

# Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Annual Planning Meeting Santa Rosa Junior College January 14, 2013



(l-r) standing: Loren Davis, Mountain; Cyndi Foreman, Central Fire; Nick Neisius Valley Ford; Bill Braga, Sebastopol; Mark McCormick, Santa Rosa; Dick Luttrell, REDCOM; John Marty, Rohnert Park; Doug Williams, Central Fire; Randy Collins, SRJC; Max Ming, Forestville.

(l-r) seated: Frank Treanor, Ranch Adobe; Sean Grinnell, Bodega Bay; Mark Aston, Sonoma County; Steve Adams, Healdsburg

## **2013 SCFC Officers**

President - Mark Aston, Sonoma County

Vice President - Sean Grinnell, Bodega Bay

Secretary-Treasurer – Steve Adams, Healdsburg

## **2012 Accomplishments**

- ✓ Updated our mission statement
- ✓ Streamlined efficiencies
- ✓ Successful liaison with Marin Chiefs

(more)

## **2012 Accomplishments Continued:**

- ✓ REDCOM; continuing contractual relationship, simulcasting, narrow banding
- ✓ Legislative issues worked on: SRA fee, local legislators are shifting positions, this is good
- ✓ Survivors fund, name change completed
- ✓ Installation launches have been held for 2012 and 2013
- ✓ Award recipients work acknowledged
- ✓ Worked on realignment of SRA vs. LRA, 2011 2012
- ✓ Now have seat on UASI board for Sonoma, Napa, Solano counties through North Bay planning group
- ✓ Funded mapping work through grant funds
- ✓ Added radio repeaters to help with Mendocino and Sonoma County communication
- ✓ Includes simulcasting and command channel
- ✓ Supported community hands only CPR program efforts
- ✓ Fire season responses uncovered some issues to work on
- ✓ REDCOM improved backup was St. Helena
- ✓ Policy change on SOP #28 was completed
- ✓ Doug Williams is now OES Region II Mutual Aid Coordinator
- ✓ Updated bylaws, paid taxes
- ✓ Worked on AFG pager grant but not successful
- ✓ Held two night meetings to encourage the VFC attendance, this was successful
- ✓ Fire Act SAFER Grant was successful, \$250,000
- ✓ Volunteer fire assistant grants through kelp fire
- ✓ Sponsored CSFA Volunteer Recruiting and Retention workshop, June led by Ronnie Coleman, 50+ attended, held in Santa Rosa
- ✓ Signed volunteers up for long-term disability, etc., Grant through CSFA
- ✓ Website work has continued, ongoing, getting more organized
- ✓ Added SMART as agenda item for meetings for updates, planning
- ✓ Fire Prevention is involved in working on fireworks guidelines with mayors and city councils group
- ✓ Have worked on pension reform considerations and impacts

- ✓ How can we process and handle manage grants to our sections? We worked on this and need to resolve in 2013 with bylaws changes, etc.

### **Strengths**

- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Sharing
- ✓ Pooled resources
- ✓ Collaborative
- ✓ Strong attendance
- ✓ Diversity can be a strength
- ✓ Strong section leadership
- ✓ Willingness to participate
- ✓ Solid committed leadership
- ✓ Good cooperation
- ✓ Widespread grasp of issues
- ✓ Common vision – We 'gel'

### **Problems**

- Exodus of senior chiefs
- Succession planning needed for Association
- Low volunteer fire company attendance, chiefs have a day job, coastal chiefs low attendance, VFC recruitment is a real need
- Diversity in FD's can also be a problem with different missions, budgets, community expectations, etc.
- Lack of funding, sustainable funding
- Lack of time due to workload, feeling stretched
- Often severe resource limitations
- Disconnect with Sections at times
- Transportation plans are being worked on for rail, air, highway, are we going to be a player in this or reacting to it?
- Tribal issues

### **Opportunities**

- UASI opportunity
- REDCOM enhancements
- Agency collaboration on casino regional
- New service model

- MSR reviews
- EMS funding
- Relationship with Santa Rosa Junior College
- Volunteer firefighter certification through CSFA
- Technological advances the goals change, may be difficult
- Nation and state financial recovery happening slowly
- Use of technology, Skype or conference call for meeting attendance?
- Shared services
- Collaborative grant writing
- Standardized efforts, indigence and equipment, prevention

### **Threats**

- Health care reform, education
- Will there be an increase or decrease in EMS calls for FDs?
- Pensions, unfunded liability is still there
- State legislation
- Difficulty in volunteer firefighter recruiting
- Lack of stable funding
- SRA fee and impact on ability of local FDs to raise funding
- In experience elected officials in many cases, not familiar with fire service
- Health care reform and law changes coming
- Retirement program shifts in age and benefits
- Our diversity and differences create some irreconcilable differences
- State mandates for fire districts
- Cal fire resource reductions have a real impact, especially in our County
- California fire assistance act changes – federal

### **SRJC Update**

Has structural deficit, cut 5% of classes across the board

- Academies are full but semester course attendance is down 10%
- Previously there was a 20% reduction in all SRJC classes

### **Fire Prevention Officers Section Update**

- ✓ Completed annual planning meeting
- ✓ Continued work on standardized County guidelines
- ✓ Photovoltaic, improved collaboration with solar industry
- ✓ Fire Safe Sonoma relationship more active, good
- ✓ Safety PALs program continued
- ✓ Public education committee was very active with monthly PSA's, bilingual
- ✓ Starting down the path of code adoption
- ✓ Fire investigation Task Force – more training is being planned
- ✓ End of year report is coming

Goal requests from SCFC:

- a) Take ownership of fireworks issue, work towards policy and standardization, enforcement, citations.
- b) Resolve photovoltaic issue, standards, including for second shut-off; Cary Ferguson and Mark McCormack working on this.

### **Operations and Training Officers Section Update**

- ✓ Merged operations and training sections, held facilitated planning meeting Nov. 22, 2011
- ✓ Met 6X per year
- ✓ Updated 2 in/2out policy
- ✓ DMV policy changes implemented
- ✓ Revised strike team leader policy
- ✓ Participating in Type III team initiatives for North Bay with Marin

Have not held 2013 planning meeting yet; have requested guidance from SCFC for 2013 and goal requests

Goal requests from SCFC –

- a) Make inquiry into Lexipol standard policy system, Gordon Graham's firm. Rohnert Park currently uses the system, funding options including REMF? Randy Collins to communicate.
- b) Sponsor technology 101 classes; subjects to include GIS, Microsoft, CAD, tips, tricks, techniques, new apps, etc. Important that instructor present for the layperson versus the typical overly complex presentation by the experts, nerds and geeks. Randy and Nick will work on a list of possible topics.
- c) Participate in MAD drill with Marin County, live shooter theme

- d) Consider participation in Type III incident management team?  
Assess in 2013 regarding whether it makes sense to participate in this or not.

## **2013 SCFC Goals**

### **1. Process Goals**

See website for meetings planned for 2013

Continue holding meetings monthly, 1000 start during day time hours zero 930 – 1200, two during nighttime hours 1830 – 2100

Rotating schedule is working

Improve organization and content of programs and speakers; Create guidelines; Link topics to issues; Organize programs every other month for total of six and 2013; Use intervening months to ID and finalize next topic.

Possibilities & ideas - LAFCO representative; someone from PERS; someone reviewing fire and EMS interface; working with news media such as Press Democrat, run class through FPO training? FDAC representative; Board of Supervisor member or city councilmember? Law enforcement relationship? Joint meeting or representative?

Building officials? (through FPO's ?) Consider politicians including Noreen Evans as speaker; Consider Cal Chiefs legislative committee rep to help plan our PAC involvement

Encourage Sections to Maintain Good Communication and Liaison

### **2. Improve MSR Process & Results**

Host LAFCO representative at February meeting; Improve effectiveness and efficiencies with MSR's; identify gaps and overlaps, promote collaboration and participation; Conduct fact-finding, look at service delivery; move beyond historical baggage; identify what we could be? Host special MSR meeting to follow within first-quarter - Mark Aston

### **3. Continue liaison to Marin County Fire Chiefs**

– Mark, Randy, Eric, Matt

## **Other 2013 SCFC Goals**

### **4. Update Bylaws, Conduct Financial Policy Update**

Grants, processing; subgroups; Sections to come to chiefs before submitting grants

### **5. Define and Explain Awards and Recognition Programs and Policy**

What is it, should we add any awards and recognition? Memorialize this on the webpage.

### **6. Conduct succession planning for SCFC**

Improve, start earlier in the year with consideration, make it a September or October agenda item.

### **7. Work on Possible Fleet Maintenance JPA**

Continue working towards this - Mark Aston

### **8. Select operational area coordinator and alternates -**

Doug Williams to recommend

### **9. Assign new legislative committee, evolve into PAC leader**

Randy Collins will serve as a ghostwriter.

### **10. Host 2014 Annual Installation Lunch**

January 2014 with awards and recognition.

### **11. Conduct annual planning meeting in early January 2014.**