

Aspendell South Fork Volunteer Fire Department

Tax ID #61-1730953, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable non-profit organization

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2019

At this time of giving and giving thanks, we want first to express our enormous gratitude for your generous donations. Your support has made possible the efforts of the ASFVFD to provide initial emergency responses in our mountain communities. The ASFVFD volunteers responded to a number of emergency calls during the past year: with your support, these volunteers made a positive difference.

You can make another positive difference by reviewing and reminding your family and friends of the following practices for the **Proper Disposal of Ashes and Fire Hydrant Snow Clearance**

- 1) Please remember to have your fireplaces/stoves inspected and cleaned before winter use. Proper disposal of ashes is also critical. ***Please*** remember to **TREAT ALL ASHES AND COALS AS HOT**. Store ashes and partially burned pieces of wood in a ***covered metal container*** for several days before disposal so that you are certain that the material is cold and that no embers remain. **Do not use a combustible container**, and do not place combustible items in the container. **Do not place ashes in an available dumpster unless and until you are certain that they are cold. The best option would be to leave them in a covered metal container until summer!** *Please convey this information to family and friends* who may use your home. Please see the asfvfd.org web site for a notice you can print and post in your home. This is a vital fire safety practice.
- 2) Regarding hydrant access, structure fires are equally likely during the winter and summer seasons, so it is important to maintain access to fire hydrants year-round. If you see snow (or a vehicle) obstructing a fire hydrant, your help clearing it would be greatly appreciated. Please also see the Inyo County letter at www.asfvfd.org/snow-removal.pdf . In the event of a structure fire, your efforts may make the difference in whether your own or your neighbor's home can be saved!

New Caretaker

Sadly for the ASFVFD, our former firehouse caretakers, Patrick Rizzo and Lauren Newey, have moved on to other challenges and interests in their lives. After a competitive recruitment and interview process, we are pleased to announce that our new contract caretaker is Brian Nix, who under his direction and employment, will be ably assisted by Cheryl Nix (Brian's mother) and Jeff Simpson. Brian is a professional firefighter with Ventura County whose schedule will allow him to fulfill the important caretaker duties, in particular to maintain fire engine readiness. Brian also volunteers his time as an ASFVFD volunteer firefighter and has been guiding volunteer training. Brian is a wonderful asset for the ASFVFD and our mountain communities and we hope that you will all avail yourselves of opportunities to meet and get to know him, Cheryl and Jeff.

Past President Roy Harthorn

Like Patrick and Lauren, Roy Harthorn, founding board member (2013) and later President (2015) and key implementer of the ASFVFD, is also moving on to other responsibilities. Roy has

kindly offered to serve for another year as the ASFVFD Past President so that he can help a smooth transition of responsibilities and knowledge to others and to help complete the generator project (see below). The ASFVFD and our communities are indebted to Roy for his long commitment and prudent management. **Thank you, Roy!** (A meeting to determine new ASFVFD Board member assignments is pending.)

Emergency Generator Project

You are probably aware that Southern California Edison, like other utility companies in California, has initiated a program of public safety power shutdowns when wind, precipitation or other conditions warrant it, in SCE's judgment. To assure that our emergency response systems are uninterrupted, the ASFVFD has purchased an emergency generator, and we are working with our landlord, the Aspendell Mutual Water Company, to resolve siting and construction matters. We hope to proceed expeditiously so that the generator is in place before winter snows. We want to particularly acknowledge Ted and Anne Moss for their substantial contribution to make this project possible.

Your Support: The success of the ASFVFD depends on your ongoing, generous support. As we have reported in the past, we have "routine" expenditures (rent, utilities, insurance, etc.). We also strive to improve our response capabilities by training, appropriate equipment purchases, etc. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We have attached a supporting membership donor stub and enclosed an envelope to simplify the donation process. Checks can be made out to the ASFVFD and mailed to us at 111 Columbine Drive, Bishop, CA 93514. **We offer our most sincere thanks in advance.** *We'd like to acknowledge those thanks publicly; if you are willing to be identified as a contributor, please initial the "yes" blank on the donation form. Otherwise, please initial the "no" blank.*

Volunteers Still Needed: We still need volunteer firefighters, particularly in the South Fork area. We also need volunteers engaged in administrative, committee, fundraising, grant solicitations, and web page design activities. If you have ideas for fundraisers or especially if you are willing to help to set-up/oversee such an event, please email us at asfvfd@asfvfd.org . If you have other skills you would like to offer, again, please email us. We also welcome your comments and recommendations.

With our sincere thanks, the ASFVFD Board of Directors: Acting President Michael McBeth, Acting Vice President Steve Silcott, Treasurer David Woody, Secretary Joanne Schneider, Member-at-Large Carl Jarecky, Past President Roy Harthorn.

***** detach here *****

Donations: Checks can be made out to the Aspendell South Fork Volunteer Fire Dept. and sent to us at 111 Columbine Drive, Bishop, CA 93514. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you!

\$75___ **\$100**___ **\$200**___ **\$500**___ **Other \$**_____ **Training \$**_____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Aspendell – South Fork Address: _____

I am willing to be listed as a contributor to the ASFVFD in mailings to the community: **Yes** _____ **No** _____ (the amount will not be identified) (initial either yes or no)