

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
DBA

The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, October 4, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 A.M. by President Robert Carlyle. Board members present in person at the Community Center (Station 79 grounds): Robert Carlyle, Michael Pique, Keith Ronchetti, Tom Mendenhall. Board member Mark Thompson was absent. Also present in person was Yvonne Vaucher. Nkechi Okorie and Elizabeth Getzoff joined by Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the August 2, 2025, meeting were approved. Note there was no September 6 Board meeting because it was the same week as the August 31 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at palomar-fire.org) showed a balance of \$92,341.26, with an additional \$1220.29 held for CERT. Expenses were \$159.90 for renewal of our annual Zoom subscription and \$613.98 for paint for the amphitheater stage. The report was approved. We discussed options for renewal of the Certificate of Deposit (CD), currently worth about \$78,000. We will renew for 8 months at 3.5%.

Station 79 Report: No captain was attending; no report. (This turned out to have been a misunderstanding of the time of the meeting.)

County Fire Advisory (CFA) Board: Cliff Kellogg was away, no report. The most recent meeting was September 8.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): CERT will do a community outreach event at Station 79 on Saturday, October 11, 9 to 11 AM. This will include fire extinguisher training and earthquake preparedness games.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Robert Carlyle, Chair. The August 30 Mountain Hoedown was again a big success, thanks to all who helped. Cecelia Borland and Michael Pique are organizing a "Bon Voyage" lunch for our postmistress, Yasmira Reatiga, who is moving to a new assignment. The lunch will begin at noon on Friday, October 17, in front of the General Store, or inside the CCPM if the weather is bad.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC): Yvonne Vaucher presented minutes from the September 27 meeting, available at palomarfiresafecouncil.org/minutes. The PMFSC has a cash balance of \$25,194, of which about \$13,000 is unrestricted. We are working towards applying for membership in the nationwide FIREWISE program. We have received 35 completed surveys so far; these will be needed to report our community preparedness status to FIREWISE. We submitted our Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to CAL FIRE; we will make revisions according to their comments. The FSC will hold a community “bring your own brush” BYOB chipping day on November 10, at Robert Carlyle’s at 33409 Bailey Meadow Road, just off of State Park Road. The PMPO has paid for three dumpster days, with one more promised. A new contractor, Nieto’s, has replaced Stumpmasters for the on-site chipping that Robert organizes. Funds were released by the US Forest Service on September 30 for the Crestline/Birch Hill dead and dying tree removal program. Southland Forest Management is the contractor. We still need more landowners to grant permission to do tree removal on their parcels. We discussed the necessity of removing the boulder encroaching on Birch Hill “Easement Road 30”. Some believe that the CAL FIRE crews very much need it removed; some say the crews have said it’s not a problem. NextERA has transferred their responsibility for the 500kV electrical transmission line to SDG&E.

The next FSC meeting will be 9 AM Saturday, October 18, in person at the CCPM and by Zoom (the meeting is a week earlier than usual because Yvonne will be away on October 25).

Palomar Mountain Planning Organization (PMPO): The next meeting is 10 AM November 22, immediately following the 9 AM PMFSC meeting.

Amphitheater Stage: The stage needs a second coat of stain. Mark Thompson and Robert Carlyle will do it.

New Roadside Sign - The PMPO will take over this project.

PMCFA/PMVFD Board Elections - Keith Ronchetti and Michael Pique were re-elected to two-year terms at the August 31 Annual General Meeting.

Adjournment: 9:52 AM 10/04/2025. The next PMCFA meeting will be 9 AM Saturday, November 1, 2025, at the Community Center. Tom Mendenhall will be away. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 11/01/2025.