braga	Sebastopol
Hans Hennebergue	SCFCA	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
David Bynum	Bodega Bay	Matt Epstein	DCRFD
Doug Williams	SMART	Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale
Linda Collister	Healdsburg	Spencer Andreas	Sonoma Valley
Mark Courson	OES	Mike Bates	RPPS
Ron Bush	Sonoma County Fire	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE
Ian Hardage	Santa Rosa	Bill Braga	Sebastopol

Call to Order: Chief Heine began the meeting at 0831 and led the pledge.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Heine

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

Presidents Report: Chief Heine reported we are active with OES deployments for COVID -19 and current vaccination with-in the County.

Changes to the Agenda: Chief Heine added an update to New Business from Ken Reese in regards to Tango Tango.

Approval of Minutes: Nov. 11th and Dec 9th minutes. Motion: Chief Grinnell, 2nd: Chief Jenkins, All AYE

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

Chiefs General Fund:	\$865.88
Survivors Fund:	\$105,896.31
Receivable from Agencies	(\$5,800.00)
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	\$1,913.49
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$23,200.47
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$143,804.22

Correspondence: None

Presentation: Susan Farren with First Responders Resiliency spoke about the organization which provides psychological and physical well-being of first responders. For more information visit resiliency1st.org. Contact Susan at: susanf@resiliency1st.org.

Old Business: None

New Business: Chief Boaz recognized Chief Gossner for his years of service with a plaque.

Kemplen Robbins presented Chief Cindy Foreman with a plaque thanking her for her time with the FPO's.

Chief Ian Hardage presented the Harry Quinlan Award to Assistant Fire Marshal Paul Lowenthal

Oath of office was given to all new officers by Chief Jason Boaz

Ken Reese reported on the Tango Tango Application. There is a \$10,300.00 single channel model deal on the table to use this application County wide. This could be funded by all 28 REDCOM Agencies. This works out to about \$122.00 per agency, per year for a 3 year contract. A two channel model would cost \$15,000.00 for 3 years, this works out to about \$180.00 per agency a year. Chief Heine asked the group for any questions or input on this application. Chief Jenklins asked, would this option be available to every firefighter in the County or would this be only for Officers and Chiefs to use? Ken Reese stated that the license allows for up to 50 users. Any major disaster we could add any number of additional licenses 24/7. Chief Grinnell stated that the 2 channel model would be the best way to use this application. Chief Bullard asked if we could go to a 3 channel model. Ken Reese said he would have to get more information from the vender, but thought it would not be an issue. The estimated cost would be around \$200.00 per user. A Motion was made by Chief Grinnell to move forward with a 3 channel model of the application, County wide and costs to be allocated across the entire County system. A 2nd was made by Chief Jenkins, All AYE.

Chief Mickelson reported on the extension of the County Fire Services Contracts. In 2018 the Fire services Working Group worked with the County for an enhanced service agreement along with North Bay Fire. This agreement was for two years, June 30th, 2021 will be the end of this agreement. The County has expressed interest in re negotiation of the contract. Due to LAFCO time restrictions and not completing all the Volunteer Agency consolidations, there has been a request for a 1 to 2 year extension of this contract along with the enhanced service agreement between Cloverdale, Geyserville, North Bay Fire, Bodega Bay and Gold Ridge. Starting in February, the agreements will start to be worked on towards completion.

Filling the fire vacancy seat on the Fire Service Working Group that was held by Chief Gossner. Chief Westrope has been filling that seat as the city representative and will continue to in this position. Motion: Chief Jenkins, 2nd: Chief Schach, all AYE

COVID Mutual Aid Requests. Chief Heine reported the Op area provided 4 EMT's and 3 Paramedics to Petaluma Valley Hospital for a 14 day assignment due to ICU and ER bed populations. The request came in from Region II on December 31st. The fill was made on January 1st 2021. These requests have been state wide. All requests for out of county responses from Region II were UTF due to keeping our personnel with-in our County OP area. Chief Coursen stated that this was very successful and thanked all who participated.

Formation of EMS Standing Committee. Chief Heine reported, as we become more engaged on the impacts of the EMS world on the fire service, he felt it was time to create a sub-committee of the Fire Chiefs Association to work on some of the EMS issues that we are all involved in. If anyone has a desire to stand on the EMS Standing Committee please E-mail Chief Heine. The formation of the Sub-Committee will take place at the February meeting.

BinavNow tests. Chief Heine stated that this is a great tool for COVID testing. Davis Bynum from Bodega Bay reported this is a rapid test available through County Public Health. This test is a 15 minute turn around for results with people who are showing symptoms of the virus. Sonoma County Fire, Bodega Bay and Rohnert Park are helping to administer the testing. Please reach out to Chief Heine if you would like more info on this testing.

County COVID Vaccination Program. Chief Heine reported the potential use of the Mutual Aid System to provide vaccinations to the Law/public. This is still a work in progress and as more information comes out you will be advised.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Heine reported they have a meeting today and the focus will be on County Fire Service contracts, new County wide sales tax measure and looking at the West County TOT Tax measure.

SMART: Chief Williams reported ridership is static overall. There is Board meeting today with several new members on the Board. Supervisor Gorin has joined the Board. There is a new Financial Officer, as well as still looking for a replacement for a new Chief Information Officer. The Windsor extension is still on hold. There will be some training on February 4th working with Napa County Fire on rescues. Working with Petaluma to set up some DMU orientation for the south portion of Sonoma County starting February 27th for 3 Saturdays.

PG & E: No Report

Sonoma County Emergency Management: No report

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Nicholls reported year to date we are sitting at 251 fires across the state. This is 200 more fires then reported last year. We had 3 fires in the unit during this last wind event. Two engines working on repeater sites over the winter to make sure we don't have an issue like we had during the Wallbridge incident. Three engines were sent to

South Ops to support the current fires. Chief Sully still on target to get the AOP out for the fire season 2021. Chief York has gotten the GPH radios that were put in for the surplus close to a year ago. They were not able to get all the radios asked for, but will be working with those agencies that put in for them. The radios that came in had no antennas or clam shells. Those items will be at the cost of the agency taking the radios.

Zone 3: Chief Andreas reported they (Sonoma Valley Fire) have completed 2 processes for entry level FF Paramedics and brought on 2 FF Paramedics that will start February 1st. Hope to have a new Shift Battalion and 40 hr. Admin Battalion starting in February. Chief Bellach reported the Region III Fire Academy will be starting and have a potential of 20 new cadets.

Zone 4 No Report

Zone 5: No Report

Zone 6: Chief Epstein reported they will have a Volunteer Academy starting in February with 9 new recruits. This 12 week academy is Saturdays and Sundays. If anyone has personnel that they would like to put in, please contact Chief Epstein

Zone 7: Chief Westrope reported that he is the interim Chief to Chief Gossner. Nationwide recruitment for the position. The city had a lot of retirements in December (5 Officers and 2 Engineers). Working on the Wildland Resiliency Strategic Plan, hope to receive some PG & E funding. Chief Heine reported the Mountain station (station 6) has started the remodel, should be completed by September/October. Working with the County to implement an impact fee on new construction. Tomorrow will start a request for publishing an EMS qualifications document that's seeking a private ambulance company to enter into a sub-contractor arrangement with SCFD in anticipation the fire districts submitting a bid to County RFP for the emergency ambulance service to the County. Hiring 7 FF Paramedics in backgrounds now. Hope to sign an agreement with REACH to form a public private partnership, the outcome will be the fire district will have a strong partnership with REACH for operating the REACH aircraft for a multi mission response and initial attack firefighting when necessary and long line rescues. This is by no means to replace the H-1 program as they perform a critical role with-in the County, but to support this role.

Zone 8: Chief Braga reported that he wanted to thank the membership for the support for the death of Chief Mike Reeser and all the emails, phone calls and cards. He also wanted to thank the E Board for the \$2,500.00 to the family from the Survivors Fund. Chief Bullard reported that Sebastopol and Graton will be submitting to the AFG for SCBA's, if anyone else in the County is also looking at this to contact him to maybe work on a regional grant and or get information on a successful past grant.

Zone 9: Chief Schach reported that Petaluma did receive an AFG grant and would be happy to share his information. With the passing of Measure U they will be doing a replacement of their headquarters. Looking at next steps for future consolidations and calibrations. Rancho Adobe has secured Petaluma's medical director and will be moving to ALS. Paramedics are helping giving out vaccinations for COVID. Engineer promotional process starting. Chief Bates reported that he wanted to thank Brian Hendricksen and the first responder testing staff for all their work to help getting first responders tested. Mike stated that he has 9 people ready to help out to give vaccinations if needed. SSU has

freezer capabilities if needed. Station number 3 is almost complete and should be open in May and staffed with a QRV during the day and an engine at night. Since Rohnert Park is not a REDCOM agency, how would Tango Tango work and would they still be able to participate?

OES: Chief Coursen reported OES in continuing to monitor any fires throughout the continued fire season. Still working Pre Pos. in the south.

Training OP's: Chief Andreas reported they met last Tuesday. Phase 1 of the Tablet Command is close to being completed. Phase 2 should start soon and hopefully by this spring the program will be up and running. The All County All Call policy should be complete in March. The new Board for the FPO's will be Chief Glockner, Chief Merderos and Chief Andreas for the next 2 years.

FPO's: Kemplen reported 2020 we all had our hand full with fires, PSPS and COVID. Due to COVID the FPO group found themselves with many obstacles especially with outdoor dining. Guidelines were created for tents and canopy structures and proper storage and use of propane heaters. Kemplen thanked everyone for all their hard work on this. The FITF continues to be a great asset for the County. This group continues to train and be ready to assist the County. In 2020 there were only 3 call outs for the FITF. Hoping to be better utilized in 2021. The 2021 goals for FITF include a NFPA 921 update class, partnering with the DA to do training, provide analyses and training on the Ghost Ship Fire. The 2021 goal for the FPO's are to update the aging fire safety trailer, to work with the Sonoma County Chiefs to update the website to become more user friendly and to create and increase new membership.

Fire Districts: Chief Andreas reported on behalf of Chief Akre. Next meeting is January 28th. FASIS and FDAC have entered into a shared services agreement to consolidate some of their services. The SCFDA is looking at guidance on Prop 19-Fire Districts to receive their fair share of tax revenue.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Mickelson reported that he wanted to thank the working group and the Chiefs Association for supporting the volunteers to be able to use their funds to purchase Plymo Vents for 3 of their stations. A volunteer fire academy will be starting at the end of this month. The working group is working on the number of agencies in the County, a couple of years ago we had 12 volunteer companies and we are now down to 7. The latest volunteer company to merge was Bloomfield merging into Two Rock.

Vegetation Management: Chief Williams reported the biggest priorities they are working on are the Wildfire Adaptive Sonoma County Vegetation assessments for defensible space, looking at approximate 5000 properties for phase 1. Phase 2 will be structural hardening assessments this will provide funding for residents to do defensible space clearance work. The abatement process is under way. Looking at fuel reduction projects, one is around the Barham repeater site. The Fire Safe Standards Title 14 is currently under the public input process to modify the standards. This should be finalized by mid-summer. Also looking at the issues with cannabis and the use permits. Defensible space inspections should be starting again around the end of April or first of May.

Coastal Valley EMS: No report

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

Fire/EMS: Chief Heine reported Chief Akre has been working with the County to get an agreement in place as fire service EMT's and Medic's support COVID vaccination centers that we have a reimbursement tool in place to make sure agencies do not have any costs associated with this.

County Alerting System: No report

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported there are no requests at this time.

REDCOM: KT reported in regards to Chief Bates question on Tang Tango, REDCOM can invoice RP separately. REDCOM is looking into an AFG Grant for radio infrastructure upgrade. Due to REDCOM being a JPA, they are running into some obstacles. The purchase of the COMM Van has been done. County Fleet will be servicing it at no cost. Looking for a permanent place to store the van.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Treasurer Hans Hennebergue reported he will be sending out the membership notices for 2021 this week. Dues are due by April 15th. If you see anything that needs to be changed, please change it on the form and send it back to him. Keep in mind that the FPO's are trying to update their membership list, the Chiefs identified on the roster will be the primary contact. If additional information needs to be added, please contact them with the changes.

Adjournment: @ 10:07hrs

Next Meeting: February 10th Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary