



# SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

## MEETING AGENDA

Hosted by Rancho Adobe, Cotati Station

November 9, 2011, 9:30 am.

### Attendance

Randy Collins	SRJC	Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay
Dan Northern	Forestville	Darin DeCarli	Gold Ridge
Max Ming	Forestville	Frank Treanor	Rancho Adobe
Peter Van Fleet	Glen Ellen	Bill Shuben	Santa Rosa
Bob Uboldi	Kenwood	Doug Williams	Central
John Marty	Rohnert Park	Jeff Holden	Petaluma
Gary Duignan	Red Cross	Larry Anderson	Petaluma
Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale	John Lantz	Central
Dick Luttrell	REDCOM	Cary Fergus	Petaluma
Cyndi Foreman	Central	Robert McIntyre	County

**Call to Order:** President Collins called the meeting to order at 0936

President Collins asked for a moment of silence for retired Rincon Valley Fire Chief Carl Lawson. Chief Williams said Chief Lawson was Chief of the Rincon Valley Fire District from 1964-79 and was one of the founding members of this chiefs association and President in 1972. In addition to his longstanding contributions to the fire service, Chief Lawson was also a decorated WWII veteran who carried shrapnel from the conflict most of his life.

**Host Chief Introduction:** Chief Treanor welcomed the group, described that what does not kill you makes you stronger and shared a quote from a former San Francisco Fire Chef. President Collins thanked Chief Treanor for the change in venue.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chief Williams moved to approve the minutes of the October meeting and Chief Treanor seconded. All were in favor.

**President's Report:** President Collins reported the e-Board met on October 22, 2011 and reported on the following: A date for the 2012 Planning session (Dec 1<sup>st</sup>) and the flyer had already been distributed. He asked that anyone with ideas or issues to be discussed should email him and to RSVP since lunch will be provided. SRA fee meetings with state representatives are complete and more will be planed as needed. Chief Northern said that we should adopt the same wait and see attitude that FDAC is taking with regard to the SRA fee issue. The e-Board also discussed and confirmed the broader role for the organization's Secretary/Treasurer in order to help align the Chiefs and sub-groups with reporting compliance issues. He added he would try and finish before 11 in case anyone had to participate in the test of the Nation-Wide Alert system.

**Treasurer's Report:** The following balances were reported: Checking \$ 679.13; Survivor Fund checking \$ 15,664.14; Survivors fund CD \$ 116,752.60

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentations:** None

**Committee Reports-**

**Training section:** B/C Holden reported no changes from last month's report. The planning session will take place on the 22 at 9am.

**Prevention:** FPO Fergus reported the group is busy working with Solar Sonoma to get consistent policies in place. FPO Fergus explained the code challenges of a local Auto-body shop with three buildings in three different areas. The group is continuing to offer PSA's each month. The current concerns cooking safety as it being the leading cause of fires and fire deaths. Cary has asked for reports from all the committees of the sub-group and he will bring these items to the planning meeting with the chiefs. The group is also beginning to explore replacement options for the Fire Safety trailer with a desire is to have it be more complementary with the Safety Pals program. Towing is always an issue and a newer trailer might offer less weight and better technology. Chief Treanor asked what will become of the current trailer. The old trailer could be used for the south county (items to be considered in a replacement plan). He added that FITF is in the process of looking for a team coordinator to replace Randy Mulheim. Elections for the FPO's will be held but the slate looks very much like this year's officers. Fire Pals has turned into a big program with wide-spread support. FPO Cyndi Foreman reported that they were approached by SCSO in order to add fire and life safety aspects to a Southern California program, crime free business, which the SCSO wants to use, and wants FPO's input. The first presentation is scheduled for April and to other areas of the County afterward. Approximately \$5300 in donations has been collected. Meetings will be scheduled with service groups to aid with financial needs. Several Safety Pals members will attend "Clown College" and when that is complete they will put out a call for more volunteers.

The order of inspector's guidebooks is in & ready for pick-up. Thanks to Central Fire for making it happen.

**Operations:** No report. Next meeting will be the planning session planned for November 22 at 9:00am.

**Districts Chiefs:** Next meeting is January 26.

**Volunteer Firefighters Association:** No report

**Cad Group:** Chief Williams reported the group met in October. Primary discussions were centered on the future of the run map program and CAD related issues. The next meeting is planned for February.

**Cal EMA Operational Area:** Chief Williams reported on a deployment for a Type III S/T to Napa during week of Carl Lawson's Memorial. The order went through quickly and closest resources were used; the closest STL (24 hour B/C) was used. Everyone was on the road quickly. One department did not report soon enough and was replaced with the next due and they got on the road quickly. B/C Holden asked about meeting in between or going direct to the scene? Chief Williams said they should have responded in to the scene. The Region II meeting will be on the 30th in Dublin. Chief Howard asked Chief Williams to query our group for subject matter issues for the agenda. Chief Northern suggested that they discuss STL refresher training and added that the number or type of Green sheets to be reduced in order make sure we are not inundated with so many reports that we do not treat them like spam. No further questions were asked. All-in-all it was a quiet season...two call outs...to more than last year.

**County Fire:** Chief MacIntyre said he had no report.

**EMCC:** Chief Shubin reported that the EMS agency is looking at revenue sources to help offset funding losses. On November 28 (at AMR-South A Street) from 1 to 3pm the EMCC will hold a special meeting to discuss the idea of new fees. Chief Anderson shared that when the issue of transport fees was raised at the August meeting and the group had authorized a letter in opposition, he and Chief Garcia had met with the Director of Health Services Rita Scardachi instead. However, with some questions not yet answered, it might be warranted to do so. Chief Williams suggested that an e-board meeting be held in order to regroup and create alternatives. President Collins said that he had sent emails inviting Rita and had no response. Chief Northern asked if we should write the letter now. Implementation is set for the 12/13 fiscal year.

Chief Williams urged this group to give the e-Board the opportunity and flexibility to respond. This item will be placed on the planning agenda.

**Legislation:** No report

**Grants:** Chief Anderson reported that the Homeland Security Grants have been submitted to the State and the earliest we can expect to hear anything is December at the earliest.

**SRJC Advisory:** President Collins reported on the Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Course attendance is going well with the exception of Instructor I-C which had to be cancelled recently for low enrollment. The Marin TO's reported on making large gains toward regionalizing their program which also provided a possible model to follow with one an opportunity here to save costs by sharing resources with the JC. The Volunteer Firefighter curriculum created by Chiefs Northern and MacIntyre is changed to a certificate program so as to provide a mechanism to compensate instructors and units for students. The advanced EMT program is in limbo due to funding issues with CVEMS. Mendocino College program is going through the accreditation but having issues. A strong desire to create more training regionalization was expressed by the committee.

**CHP Liaison:** No report

**Red Cross:** Gary Duignan reported that the Red Cross helped out with the Armstrong incident. Santa Rosa is offering a care and shelter class taught by the Red Cross. Call the SR Park and Recreation at 543-7340.

**Marin Chiefs:** No report

**Fire Safe Sonoma:** Chief MacIntyre reported that FSS is working on funding to re-print the *Living with Fire* booklet and is looking for grants for artwork and printing. Chief MacIntyre asked everyone to review and to offer feedback. At PRMD, there are some policy conflicts with the defensible space requirements that need to be worked out with the Planning Department. The Chipper program is looking at using the Napa model for future years (using trained staff to operate vs. hiring 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors) which may present an opportunity for collaboration exists between local fire agencies. The Roadside Fuels Program is in the RFP process with up to 150 miles of roads having been identified as hazardous.

**Cal Fire:** No report.

**Old Business:**

- SRA Fees-no updates
- New EMS Agency Fees-see EMCC portion
- AB 1387 (formerly AB 210)-Chief Williams reported that Cal Chiefs new President is Demetrious Shafer, more outreach will be needed. Southern Cal Chiefs do not like Cal Chiefs position, the final chapter is yet to be written.
- Report from Nominating Committee-Chief Williams reported that no volunteers have come forward.

**New Business:**

Chief Treanor asked if anyone else has received an application (third party) to renew radio license. Chief Treanor was advised to toss the flyer.

**Improving Efficiencies:**

Chief Northern reported that the River Area EOC has been moved to Graton's new fire station.

**Customer Service/Good of the Order:**

Chief MacIntyre reminded everyone that fire investigation task force call-outs should specify the resource needed so REDCOM can communicate in the page-outs including County Fire Officer or individual investigator. He added that if you have a building that is damaged and there are hazards not to leave the building until you can turn the scene over to the Building Official. Chief Northern asked what services they

can offer **A)** Red tag it and take the next steps. Chief Williams asked about the relationship with PG & E for those occasions when the building is unsafe but PG and E will return power regardless of our orders?...It was good but we are losing the knowledge with each change in personnel. Chief MacIntyre ended by inquiring if agencies have been getting code enforcement notices? Some yes and some no.

**Good of the order:**

Forestville appointed Max Ming as the new Fire Chief effective December 1<sup>st</sup>. Chief Northern will still be the alternate op area coordinator.

**REDCOM:** Director Luttrell said we are in winter mode, doing some internal training, and working on the standalone JPA. At some point in time the contract with AMR will sunset and the JPA will need to employ its own employees or contract for the same services. Focus groups are working on projects. Chief Shubin asked if the incumbent workforce would be hired as a condition of any new contract. **A)** There is no provision in place but certainly a desire to keep the current workforce is there. Chief Treanor asked about compensation and benefits- unknown but if the JPA becomes a standalone it would seek provisions for benefits or use another entity's. Current retirement is 401(k) group type. Chief Northern added that pay and benefits would be picked up by the new group not real saving differences from the rest of us. Chief Treanor commented that he was just making sure we offer the same benefits if possible.

Chief Williams added that Tom Forester's father passed away (info provided from Matt Gustofson). President Collins asked for a motion to authorize the e-board for an expression of sympathy. Chief Treanor offered that a donation in his name be made instead of flowers. President Collins asked if there was interest to send flowers or donation. Chief Treanor made a motion (2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Williams). Chief Northern suggested this may open the door for others and suggested it may be worth looking at a policy in the future.

**Closed Session**

**Next Meeting:** December 14 – Santa Rosa-Chief Shubin will follow up with location.

**Adjourned:** 10:59 am.