



NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2026

SOUTHERN CA ASSOC OF FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS

OFFICERS

2025-2026

PRESIDENT	CHRIS FRY	ANF
1ST VICE PRES.	JASON MAHAN	BDU
2ND VICE PRES.	NATHAN ARELLANO	ORC
SECRETARY	TIM CHAVEZ	CDF (R)
TREASURER	TROY WHITMAN	SCE

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BDF	VACANT
CNF	SCOTT GRASMICK
CSR	DAVE FOWLER
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LAC	DREW SMITH
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SBC	BRENT MANFRED
SCE	TROY WHITMAN
SDU	JOSH BLACK
SLU	DONTE GASH
SQF	VACANT
VNC	TREVOR JOHNSON
VENDOR REP.	TRACY RABE
ARRANGEMENTS CHAIR	DOUG LANNON
SAFETY CHAIR	DON FORSYTH
LIAISON CHAIR	DAN SNOW



*Minutes of the Board of Directors
meeting of the Southern California
Assoc of Foresters & Fire Wardens
April 3, 2026 | Avila Beach, CA*

AN ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO THE TRAINING AND SAFETY
OF SOUTHERN CA WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS SINCE 1930

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



CONTACT US



scaffw@gmail.com

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MAILING ADDRESS

SCAFFW

c/o Tim Chavez
25268 Howard Dr.
Hemet, CA 92544

VISIT SCAFFW.ORG



94th Annual

WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING & SAFETY CONFERENCE



May 7-8, 2026 | Oak Glen, CA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Adam Rix
(Retired)

PRESENTATIONS INCLUDE

Reviews of the Calabasas & Sawtooth Fire
entrapments, the Esperanza Fire Anniversary,
a 2026 Fire Season Outlook and more



Register at:

www.SCAFFW.org



**SOUTHERN CA ASSOCIATION OF FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS
PROTECTING CALIFORNIA SINCE 1930**

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

0900	Opening of the 94th Annual Conference
0930	Keynote Address US Army Lt Colonel Adam Rix (Retired)
1030	Break
1045	Bridger Aerospace American Super Scoopers
1145	Eaton/Palisades Fire Findings and Rebuild
1215	Lunch
1300	Raffle
1315	Calabasas Entrapment
1400	Leadership
1500	Break/Raffle
1515	“What is a PBA?”
1545	Vendor Visits
1600	Social/Networking Hour
1800	Dinner
1900	Entertainment & Networking

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

0700	Breakfast
0800	2026 Fire Season Outlook
0830	FireSparrow Mk10 Multi-Purpose Heavy-Lift UAS
0900	Sawtooth Fire Entrapment
1000	Break
1015	Raffle
1030	Esperanza Anniversary
1130	Raffle
1145	Closing Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of 2024/2025 SCAFFW President• Presentation to Outgoing President• Gary Helming Scholarship• Knothead Award
1200	End of Conference / Lunch

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING of the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOC of FORESTERS & FIRE WARDENS

APRIL 3, 2026 | AVILA BEACH, CA

The meeting of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens was called to order by President Fry at 0916 hours in Avila Beach, California on April 3, 2026. A round of introductions was made. President Fry thanked Director Gash for making the arrangements for the meeting and dinner.

Officers and Directors Present:

Chris Fry – President – Angeles National Forest
Jason Mahan – First Vice President – CAL FIRE – San Bernardino Co.
Nathan Arellano – Second Vice President – Orange County Fire Department
Troy Whitman – Treasurer – Southern California Edison
Doug Lannon – CAL FIRE San Bernardino Retired – Arrangements Chair
Don Forsyth – Orange County Fire Department Retired – Safety Chair
Dan Snow – San Bernardino National Forest Retired – Liaison Chair
Dave Fowler – CAL FIRE – Southern Region
Donte Gash – CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Co.
Andrew Kennison – Kern County Fire Dept.
Trevor Johnson – Past President – Ventura County Fire Dept.
Ryan Dutton – CAL FIRE Riverside Co.
Brent Manfred – Santa Barbara County Fire Dept.
VACANT – Sequoia National Forest
VACANT – San Bernardino National Forest

Guests Present:

Megan Currier – LA County Fire – Publicity Chair
Samantha Conn – LA County Fire
Jeff Lannon – CAL FIRE

Officers and Directors Online:

Guy Tomlinson – Los Angeles Fire Dept.
Scott Grasmick – Cleveland National Forest
Josh Black – CAL FIRE San Diego Co.
Tracy Rabe – LN Curtis – Vendor Representative

Officers and Directors Absent:

Tim Chavez – Secretary – CAL FIRE Retired
Drew Smith – Los Angeles County Fire Dept.
Chris Scott – Los Padres National Forest

Minutes:

President Fry presented the minutes of the February 2026 meeting. Motion by Forsyth, seconded by Fowler, to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Whitman presented his report covering February 6, 2026 to April 3, 2026:

Starting Balance 2/6/2026:	\$48,200.88
Total Income:	\$2,346.73
Total Expenses:	(\$7,010.50)
Net Change:	(\$4,663.77)
Balance on hand 4/3/2026:	\$43,537.11
Last year at this time:	\$44,850.82

Notes:

Bank of America almost closed out, waiting on Cashier's Check.

Motion by Lannon, second by Forsyth to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports**Arrangements:**

Chairman Lannon gave the following report. Kitchen up and running. Still some cosmetic work needed, but place looks great. Replaced water heaters.

Secured tent, Parking at Luther Glen still up and running. VNC will provide crew. New Manager Kristen Lucero, working on food menus now. Contacted Steakhouse for Director's Dinner. 4 options for dinner.

Rock crews have downed trees in creek, Mahan will have guys go up to clear them. Renewed beverage permit, going to get ABC license. Crew from LAC and LFD. Medics from Yucaipa. Honor Guard & bagpiper

Cost of Directors Dinner discussed, in the past everyone paid \$50, and the Association paid the rest. Continuing that system. No vote required.

Chad Cook, Mike Inman, Fennessy, Fetterman discussed for Lifetime memberships.

Exhibits and Demonstrations:

Arellano reported all vendor invitations have gone out. No full response list available yet.

ARS Shield, Red Zone bringing engines, Ember Defense will not be attending.

Email sent out to all vendors by Tracy Rabe.

Registration and Membership:

Kennison reported the following: Square – 18 registrations, 13 individual, 5 Vendor Waiting for access to Axxess, once the migration is done, will have more control.

Will bring 4 Starlinks. Registration amount \$160, Vendor \$160 + 85.

Each director can bring one new member comped. Will invite Alex to shadow Larry for Registration. Follow up email last week of April on registration numbers.

Entertainment and Raffle:

Brent Manfred bought 1000 Raffle tix, will order more. New raffle drum being brought. \$1000 of Mystery Ranch items.

Split purchases with Jason Marsh last year, can buy everything this year. New cash box will be purchased.

Publicity:

Megan Carrier sent promotional flyer out to group. The conference event was created on Facebook. Posted ads on Facebook & Instagram, ads are live will run through May 5.

FB ads ~\$500, Instagram ~\$300, under the \$1000 budget in case targeted ads are needed moving forward. Will add direct link to info page to social media accounts.

Historian:

No report. A new Historian is being sought, it is a director position. Need someone passionate to take the role.

Safety:

Bear spray and hand sanitizer in stock. Bottled water will be available around the conference. Buy water on way up, smaller 8oz bottles.

Lannon will ask Sheriff about safety briefing, if not will reach out to CHP Designated LZ in case of rattlesnake bites, big open space down the hill. Will brief the crews on higher risk

Golf:

Motion made by Snow, seconded by Whitman to drop Golf from the agenda moving forward. Motion passed.

Newsletter:

No report

Program:

Jason Mahan, conference program finalized. Presenters all still valid, need some bios still.

Burnbot presentation, not sure if they will be able to do a live demo, but they will still present. Chief Fenessy may present, not certain yet but can break up burn bot if needed.

The rest of program is correct. Need list for bell ceremony of LODD during past year.

Met with Col Rix, pres focused on leadership, following theme of Learning from our Past. Tailored his presentation to wildland fire service.

Old Business:

Snow – Decanters & glasses; need to pin that down. Previously asked for \$1000 to purchase, rough estimate is \$1100.

Motion by Snow to raise amount for decanters, glasses and speaker gifts to \$1500, seconded by Forsyth. Motion passes.

Received \$500 grant from Imprint for whatever needed for raffle or for board. They requested a picture of all the items used in the raffle to be sent to Imprint for them to post. Decided to order cooler picnic kits.

Would like to purchase new raffle drum to replace old one, rather than repairing old one. \$150 for brass drum that holds 10,000 tix. Permission to buy new one not exceeding \$250.

Motion by Snow, Seconded by Lannon. Motion passes.

Challenge coins, want to start working on design for next year? Company dissolving, so we can get a discount. Revisit topic at our next meeting.

Life Membership Recommendations:

Josh Taylor – CAL FIRE SLU
Brian Fennessey – ORC
Kevin Fetterman – ORC
Mike Inman – LAC
Chad Cook – VNC

Website:

Email Trevor with any suggestions for changes to the website.

Nathan – adding Conference tab to website, with information sheet and maps for the event.

Discussion of San Bernardino County Fire Dept being added to the board. They have a standing invitation to attend board meetings as a non-voting attendee.

Gary Helming Award Nominations:

None.

New Business:

Conference is always the first Thursday and Friday in May, with a board meeting and dinner on the Wednesday night before.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens will be held on Wednesday, May 6 in Oak Glen, CA.

The meeting was adjourned at 1119.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Chavez
Association Secretary

