



Nor Cal Fire Prevention Officers Association

**Darren Drake, President
April 27, 2007**

Minutes – Monthly Membership Meeting Redwood City, CA

President Drake called the April 27, 2007 meeting to order at 0930 hours.

Past President Angela Giuliani conducted the pledge of allegiance and Pat Stranahan was appointed Sergeant of Arms.

President Drake introduced host Fire Marshal Rocque Yballa, who introduced Rebecca Lauricella, President of the San Mateo County FPO's and Redwood City Fire Department, and Redwood City FD Battalion Chief Jeff Bolton. Chief Bolton thanked everyone for attending today and welcomed us to Redwood City. He then introduced San Bruno FD Chief Dan Voyer, who is currently serving as the liaison chief to the San Mateo County FPOs, co-sponsors of today's meeting.

President Drake recognized the visiting Past Presidents and thanked them for attending today!

The organization recognized the visiting Fire Chiefs, Building Officials and guests, which included Building Official John Latorrah, who is a member of the ICC Board of Directors.

President Drake asked Past President Tonya Hoover to declare a quorum, so declared. Self-introductions were made.

The January and February meeting minutes were approved.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

William Robertson presented the OSFM report:

Kate Dargan has been appointed State Fire Marshal.

Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Maps: He indicated that the 21 CAL FIRE units will begin introducing the FHSZ maps to their respective counties. They have completed their validation of the maps where they are being incorporated into packages for presentation to each local jurisdiction. They anticipate the statewide public hearing

process for the SRA maps to begin around June 1 and continue through August 1, with final adoption of the maps by the end of the year. LRA maps are Phase II of the project and will be coming out next year.

Robert Chew (CAL-FIRE) and J. Lopez (LA County Fire) have been selected to assist in the Clearinghouse Grant Process.

The FSTEP certified “Public Display Fireworks Training” class has been scheduled for three classes in Southern California. Check their website for further information.

L.A. Crime Lab will be opening in May; the dedication is May 11.

The OSFM Pipeline Safety Division is sponsoring a Spring Workshop-Wednesday, May 30 in Bakersfield. Check their website for further information.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ron Keefer advised that the Cal Chiefs Legislative Day is May 1 and May 2 and asked for anyone interested in attending to sign up. A/S for Residential Care Facilities-AB759 by Assemblywoman Betty Karnett is moving into the Senate Appropriations Committee. They’ll be looking for local support in the future.

SB839-Stiffens fines for illegal fireworks and applies fees/fines to funding fireworks disposal.

AB513-Bans particular chemicals in fire retardant for plastics because of cancer concerns.

AB706-Similar to the above bill, but applies to bedding.

SB329-Hazardous Material Business Plan submittal extended from the current 3 to 5 years.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Retired Fire Marshal Verne Person of Lodi Fire Department was presented with a proclamation thanking him for his years of dedicated service as a fire professional. Congratulations Verne – we wish you a long and happy retirement!

President Drake asked for a moment of silence in honor of CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Brian Zollner, who recently passed away responding to an incident.

COMMITTEE ANNUAL UPDATES

President Drake introduced all Co-Chairs for the coming year, and thanked them for all their hard work over the past year.

BUILDING STANDARDS-Rick Terry

Their committee has spent the last year working on the adoption of the IBC. Currently, they are preparing for the Code Action Hearings in Rochester, NY in May. On a related note, Sam Husoe advised that there may be grants available from the IAFC for voting members to attend the aforementioned hearings.

Christine Reed indicated that she received a grant from CALBO to help defray the costs of her attendance at the Rochester hearings. Thank you CALBO!

FIRE CODE-Rocque Yballa

Similarly to the Building Standards Committee, they have worked on the IFC Code adoption with Building Standards and Hazardous Materials Committees. They have also worked very hard on recruiting new members to their committee, focusing on achieving a diversified membership.

They have also used ICS to organize themselves. President Drake praised the committee for doing a good job in coordinating their activities with their counterparts in the South.

FIRE SERVICE EDUCATION-Bill Tyler

Bill thanked last year's Co-Chair Rick Carpenter for all of his hard work during his tenure as a Co-Chair of the committee.

The Fire Service Education Committee's mission is to provide high quality, timely training opportunities for our members, and to help support the organization through revenue generation.

In 2006 they hosted 12 classes with an attendance of 262 students. These classes supported the organization to the tune of \$26,000. The committee extended their thanks to the instructors of the

classes, and the local organizations, which hosted the classes. They also wanted to extend a special thanks to Lorin Neyer, who taught a very well received Fire Resistive Construction class twice last year. Also, Patrick Chew helped put together and host three very successful classes last year.

They plan on holding a NFPA 13D Plan Review and Field Inspection class (May 14 & 15), as well as an Ethics and Leadership Class (May 23) and a Medical Gas class (TBD) this coming year. This is in addition to the classes to be held in partnership with the other Norcal committees, as well as the code transition classes.

FIRE PROTECTION DEVICES-Jim Bollier

The committee was instrumental in getting the state to adopt NFPA 25. The committee is preparing for the Rochester hearings, and is focused on the passing the proposal to require residential sprinklers in on and two-family dwellings in the IRC. He also is seeking more participation from the membership in their committee.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE COMMITTEE-Ethan Foote

The committee had an active year. In addition to their educational efforts, work on defining the interface problem, and regulatory response, they worked closely with the SFM on the ICC WUI code at the Orlando Code Hearings, where there were a record number of code change proposals submitted, and the implementation of Chapter 7A of the CBC.

They also participated in the review/dry-run of a course to evaluate the ignition zone around dwellings. This was conducted in Missoula at the USFS Fire Lab. They are working on developing defensible space inspector course, and have delivered one such course in Napa last June. They plan on integrating the course into the community college level curriculum.

They presented the FHSZ map process at the Dublin meeting. They also have had great coordination with their southern counterparts.

PUBLIC EDUCATION-Sandy Wargo

The Public Education committee held A Juvenile Fire setter training session. They are working hard to do more of this type of training. They developed a new PSA-"Make the Right Move", which is available on our web site.

They are continuing to publish their quarterly newsletter, and have had excellent attendance at their mid-month meetings. Finally, they have 10 brochures on the web site available for download.

EXCHANGE OF IDEAS

Tom Harvey reminded the membership that next month's meeting is jointly sponsored by NFSA/SFPE, and will be held early (May 18). He also mentioned that SFFD partnered with UCSF to conduct a survey of their retired members. They found that 1/3 of their retired members had or were recovering from cancer. Finally, he mentioned that the SFM has formed an accessibility committee and asked if Norcal was sending a representative to the committee. President Drake indicated that Rick Terry and himself are on the committee.

Sam Husoe thanked Ethan Foote for his complimentary comments on the South. He mentioned that Campus Fire-Watch is trying to establish September as "Campus Fire Safety Month". They have sent a letter to various government representatives. The US has lost 20 college students to fire so far this year. Finally, he mentioned that there are flyers for an upcoming NFPA 25 at the front table.

Elliot Gittleman, ESH Consultants mentioned that he is looking for information regarding "Green Roofs"; i.e., live grass/sod as a roof. President Drake reminded the membership that SFM Dargan said to prepare for many sustainable building issues in the near future.

Tonya Hoover indicated that the state rollout of the SRA maps is coming early this summer, and there is going to be a big meeting the last week of May. If your jurisdiction is affected by the rollout, attend the meeting for more information.

Bob Stetson indicated that a UFC/ICC code comparison has been completed. It is available on their website, and he brought copies to the meeting. Send him an e-mail and he will put you on the update list.

Steve Hart has the 2007 California Fire Laws books available. On April 12 the SFM had a meeting with ICC, the result of which is that the ICC agreed to conduct CA amendment classes on the Building and Fire codes. The classes will begin after the amendments are published (7/1). There will be special classes for State agencies, separate from those given to the locals.

President Drake took this opportunity to comment on our own aggressive training plan. He urged the membership to sign up for classes because so far attendance has been light, and we are considering canceling classes due to low turnout/number of sign-ups. He also mentioned that the changes to the base code are extensive that it is not recommended to wait for the “amendment” classes. You will be way behind the curve if you don’t take the transition class.

Steve Hart echoed President Drake’s comments in light of the difficulties the Working Groups had during the code adoption process. Rick Terry added that the new Fire Code has many distinct differences, as well as many retroactive requirements that weren’t there before.

Rick Terry also mentioned that the Building Standards and Fire Code Committees are holding a joint mid-month meeting May 10. They will be reviewing each committee’s work on the public comments for the Rochester Code Hearings. They are planning on posting the position matrix on the web by 5/15.

Tom Harvey mentioned that San Francisco has been having issues with the installation of solar panels. They require a 3-ft. space around the perimeter of the panels for FD access. He feels that we need to work on developing standards for the installation of the panels. Dennis Mathisen indicated that he is also dealing with these same issues. He indicated that his local utility is not requiring an AC shut-off switch. He said that the utilities are not talking to the fire departments.

Teresa Johnson mentioned that the ICC Membership Benefits committee survey has been completed and posted on their web site. A popular item suggested was health and life insurance for retired members. Contact Teresa for more information.

Bill Greene indicated that they will be holding the Statutes and Regulations class in the South in July, and one in the Sacramento area in the early Fall.

Rick Rodewald asked the membership if they knew anything about the SFM taking over jurisdiction of County Superior Court buildings. Lorin Neyer indicated that here is new legislation requiring the SFM to conduct fire-life safety reviews of all court buildings that are state owned or funded.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Rocque Yballa and Dan Najera, Co-Chairs of the Fire Code Committee presented their proposal to partner with the SFM to update Title 19 and integrate it with Title 24. Thank you for the great information!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONTINUED FROM THIS MORNING AND REPORTS

BUILDING STANDARDS-They discussed what needs to be done prior to attending the Rochester code hearings.

FIRE CODE-They went over public comments on the code change submittals in preparation for Rochester.

FIRE EQUIPMENT DEVICES-They are getting ready for the mid-month meeting with Building Standards and Fire Code. They also worked on developing a letter to contractors informing them of changes to NFPA 25 regarding notification and submittals to AHJs.

FIRE SERVICE EDUCATION-They determined that the NFPA 13D class mentioned earlier is full, so they will be offering another. They also reminded the membership that the Ethics and Leadership class is coming up soon. They will also be contacting the various co-chairs to discuss classes they would like to conduct.

WUI-They are preparing for sending Cal-Chiefs input for rollout of SRA FHSZ maps.

Thank you to Redwood City Fire Department and San Mateo County FPOS for an excellent meeting and raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at about 1400 hours. Next regular meeting will be on May 18, 2007 in San Francisco

**Respectfully submitted,
Scott D. Alber, Secretary**