



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
March 8th, 2023 at 8:30 AM  
Graton Fire Station**

**ATTENDANCE**

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire
Evonne Stevens	REDCOM	Brian Diemer	PGE
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire	Cyndi Foreman	Sonoma County Fire
Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley Fire	Steve Mosiurchak	County of Sonoma
Doug Williams	SMART	Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire
Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE	Ken Reese	REDCOM
Aaron Johnson	RPPS	Spencer Andreas	Sonoma Valley Fire
Hans Henneberque	H & S Associates	Bill Bullard	Graton Fire
Chris Godley	Sonoma County DEM	Charles Funkhouser	Coast Guard
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa Fire	James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS
Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast	Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Jeff Veliquette	Rancho Adobe Fire		

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chief Akre

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief Bullard welcomed everyone.

**Presidents Report:** Chief Akre

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion: Chief Schach, 2<sup>nd</sup>:Chief Lacy, All AYE

**Treasurer’s Report:** Hans reported:

Chief’s General Fund	\$2,755.80
Survivor’s Fund	\$96,396.31
Training Officer’s Fund	\$1,550.44
Training Officer’s – Command Tablets	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$3,267.00
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	\$24,805.77
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$147,929.16</b>

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentation:** PG & E – Brian Diemer spoke about the requirements since the San Bruno incident and inspecting gas lines and training. He spoke about the public safety workshops that are available for first responders. He handed out booklets on handling gas and electric emergencies to everyone present. If anyone needs additional books, please contact Brian.

County of Sonoma, Steve Mosiurchak – Vegetation Management & Chipping Program: Steve showed how the parcel selectable tool online works that is used for the vegetation inspection program and to show how the whole process works from parcel selection to coordination with CalFire using the collector app. Chief Nicholls stated CalFire uses this to coordinate their inspections. Their target for inspections is to hit homes once every three years. This is coordinated between the county, local government, and state to make sure homes are not getting double inspected. Steve continued presenting, last year there were over 3791 parcels that were selected to inspect. This coming year is over 4000 selected. Once the data is entered for the inspections the system puts out a notice for a reinspection in 30 days.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** CWPP – Steve Mosiurchak reported the CWPP is scheduled to go to the Board of Supervisors in May for approval. There are required signatures for this document. Chief Heine as the former president had the ability to review it, Steve asked if it would be acceptable to keep Chief Heine on as the signatory for the SCFCA. Keeping Chief Heine on as the signatory would be fine. Motion: Chief Schach, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chief Bullard, all AYE. Part of the signatures are SCFCA, CalFire, Steve Mosiurchak and board.

SCFCA – 2023 Meeting Locations: We still have several months for this year that we need to get filled for meeting locations. May, July through December are available for agencies to host meetings. Please contact Chief Bellach or Chief Akre if you can host.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Heine reported they have been working on the proposed sales tax measure for the county. They have Props and Measures engaged and on board. The first sample polling should start this week. Meetings with different Zone Chiefs will start tomorrow to listen to what everyone's needs are. They are working with and supporting Gold Ridge with their LAFCO process. Still meeting their collective support with the work being done between Kenwood and Sonoma Valley towards consolidation efforts. Last week Chief Akre and Heine met with the new CAO Christina Rivera, they had a good meet and greet with her and provided her with some information on what we are doing in the fire service. The BOS has reinstated the Fire Ad Hoc, which is Supervisor Rabbitt and Supervisor Hopkins. The FSWG has already had some really good communication with them. The ad hoc will be meeting with the working group on the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month. The FSWG will not be meeting next week due to the Fire Districts Conference in Napa.

**SMART:** Doug Williams reported the pathway extensions continue and we encourage people to be involved in the planning areas for this. The freight system has continued to operate, there is a presentation that is scheduled on Wednesday of next week to see where they are planning to go with that. Have been working with Chief Busch and Ken Reese on notifications to SMART within the EOC's, we're hoping to get a test segment done shortly. If you would like any training on attention to the right of way, get that information in as early as possible. Outside of SMART there is still talk about running the excursion trains in the Cloverdale area.

**PG & E:** See Presentation

### **Regional Zone Reports:**

**CALFIRE:** Chief Nicholls reported IMT2 Command Demo staff has been engaged in Mono County, Delta sent a G-ST to Merced to start working on shoring up levees. April 17th we should be at level two that is 1 engine per battalion. Amador contracts will end on Monday the 24th of April this year. Good news for Kenwood, Bennet Valley, and Santa Rosa, they are looking at a 70 acre burn up against the Bennet Ridge subdivision scheduled for later this year in the fall. There could also be some road grading in Annadel State Park as well.

**Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported that Kenwood and Sonoma Valley continue to be very actively engaged trying to figure out what the plan will be July 1<sup>st</sup>, we have a meeting in a week and 1/2 with Susan Gorin and the county administrator to let them know where we are at and what we need. Chief Mulas was very appreciative of everybody's help with their big warehouse fire. Chief Bellach reported if anyone was interested, the Gary Sinise Foundation funded \$11,000 towards Kenwood's LED sign project. The process was easy and if anybody needed funding to contact the foundation.

**Zone 4:** No report

**Zone 5:** Chief Busch reported the agencies that helped with the Canyon Rock wash plant fire we're much appreciated.

**Zone 6:** No report

**Zone 7:** Chief Heine reported bids were due last Wednesday for the ambulance bid process, they have submitted their bid. The bids are currently in the hands of a 5 member outside scoring panel outside the county. Friday morning each bidder has a 2-hour window with that evaluation panel to present the bid package. They're about to go out for dual role paramedic firefighter positions and their partners Medic Ambulance will be starting an EMT paramedic recruitment process. A type one engine is on order, looking in late 2023-24 at comprehensive facility rebuilds. Fire station 4 on Todd Rd., station 5 on Middle Rincon, and station 9 in Guerneville. Sonoma County 1 has been very productive during the last atmospheric weather system with the river flooding and recon missions. Chief Busch reports they received a \$1,000,000 grant for a rescue fire boat in Bodega Bay. They will be actively training personnel to be boat operators and rescue swimmers so they can enhance the safety level of people visiting the coast.

**Zone 8:** Chief Bullard reported they have new SCBA's and Holmatro equipment. They have spare parts for anyone who has 2005 packs and may need parts to contact him. Chief Schroth-Cary reported they are focused on the LAFCO process. They're in the process of specking a new type 1 for Gold Ridge and have put in a grant for Camp Meeker for a type 1 engine. They are working on a SAFER grant for volunteer training. Jaci Jorgensen from the Volunteer Fire Foundation put out an e-mail, she sent out a poll for everybody to fill out looking for volunteer information and numbers. She is working on a CSFA grant for recruitment and retention.

**Zone 9:** Chief Veliquette reported they are still having some trouble getting paid from a fire out of state on tribal lands. They have some state unfunded property in their jurisdiction that they have the requirement to provide service to, they cannot bill a state agency and they go to over 420 calls a year at this location. They will be meeting with the state agencies public safety team to talk about the big picture, they would like to get more funding than just recouping their costs.

**OES:** No report

**Training OP's:** Chief Andreas reported the Overhead Head Refresher course will be May 16<sup>th</sup>. Flyer to follow.

**FPO's:** Devon reported they will meet next Wednesday and will have a presentation from the Red Cross on what they can do for us after fires, disaster response and their smoke alarm installation program. Starting in April they will be hosting some plan review classes. FITF has had two call outs so far for this year. The Shell Vista warehouse fire and the Petaluma fatality fire. As a reminder this is a great resource for everybody, please feel free to use them.

**Fire Districts:** Chief Akre reported

**Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Bradley reported 9744, the boat at Lakeville is in open water rescue class and is being supported by Wilmar and Petaluma. The new rescue at Station 94 will be up and running by Monday. They will be taking it to the Fire Nuggets Symposium Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Chief Akre wanted to thank North Bay Fire and their Board for their contribution to the sales tax measure.

**Vegetation Management:** Steve Mosiurchak reported he's going to start working with the SRJC on an internship program for people coming out of the SRJC working on environmental health to get job related experience.

**Coastal Valley EMS:** James Salvante reported there are two specific policies that are of interest to the fire community. One is the special memo for the EMT draw epinephrin. This is the process to accredit EMT's to draw epi with a syringe as opposed to being restricted to using auto ejectors. If this is the first time that agencies are hearing about it or want to know more about it, please contact James. The second policy they are working on is leave behind Narcan, if this is something that you would like to do within your own agency, they want to provide a structure that would protect your licensed people.

**CAL Chiefs Report:** Chief Heine reported they are deeply engaged in EMS issues across the state. There are a lot of counties going through a bid process right now. They had some great phone calls with EMSAC and EMDAC, in the past the communication with them had not been the best. There are a lot of legislative projects going on right now. One is a lot of legislation and legislators are focused on special district funding right now. They have realized that there has been a lot of federal and state funding targeted towards cities. We are hoping for some positive outcome from this. CFED is the annual EMS

conference, CAL Chiefs will have the first two days of it this year in Desert Palms, CA in May. Day one is an intense wildland focus day. Day two is all about EMS. Please try to attend if you can. The Annual CAL Chiefs Conference will be in Ontario this year in October, more to follow. They are currently working on a bill that would change the funding for state fire training. Right now, state fire training can only be fee based, this would change that and allow state fire training to be funded through the general fund as well as some seed funding. The idea then would be to put on some entry level fire classes at either little or at no cost.

**Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:** No report

**Fire/EMS:** Chief Schach reported Chief Akre and himself had a kickoff meeting at the county with Dr. Kaplan and staff to talk about tiered response with Coastal Valley EMS. Tiered response will be going to the DOAG Committee for recommendations on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**DEM:** Chris Godley reported grants have been coming in. We will put some money towards Tablet Command. Chris announced he will be departing from the county at the end of the month. He thanked everybody for inviting him and supporting him after the 2017 fires. Chief Akre thanked Chris for all his hard work and where he has brought us today since 2017. We have experienced nothing but great leadership, relationships, and collaboration. You will be missed. Jeff Duvall will be interim director.

**Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** No report

**REDCOM:** Ken reported they are continuing to work on the deployment with Tablet Command to follow the agencies in the county and continuing to enhance the map layers. They are continuing to work on the funding stream where we are transitioning from the MDC's and the purchasing of tablet command/licensing.

**Closed Session:** None

**Good of the Order:** Chief Akre added, yesterday his prevention team and himself went to a class on land use planning in the wildland urban interface. There was a lot of good information about the new codes, mapping, and processes on what's going to happen when the LRA maps come out. This really reinforced the importance of all of us as fire chiefs and agencies to be really engaged with our planners. There will be a number of these classes coming out and if anyone is interested to please send Chief Akre an email.

**Adjournment:** @ 10:35hrs

**Next Meeting:** April 12<sup>th</sup> location Kenwood Fire Station

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach  
SCFCA Secretary