

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, April 17

# District prepares for election, high fire-risk summer, and additional personnel

By Jennifer Kaylor

The board convened for two meetings of the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District on April 17. The Board of Directors Pension meeting was followed by the regular monthly Board of Directors meeting. Lt. Bryan Ackerman provided updates on the status of the pension fund. Chief Vinny Burns and Assistant Chief Scott Ridings discussed plans to increase personnel and strategize with equipment to best support the community in what is expected to be a busy fire season.

Pension meeting attendees included Directors Rachel Dunn, Joyce Hartung, Bo McAllister, and Lt. Ackerman. Hartung chaired the pension meeting.

Directors who attended the pension meeting also attended the regular board meeting. Director Harland Baker did not attend the pension meeting but chaired the regular board meeting due to Chair Greg Gent's expected late arrival. Gent arrived midway through the regular board meeting.

Legal Counsel Matt Court attended both meetings.

## Designated election official ready for election

Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich reported that all of her designated election official responsibilities for the May 8 district election had been completed on time, and final preparation of the polling place is underway.

District residents who wish to vote must visit the Wescott polling place at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. The election is scheduled for May 8 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Two judges

will oversee the election.

Election candidates for the four-year terms are: Gary Rusnak, Duane Garrett, Greg Gent, Mark Gunderman, and Joyce Hartung. Candidates for the two-year term are: Rachel Dunn and write-in candidate Larry Schwarz.

Court advised that board members who are terming out attend the May meeting to ensure that a quorum exists to officially swear in new board members.

## Board approves chiefs' preparations for hot, dry summer

Ridings emphasized that current fire conditions are very similar to those that sparked the Hayman fire of 2002. Burns concurred later in the meeting stating that Mt. Herman's burn scar, the result of the 1988 Barry fire, started from similar circumstances. Considering the area's rapid growth and the anticipated needs of the crews who fought the Hayman fire using criteria established by a structure protection assessment, Ridings provided a breakdown of the types of equipment needed for combatting a wind-driven fire in the Tri-Lakes/Monument area. He explained that a strike team comprises five engines of the same type. Type 1 engines, also known as "pavement queens," are large and carry extensive lengths of hose and large amounts of water. Type 3 engines, cross-overs of types 1 and 6, are used at wildland fires for structure protection. Type 6 engines are smaller, pickup-style trucks that are designed to go off-road. Ridings calculated equipment needs of 80 different engines totaling 10 strike teams of type 1 engines, five strike teams of type 3 engines, five strike teams of water tenders, five 20-person type 1 hand crews (such as the Granite

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Sonja Search, CNA



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**★ ★ ELECT ★ ★**


**Mark GUNDERMAN**  
**Rachel DUNN**  
**Joyce HARTUNG**  
**Greg GENT**

**Donald Wescott Fire Protection District - Board of Directors**

**MARK GUNDERMAN**  
 The Board's responsibility is to the community. It is crucial that we have a strategy in place to ensure the Wescott Fire District can meet the needs of our community now and into the future. Public safety starts with an efficiently run fire department, that has the people, equipment and training needed to keep us safe.




**RACHEL DUNN**  
 We have a fiduciary responsibility to the community with the money you have entrusted us with. We need to plan for the financial future of the district and ensure our community maintains a superior level of service.



**COMMUNITY-ORIENTED : RESPONSIBLE : PROFESSIONAL  
 FIRE PROTECTION : EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**JOYCE HARTUNG**  
 I believe continuity on the Board is essential to meet additional challenges the District faces. My continued participation on the Board will contribute to such continuity. This is essential to maintain an excellent firehouse with exceptional firefighters.



**GREG GENT**  
 The Board of Directors has a tremendous amount of influence regarding public safety and the direction the Fire District will move in the coming years. It is absolutely vital that we have a plan and vision for the future of Emergency Medical and Fire services in Gleneagle, and the surrounding communities.



**Tuesday May 8th. Voters must go to Wescott Fire Station #1 to vote. Clerk and recorder will have election judges on staff for voting. Voting is open from 7am - 7pm.**  
**15415 Gleneagle Dr. Colorado Springs, 80921**  
 Wescott Firefighters know how important it is to have a voice - someone to listen and act on your concerns for public safety and the issues that face our community.  
**PAID FOR BY THE "WESCOTT FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION"**