



California Fire Chiefs Association Southern Division Communications Section Newsletter

The Meeting Minutes

From the meeting May 15th, 2001

The meeting was held at Ventura County Fire Department and hosted by Steve McClellan.

Jeff Fehlberg of Heartland Fire, gave an excellent presentation on the two school shooting incidents his agency recently experienced.

The Secretary's Report:

The March meeting minutes were approved as written on a motion made by Jason DeVita and seconded by Darryl Polk.

Secretary Gary Stevens advised that in an effort to clean up and update the mailing list, the meeting minutes are only being sent to those members that have paid their dues.

Secretary Stevens also advised that he has compiled an email list for members to facilitate sending out the minutes in a faster manner.

The Treasurer's Report:

Balance: \$5430.96.

In the absence of Treasurer Susan Wysong, President Steve McClellan presented the treasurer's report.

The Treasurer's report was accepted on a motion made by Don Wise and seconded by Jason DeVita.

Training:

Don Wise of Verdugo Fire Communications will be hosting 3 different APCO training classes. If anyone is interested in the following classes, please contact Ann Russo at APCO to register. The classes are:

9/17 to 9/19 "Communications Training Officer"

9/20 to 9/21 "Fire Communications Class"

10/1 to 10/3 "Communications Center Supervisor Course"

Heartland Fire is looking into hosting an EMD class in either August or September.

Discussion was held with regards to Cal Chiefs sponsoring a PSTC class on School Violence. A motion was made by Steve McClellan and seconded by Don Wise to have Cal Chiefs sponsor the class possibly in September near the start of school. Steve McClellan will contact PSTC and report back at the July meeting.

Anna Olivarez of Santa Ana Fire is still soliciting ideas for a "Tech Talk for Dispatchers" class.

New Business

Darryl Polk, (Ontario Fire) advised that the Department of Transportation would like to make EMD a required certificate for dispatchers. Currently Ontario FD is working with Corona FD to make EMD POST reimbursable.

Website:

www.CalChiefsSouth.org.

Old Business:

Don Wise, (Verdugo Fire) presented information on the status of two bills making their way through the state legislature. The bills are SB695 and AB616.

SB695 has been met with some opposition by members of PORAC. SB695 deals with reclassifying dispatchers as Public Safety members through PERS and not in the miscellaneous category.

AB616 deals with retirement issues only and opens up new options for retirement ie: 2% @ 50, 2.5% @ 55 and 3% @ 60.

Steve McClellan will talk to Virginia Ferral of Cal Chiefs North and Lorrie Camden of Sebastopol PD/FD to see what will need to be done in the future in regards to support of the bills.

Stay tuned for more information on these two very important bills.

Steve McClellan will also check with Northern section to see where they are on state certification for fire dispatchers.

Committee Report:

Jeff Fehlberg reported that the Marketing Subcommittee has not met recently and had nothing new to report.

Northern Update:

No Report.

Round Table:

Gary Stevens, (South Bay Regional Communications) – Work progressing on the new center, currently fully staffed. Have signed contract for a new Tiburon CAD system to go online when the new building is complete. With the new building, will also be including new radios and MDT/MDC's.

Darryl Polk, (Ontario Police/Fire) – Will be moving into a new facility in the next 18 to 24 months. Currently looking at a new Tiburon CAD system. Are down 6 positions and currently recruiting at college job fairs for dispatchers.

Walt Moulton, (Kern County/Bakersfield Fire) – They are currently fully staffed by 5 supervisors and 17 dispatchers handling around 54,000 calls per year. Dispatcher utilize the Clausen system of EMD. Staffing for the dispatch center is 1 supervisor and 4 dispatchers on days and 1 supervisor and 3 dispatchers on nights.

Steve McClellan, (Ventura Co. Fire) – Since Ventura started dispatching for AMR ambulances, the call volume in the center Has went up nearly 2 fold. Dispatchers currently are in negotiations, they are looking at expanding their facility, rebuilding the radio infrastructure and putting together a needs analysis & RFP for a new CAD system. Dispatchers are currently working 24 hour shifts and they will have 8 openings as of 7/1/01.

Jeff Fehlberg, (Heartland Fire) - Advised that they will be taking over dispatching for Chula Vista. This will add approximately 12,000 calls for service to their dispatch center. Jeff advised that Chula Vista will be joining into their JPA.

Don Wise, (Verdugo Fire) – Verdugo is currently in the process of replacing their microwave system and radio backbone. This will include the placement of new receiver sites throughout the San Gabriel Valley cities that Verdugo dispatches for. Verdugo has finished upgrading their workstations to Dell PC's using PRC CAD with a Windows 98 emulation. To handle the ever changing need to keep changing their network passwords, Verdugo has installed biometric fingerprint scanners. Instead of having to change their passwords every 90 days or so, they simply place a fingertip on the scanner and they are logged onto the system. Verdugo currently has 2 openings, 1 for Fire Communications Shift Supervisor and 1 for Fire Communications Operator. Verdugo is currently in the process of negotiations with the City of Glendale. Anyone interested in a salary comparison can email Don directly for the numbers.

2001 Schedule:

July 10 – Rancho Fire
September 11– Ontario Fire
November 13 – San Bernadino County Fire

Members in Attendance:

Jason DeVita, South Bay Communications-
(JASONRCC@JSDSERVICES.COM)

Gary Stevens, South Bay Regional
Communications-
(KVUL88.CS.COM)

Darryl Polk, Ontario Fire

Don Wise, Verdugo Fire Communications
(DWISE@ci.glendale.ca.us)

Sharon Ward, Kern Co. Fire –
(SWARD@co.kern.ca.us)

Desiree Drescher, Kern Co. Fire

Walt Moulton, Kern Co./Bakersfield Fire
– (WMOULTON@co.kern.ca.us)

Jeff Fehlberg, Heartland Fire –
(JFEHLBERG@hcf-fire.org)

Steve McClellan, Ventura Co.Fire –
(Steve.McClellan@mail.co.ventura.ca.us)
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Upcoming Meeting:

July 10th, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Rancho Fire
North County Dispatch
(858) 756-6010

Directions: From I-5, take Lomas Santa Fe east approx. 4-5 miles. Lomas Santa Fe changes name to Linea del Cielo. When approaching downtown Rancho Santa De, there will be a blue Fire Dept. sign and school crossing painted on the ground. Turn Left on El Fuego. Rancho is the 2nd story admin. building.

From the I-15, take the Valley Parkway exit (Escondido area). Go west approx 6-7 miles. Valley Parkway turns into Del Dios Hwy. This will take you around the dam Lake Hodges. You will go thru downtown Rancho Santa Fe. After you go thru the last 4 way stop, continue to El Fuego, turn right, Rancho is the 2nd story admin. building.

PAID MEMBERSHIP ROSTER:

As of May 14th, 2001

Debbie Keyworth, Brea Police/Fire

Joan Klopfenstein, LaHabra Heights Fire

Pat Hammond, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire

Rhonda Roller, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire

Livia Zirkel, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire

Craig Kinoshita, Orange County Fire Authority

Lisa Mathiasen, Santa Barbara Co. Fire

Tracy Jarman, San Diego Fire & Life Safety

Bruce Cartelli, San Diego Fire & Life

Peter Diehl, San Diego Fire & Life

Susan Wysong, North County Dispatch

Chuck Alexander, Heartland Fire

Jeff Fehlberg, Heartland Fire

Denise Ziello, Torrance Fire

Lenora Duncan, Torrance Fire

Nancy Dibenedeto, Torrance Fire

Mike Sheilds, Santa Monica Fire

Mike Morlan, CDF/SLO County Fire

Ellen Price, CDF/SLO County Fire

Jim Rutledge, CDF/SLO County Fire

Judy Tatro, Oxnard Police/Fire

Anna Olivarez, Santa Ana Fire

Janey Hall, South Bay Communications

Gary Stevens, South Bay Comm.

Jason DeVita, South Bay Comm.

Don Wise, Verdugo Fire

Gabriela Moreno, Mercy Air

Denny Neville, Rancho Santa Fe Fire

Mark Barber, Ontario Police/Fire

Olivia Ramirez, Costa Mesa Communications

Maria Birdsall, El Centro Police Dept.

Isabell Dean, La Habra Police & Fire

Steve McClellan, Ventura Co. Fire

Paul Wrightsman, Redondo Beach Communications