



# SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION & SCFCA Survivor Fund

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Hosted by Santa Rosa Fire  
At the Tower, Rm 1

**December 11, 2012, 9:30 am.**

**Attendance:**

Eric Hoffmann	Cal Fire	Mark Aston	County Fire
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay	Max Ming	FFD / RRF
Loren Davis	Mountain	Darin DeCarli	Gold Ridge/BV
Dan George	Gold Ridge/ BV	John Marty	Rohnert Park DPS
Jennifer Jones	Red Cross	Gary Duignan	Red Cross
Steve Adams	Healdsburg	Larry Anderson	Petaluma
Mark McCormick	Santa Rosa	Vern Losh	Healdsburg/CSFA
Tony Gossner	Santa Rosa	Bob Barr	CHP-Santa Rosa
Bill Shubin	Santa Rosa	Randy Collins	SRJC
Cary Fergus	Petaluma	Frank Treanor	Rancho Adobe
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Dick Luttrell	REDCOM
Dean Anderson	AMR /SLS	Doug Williams	Central Fire
Wilbert Horne	Mayacamas		

**Call to Order:** President Hoffmann called the meetings (Monthly Chiefs and Annual Survivor Fund) to order at 0935.

**Host Chief Introduction:** President Hoffmann introduced Chief McCormick who welcomed the group to Santa Rosa and the tower classroom. Chief McCormick also said thank you to Bob Hathaway who got the room set up for today's meeting.

President Hoffmann asked for self-introductions. Self-Introductions were made all around.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chief George moved to approve the November minutes, Chief Braga made the second, no further discussion, Chief President Hoffmann called for the vote, all were in favor, none were opposed.

**President's Report:** President Hoffmann said this was his last meeting as President and it has been a pleasure to serve this group. Thank you and I will continue to serve on the E-Board.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sec/Tres Grinnell reported the following values as of November 30, 2012:

- Checking: \$2,851.96
- Survivors Fund Interest checking: \$14,526.91
- Survivors Fund CD: \$116,976.86

As a part of the annual survivors fund report: The balances were reported. No disbursements were made during this past year. The paperwork for the name change was submitted to the State of California.

A motion was made by VP Aston and seconded by Chief Braga, to approve the special meeting minutes of October 12, 2011, and the regular meeting minutes of December 14, 2011. President Hoffmann called for the vote, all were in favor, none were opposed.

**Correspondence: None**

**Presentations:** Vern Losh, CSFA Director, presented information of new benefits, part of a 2.2 million grant, for volunteer firefighters. \$50,000 accidental death and dismemberment, with a daily amount for injuries incurred while on duty. CSFA is trying to get all volunteer firefighters covered. Contact Vern if you have any questions. If you get signed up before the end of the year the benefit will take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Turn in a roster once a year to get coverage. Chief Davis asked who fills out the form. A) the Chief does. President Hoffmann said this is a SAFER Grant-Funding is lost in four years. Accidental death benefit only for on-duty coverage, Director Collins confirmed, Yes. CSFA membership not required.

**CHP Liaison:** (Taken out of order) Sgt. Bob Barr said on behalf Captain Tracy he wished the group happy holidays. This year has been quiet and everyone is getting along. New officers are on the way, 5 new recently, 5 more in March and 5 cadets in February. Most new officers are not brand new but will be new to our area as most are coming from LA. Remember, the LA area training instills a different attitude-get it clear and get out of the way. Thank goodness for the great relationship we have. Ryan Kilgore is now a Sergeant. Please contact Sgt. Kilgore or Barr for issues in the field. Chief DeCarli asked if officers are still available for traffic safety training? **A)** Yes, contact Sgt. Kilgore. Chief Davis asked if the new officers have experience or just transfers? **A)** 2-3 years experience. Chief McCormick mentioned the San Ramon incident and the need for the safety cushion. President Hoffmann asked that Captain Tracy be thanked for your presence and for your support.

**Red Cross:** (Taken out of order) Jennifer Jones thanked the group for allowing her to speak early. Jennifer is the new Director of the North Bay region (six Counties). She was happy to report 49 deployments to Sandy; one of our, Chief Neisius and two others from Valley Ford Fire responded and assisted with bulk distribution of food and other items. Not fire related but still a good experience. Director Jones said to call us even if the client does not need/want red cross. She related a recent experience when the client changed their mind and needed them. 577-7609 is her number. Please allow two hours for call outs. President Hoffmann thanked Director Jones for her time and attendance.

**Committee Reports:**

**Training & Operations Section:** Chief George said T&S met yesterday. Officers for 2013 are: Chief Gossner is the President, David Cornelsson is VP, Director Collins is Secretary, and Jeff Holden is Treasurer. The new DMV policy is out and a part of this meeting. STL and active status will see incremental changes. We are still waiting for the final reports for this past fire season. STL and trainees will be posted on the same sheet. President Hoffmann added he was at the Ops meeting. The remainder of the T & O group report was mired in the discussion of the photovoltaic regulations relative to the code, micro inverters, and the desire for a consistent countywide code. It should be noted that FPO's and T & O would report back to the Chiefs Association in February with each group's idea of what direction should be taken for future policy.

**Prevention Section:** FPO Fergus reported the group would meet December 19. Central Fire will host the meeting and food will be provided. FPO Fergus will step down after four years service as President. Elections will be held during the next meeting. Paula Conner will be the Secretary, Linda Collister will be the VP, and Cyndi Foreman will be the President. The annual planning meeting will be held in January, the annual report, and firework report will be completed soon. President Hoffmann thanked FPO Fergus for all of his hard work and years of service.

**District Chiefs:** Chief Williams reported that Russian River will host the next meeting. Chief Ming to work with Charlene Virts to set a date and time. SCFDA will host required training for ethics and harassment training in February.

**Volunteer FF Association:** Chief Horne said they are still working to revise the By-Laws. Chief Horne related a recent experience with remote starting cars and the humans that drive them. Some remotes will work at a half-mile away. Chief Adams added Healdsburg policy is to get the key and it goes to the officer of the engine for this reason (accidental activation), esp. for those situations that you cannot get to the battery. Chief Braga added he has the same policy but do not overlook the wife having the key also.

**CAD Group:** Chief Williams said the next meeting will be at the end of February. The sub-groups are working on projects. Some are looking at different products and items for increased service. VP Aston added with homeland funding going away, we need to find another source of funding to keep it alive. Chief McCormick suggested CUPA might be a way to fund it. Chief Williams suggested that we look at new development fees as an option but with not such a great response from county counsel and PRMD gets enough money from that already (counsel says). Chief Williams said we have some good things already established, lets not loose it. President Hoffmann asked what is the maintenance cost? **A)** \$40,000.

**Cal EMA Op Area:** Chief Williams reported work is still needed to look at the lessons learned. Ken Reese, Jack Picinini and others will look at the dispatch side of things. Chief Williams will be meeting with other Op area folks and looking to promote two STL refresher classes. Chief Marvin Howard has announced his retirement.

**Cal EMA Region:** Chief Williams at the Region Level how we do CICC qualifications will be addresses. Region Two asked group to look at some of the positions that might not be best served at the 400 level and look to bringing some of those positions back to the Op area level. The idea has promise. President Hoffmann asked if the name is changing? **A)** Yes, as of July 1<sup>st</sup> it goes back to OES. Chief Williams will ask if John Clary will cover the region or if and interim chief will be assigned.

**County Fire:** VP Aston said we are in the transition time with a new supervisor and briefs are being created. It is time to begin budgeting now. The picture is still bleak, negotiations with all bargaining units is on going, no raises for a while yet. SEIU voted the contracts down, perhaps one-year contracts coming. We are recruiting for the FPO side, a full time materials handler position. Plus one of ours is in background with SR, she will be a tough to replace because she is the warehouse manager and has great knowledge.

**EMCC:** GM Anderson reported EMCC has not met since the last meeting. The next meeting will be at the end of January. The issue of ALS providers and drug shortages continues. GM Anderson explained why the shortage exists and what to expect if it continues and some of the issues being faced within the industry. VP Aston asked if EMS made the Supervisors aware. No, but Public Health did. Chief McCormick related a story about a MD Williamson who is no longer allowed to practice who attempted a ride along. You might want to consider backgrounds for ride-a-longs. Chief Adams said mentioned another item, the advanced EMT advanced.

**Legislation:** VP Aston reported it has started. Several information packets were handed out. Two new SRA fee repeal measures; one has started in the Assembly, and one in Senate. This board was supportive of the fees, or was so until the constituents started calling in. AB 11-time off for volunteers, fire and law, for employers with 50 or more to allow for up to 14 days off for training. FDAC report-six bills being watched. VP Aston suggested that we consider a replacement for him if he elected to President. Chief Davis asked for clarification-was it 14 days training and 14 days for call out? **A)** More to follow. President Hoffmann suggested volunteers for the leg committee. Chief Williams suggested that E-board be granted the ability to react to these items and others like them. Chief Treanor made a motion to grant the E-board the ability to act on these types of things [Legislative issues] with out prior approval of the full membership, Chief DeCarli made the second. President Hoffmann called for the vote, all were in favor, none were opposed.

Phil Holmes Region Chief, while looking at the Sea Ranch Blog suggested that we might have some grant money coming back via the SRA fee in the second year. Many have received negative calls regarding SRA fees.

**Grants:** Chief Anderson said he received no feedback concerning the last UASI round. If in doubt, give it a try, funding expected for programs that are far reaching (regional). REDCOM proposal was submitted said VP Aston. AFG opens on December 17 and closes on the 16th of January, 2013. 2012 announcements are being made. One in CA, Sac Metro got \$370.

**SRJC Advisory:** Director Collins said the JC is breathing a sigh of relief with passage of the tax measure but there is still a \$6.3 mil structural deficit. One course was added. January 4<sup>th</sup> the current academy class graduates. Tim Streblov to speak. Funding for VFC academy is changing to all. Tentative Node for REO class, June 12 ethics class the day before.

**Marin Chiefs Liaison:** No report, Marin County Supervisors appointed Jason Weber. Randy Collins will attend next week's meeting, contact him if you have anything to bring up.

**Fire Safe Sonoma:** No meeting

**Cal Fire:** President Hoffmann reported that Chief Streblov is leaving, effective December 30-31. Chief Hoffmann will become the new Unit Chief. Lots of other openings: 21 BC positions, we need to fill 8 or 9 now and then fill 5-8 to fill by March hopefully, and then to fill in behind them. I will ask for help with assessment centers. Cal Fire needs to fill my position soon. The recent storm facilitated a camp crew request. DOT was primary user, they got a strike team, but not a lot of work. The system worked the way it was supposed to and it had number assigned, the procedure worked the way it was designed too. Broad scale last two weeks of current IMT schedule, team four will be last standing team for north, change team coming for statewide call out, and see how the statewide response will work. We could get So Cal IMT and with a northern assistant...six teams every six weeks rotation.

**SMART:** No report

#### **Old Business-**

- **Election of Officers for 2013:** President Hoffmann opened the nomination period. The nominating committee gave its report. Chief McCormick, Chief Williams, Director Collins made the following recommendation last month. Mark Aston as President, Sean Grinnell as Vice President, and Steve Adams as Secretary/Treasurer. Chief Treanor moved to follow (after closing the nominations) the recommendation made by the nominating committee, Chief Braga seconded. President Hoffmann called for the vote. All were in favor, none were opposed.
- Photovoltaic regulations: See above. Chief Treanor thanked everyone for their work.

#### **New Business-**

- Planning meeting (Save the date Jan. 14, 10 -2). Director Collins circulated a sign up sheet, and asked if everyone was also interested in lunch. A resounding yes was heard. Director Collins would facilitate and the cost of \$8-\$10 per person was approved by motion made by Chief Aston and second by Chief Treanor. President Hoffmann called for the vote. All were in favor and none were opposed.
- Meeting locations for 2013 were confirmed with the following changes. Rancho Adobe would host the meeting at the Cotati station and Gold Ridge would host the meeting at the Water Trough station.
- Annual Awards- a run down of annual awards was confirmed and the E-Board would convene after this meeting to discuss recipients.
- Revised Driver Training Policy-Chief Gossner reiterated these changes (presented last month) are in accordance with recent law changes. Chief Williams moved to approve the revised policy, Chief DeCarli made the second. President Hoffmann called for the vote, all were in favor and no one was opposed.

The Survivor Fund officers were confirmed. The minutes were approved already

**Improving Efficiencies/Customer Service/Good of the Order:** Chief Ming reported that he promoted Patrick Mills to Captain, and promoted Michael Franchesci to Fire fighter. Furthermore, we will hire three more people in Guerneville. Chief McCormick said Santa Rosa was hiring as well. Chief Horne said

Mayacamas goes out to bid for new engine. Chief Treanor said they are rotating station outages and trying to maintain auto-aid commitments. Chief Ming congratulated Chief Hoffmann.

**REDCOM:** Director Luttrell reported that January 27 REDCOM will celebrate its 10 year anniversary. Invites coming out soon. PR Media campaign will unfold in January. Staff has met several times with PG & E, in the aftermath of San Bruno they are improving their practices. Mike Velasquez, incident plan for Sonoma County. Had 87 applications for two positions. The expansion project approvals are still coming in from member agencies. The expansion will be paid back with mitigation funds from the Graton Rancheria. It will be annual stream of money. Chief Aston said that because the timing of the REDCOM meeting and the UASI meeting, Wes Kitchel will stand in his place. Director Collins asked when the expansion will be completed? **A)** Drawings not complete yet but we hope to have better luck than some others. Chief Aston said his fire station costs have increased by/because of the County architect. Inter Op link between REDCOM and Cal Fire is now working. New cad version likely by the end of the next fiscal year (2014) said Chief Williams. Dean Anderson asked if it could be earlier? Chief Williams explained that several factors go into the timing. The consortium, vendor availability, and timing of the available funding all influence the timing.

Closed Session: None

Next Meeting: Annual Luncheon and Installation Meeting, January 9<sup>th</sup>, Petaluma Community Center.

Adjourned: 12:05