



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**
July 12th, 2023, at 8:30 AM
Rancho Adobe Fire Station

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire
Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire	Evonne Stevens	REDCOM
Devon Gambonini	Santa Rosa Fire	Ray Mulas	Schell Vista
Ben Nicholls	Cal Fire	Jack Thomas	Santa Rosa Fire
Matt Windrem	Sonoma County Fire	Bonnie Plakos	NSC Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire
Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire	Steve Mosiurchak	So. Co. Fire Prevention
Kelly Bradley	North Bay Fire	Aaron Johnson	RPPS
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa Fire	Trevor Collins	Santa Rosa Fire
Mike Marcucci	Cal Fire	Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale Fire
Mike McCallum	Santa Rosa Fire	James Salvante	Coastal Valley EMS

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

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Akre

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Veliquette welcomed everyone.

Presidents Report: Chief Westrope reported Chief Akre will be gone for the next two meetings.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Westrope, 2nd: Bradley , All AYE

Treasurer’s Report: Chief Bellach reported:

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
Total	\$147,979.86

We still have a total of 4 agencies that have not paid their dues.

Correspondence: None

Presentation: None

Old Business: Update on the sales tax measure: Chief Westrope reported the signature gathering target was 22,700, we are currently at 24,129 gross and just over 19,000 validated. The union is working on the campaign and they reported that they have over \$200,000.00. The Round Table initiative is currently polling around 20%-30%. This initiative is being pushed by the Real Estate Assoc. that would make any sales tax have to pass by 2/3rds vote.

New Business: Sonoma County 1 Fire Mission: Chief Heine reported the program with Reach and Sonoma County Fire started last July. The copter went into service in August of last year. They have trained all winter long for firefighting missions. As of today the aircraft must be dispatched at the time of the incident due to safety and operational issues with the Cal Fire component. They will be dispatched on all first alarm veg fires in the county. They can perform up to 3 types of missions. Bucket work, air recon missions and personnel transportation. On a LRA mission TAC 12 will be the designated air to ground for So. Co. 1.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: Chief Bradley reported as of July 1st Gold Ridge Fire consolidated with the remaining CSA 40 agencies. Gold Ridge will be hiring an additional Battalion Chief. Chief Westrope stated that they are meeting every Thursday. Also see old business for more info.

SMART: Doug Williams reported they hit a ridership record this month of 3,500+ riders in one day. They have funding secured for the Windsor extension. They should start construction 2024 and completed in 2025. They have some of the funding for Healdsburg and will start some of that work as well. There are a lot of new pathways being constructed. If you want to have a chance of having FD access on the pathways, make sure you are talking with the planning to help design these. Petaluma has their new station scheduled to start construction at the end of this year. The airport station just picked up a shuttle service that will take you to the airport and business park. The freight system is still serving the customers in Petaluma. They have added trains on Friday and Saturday nights. The EOC notifications are still being worked on for the right of ways. If anyone has any interest in training with SMART, please get it to Doug sooner than later.

PG & E: No report

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Nicholls reported July 3rd the annual burn suspension went into play. There are a handful of prescribed burn coming up in the next week. These will be allowed on a case by case review. Toley, Sonoma Raceway, Sonoma Mountain, Shiloh, Annadel, and Warm Springs Dam. On some of these burns Cal Fire units will be assisting with the burn, but will be available for responses. There are 11 exclusive use helicopters in the

North Region. We have 2 of these copters, 35 Sierra at Sonoma Air Attack Base and 1 Charlie Hotel at the Napa County Airport. Last year these were a request only unit. This year both EU copters will be on the IA dispatch. On a medium dispatch we will have Air Attack, 2 Tankers, and 3 Copters along with the normal compliment of engines. On a high dispatch we will have Air Attack, 3 Tankers, and 3 T-1 Copters. There will be no Copters for low dispatches. Dispatch levels have changed a bit. Now the levels are based on fire history with condensed fuel types. So you may here dispatch levels that are lower than normal because this is now based on a combination of condensed fuel types and fire history.

Zone 3: Chief Mulas report there Chicken BBQ is this Sunday from 12-6. They are just completing their LED sign. They are negotiating with Verizon for a cell tower at station 2. Have just completed interviewing 7 recruits.

Chief Bellach reported their LED sign has been completed and is up and running. In the process of finalizing the contract with Sonoma Valley for a 5 year ALS 2.0 staffing.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: No report

Zone 7: Chief Heine reported most of their focus is on ambulance service to EOA1. Working on securing a commercial facility site in Santa Rosa for a base of operations. Local 1401 will be having a town hall meeting tomorrow afternoon and all current AMR employees are invited to attend. In pre hire stages for firefighter paramedics. Captain Dave Bidem has been reassigned to EMS Captain. Working with REACH to enhance their agreement and get funding to have a full-time Battalion Chief at the base. Currently excepting applications for a fire inspector.

Chief Westrope reported they are hiring or 6 positions now. July 21st at 1:30 is the official ground breaking for station 5.

Zone 8: No report

Zone 9: Chief Schach reported that Petaluma would be happy to host REDCOM dispatchers for ride-alongs. There are 2 company's looking for battery storage facilities in Petaluma. The community is showing some concerns. If anyone is having this issue, Petaluma has some contacts that they could share with you. Starting July 1st they now have a training officer, Kevin Burris has been promoted to this position. Today and tomorrow they have a training burn at the airport. There is an active shooter training this weekend. They are in the middle of a facility assessment master plan that was presented to council Monday night. They are looking into a new headquarters facility at the fairgrounds and house a ladder truck, then retrofitting the current headquarters to an ambulance and engine only house.

Chief Veliquette reported they are also in hiring mode and doing promotions. He spoke in regards to the battery storages and Chief Akre had put out some information on this.

There are a number of these types of facilities already in California and consist of multiple cargo type containers lined up together. They currently have 2 that are in the

planning stages right now. They had a fantastic 4th of July pancake breakfast. Still working through Cal OES to get payments from past fires, up to \$50,000.00 for Rancho.

OES: Chief Bellach reported for Chief Courson, Please make sure we monitor the current weather situation coming up for possible repositioning if needed. Next month he introduce his replacement, Ryan Wakefield from Pelican Bay.

Training OP's: Chief Nicholls reported the battalion line drop was shelved for a future meeting. Possibly having the opportunity for a T-2 swift water team out of our county. The Cal Fire unit is catching up with Tablet Command. Long term they are working on a way to deal with the licensing issues between the state and county. They talked about SMART notifications for the trains for fires near or on the railways.

FPO's: Devon reported they met last month and had a presentation from Tesla on their solar roof tiles and the safety considerations on them. If anyone is interested in seeing the presentation contact Devon and she can get you the link to it. They will be meeting again next week. FITF has not had any call outs in the last month. FPO's is still actively looking for a vice president.

Fire Districts: No report

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Bradly reported Station 94 will be having their Annual Chicken BBQ this month. The flier was sent out to the group. NHRA event is coming up and they are looking for people who would like to staff positions on carts and engines.

Vegetation Management: Steve Mosiurchak reported the contracts are in the process of being sent out. They have been aggressively doing residential chipping. This is the first year that they have been funded to have two full-time maintenance workers added and this will become full-time. They are supporting TPW on the off season for hazardous fuel reductions on public right of ways. If you some public roads in the district, please let them know so they can try to fit that into the schedule. They would also like to work with your internal prevention bureaus to help find large scale vegetation management projects. This would be extended to private road owners as well to help aid in better evacuation routes.

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante reported he needs a letter from SCFCA stating that Chief Schach and Chief Akre will remain our representatives on the EMCC. Chief Westrope motioned for Chief Akre and Chief Schach to remain the representatives, 2nd and all AYE. They have been working on a hiring process for the new EMS Coordinator and are not ready to make the announcement as of yet.

CAL Chiefs Report: Chief Heine reported they are keeping an eye out on current legislative items. There are multiple ambulance RFP processes going on throughout the state. They have been meeting monthly with the State EMS Director to keep a healthy relationship. There has been a lot of work with State FireScope and the Mutual Aid System and are having continued talks. The annual conference this year will be in Ontario October 17-19.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: No report

Fire/EMS: Chief Schach reported the committee is still meeting weekly and just met regarding the tiered response components. We are still sending BLS and ALS units once calls are EMD. They are looking into eventually only dispatching BLS and ALS units when needed. They are working on the EMS plan with Coastal Valleys. Looking at the scope of advanced EMT for the county.

DEM: Chief Westrope congratulated Jeff Duvall as the new Director for DEM. Jeff reported Andrea Strongman from SLS came over as a new Deputy Emergency Services Coordinator. Chris Angle is the extra help annalist to the Emergency Services Coordinator assigned to alert and warnings. Sam Wallis is still filling in as the Deputy Director and they will be going out to hire in the next couple of months. If you are thinking evacuations, please get a hold of REDCOM so they can get in touch with the DEM Duty Officer so they can start that process.

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported we are transitioning to the SLACK App from the Whats App. This will be an efficient tool for the Op area coordinators to push out operational information quickly. Please keep the Active Status updated.

REDCOM: Evonne reported they are gearing up for the dispatching for NHRA at the end of the month. They just received new software for a free trial called Prepared Live. This will let dispatchers send out a link in live time so they can received photos or video live from an incident. Francis put together a great training about REDCOM operations. She has done 3 presentations for Sonoma Valley. They would like to send her out to any other agencies interested in this training. They are putting together a training with Sebastopol Fire to talk about the EMD process and why we go code 2 vs code 3 on the 20th. Their board meeting will be tomorrow at the training tower 2:00pm.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: Chief Bellach stated that we still need an agency to host for our December meeting. If anyone would like to host please contact me. Devon stated that Verizon has a new tower located at the County Fairgrounds and we now have much better service in that area.

Adjournment: @ 10:15hrs

Next Meeting: August 9th, location U.S Coast Guard Station

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary