



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
 March 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 9:30 AM  
 Hosted By Healdsburg

**Attendance:**

James Colangelo	Sonoma County	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley
Aaron Abbott	REDCOM	Dave Francheschi	Forestville
Dean Anderson	AMR	Mike Mickelson	Wilmar
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Dave Franceschi	Forestville
Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa	Doug Williams	Retired
Bill Bullard	Graton	Randy Collins	SRJC ARTP
Todd Derum	CALFIRE	Rochelle Pollard	ATT
James Williams	Sonoma County	Chris Godley	Sonoma County
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Kristi Mercado	ATT
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Mike Bates	RPDPS
Dan George	GV/BV	Jeff Schach	Petaluma
Linda Collister	Healdsburg	Rhuenette Alums	ATT

**Call to Order:** Chief Derum called the meeting to order at 0935 and asked Chief Boaz to lead the pledge.

**Host Chief Intro:** Chief Boaz welcomed the group, explained logistics and the lunch arrangements.

**President’s Report:** Chief Derum reminded the group to stay true to the goals of the organization and to let him know if you have presentations that you would like to see at future meetings.

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

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

Chiefs General Fund:	\$5,315.19
Survivors Fund:	\$108,031.31
OP’s/TO’s Fund:	\$19,098.22
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$7,156.90
Career Succession:	\$4,637.28
FPO General Fund:	\$3,110.44
FITF	\$2,095.09
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$41,155.31
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$193,799.74

Motion to approve by Chief Braga, second by Chief Grinnell. Unanimous vote.

**Correspondence:** Randy shared the email and photos from Pam Tarango of the Elks expressing her thanks for attending their FF Appreciation dinner Feb 15 at the Elks and her interest in approaching the group later this year about next year’s event.

Jim Colangelo introduced Chris Godley who is serving in an interim capacity in Emergency Management. He can be reached at Chris Helgren's old number and will be convening a meeting of law and fire leaders to get an overview of our needs and concerns. Chris, shared his last assignment was in San Jose Fire so he is glad to be back among friends.

### **Presentations:**

Chief Derum introduced Rhuenette Alums, Kristy Mercado, Michelle Brown and Rochelle Pollard of ATT who spoke to the First Net Project: She began by providing a background that the origins came from 911 with a mandate to promote interoperability. ATT was awarded a 25 year contract with Homeland Security to implement the program which includes build-out of areas that have poor coverage (Salt Point is one of the first in our area). Each State had an option to opt in or opt out with California was one of the last to opt in. She reported some features of the system include:

- Six core areas that cover the US where if one fails, another takes over.
- Overlay of a "Band 14" to enhance coverage
- Providing "In Building" solutions for poor coverage inside structures
- It is not a substitute for GETS or WPS (which are voice systems) as Firstnet is a data system
- As firefighters, we are considered the primary group that has priority over all other users.
- They have an 800 number 24/7 for support

The goal is to have coverage in 99% of the US. In urban areas such as Oakland, this is being accomplished through the use of mini cells on utility poles. More information on the system can be found at: [FirstNet.gov](http://FirstNet.gov). Next steps in this process will be CALOES reaching out to local agencies.

Kristi ended by encouraged the group to contact her if they have any questions [Kristi.mercado@att.com](mailto:Kristi.mercado@att.com) 707-640-0418. For mobility issues contact Michelle Brown [mb803p@att.com](mailto:mb803p@att.com) 707-529-8603

Director Abbott reminded the group that all MDC's are on the Verizon contract because of coverage issues with ATT and he anticipates quite a bit of work being required before the transition to ATT will occur but commended them on maintaining their infrastructure during the October fires.

### **Old Business:**

- **Peer Support & Secret Santa Gift/Peer Support:** Chief Boaz shared that there have been no developments since the last meeting

**New Business:** None

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

- **Training/OP's:** Randy shared they met yesterday and adopted their goals for 2018 to include the following:
  - Reviewing the 2017 deployments (conducted yesterday 11 ST's and approx. 120 Overhead positions which does not include our Oct. incidents)
  - Continue to maintain training calendar on the website
  - Continue liaisons with Chief's, FPO's, Marin TO's
  - Host a RIO & Ethics Class (RIO is June 19, Ethics June 20)
  - Develop common terminology for evacuation protocols (with FPO's)
  - Continue to encourage Zone drills
  - Host a STL/Overhead Refresher course (April 23)
  - Recognize Staff achievements at Installation Luncheon
  - Implement a single "All Call" page (done-no up to each agency to program their paging systems)
  - Develop a Tactical Response to conflagrations course (part of the STL/Overhead refresher class)
  - Develop a tactical response to mass shootings
  - Develop Draw-down protocols (Chief Andreis will be contacting Zone Chiefs to confirm min staff levels)

In response to Chief Gossner' questions about next steps and timelines for the "All Call" page, Director Abbott said he would provide that information to the group.

- **FPO's: Chief Collister** shared they have been getting contacted to conduct community meetings, have "Ready Set Go" brochures for distribution and have updated their Youth Fire Setter Program
- **Fire Districts:** Chief Akre shared the annual Fire District's conference is April 10-13. He also shared the Advisory Council will pick up the differences in reimbursement (ABH vs Mutual Aid). Chief Colangelo reminded the group that this pertained to workers comp and not equipment related issues.
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Mickelson indicated they will be holding a Pancake Breakfast at Wilmar on March 25<sup>th</sup>, to provide relief for those first responders who lost homes in the fires.

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

- **Fire EMS Committee:** Chief Akre shared they held their second workgroup meeting. Chris Thomas has taken over as the Chairperson for the group. They meet every other Monday 930-11. They are down to about 30 members and hope to narrow it further. There is agreement that the existing contract will need to be extended (one year) and will be going to the BOS who will make the request to State EMS. Chief Schach reminded the group of the wide implications any outcome will have on the entire EMS system.
- **Fire Recovery/AAR:** Chief Gossner reported they have developed a scope of work for the AAR that has been forwarded to the County. SR has opened a RFP for the EOC and another for all responders. He emphasized that the reports also have to "dovetail" in with other AAR (Sonoma County). He expects the cost to be approx. \$90k. He also spoke to the strong interest amongst the public to install warning sirens and that we need to be involved in the dialogue that surrounds it (and the pitfalls if we do not get involved). Chief Colangelo shared that Chris Godley's has been tasked with putting together a stakeholder's group (including us), to develop a plan but cautioned it will be a rough road due to the public frustration. There was consensus that the first step is to develop a policy followed by a notification matrix which is the plan for the work group. A conversation about the unpredictability of the process, the weather and technology followed.
- **County Alerting System:** Covered above

**REDCOM:** Director Abbott began by sharing his perspective of the First Net presentation. In 2012 the Feds obtained 10 MGHZ of bandwidth to provide communications capability for first responders (which is a lot) in response to the Boston bombing. When they put the bid out, ATT was the only one to respond. Verizon chose to instead provide as an option a similar system with the same coverage capabilities. The "Band 14" which is a separate band is unique and will only work with Band 14 devices. The good news is all our current devices work with the priority features the system offers. He expects it will take a long time for it to be operational in Sonoma County. In the end, it is conceivable that once the system is up and running, we may still be conducting business as usual on the Verizon network we currently use for our MDC's.

He added that in regards to the "All Call" page, the deadline that was shared for agencies to implement the capability in house is May 1 but there is no date to conduct a test. The REDCOM budget has also been approved and he has been working with Santa Rosa to develop interoperability repeater channels and they will be conducting some testing and confirm if they need permission by the State to use

**Closed Session:** There was no closed session.

#### **Good of the Order:**

- Chief Braga shared the passing of Warren Powers (35 years with CALFIRE and 20 with Sebastopol). A memorial service will be on April 14 at 10 AM at Pleasant Hill funeral home in Sebastopol
- Graton and Forestville is hosting a Safety Fair on Saturday April 7 10-2 at Graton Fire. Chief Bullard also spoke to responding to a Large Animal Rescue and outlined how coverage is provided for these incidents.
- Chief George reminded folks to turn their surveys in. OES is looking to fill the rep for our region and a Type I OES engine from Marin County will be available. They will be holding an Engineer's test and will be taking delivery of two Type III's tomorrow

- Chief Gossner indicated they have an academy of 9 starting. He also spoke to his participation on Cal-Chief's "De-Risk" group that will be asking for \$100m to help pay for resource pre-positioning for Red Flag events.
- Dean Anderson reminded the group May 20-26 is EMS week and they will be holding events such as CPR training, etc.
- Director Abbott said Nat'l Dispatcher week is April 11
- Chief Williams reported that on April 3<sup>rd</sup> they will be doing a presentation on their pilot veg. management plan at the BOS. He spoke to the challenges in implementing one in a County with so many fire agencies
- Chief Schach reported he is heading up a personnel investigation
- Chief Mickelson shared his experience responding to staging for a reported shooting, being released and then being called back to the same incident for another medical aid (the marijuana home invasion). He inquired if there is a way to get better information to avoid this. Director Abbott suggested using Active 911 (Ken Reese can help you set it up). Chief Boaz indicated there is another system called Bricks that has many of the same features.
- Chief Bates shared that they will be conducting a Standards of Cover study and will *NOT* be getting out of the fire business
- Randy indicated he will be on vacation during the next meeting and asked if someone could take minutes in his absence. To accommodate that, Chief Derum changed the meeting date to April 18.
- Chief Boaz shared that effective July 11 they will go to 3 person staffing. On March 19 at 4 PM, he will be participating in a town hall at Geyserville with Chief Jenkins & Turbeville to get community feedback in Zone 6.

**Next Meeting:** April 18<sup>th</sup> at Gold Ridge

**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

Respectfully Submitted: March 15, 2018

Randy Collins,  
SCFCA Secretary