

Part Four
Anmore Alternative News March 5 2015 Retirement Interview
with Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department
Chief Larry Scott

Retirement is a time for reflection and for new beginnings. As you retire from so many fruitful years as the Chief of the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department the Anmore Alternative News pays tribute to you and would like to ask the following questions.

- Is there any situation or group of situations that particularly scared you? Please describe? What was (were) the outcomes?



No. I was never scared.

- Is there anything in hindsight that you would like to have done differently?

Any Fire Chief would love the benefit of hindsight. Success comes from within your team, they give you the confidence you need to deal with all of the challenges.

- What do you see as your proudest accomplishment both as:
 - a) A member of SVFD?

Knocking down a building on fire, you actually see that you can do it. People intervention is good, but to actually know that you're up to the task you're trained for, and that when it does come you're ready. You have the confidence to apply

your training in the real environment. It is fine for you to say this is how you do it but, when you go in there, you find out how it really works.



b) as SVFD Chief

Having a structure in place that regularly replaces equipment, and having policies and procedures in place so that at any time, or any place, any configuration of two or more firefighters can go to a scene and manage it.

We've gone to a few calls where there has been respiratory arrest or significant trauma, and that person has lived. Directly accountable to this, a number of physicians have commented that without our efforts, this person would not have survived or had the same outcome.

Another accomplishment that rings dear is the People Savers first aid courses for Anmore Elementary Grades 4 and 5 students that our Training Unit has developed. There have been occasions when we have arrived on the scene and a young person was doing first response, keeping the victim safe and preventing them from doing more damage.

I value those types of structures that go on, with or without you. They're independent of what any leadership can take credit for. You are gone and the organization still functions organically. It doesn't collapse. It doesn't implode. It carries on. That's nice.

- What will you miss the most about your time with the SVFD? Will you still be contributing in some capacity?



I will continue assisting the new Fire Chief Jay Sharpe through the transition. I offer 37 years of experience, good, bad or indifferent. If they need a sounding board, I'll give that, but I have no intention of freedom managing remotely. I have no intention of saying this is how I would do it.

Part of the change is to look forward to take the department in new directions. I want to be surprised by where that direction will go. I will see if it matches where I thought it would go or be thrilled that the leadership has the ability to look for new solutions. You hope you have helped give them the wings to go where they need to go.

I also plan to continue to attend the Wednesday maintenance nights where we meet, share stories, a good dinner and a couple of beers.

AAN: As Jay takes over, is there any special secret that you will whisper in his ear, any advice at all that you will give him, or do you just let him go?

Chief Scott: I don't have any special tips. All along the way, I have shared with Jay. I have shared with everybody who's been in the management I hope there's very little that they would ask us. It has already been shared. If they need my help or advice, I'm here. That's my view.

