



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION MEETING  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
August 9th, 2023, at 8:30 AM  
USCG Station**

**ATTENDANCE**

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Jessie Brame	USCG
Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire	Evonne Stevens	REDCOM
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa Fire	Mark Coursen	OES
Ben Nicholls	Cal Fire	Jeff Duvall	DEM
Jack Piccinini	Sebastopol Fire	Bonnie Plakos	NSC Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire
Jacqui Jorgeson	Volunteer FF Foundation	Jen Riegler	Integrative Healers
Aaron Johnson	RPPS	Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire
Brian Diemer	PGE	Gabe Sturnus	Sonoma Valley Fire
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg Fire	Daren DeCarli	Gold Ridge Fire
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa Fire	Trevor Collins	Santa Rosa Fire
Mike Stornetta	L1401	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale Fire
Mike McCallum	Santa Rosa Fire	James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS
Bill Bullard	Graton Fire		

**Call to Order:** Chief Westrope began the meeting at 8:35am and led the pledge.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chief Westrope

**Host Chief Introduction:** The Base Representative welcomed everyone.

**Presidents Report:** Chief Westrope reported that Chief Akre is on vacation. Nothing to report.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved Regular meeting and Special meeting. All AYE

**Treasurer’s Report:** Chief Bellach reported: No changes from last month.

Chief’s General Fund	\$4,844.60
Survivor’s Fund	\$96,396.31
Special Assessment Fund	\$4,004.72
Training Officer’s Fund	\$1886.61
Training Officer’s – Command Tablets	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$3,617.00
FPO Fire Safety Trailer Fund	\$14,506.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$388.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$3,446.26
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$1,041.53
Safety Pals General Fund	\$15,605.77
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$147,979.86</b>

**Correspondence:** None

**Presentation:** Nick Sanders – Nick Sanders Political Law- Spoke about the Do's and Dont's of Campaigns. The presentation will be available to view upon request.

Dr. Riegle and Jacqui Jorgeson – Founder of IHAN and Wild Oak Medicine/Volunteer Fire Foundation spoke about a wellness initiative for firefighters and wellness events around the county. The presentation will be available to view upon request.

**Old Business:** Chief Westrope pushed the 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment for the tax measure to next month.

**New Business:** None

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Fire Service Working Group:** Chief Westrope reported that Chief Akre sent out an update on July 27<sup>th</sup>. The signatures were submitted to County for validation. We will hear back from the Register of Voters by September 7<sup>th</sup> to see if we are good to go or need to go back and get more signatures. On September 12<sup>th</sup> that item will go before the BOS to get the authorization to put the measure on the ballot. The group has been working on an outreach plan. If you would like to present to your board or governing heads, please let the group know and they would be happy to give any needed support. They have been working on the one pagers and the final due date is August 18<sup>th</sup>. All they need is your photo and a quote. These need to be completed by every agency. Everyone will receive free copies to distribute as you see fit. The County-wide one pager is done and being translated to Spanish. Funds have been raised to pay for the signature gathering by the union. None of the Supervisor budget requests for funding was approved for Kenwood, North Sonoma Coast and Cloverdale. Chief Heine and Chief Akre will be meeting with the Fires Ad Hoc committee on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss this further. Chief Piccinini spoke about the potential Sebastopol tax measure. They did not receive enough votes at the city council meeting to move forward with the measure.

**SMART:** Doug Williams reported they are looking at different ways to increase ridership. Continuing to work on the pathway extensions. The Windsor extension up to Healdsburg will start in the near future. The north Petaluma station should be starting soon. The shuttle service from the airport station to the airport has started. The freight system continues to service mainly Petaluma and they are looking for additional customers. Still working on the ESZ notifications to SMART. There has been a lot of focus on the Geyserville area for training and prevention to clear that part of the line. The Golden Gate Rail Museum is working on a proposal to run rail bikes in both Schellville and Cloverdale as possibilities. Thank you to SCFDA to help SMART do a survey of the rail line.

**PG & E:** No report

## Regional Zone Reports:

**CALFIRE:** Chief Nicholls reported starts and acres are down in the North Region as we are seeing more activity to the south this year. Year to date for North Region is 1500 fires for 2500 acres, last year was at 2000 starts for 14,000 acres. Lasts months lightning activity only brought us one fire. Working on the air quality issues tied to the prescribed burn by Sonoma Raceway. There is a meeting later this week to talk with the vintners and their concerns. Dispatch levels for this year have changed a bit. The 1970's version of fuels have been updated and is now driven by large fire potential. Because of this, there was some issues with the new system and we were trending low. This has now been fixed. An important reminder with aerial firefighting, this is always a very choreographed event and bad things happen really quick. Please keep the families of the lost ones in your minds from the Riverside helicopter incident.

**Zone 3:** No reported

**Zone 4:** Chief Plakos reported they now have an off road side by side UTV they have added to their fleet.

**Zone 5:** No report

**Zone 6:** Chief Jenkins reported they received a FEMA grant for vegetation management for \$7.4M. This will be for CWPP projects.

**Zone 7:** Chief Johnson reported they had fire inspector interviews yesterday. Currently working on the EOA implementation for January 2024. Chief Westrope reported they had the ground breaking ceremony for Station 5.

**Zone 8:** Chief Bullard reported he has been working with Chief Piccinini to show the volunteer FF film that features a Graton volunteer the week of August 28<sup>th</sup>. This will fall right into the volunteer academy starting in September. Chief Bullard has all the information on this if anyone else would like to coordinate a showing of this film. Chief Piccinini reported their 40 hour Engineer started a few weeks ago and is doing a great job. The city council approved a 2<sup>nd</sup> 40 hour Engineer position and will be starting the testing process. The city is in the process of recruiting a new fire chief and details should be out soon. They are under contract to purchase a new Pierce T-1 Engine for \$938,000.00 and should be about a 2 year build time.

**Zone 9:** Chief Veliquette reported they are continuing with recruitment and promotions. The Station 2 remodel is wrapping up.

**OES:** Chief Coursen introduced Chief Ryan Wakefield that will be taking his position. He thanked everyone for the service and it had been a pleasure working with everyone. Chief Wakefield introduced himself and looks forward to working with everyone.

**Training OP's:** No report

**FPO's:** Devon reported they met a couple weeks ago. Lance McDonald has been appointed to VP to finish out the term. They spoke about the safety trailer and how it is in

bad shape. They are looking at upgrading the trailer. Jason Palonni is spear heading this and is looking at a new trailer that is ADA compliant. They are seeking out grants to help secure funding. A ask to have Sonoma County Fire District house and maintain the trailer was made to the group. Hans will draft an MOU between the FPO's and SCFCA. This trailer, as before would be available to any agency in the county. FITF had an opportunity to do some training in Petaluma last week. This month they have their FPO meeting with Marin County on August 30<sup>th</sup> on SMART. There will be a tour of the ops yard and trains.

**Fire Districts:** No report

**Volunteer Fire Companies:** No report

**Vegetation Management:** No report

**Coastal Valley EMS:** James Salvante reported they have been working on a call review for the next Tiered response meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Working on the Image Trend 3.5. They are also working on the hiring process for a new EMS coordinator.

**CAL Chiefs Report:** Chief Westrope reported the annual conference will be in Ontario Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Fire/EMS:** Chief Schach reported they are still working on the EMS plan as well as the tiered response and advance EMT.

**DEM:** No report

**Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan:** Chief Westrope reported we just have the 2 single resources from Sonoma County Fire District deployed to Montana. There is some weather coming in this weekend for potential lightning strikes to the north.

**REDCOM:** Evonne reported the new radio consoles that were ordered to replace the old ones and have to be repaid to the sheriff's department who purchased them. The cost was \$640,000.00. At the last REDCOM meeting they voted on model to be able to repay the sheriff's department and approved \$110,000.00 to come from the membership for the next FY and then over the next 5 years add 10% until it is paid off. The sheriff's department has agreed to this. The expansion for REDCOM is moving forward, the drawings and permit process will begin in Dec. 2023. In April the permits will be obtained and construction will begin. The construction is planned to be completed by Oct of 2024. They have been doing in-house training for this year's fire season. Supervisor interviews were conducted yesterday. They did not get the interest they wanted and will keep moving forward. If you or anyone is interested, please go online and apply.

**Closed Session:** None

**Good of the Order:** Chief Westrope stated the Windsor Chamber of Commerce is having their 10<sup>th</sup> annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm – 4:00pm if anyone would like to participate please let him know.

Chief Nicholls stated the Healdsburg fire that happened a couple of weeks ago had a typical afternoon on shore breeze and spotted across Hwy. 101. It ran behind the reservoir at Station 48. Remember even though we are off on our starts and acreage for the year, we still have those day to day starts. They are working with Watch Duty on posts that were not really aligned with the incidents.

**Adjournment:** @ 10:15hrs

**Next Meeting:** September 13th, location Sonoma County Fire – Bodega Bay Station

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach  
SCFCA Secretary