



California Fire Chiefs Association Southern Division Communications Section Newsletter

The Meeting Minutes

From the meeting January 8, 2004

The meeting was held at the Saddle Ranch Chop House at Universal Studios and hosted by Don Wise.

Don welcomed those in attendance. The Chop House graciously provided breakfast to us. A letter of appreciation was sent to the owner and staff of the Chop House for their generosity.

The Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the previous meetings were approved as written with one change being made. That change was during roundtable, Gabby Moreno had said they had given their old radio consoles to Desert Comm. This is no longer the case, that transaction has fallen through.

The Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Moreno reported that we ended the year with \$5683.40 in the checking account. Treasurer Moreno reported that she had 6 confirmed group memberships at this point. Gabby will email the membership roster to the Secretary.

Training:

It was decided that Cal Chiefs would attempt to host two training classes a year. We are looking at having those classes annually in May and November.

New Business

There is a new Cal Chief's Newsgroup online. To subscribe, contact Randall Larson at Editor911@aol.com or go to yahoogroups.com, sign onto the yahoogroups.com page and choose calchiefscomm.

CalPers will allow a member to buy back anywhere from 1 to 5 years of service credit towards a members retirement. To buy back 5 years, the cost is running around \$53,000.00

Website:

www.CalChiefsSouth.org.

If anyone has links they would like added to the website, contact the Webmaster, Jason DeVita on the website.

There is now a "Job Openings" page on the website. To have a job opening placed on the site, contact Webmaster DeVita by email and send him the information on the posting. If it is in a downloadable form, save the form in PDF format.

If you have any training classes scheduled, email Jason with the information and he will post them on the website also.

Old Business:

The lawsuit involving the City of San Francisco and County of San Francisco was settled out of court with prejudice towards the city. This was the case regarding dispatcher immunity.

(From the Sacramento Bee 12/20/2003) Although the above case was settled out of court, the California Supreme Court recently ruled that government 9-1-1 emergency dispatch agencies cannot be sued, even if they fail to respond to calls for help. The seven justices, in settling conflicting lower court rulings, said that 9-1-1 operations are generally immune from lawsuits

Committee Report:

Membership Committee – Brian Acosta has agreed to be the Chairperson of the Membership Committee, Diane Boyles of San Bernardino County Fire will be the Co-chairperson

Nominating Committee – Steve McClellan of Ventura Co. Fire Department has volunteered to serve as the nominating committee. The following positions are still up for election.

President

Vice President

Secretary

If you have a nomination, please forward it to Steve at :
steve_mcclellan@mail.co.ventura.ca.us

Northern Update:

Don reported that the Northern Division is still working on the fire training module for submission to the State Fire Marshall's Office for approval.

Legislative Report:

Nothing new to report.

Round Table:

DeAnn Pressley – Mercy Air, Mercy Air currently has 2 openings in their Omaha, Nebraska office. Mercy Air is no longer dispatching from it's Rialto location. The dispatch center was moved to Omaha, NE. If there are any service concerns or complaints, they can be directed to DeAnn at Mercy.

Don Wise – Verdugo Fire, Currently have two prospective new hires in background investigations. The backbone for the Motorola and MCT system has been installed. Monterey Park will be joining the consortium by July of 2004 and Alhambra after that. These two additions will make Verdugo Fire a true Area C dispatch facility with a total of 11 cities. Verdugo is also part of the FireNet Statewide system.

Brian Acosta – San Bernardino County Fire, Recently hired one full time dispatcher and two part-time dispatchers. San Bernardino has several operators out on Worker's Comp. Injuries.

Walt Moulton – Kern Co. Fire, currently testing 100 applicants for one open position. Should have the new VHF system up and running by the end of May 2004. Received a grant for new MDC's.

Robert Stoffel – Orange County Communications, reported that the City of La Habra is looking at contracting with L.A.County Fire. The Orange County Fire Authority is building a new complex in Irvine. This will also house a dispatch center. They are looking to move in within the next year.

2004 Schedule:

March 4th, 2004 – Verdugo Fire
May 13th, 2004 – Mercy Air
July 15th, 2004 – Ventura Co. Fire
September 9th, 2004 – Bakersfield/Kern Co. Fire
November 4th, 2004 – South Bay Communications

Members in Attendance:

Gary Stevens – So Bay Comm.
Don Wise – Verdugo Fire
Walt Moulton- Bakersfield/Kern Co.
Gabby Moreno – Mercy Air
Brian Acosta – San Bernardino Co. Fire
Diane Boyles – San Bernardino Co. Fire
DeAnn Pressley- Mercy Air
Robert Stoffel – Orange Co. Communications

IT'S A WINNER

Robert Stoffel was the winner of the raffle. Robert received a 3-day pass to the CalNena conference held in Anaheim January 20th -22nd.

Election Time:

It is that time of year again, the following Board seats are to be elected this year. Don has advised that he will not be able to continue serving in his current capacity so we do need nominations. Please submit your nomination(s) to Steven McClellan for nomination and election at the March meeting. The open positions are:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Meeting Upcoming Meeting:

March 4th, 2004 @1000 Hrs

Location: Verdugo Fire Communications
421 Oak St.
Glendale, CA
(818) 548-3330

Directions: From I-5, take Exit Colorado Blvd. Stay on the exit and it will turn into Colorado. Turn Left on Columbus 1 block. Left on Oak. Verdugo Fire is located on the corner of Oak/Columbus on the top floor of the fire station.

From 134 Freeway, Exit Pacific. Go south on Pacific to Oak. Right on Oak to Columbus. Verdugo Fire is located on the corner of Oak/Columbus on the top floor of the fire station.

2004 Paid Members

Brad Wilson – Long Beach Fire Dept.
Don Wise – Verdugo Fire
Janey Hall – South Bay Communications
Gary Stevens – South Bay Comm.
Bonnie Agee – South Bay Comm.
Lisa Matiansen – Santa Barbara Co. S.O.
Chris Albers – Long Beach Fire Dept.
Chris Bloore – Beverly Hills Comm.
Craig Kinoshita – Orange Co. Fire Auth.
David Paschke – Orange Co. Fire Auth.
Debra Zinskey – Ventura Co. Fire
Dona Norris – Beverly Hills Comm.
John Landstrom – Long Beach Fire Dept.
Julie Fuchs – Ventura Co. Fire
Ken Shuck – Manhattan Beach Fire Dept
Lesli Wilson – Orange Co. Fire Auth.
M.Soto – Verdugo Fire
Michael Dickerson – Ventura Co. Fire
Nick Tatone – Beverly Hills Comm.
Rich Kauffman – Verdugo Fire
Robert Heaton – Ventura Co. Fire
Robert Stoffel – Orange Co. Comm
Steve McClellan – Ventura Co. Fire
Theresa Taylor – Beverly Hills Comm.
J. L. Johnson –

**** REMINDER ****

Dues for membership are due the first of the year. To continue receiving the newsletter you must renew your dues for 2004. The membership application can be obtained off of the website.

March Meeting

If you can, please plan on joining us for our March meeting at Verdugo Fire. We will be having an open discussion forum on the recent firestorms of 2003 and how communications were affected. Below, you will find the flyer for the meeting. Please distribute to anyone interested. CalChiefs will be hosting lunch. The lunch will be catered by the Honeybaked Ham store in Glendale and will consist of sandwiches, cheeses and salads. Please R.S.V.P. to Brian Acosta so that we will have an accurate account of those attending.



PRESENTED BY THE CALCHIEFS
COMMUNICATIONS SOUTHERN DIVISION

ATTN:

**Fire Chiefs
Communications Administrators and Managers
Dispatchers, Captains & Firefighters**

**OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION
RE: COMMUNICATIONS DURING 2003 FIRE STORMS**

Please join us on March 4th at Verdugo Fire Communications in Glendale, California for an open forum discussion on the "Nature Driven" Fire Storms encountered in the 4th Quarter of 2003.

We would like to have any and all personnel that worked during those events, or were directly affected by those fires to attend. We would appreciate any level or classification from Dispatcher to Administrator to Fire Chief.

This forum will give all of us an opportunity to meet and discuss, on an informal basis and without any reservations or finger-pointing, what our experiences were with those events and what we could possibly contribute, to better our communications and response efforts on future events.

We feel this is an important subject matter, one deserving a substantial amount of time and discussion—so, we will be providing morning refreshments and lunch... we hope you'll attend or at the very least send a representative.

Thank you.



**March 4, 2004
10:00 AM
VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS**

**Verdugo Fire Communications
421 Oak Street – Glendale, CA
818-548-3312**



Communications Southern Division

PLEASE RSVP

CALL, FAX or EMAIL
BRIAN ACOSTA

P: 909-240-4753

F: 909-356-3809

Email: acosta.brian@verizon.net