

Hi All,

At our April 25th meeting, I was voted in by the Sonoma County Fire Districts Association to represent all of the fire districts within the County on the Board of Supervisors established Fire Strategic Leadership Group. This group has been restructured and renamed as the Fire Service Working Group (FSWG - pronounced F SWAG). The other new additions to this group are Tim Aboudara (Labor), and Dana McKnight (HR Matrix consultant).

The vision for this group is to "Improve Fire Protection Service and EMS for Sonoma County residents in a manner that is efficient, effective and sustainable".

The FSWG has met weekly since May 2. On Tuesday, May 28th, we met with the Sonoma County Ad Hoc Supervisors (Rabbitt and Hopkins) and the CAO to discuss the next phase of our fire service future. I plan to give you at least a monthly update on the items we have worked on. I will reach out with more frequent updates when it is appropriate or time sensitive.

The items we have worked on over the past month are:

- Identify FSWG members new roles to help better serve our respective stakeholders;
- Team rules of engagement to help to bring trust and transparency to both the FSWG and fire service community;
- Established a new "Running List of Open-Items" that need resolution with the County
- Information sharing plan to help communicate effectively to stakeholders;
- Provide support for open contracts between fire agencies and the County;
- Seeking dedicated County staff contact w/ authority;
- Seeking clarity on future funding;
- Clarify vision, goals and work flow of FSWG from BOS Ad Hoc (Supervisors Hopkins & Rabbitt);
- Support the Geyserville Annexation of Knights Valley;
- Seeking support for an apparatus replacement program;
- Preparing a strategy for a sales tax measure including conducting polling.

The members of the FSWG are:

Tim Aboudara – Labor Representative (President, Santa Rosa Fire Fighters L1401)

Steve Akre – Fire EMS and Zone 3 Representative (Chief, Sonoma Valley FPD);

Jason Boaz – County Chiefs' Association & Zone 6 Representative (Chief, Healdsburg FD);

Dave Franceschi – Region 4 & 5 Representative (Chief, Forestville FPD);

Dan George – VFC Administrator and Zone 8 Representative (Chief, Gold Ridge FPD);

Tony Gossner – Cities' Representative (Chief, Santa Rosa FD);

Mark Heine – State Chiefs' Association & Zone 7 Representative (Chief, Sonoma County FPD);

Shana Jones – CAL FIRE Representative (Unit Chief, Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit);  
Mike Mickelson – Volunteer Fire Companies and Zone 9 Representative (Chief, Wilmar  
FD);  
Joe Petersen – Fire Districts’ Association Representative (Director, Gold Ridge FPD);

As you can see there are many areas covered and after the first month’s meetings I have confidence that the each of the FSWG members are dedicated to the county as a whole,leaving no area left unrepresented. As I continue to help guide our fire service future I hope to have further discussions with individuals so I can better understand and represent unique concerns that each District may have. Issues may arise as we progress and I am dedicated to help navigate through those. If there’s any clarification or requests that I may help with you may reach me either by email or phone.

Joe Petersen  
Sonoma County Fire Districts Association Representative to the FSWG  
(707)486-8161  
[joepetersen@goldridgefire.org](mailto:joepetersen@goldridgefire.org)