

**Southern California
Association of
Foresters & Fire Wardens**



Eighty-five Years

**The History of the
Southern California Association
of
Foresters and Fire Wardens**

1930 to 2015



Los Angeles firefighter battles a raging structure fire during the Sayer Fire of 2008 in the San Fernando Valley—*photo by Ken Morris*

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Foreword

The Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens is committed to the preservation of the Association's history. Following the publication of *"The First Fifty Years,"* authored by the late Richard G. Hannum, California Department of Forestry, the Association has strived to keep his work up to date and to include additional information.

Since the initial meeting of the Association in 1929, followed by the first conference in 1930, dedicated men and women of the fire fighting agencies of Southern California have supported the organization and have served as officers, directors and members. Through the past eighty-five years, the commitment has remained the same: to provide informative and educational programs at the annual conferences.

The *"First Fifty Years"* was printed in 1980 and I have had the pleasure of revising it in 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010, and now 2015. Maybe this will be the last time I work on the book, as someone else eventually will take over and continue to record our history. However, I have enjoyed working on this publication for the last twenty-five years and I hope you enjoy the long and sometimes humorous history of the Association and the photographs we have included in this edition of our history book.

Paul H. Rippens - Life Member & Past President
Los Angeles County Fire Department - retired

~ *May 2015* ~

Introduction

Southern California has historically experienced the most unique wildland fire protection problems of any place in the world and yet, there is not one wildland fire protection agency in Southern California that is capable of handling its own fire problem 100% of the time.

It is almost a certainty that at least once a year Southern California will experience a rash of multiple large fires requiring all fire agencies to band together to control these conflagrations. This condition, along with the Incident Management System, requires a close working relationship between the various fire protection agencies on a day-to-day basis.

The Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens each year brings together close to two hundred persons from the different fire protection agencies for a two-day wildland training and safety conference. This has proven to be of significant value because it helps to strengthen the bond among all wildland firefighters, regardless of jurisdiction. There have been countless stories about fire suppression personnel from different agencies working together on a fire more effectively because they knew each other from a Foresters and Fire Wardens gathering.

This brief historical sketch is dedicated to the founding fathers and all the others who have been instrumental in the success of the Association. It is also dedicated to all wildland firefighters who have done so much to protect the citizens and property in Southern California from the ravages of fire.

The Beginning

The Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was born on a train somewhere between Seattle and Los Angeles in March of 1929. Frank E. Dunne, Santa Barbara County Forester, and Spence D. Turner, Los Angeles County Forester, were returning from a convention of the Western Forestry Association. During the long train ride they discussed the need for an organization which would be of benefit to the rank and file person who is engaged in wildland fire control. They also saw a need for improved interagency relationships.

Their discussions were not just passing conversation. This spark of an idea kindled into a flame of reality, and in just one month the Association was off to its beginning.

The initial meeting was held on April 16, 1929, in the Santa Barbara County Courthouse and was attended by twenty-eight persons. At first, the organization was called the Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens. However, for some unknown reason it was changed to its present name, with Southern California added to the title.

In his book **“CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT and FORESTRY-II”** (1969), C. Raymond Clar writes:

“In April 1929 the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was organized. County Forester of Los Angeles, Spence D. Turner and County Forester Frank E. Dunne of Santa Barbara were the responsible organizers. The first meeting was held in Santa Barbara Courthouse, and host Dunne was elected president. Several U.S. Forest Service officials were made members of the Board of Directors, as were W.H. Coupe, Ed Nelander, and Roger V. Wood of the Division of Forestry. The purpose of the organization was to “bring about a better and more efficient means of fire prevention, fire protection and watershed conservation.”

The members were to be “men actually charged with responsibility for the work.” The personnel of all fire protection agencies involved with watershed protection were eligible members in the area including San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties and south to the Mexican border. The organization has continued much as it was originally organized and is active at the time of this writing”.

The next meeting was held on May 16, 1929 at the Deauville Club in Santa Monica where the initial constitution and by-laws were adopted. Subsequent quarterly meetings were held on August 19, 1929 at the Los Angeles City Hall of Records, and on November 22, 1929 at the San Bernardino County Courthouse.

Historic Annals of the Forestry Department of the County of Los Angeles reported:

“The second quarterly meeting was held at the Hall of Records, Los Angeles City, on August 19, 1929, which was because of the fire season, attended by Directors only. On November 22, the next quarterly meeting was held at the Board of Supervisors’ Assembly Room, Courthouse, San Bernardino, where a great deal of business was conducted in the one day session.”

At this time the Association was ready to hold its first annual meeting (conference) in San Diego. Little did these early-day Foresters and Fire Wardens know what they were starting.





Spence D. Turner, Los Angeles County Forester and one of the founding fathers of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens. Turner served as Association President in 1934 and is listed as a Life Member.

Frank Dunne, Santa Barbara County Forester who, along with Spence D. Turner, provided the direction for the start of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens. Dunne served as Association President in 1930, 1931 & 1938 and is listed as a Life Member.



Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting

April 16, 1929

Santa Barbara, California

The first meeting of the Fire Wardens and Foresters of the nine Southern Counties was held in the Court House in Santa Barbara. Frank Dunne gave a short talk outlining the purpose of this organization and what might be accomplished.

The first procedure was to elect a temporary Chairman and similar Secretary which were J.J. Davis and Frank Dunne in order. Mr. Davis then called for the election of President and other officers:

- Frank Dunne was elected President
- Luther Gordon was elected First Vice President
- Walter F. Emerick was elected Second Vice President
- Walter H. Claberg was duly elected Secretary
- George Parks was duly elected Treasurer

The election completed, Frank Dunne and officers took their respective chairs and proceeded with the meeting. It was decided to have a Board of Directors and these directors were appointed by popular vote with a view of having each district and branch of the service represented. The following were elected:

- S.A. Nash-Boulden, Supervisor, Santa Barbara National Forest

- W.H. Coupe, State Inspector, State Forester's Office
- William Mendenhall, Supervisor, Angeles National Forest
- Spence D. Turner, Fire Warden, Los Angeles County
- Edward Nelander, State Ranger, State Forester's Office
- R.V. Woods, State Ranger, State Forester's Office
- Joe Elliott, Supervisor, San Bernardino National Forest
- W.W. Adkinson, Fire Warden, Orange County
- F. Hayward, U.S.F.S. San Luis Obispo

President Frank Dunne then appointed various committees:

1. A committee to form the Constitution and By-Laws of the Organization:
 - J.J. Davis, Chairman
 - W.H. Coupe
 - William Mendenhall

2. Eligible Committee:
 - Luther Gordon, Chairman
 - H. Valentine
 - G.R. Taylor

During this time it was stressed by the present members that this organization be only composed of those who actually have to do with the suppression and fire work and not the outside cooperative agencies.

3. Publicity Committee:

- Spence D. Turner, Chairman
- Frank Robinson
- Lew Anderson
- W.H. Coupe
- W.F. Emerick

It was recommended that this group make a careful study of the methods for getting contact and putting across to the normal schools the importance of fire prevention and the teaching of the same.

A sub-committee to take care of the putting across the pamphlet (sic) pertaining to our fire laws, to the general public by the guards, service stations or any way seen advisable by them. Also to prepare said form for pamphlet. Those appointed were:

- E.R. Stanford
- W.F. Emerick
- L. Gordon

4. Ordinance Committee:

- Kenneth Carter
- William Mendenhall
- W.H. Coupe

This committee was appointed by a motion put forth by Spence D. Turner and seconded by Luther Gordon to have the President name a group of men to try and construct a uniform

and standard fire ordinance to cover Southern California.

5. Fire Sign Committee: Luther Gordon moved that a committee be appointed to adopt a standard fire sign which was seconded by J.J. Davis. The following men were chosen:

- R.V. Woods
- Hap Miller
- J.A. Graves

After the various appointments, the meeting continued with ten minute talks and discussion of topics as outlined on the program of the day.

A motion was put before the meeting by Spence D. Turner, to have the Southern California organization endeavor to get the Weather Bureau car down south after the 15th of September as their fire season would be over and it would give us an idea of the practicability of such equipment, which if successful, would warrant us purchasing such apparatus. Seconded by L. Gordon.

A letter is going forward today, April 17th, to the United States Weather Bureau, United States Forest Service and State Forester to see if our request may be granted.

J.J. Davis made a motion to adopt the name of Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens as the title of our organization. J.A. Graves made a second to Mr. Davis' motion. Carried.

Spence D. Turner made a motion to have the publicity committee stress the point of forest protection and fire prevention to the officers of the State Fish and Game Commission in an effort to get complete cooperation. This motion seconded by R.V. Woods.

A motion was put before the meeting by J.J. Davis and seconded by W.H. Coupe for the Counties where possible, to spend the cooperative money inside the National Forests on

mutually agreed projects in an effort to give us a year around force with an idea of increasing the efficiency of our organizations by allowing us to keep a trained force.

A motion made by J.J. Davis and seconded by Leslie Percey to have the publicity committee get in touch with some oil companies with the idea of having them put on some fire prevention programs over the National Broadcast System.

The Publicity Committee was requested also to go into the matter of book covers for the public schools and libraries with the idea of putting on a wide prevention program through this channel.

Walter F. Emerick, stated that he was trying to get the State Fish and Game Commission to put on an added force during deer season with the intention of patrolling to keep down fires as well as protecting the game.

Twenty-eight Wardens and Rangers attended our first meeting.

President Frank Dunne set the 16th of May as our next meeting day to ratify rules and by-laws. This will be held in Santa Monica according to the invitation of Spence D. Turner.

Being no further business before the meeting, President Frank Dunne ordered same adjourned.

Walter H. Claberg, Secretary

April 16, 1929



Los Angeles County helicopter flies over a brush fire as the sun is obscured by smoke. *Photo by Ken Morris*

Association Objectives

The Association has continually strived to achieve its objectives with great success. The objectives over the years have been to:

- * Increase mutual understanding of fire control problems among those agencies which participate in Association activities and programs.
- * Serve as a forum for the discussion of fire control related problems.
- * Educate Association members in improved equipment, techniques, and methods for the control of wildland fires.
- * Keep informed of all laws relating to wildland fire protection and to obtain standardization of these laws.
- * Encourage members to achieve a higher level of efficiency in the operation of the fire services.
- * Promote fire safety by presenting timely topics and programs to the members attending the annual conference.

The success of the Association can be attributed to the hundreds of dedicated persons responsible for steering the course of the Association over the past years, as well as those loyal members who have taken part in the activities.



The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens has been the backbone of the organization since its inception. They constitute the governing body and handle all Association matters between the annual general meetings, or annual conference, for the good of the membership. It is their responsibility to plan, organize, and conduct each annual conference. As a result, they play a tremendous part in the success of the organization. In order to plan the annual meeting, the Board typically meets five or six times each year. Meetings are scheduled during the year and location are as follows:

December: Bakersfield - hosted by the Kern County Fire Department, the Sequoia National Forest.

February: San Diego and Orange County. This meeting alternates between the two sites. Hosts are the Cleveland National Forest, *CAL FIRE*-San Diego County, or the Orange County Fire Authority.

March: Los Angeles - this is an optional meeting to be called at the discretion of the President and is to be hosted by Los Angeles County, Los Angeles City, or the Angeles National Forest.

April: Santa Barbara or San Luis Obispo. This meeting alternates between the two sites. Hosts are Santa Barbara County, Los Padres National Forest, and *CAL FIRE*-San Luis Obispo County.

May: The May meetings are held on Wednesday evening prior to the annual conference and Friday following the conference.

The first governing board consisted of five officers and ten directors. These fifteen people represented the United States Forest Service, the California Division of Forestry (*CAL FIRE*), along with various County forestry and fire departments, all of which had jurisdiction in the nine Southern California counties.

These counties were Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. The areas covered by the Association has continued to remained the same.

There has been very little change in the makeup of the Board of Directors. In 1966 the Constitution and By-laws were revised to provide the Los Angeles *City* Fire Department representation on the board. In 2001, a representative from the Sequoia National Forest was appointed to the board and in 2003 a Director was appointed to represent the Southern California Edison Company.

At first, the board members were elected by a vote of the members attending the annual business meeting. This was changed in the 1960s. Board members are now appointed directly by their respective agencies.

Each year the Board elects the Second Vice President who automatically moves up to the Position of First Vice President and then President over two years. The President appoints the Secretary and Treasurer. The outgoing President becomes the Junior Past President and gives guidance to the Board and President as requested.

The Association has had at least two fathers and sons who have both served as officers. S.A. Nash-Boulden, Forest Supervisor of the Santa Barbara National Forest, was vice president in the early 1930's. His son, Steve Nash-Boulden, who was an Associate State Forest Ranger with the CDF in San Luis Obispo County, was president thirty years later. Jim Dulitz, CDF, San Luis Obispo County, served as the Association's secretary in the early 1950's. His son Dan, also with the CDF, San Luis Obispo County, served as president in 1985 and served as the Association Historian.

In 1994 the first woman to represent one of the Association agencies was appointed as Director. Ernylee Chamlee, *CAL FIRE*, Sierra South Region not only was the first female Director, she became the first women to be elected to serve as Second Vice President. Ernylee served as Association's first female

President in the year 2000.

Another first occurred when Duane Chamlee, CDF, Riverside Ranger Unit was appointed as Director from his county effective May 2, 1997. Thus, Duane and Ernylee became the first husband and wife to serve on the Board of Directors. Now both retired, they were honored with Life Memberships.

In 2005, Abigail Srader became the Director from *CALFIRE*-Sierra South Region. She is the daughter of Doug Forrest who served as president in 1997, thus becoming the first father/daughter to serve on the Board of Directors. In 2012, Suzanne Penfold became the Director from *CALFIRE*-San Bernardino County. Suzanne is also a daughter of Doug Forrest and she and Abigail became the first sisters to serve on the Board. They also have the distinction of becoming the first two family members to receive the not-so-coveted “Knothead” award—the same year!



Witch Fire—San Diego County—2007

Over the Years

The Association generally revolves around the annual Training and Safety Conference held on the first Thursday and Friday in May. However, the first such gathering was held on February 21-22, 1930 in San Diego. The meetings were at the Elks Club and the Friday evening banquet was held at the Hotel San Diego.

Proof that the members were able to mix pleasure with business was described in this account of the meeting from the Annals of the Forestry Department of the County of Los Angeles:

“The Association met February 21 and 22, 1930 at the Elks Club in San Diego for its first annual meeting, with President Frank Dunne, County Forester of Santa Barbara County presiding. An extremely interesting program was held on both days with many worth while papers being heard and discussed. The banquet held Friday night at the Hotel San Diego was enjoyed by all, particularly the Chief Assistant who was finally forced to retire to a far corner behind a barricade of tables, chairs, and large serving trays to escape the many missiles thrown at him in the form of olives, biscuits, French rolls, and an occasional butter cup. After the banquet the party broke up into small groups, and just what some of these small groups did is their own darn business.”



Elks' Hall, San Diego

Hotel San Diego



The Los Angeles County documents also state:

“On February 21, 1930, the annual meeting of the Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens of Southern California met in San Diego. A most successful business session was had. The Association, principally organized through the efforts of the Department, was rapidly becoming recognized throughout the State as a valuable organization in the interests of conservation.”

Another quarterly meeting was held on the 6th of May, 1930, at Santa Paula, which was attended by the directors. At this meeting the following officers were elected:

President - Frank E. Dunne, Santa Barbara County

First Vice-President - Luther Gordon, San Diego

Second Vice-President - Walter Emerick, Ventura

Secretary - J.A. Graves, Los Angeles County

Treasurer - W.H. Coupe, State Board of Forestry

The Board of Directors were also elected from representatives of each National Forest, each County, and the State Division of Forestry.

A Directors meeting was held August 19, 1930, in Los Angeles City. A field maneuver was held January 7, 1931, at Irvine Park in Orange County, at which time various new types of apparatus were demonstrated. The business session and dinner were conducted in Santa Ana.

On February 21-24, 1931, the conference was held in Avalon on Catalina Island. The meetings were in the Riviera Theater and the banquet on Monday was at the St. Catherine Hotel. Some of the topics presented were:

- * Analysis of Southern California's 1930 Fire Season.
- * State Division of Forestry: Its obligations and future policy in Southern California.
- * Reminiscences by some old timers.
- * Conscription of Fire Fighters - Its advantages and disadvantages.
- * California Forest Officers' Mutual Relief Association - what it means.

Entertainment featured at the conference was a golf tournament, special steamer trip, free motion pictures, a goat hunt, and a night time cruise to the sub-marine garden on a glass bottom boat. Continuing from the Los Angeles County Annals:

"The annual meeting was held February 21 to 24, inclusive, at Avalon, Catalina Island, at which time an excellent business session was concluded, and many pleasurable sport events took place such as a goat hunt, golf tournament, together with an evening devoted to motion pictures and "Shooting of Dan McGrew" put on by members of the Department with gestures, costumes, wigs, lipstick, and what have you. Speaking of lipstick, a certain brand by the name of "Tussey" was in evidence at the St. Catherine Hotel on several occasions. In this hostelry many sporting events took place such as poker, crap games, and a new indoor sport, that of eluding the hotel "dick." The result of this session at Catalina was that almost everybody had something on someone else, so consequently, nobody says anything about the other fellow."



St. Catherine Hotel, Avalon, Santa Catalina

On May 5, 1931, a session was held in Riverside where the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

William Mendenhall - President

L.H. Anderson - First Vice President

M.H. Davis - Second Vice President

J.A. Graves - Secretary and Treasurer

The 1932 Annual Meeting of the Association was held in Santa Barbara, February 21 and 22. An interesting business session was had on the 22ND following a field trip on the 21st. No other meetings of the Association were held during this year, interest apparently lagging, and the administration of President Mendenhall did not function effectively.

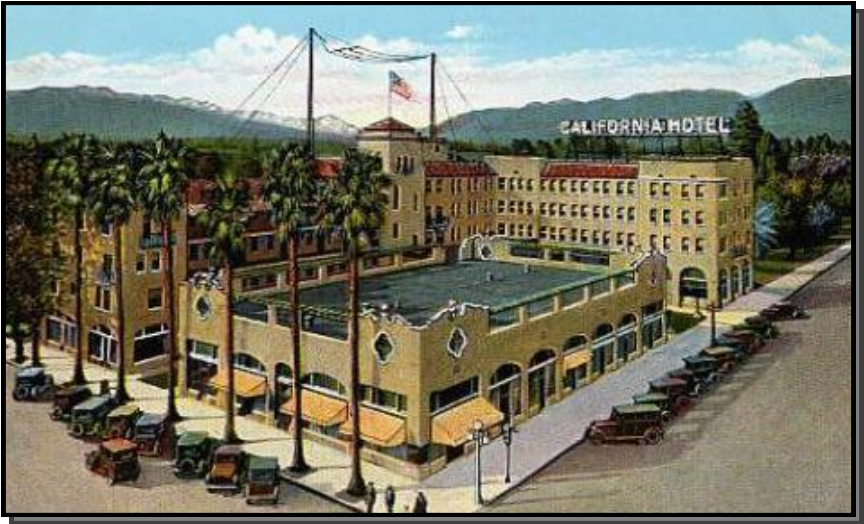
Because no Directors' Meeting followed the Annual Meeting, officers were not elected for the new year.

From Los Angeles County records of 1933:

“Annual Fire Wardens’ Meeting at Bakersfield - a raucous affair and the less said, the better. However, there was, for instance, S.U. who disrobed at one Hotel down the street a few blocks and donning shoes and overcoat strode into the Padre hunting for a shower bath. Then there was V.T. who, big sissy, stood in the hallway of the fourth floor with the hat band of his Stetson in his hand and cried loudly and at length to everyone who would listen, imploring their aid in finding the hat, and C.F. who walked into the room where B.P. was consoling a poor little waif whose partner had left her and she didn’t know who he was. Imagine the embarrassment when this low C.F. person in hunting for a match, began to shed clothes and pile them neatly on a chair in the offing. Luckily he found the match in time. Then there was Walt Emerick and Walt Claberg, and the ride up with the Chief, and Dauphine. Now that was a ride! The funny part of it was the Chief thought I was driving. Anyway, we straightened out the old ride route, but I wouldn’t say ‘Uncle.’ He did though.”



Hotel El Tejon, Bakersfield, California



California Hotel, San Bernardino, California

At the 1934 meeting in San Bernardino, single rooms without bath were available at the California Hotel for \$2 a day, or you could stay at the Antlers Hotel for fifty cents less.

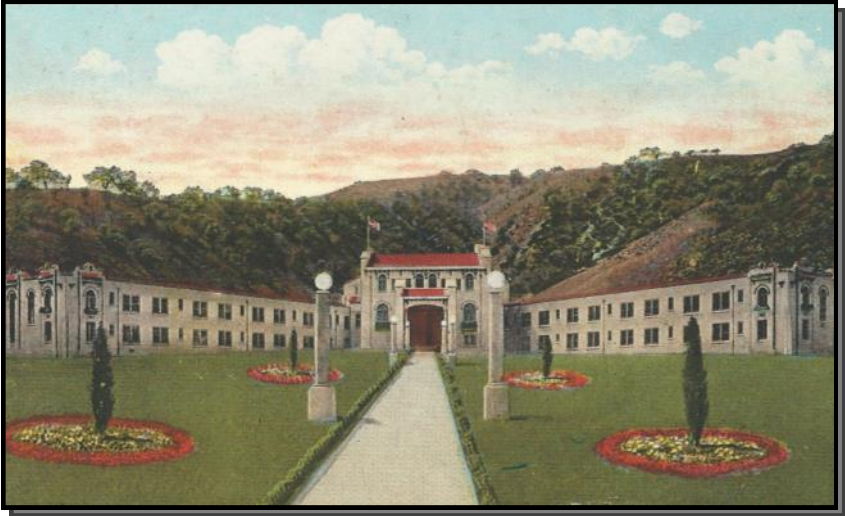
There were special events scheduled for the wives. A trip to Lake Arrowhead and lunch at Arrowhead Springs followed by their choice of an afternoon of bridge or a theater matinee. The evening banquet was featured on the program as “Eats ‘N Entertainment, Dancing” and the cost was \$1.50.

Another event featured at the 1934 conference was Civilian Conservation Corps championship boxing at the Orange Show grounds. Seven bouts were held between the March Field District Champions. It is not known who won.

The first such group meeting was held on May 24, 1940, at Steckel Park in Santa Paula. The meeting was attended by 106 members, most of whom were from the Ventura County and West Los Angeles County areas. They indulged in a feed of chili beans, onions, radishes, French bread, and coffee for the grand sum of a quarter per person.

A subsequent group meeting was held at the Lebec Hotel on November 13, 1940, which was attended by 88 members. They

enjoyed a roast beef dinner for fifty cents along with some evening entertainment. From all apparent indications, this concept of group meetings was soon abandoned as there is no record of any others having taken place.



Hotel Lebec

When World War II broke out, the Association, like so many others, took time out from 1942 through 1948 to serve their country. In 1949, the conferences were resumed, with the first one being in Bakersfield.

In 1951, the conference was held in Pasadena. This was the last time the meeting was held where hotel facilities were utilized. The next year, and in every year since, the concept of using organizational camps, campgrounds or fairgrounds has been practiced. This type of arrangement has proven to be the most satisfactory, as it has provided for the most economical cost. There is also a tendency for the entire group to remain at the facility where the meeting is being held for the duration of the conference.

The goal of the Association is the same as in the beginning - to provide a forum where the rank and file wildland firefighter can meet with other firefighters from his or her sister agencies at a reasonable cost.

The Camp Radford Era

For seven consecutive years, beginning in 1957, the annual conference was held at Camp Radford near Seven Oaks in the San Bernardino National Forest. The camp at that time was operated by the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks and they were always a most congenial host.

This site was very popular with most of the members, as it was situated among the pines at an elevation of 5,800 feet near the headwaters of the Santa Ana River.

The 1964 conference was planned for this same site, which would have been number eight. On Wednesday, May 5, the day before the conference was to begin, there was a heavy storm at the camp, which resulted in eighteen inches of snow on the ground. Because of this unexpected situation, the conference was canceled. This was the only time the Association has been forced to cancel a conference in its history except for the time during World War II. As a result of the cancellation, the Association's treasury was at its lowest point in a long time.

Not wanting to be confronted with the same situation again, the Association never returned to Camp Radford. The Board of Directors have attempted to avoid scheduling conferences where a similar reoccurrence was a possibility, which has not always worked since it has rained and snowed at Camp Pilgrim Pines.

One amusing story, and I'm sure there were many, involve Martin J. Rippens, father of Life Member Paul Rippens. Martin and several others from Los Angeles County attended several of the conferences over the years and knowing how cold the nights got at Camp Radford, thought electric blankets would be the answer to a warm nights sleep. The sleeping arrangements were tent cabins on wooden platforms, and they had electricity. However, what they did not know is that the camp turned the electricity off at midnight, thus making for a very cold night.



Camp Radford - San Bernardino National Forest



The Camp Pilgrim Pines Era

The first conference at Camp Pilgrim Pines was held in 1974. The years following, conference sites were alternated between Camp Pilgrim Pines and Mount Crags Camp in Malibu Canyon. This continued through 1981 when the Association was unable to continue the use of Mount Crags Camp. The annual conference has been held at Pilgrim Pines each year since 1982.

Camp Pilgrim Pines is located just above the community of Oak Glen in the San Bernardino Mountains and is administered by the Southern California Conference, United Church of Christ. Minister of Camping. Gene Kuehl and his staff were most gracious hosts for many years. When Gene retired, Mickey Stone assumed the operation of the facility and has made many needed improvements. Mickey and her staff went out of their way to make everyone feel welcome.

Secluded open space with a large kitchen and dining hall, excellent sleeping accommodations, a large meeting room, plus adequate space for vendors, all have made Pilgrim Pines an ideal location for the annual conference. The May weather can be superb, with warm days and balmy evenings. However, when the mountain is shrouded in clouds or it snows, as it did in 1988, it can be a little nippy.

The Board of Directors has investigated other conference sites in recent years but Camp Pilgrim Pines has always offered the best accommodations at the least cost to the membership.

The 2004 conference created new problems for the Association and Camp Pilgrim Pines. Several major wildfires burned in the southland during the week proceeding and the week of the conference. The question was do we cancel the conference, or go ahead with the program and see how many show up. As it turned out, the conference was a success with 150 guests, vendors and directors taking part in the conference with wonderful weather.

In 2012, following a severe economic downturn, the United Church of Christ made changes at Camp Pilgrim Pines that included new management. However, by this time the service at the camp had dropped to a level where, reluctantly, the Association Board of Directors decided to move the conference site to another location. This did not mean that the conference would not be held at Camp Pilgrim Pines again, only that the board wanted to consider other options as a location for the annual conference.



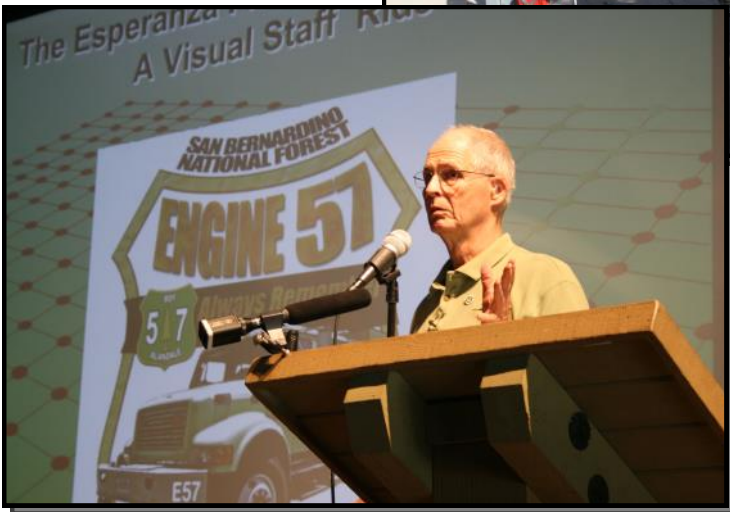
Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center

For the 2013 annual conference, the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens decided to hold the conference at a new location. After 30 years at Camp Pilgrim Pines in the San Bernardino Mountains, the conference was held at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center in Orange County. This was a major move but one the Board of Directors felt was necessary to provide the best service to their members.



The first day of the 83rd Annual Conference (May 2, 2013) was greeted with Santa Ana winds, blowing dust and warm temperatures. Those subsided after a few hours and the conference went on without a hitch. The speakers were great and all those attending seemed to enjoy themselves and the Board of Directors decided to hold the 2014—84th Annual Conference at this site.

The 84th Annual Conference—held on May 1&2, 2014 was again greeted with Santa Ana winds, blowing dust and warm temperatures. Two years in a row, Santa Ana winds and warm temperatures are uncommon for Orange County at this time of year, but it happened. Still, the turn out for the conference was what the Board had expected, the speakers were great and everyone once again seemed to enjoy themselves.



The Knot Head Award

The “*Brand Major Award*”, more commonly known as the “*Knot Head Award*,” was originally conceived during “serious meditation” beside the campfire in a fire camp, high in the Southern California mountains in June of 1953. The idea for this award of distinction was that of Gene Bertsch, who was Second Vice President at the time.

The award is conferred on an individual for meritorious service, or more appropriately, for notorious service. The original intent was to give the award to someone four to twelve times a year. As a rule, it is bestowed on one or two deserving members each year.

A “Knot Head” is a person who views the world through a knot hole. In order to qualify for the award, he or she must meet at least one of the following qualifications:

1. Keeps mouth open too long.
2. Chases smoke when there is none.
3. Hears sirens screaming in his or her head.
4. Is a regular person.
5. Has more guts than brains.
6. Doesn't have a handkerchief, therefore wipes nose on sleeve.
7. Has either two left or two right feet.
8. Pulls a faux pas (screws up).
9. Doesn't know North from South.

10. Thinks he or she is a wheel, but is not.
11. Smells rank.
12. Knows how to write own name.
13. Anything else determined by the committee.

When the necessary qualifications are considered, one can clearly see just how difficult it would be for just anyone to receive this award.

Over the years many honorable, and probably a few not so honorable, people have received this highest of awards. A list of past recipients is included on page 70.

Some of the more distinctive acts performed to be worthy of this award were:

- ◆ Failure on the part of a Board Member to show up for a Board Meeting after traveling 200 miles and getting to within 300 feet of the meeting room.
- ◆ Arrangements Chairman overlooking one of the items essential for a successful conference - more specifically, he forgot to order the beer.
- ◆ Inappropriate conduct at a very important golf match.
- ◆ Allowing a borrowed State Bear flag to be taken out of the state, resulting in the degradation of the bear's dignity.
- ◆ Allowing a conference program to be printed with no less than six errors.

- ◆ Falling sound asleep at a Board Meeting while stretched out on the floor. The falling asleep was all right, it was the loud snoring that earned the award for this recipient.
- ◆ Traveling 250 miles to attend a Board Meeting; on the wrong day.
- ◆ Printing Association decals with the pine tree looking more like an ice cream cone.
- ◆ Ordering coffee mugs six months in advance; and not having them ready for the conference.
- ◆ The killing on an innocent bird (coot) at a golf match.

The Knot Head Award remains one of the most not-sought-after awards in the history of the Association.



Morris Incident 8-25-09. A spectacular scene, as a flare up showers embers across Highway 39 behind LA County Fire Water Tender 44 and ANF Engine 26 operating on scene. Photo by Ken Morris

The Indoor Bird Watchers Society

Somewhere along the way the "*Indoor Bird Watchers Society*" was formed. This was a secret society for only a few selected members. In fact, it is so secret it was difficult for Dick Hannum to learn much about it while researching the available records. However, in 1997, Life Member Paul Rippens had breakfast with Danny Fleming, a retired Captain from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. During their meal, Fleming stated that he was a member of the infamous Indoor Bird Watchers Society and proceeded to produce his Membership Card which he donated to the Association for their historical records.

It seems that three devious rascals named Maurie Croson, Southern California Edison Company; Buck Hooper, Los Angeles County Fire; and Ernie Werder, CDF-San Mateo County, had a lot to do with it. There may have been others.

Apparently, they selected some members to join, and performed some sort of ritualistic ceremony using what has been described as "special equipment." This equipment consisted of an old stuffed owl and a bottle of something labeled "*Old Under Root.*"

Because of his part in this endeavor, Werder was named as permanent chairman of the "*Wildlife Committee*" many years ago.

The society has been inactive for many years. Perhaps some other devious rascals will come along someday and locate the required "special equipment." Then, just maybe they can revive that ceremonious tribute to our wildlife.

Past Association Presidents

The following members have served as President of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens:

| Year | Name and Organization |
|-------------|---|
| 1930 | Frank E. Dunne - Santa Barbara County Fire |
| 1931 | Frank E. Dunne - Santa Barbara County Fire |
| 1932 | William V. Mendenhall - Angeles National Forest |
| 1933 | Walter Coupe - CDF - So. Cal. District Hdqts. |
| 1934 | Spence D. Turner - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1935 | Walter Emerick - Ventura County Fire |
| 1936 | Guerdon Ellis - Angeles National Forest |
| 1937 | Joseph A. Scherman - CDF-Orange County |
| 1938 | Frank E. Dunne - Santa Barbara County Fire |
| 1939 | Norman Farrel - Cleveland National Forest |
| 1940 | Roger C. Bodine - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1941 | Luce Orton - Ventura County Fire |
| 1949 | Cecil Gehr - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1950 | W.W. "Butch" Skinner - CDF-San Bernardino Co. |
| 1951 | Jack J. McNutt - Angeles National Forest |

1952 Roland W. Percey - Los Angeles County Fire

1953 Elmer F. Osterman - CDF-Orange County

1954 Cecil D. "Pete" Little - Ventura County Fire

1955 Nolan O'Neil - Los Padres National Forest

1956 Eugene N. Bertsch - CDF-District VI Hdqts.

1957 D.F. "Buck" Hooper - Los Angeles County Fire

1958 Verdie White - Angeles National Forest

1959 Jack D. Burke - CDF - District VI Hdqts.

1960 Harry Van Horne - Kern County Fire

1961 Richard Johnson - San Bernardino Natl. Forest

1962 Steve Nash-Boulden - CDF-San Luis Obispo Co.

1963 Vic Mohr - Santa Barbara County Fire

1964 Howard Mansfield - Los Padres National Forest

1965 Leroy Rockwell - CDF-San Diego County

1966 George Brunton - Los Angeles County Fire

1967 Fred Tyler - Angeles National Forest

1968 Elmer Benson - CDF-Orange County

1969 Thomas Dickinson - Kern County Fire

1970 Richard Bolster - CDF - District VI Hdqts.

1971 Robert Alvord - Los Padres National Forest

1972 Anthony Caezza - Ventura County Fire

1973 Richard G. Hannum - CDF - San Bernardino Co.

1974 Herb McElwee - Santa Barbara County Fire

1975 Dennis Ensign - Los Padres National Forest

1976 Richard Pilkington - CDF - Orange County

1977 Howard Hooper - Cleveland National Forest

1978 Gene Fairrington - Los Angeles City Fire

1979 Earl Young - CDF - Region VI Hdqts.

1980 Jim Stumpf - Angeles National Forest

1981 Cliff Allmon - Kern County Fire

1982 Robert Jackson - CDF - San Diego County

1983 Bill Eaton - San Bernardino National Forest

1984 Bob MacMillan - Los Angeles City Fire

1985 Dan Dulitz - CDF - San Luis Obispo County

1986 Tom Ralls - Cleveland National Forest

1987 William Zseason - Los Angeles County Fire

1988 George Toussaint - CDF - San Diego County

1989 Lonnie Briggs - Los Padres National Forest

1990 Charles Valenzuela - Kern County Fire

1991 John Timmer - CDF - San Bernardino County

1992 Greg Greenhoe - Angeles National Forest

1993 Paul H. Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire

1994 Chuck Maner - CDF - San Diego County

1995 Jim Brown - San Bernardino National Forest

1996 Terry Raley - Ventura County Fire

1997 Doug Forrest - CDF - San Bernardino County

1998 Rich Hawkins - Cleveland National Forest

1999 Rod Wilmot - Los Angeles City Fire

2000 Ernylee Chamlee - CDF - Sierra South Region

2001 Kenny Duval - Angeles National Forest

2002 Don Forsyth - Orange County Fire

2003 Kelley Gouette - CDF - San Luis Obispo County

2004 Dan Snow - San Bernardino National Forest

2005 David Leininger - Los Angeles County Fire

2006 Bob Tinker - CDF - Riverside County

2007 Dan Kleinman - Sequoia National Forest

2008 Rod Megli - Ventura County Fire

2009 Ray Chaney—CAL FIRE—San Diego County

2010 Gordon Martin—Cleveland National Forest

- 2011 Chris Childers—Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.
- 2012 Troy Whitman - Southern California Edison Co.
- 2013 Robert Michael—*CALFIRE*—Riverside County
- 2014 Frank Vidales—County of Los Angeles F.D.
- 2015 Dan Snow—San Bernardino National Forest



A welcomed “Thanks” from the property owners in the San Diego County area of the 2007 Witch Fire.



Los Angeles Engine 69 in service at the Sayer Fire—San Fernando Valley—
2008 Photo by Ken Morris

Past Association Secretaries

The following members have served as Secretary of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens:

| Year | Name and Organization |
|-------------|---|
| 1929 | Walter Claberg - Ventura County Fire |
| 1930 | J.A. Graves - CDF-San Diego County |
| 1931 | J.A. Graves (Sec/Tres.) - CDF-San Diego County |
| 1932 | J.A. Graves - CDF-San Diego County |
| 1933 | J.A. Graves - CDF-San Diego County |
| 1934 | J.A. Graves - CDF-San Diego County |
| 1935 | J.E. Pemberton - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1936 | J.E. Pemberton - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1937 | J.E. Pemberton - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1938 | J.E. Pemberton - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1939 | William Nelson - San Bernardino National Forest |
| 1940 | Roland Percey - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1941 | H.J. Porter |
| 1949 | No Records Available |
| 1950 | No Records Available |

1951 A.V. Shoemaker - Angeles National Forest

1952 E.H. Bertsch - CDF-Riverside County

1953 Vernon Anderson

1954 Jim Dulitz - CDF-Orange County

1955 Jim Dulitz - CDF-Orange County

1956 Jim Dulitz - CDF-Orange County

1957 Jim Dulitz - CDF-Orange County

1958 Carl Downs - CDF-Orange County

1959 Carl Downs - CDF-Orange County

1960 Richard Millar - Los Padres National Forest

1961 John Hastings - CDF District VI Office

1962 Elmer Chambers - CDF District VI Office

1963 Don Porter - Angeles National Forest

1964 Gene Judd - Los Angeles City Fire

1965 Gene Judd - Los Angeles City Fire

1966 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire

1967 Bob Parsons - Los Angeles County Fire

1968 Bob Parsons - Los Angeles County Fire

1969 Bob Parsons - Los Angeles County Fire

1970 Dean Russell - Los Angeles County Fire

1971 Dean Russell - Los Angeles County Fire
1972 George Hull - Los Angeles County Fire
1973 George Hull - Los Angeles County Fire
1974 George Hull - Los Angeles County Fire
1975 Paul Stimson - Los Angeles County Fire
1976 Paul Stimson - Los Angeles County Fire
1977 Paul Stimson - Los Angeles County Fire
1978 Paul Stimson - Los Angeles County Fire
1979 Paul Stimson - Los Angeles County Fire
1980 Paul Stimson - Los Angeles County Fire
1981 Paul Stimson - Los Angeles County Fire
1982 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire
1983 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire
1984 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire
1985 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire
1986 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire
1987 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire
1988 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire
1989 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire
1990 Clyde Sims - Los Angeles County Fire

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| 1991 | Clyde Sims - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1992 | Clyde Sims - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1993 | Clyde Sims - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1994 | Clyde Sims - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1995 | Clyde Sims - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1996 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1997 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1998 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1999 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2000 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2001 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2002 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2003 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2004 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2005 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2006 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2007 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2008 | Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 2009 | Jim Neumann—CAL FIRE—San Luis Obispo Co. |
| 2010 | Dave Allen—CAL FIRE—San Diego County |

- 2011 Gordon P. Martin—Cleveland National Forest
- 2012 Gordon P. Martin - Cleveland National Forest
- 2013 Gordon P. Martin—Cleveland National Forest
- 2014 Gordon P. Martin—Cleveland National Forest

**Curve Fire—San Gabriel Canyon—Angeles National Forest—
2002. *Photo by Ken Morris***





Canyon Incident—Malibu Canyon, Los Angeles County—2007
Photos by Ken Morris

Past Association Treasurers

The following members have served as Treasurer of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens:

| Year | Name and Organization |
|-------------|---|
| 1929 | George Parks |
| 1930 | W.H. Coupe - CDF-So.Cal. Inspector |
| 1931 | J.A. Graves (Sec./Tres.) - CDF-San Diego County |
| 1932 | W.H. Coupe - CDF-So. Cal. Inspector |
| 1933 | J.E. Elliot - San Bernardino National Forest |
| 1934 | J.E. Elliot - San Bernardino National Forest |
| 1935 | Guerdon Ellis - Angeles National Forest |
| 1936 | No Records Available |
| 1937 | No Records Available |
| 1938 | No Records Available |
| 1939 | L. R. Orton - Ventura County Fire |
| 1940 | Ben Cooper - Kern County Fire |
| 1941 | Ben Cooper - Kern County Fire |
| 1949 | No Records Available |
| 1950 | No Records Available |

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|------|---|
| 1951 | Roland Percey - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1952 | James Fenlon - CDF-San Diego County |
| 1953 | No Records Available |
| 1954 | Harry Van Horne - Kern County Fire |
| 1955 | Harry Van Horne - Kern County Fire |
| 1956 | Harry Van Horne - Kern County Fire |
| 1957 | Harry Van Horne - Kern County Fire |
| 1958 | Jack Parkinson - Los Padres National Forest |
| 1959 | Jack Parkinson - Los Padres National Forest |
| 1960 | D.L. Rosenkrans - Ventura County Fire |
| 1961 | D.L. Rosenkrans - Ventura County Fire |
| 1962 | D.L. Rosenkrans - Ventura County Fire |
| 1963 | D.L. Rosenkrans - Ventura County Fire |
| 1964 | Milt Lloyd - Cleveland National Forest |
| 1965 | Milt Lloyd - Cleveland National Forest |
| 1966 | Milt Lloyd - Cleveland National Forest |
| 1967 | Milt Lloyd - Cleveland National Forest |
| 1968 | Bob Alvord - Angeles National Forest |
| 1969 | Bob Alvord - Angeles National Forest |
| 1970 | Dennis Bebense - CDF-San Bernardino County |

1971 Dennis Bebense - CDF-San Bernardino County
1972 Dennis Bebense - CDF-San Bernardino County
1973 Dennis Bebense - CDF-San Bernardino County
1974 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
1975 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
1976 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
1977 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
1978 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
1979 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
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1986 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
1987 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
1988 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
1989 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire
1990 Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire

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| 1991 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 1992 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 1993 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 1994 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 1995 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 1996 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
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| 1998 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 1999 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 2000 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 2001 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 2002 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 2003 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 2004 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 2005 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 2006 | Tony Caezza - Ventura County Fire |
| 2007 | David Leininger - Los Angeles County |
| 2008 | David Leininger - Los Angeles County |
| 2009 | David Leininger—Los Angeles County |
| 2010 | David Leininger—Los Angeles County |

- 2011 David Leininger—Los Angeles County
- 2012 David Leininger - Los Angeles County
- 2013 David Leininger—Los Angeles County
- 2014 David Leininger—Los Angeles County
- 2015 David Leininger—Los Angeles County



Los Angeles Fire Department Copter 5 making a water drop on a brush fire in the city.



The DC10 VLAT making a timely retardant drop on a brush fire in the Lake Elsinore area of Riverside County. *Photographer unknown*

Annual Conference Sites

The Annual Conference has been held at the following sites:

| Year | Location and Facilities |
|-------------|---|
| 1930 | San Diego - Hotel San Diego & the Elks Club |
| 1931 | Avalon - Saint Catherine Hotel & Rivera Theater |
| 1932 | Santa Barbara - Santa Barbara Hotel |
| 1933 | Bakersfield - Hotel El Tejon |
| 1934 | San Bernardino - CA Hotel/American Legion Hall |
| 1935 | Ventura - Hotel Ventura & the Athene Club |
| 1936 | San Luis Obispo - Elks Hall |
| 1937 | Avalon - Saint Catherine Hotel & Rivera Theater |
| 1938 | Pomona - Los Angeles County Fair Grounds |
| 1939 | Lebec - Hotel Lebec |
| 1940 | Riverside - Mission Inn |
| 1941 | Ventura/Santa Paula - Elks Club & Steckel Park |
| 1942-48 | No Conference - World War II |
| 1949 | Bakersfield - Hotel El Tejon |
| 1950 | San Bernardino - California Hotel |
| 1951 | Pasadena - Green Hotel & the Civic Auditorium |
| 1952 | Big Pines - Jackson Lake |

- 1953 Simi Valley - Douglas Recreation Center
- 1954 Big Pines - Jackson Lake
- 1955 Laguna Recreation Area - Shrine Camp
- 1956 Big Pines - Jackson Lake
- 1957 Seven Oaks - Camp Radford
- 1958 Seven Oaks - Camp Radford
- 1959 Seven Oaks - Camp Radford
- 1960 Seven Oaks - Camp Radford
- 1961 Seven Oaks - Camp Radford
- 1962 Seven Oaks - Camp Radford
- 1963 Seven Oaks - Camp Radford
- 1964 Conference cancelled because of heavy snow
- 1965 Del Mar - San Diego County Fairgrounds
- 1966 Los Prietos - 4-H Camp
- 1967 San Dimas - Tanbark Flats
- 1968 Lake Hemet - Camp Roosevelt
- 1969 Lake Hemet - Camp Roosevelt
- 1970 Malibu - Mt. Craggs Camp
- 1971 Frazier Park - El Camino Pines and St. Nicholas Camps

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| 1972 | Malibu - Mt. Craggs Camp |
| 1973 | Malibu - Mt. Craggs Camp |
| 1974 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1975 | Malibu - Mt. Craggs Camp |
| 1976 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1977 | Malibu - Mt. Craggs Camp |
| 1978 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1979 | Malibu - Mt. Craggs Camp |
| 1980 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1981 | Malibu - Mt. Craggs Camp |
| 1982 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1983 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1984 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1985 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1986 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1987 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1988 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1989 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1990 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1991 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |

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| 1992 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1993 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1994 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1995 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1996 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1997 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1998 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 1999 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2000 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2001 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2002 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2003 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2004 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2005 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2006 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2007 | Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2008 | Oak Glen—Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2009 | Oak Glen—Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2010 | Oak Glen—Camp Pilgrim Pines |
| 2011 | Oak Glen—Camp Pilgrim Pines |

2012 Oak Glen - Camp Pilgrim Pines

2013 The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center

2014 The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center

2015 The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center



Colby Fire, Glendora, CA. January 2014
Photo by Gordon T. Rowley



The 2003 Old Fire rages across the mountain sides above San Bernardino

Life Membership Recipients

Over the years, the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens has honored the following individuals by awarding them a Lifetime Membership:

Jim Achilles - Ventura County Fire Department - Deceased

Don Adams - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Cliff Allmon - Kern County Fire Department

Bob Alvord - United States Forest Service

Harvey T. Anderson - L. A. County Fire Dept. - Deceased

Dan Anglin—Western Fire Support—Vendor Representative

Dave Bacon - United States Forest Service

Ernie Balmforth - California Dept. of Forestry—Deceased

Charles Balsom - California Department of Forestry

Hud Banks - California Department of Forestry

Tom Barnes - California Department of Forestry

Donald Bauer - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Elmer Benson - California Department of Forestry

Larry Benson—California Department of Forestry

Jerry Berry - United States Forest Service

Dave Bianchi - Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Lynn Biddison - United States Forest Service

Thelmas Biddison - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Don Biedebach - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Harold K. Border - Los Angeles Fire Department

Clyde A. Bragdon, Jr. - Los Angeles County Fire Department

Lonnie Briggs - United States Forest Service

Jim Brown - United States Forest Service

George Brunton - Los Angeles County F. D. - Deceased

Jack Burke - California Department of Forestry—Deceased

Anthony Caezza - Ventura County Fire Department

Harold “Fritz” Cahill - United States Forest Service

Arthur J. Carroll - United States Forest Service

Elmer Chambers - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

Duane Chamlee - California Dept. of Forestry

Ernylee Chamlee—California Dept. of Forestry

Dan Clark - Kern County Fire Department

Bill Clayton - California Dept. of Forestry

Mike Cody—Kern County Fire Department

Kent Colby - California Dept. of Forestry

Mike Colgan - Orange County Fire Authority

Fletcher M. Common - Santa Barbara Co. F. D. - Deceased

Everett Couter - Los Angeles Fire Department—Deceased

Maurice Croson - So. California Edison Company - Deceased

John V. Davis - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Thomas A. Dickinson - Kern County Fire Depart.—Deceased

Michael Dietrich—United States Forest Service

Mike Dougherty - United States Forest Service

Carl Downs - California Department of Forestry - Deceased

William Dresser - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Dave Driscoll - California Department of Forestry

Dan Dulitz - California Department of Forestry

Jim Dulitz - California Department of Forestry—Deceased

Frank E. Dunne - Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.- Deceased

Kenny Duval - United States Forest Service

James G. Dykes - California Department of Forestry

Bill Eaton - United States Forest Service

John W. Englund - Los Angeles County Fire Department

Dennis Ensign - United States Forest Service—Deceased

Gene Farrington - Los Angeles City Fire Dept. - Deceased

James Fenlon - California Department of Forestry - Deceased

Joseph Ferrara - Los Angeles County Fire Department

David Flake - California Department of Forestry—Deceased

Doug Forrest—California Department of Forestry

Don Forsyth—Orange County Fire Authority

P. Michael Freeman—Los Angeles County Fire Department

Harvey French - California Dept. of Forestry—Deceased

Richard Friend - Los Angeles Co. Fire Dept. - Deceased

Marshall Goddard - Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Kelley Gouette—CAL FIRE

Greg Greenhoe - United States Forest Service

Rex Griggs - California Department of Forestry - Deceased

William Haggard - Ventura County Fire Dept. - Deceased

Ron Hamilton—United States Forest Service

Richard Hannum - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

Mike Harris - California Dept. of Forestry

Thomas J. Harrison - L.A.City Dept.Rec.& Parks - Deceased

John Hastings - California Department of Forestry

Marc Hawkins—Orange County Fire Authority

Richard Hawkins—United States Forest Service

Raymond Hill - Los Angeles City Fire Department - Deceased

D.F. “Buck” Hooper - Los Angeles Co. Fire Dept.- Deceased

Richard Houts - Los Angeles County Fire Department

George Hull - Los Angeles County Fire Department

Tom Hutchinson - United States Forest Service

Robert R. Jackson - California Dept. of Forestry

Richard Johnson - United States Forest Service

Jack King - California Department of Forestry - Deceased

Keith Klinger - Los Angeles County Fire Dept. - Deceased

Fritz Koepf - Southern California Edison Company

Robert Lancaster - United States Forest Service—Deceased

Doug Lannon - California Department of Forestry

Robert Lehtreck - Kern County Fire Department

Myron Lee - United States Forest Service

David Leininger—Los Angeles County Fire Department

Milt Lloyd - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Jerry Logan - Orange County Fire Authority—Deceased

Les Lopez - California Dept. of Forestry—Deceased

Bill Lord - California Dept. of Forestry

George Lund - Ventura County Fire Department

James K. Mace - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

Robert J. MacMillan - Los Angeles Fire Department

Chuck Maner—California Department of Forestry

Donald O. Manning - Los Angeles Fire Department

Howard Mansfield - United States Forest Service—Deceased

Robert Martinez - California Dept. of Forestry

Stan Masson - Ventura County Fire Department

Stan Matthews - Orange County Fire Authority

Robert S. McBride - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Thomas P. McCarthy - Kern County Fire Department

Jack McCleary—Southern California Edison—Deceased

Herb McElwee - Santa Barbara County F. D.—Deceased

James McFadden - California Dept. of Forestry

Walter P. Meager - Los Angeles Co. Fire Dept. - Deceased

Rod Megli—Ventura County Fire Department

William V. Mendenhall - U. S. Forest Service - Deceased

Keith Metcalfe - California Dept. of Forestry

Dick Montague - United States Forest Service

Lewis Moran - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

George Motschall - United States Forest Service

Steve Nash-Bolden - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

Dewitt Nelson - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

Herb Nemeyer - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased
Kevin Nestor—Ventura County Fire Department
Jim Neumann—California Department of Forestry
Francis Newcomb - United States Forest Service—Deceased
Glen Newman—California Department of Forestry
Rita Nolan—United States Forest Service
Don Oaks - Santa Barbara County Fire Department
Tom O’Keefe—California Department of Forestry
Junior Parker - Los Angeles Fire Department
Robert H. Parsons - Los Angeles Co. Fire Dept. - Deceased
Roland W. Percey - Los Angeles Co. Fire Dept. - Deceased
Gene Pierce - United States Forest Service
Richard Pilkington - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased
Patrick Pontes - United States Forest Service
Don Porter - United States Forest Service
Chip Prather—Orange County Fire Authority
Bob Praytor—Camp Pendelton
Dave Provencio—United States Forest Service
Robert Radke—Los Angeles Fire Department
Terry Raley—Ventura County Fire Department

Thomas Ralls - United States Forest Service

Walt Reidel - Southern California Edison Company

Randy Reiswig - Kern County Fire Department

Mike Rhode—Orange County Fire Authority

Paul H. Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire Department

John Risdon - Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Paul Robb - Ventura County Fire Department - Deceased

DeForrest E. Roberts - Los Angeles Fire Department

George Roby - United States Forest Service

Leroy Rockwell - California Dept. of Forestry

Mike Rogers - United States Forest Service

Bob Roper—Ventura County Fire Department

Dean Russell - Los Angeles County Fire Department

Donal Russell - California Dept. of Forestry

Mark Sanchez—Ventura County Fire Department

Robert E. Sarno - Los Angeles County Fire Department

Joe Scherman - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

Mike Schori - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

Leo A Sergius - United States Weather Service—Deceased

Clyde H. Sims - Los Angeles Co. Fire Department—Deceased

Keith Simmons - California Dept. of Forestry

Bob Simpson - Los Angeles County Fire Dept.—Deceased

Jack Skeels - California Dept. of Forestry

W.W. Skinner - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

James Smith - Ventura County Fire Department—Deceased

Patrick C. Smith - Los Angeles Fire Department - Deceased

Joe Springer - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

Ben Stewart - California Dept. of Forestry

Paul Stimson - Los Angeles County Fire Depart.—Deceased

Jim Stumpf - United States Forest Service

Bob Swinford - United States Forest Service

Craig Thomas—Santa Barbara County Fire Department

John Timmer - California Dept. of Forestry

Bob Tinker - California Dept. of Forestry

George Toussaint - California Dept. of Forestry

Dan Turner—California Department of Forestry

Spence D. Turner - Los Angeles Co. Fire Dept. - Deceased

Fred Tyler - United States Forest Service

Charles A. Valenzuela - Kern County Fire Department

Harry L. VanHorne - Kern County Fire Dept. - Deceased

Ralph Van Wagner - Los Angeles Co. Fire Dept. - Deceased

Tony Varela—Los Angeles City Fire Department

Eric L. Vogt - California Dept. of Forestry

Bud Wadliegh - Santa Barbara County Fire Dept. - Deceased

Frank Watson - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Ernie H. Werder - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

Verdie E. White - United States Forest Service - Deceased

Carl Williams - Kern County Fire Department

Rod Wilmot - Los Angeles Fire Department

Jack Wilson - Bureau of Land Management

Chris Wurzell - California Dept. of Forestry

Earl Young - California Dept. of Forestry

Larry Young - California Dept. of Forestry - Deceased

William J. Zeason - Los Angeles County Fire Department



Knot Head Award Recipients

Over the years, many officers, directors, and members have had the dubious honor of receiving the Knot Head Award for something they did or were thought to have done. Some years more than one person received the award and other years no one received it. The following is a list of the honorees:

| Year | Name and Agency |
|-------------|---|
| 1953 | Sim Jarvi - United States Forest Service |
| 1953 | Tom Bryan - CDF - San Bernardino County |
| 1954 | Frank Watson - United States Forest Service |
| 1955 | Rowland Percey - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1956 | Harry Grace - United States Forest Service |
| 1956 | Elmo Freear - Kern County Fire |
| 1957 | Dick Droege - United States Forest Service |
| 1958 | James Achilles - Ventura County Fire |
| 1959 | Gene Bertsch - CDF - District VI Headquarters |
| 1960 | Buck Hooper - Los Angeles County Fire |
| 1961 | Maury Croson - So. California Edison Company |
| 1962 | Elmer Osterman - CDF - District VI Hdqts. |
| 1963 | Art Balsom - CDF - San Bernardino County |
| 1967 | Howard Mansfield - United States Forest Service |
| 1968 | Howard Evans - United States Forest Service |

1969 Elmer Benson - CDF - Orange County

1970 Gene Kemble - United States Forest Service

1972 Joe Springer - CDF - District VI Headquarters

1973 Walt Bolster - CDF - Region VI Headquarters

1975 Dick Friend - Western Fire Journal Magazine

1975 Jack McCleery - So. California Edison Company

1976 Anthony Caezza - Ventura County Fire

1976 Howard Hooper - United States Forest Service

1977 Herb Nemeyer - CDF - Riverside County

1978 Richard Pilkington - CDF - Orange County

1979 Earl Young - CDF - Region VI Headquarters

1979 Bob Sarno - Los Angeles County Fire

1980 Jim Stumpf - United States Forest Service

1981 Bob Jackson - CDF - San Diego County

1982 Bob Jackson - CDF - San Diego County

1982 Jerry Logan - Orange County Fire

1983 Jerry Logan - Orange County Fire

1984 Bob MacMillan - Los Angeles City Fire

1985 Jerry Logan - Orange County Fire

1986 Anthony Caezza - Ventura County Fire

1986 George Toussaint - CDF - San Diego County

1987 Anthony Caezza - Ventura County Fire

1988 Mike Dougherty - United States Forest Service

1989 Marshall Goddard - Santa Barbara County Fire

1990 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire

1991 Greg Greenhoe - United States Forest Service

1991 Jim Stumpf - United States Forest Service

1992 Chuck Maner - CDF - San Diego County

1993 Jim Brown - United States Forest Service

1993 Charles Valenzuela - Kern County Fire

1994 Jim Brown - United States Forest Service

1995 Troy Whitman - So. California Edison Company

1996 Doug Forrest - CDF - San Bernardino County

1997 Don Forsyth - Orange County Fire

1998 Doug Forrest - CDF - San Bernardino County

1999 Don Forsyth - Orange County Fire

2000 Paul Rippens - Los Angeles County Fire

2001 Dave Bianchi - Santa Barbara County Fire

2002 Doug Lannon - CDF - San Bernardino County

2003 Bob Tinker - CDF - Riverside County

- 2004 Chris Childers - Santa Barbara County Fire
- 2005 Kelley Gouette - CDF - San Luis Obispo Co.
- 2006 Kelley Gouette - CDF - San Luis Obispo Co.
- 2007 Don Forsyth - Orange County Fire
- 2008 Gordon Martin—Cleveland National Forest
- 2009 Steve Reeder—CAL FIRE—San Luis Obispo Co.
- 2010 Jack Froggat—Kern County Fire Department
- 2011 Jack Froggat - Kern County Fire Department
- 2012 Abigail Srader & Suzane Penfold—CALFIRE
- 2013 Robert Michael—CALFIRE (*self imposed*)
- 2014 Frank Vidales—Los Angeles County Fire
(*self imposed*)





L_R: Dave Leininger-Treasurer, Kurt Zingham-MVU, Nathan Judy-ANF, Ken Cruz-ORC, Steve Re
Chris Childers-SBC, Paul Rippens-Newsletter Editor, Tim Ernst-LFD, Bart Kicklighter-SQF, G
Doug Lannon-Arran



Directors 2014-2015

Feeder-SLV, Vaughan Miller-VNC, Tony Caezza-Life Member, Dan Snow-BDF, Ron Janssen-BDU, Gordon Martin-CNF, Troy Whitman-SCE, Don Forsyth-Safety Chairman, Robert Michael-RRU, Investments Chairman

