



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
October 12, 2022 at 8:30 AM  
Graton FD**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Misti Wood	Sonoma County Sheriff
Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire	Evonne Stevens	REDCOM
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire	Tony Gossner	Rancho Adobe Fire
Chris Godley	DEM	Bonnie Plakos	NSCFPD
Matt Windrim	Sonoma County Fire	Bailey Farren	Perimeter
Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire	Ben Nicholls	CALFIRE
Travers Collins	Santa Rosa Fire	Mark Courson	OES
Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire	Ron Lunardi	Occidental 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
Kelly Bradley	North Bay Fire	Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire
Bill Bullard	Graton Fire	Brandon Leitzke	CALFIRE
James Salvante	CVEMS	Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley Fire
Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale Fire		

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chief Heine

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

**Presidents Report:** Chief Heine reported they have been engaged with a lot of the EMS things going on

**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	\$4,332.90
FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$13,306.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$388.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$2,426.26
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53
Safety Pals general Fund	\$24,890.62
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,963.82</b>

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentation:** Evacuation Tags – Misti Wood – Sonoma County Sheriff: Misti presented the Evacuation Tag Program. They started to distribute them in 2021. To date they have distributed 38,000 tags. They have 62,000 remaining. In 2023 they will be looking at some new options to distribute the tags. Misti asked if the Chief's Association would have the evacuation tags in every fire dept. in the Sonoma County Sheriff's response area. They are also considering a mailer out to residents to distribute the tags. Chief Akre brought up the idea of handing out the tags during vegetation management inspections as well as CALFIRE handing them out on their inspections. For more information you can email Misti at: [misti.wood@sonoma-county.org](mailto:misti.wood@sonoma-county.org)

Perimeter App – Bailey Farren: Bailey presented the Perimeter App. This platform will help public safety agencies share information with each other and to the public in real time. They are moving forward with Sonoma County DEM in using the platform. They are doing as much preplanning as possible. They would like to start gathering information such as, hazards and zones. Anything that you might want to share with the public or with each other. One thing they have heard from different agencies is that we are all using different apps and platforms to access information. This platform will integrate with the system we are currently using such as Tablet Command. First responders will be able to download the app and use it. Anyone who would like the app to try out, please contact Bailey to get it. The public will not have to download anything, as information will be pushed out with a link to the information needed.

SCFD Helicopter – Sonoma County 1 – Chief Busch: Chief Busch and Chief Heine discussed the new Sonoma County Helicopter 1 status and capabilities. The helicopter will be in service between REACH and Sonoma County Fire District. They are looking for any feedback to make this program be the best it can be. For Sonoma County Fire District the copter is a critical area firefighting recon platform and an aerial fire suppression platform. For REACH, the copter will provide more EMS missions. This program will not replace or interfere with the Henry 1 program what so ever as well as the CALFIRE Air Attack program. Training is still going on. REACH will be maintaining the aircraft and Sonoma County Fire District will be sharing the operational program. The copter is status for all risk missions and will carry a 120 gallon water bucket. The next step for the pilots will be to get Red Fire Carded for SRA incidents. No long lining or law enforcement missions will be done. The aircraft will follow the CALFIRE Air Attack hours for fire responses. EMS and transports will be the number one mission profile. The aircraft has the ability to monitor all radio channels. XSN Tac 12 will be the local response area Tac used. There will be no cost to LRA fires for the copter. The copter has allocated, 60 hours a year to operate non EMS missions. After the 60 hours, Sonoma County Fire District will be billed from REACH for time. It is not clear as of now, what will be done after the 60 hours. Chief Busch will forward out the PPT presentation and documents so that everyone can view it. If you do fly missions with Sonoma County 1, please send Chief Heine or Busch any comments or questions for feedback.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Chief Heine reported on the Election of officers for 2023 will be coming up. Next month we should appoint a sub-committee to work on nominations. In December will vote in new officers.

## Standing Committee Reports:

**Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Heine reported they are focusing right now on to support Gold Ridge Fires application process through LAFCO to annex the CSA 40 agencies. They are also focusing on North Counties application that is moving through LAFCO for the Soteyome and Fitch Mountain areas as well as Kenwood and Sonoma Valley for staffing agreements and further talks regarding consolidation efforts. They are still focused on a proposed sales tax measure through a petition driven measure. Against this concept is a proposed ballot measure that would require any municipal tax measures to have 2/3's vote whether it's driven by petition or not, finally qualifies for enough signatures to make the November 24<sup>th</sup> ballot which is the same ballot that the sales tax measure will be on.

**SMART:** Doug Williams reported the ridership does continue to increase, about 78% of what it was before the pandemic. They have hired enough engineers and conductors to enhance the schedule. There will be trains now in the middle of the day. The funding sources for Windsor and Healdsburg are not so hopeful now. There has been a lot of discussion going on about pathways. Anyone that wants to get involved in making sure there is FD access along those pathways, please engage with your local planning agencies early. The freight system continues to operate as it has. They do have a contract to store cars in the Schellville area. They are working on the notification for any incidents that happen along the rail line.

**PG & E:** None

## Regional Zone Reports:

**CALFIRE:** Chief Marcucci introduced Brandon Leitzke the Deputy Chief of State Operations for the Unit. He also oversees the aircraft operations in the Unit. Fire season is being extended until December 19<sup>th</sup>, the funding is around \$50M extra. The exclusive use copter will stay as well as the tanker base staying open. Hood Mountain Fire Center at Los Guillicos is up and running with one crew. The crew will be funded until the end of the year. The Unit has Tablet Command up and running. They are waiting for the CAD vendor to get the link running in Tablet Command for the live two way communication. They have hired a fulltime Information Officer, Jason Clay comes to the Unit from Colorado.

Chief Nicholls reported the hand crew is currently working up on the County line on Trinity Rd. reinforcing the strategically important dozer line fuel break that runs up to the south end of Sugarloaf, eventually tying it back in to Los Alamos. Have been doing some control burns in Cazadero, Skaggs Springs, in the future at Pepperwood and Jack London. The transition from Alert Wildfire to Alert California has been completed.

**Zone 3:** Chief Akre reported they had a small gathering on Saturday for the anniversary of the 2017 fires and thanked everyone for participating. They have run into some problems with the County in collecting and reporting processes for the impact fees. If any other District is trying to establish a program it should be much smoother once some of the headaches are worked out. The fees collected from the impact fee may only be used for new apparatus and new facilities. The Nexus study will give a percentage of what you can spend on replacement of existing apparatus. They continue to be engaged with the SDC planning process. They will be receiving a new Type 3 in the next 60 days.

Chief Bellach reported they have started a contract for staffing with Sonoma Valley Fire. This brought us to full ALS staffing. This will be a 9 month contract. He thanked Chief Akre and his staff for the hard work, everyone has been up to speed on the training and Kenwood operations. A consolidation Ad Hoc Committee was created to review consolidation and the needs for Kenwood. The committee put out a consolidation report that is available on their website. This report covers all the needs for Kenwood and overall states that consolidation would benefit the community. December 10<sup>th</sup> will be an open house.

**Zone 4:** No report

**Zone 5:** No report

**Zone 6:** Chief Jenkins reported they have ordered three Type 3 engines. They are continuing doing vegetation management.

**Zone 7:** Chief Westrope reported that he wanted to thank everyone who came out to help support the anniversary of the North Bay Fires. They received a grant for RAWs stations. They have received 7, one is portable and is currently at Sky Farm and 6 that are throughout the city. This gives a good look at the micro climates throughout the city. They currently 9 engines on order, 7 Type 1's, 2 Type 6's. The city now has fire base drones available. Fire station construction, still trying to build station 5 in Fountaingrove. Fire Station 8 will be moved from Burbank Ave. to Hearn and Dutton Ave and hope to break ground fall of 2024.

Chief Busch reported they have received \$1.5m in grant funding to replace the boat at the Bodega Bay Station. Working with Mendocino and Marin County looking at their programs. They received a USDA grant for a water tender and a Type 6. Sonoma County 1 will go live on October 15<sup>th</sup>. They will have an open house in Windsor and Forestville on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The ribbon cutting for Sonoma County 1 will be on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the hanger next to Henry 1 at 10:00am.

Chief Heine reported that Station 4 on Todd Rd. and Station 8 in Bennet Valley are now ALS. Medic 570 and 571 have been very successful in elevating the level of service within the communities they are serving and providing back-up to the West County Operations. They have a revised updated agreement with Marin County Fire to provide response into the Dillan Beach area.

**Zone 8:** Chief Bullard reported they will have their annual spaghetti feed and haunted house on Halloween at the Graton Station. They received a grant for new SCBA's with Sebastopol and Monte Rio. They also received \$100k for extrication equipment along with Sebastopol.

**Zone 9:** Chief Gossner reported they are interviewing 2 for the Chief position at Rancho Adobe. They hope to have it filled by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chief Schach reported they have just opened recruitment for a BLS ambulance part-time EMT's. They just hired a new fire inspector, Amy from Humboldt County. Just kicked off their public safety facility evaluation strategic plan on how to spend funding between police and fire. The Firefighter Foundation is giving out free smoke detectors. The foundation will be hosting a Firefighters Ball in two weeks. You can find out more info on the local1415 Facebook page. There are only 20 seats left. It will be at the Olympia Valley Estates on Walker Rd. This is a black tie event.

**OES:** Chief Courson reported he is looking forward to working with Sonoma County 1. Will be having a couple Assistant Chief openings in Region 3 and 4 starting in the beginning of the year.

**Training OP's:** No report

**FPO's:** Hans reported they have been working on the new fire code ordinance. The County currently has their code going through legal counsel. He suggests that all independent Districts take a look at it. There are significant changes to Chapter 39.

**Fire Districts:** Chief Akre reported that last month they held a virtual meeting that was pretty well attended. This month will be an in person dinner meeting on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, being hosted by Sonoma County Fire District. Location and menu TBD. The State Fire Districts Association is having their Leadership Symposium again this year October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. This is great for company officers and up and coming chief officers.

**Volunteer Fire Companies:** Chief Bradley reported they are working with Gold Ridge Fire to partner with to get apparatus. They are looking to purchase a Type 6 and water tender with-in two years. They are on board with trying to establish North Bay Fire and Gold Ridge Fire as one. At Station 94, thank you for the agencies that participated yesterday. They had a FF pass away from cancer a little over a week ago and yesterday was the service.

**Vegetation Management:** No report

**Coastal Valley EMS:** James Salvante reported on some items up for discussion at EMCC. Policy draft for changing the accreditation policy. In January they put out an accelerated accreditation to move some people into the system that had previous experience. Multiple agencies were experiencing staffing shortages such as FTO's and Medics. There is a deadline of January 5<sup>th</sup> when this sunsets. Due to the deadline, they needed to have a policy drafted and in place to send out for public comment. This policy will allow the medical director to make changes as needed. This policy just went out for public comment and is open for 60 days. Another policy to look out for is the draw Epi EMT accreditation. This will be a special memo because we want to get this into effect immediately due to agencies having Epi Auto Ejectors expiring. You can continue to use them 6 months after expiration. The draw Epi is less expensive than the Auto Eject. They are now having discussions on handing out Narcan to the public. This is being done in Contra Costa County, Sonoma County is looking into this as well. Community Paramedic regulations are expected to go to the Office of Administrative Law very soon. They are currently in the public comment phase.

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

**Fire/EMS:** Chief Akre reported collectively through fire service efforts and with the Department of Health Services they have gotten some good changes to the draft RFP which accomplishes what they were after from the very beginning which was to have a level playing field for any bidder, whether you were private or public. The RFP will go to the BOS next week. They are continuing to work on other issues with the tiered response task force and compliance. They have an EMCC meeting coming up in two weeks.

Chief Schach added we might be seeing more BLS units in the system, this will not affect the ALS responses. This is an additional tool to keep ALS resources available.

**DEM:** Chris Godley reported the next round of homeland security grants has opened up. Applications are due the first part of December. There is about \$600,000.00 available. Fire station LED signs, the County has about \$400,000.00 to spend on the signs. The first 2 went to Sonoma Valley. Chris will put out an email to the Chiefs to send in a request if you are interested, he is hoping to fund 7-8 more signs. Areas that have high visibility will be given priority. Hans stated that the T/O's still have 4 licenses available for Tablet Command.

**Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** No report, Chief Heine did report out for Cal Chiefs. We have gained a pretty good presence at Cal Chiefs from Sonoma County and Marin. The annual conference in September, Chris Tubbs from Southern Marin Fire was sworn in as the President, Chief Heine assumed the V.P role, Chief Akre was appointed to the Executive Board as the Northern California Director and Scott Westrope continues to fill the Area Director position. The annual strategic planning meeting is next week in Marin.

**REDCOM:** Evonne reported they have been utilizing BLS for calls in the EOA after an ALS unit arrives on scene and determines the call to be ALS. They have teamed up with a chaplaincy for law enforcement and will start doing call outs for them. They have 50 licenses for Tango Tango available if anyone is interested. Tango Tango is the phone App that lets you use your phone as a radio and talk on Control and Tac Channels. They have been working on silent posting for the ambulances and keep it off the REDCOM channel. They are currently having some issues with units being able to get the message while at the hospitals.

**Closed Session:** None

**Good of the Order:** Doug Williams said the Survivors Reunion will start meeting in January. If you have any incidents that qualify for the reunion please get them documented and in to them as soon as possible.

**Adjournment:** @ 11:32am

**Next Meeting:** November 9<sup>th</sup>. Location Santa Rosa Training Tower 0830hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach  
SCFCA Secretary