

direct the fire chief and Local 4319 to work collaboratively on an agreement that would address such items as working conditions, health and safety issues, salary, and benefits for all ranks through captain, with a target date for implementation by Aug. 1, 2018, with monthly updates to the board and with the opportunity for extensions.

Gallagher could affect revenue
Truty reported on a call to action he received from the Colorado State Fire Chiefs group regarding the 1982 Gallagher amendment and the anticipated drop in the residential tax rate for calendar year 2020 from 7.2 percent to 6.11 percent. Effectively, that could be

a drop in revenue of 25 percent over the next four years.

Truty stated that a return to a recession would also have a dramatic effect on special district funding statewide if property values decline. Funding could continue to go down, "with no chance of it ever going back up," he said. He hoped legislators would consider a four-year moratorium on decreases.

Note: The 1997 TABOR amendment prevents the residential tax assessment rate from increasing again unless voters approve it in a statewide vote.

Truty will meet with NEPCO, the Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations Inc., in May to inform them of this potential decrease in funding. For a further explanation, visit the link "3/2/18 Gallagher update from the Colorado State Fire Chiefs" in the center of the district home page at <http://tlmfire.org/>

Colorado forecasting "significant wildfire season"

Truty stated that TLMFPD has recently been involved with many large fires in the local area, including the recent Fort Carson training area fire, and this has been contributing to a higher amount of overtime than was expected so early in the year. Wildfire season is earlier than usual and will likely continue.

Fire chiefs have improved the way they coordinate and are continuing to make progress in establishing a funding agreement. New changes have been implemented to the previous expenditure limits on fighting wildland fires.

Truty said incident commanders were now authorized by the state to do "an aggressive initial attack" on a large wildland fire and bring in whatever resources were needed, without needing



Above: On March 28, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District promoted Christopher Keogh from engineer to lieutenant. Lt. Keogh was an acting lieutenant and recently passed the necessary exam for promotion. His wife Janna Keogh pinned on his new rank at the ceremony. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

to slow down to get pre-authorization on expenditure limits. "Just get in there and put it out," and the state will pick up the cost. "That is a tremendous step in the right direction," he said.

One fire occurred in February off Jackson Creek Parkway. It occurred in a hay/sheep shed where a homeless person was living. The cause of the fire has not yet been officially determined, Fire Marshal/Administrative Battalion Chief Jamey Bumgarner said.

Vice President Roger Lance commended TLMFPD firefighters on their excellent efforts assisting in the Fort Carson training area fire in March.

Fire Mitigation grant received
Bumgarner reported that TLMFPD received a Fire Mitigation grant from the Colorado State Forest Service to start a local wildfire mitigation program. TLMFPD has received a \$51,000 matching grant to purchase a neighborhood chipper and towing vehicle. New volunteers in the TLMFPD service area, including neighborhoods such as Red Rock Ranch and Woodmoor, could be trained to utilize this much-needed

new equipment in a partnership with other trained volunteers.

Bumgarner said TLMFPD plans to host a Wildfire Day on May 12 at Station 1 on Highway 105 "with a theme of 'wildfire danger.'" TLMFPD hopes to get the community back on track with mitigation efforts by removing flammable fuels close to their homes. "Colorado is on track for a potential 'banner wildfire season'" due to the extremely low moisture levels so far, he warned. A significant wildfire season is projected through mid-July if moisture levels do not increase. Bumgarner stated, "if you see the source of the fire call 911 immediately."

May election slate set
On May 8, TLMFPD will hold a polling place election. Its polling place is at the district office, 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 103, Monument 80132. The hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You must go to the polling place in person. This is not a mail-in ballot election.

The following five candidates are running for three four-year positions in the May 8 election: Donald Bigham,



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Richard Peterson

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2018 MVEA BOARD NOMINATIONS
One Member. One Vote. Your Voice Matters.

During the Annual Meeting on June 7, 2018, at the Calhan School in Calhan, three directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. (MVEA), Board of Directors from the following districts:

- District 1:** Limon, Karval, Genoa and surrounding areas (*incumbent Joseph D. Martin*)
- District 4:** Calhan, Peyton, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (*incumbent Milton L. Mathis*)
- District 6:** Falcon, Cimarron Hills, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (*incumbent Barry R. Springer*)

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting.

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. For additional candidate requirements, visit MVEA's Annual Meeting webpage at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. Before applying, please contact either MVEA office at (719) 775-2861 or (719) 495-2283 to verify your district. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or by nomination by petition. To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact a member of the committee or contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line as shown below. To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 members of MVEA. Petitions and procedures are available at the Limon Headquarters, 1655 5th St., Limon, or at the Falcon Operations Center, 11140 E. Woodmen Rd., Falcon, or online at the Annual Meeting web page listed above. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire must be returned to either MVEA office by 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 23, 2018. A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. The questionnaire can be found on MVEA's website or you can pick one up at either office. If seeking election by nomination through the nominating committee, a candidate questionnaire must be received by the committee or submitted to candidate@mvea.org by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 29, 2018. If seeking election by nomination through petition, a candidate questionnaire and a petition must be submitted no later than 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 23, 2018. If you have questions, please contact a member of the nominating committee or contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

- Nominating Committee**
- District 1:** Steve Burgess • PO Box 383 • Limon, CO 80828 • (719) 760-0681
 - District 4:** Byrel Woolsey • 824 Golden Street • Calhan, CO 80808 • (719) 347-2750
 - District 6:** Dick Ayer • 11140 E Woodmen Road • Falcon, CO 80831 • (719) 494-2528

MVEA Board Nomination Information Line
Tel: (719) 494-2528
Email: candidate@mvea.org

