



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
June 14th, 2023, at 8:30 AM
Sonoma Valley Fire**

ATTENDANCE

Daren Bellach	Kenwood Fire	Mark Heine	Sonoma County Fire
Spencer Andreis	Sonoma Valley Fire	Sean Lacy	Sonoma Valley Fire
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley Fire	Joe Garcia	Petaluma Fire
Charles Funkhouser	USCG	Lance Macdonald	Healdsburg Fire
Matt Windrem	Sonoma County Fire	Bonnie Plakos	NSC Fire
Doug Williams	SMART	Jeff Schach	Petaluma Fire
Robert Johnson	Sonoma County Fire	Brian Diemer	PGE
Kelly Bradley	North Bay Fire	Aaron Johnson	RPPS
Sean Jerry	Cal Fire	Bill Bullard	Graton Fire
Jack Piccinini	Sebastopol Fire	Mike Marcucci	Cal Fire
Jason Jenkins	Cloverdale Fire	Shepley Schroth-Cary	North Bay Fire
Matt Windrum	Sonoma County Fire	Mike McCallum	Santa Rosa Fire
Ron Busch	Sonoma County Fire	Trevor Collins	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 Akre welcomed everyone.

Presidents Report: Chief Akre reported that we have had a lot of great things happening in the fire service county wide. On Tuesday the BOS awarded the contract for ambulance services in EOA 1 to Sonoma County Fire District. Congratulations to Kelly and Shepley for getting all the VFC's and their consolidations passed during their protest period. There was not one protest filed. On Friday the citizens-based initiative for the sales tax was turned into the department of elections.

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

Report: Chief Bellach reported:

Chief's General Fund	\$4,644.60
Survivor's Fund	\$96,396.31
Special Assessment Fund	\$30,504.72
Training Officer's Fund	\$1686.61
Training Officer's – Command Tablets	(\$259.56)
FPO General Fund	\$3,617.00
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	\$183,778.85

We still have a total of 7 agencies that have not paid their dues. Notification letters will be sent out this week per Hans.

It was brought up about a new fee structure for the Fire Chiefs to create due to consolidations. The E Board will have to meet to discuss options and bring it to the group.

Correspondence: None

Presentation: None

Old Business: Update on the sales tax measure: Chief Akre reported that the initiative packet was turned into the registrar of voters. In the process in getting a contract together with the signature gatherers. \$150,000.00 has been raised so far to support this effort. We still need about \$120,000.00 for the signature gathering. Had a very productive meeting with Guy Fieri this week, he is very supportive of our efforts. We will be looking to partner with him and do some fundraising events in the late summer. Local 1401 has been amazing and supportive throughout the program. If you know anyone that would like to get involved with fundraising, please reach out to Mike Stornetta. There is a well-developed IAP for fundraising. We are asking each agency to send in a quote what this measure means to your agency with a photo of your choice to have available to the public while gathering signatures. There will be a one-page bullet point question sheet regarding the measure to follow. We will need 21,000 signatures. Please be thinking about auction items for a silent or live auction later in the summer to help raise funding.

Chief Piccinini asked how long it will be until we see the revenues come in from the measure if it passes. There is a 110-day period after the measure passes for potentially being able to collect, then it goes to the next quarter so the sales tax would not be able to be collected until October 1st, 2024. This means we would not see the funds until January 2025.

It was reminded that if an agency was planning to create their own agency tax measure for the November 2024 ballot, to please pause, the sales tax measure may give those agencies what they need for funding. If you were to move forward with your own measure for November 2024, you would have full support from SCFCA.

Chief Heine mentioned Diana McKnight was brought on board through the County of Sonoma to serve as the executive director to FSWG. In 2021 when the County stopped paying Dana, Sonoma County Fire District picked up those fees. They now need to figure out

what the long term will be and how to recoup that cost. The cost is \$16,000.00-\$18,000.00 a FY. Chief Heine asked the association if the funding was available if they could get reimbursed for this fiscal year. Chief Akre stated that we still have \$30,000.00+- in our original assessment fund and believed we had the funding for this. The group agreed to use these funds.

SCFCA website update: Chief Bellach thanked the SRJC web class for their hard work on redesigning our entire page. The manual has been distributed to everyone that would need to make updates and post information to the site. We have a live google calendar, any events that would like to be posted can now be done. Each section of the SCFCA has its own area to post agendas and minutes. We own the site and completely run it. The domain is paid up for three years. If anyone has questions, please feel free to ask.

New Business: None

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: See above

SMART: Doug Williams reported next week should be the decision point to see if they're going to extend from Windsor to Healdsburg. A second station in Petaluma was approved. They will be having a on demand shuttle from the airport station that will serve most of the airport area. They have implemented late night trains for Friday nights and Saturday nights. Have been making some progress on a system that notifies SMART of any incident on or within the tracks. If anybody wants any training, please contact Doug sooner than later.

PG & E: Brian Diemer reported PG&E has a contract that have been working on with Marin for a T-1 helicopter in Santa Rosa and in service by July 1st.

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Jerry reported June 16th the type 1 copter is staffed out of Napa that's a region asset. June 19th there will be one engine per station, there will be 21 engines in the unit. June 26th, we go to peak staffing, 31 engines in the unit. July 1st the type one copter will be available at the air base.

Zone 3: Chief Bellach reported last night our board approved to move forward with a five-year contract with Sonoma Valley Fire. Kenwood Firefighters Association donated \$5000 to the sales tax measure campaign. On Father's Day our explorer post will be hosting a pancake breakfast at the station.

Chief Akre reported in anticipation of continuing the contract of services with Kenwood they are doing both an internal and external recruitment as well as a lateral firefighter medic recruitment. The Sonoma Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association donated to the campaign \$25,000.00. They just took delivery of a new type 3 engine from High Tech.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: Lance Macdonald reported they're in the middle of their annual weed abatement inspections. At the last council meeting they adopted grazing policy for use in fire prevention.

Zone 7: Chief Heine reported in regard to the EOA they are now focusing on the deployment. They're looking to secure a commercial building to set up their operations for EOA1. The Sonoma County 1 helicopter has been going through their annual training the pilots are starting to get their red card certification. The copier should be online and staffed for the season by July 1st. They had interviews going on yesterday and today. They did receive a good number of applicants for firefighter paramedic. They are filling a full time EMS captains position. Captain Dave Bynum will be filling this position. Chief McCallum reported they are having the Country Summer Event this weekend at the fairgrounds. They're expecting up to 20,000 people to attend. They will be up staffing engines during this event.

Zone 8: Chief Piccinini reported they have their 40 hour a week fire inspector replacement in backgrounds right now. The city is undergoing a lot of budget issues and they were declined any funds to expand their current staffing model. They also cut out an \$80,000 incentive pay for the volunteers.

Zone 9: Chief Veliquette reported Captain James Deurloo has been promoted to BC on B shift. They will be promoting captains and engineers behind Deurloo's promotion. They currently are hiring for all positions. The Penngrove station is well under construction for its remodel. The 47th annual Penngrove parade will be on July 2nd and on Saturday July 1st will their annual pancake breakfast. They are struggling to get payment from OES for the Windy incident of \$50,000+- and are not sure what to do. Chief Johnson reported they are working with their HR department to have 24hr. BC coverage. They did get a position authorized in the budget for 3 LT BC's on a 48 hour shift.

OES: Chief Courson reported the survey he sent out needs to be completed by mid-July.

Training OP's: Chief Andreis reported the May meeting was the Overhead Refresher Class. They are due to have a meeting next month.

FPO's: Joe Garcia reported in their last meeting Trevor gave a great presentation on the Intera program. The next meeting is on Tuesday of next week with the building officials from Sonoma and Marin Counties in Petaluma at 0830. Alex Roa from Sebastopol had to step down as vice president. They are actively looking for a new board member. If you would like to nominate somebody for the board position, please contact Joe.

Fire Districts: Chief Akre reported on July 1, FIRMS takes effect, the consolidation of FASIS JPA and the FDAC EBA. They did receive the 2/3^{rds} resolutions required for the JPA.

Volunteer Fire Companies: Chief Bradly reported the LAFCO protest period was approved and there were not enough protests to have an election. All the VFC's within the CSA-40 have been merged with Gold Ridge Fire and should take effect by July 1st.

NASCAR was over the weekend, a huge thank you to those agencies that participated. Last Saturday there was a retirement party for Mike Mickelson, thank you for all of those that were able to attend.

Vegetation Management: No report

Coastal Valley EMS: James Salvante congratulated Sonoma County Fire District for being awarded the EOA contract. He is committed to working with everyone under this new contract. They are working through the process of NEMSIS 3.5 version and should be switched over by December. They are hiring some additional staff and currently have 13 applicants, they're doing evaluations this week.

CAL Chiefs Report: Chief Heine reported they are launching a new website. The annual conference in October will be in Ontario, registration is now open. This year they will be launching a Cal Chiefs Hall of Fame program that recognizes past presidents of Cal Chiefs that have made significant contributions to the California fire service. They are going through an in-depth reorganization. Chief Tubbs and Chief Heine hosted a meeting with all of their section presidents in Sacramento to start laying this out. They're getting close to a place to be prepared and help reengage with State EMSA on Chapter 13.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: No report

Fire/EMS: Chief Schach reported they have been meeting weekly. The EOA was awarded by the BOS. Working on the tiered response policy, it is very close to being approved. The county is working on the EMS plan that will get submitted to the state. James Salvante added that the group working on the EMS plan is helping to construct a survey that is part of the evaluation. They are looking for really honest and constructive answers. The survey was constructed by input that the consultant received by the working group. The survey went out this morning, one per agency.

DEM: No report

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: Chief Heine reported the overhead refresher training was conducted last month and was well attended. If there is anybody in your agency that did not get an overhead refresher, please contact Mark. We will be meeting with the REDCOM Duty Officers the week after next to do an in-service update with them.

REDCOM: Evonne reported they had a successful weekend dispatching for NASCAR. Call volume was a little low due to the cooler temperatures. They are planning on having an onsite presence for an NHRA next month. They have been working with Santa Rosa Fire in conjunction with the city emergency managers to get them alerts through active 911 for any evacuations or shelters in place. They have created a unit in CAD that will

send the event details to cell phones followed by a phone call to ensure that the message was received. They're having their wildland fire refresher training on the 27th of this month.

Chief Heine added that the current contract with AMR and the County for REDCOM JPA staffing expires June of next year. AMR would need to give at least six months' notice that they would not want to continue the contract. There has been no indication that they are doing anything. There has been talks if AMR does not wish to continue the contract what does this look like for REDCOM. Worst case is that we would need to find an employing agency that the REDCOM JPA could contract with to continue the staffing model.

Closed Session: None

Good of the Order: None

Adjournment: @ 10:10hrs

Next Meeting: July 12th, location Rancho Adobe Fire – Station 1

Respectfully Submitted,

Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary