

Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens

May 2016 Newsletter



*An Association dedicated to the Training and Safety of Southern California
Wildland Firefighters for over 86 years*

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2016-2017

OFFICERS

President - Vaughan Miller - VNC
First Vice President - Bart Kicklighter - SQF
Second Vice President - Kurt Zingheim - MFU
Secretary - Gordon Martin - CNF
Treasurer - David Leininger - LAC retired

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Dan Snow - BDF
Kevin Johnson - LAC
Tim Chavez - RRU
Troy Whitman - SCE
Nathan Judy - ANF
Phil Johnson - ORC
Dave Witt - KRN
Tim Ernst - LFD
Ron Janssen - BDU
Chris Childers - SBC
Dan Johnson - CSR
Gary Helming - LPF
Ed Shabro - Vendor Representative
Paul H. Rippens - Newsletter Editor
Doug Lannon - Arrangements
Don Forsyth - Safety

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.

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Foresters and Fire Wardens**

**2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS**

The 2016 conference of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens has come and gone and was another successful event. Planning for the 87th Conference will begin in December. The 2017 conference will be held at Camp Pilgrim Pines on May 4 & 5.

FRONT COVER PHOTO

CAL FIRE and Los Angeles County Fire helicopters load at Pepperdine University in Malibu during the Canyon Fire of 2008. Photo by Ken Morris.



Fire Whirls by President Vaughan Miller



The Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Warden's 86th Annual Training and Safety Conference has concluded and now we look forward to the on-coming fire season. At our Conference, we heard terrific presentations. Los Padres National Forest Fire Chief Robert Baird opened the event by drawing parallels between firefighting and the military leadership. He challenged us all to fight fire like a wolf pack so that firefighters can take on an 'animal' many times its size. CAL-Fire Battalion Chief Greg Bertelli, first command officer on scene of the 2015 Valley Fire told the story of the early stages of the fire and the tragic burn-over of the C-104 Helitak Crew. The fire expanded so rapidly that early forces were surprised and overwhelmed by the rapidly spreading fire. His message was 'always be ready to get back to the basics (of command) in cases like the Valley Fire, that is the only way you will be effective. The story of the burn-over of C-104 was captivating and reminded us all that it could happen to any one of us.

Fire Chief Mario Rueda (Verdugo Cities) led us through 'crisis leadership'. Chief Rueda has commanded some of the largest and most challenging incidents of the past decade and is one of those command officers that is always trying to improve their craft. He recommended that when you face something that you haven't seen before (such as a plane crash, gas leak, landslide, etc) you may have to 'give up some ground' before you find the right people that can help you ultimately be successful and to keep trying (tactical maneuvers) until you get an anchor point, then build on that success. Retiring Division Chief Ray Navarro (Santa Barbara County Fire) took us through air attack of the 2015 Gibraltar Fire. He praised the efforts of the Los Padres NF and Incident Commanders who hit the fire hard with aircraft right away building a 'box' with retardant that effectively contained a fire in a dangerous location on the Santa Barbara front country. Those decisions saved front country residents from experiencing yet another year of devastation.

Many of you may not be aware that the conference has extensive vendor support. We usually end the presentations early so that conference attendees get a chance to visit the vendors and learn about their wildland products. Many vendors offer give-aways and even sell their products at the conference.

Bingo! Yes I said "bingo". It is an entertaining staple unique to our conference. This year our President Steve Reeder called the games for the last time. It was truly a night to remember, or forget, depending on your luck. I think it is important to remember that while we call it the Training and Safety Conference, it is really about networking with peers across the State. I have been with SCAFFW about five years and I truly can't go to a wildfire in California without running into someone I met at a SCAFFW T&S Conference.

Day two always opens with a seasonal forecast by the South Zone Meteorologists. Tom Rolinski gave us this year's briefing and included a very insightful overview of the bug kill epidemic that is affecting so many of our forests. Dr. Mynda Ohs from the famous and widely used Counseling Team International gave a great presentation on the importance of maintaining your emotional balance when your job takes you to so many difficult places (mentally). She says that responders can't always control those negative experiences while they are working but they have full control of their emotional opportunities when they are away from work. 'If you fill your bucket with positive emotional experiences whenever you can you will be better prepared for the emotional distresses that you will experience'. Great advice, thank you Dr!

Brett Butler is a USFS Research Engineer who presented his work on calculating the sizes of safety zones. His calculations were distributed into a matrix of size factors based on weather, topography and fuels. It seemed to make good sense and my take-away was agreement that fuel size isn't the only factor in the size of an appropriate safety zone. I am looking forward to the day when Dr. Butler releases his work. Scott Brown (SCE) closed out the conference with a presentation on powerline safety. He brought along Captain Howard Orr (Santa Barbara County) who had the misfortune of stepping on a live 'service drop' while operating on a small brush fire. He told the story of his rescue and memories of the moment. The presentation was another reminder of the dangers of firefighting.

Outgoing president Steve Reeder has passed the gavel to me to lead the organization to its next conference. Thank you Steve for your leadership and for 'setting the table' well for next year. The Southern California Foresters and Fire Wardens has put together a training and safety conference for the last 86 years. Our goal is to support wildland firefighter safety and build networking relationships across agency lines. I believe that the 86th Conference exceeded that goal for those who attended. I am looking forward to a summer of safe and effective firefighting. I am also looking forward to seeing many of the friends that I made at the conference. Take a look at your Board of Directors listed in this newsletter. They are committed to the organization's goal of supporting wildland firefighters. If you have a recommendation for a presentation at the 87th Annual Conference, please let one of us know.

747-400 Global Super Tanker gets ready for action

The world's largest aerial firefighting asset, the Boeing 747-400 based Global SuperTanker, is almost ready to begin commercial operations.



Jim Wheeler, president and chief executive of Global SuperTanker Services, based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, expects the US Federal Aviation Administration to approve an amended supplemental type certificate in early May.

Investment group Alterna Capital Partners completed its purchase of the 747-400, which it part-owned for several years, in August, with the aircraft having undergone a heavy maintenance check the following month. "We had 28 airworthiness directives we had to comply with, and all of that work was done to put the airplane back into pristine condition," Wheeler told Flightglobal at the Aerial Firefighting International trade convention in Sacramento, California on March 23, 2016. "Then we began painting and installing the tanks in the January/February timeframe."



The heavy-lift freighter, registered N492EV, was received by Japan Airlines in 1991 and sold to Evergreen International. It is currently flying under an experimental type certificate and was on static display at the convention.

Once it begins commercial operations, Wheeler expects to secure several on-call service contracts with various entities worldwide. He expects enough demand between firefighting in the northern and southern hemispheres, plus oil slick dispersion and commercial liquid transport, to justify a fleet of "at least three aircraft, and maybe more."

"It's based here in the US and it will probably be on-call here more than anywhere else, but we have been to Australia, Germany, Croatia, France and the European Union in Brussels discussing this and the reception has been superb," say Wheeler. "Being global and having a broader business plan than just wildfire fighting makes this an incredible viable product and service offering to the whole world."



Global SuperTanker is looking for on-call contracts over fixed, exclusive-use deals, so that its aircraft can be available whenever and wherever they are needed most.

The tanker fills a worldwide gap in super-heavy, long-range aerial firefighting capability, left by the retirement of the Evergreen 747-100 Supertanker because of financial troubles. That tanker previously held on-call firefighting contracts with the US Forest Service, and one of the last deployments was to Israel during the deadly Mt. Carmel forest fire.

The eight main tanks can carry 19,600 gallons of water, retardant or oil dispersant.

Wheeler notes that despite its sheer size and capacity, the SuperTanker is safer than many direct-attack water bombers for people on the ground, because its payload is dispersed over a wider area - more like heavy rain than a water dump.



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS
AND FIRE WARDENS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 5, 2016**

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Steve Reeder at 1607 hours at Camp Pilgrim Pines, San Bernardino County, California on May 4, 2016.

Officers and Directors Present:

- Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest
- Gordon Martin – Cleveland National Forest.
- Steve Reeder – CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.
- David Leininger – Treasurer
- Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chair
- Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
- Phil Johnson – Orange County Fire Authority
- Tim Ernst – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
- Paul H. Rippens – Newsletter Editor
- Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
- Don Forsyth – Safety Chair
- David Witt – Kern County Fire Dept.
- Kurt Zingheim – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
- Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
- Tim Chavez – CAL FIRE – Riverside County

Officers and Directors Absent:

- Bart Kicklighter – Sequoia National Forest
- Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept
- Nathan Judy – Angeles National Forest
- Vaughan Miller – Ventura County Fire Dept.
- Ron Jansen – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
- Gary Helming – Los Padres National Forest
- Dan Johnson – CAL FIRE – Southern Region

Guests:

- Larry Kurtz – Member, Orange County Fire Authority
- Marc Hawkins – Member, Orange County Fire Authority

Minutes: President Reeder presented the minutes of the April 1, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Director Whitman seconded by Chairman Forsyth, to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Leininger presented his report covering April 1, 2016 to May 4, 2016.

Balance as of 4-1-2016	\$22,664.35
Receipts:	
Dues and Conference Registration	\$6,590.06
Total Receipts:	\$6,590.06
Disbursements:	
Southwest Sales, Inc. (250 Hats)	\$1,907.50
Total Disbursements:	\$1,907.50
Balance on hand:	\$27,346.91
Last year at this time:	\$30,668.33

Motion by Director Zingheim, second by Editor Rippens to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports:

Arrangements: Chairman Lannon reported that everything is good to go. He has the keys to the rooms at Camp Luther Glen. Meals for the conference will be served at 0700, 1200, and 1800. One bunkhouse will be reserved for the women and another is reserved for the crew from LA County.

Program: President Reeder went over the program to ensure that we were ready for the Conference. Editor Rippens said that we need to add Lynn Biddison, Life Member, to the list of people to be read off in memoriam. President Reeder announced that Scott Jalbert would be unable to be at the conference to deliver his portion of the Valley Fire Review but, the others should be able to fill in. Steve Shaw will be delivering the Prado Helitack presentation. Former Director Cruz will have a REM update presentation.

Exhibits and Demonstrations: Vendor Representative Shabro reported that we have 10 vendors confirmed with 3 others possible. Registration and Membership:

Registration and Membership: Director Phil Johnson reported that everything is ready for registration in the Mini-Lodge building and that their were 70 guests pre-registered.

Entertainment and Raffle: Director Ernst reported that the giveaway hats are ready. He asked some of the younger people in his department and talked to Member Johnson and got ideas for raffle prizes and then took the money he had and bought prizes with those suggestions in mind.

Publicity: Director Judy reported that we have been publicized.

Historian: Historian Whitman reported that he has pictures of the golf tournament and will be posting those. He would also like to get a picture of the Board.

Safety: Chairman Forsyth reported that we will have a CHP officer tomorrow to give the safety speech and he will have his drunk goggles. We will be using the meal bell as an alarm so we need to remind everyone that it should not be rung except for meals and real emergencies. He does have his bear horns.

Golf: Director Snow reported that the golf tournament went well and that we had 46 golfers paid. The team of Whitman, et al took the tourney.

Newsletter: Editor Rippens reported that he will be able to get the newsletter out once he has the notes from the meetings and the message from the President.

Old Business: It was decided to postpone the decision as to a location for next year’s conference until the next meeting.

Life Membership Recommendations: There were no Life Member recommendations.

New Business: Chairman Lannon nominated Director Zingheim for the position of Second Vice President; the motion was seconded by Treasurer Leininger. During the discussion of the motion Director Ernst reported that he and members of his department

had noticed that it has been a long time since LA City has been the President of the Association. He made a motion that we go out of normal rotation so that LA City could be considered for the Second Vice President position. The motion was seconded by Director Whitman. By a vote of 8 ayes to 7 nays the motion passed. A motion was made by Director Whitman, seconded by Director Ernst that further action on the election of the Second Vice President be postponed until the next meeting. By a vote of 12 ayes to 3 nays the 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 at 1300, May 6, 2016 at Camp Pilgrim Pines, San Bernardino County, California. The meeting was adjourned at 1658.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon P. Martin,
Association Secretary

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS AND FIRE WARDENS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING May 6, 2016

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Miller at 1258 hours at Camp Pilgrim Pines, San Bernardino County, California on May 6, 2016.

Officers and Directors Present:

Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest
Gordon Martin – Cleveland National Forest.
David Leininger – Treasurer
Bart Kicklighter – Sequoia National Forest
Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chair
Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Phil Johnson – Orange County Fire Authority
Tim Ernst – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Paul H. Rippens – Newsletter Editor
Nathan Judy – Angeles National Forest
Troy Whitman – Southern California Edison
David Witt – Kern County Fire Dept.
Don Forsyth – Safety Chair
Kurt Zingheim – CAL FIRE – San Diego County
Ron Jansen – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
Vaughan Miller – Ventura County Fire Dept.
Tim Chavez – CAL FIRE – Riverside County
Gary Helming – Los Padres National Forest

Officers and Directors Absent:

Steve Reeder – CAL FIRE – San Luis Obispo Co.
Chris Childers – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept
Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
Dan Johnson – CAL FIRE – Southern Region

Guests:

Larry Kurtz – Member, Orange County Fire Authority

Minutes: The minutes for the May 4, 2016 meeting will be presented for approval at the December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report will be presented for approval at the December meeting. Treasurer Leininger reported that he would be resigning from the position of Association Treasurer effective August 1, 2016 and that we would need to find a replacement. We will need to close out the checking account which is in Tony Caezza's name and open one in the Association's name. We will need to find a new treasurer prior to August so that he can transition with that person. Secretary Martin noted that officers of the Association need to be members in good standing and do not have to be Directors or former directors.

Committee Reports:

Arrangements: Chairman Lannon reported that everything went well. The crew policed the compound and everything has been cleaned up.

Program: President Miller led a discussion on this year's conference and all thought that the speakers were very good this year. First Vice President Kicklighter requested that everyone come to the December meeting with the names of speakers that they have already vetted.

Exhibits and Demonstrations: First Vice President Kicklighter reported that Vendor Representative Shabro had handled most of the leg work involved. There followed a discussion on the roles of the vendor rep. vs the Second Vice President. It was noted that the Second Vice President's briefcase had disappeared in the last few years. President Miller reported that he had not received it when he became Second Vice President so, inquiry will be made with the previous Presidents. While the Vendor Rep. is good for handling the vendors, the Exhibits and Demonstrations position is also supposed to be working on assembling exhibits and demonstrations from non-vendor sources.

Registration and Membership: Director Phil Johnson reported that we ended up with 137 registered attendees.

Entertainment and Raffle: Director Ernst reported that we had a total of \$2,665 in raffle sales. Bingo made \$1,293.

Publicity: Director Judy was able to Tweet out during the Conference hoping to generate some buzz for next year's Conference. He will be creating a new email address to replace the one that is linked to Editor Rippens account.

Historian: Historian Whitman stated that he would be posting the pictures to a drop box site.

Safety: Chairman Forsyth reported that there were no reported accidents or incidents.

Golf: Director Snow stated he would like to back off from being the Golf Chairman. Director Jansen volunteered to be his understudy during the coming year and take over thereafter.

Newsletter: Editor Rippens reported that we will be getting the next newsletter out in the next month or so as soon as he gets the meeting minutes and the Fire Whirls. This will be his last newsletter and we will need to find a replacement.

Old Business: The discussion on the election of a Second Vice President resumed. Treasurer Leininger pointed out that the by-laws state that the composition of the positions of President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President is required to be such that the Forest Service, CAL Fire, and a County or City are each always represented. To go out of order would require a change in the bylaws and approval by a 2/3 vote of the entire membership. He also pointed out that it had been even longer since Kern County had been elected to the Second Vice President's position than it had been for LA City. It was suggested that the selection of Second Vice President for the 2017-2018 conference year be selected at this meeting. President Miller called a vote on the original nomination and Kurt Zingheim was elected as Second Vice President for the 2016-2017 conference year unanimously. Chairman Lannon nominated Tim Ernst for Second Vice President for the 2017-2018 conference year. Director Helming seconded the nomination. President Miller called for a vote and Tim Ernst was elected unanimously. A discussion was held about the location for the 2017 Conference. Treasurer Leininger stated that if we were to reserve Camp Pilgrim Pines we would not have to pay anything to them until October. Director Helming reported that he knew of a location near Lake Cachuma, the Circle D Ranch that was similar to Camp Pilgrim Pines and might be a good location. Editor Rippens noted that the conference use to alternate between Mt. Craggs Camp in Malibu and Camp Pilgrim Pines and that there was different attendance at each location. It was decided that we would reserve Camp Pilgrim Pines and Director Helming would check out the Circle D Ranch for suitability and availability and get back to the board on what he finds out. He would also look into scheduling the April meeting at the Circle D if appropriate with an eye towards the 2018 conference.

Life Membership Recommendations: Director Chavez nominated Steve Reeder, who is retiring in November, for Life Membership. The nomination was seconded by Second Vice President Zingheim and passed unanimously. Director Snow nominated Gordon Martin, who is retiring at the end of September, for Life Membership. The nomination was seconded by Director Judy and passed unanimously.

New Business: President Miller put forward a slate of Association Officers:

- Dave Leininger – Association Treasurer until August 1, 2016
- Gordon Martin – Association Secretary unless he has to move out of the area following his retirement
- Phil Johnson – Membership and Registration Chairman
- Tim Ernst and Gary Helming – Entertainment and Raffle Chairmen
- Doug Lannon – Arrangements Chairman
- Paul Rippens – Newsletter Editor until a replacement can be found
- Ed Shabro – Vendor Representative
- Don Forsyth – Safety Chairman
- Nathan Judy – Publicity Chairman
- Troy Whitman – Historian
- Dan Snow and Ron Jansen – Golf Chairmen

A motion to approve the slate as proposed was made by Director Whitman and seconded by Director Ernst. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2016-2017 is:

- December 2, 2016 – Bakersfield
- February 3, 2017 – Orange County
- April 7, 2017 – Santa Barbara County
- May 3, 2017 – Camp Pilgrim Pines

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held December 2, 2016 in Bakersfield, California.

The meeting was adjourned at 1429.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon P. Martin,
Association Secretary

Two Long-Time Board members leave

Two Long-time members of the Board of Directors have stepped down from their positions with the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens. Association Treasurer David Leininger and Newsletter Editor Paul Rippens have notified the Board of Directors that they have decided to resign from their positions.

Treasurer Leininger began his service to the association in 1995 when he was appointed as Director from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. He served as President in 2005 and took over as treasurer in 2007. In his twenty years on the board of directors, he never missed a meeting.

Paul Rippens began his service with the board in 1977 and has served as membership chair, publicity chair, secretary (twice), director from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, president in 1993 and served as the newsletter editor since 1995. Over the years, Paul also produced the conference flyers, set up the FaceBook page, and has been the website contact with the associations web master.

Both are Life Members of the Association and have a strong attachment to the Foresters and Fire Wardens but both realize that a time comes to pass on their work to someone new. They both also wish to thank everyone for their friendship and assistance during their service to the board.



David Leininger, Paul Rippens & Tony Caezza

Executives of Southland Forest Areas Organize Association to Direct Fire Prevention Program

Uniform Laws Regulating conditions in All Districts
Proposed by Group

*This article was printed in The San Bernardino County Sun
and dated May 10, 1929*

Acting to obtain a uniform set of fire laws governing the handling of forest fires throughout the Southern California counties and to create a higher degree of cooperation between the Federal, State and county fire fighting organizations, a new forestry organization to be known as the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens, representing nine counties, has been organized.

The counties included in the organization are San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

Frank E. Dunne, county forester of Santa Barbara, has been named president of the organization. George Park, acting county forester of San Bernardino County is treasurer. J.E. Elliott, supervisor of the San Bernardino Federal forest is a director of the organization. The officers will serve for a period of one year.

A meeting of the association will be held in Santa Monica on the night of May 16, at which time the constitution and by-laws will be adopted.

The membership of the organization will include only those who are regularly employed in either the United States forestry service, state or county forestry departments.

"There are few places in the United States where the fire prevention problem is as difficult of solution as in Southern California," it was stated yesterday by Acting County Forester Park in discussing the new association.

"From the fire prevention and reforestation standpoint, Southern California has a situation that is unique and probably found nowhere else in the world. The same climatic conditions so beneficial to the growing of crops and so attractive to those in search of relaxation or recreation, nevertheless create in this region a condition of extreme fire hazard unequalled elsewhere. Brush is inflammable at its best. In Southern California, growing as it does on precipitous slopes, under an average rainfall the last ten years of 12 inches, it becomes as explosive as gasoline, and yet this mountain area is in close proximity to some 3,000,000 persons, the majority of whom have not the slightest idea as to either its value or the fire menace."

"Hot winds blowing in from the San Joaquin Valley, Mojave and Arizona deserts, create periods of extreme high temperatures and correspondingly low humidity, when a fire, once started, is almost impossible to stop. During the past five years, due to these periods of low humidity,

disastrous fires have occurred in every month of the year, giving practically a year-long fire season.

"It is probable that this association will bring about a better and more efficient means of fire prevention, fire protection and watershed conservation. As the association will be composed of the men actually charged with the responsibility of this work. It is felt that by getting together, a great deal can be accomplished by means of fire laws. For example, the fire laws of the various counties at present differ in many respects and the traveling public finds that that which was lawful in one county is unlawful in another. This causes a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding of the value of such fire laws. With this in mind, one of the first endeavors of this organization will be to obtain a uniform set of fire laws governing the handling of fire throughout the Southern California counties."

"It is also felt that the forming of such an organization will result in a higher degree of cooperation between the Federal, state and county fire fighting and forestry organizations."



Vaughan Miller presenting the outgoing presidents plaque to Steve Reeder



2016 Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens Board of Directors