



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2022 at 8:30 AM
Santa Rosa Training Tower**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale Fire
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Evonne Stevens	REDCOM
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire	Tony Gossner	Rancho Adobe Fire
Chris Godley	DEM	Bonnie Plakos	NSCFPD
Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE
Chris Tubbs	CalChiefs	Mike NcCallum	Santa Rosa Fire
Chad Costa	Petaluma Fire	Spencer Andreis	Sonoma Valley Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Aaron Johnson	RPPS
Mike Marcucci	CALFIRE	Hans Henneberque	H & S Associates
Steve Suter	Santa Rosa Fire	Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa Fire
Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire	Anthony Westergaard	Santa Rosa Fire
Bill Bullard	Graton Fire	Matt Windrim	Sonoma County Fire
James Salvante	CVEMS	Donovan Lee	PG&E
Bill Braga	Sebastopol Fire	Caerleon Safford	
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg Fire	Sheply Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Brian Diemer	PG&E	Ken Reese	REDCOM
KT McNulty	REDCOM		

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Heine

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Westrope welcomed everyone.

Presidents Report: Chief Heine reported the EMS committee has been working hard. Have been working with local politicians at the State and Fed level. Talking about funding opportunities and continuing to have discussions with PG&E about potential funding for behavioral health programs for first responders. Officer's selection for 2023 SCFCA.

Approval of Minutes: None

Treasurer's Report: Hans reported:

Chief's General Fund	\$3,889.71
Survivor's Fund	\$96,396.31
Training Officer's Fund	\$2,050.44
Training Officer's – Command Tablets	\$(259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$4,082.90
FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$13,306.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$388.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$2,176.6
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53

Safety Pals general Fund	\$24,890.62
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00
Total	\$150,463.92

Hans added that the FPO's donated \$500.00 to the Alisa Ann Ruch Foundation.

Correspondence: None

Presentation: Caerleon Safford – Update on CWPP – Getting close for BOS approval. The three requirements for a CWPP are: Collaborative, Identify the areas for hazardous fuel reduction and recommend types and methods of treatment and recommend measures to reduce the ignitability of structures. The CWPP creates a pathway to solutions and a tool to help prioritize and implement high priority projects with all stakeholders. Some of the projects that support are: underserved populations, access & egress, defensible space, ignition resistant construction, community education, community planning, fuel breaks, ecosystem health and fire support services. Chief Heine thanked Caerleon on her leadership on the CWPP.

2022/2023 President Chris Tubbs – California Fire Chiefs Association – Chief Tubbs is with the Southern Marin Fire District. Chief Tubbs reported CFCA is working on internal realignment in administration processes and improvements with CFCA structure and E Board. Some of the sections have been disconnected. They have a task force set up who are looking to bring the groups together and looking at some opportunities for realignment. EMSA is currently under a strategic planning process. They have a new interim director since November of last year. The new director has done a lot in opening the doors of communication. We are starting to see some things in EMSA that are offering some encouragement. We know we have a lot of issues to solve with 201 Rights and Chapter 15. We can have these conversations now and the director is open to the concerns of the fire service. The strategic plan is supposed to be done in the February 2023 time frame. One of the most pressing issues is the PPGEMT Program, This is the payer process if you are an ALS transport agency. There are Podcasts available on this if you are interested. This is a new program that will begin January 1st, 2023. This is underneath the Social Security Act that provides Federal Funding that starts from the Federal Government and delivered down to the State level. They have a team that has been working with DHCS for the last 3 years. This has been very frustrating to say the least. They have been trying to get the States attention to see the complexity of the process in which you can determine the cost of your system is and what reimbursement rates you would be getting. There is a disconnect right now across the State in regards to the understanding of this. Another issue is in regards to insurance cancellations and/or policy increases to home owners in the WUI. There is work going on in the background. If a home owner participates in such programs as in the CWPP, should they not see that reflected in their policies? Most likely, yes. The group is identifying those mitigations that matter and we still have a ways to go.

Old Business: None

New Business: Appoint a new nomination committee to solicit nomination for the SCFCA Officers 2023. The nominations will be brought back to the full association in December and will be voted on. Chief Westrope and Chief Gossner will be the nominations committee.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Heine reported they are supporting the remainder consolidation efforts, Gold Ridge and North Bay Fire with annexation of the remaining VFC's and Geyserville's continued annexations. Still moving ahead with the proposed County Tax Measure, looking at the November 2024 ballot. This would be a petition driven measure.

Chief Gossner asked if the BOS Fire Ad Hoc Committee would be coming back. Chief Heine stated that he felt it would not be coming back under James Gore Leadership, but maybe with the change out of the Chair next month.

SMART: Doug Williams reported they added a mid-day train service in the beginning of October that has helped with the return of passengers. As of yesterday they were close to pre pandemic levels. They have enough engineers that they can add these trains and some of the special trains. There may be more in the future. Still looking for funding for the Healdsburg and Windsor extensions. A lot of work going on with the pathways. They have opened some new ones and planning some new ones. It would be a good idea to be involved with your local planning agencies if you have any ideas of using those pathways for access. The freight system had a little set back a few days ago. One of the bridges out by Schellville failed. Repairs need to be done to restore connection. Talking about taking the ESZ's and using that as a way to automatically notify SMART when there is an incident. Tablet Command might even be a tool that could fit into this. SMART needs to hear your feedback regarding your incidents.

PG & E: Brian Diemer and Donovan Lee introduced themselves as the new Public Safety Specialists.

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Marcucci reported that they will move to one engine per station on November 21st. This will leave us with 21 engines in the unit. By December 19th the unit will be shut off. This will leave us 2 engines, 1 in the west and 1 in the North East. We will have the 5 Amador engines. Fixed wing aircraft are gone in the region. Columbia Airbase and Hollister Airbase are open through November. Copter 104 will stay on until November 21st. Copter 903 in the Santa Clara Unit and Copter 205 in the Tehama Glen Unit for the winter coverage. The exclusive use copter is still at Napa that will be moving to McCullum today or tomorrow. The FF hand crew will be on until December 31st. Last year for the combined acreage was at 2.5 million, this year we are at 362,000 acres. In the next 4 years CALFIRE will be hiring 827 people for FF Crews. This will put on 17 additional crews. They received \$100M and \$12.7M on going to put on 4 more Black Hawks for 24/7 operations statewide.

Chief Nicholls reported that the broadcast burning should be tapering off in the next couple weeks. There will be some burning by Fire Forward out at the coast as well as working in Annadel up against Oakmont and then transitioning to the County line at Wall rd. to reinforce the ridge top dozer line. Marshall is working out on the coast burning piles at Fort Ross, Cruz Ranch and Gualala Point Park.

Zone 3: Chief Akre reported they have a badge pinning tonight of 42 personnel. The Board approved the purchase of Motorola APX 8000 radios. If any other agency is interested in purchasing please let him know and he will explore options for price breaks.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: Chief Jenkins reported they will be burning 150 piles along the river corridor tomorrow.

Chief Boaz reported plans to break ground for the fire substation will be in the early spring. Their CWPP is in draft form and is almost done. They continue to work on the fuels reduction, they have been doing a lot of work on Fitch Mountain and Healdsburg Ridge. They have been struggling with their reserve program and maintaining reserve FF's. They are bringing on 5 new people now and another 5 next year. Wayne Bell passed away last month. This is a big loss for the family as well as the community.

Zone 7: Chief Westrope reported last night Measure H passed. This was a quarter cent sales tax measure. Steve Suter will be retiring at the end of the year. He will be missed. Happy retirement Steve!

Chief Heine reported that Sonoma County 1 is up and running for the last 3 weeks. They are now in winter mode and will have a command presence 3 days a week at the air base. They have a very large consulting team working on preparing the bid for the EOA 1 RFP. There has been a lot of stakeholder involvement. The RFP document should solicit some really good bids from a variety of providers. They will get back into doing coffee with FF events with-in their communities and stations. The first one will be next Saturday at Station 10 (Bodega Bay). They received a grant to purchase a fire/rescue boat for station 10. Last night with the elections they had 3 incumbents running for reelection and all were reelected.

Chief Busch reported the new engine in Larkfield (7582) it should be in service next week.

Zone 8: Chief Bullard reported they had 4 out of their 5 seats open for election. 3 of the four were filled and the 4th seat is tied right now. The Board approved \$800,000.00 for new SCBA's for Graton, Sebastopol and Monte Rio, this was through an AFG Grant.

Zone 9: Chief Johnson reported they have 5 in the academy. Engine 9983 is in service at station 3 and have also moved the truck to that location. They had a code last week in the Target parking lot and a Sonoma County Paramedic off duty saw it hit on Pulse Point and arrived and started CPR.

Chief Gossner reported they are looking for a full time fire chief. They have one candidate Jeff Veliquette who is going through his background right now. The start date will be in the beginning of December.

OES: No report

Training OP's: Chief Andreis reported they had a presentation from Life West with their Tactical Ambulance that was purchased from FDNY. It has been offered up to the County to use. They all were able to see it and go through it. They are looking into how they can incorporate into their active shooter drill. This week the 2022 guidelines for CICC'S are to be adopted. A lot of the changes will be with the FEMA USAR Teams, the different positions will be added to the guidebook. A lot of trainees came into the system as of last summer and very few participated. Remember you have 5 years once you have initiated a task book to complete it. There will be a little bit of a price increase for Tablet Command. The 2 way AVL base will be \$900.00 starting next year. Everything post June

that was added into the system has been tried up, so you may see a bill for anyone who was added after our last invoicing. There are 4 agencies withdrawing MDC funds that were already paid, those funds will be used for TC. A grant has been submitted for 60 tablets approx. \$250,000.00. Chief Busch came and did an overview of Sonoma County 1 copier and shared all the opportunities that are out there for all agencies. They did their Officer nominations yesterday. Anthony Westergaard is the new secretary. Looking at having multiple volunteer firefighter academy's in the future, working with SRJC to make that happen. Talked about BC boundary drops throughout the county, overall had some good discussions. Also talked about a regional 15 member T-1 Swift Water Team, looking at about \$70,000.00 in equipment needs to get it started and looking into the requirements with OES to get typed.

FPO's: No report

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported the State FDAC just put on their 2 day leadership symposium. It was a really good training for up and coming Chief Officers. They should be hosting this again next year. We held a in person meeting and dinner in October cohosted by Kenwood and Sonoma County Fire. There was presentation on the history of the Fire Districts Association and where we want to go for the future. This conversation will continue at our December meeting. If you or your board members have an interest in where we go as an association in the future, please try to attend. We will be looking at reviewing the bylaws and start the process in December to elect new officers. For those members either in the employee members benefit association through FDAC or members of FASIS, we continue to move those 2 agencies forward in consolidating in an effort to continue to provide the best service to members at the most reasonable costs.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Schroth-Cary reported that are continuing with the LAFCO process to be consolidated by July 2023.

Vegetation Management: Chief Bellach reported that chipping season has closed and transitioning to TPW and community projects. Departments that are participating in DSI inspections, please get in your final invoices so they can take care of any unresolved invoices. They will have a debrief and set-up for next season. If you would like to have a monthly meeting to cover any topic please contact Steve.

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported he wanted to thank REDCOM and Chief Suter for their work in revitalizing the MedLife Program. This is the ability if you have a clinic that is high functioning enough and they don't need a first response on every single call. They work with CVEMS and REDCOM to eliminate the need to get that engine there if it's a low key call. They have the anti-draw epi program complete. It is in special memo form, they could not go through a 90-120 process to a formal policy. If anyone has any question, please call James. There are a couple of policies out on regular track. This is a 60 day public comment period. One is a paramedic accreditation policy and is on the website for review. Also coming out with a preceptor evaluator revisions. Preceptors will start to be approved separate from evaluators. Working on the leave behind narcan program. This would be a policy that allows when EMS comes on scene and they believe it would benefit the PT to leave narcan on scene with instructions for the PT. This would keep EMS from having to go back again and again. They are tracking a statewide increase in influenza RSV illnesses in pediatric populations. The state is concerned that they may overwhelm the incoming flu season for pediatric beds that are available. They are trying to get ahead of that and think about how they can increase the pediatric bed

capacity. More to follow. On December 15th there will be a seminar in Berkley that you can register for now for free. This will go over the community paramedic regulations.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: No report

Fire/EMS: Chief Akre reported they have been working really hard with others to get the RFP out that was a level playing field for everybody. This has been the primary focus over the last five to six months. They are continuing to look at policy review, bylaws and working closely with the EMCC. In talks with the SO on possible expansion of REDCOM in the current building they are in. They are trying to add 4-6 consuls. Chief Akre added the REDCOM subcommittee for recruitment of the Executive Director met and they have 2 candidates that will be interviewing next week.

DEM: Chris Godley reported they are still taking requests for LED signs through November 30th. This afternoon is the annual Russian River flood prep operations and logistics meeting in Graton. DEM and Sonoma Water will be hosting table top exercises for water systems and earthquake disasters on December 14th.

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: No report,

REDCOM: Evonne reported that ken Reese has ordered the IPads for Petaluma, Rancho Adobe and Sonoma Valley. They are continuing to make less traffic on REDCOM by not posting ambulances on that channel. They will be doing some testing with SLS over the next few weeks.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: None

Adjournment: @ 10:03am

Next Meeting: December 14th at Rancho Adobe Fire.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary