

# Newsletter



## Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2019-2020

#### OFFICERS

President— Tim Ernst—LFD  
First Vice President — Nathan Judy—ANF  
Second Vice Pres.— Dave Fowler—SLU  
Secretary Tim Chavez—RRU  
Treasurer Phil Johnson—ORC

#### DIRECTORS

Dan Snow—BDF  
Trevor Johnson—VNC  
Kevin Johnson—LAC  
Troy Whitman—SCE  
Curt Schwarm-LPF  
Brian Hellett-SQF  
Rusty McCulley—BDU  
Chris Childers - SBC  
Brook Spellman—CSR  
Stan Hill—CNF  
Kurt Zingheim—MVU  
Ira Peshkin—KRN

Ed Shabro—Vendor Representative  
Doug Lannon—Arrangements Chair  
Don Forsyth—Safety Chair

*We, the members of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens, do band together for the purpose of strengthening inter-agency cooperation, fire safety coordination, and fellowship.*

**An Association dedicated to the  
Training and Safety of Southern  
California Wildland Firefighters  
for 90 years.**



Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens  
February 7, 2020, Riverside, California

**90th Annual  
Wildland Fire Training  
and Safety Conference**  
90 Years of Unified Service for our First Responders of  
Southern California

**May 7 - 8, 2020**  
**Register Now!**  
**www.scaffw.org**

**Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens**  
Protecting California Since 1930

**Foresters and Fire Wardens Contact Information**

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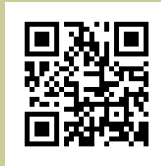
Follow us on iNSTAGRAM @SCAFFW

**Did you or are you thinking of changing your E-mail address? Please remember to contact the SCAFFW at SCAFFW@GMAIL.com and let us know so we can send you your newsletters and other important infor-**



**2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS**

The board of directors will begin working on the programs and speakers for the **90TH Annual Wildland Fire Training and Safety Conference** that will be held on **May 7-8, 2020** at **Camp Pilgrim Pines** in beautiful Oak Glen, California. This promises to be another exciting and informative conference and we look forward to seeing you back at Pilgrim Pines.



You can now go directly to our web site by scanning the QRC (quick response code) with your smart phone.



**Cover Photo**

*Tick Fire Los Angeles County , October 2019. Photo by Ken Morris*



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS  
90 TH ANNUAL WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING AND SAFETY CONFERENCE.**

**May 7-8, 2020**

Check our web site for further information [www.scaffw.org](http://www.scaffw.org)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION  
of FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Feb 7, 2019, Riverside CA**



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING NOTES**

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Ernst at 0900 hours at Riverside, California on February 7, 2020. A round of introductions were made. President Ernst thanked Directors Johnson and Chavez for making the arrangements for the meeting and dinner.

**Officers and Directors Present:**

Tim Ernst – President- Los Angeles Fire Dept.  
Nathan Judy – First Vice President- Angeles National Forest  
Dave Fowler – Second Vice President- CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.  
Phil Johnson – Treasurer – Orange County Fire Authority  
Tim Chavez – Secretary, CAL FIRE – Riverside County  
Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chair  
Don Forsyth – Safety Chair  
Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept  
Stan Hill – Cleveland National Forest  
Ira Peshkin- Kern County Fire Dept.  
Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.  
Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison  
Curt Schwarm – Los Padres National Forest  
Dan Johnson – CAL FIRE – Southern Region  
Rusty McCulley – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.  
Kurt Zingheim – CAL FIRE – San Diego County  
Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative

**Officers and Directors Absent:**

Brian Hellett – Sequoia National Forest  
Trevor Johnson – Ventura County Fire Dept.  
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest

**Guests:**

Nick Ferrari- Los Angeles Fire Dept.  
Garrett Huff- Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.  
Matt Ahern- San Bernardino National Forest  
Mark Hawkins- Orange County Fire Dept, Ret.  
Josh Black- CAL FIRE San Diego Co.

President Ernst made the following remarks before proceeding with the agenda. He wanted to urge all directors to continue to think about succession planning and to invite prospective future directors to the Board meetings. Also the Board needs to work on a “speakers guide” that would include style and content recommendations for the conference, including font and background recommendations for slides. A draft is being circulated; Second VP Judy will review.

**Minutes:** President Ernst presented the minutes of the December meeting. Motion by Director Whitman seconded by Chairman Forsyth, to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Phil Johnson presented his report covering Dec 6, 2019 to February 6, 2020

**Disbursements**

\$180.56 David Fowler/ Registration Supplies/ 12-6-19  
\$5768.67 UCCR/ Reservation Final installment/ 1-21-20  
\$176.00 Philadelphia Insurance/ 1-26-20  
\$6305.88 Total

**Receipts**

\$256.41 PayPal/registration  
\$43,356.93/ BofA Balance  
\$43,613.34 Total

Completed Housekeeping Items  
IRS Tax filing  
Event Insurance/ Philadelphia  
UCCR final installment

There was a discussion of fire insurance for the conference over and above the liability policy. For our tax- exempt status, it was reported that a bank balance of less than \$50,000 is desirable.

Motion by Director Childers, second by Director Whitman to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved.

**Committee Reports:**

**Arrangements:**

Chairman Lannon reported that the WiFi signal for the camp has been improved and recently tested. Crews from Oak Glen Conservation Camp were able to clear all the downed trees and branches at the camp that resulted from the heavy snowfall around Thanksgiving. Much Thanks to OGCC, Chief Hopkins, Chief Bennett and the crews for the assistance. Camp Luther Glen is ready and has us on the schedule. A discussion of the Directors Dinner occurred, and it was decided to reserve the Oak Glen Steakhouse again for the dinner. The screen for presentations being donated will be moved to the Camp. Director Dan Johnson and Lannon will coordinate.

**Exhibits and Demonstrations:**

Current fee for vendors to display is \$125 and \$62.50 for an additional person for the conference. Motion by Director Shabro to increase the vendor fee to \$150 plus \$75 per additional person. Seconded by VP Judy. Motion passed. Director Shabro advised that he needed the “save the date” flyer soon in order to invite the vendors. More equipment displays are needed. Director Chavez will try to get a new BMC Model 34 and Matt Ahern advised he might get a BMC USFS Type 3. Chairman Forsyth would like to get a Clump Pump.

**Registration and Membership:**

Registrations have begun to trickle in. A second Square device will be purchased for \$10 to speed up the registration process.



Photo by Ken Morris, Tick Fire



### Entertainment and Raffle:

Director Trevor Johnson was unable to attend but emailed his report:

-Director Schwarm will present a motion and have a display for potential new baseball hats for the 90<sup>th</sup> conference

-Director Snow will present a motion to purchase 3-6 green tablecloths with SCAFFW logo for the conference (Snowman if you could also please present the details of costs that would be incurred)

-I have not heard back from any directors regarding a band; I feel a band is not necessary and would add unnecessary costs but that can be a roundtable discussion among all board members

-if someone could also please make a motion to approve the \$2500.00 for raffle prizes, I would greatly appreciate it— Motion was made by Director Schwarm, seconded by Director Childers. Motion Passed.

After some research a permanent motion for the \$2500 expenditure for raffle prizes could not be found.

Some discussion of having a band took place. It was mentioned that it might pull people away from Bingo. It was suggested maybe have a band play from 4-6 Thursday afternoon during the social hour. Chairman Lannon will research options and cost.

A motion was made by First VP Judy to purchase 3 8' tablecloths with the SCAFFW Logo for a maximum of \$500. Motion seconded by Director Schwarm. Motion passed.

### Publicity:

President Ernst appointed Nick Ferrari from LFD as the new Publicity Chairman. There will be a transition period so First VP Judy can manage the program as directed by the Bylaws. A Banner for display at the Conference was discussed briefly. Director Johnson will look into Norco Camp producing something. A "Save the Date" and program flyer are needed for posting and distribution soon.

### Historian:

Director Whitman advised everyone to wear the Nike Green director's shirt for our April meeting in order to get a Board picture for the History Book. A list of the Life Members was checked by several Directors. Director Whitman would like pictures of any new equipment the agencies have for the History Book. We need to get the 1980 Version digitized and posted on our Web Page.

### Safety:

Chairman Forsyth is getting CHP and Medics lined up for the conference.

### Golf:

**Golf cancelled for this year.**

### Newsletter:

Ferrari, Black, Dao and Huff have been added to the current Board Member mailing list.

### Old Business:

Wireless Microphone rental was discussed, and it was decided to get two handheld and two lapel mics. Motion by Chairman Lannon, second by Director Phil Johnson, motion passed.

### Life Membership Recommendations:

None

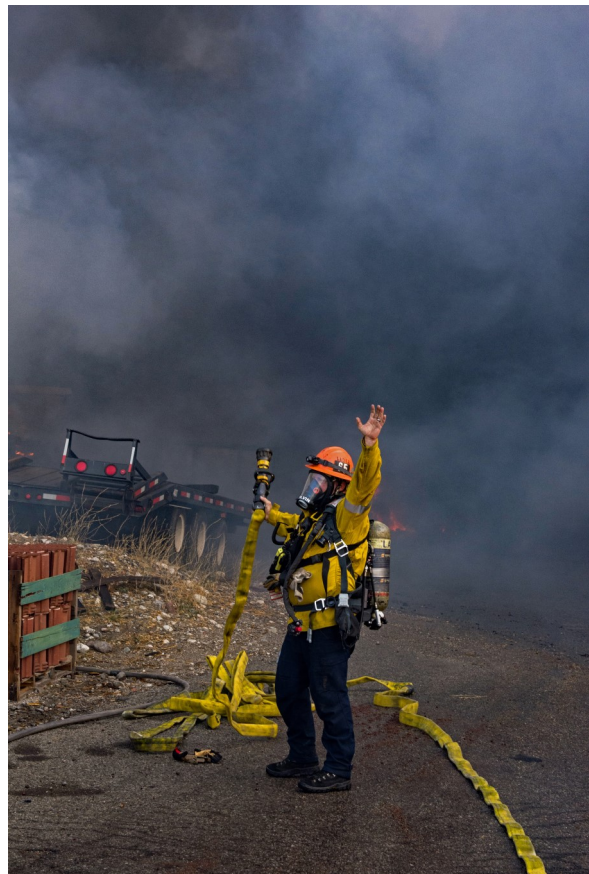
### Gary Helming Award Nominations:

**Not discussed**

### New Business:

Director P. Johnson has a laptop computer that he received in the Treasurer kit, but does not use it and he doesn't know what to do with it. No current directors know its origin. The attendee giveaway was discussed. Nick Ferrari has researched a Pelican 1920 flashlight that is high quality. He was quoted a price of \$8 each for a bulk order. The light retails for \$26-33. A motion was made by Chairman Forsyth to purchase 300 lights. Seconded by Director Hill. Motion passed.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held in Santa Barbara on April 3. Details to follow.



Tick Fire . Photo by Ken Morris

Program

The program grid was covered and contacts for program are to be sent to VP Judy. Steven Pyne was confirmed. A discussion of having another presentation from Gordon Graham occurred. It was decided to postpone Graham until next year. Meal quality at the camp was discussed again. Director McCulley and Chairman Lannon will meet with the camp to discuss.



	MC	Honor guard	Keynote	Operations	Leadership	Safety	Technology	Other
<b>Presenter</b>	Tony Varela	OCFA	Shawna Legarza		Mark Smith	19th Watch-out	FIRIS	Ashley Iver-son/ Tony Mecham
<b>FFW Contact</b>	T. Ernst	P. Johnson	D. Snow	T. Ernst	T. Chavez	D. Snow	P. Johnson	K. Zingheim
<b>Presenter</b>		LA Co.	CAL FIRE Executive	Ridgecrest EQ	S. OPS Leadership		Matt Jolly	Predictive Services Rolinski
<b>FFW Contact</b>		K. Johnson	D. Johnson	I. Peshkin	D. Johnson		T. Chavez	Whitman
<b>Presenter</b>	Chad Cook	CAL FIRE Pipes		Saddleridge	Steve Pyne	Kim Lightly		Air Ops
<b>FFW Contact</b>	T. Johnson	D. Johnson		N. Ferrari	C. Childers	P. Johnson		Open to anyone, looking for ideas
<b>Presenter</b>	Vaughn Miller			Hotshot Assn.		Mynda Ohs		
<b>FFW Contact</b>	T. Johnson			T. Ernst		T. Ernst		

The meeting was adjourned at 1200. A tour of the new Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Center was given by Director Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Chavez,  
Association Secretary

Photo– Tick Fire, Ken Morris





# ANCHOR POINT



meant “lick and go,” runny noses and

## Back to the Basics

**D**uring my 1989 rookie school for wildland firefighters, we were required to memorize the 10 Standard Fire Orders and the 18 Watch Out Situations. We chanted them loudly during our physical training sessions and we quizzed each other constantly. If we missed a word, we did pushups. We struggled to understand them; instead, we memorized the words. We put stickers on our helmets and on the backs of our radios.

We also really tried to understand the somewhat mysterious intent behind each statement. For instance, take “Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.” For me as a young 18-year-old firefighter, that was a difficult statement to understand. Was I to be aggressive in order to be safe ... or be safe in order to be aggressive? And despite my inner turmoil, fire order 6 told me this: “Be alert. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively.” What a confused kid I was!

Upon reflecting on my experiences, I remember different levels of leadership and learning as I tried to understand the meaning behind the word “safety”—to do no harm. To be frankly honest, when I was 18 years old working on a fire engine, I really didn’t understand the concept behind fireline safety. In those days, I thought safety meant survival— not getting caught in a bad situation. So to mitigate my lack of understanding, I did what my boss told me and didn’t ask many questions. Understanding safety was as complex then as it is today.

In 1990, my second year in fire, the Dude Fire occurred. It was a fatality fire in which six inmate crew members perished. It was puzzling for me and, I imagine, for others. I wondered how something so awful could happen. After this fire, Paul Gleason developed “LCES” (Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, Safety Zones). Then, in 1994, the South Canyon Fire took more lives. Once again, I asked myself: How could this happen?

As my career advanced, I started to more fully understand what safety meant. I learned that understanding safety means understanding the fire triangle, the basics of wildland firefighting—fuels, weather, and topography. It meant that, when scouting line, you always looked back where you came from, having one foot in the black and eyes forward on indirect attack. It meant feeling the pine needles or caribou moss to understand the fuel moistures. It meant learning about the weather and the power of Mother Nature. It



watery eyes, and loud

cracks from snags falling. It meant always knowing our escape route. It meant finding a safety zone when there were no safety zones. It meant listening to those little voices in your head proclaiming the right thing to do. If it was safe, we did it; if it wasn’t, we didn’t.

Now, when I think about safety as the Forest Service’s National Fire and Aviation Director, I think about the challenges of working in the wildland– urban interface, excessive fuel loading, extreme weather events, fatigue, stress management, emotional intelligence, improving the wild-fire system, enhanced training and decision making, and

tak- care peo- The

ing of our ple.



**By Shawna A. Legarza, Psy.D.**  
*Director, Fire and Aviation Management  
Forest Service*

**Understanding safety was as complex then as it is today.**