

# Newsletter



## Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2020-2021

#### 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  
Bryan Gaines-SQF  
Rusty McCulley—BDU  
Chris Childers - SBC  
Brook Spelman—CSR  
Stan Hill—CNF  
Josh Black—MVU  
Ira Peshkin—KRN

Ed Shabro—Vendor Representative  
Doug Lannon—Arrangements Chair  
Don Forsyth—Safety Chair  
Nick Ferrari—Publicity 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 5, 2021, held virtually.



## 2021 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, 2021** 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.



### Foresters and Fire Wardens Contact Information

**Mailing:** SCAFFW

c/o Tim Chavez 132 S. San Jacinto Ave., San Jacinto, CA 92583



**E-mail:** [SCAFFW@gmail.com](mailto:SCAFFW@gmail.com)



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



Follow us on Twitter @SCAFFW



Subscribe to our You Tube Channel @SCAFFW



“Like” us on Facebook at So Cal Foresters and Fire Wardens



Follow us on iNSTAGRAM @SCAFFW

### Cover Photo

*The Apple fire progresses through the Pilgrim Pines complex. Photo by Troy Whitman. Above a CAL FIRE Dozer doing structure defense at Pilgrim Pines. Photo by Doug Lannon.*



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

# May 7-8, 2021

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

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





**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING NOTES**

The February 5, 2021 meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Ernst at 0915 hours in a virtual meeting. A round of introductions were made.

**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
- Nick Ferrari- Publicity Chairman- Los Angeles Fire Dept.
- Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept
- Ira Peshkin- Kern County Fire Dept.
- Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
- Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
- Curt Schwarm – Los Padres National Forest
- Rusty McCulley – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
- Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
- Brian Gaines– Sequoia National Forest
- Trevor Johnson – Ventura County Fire Dept.
- Garrett Huff- Member- Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.
- Matt Ahern- Member- San Bernardino National Forest

**Officers and Directors Absent:**

- Stan Hill – Cleveland National Forest
- Brook Spelman – CAL FIRE – Southern Region
- Josh Black – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
- Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest

**Guests:**

John Hawkins, Life Member

**Minutes:** President Ernst presented the minutes of the December 4, 2020 meeting. Motion by Director Fowler, seconded by Director Gaines, to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Phil Johnson presented his report covering Dec 4, 2020 to Feb 5, 2021.

Balance as of	\$40,653.75
Receipts:	
Dues and Conference Registration	\$ .00
Total Receipts:	\$ .00
Disbursements:	
Total Disbursements:	\$ .00

Balance on hand: \$40653.75  
 Last year at this time: \$43522.53  
 -The annual IRS tax filing is complete.

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Arrangements:**

Arrangements Chairman Lannon reported that so far the facility at Camp Pilgrim Pines appears to be free of any damage. Recently about a foot of snow has fallen. There has been some tree damage, a large tree fell in the back of the facility. Tina from USSR so far is not planning any camps this year, as long as San Bernardino County remains in the "Purple" Status. Our deposit is still valid for a May conference. A discussion of the quality of meals continues and if an in-person conference proceeds, we will have some meal trials prior to the conference.

**Exhibits and Demonstrations:**

Ed emailed that the vendors are ready as soon as there is a word of an in-person conference. President Ernst put out a call for any equipment displays. Several ideas were presented including the new S-70i Helicopter 301, The new OES Type 6 engines, or maybe a live demo of the FIRIS program if it is renewed.

**Registration and Membership:**

VP Fowler advised there have been a few inquiries but no registrations or annual memberships. WE will use the newsletter to encourage everyone to renew their membership for \$5 until a decision on the conference is made.

**Entertainment and Raffle:**

Nothing to report. Suggest if we have an in person conference that a T-shirt would be nice to commemorate the 90<sup>th</sup> Conference.

**Publicity:**

VP Judy advised that he would work with Ferrari to transfer the duties and we need to get a Save the Date our soon, whether we are virtual or in person.

**Historian:**

Director Whitman advised the history book is ready. He is going to move forward and get it printed.

**Safety:**

Nothing to report

**Newsletter:**

The last newsletter (December) was posted on social media accounts with tags for the Association. The stats on the Twitter post were as follows:

- 2774 impressions (a total tally of all the times the Tweet has been seen.)
- 78 engagements ( a user interacted with the tweet, either clicks, retweets or replies)
- 44 link clicks
- 22 detail expands
- 5 likes
- 2 retweets

**Program:**

A motion by Director Whitman and second by Chairman Forsyth to have a 2-track planning process for the program, both in-person and virtual. Passed unanimous.



**Old Business:**

No Old Business

**Life Membership Recommendations:**

None

**Gary Helming Award Nominations:**

A discussion on the Gary Helming Scholarship was tabled until the next meeting.

**New Business:**

Next meeting when a decision is made on the conference, the Insurance and ABC permit will need to be obtained.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held virtually in March. More to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Chavez,  
Association Secretary





As we all settle in to 2021, the significant “firsts” we all faced last year remain in the forefront of our memory, and are matched by the wishes and prayers for putting them all behind us. There are countless personal stories of pandemic related tragedies that affected you or your Agencies, the unique incident types that challenged many of our first responders, and a number of significant line of duty injuries and fatalities – not to downplay the most historic fire season of our lifetimes, with new records set in 2020 for the largest fires our State has ever faced. While not of the scale of these great tragedies, 2020 was also only the second time in the 92 year history of the Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens that the Annual Wildland Fire Safety & Training Conference had to be cancelled.

## Association Presidents Message

While we are by no means out of the woods with pandemic concerns, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and a glimmer of hope that we may have an in-person conference this year. With the number of topics and incident reviews from both the 2019 and 2020 years, the presentation curriculum that is being finalized stands to be one of the best ever. As a back-up plan to our in-person conference, the Association Board has unanimously decided to develop a virtual conference to make use of all the countless “zoom” meeting skills everyone has developed since we last met. We are closely monitoring the directives of San Bernadino County’s Office of Public Health, and should have a definitive answer for you within the next few weeks.

Among the greatest strengths of firefighters are adaptability, ingenuity, and possession of a can-do attitude. We have all been tested in these strengths over this last year, and the rigors of our careers demand we stay strong, positive, and continue to improve ourselves in our craft at every opportunity. The Board is extremely optimistic and is looking forward to catching up on old friendships, developing new ones, and offering a conference to represent the hard work you do every day when the bell goes off. As always, your Board and I remain open to your input and welcome any feedback you may have to continue our legacy this year with the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildland Fire Safety & Training Conference. Hope to see you all soon.

Best Regards,  
*Tim*

Tim Ernst, President  
Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens



### 2021 SCAFFW CONFERENCE AGENDA WORKSHEET

CATEGORY	TOPIC (Title to be Confirmed)	PROPOSED SPEAKER	BOARD CONTACT	SPEAKER AVAIL.
KEYNOTE		Brian Fennessy	Ernst	pending
		Don Manning	Ernst	pending
		Kellie Martin	Chavez	pending
M/C		Tony Varela	Ernst	pending
		Chad Cook	Johnson, T	pending
		Vaughn Miller	Johnson, T	pending
COLOR GUAR	Guard	Orange CoFA	Johnson, P	pending
	Bagpipes	CAL FIRE	Spilman	pending
	Guard	LACo Dept.	Johnson, K	pending
OPS	El Dorado Fire Effects	TBD	Snow	pending
	August Fire IMT Ops or IC perspective	TBD	Spilman	pending
	Carr Fire, IA	AC Scott Corn	Ernst	pending
	Boyd Street Fire burn over	Nathan Espinoza	Ernst	pending

Leadership	TBA	Gordon Graham	Lannon	Yes
	The Baseline	Mark Smith	Chavez	pending
	2020 Fire Year	Tom Porter/Bob Baird	Spilman / Judy	pending
	Brining Town & Country	Steven Pyne	Childers	pending

TECHNOLOGY	Trillo App	TBD	Johnson, T	pending
	Fire Modeling	TBD	Spilman	pending
	National Fire Danger Rating	TBD	Chavez	pending
	UAS "Drone" Tech	Woody	Johnson, K	pending

SAFETY; POLICY	May Day, May Day	Damien Giuliani	Snow	Yes
	Mental Wellness	Mynnda Ohs	Ernst	pending
	South Cyn Street Fire Aid	Damon Guline	Snow/Chavez	pending

Other	Line of Duty Death	Ashley Iverson	Tony Mecam	pending
-------	--------------------	----------------	------------	---------

WEATHER	Long-term Weather Outlook	Daniel Swain	Fowler	pending
	Weather Outlook	Drew Smith	Johnson, K	pending