

Volunteer leadership is on the move... Behind the Redwood Curtain road trip

By **Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman**, CSFA Volunteer Committee and
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In our culture, the concept of taking a road trip has a certain mystique to it. Willie Nelson sang about it in "On the Road Again", Jack Kerouac built a reputation as a novelist for being on the road, and who could forget the whole idea of the road trip from Animal House. The cult films Easy Rider and Thelma and Louise were road trip films denoting a different type adventure as did the fast paced Smokey and the Bandit series. All these road films embraced various forms of America's culture. If you mention taking a road trip, all of these cultural influences come into play by those anticipating the event.

Sometimes there is an actual reason for taking a road trip that deals with reality. Recently the CSFA Volunteer Committee and the Fire Service Training Institute (FSTI) joined together to conduct fact finding and to explore both opportunity and challenges facing today's California fire service. For us, reality is the opinions, thoughts and concerns of those who are working in the community and learning firsthand what their needs are.

Beginning on March 31st, the team set out to visit volunteer

fire departments in Northern California. Despite a significant detour around a landslide just north of Healdsburg, the team made its way to Eureka. The team consisted of Ron Coleman,

Chairman of the Volunteer Committee, Vern Losh, CSFA Northern Director, Mike Williams, Fire Service Training Institute and Robert MacIntyre, Member of the Volunteer Committee.

Through previous communications with fire chiefs in the northern part of the state, meetings had been scheduled in Eureka, Fortuna, Slayer and Weaverville. The prepared agenda was designed to solicit input regarding the state of affairs of volunteers, to identify issues and challenges that could be part of future activities of the CSFA Volunteer Committee and/or involve programs and services provided by FSTI.

Representatives of over 20 different organizations attended the four meetings. The attendees were given a briefing on the

activities of the CSFA Volunteer Committee, an update of the availability of a basic volunteer firefighter curriculum, including the developing Volunteer Firefighter Training Syllabus. They were also

Do you want to host us?
If your department would be interested in hosting a site for one of the CSFA Volunteer Committee future road trips, please contact CSFA Volunteer Committee Chairman Ronny Coleman at ron@fireforceone.com.



Recruits train at the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department.