



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
May 13, 2020 at 9:30 AM  
Conference Call In**

**ATTENDANCE**

|                  |                             |                      |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Daren Bellach    | Kenwood                     | Mark Heine           | Sonoma County Fire District |
| Bill Bullard     | Graton                      | Spencer Andreis      | Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue |
| Leonard Thompson | Petaluma                    | Ken Reese            | REDCOM                      |
| Jeff Schach      | Petaluma                    | Shepley Schroth-Cary | NBF/Gold Ridge              |
| Ben Nicholls     | CALFIRE                     | James Williams       | Sonoma County               |
| Ron Busch        | Sonoma County Fire District | Steve Akre           | Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue |
| Matt Epstein     | DCRFD                       | Mike Mickelson       | North Bay Fire              |
| Dave Franceschi  | Forestville                 | KT McNulty           | REDCOM                      |
| Jason Boaz       | Healdsburg                  | Tony Gossner         | Santa Rosa                  |
| Doug Williams    | SMART                       | Brian Henricksen     | AMR                         |
| Sean Grinnell    | Bodega Bay                  | Steve Herzberg       | Bodega Bay                  |
| Jason Jenkins    | Cloverdale                  | Mike Bates           | RPPS                        |
| Ron Lunardi      | Occidental                  | Mark Dunn            | Sonoma County Fire District |
| Cyndi Foreman    | Sonoma County Fire District | Bill Braga           | Sebastopol                  |
| Kemplen Robbins  | Santa Rosa                  | Mark Courson         | OES                         |

**Call to Order:** Chief Boaz began the meeting at 0934 and led the pledge.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chief Boaz

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief Boaz welcomed everyone

**Presidents Report:** None

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes. Motion by Sean Grinnell, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Mark Heine All AYE

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

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Chiefs General Fund:   | \$2,951.88          |
| Survivors Fund:        | \$105,896.31        |
| OP's/TO's Fund:        | \$5,207.92          |
| TO's Command Grant     | \$25,000.00         |
| FPO Safety Trailer:    | \$10,231.90         |
| Career Succession:     | \$875.64            |
| FPO General Fund:      | \$2898.20           |
| Youth Fire Setter Fund | \$1,041.53          |
| FITF                   | \$1,838.49          |
| Safety Pals Gen. Fund: | \$34,620.47         |
| Safety Pals Trailer:   | \$2,500.00          |
|                        | <b>\$193,062.34</b> |

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentation:**

*Chief Gossner COVID-19 Sonoma County:* 333 cases with 4 deaths. Must have a 14 day period without a death to move to the next phase of re-opening. Pressure from all Counties with-in the State to the Governor to speed up the re-opening. Parks opening up so people can drive there. All mask orders are still in place. Changes are happening every day. First responder testing opened last week for all with or with-out symptoms.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

*Ambulance RFP Process-Chief Heine:* Very large stake holders group working on the EMS ordinance. The group is made up of field, private and public providers, hospital admin. ER doctors, County Admin and EMS agencies. Last couple of weeks a letter was sent out to the stake holders advising them on direction for the RFP development. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak the stake holder group would not be able to meet. It was decided to issue an electronic Survey Monkey to all service providers with 7-8 questions that would be used to help form the continued development of the RFP. There was great value in the stake holders approach, rather than having a survey done Chief Heine suggested to the Chiefs group working on a letter of discontent with the process and sharing our concerns and having ALS agencies collectively get together and respond. Chief Boas stated he would work on getting a letter drafted and sent out. Chief Thompson stated that he agreed with Chief Heine's request for the letter. Chief Akre also agreed that the survey would be a fall back and not effective. Chief Boaz stated that he would craft the letter with Chief Heine and Chief Akre that we could send on behalf of the Chiefs Association. Bodega Bay and Santa Rosa are also in agreement. Chief Schach asked since the survey is due tomorrow, should we complete it? Chief Heine stated that all the stake holders should respond to the survey and have a group meeting this afternoon to discuss it.

*LAFCO Sphere of Influence Study-Chief Heine:* The Board of Supervisors last year asked the fire service with the Working Group for recommendations for Sphere of Influences to LAFCO. Due to COVID-19 there was no meeting and the Board of Supervisors had tabled the item for their meeting. Due to the restrictions in the electronic public meetings with public comments the group decided to push this back in hoping some COVID restrictions are lifted and be able to make comments in a public set meeting. The Fire Service Working Group has submitted the recommendations to the commission.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Fire Service Working Group:** The group has not met since COVID-19 outbreak.

**SMART:** Doug Williams reported issues due to lack of revenues will cause extensive cuts. Anyone that knows of any potential projects on the right away to please let SMART know early on.

**Regional Zone Reports:** Chief Boaz asked for and received the following reports

**CALFIRE:** Chief Nicholls reported they will hiring the next wave of firefighters next week to staff one engine per battalion. Level 3 staffing will be starting May 25<sup>th</sup>. Aircraft will be on base June 1<sup>st</sup>. Copter 901 bucket only in place of 104. Attack crew will be available in early June. Defensible space inspections will be starting May 25<sup>th</sup> at the engine Co. level.

**Zone 3:** No report

**Zone 4:** No report

**Zone 5:** Chief Lunardi reported Occidental will be losing Falk Ambulance on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chief Heine reported LAFCO approved Russian River annexation and goes live July 1. Bodega Bay was removed from the application process due to funding short falls.

**Zone 6:** No report

**Zone 7:** No report

**Zone 8:** Chief Grinnell stated that Bodega Bay is committed to be annexed by Sonoma County Fire District.

**Zone 9:** No report

**OES:** Chief Courson reported tomorrow is the Region 2 virtual meeting. If anyone had anything for the meeting to please contact him.

**Training OP's:** Chief Williams advised HazMat training will be offered sometime later in 2020. Chief Andreis reported the TO's did not meet yesterday. Biggest issue with Tablet Command is the one way communication issues with the CAD. The apparatus renumbering has been put on hold due to the COVID-19. Overhead refresher class will be next Wednesday. This will be a WebEx format. If you have not registered/RSVP please contact Spencer since this will be an invite only class.

**FPO's:** Kemplen reported they had a Zoom meeting last month. Safety Pals working on PSA videos for kids. Productions will be put out through YouTube and other means. Currently working on a COVID-19 PSA skit. Cyndi Foreman reported Safety Pals is also working on Water Safety, Ready Set Go, Cyber Safety, Distracted Walking and 911 skits. All will be ADA compliant as well in Spanish.

**Fire Districts:** Chief Akre reported that the scheduled April meeting was not held. Planning on what can be done for the July meeting due to current COVID restrictions. Possible WebEx or Zoom type meeting. The Glen Ellen Fire District's application to LAFCO was approved. The new District will be Mayacamas, Sonoma Valley, Glen Ellen and Valley of the Moon.

**Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson reported Two Rock will be moving in to the new station on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Vegetation Management:** Chief Williams reported the Board has asked for ordinance amendments which now has been pushed back until June. This will not affect the season getting started this year. Focus will be in the LRA this year, Chipper program started on May 4<sup>th</sup> with already over 260 applications. Chief Jenkins asked a question in regards to last year's inspections in the SRA, will we be still doing those in addition the this year's inspections? Chief Williams stated we will only be doing the LRA this year.

#### **Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:**

**Fire/EMS:** No report

**County Alerting System:** No report

**Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief Gossner reported today Linda Hopkins will be putting on a virtual town meeting that he will be attending along with Dr. Mace, Sam Wallace, Ben Nicholls and Roberta McIntire to discuss in a town hall environment vegetation management and fire preparedness. Funding for up staffing, we have around \$300,000.00 left in funding. We spent \$389,000.00 last year and just over \$300,000.00 the year before. Last year we had 12 up staffing events. We have the potential to run out of funding this year. Region 2 meeting tomorrow at 10AM. Mutual Aid will be one of the discussion points. May 25th we will be moving from winter veg mode to summer veg mode in REDCOM. Mutual Aid this season may be diminished this year due to the COVID-19. Chief Gossner asked the group if they will be able to provide the same amount of Mutual Aid as last year or less due to the current conditions. Chief Jenkins stated that Zone 6 should be able to provide the same as last year. Any Chief Officer in your District, if you have a fast moving fire, you have the ability to ask for any of those resources. Remember when asking for these resources, this is Mutual Aid and there is no reimbursement unless the incident turns into a large scale event. Chief Nichols stated that when asking for the resources it must be done in conjunction with the unified command structure and Cal Fire needs to be notified. Fire Camps this year will look different due to COVID-19. Camps may be broken up into 3 to 4 smaller camps. Sleep trailers may not be considered. Looking into pushing out a directive for all of our crews in the County for hotels and not having to sleep in tents on the ground. This would be an additional expense, Chief Gossner asked the group on their thoughts on this. Chief Akre agreed and supported this. Chief Jenkins also supported this as well and added to try and continue to sleep crews locally at their respective stations. Chief Bellach asked if there were agencies that could not afford a hotel, could money be used from the County up staffing to help fund the hotels. Chief Nicholls added that hotels may not be cleaned to the standard and need to be treated as a contaminated area. A plan (unified) will be put together for all County agencies involved on ST/TF to utilize hotels. REDCOM Duty Chief, asking that the Duty Chief be put

inside REDCOM during REDFLAG warnings to work for the entire event. Anyone who would like to be a REDCOM Duty Chief please contact Spencer Andreis, Mark Heine or Tony Gossner. Training takes a few hours to get started. Chief Bellach asked for the REDCOM Duty officer work station be updated with all the information needed to make the job easier.

**REDCOM:** KT McNulty reported REDCOM is continuing to screen calls for COVID-19 symptoms. Dept. of Health approached REDCOM to help a COV-19 negative results call out center. Ken Reese reported that ROSS is now gone and IROC is up and running for this wildland season. The maintenance agreement with tablet command/CAD vendor does not allow for third parties to do work on it. The cost for this vendor agreement was very high. New CAD and phone upgrades will allow remote phone a radios to be used outside the dispatch center. Asking agencies for Beta testing with iPads using Mobile Responder. This may be something that could replace the MDC in the future.

**Closed Session:** None

**Good of the Order:** Chief Bellach received the donation check for the Survivors Reunion and had asked if anyone had the address to send it out. Doug Williams stated he would contact him. Chief Bellach also asked if he should be putting the conference call meeting connection information on the agenda for future reference. Chief Boaz thought we should keep this information off the agenda. Chief Bates stated Rohnert Park had the ground breaking on the West Side station last week. Chief Heine stated that the Forestville Fire District Board voted to pursue consolidation with Sonoma County Fire District. Sonoma County Fire District is looking into staffing ALS services in the Occidental area.

**Adjournment:** @ 11:01AM

**Next Meeting:** June 10<sup>th</sup> at Sonoma Valley Fire

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach  
SCFCA Secretary