

Newsletter



Southern California Association of Foresters & Fire Wardens

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2012-2013

OFFICERS

President Robert Michael—RRU
First Vice President Frank Vidales—LAC
Second Vice Pres. Steve Griffin—SNF
Secretary Gordon Martin—CNF
Treasurer David Leininger—LAC retired

DIRECTORS

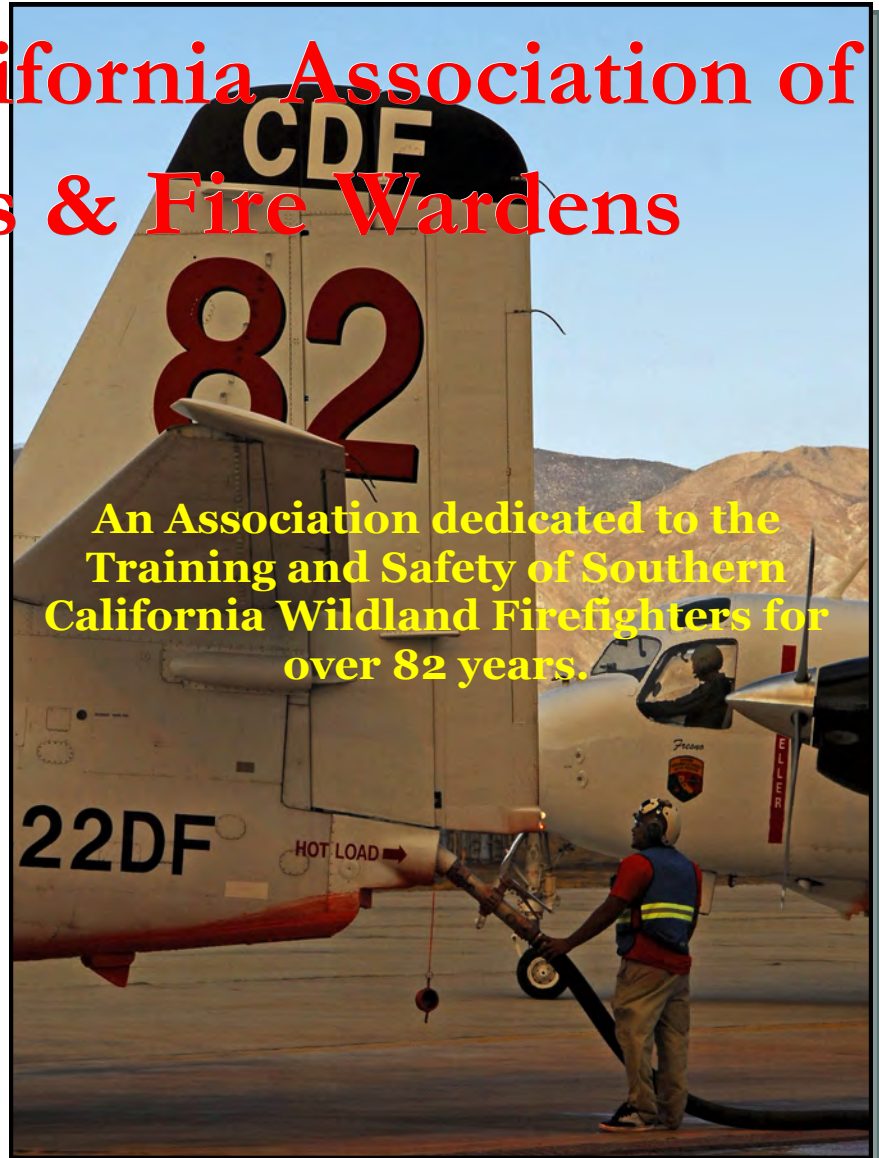
Troy Whitman—SCE
Dan Snow—BDF
Vacant—ANF
Tom Plymale—LPF
David Allen—MVU
Don Forsyth—ORC
Dave Witt—KRN
Rod Megli—VNC
Tim Ernst—LFD

Suzanne Penfold—BDU
Chris Childers - SBC
Abigail Srader—CSR
Steve Reeder—SLU

Ed Shabro—Vendor Representative
Paul H. Rippens—Newsletter Editor
Doug Lannon—Arrangements

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.

We're Moving—Pg. 8



An Association dedicated to the Training and Safety of Southern California Wildland Firefighters for over 82 years.

Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens
May 3 & 4, 2012, Oak Glen, California

Foresters & Fire Wardens contact information:

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E-mail: SCAFFW@aol.com

Web Site: www.scaffw.org

New President Robert Michael— CAL FIRE—Takes Command



Robert Michael, Deputy Chief of the Central Area, Riverside Unit/Riverside County Fire Department has become the president of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens.

Robert was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and relocated to Susanville at age fifteen which according to him, “was the best thing that ever happened to me. It played a major roll in developing my work habits, attitude, character and moral values.”

He began his career with the fire service in 1982 in the Lassen-Modoc Ranger Unit. He worked as a firefighter for four fire seasons and one season as a Limit Term Fire Apparatus Engineer.

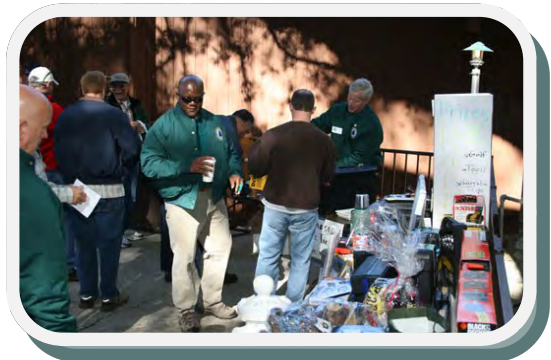
In 1984, he attended the Butte Police Academy in what he describes as a “crazy idea of being a police officer.” He worked as a reserve peace officer for two years while working as a Firefighter. In 1987, he was appointed to Permanent Fire Apparatus Engineer in the Riverside unit at Elsinore Forest Fire station and remained there for 10 years.

In 1996, Bob was promoted to Fire Captain at the Oak Glen Conservation Camp which he says was the best career move in terms of developing supervision skills and allowed him to become a better time manager. In 2001 he transferred back to a fire station.

Robert was promoted to Battalion Chief in 2002 and assigned to the Mecca Battalion (Coachella Valley) and transferred to the San Jacinto Battalion in 2004. He was also appointed Logistics Section Chief for CALFIRE ICT#10 in 2004. Activations included the Exotic Newcastle Disease, Katrina Hurricane, Fire Siege 2007, H1N1 virus and the Shasta lighting complex.

In 2009, Robert was promoted to Division Chief, Oak Glen Division, Riverside Unit. 2011 saw him appointed to Incident Commander of CALFIRE ICT#10 and was activated on the Eagle Fire. That year also saw him promoted to Deputy Chief, Central Operations which includes Oak Glen and Bautista Divisions, Unit Aviation Program and Unit Resource Management in Riverside County.

Robert lives in Hemet, CA, and has been married to Maria Michael for 19 years and has a 24 year old daughter and a 2 year old Grandson.



A Bit of History—Air Operations, 1960 Style



Los Angeles County Firefighter Jim Lonsbury loads a
PBY with retardant (Borate) at Van Nuys Airport.

*Los Angeles County Fire Department Photo,
P.H. Rippens Collection*



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Southern CA Foresters and
Fire Wardens

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



2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS

Work will start on the **83rd Annual Wildland Fire Training and Safety Conference** that will be held on May 2 & 3, 2013 at the Irvine Outdoor Education Center in Orange County, California. At the December Board of Directors meeting, we will start the selection for programs. If you have any ideas for programs, please contact us through our e-mail address at SCAFFW@aol.com



Cover Photo: Drifting smoke from the Poochacha Incident obscures the sun over Hemet Valley in the early afternoon as crews load Tankers for missions into Orange & San Diego Counties. Photograph by Ken Morris

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS
83rd ANNUAL WILDLAND TRAINING
AND SAFETY CONFERENCE.**

May 2 & 3, 2013

Check our web site for further
information www.scaffw.org

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
of FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS-
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 2 & 4, 2012**

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Troy Whitman at 1605 hours at Camp Pilgrim Pines, Oak Glen, California on May 2, 2012.

Officers and Directors Present:

Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
Gordon Martin – Cleveland National Forest.
Dave Allen – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
Robert Michael – CAL FIRE – Riverside County
David Leininger – Treasurer
Rod Megli – Ventura County Fire Dept.
Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chairman
Tim Ernst – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Frank Vidales – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Steve Reeder – CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.
Don Forsyth – Orange County Fire Authority
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest
David Witt – Kern County Fire Dept.
Suzanne Penfold – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
Abigail Srader – CAL FIRE – Southern Region
Tom Plymale – Los Padres National Forest
Paul H. Rippens – Newsletter Editor
Steve Griffin – Sequoia National Forest
Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative

Officers and Directors Absent:

Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept
Jim Neumann – Publicity Chairman

Guests:

Vaughan Miller – Member, Ventura County Fire Dept.
Anthony Caezza – Life Member, Ventura County Fire Dept.
Larry Kurtz, Member, Orange County Fire Authority

Minutes: President Whitman presented the minutes of the April 6, 2012 meeting for consideration. Motion by Director Forsyth, seconded by Second Vice President Vidales, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Leininger presented his report covering the period from April 6, 2012 to May 2, 2012

Balance as of 4-6-2012	\$22,474.35
Receipts:Dues and Conference Registration:	\$5,026.13
Total Receipts:	\$5,026.13
Disbursements:	\$0.00
Total Disbursements:	\$0.00
Balance on hand:	\$27,500.48
Last year at this time:	\$21,763.88

Motion by Director Megli, second by Director Forsyth to

approve the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports:

Arrangements: Chairman Lannon reported that dinner was set for tonight at Law's. Rev. June Boutwell will be at dinner tonight and will be able to do the invocation. The camp is short staffed and we will need to set up the chairs in the auditorium. Treasurer Leininger has the keys to the rooms at Luther Glen and will give them to Director Srader for distribution at registration. Anyone staying at Luther Glen needs to be checked out by 8 am Friday because they have another group coming in. We will have Steve Martin make an announcement on Thursday that people need to check-out. Chairman Lannon has two bike patrols coming to help with parking. Director Penfold will have EMT's available during the conference. First Vice President Michael has the HT's and batteries available. Director Megli reported that the Ventura County crew, vans and drivers were on the way up the hill.

Program: First Vice President and Program Chair Michael reported that the program was set and that he has info sheets on almost all of the speakers. Chairman Lannon reported that after June gives the invocation the new Camp Director, Cynthia Diggs, would like a few minutes to talk about housekeeping. President Whitman will be presenting the observance for fallen Fire Fighters and past Presidents and board members. First Vice President and Program Chair Michael ran through the program for the board.

Exhibits and Demonstrations: Second Vice President Vidales reported that there will be 11 vendors at the conference. KME will be bringing a patrol. We will also have an old CDF REO fire engine for display.

Registration and Membership: Director Srader reported that she received 69 pre-registrations using the new PayPal system. It is \$32 for anyone spending Wednesday night at the camp. Dinner tonight will be \$10 that will need to be paid in cash to Treasurer Leininger. Larry Kurtz will have the computers and printers set up. Director Srader passed out the name tags to the Directors. She also reported that some of the membership has been sending in donations along with their membership dues. Director Penfold reported that there is new technology out that will allow us to take credit cards at registration that we should look at for next year. Registration will be open at 0730.

Entertainment and Raffle: Director Ernst stated that he had been sending out 100 hard copy letters requesting donations and that he had just today received one response. It is a two day trip to Laughlin and will be the grand prize this year.

Publicity: President Whitman reported that Chairman Neumann will not be at the conference.

Historian: Historian Whitman reminded everyone that we will be taking a group photo after the Friday meeting. He also brought the history albums for everyone to look at.

Safety: Director Forsyth reported that CHP Officer Ramos will not be able to attend. Director Forsyth will fill in with the safety message after lunch. He also reminded everyone of the use of the dinner bell as an alarm system and that we should make sure that people don't ring it erroneously. He also has air horns for any bear intrusions.

Golf: Director Snow reported that there were 52 golfers this year and that things went well. President Whitman thanked Director Snow for his work on the tournament including producing the awards on his own time.

Newsletter: Editor Rippens asked that anyone that has articles for the newsletter to please send them in to him. He is always looking for more articles and pictures.

Old Business: Director Forsyth gave a presentation about moving the conference to Orange County for next year. There was a discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of the move. Director Forsyth made a motion that the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens 2013 Wildland Fire Training and Safety Conference be held at the Irvine Outdoor Education Center. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Leininger. There was further discussion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The announcement of the move will be made to the membership just prior to the closing ceremonies. Director Childers has put together a PowerPoint presentation that shows the new facility. Chairman Lannon and Treasurer Leininger will inform Camp Pilgrim Pines of the move after breakfast on Friday.

Life Membership Recommendations: None.

New Business: President Whitman opened the floor to nominations for Second Vice President. Director Snow nominated Director Griffin. The nomination was seconded by First Vice President Michael. There were no further nominations and Director Griffin was elected.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held May 4, 2012 at Camp Pilgrim Pines at 1300 following lunch.

President Whitman adjourned the meeting at 1720.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon P. Martin, Association Secretary



The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Robert Michael at 1302 hours at Camp Pilgrim Pines, Oak Glen, California on May 4, 2012.

Officers and Directors Present:

Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
Gordon Martin – Cleveland National Forest.
Dave Allen – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
Robert Michael – CAL FIRE – Riverside County
David Leininger – Treasurer
Rod Megli – Ventura County Fire Dept.
Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chairman
Tim Ernst – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Frank Vidales – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Steve Reeder – CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.
Don Forsyth – Orange County Fire Authority
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest
David Witt – Kern County Fire Dept.
Suzanne Penfold – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
Abigail Srader – CAL FIRE – Southern Region
Tom Plymale – Los Padres National Forest
Paul H. Rippens – Newsletter Editor
Steve Griffin – Sequoia National Forest

Officers and Directors Absent:

Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept
Jim Neumann – Publicity Chairman

Guests:

Anthony Caezza – Life Member, Ventura County Fire Dept.
Larry Kurtz – Member, Orange County Fire Authority
Kurt Zingheim - Member, CAL FIRE – San Diego
Joe Pidgeon – Member, CAL FIRE – Riverside County

Minutes: The minutes for the May 2 meeting will be presented at the December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for this period will be presented at the December meeting.

Committee Reports:

Arrangements: Chairman Lannon reported that the meeting with the camp went well this morning when he and Treasurer Leininger informed them that we would not be coming back next year. There were no reported damages to the camp or any of the member's vehicles this year.

Program: First Vice President and Program Chair Vidales thanked the people who worked to arrange the speakers for this year's conference and those who brought the equipment to replace the camp's sound system that blew up. Everyone expressed their satisfaction with Steve Martin as the Master of Ceremonies. First Vice President Vidales voiced the thought that with the move of the conference

location next year it would be good to have some big draw speakers. He put forward the suggestions of having John Maclean to speak to his book on the Esperanza fire which should be out by then. The thought was also voiced that we could bring in some of the survivors from Esperanza to speak. The other person that he was going to approach is Eric Hipke from South Canyon.

Exhibits and Demonstrations: Second Vice President Griffin had nothing to report.

Registration and Membership: Director Srader reported that there were no problems with registration this year and everything went well. The final total of registrants was 135. She thanked Member Larry Kurtz for his IT support again this year.

Entertainment and Raffle: Director Ernst reported that receipts from the raffle and bingo were up this year over last year. A total of \$3,544 was brought in this year.

Publicity: Secretary Martin reported that he and Vendor Rep Shabro had talked during the conference and they felt that with the change in venue for next year's conference that the budget for publicity for the upcoming year should be increased.

Historian: Historian Whitman requested that everyone gather out on the grass after the meeting so that one of our guests could take the Directors and Officers photo.

Safety: Director Forsyth stated that he had done his best to fill in for Officer Ramos and that she had apologized for not being able to attend this year. We will need to contact the Orange office of the CHP next year for someone to present the safety message at the new location. There were no injuries this year.

Golf: Director Snow reported that they made \$150 on the golf tournament this year. He was going down to Calimesa after the meeting to finish paying some bills and inform them about next year. There is a good possibility that he will not be available next year and we will need to find someone else to coordinate the golf tournament.

Newsletter: Editor Rippens reported that he has the Power-Point that was shown at the conference and would be posting it on the web site. He will also be sending out a notice to the membership of the new conference location and including a large article about the move in the newsletter. He is always looking for more articles and pictures so, send him anything you have that you think would work in the newsletter.

Old Business: There was no old business.

Life Membership Recommendations: There were no Life Member recommendations.

New Business: President Michael moved that Treasurer Leininger and Secretary Martin continue in their positions. Director Allen seconded the motion and the motion passed. President Michael reappointed Director Srader as Membership Chairman, Life Member Lannon as Arrangements Chairman, Director Ernst as Entertainment Chairman, Life Member Forsyth as Safety Officer, Director Whitman as Historian, Director Snow as Golf Chairman and Life Member Rippens as Newsletter Editor. President Michael asked for volunteers to serve as Publicity Chairman. Director Plymale volunteered and was so appointed.

The Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2012-2013 is:

December 7, 2012 – Bakersfield

February 1, 2013 – San Diego, County

April 5, 2013 – Orange County

May 1, 2013 – Irvine Outdoor Education Center

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held December 7, 2012 in Bakersfield, California.

President Michael adjourned the meeting at 1420.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon P. Martin,
Association Secretary



Looking Back: Some of L.A.'s County's Worst Blazes

Here's a chronology of some of L.A. County's worst blazes:

October 1996—A brush fire ignited by arching power lines destroyed 10 homes in Malibu, Calabasas Canyon and Corral Canyon, and burned close to 14,000 acres.

October and November 1993 -- Runaway brush fires carved swaths of destruction through six Southern California counties. It took the work of more than 10,000 firefighters over six days to subdue the flames.

The fires that ravaged Malibu, Calabasas and Altadena killed three people, injured 12, destroyed or damaged nearly 400 houses, and forced the evacuation of thousands. All told, more than 173,000 acres of Southern California were charred.

June 1990 -- The College Hills brush fire in Glendale destroyed or damaged 67 homes. It was started by one of Southern California's most notorious firesetters: John Leonard Orr, a firefighter and Glendale arson investigator. Orr is serving a life term for a series of structure and brush arsons that ended with his arrest in 1991, including a fire at a South Pasadena hardware store in which four people died.

July 1989 -- A brush fire in Turnbull Canyon in Puente Hills destroyed 13 homes.

December 1988 -- A 3,000-acre fire in Granada Hills and the Porter Ranch area destroyed 15 homes and damaged 25 others.

July 1985 -- An arson fire swept up a slope in Baldwin Hills and killed three people, destroyed 48 homes and damaged 18 others.

October 1982 -- A wind-driven fire raced from Dayton Canyon, in the West San Fernando Valley, to the Malibu coast, destroying 97 homes and burning 54,000 acres.

October 1981 -- Santa Ana winds sent flames from a Chatsworth Reservoir blaze south toward the Ventura Freeway, destroying six homes and damaging eight.

September 1979 -- A fire in Kirkwood Bowl in Laurel Canyon burned 120 acres and destroyed 24 homes.

October 1978 -- A juggernaut of flame and smoke from eight almost-simultaneous fires destroyed 230 homes and a church in blazes from Malibu to Agoura to Mandeville Canyon. One man was killed.

September 1970 -- Ten people died and 403 homes were damaged or destroyed when several blazes combined into a single wall of flames 20 miles long, stretching from Newhall to Malibu. The conflagration charred 435,000 acres.

November 1966 -- A faulty power line near Pacoima Dam sparked a fire that trapped and killed 12 firefighters. Fueled by 60 mph Santa Ana winds, the blaze blackened 2,000 acres around Loop Canyon.

November 1961 -- The Bel-Air/Brentwood fire began in a trash heap. Within minutes, Santa Ana winds swept burning embers from roof to roof, spreading fire across the affluent enclaves of the Santa Monica Mountains. Nearly 500 homes were destroyed. The blaze, which left hundreds of the rich and famous homeless, prompted brush clearance laws.

July 1959 -- Fire consumed a large swath of Willow Glen in Laurel Canyon, destroying 38 houses.

December 1958 -- Gale-force winds pushed fire through Malibu, destroying 36 homes. On New Year's Eve, fire consumed 71 additional homes in Topanga and Benedict canyons.

June 1957 -- A brush fire burned 1,000 acres in Griffith Park, injuring two firefighters and two teenage volunteer firefighters.

December 1956 -- A Malibu-Zuma fire that also moved into the Lake Sherwood area of Ventura County destroyed 99 homes.

November 1945 -- A fire in the Malibu hills destroyed 150 homes.

November 1938 -- A Thanksgiving Day fire in Topanga Canyon burned 350 buildings, many of them shacks on the then-rural and sparsely populated hillsides.

October 1933 -- Twenty-nine firefighters from the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration died when flames trapped them in a ravine as they fought a blaze in Griffith Park.

Information taken from a May 11, 2007 Los Angeles Times article by Cecilia Rasmussen



WE'RE MOVING!

Over the long history of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens, our annual conference has been held in many different locations. In 1974, the conference was held for the first time at Camp Pilgrim Pines in Oak Glen. The conference was again held at Camp Pilgrim Pines in 1976, 1978, 1980 and then from 1982 to 2012. As pointed out by President Robert Michael, many of our members have never attended a conference anywhere but Camp Pilgrim Pines. But things are about to change.

The Board of Directors has decided that it is time for a change and they have found a beautiful, new facility located on the Irvine Ranch in Orange County. The facility meets all the requirements the board has been looking for and offers clean, fresh, start-of-the-art features that will not only meet the Associations needs, but provide a comfortable setting for our members. We're excited about this change of venue and hope you are also.

The new location is the Irvine Outdoor Education Center and you can find additional information about the center online.

For the past thirty years we have enjoyed the surroundings and facilities at Camp Pilgrim Pines and we may return in the future, but for the 83rd Annual Conference scheduled for May 2 & 3, 2013, we will be looking forward to seeing you in Orange County. Plan now and bring along a new member. We'll have plenty of room.



**NEW CONFERENCE
LOCATION FOR 2013**

