

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
DBA

**The Palomar Mountain Community Fire Association**

Minutes of the monthly meeting of The Board of Directors, November 1, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 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 was away on an excused absence. Board member Mark Thompson was absent. Elizabeth Getzoff joined by Zoom teleconference.

Pledge: Robert led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: Keith noted the deaths of two long-time Palomar residents and friends of the Station 79 Volunteer Fire Department: Dave Robarts, a former president, and Heather Beer, department administrator. Elizabeth Getzoff noted, as Vice-Chair of the PMPO, she'd received an offer to clean the Community Center; she will send a no-thank you.

Minutes: The minutes from the October 4, 2025, meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Keith Ronchetti's written report (available at [palomar-fire.org](http://palomar-fire.org)) showed a balance of \$90,883.25, with an additional \$1220.29 held for CERT. Expenses were \$1458 for Directors & Officers Insurance. The report was approved.

Station 79 Report: Robert sent a meeting invitation to Captain Dean Kowalski and Chief Cody Eaves. The County is still not doing snow removal beyond the very front of the station; Robert has been doing it. We should ask Cliff Kellogg to bring this up with the Fire Advisory Board, especially now that we have twice as many firefighters here needing twice as much parking. Michael Pique wants to verify that the station's emergency telephone is working and is visible at night.

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

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): CERT held its community outreach event on Saturday, October 11, which included fire extinguisher training and earthquake preparedness games. However, there were only two attendees.

Community Center of Palomar Mountain (CCPM): Robert Carlyle, Chair. The "Bon Voyage" lunch for our postmistress, Yasmira Reatiga, was held on Friday, October 17, with Robert saying about 20 or 30 people showed up. Robert will invite Bonnie Phelps and Cecelia Borland to again organize a Christmas party. The staining of the bandstand deck is completed, with enough material left over for next year, done by Robert and Mark Thompson.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC): Yvonne Vaucher is away. Elizabeth Getzoff reported that we have 59 completed FIREWISE surveys. We need these for applying for membership in the nationwide FIREWISE program. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) we submitted to CAL FIRE has a "Round 1" approval; we will revise and send appropriate photographs. The government fire authorities are still debating the "Zone Zero" clearance rules, especially the "no plants" part. The Crestline/Birch Hill dead and dying tree removal program is under way. Stan Hill and the contractor, Southland Forest Management, will meet with Cecelia Borland and Nick Riccutti about removing the downed wood. The plan is that the wood will be staged at Robert's property and Nick will haul it off the mountain, subject to GSOB (Gold-Spotted Oak Borer) precautions.

The next FSC meeting will be 9 AM Saturday, November 22, in person at the CCPM and by Zoom.

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

Old Business: the Water Pump. Robert suggests putting it in the CONEX box. Elizabeth asks if that pump would be useful at a heli-tank at the Observatory. Robert says no, not sure how to dispose of it. He will ask Stan Hill. No point in moving it in and out of the Conex boxes.

Adjournment: 9:40 AM 11/01/2025. The next PMCFA meeting will be 9 AM Saturday, December 6, 2025, at the Community Center. We expect to have Zoom call-ins available.

Michael Pique, Secretary

Minutes approved by PMCFA Board 12/06/2025.