



**SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION MEETING
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
March 13th, 2024 at 0830 AM
Graton FD**

ATTENDANCE

Sean Lacy
Mark Heine
Devon Gambonini
Jeff Valiquette
Daren Bellach
Steve Akre
Spencer Andreis
Aaron Johnson
Darrin DeCarli
Mike McCallum
Brian Diemer
Matt Windrem
Bill Bullard
Ben Nicholls
Evonne Stevens
Todd Derum
Ryan Wakefield

Sonoma Valley Fire
Sonoma County Fire
Santa Rosa Fire
Rancho Adobe Fire
Kenwood Fire
Sonoma Valley Fire
Sonoma Valley Fire
RPPS
Gold Ridge Fire
Santa Rosa Fire
PG&E
Sonoma County Fire
Graton Fire
Cal Fire
REDCOM
Sebastopol Fire
OES

Sheply Schroth-Cary
Steve Thibodeaux
Robert Johnson
Jeff Schach
Ray Mulas
Jason Boaz
Ron Busch
James Salvante
Andrew Smith
Scott Westrope
Steve Herzberg
Bonnie Plakos
Mike Marcucci
Steve Mosiurchak
Brenda Bacigalupi
Doug Williams

Gold Ridge Fire
Sebastopol Fire
Sonoma County Fire
Petaluma Fire
Schell Vista Fire
Healdsburg Fire
Sonoma County Fire
CVEMSA
RPPS
Santa Rosa Fire
Sonoma County Fire
NSCFPD
Cal Fire
County of Sonoma
REDCOM
SMART

Call to Order: at 0830hrs

Pledge of Allegiance: Chief Akre

Host Chief Introduction: Chief Bullard welcomed everyone.

Presidents Report: Chief Akre thanked everyone with our success with the passing of Measure H. We are at almost 62%, we are trending and still gaining in votes. We have one change to the agenda and will be having a discussion on road closures during storm events.

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Heine, 2nd: Lacy, All Aye

Treasurer's Report: Hans reported

Chief's Fund	\$4,164.07
Survivor's Fund	\$95,396.31
Special Assessment Fund	\$(4,020.44)
Training Officers Fund	\$1,986.61
FPO General Fund	\$3,413.55
FPO Safety Trailer Fund	\$14,581.90
FPO Career Succession Fund	\$388.71
FPO Fire Investigation Fund	\$3,721.26
Youth Fire Setter Program	\$686.64
Safety Pals General Fund	\$15,568.51
Safety Pals Trailer Fund	\$2,500.00

Total Funds \$138,127.56

Correspondence: None

Presentation: PG&E – Brian Diemer spoke about handling gas emergencies for first responders. He handed out an updated First Responder Guide. He reminded everyone about the First Responder Portal that is available. The Power Point is available if you would to see it.

Old Business: Update on sales tax measure: We are at 61.91% with 20-30 thousand ballots still out. The tax will start to be collected on October 1st of this year. The first receipts will come in around January or February 2025. For budgeting purposes plan on 9 months of revenue from the measure. The SCFCA will be able to cover $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year for REDCOM fees. A request was put into the county for information on actual sales tax receipts that the county has received on some of the county wide measures. There will be agreements that will need to be made between each entity and the auditor tax collector as well as between the SCFCA. A subject matter expert has been contacted on finance. This is someone who has experience as a City Finance Officer and a Special District Finance Officer who will be able to provide guidance for us. We will need to develop an executive director job description for this group and also update our bylaws.

Chief Heine stated the Business Round Table Measure is still moving forward for the November ballot. The Governor's office has asked the State Supreme Court to weigh-in on the legal validity of this item going on the ballot and its component of the retroactivity. This is a ballot measure proposed by the Business Round Table Group that says any fee imposed by a governmental agency has to go on a public ballot with a 2/3rds vote to pass that will be retroactive to January 1st 2020. These funds collected would have to be returned and put into an escrow account. The Governor has introduced AC13 which is an emergency measure by the Governor that will be on the November ballot and says this measure will also need 2/3rds vote to pass.

New Business: Road closures during storm events: Chief Heine reported he was frustrated on how the current road closures during the last few storms was done and related to firefighter safety. He felt that putting up a single barricade is not a road closure as long as someone can get out of their car and move it. They are having to put firefighters into dry suits and swift water rescue equipment to go in and take people out that have moved a barricade. He asked that SCFCA and SCFDA take this up as a concern with a joint letter to the County Administrator stating we would like to actively engage with your team for more long term solutions that address the safety of first responders related to road closures. The group agreed and supported this to move forward to draft a letter.

Standing Committee Reports:

Fire Service Working Group: See old Business

SMART: No report

PG & E: No update

Fire Districts/Volunteer Fire Foundation: Chief Schroth-Cary reported they just completed the grant funded ICS300 class, Driver Op 1A and 1B is scheduled and turnout reimbursements are in the planning.

Regional Zone Reports:

CALFIRE: Chief Marcucci reported the Hood Mountain Crew will be starting April 1st. No word on opening up fire season this year. There will 2 EU Helicopters available this year, one with night vision. They have 92 engines on order, 72 crew busses on order, 200 pickups arrived at Davis, 10 bulldozers on order and 72 law enforcement vehicles are being outfitted right now.

Chief Nicholls reported the burning in Annadel is wrapped up. They will be transitioning to Sugarloaf, Jack London and Monte Rio in the near future.

Zone 3: Chief Mulas reported they have received a date to go back and spec their type 1 engine. They will be flying a firefighter position to get the 3.0 staffing.

Chief Bellach reported he is going through an OES salary survey audit.

Chief Akre reported they hired 2 firefighter medics and are in continuous open recruitment for firefighter medic positions. Their board approved to hire a 2nd fire mechanic. They have hired a fulltime administrative assistant. One of their fulltime captains have been moved to a 40 hour a week staff assignment on a temporary basis. Their TO is in transition, Gabe Sternis has been the TO for the last 3 years and Captain Luke Loftus will be the new TO for the next 2 years. They are in the process of specking a rural type 1 engine.

Zone 4: No report

Zone 5: No report

Zone 6: No report

Zone 7: Chief Westrope reported they have to academy's going on now. They will have 10 out of the 12 that they will need for their SAFER grant. The squads will not be in service until early summer. They have had a rain delay for the ground breaking of station

5. They currently have 9 engines on order and are currently specking out a new ladder truck.

Chief Heine reported they have new type 1's, type 3's and a fire rescue boat on order. Chief Bisordi is assigned fulltime to the airbase. They are currently hiring firefighter medics and an administrative assistant.

Zone 8: Chief Schroth-Cary reported they are continuing to work through the process of consolidation.

Chief Thibodeaux reported they are going through their budget process and things don't look to well. They are continuing to look into the process of consolidation.

Zone 9: Chief Valiquette reported they are working on their budget. They have hired Gina Peterson as their Interim Fire Marshal. They are still looking to hire paramedics and looking into the planning stages for facility upgrades. They are also looking at bringing on a fulltime Fire Mechanic by July 1st.

Chief Johnson reported today is day 4 of the new BC coverage. As of right now they do not have the funding to back fill the overtime and are looking to budget that come July.

OES: Chief Wakefield reported they have had over the last 6 weeks very successful propositions with the op area. May 29th will be a ST/TF refresher class in Santa Rosa.

Training OP's: Chief Andreis reported they met yesterday and had a presentation from Ztron who does fire station alerting. Our current CAD system is Ztron based and agencies that go with their system would make it a more smooth transition as well as more economical. They are looking at a county wide approach to active shooter events and creating an SOP.

FPO's: Devon reported they met last month multiple people attended training in Santa Barbara on fire alarm plan and sprinkler review. There will be some vehicle fire investigation classes in May. The 3rd annual Fire Investigator Academy that will start in May in Fresno. This will be a 4 week course that includes 1A, 1B, 1C and PC832. Their next meeting is next week.

Fire Districts: Chief Schroth-Cary reported the next meeting is April 18th hosted by Rancho Adobe.

Vegetation Management: Steve Mosiurchak reported the DSI program is starting in April. The Chipper program is fully up and running and since January they have over 54 applications.

Coastal Valley EMS: James reported they will be sending in their changes to the field treatment guidelines today. They are working together with the tiered response program and implementing that.

CAL Chiefs Chief Heine reported the facts about AT&T removing hard wired phone line service. If you have copper phone lines you will not lose your hard wired phone service. AT&T is under a mandate to get out of the copper line business and into current technology which is fiber optics. Fiber optic users would have a one hour battery backup system for power outages. Some areas using old copper lines would get replaced with the fiber optics. By law, AT &T cannot abandon your hard line service and will not be doing that. The Fixed Wing Intel program that was originated from Orange County Fire is now in the command and control of Cal Fire and OES. They are talking about the future of the program. They are currently tracking all things related to EMS statewide. CFED conference will be in Palm Desert on May 19th-21st. The Annual CAL Chiefs Conference will be in October in Costa Mesa.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: None

Fire/EMS: No report

DEM: No report

Sonoma OP Area Up-Staffing Plan: No report

REDCOM: Evonne reported she wanted to thank everyone for the support that has been given for Kenny. The Control 4 equipment has arrived and crews are working on getting it installed. More information will follow as far as what agencies will be moved to other Control channels. They are working on the final design for the expansion project. The REDCOM Board meeting is tomorrow.

Good of the Order: Chief Heine stated they currently have Kithchel on contract right now. If you are thinking about using them let him know and he can send you their contract to take a look at.

Closed Session: None

Adjournment: @ 1040hrs

Next Meeting: April 10th, 2024, at Kenwood FD 0830hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daren Bellach
SCFCA Secretary