



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
May 10th, 2023 at 8:30 AM
Sonoma County Fire – Forestville Station**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire
Evonne Stevens	REDCOM	Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley Fire
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire	Dave Bray	Gold Ridge Fire
Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley Fire	Ray Mulas	Schell Vista Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire
Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire	Jason Boaz	Healdsburg Fire
Kelly Bradley	North Bay Fire	Aaron Johnson	RPPS
Marshall Tuberville	NSCF	Bill Bullard	Graton Fire
Hans Henneberque	H & S Associates	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale Fire
Steve Mosiurchak	SC Fire Prevention	Matt Windrum	Sonoma County Fire
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa Fire	James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS
Brenda Bacigalupi	REDCOM	Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Mike Marcucci	Cal Fire	Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire
Mark Courson	OES	Mike McCallum	Santa Rosa Fire
Trevor Collins	Santa Rosa Fire		

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Akre

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Heine welcomed everyone.

Presidents Report: Chief Akre reported

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Chief Heine, 2nd: Chief Mulas, All AYE

Treasurer’s Report: Hans reported:

Chief’s General Fund	\$4,477.80
Survivor’s Fund	\$96,396.31
Special Assessment Fund	\$35,504.72
Training Officer’s Fund	\$2,950.44
Training Officer’s – Command Tablets	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$4,117.00
FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$14,356.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$388.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$3,396.26
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53
Safety Pals General Fund	\$25,505.77
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00
Total	\$190,675.88

Correspondence: None

Presentation: Fire Code Updates – Hans spoke about the history of fire prevention and how historical events have brought us to where we are today.

Helicopter Utilization for Trauma Patients - Erin Olsen spoke about factors to take into consideration when utilizing a helicopter. Location of the scene, type of incident, number, and type of patients. She spoke about different criteria for requesting a helicopter as well as what a trauma center will take locally. Getting patients to definitive care quickly is the goal.

Old Business: Update on Sales Tax Measure. Discussion and Possible Action: Chief Akre spoke about the work that has been done on the sales tax measure. In the beginning they thought there were going to be a lot more asks than revenue to support them. They are close, they're in a position right now to make some difficult decisions to make the revenue work. He is confident that we are going to get most of our asks recognized. Some of the current allocation buckets are facilities, REDCOM, Lexipol, Upstaffing, County wide technology, Vegetation management and for Districts County Tax Collector fees. Currently working on representation from SCFDA, SCFCA, Taxpayers Association, BOS, City and Mayors nominees, and labor. Working on a one-page front and back information and talking points that we can share. We are also working on the ballot language and is in the lawyer's hands right now. The labor partners are organizing an IAP for fundraising and campaigning. Chief Heine spoke about what the sales tax will generate, we are looking at approximately \$60M. We will be able to accommodate 90% to 95% of the asks. The hope is to have the distribution plan completed and distributed by Monday.

Chief Schach spoke about staffing and how they had to make decisions and be realistic in some areas on 3.0 staffing versus 2.0 staffing versus stipend positions to get to the 3.0 staffing levels with considerable savings. The goal is to have staffing where staffing does not currently exist in areas. Every agency's pay scale that is less than Sonoma County Fire Districts we would want to bring up to that level. They are currently working on trying to get accurate true numbers on base level salaries throughout the county. Station improvements and new fire station requests would be paid out over a 30-year period. This would pay off a 30-year loan for an agency. Consolidations are not required for this measure. If an agency desires consolidation, we hope that this will make it easier.

Chief Heine added, this measure would cover REDCOM fees for every agency.

New Business: Discussion and Direction on Interra Platform: Chief Akre asked the group if they were ok with having it start in the FPO's group. This is a platform that does a lot of mapping and pre incident planning. We were able to get funding for everyone countywide for the first year through the Gary Sinise Foundation as well as an additional two years of funding. The sales tax measure would have the ability to pick this up under county technology for the future. The group agreed to have a representative from each agency come together through the FPO's and start working on this and getting it operationalized.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: See above

SMART: No report

PG & E: No report

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief

Zone 3: Chief Bellach reported on April 30th we closed our application process for Engineers and Captains. We ended up getting 6 Engineer and 3 Captain applications. Due to 2 applicants for Captain pulling their application and 1 not meeting the requirements, we do not have any Captain applicants. Our board is still looking into a 5-year ALS 2.0 contract with Sonoma Valley.

Chief Mulas reported they received a grant for 3 new thermal imagers. They attended the FF Appreciation event at the track that was well attended.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: No report

Zone 7: Chief Heine reported their primary focus is on transition planning. They are transitioning into full hiring mode with Medic Ambulance right now. They will be filling a full time EMS Captains position.

Zone 8: Chief Schroth-Cary reported they have a Battalion Chiefs position opening and closes on the 24th. Chief welcomed new DC of Operations Dave Bray to the meeting. Chief Bullard reported they are opening up summer seasonal positions starting June 1st. Please come by next Sunday and attend the pancake breakfast.

Zone 9: Chief Veliquette reported they are celebrating their 30 years as Rancho Adobe Fire District and will be having a pancake breakfast on July 1st. They're currently in the middle of a station remodel for Penngrove. They just closed for their part time EMT Firefighter position and are getting ready to open recruitment for a full time Firefighter EMT and have a candidate in backgrounds for a full time Firefighter Paramedic. Chief Schach reported they had a whole department meaning and wanted to thank Rancho and Wilmar for supplying engine coverage, Sonoma County Fire and Sonoma Valley Fire for supplying ambulance coverage.

OES: Chief Courson reported that he wanted to remind everyone to sign up for the MARS account. Any agency that requests in-house training can reach out. Anybody that is utilizing the WhatsApp platform that is changing to Slack on June 15th to please reach out for more information if you need it. Interviews will begin on May 16th for their Region 2 chief position.

Chief Lacy added that the MARS system goes into effect for all the fire season this year and there will be no more hard copies of the F42's. Currently OES has a limited number of iPads available. All agencies in Sonoma County that have iPads on their engines will have the app to be able to process the paperwork faster while out of county.

Training OP's: Chief Akre reported to please make sure you RSVP for Tuesdays overhead refresher class.

FPO's: Devon reported the FPO meeting was cancelled due to a training conflict period. The next meeting is May 31st at Sonoma Valley Fire. There will be a presentation on Interra by Fire Marshall Trevor Smith. The fire investigation task force has not had any calls since last month, please remember to use them if needed. FPO's is holding a joint training session with building officials in Petaluma on June 20th. This training is open to both Sonoma and Marin County agencies. If you have any questions, please reach out to Devon.

Fire Districts: Chief Schroth-Cary reported they had a good meeting two weeks ago. He believes they are doing a good job getting the information out to everybody. They would like to see better participation at the meetings.

Chief Akre added, FASIS and FDAC EBA are in the final steps of consolidating into FIRMS. FASIS just completed their calendar year audit for 2021 fire season, due to the large fires, some districts got hit with a large amount of true ups. If your agency is a member of FASIS and EBA please remember to turn in the JPA agreement. They need 2/3 for FASIS and EBA to amend the JPA.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Schroth-Cary reported that Captain Brian Clark has retired from Lakeville. They are anticipating and waiting the protest period for consolidation.

Vegetation Management: Chief Akre reported that the Vegetation management program has started, and notifications have gone out to the communities that are participating.

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported they're currently looking at some public funding from the state and will be getting the PCR and Image Trend up to date. They're also looking at expanding the First Watch capabilities. Graton Fire has been added to the draw Epi program. If you're interested in transitioning from your current Epi auto injector requirement, James is happy to provide the needed information.

CAL Chiefs Report: Chief Heine reported they met with EMSAC and have created a new relationship and they're able to talk through all their issues together. AB1168 discusses JPA's and 201 rights, this is one Bill they are currently looking at. The E board will change at the annual conference in Ontario on October 17th. Chris Tubbs will move into the past president roll. The CFED Conference is on May 21st in Palm Springs. There will be two days that are focused on EMS and Wildfire.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: No report

Fire/EMS: Chief Schach reported the tiered response task force met yesterday. 1/3 of the BLS ambulance dispatches ended up transporting. Coastal Valleys is updating the EMS plan that goes to the state and the SCFCA has representation on this committee. The RFP has been awarded to Sonoma County Fire District in EOA 1.

Chief Heine gave an update on this, he stated this has been a three-year process. Written bids were due on March 1st. The presentations on the bid packages we're done on April 20th. The intent to award the contract came out on April 24th. AMR had the right to protest, and they did. AMR's union also protested, but it was thrown out because they were not a bidder. The protest was regarding AMR employees taking a pay cut. This is not true and any employee coming to work today for Sonoma County Fire District would get a significant pay increase. Everybody working in the EOA1 would be Medic Ambulance employees and represented by 1401. The county will be meeting with AMR tomorrow or Friday to discuss their protest. There should be an article in The Press Democrat tomorrow or Friday regarding this.

DEM: No report

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported that Cal Fire will be operational for fire season by June 5th. Air Attack and one tanker will also be on base by June 5th. June 19th they will have their full engine complement and the Type 1 Helicopter at the base. The Region 2 preseason fire meeting will be tomorrow. Looking into this season there is a tremendous amount of annual grass and brush growth. Operational Op Coordinators will be meeting next week to start planning for this season. If any agencies have specialty resources that want to offer up to the operational area, please let Chief Heine know for help to navigate through this. Please make sure you update Active Status this season. Region 2 looks at it live every day.

Chief Tuberville added there is a significant change to the Cal Fire Tac frequencies this year that will be coming out soon.

REDCOM: Evonne reported they are working on having a wildland dispatch training day for the fire season. They are moving forward and working on the expansion project. Chief Akre spoke about with the intent to award Sonoma County Fire District with the EOA1, what would happen to REDCOM. The REDCOM Board has been talking and planning for some time now. They are expecting if AMR is not going to be the ground ambulance provider for EOA1 that they may not have interest in continuing our dispatch services. If they did continue there could be a significant price increase. They're continuing to talk about the transition and how they can take care of their REDCOM employees. There is a 120-day notification time period if AMR does not to continue the services.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: None

Adjournment: @ 12:00hrs

Next Meeting: June 14th, location Sonoma Valley Fire – Station 1

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary