



# **SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 9:30 AM**  
**Hosted By Forestville**

**Attendance:**

Aaron Abbott	REDCOM	Rob Cassady	Russian River
Jeff Schach	Petaluma	Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley
Randy Collins	SRJC ARTP	Todd Derum	CALFIRE
James Salvante	CVEMS	Pat Mills	Forestville
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Jeff Weaver	Rohnert Park
Ron Lunardi	Occidental	Jim Colangelo	Sonoma County
Mike Bates	Rohnert Park	Mark Heine	RV/Windsor
Mark Courson	OES	Dean Anderson	AMR
Linda Collister	Healdsburg	Ron Busch	RV/Windsor
Stephan Baxman	Monte Rio	Dave Francheschi	Forestville
Bill Bullard	Graton	Todd Derum	CALFIRE
Mike Mickelson	Wilmar	Darren Bellach	Kenwood
Bonnie Plakos	NSCFPD	Pam Tarango	Petaluma Elks
Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa	Shana Jones	CALFIRE
Loren Davis	Mountain	Dan George	Goldridge

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

**Host Chief Intro:** Chief Francheschi welcomed the group and explained logistics.

**President's Report:** No report.

**Approval of Previous Minutes/Changes to the Agenda:** Chief Grinnell shared that the motion he had made at the September meeting did not include the language "in the interest of openness" and asked it be added. Randy indicated he will make the change. A short discussion followed on the reason for this clarification and its ramifications. After the changes were recorded, a motion was made to accept the minutes with that change by Chief Heine & seconded by Chief George. Unanimous vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report submitted by Hans was as follows:

Chiefs General Fund:	\$5,631.19
Survivors Fund:	\$107,896.31
OP's/TO's Fund:	\$19,113.79
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$7,681.90
Career Succession:	\$4,025.67
FPO General Fund:	\$3,320.78
FITF	\$2,048.05
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$41,435.32
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$193,853.01

Chief Derum asked for a motion to accept that was made by Chief George, second by Chief Akre. Unanimous vote.

**Correspondence:** None received.

## Presentations:

**FF Appreciation Dinner:** Pam Tarango from the Petaluma Elks spoke to the Firefighter appreciation dinner they sponsor and stressed it is for **all** Sonoma County Fire agencies. At last year's event, they had representation from a fire dept. in Missouri who experienced a LODD. The next event will be March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. She added they are seeking our help in identifying candidates for their "Medal of Service" award for FF's that go above and beyond and asked to be contacted directly at [ptarango@comcast.net](mailto:ptarango@comcast.net) if you have a candidate. She also requested this information be shared with Chief Jenkins at Cloverdale. She ended by hoping we can all make it.

## Old Business:

- **Peer Support:** Chief Collister reported for Chief Boaz and shared that the general observation is that this topic seems to be transitioning to "Resiliency" training for FF's and their families. To that end, two trainings are scheduled, one in Geyserville on November 17 and a second in Healdsburg on November 16 & 17 (see the attachments section of these minutes for the flyers). A short discussion about the instructor followed.
- **Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief George reported they have conducted five deployments to date and asked for everyone's patience as it has been somewhat of a work in progress. He also was encouraged to see good participation from the VFC's. He will be sending new payment forms to Randy to be posted to the website. He added they have also done three "Pre-position" plans which are good for a 12 hour period (most have been TF's). Chief Courson added that costs like fuel and meals can be added but cautioned that if they are deployed to a larger incident, it is incumbent on the Leader to apprise the IC of their Pre-positioning designation. Chief George reminded the group that the role of the pre-positioned units is to conduct active patrolling and be ready to be sent anywhere. He added that if you wish to participate in the Monday conference calls to let him know and indicated \$53K in reimbursements have already been issued. Chief Gossner reminded the group to be sure to notify REDCOM once you are deployed.
- **Region II Mutual Aid:** Chief George shared there has been discussion about modernizing the mutual aid system but that was all. It was asked this item be removed from future agendas. Chief Gossner stressed that in the meantime, we still need to use the existing Master Mutual Aid system but did encourage being proactive in notifying our neighbors and Region II. Chief George reminded the group that this is not freelancing and you are considered part of the system MMS once deployed. Chief Akre ended the discussion by sharing that if you wish to participate to contact Chief Andreis.

**New Business:** None

## Standing Committee Reports:

- **Strategic Leadership Group:** Chief Derum began by sharing that one of the intentions of this agenda item is to promote a dialogue amongst our group so we are all on the same page and to not leave "any rock unturned". Chief George circulated *Evolution of the Fire Service in Sonoma County FAQ* document (see attachments section of these minutes) and called attention to the last page, which solicited input/questions for items not addressed in the document. Chief Colangelo proceeded to review the document adding they are roughly following the "Silver Plan" and that for items that come to the group, they will share them but not be asking our approval and if there are concerns, they need to be raised here. The goals of the plan include:
  1. Bring up the staffing levels of the VFC's, particularly those who do not offer stipends. They hope to have a plan to take to the BOS on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  2. Maintain existing service levels and to let them know if they have cannot. To that end, Bodega Bay, Cazadero, Windsor, Russian River and Timber Cove have submitted requests for additional funding to help in this capacity. All were determined to be legitimate requests and will be forwarded to the BOS. A short Q & A session followed.
  3. Initiate a County-wide apparatus replacement plan leaning toward a leasing program starting with the VFCs. They will look at strategically placing newer apparatus where it is justified by the call volume. He added that they are actively looking for input. Chief Courson referred to the Federal Excess Property program as an option to obtain apparatus and if anyone is interested to contact him. A short dialogue on the process followed. Chief's Grinnell & Bates agreed to help with the process.
  4. Conduct an inventory of stations within the County and identify any specific needs. The idea is to have a list of priorities so once funding becomes available they can begin to earmark projects. Chief Bellach indicated he would be willing to help with this activity.

He ended by reporting in his meetings with LAFCO and MSR discussions that they have asked for as much detail as possible as to the pros & cons of including adjoining jurisdictions and made it clear that some Supervisors have tied funding to greater consolidations.

On the topic of station designs, Chief Gossner spoke to his experience with the process and the pros and cons of community style vs private type stations and the cohesion, comradery and mental health issues that are associated with each.

- **Regional Zone Reports:** Chief Derum began by sharing a “Heads-up” that prescribed fire for which there is a real need, has huge anxiety factors with the public and for any permits they write for this activity, they will require approval from the local fire agency. To that end, he is open to having a dialogue with anyone about his. Chief Gossner shared the pressure he is getting from the public for a comprehensive vegetation management plan. Chief Akre commented this has also been pushed by the City Managers group. A conversation about adhering to CEQA when implementing these plans followed. Chief Lunardi shared they are currently implementing a plan on their ranch in Covelo and have completed all the applicable CEQA docs. Chief Bellach had a question regarding how to avoid duplication of inspections. Chief Colangelo shared the County is moving forward with their inspection program.  
Chief Akre (Zone 3) shared they have implemented an active recruitment and retention program and are promoting their tax measures. The one question they consistently get asked; “Is the money staying locally?” He also thanked those agencies who recently attended their remembrance events.  
Chief Plakos (Zone 4) shared they are working with the County to implement vegetation management inspections.  
Chief Lunardi (Zone 5) shared they had a cordial meeting with Supervisor Hopkins and Chief Colangelo. Their next zone meeting is Monday October 15.  
Chief Collister (Zone 6) shared they have developed COPE programs and are working with property owners in some of their areas with poor access to develop alternate means of egress. She thanked Ben Nichols for his ability to turn a fire camera to a recent veg fire they had so it could be observed by the public. She added the fire maps are out and thanked Chief Turbeville for his efforts  
Chief Gossner (Zone 7) began by sharing they will be cutting six positions due their budget and will be holding community meetings to discuss fire sirens/notification systems and invited the group to attend. He added that over the next few months, they expect the Roseland annexation to be complete. Chief Heine reported their consolidation efforts are moving forward and at the next Windsor Board meeting, they will be taking formal action to ask LAFCO for annexation. The schedule is to have it complete by April 2019. He added that all his labor groups are now in Local 1401 and based on their budget projections, the consolidation will pull them out of the red.  
Chief George (Zone 8) reported they meet monthly and have given out \$50k to Valley Ford & Bodega to establish stipend programs. They will also be having Ken Reese discuss updating their ESZ's.  
Chief Schach (Zone 9) shared RA is working on a parcel tax. Chief Mickelson shared the VFC's have changed their name to Northbay Fire (from Sonoma County Fire)
- **Training/OP's:** No meeting since the last Chiefs
- **FPO's:** Chief Collister shared at NORCAL (their last meeting) PG&E presented. Chief George asked if a PSA effort will accompany the implementation of the Red Flag program. Chief Heine reminded the group this was agreed upon at the last meeting and Cindy Forman has a written policy available.
- **Fire Districts:** Chief George shared the next meeting is November 15 at Forestville with Supervisor Hopkins as the speaker. Chief Akre reminded the group that the Fire District's Association is holding a two-day leadership academy in Sacramento and encouraged attendance. He added they also have a training for elected officials which he hope to bring to the county and if interested to contact him.
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** No report

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

- **Fire EMS Committee:** Chief Akre reported they continue to meet and have been having outside speakers come to address items of interest. Chief George shared that Cal-Chiefs has hired AP Trident to help them with EMS issues and recommended we become more vested in this process and agendize this for our next meeting.
- **County Alerting System:** Chief Colangelo asked if everyone received the After Action report from their test. He added it was disappointing to see the results and shared the differences he personally experienced on his two devices. The EAS message they asked to be sent out was also disappointing so more to come. Chief Gossner added that there is an interest in implementing Hi-Low sirens and feels we may be behind the curve.

**REDCOM:** Director Abbott shared the following:

- Katie McNulty is their new OP's Manager
- On the subject of annexations, they discovered that as they update the CAD, they also have to touch the response plans, which triggers a lengthy process for them. He also reminded the group that as consolidations occur, you will need to update your REDCOM agreements which may also change your base fee.
- The DOAG has approved SOP 47, which outlines how the fire cameras will be operated (with only 2 up now but with plans to have 19 up and running by the end of the year). The website is open source and can be accessed at: [alertwildfire.org](http://alertwildfire.org). Operation of the cameras will be by REDCOM or St. Helena. If more than two are in operation, they will be able to triangulate and obtain the coordinates for the fire.

**Closed Session:** None

**Good of the Order:**

- Chief Davis shared Mountain is holding their fundraiser on Dec 15. Carolina Upton (one of their staff now has a Certified Rescue Dog Handler and is attached to Task Force 3. He ended by announcing once the merger is complete in April, he will be resigning his position.
- James Salvante shared they will be having a press conference for the Pulse Point rollout on October 16<sup>th</sup> at SRFD HQ. Chief Gossner added his support for the efforts and that it has been a long time coming.
- Chief Collister shared that First Net members did not receive the Presidential Alert which was confirmed by Director Abbott.
- Captain Cassady said they have an ambulance on order and are hiring two.
- Chief Plakos shared they just ordered a Type I
- Chief Courson thanked the group for all their work
- Chief Gossner shared they have applied for three vegetation management grants and have been denied two. He shared a technical question regarding his phone

Motion by Chief Heine to adjourn at 1159. Second by Chief George. Unanimous vote.

**Next Meeting:** November 14<sup>th</sup> at Rancho Adobe

Respectfully Submitted: October 10, 2018

Randy Collins,  
SCFCA Secretary