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WEST METRO FIRE-RESCUE DISTRICT

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West Metro Fire-Rescue District 2008 Inaugural Employee Awards

On Saturday May 31, 2008 The West Metro Fire-Rescue District held its Inaugural Awards Banquet. The focus of the evening was the formal recognition of the accomplishments of our employees on behalf of the Communities and Citizens we serve. We also recognized and showed our appreciation to our partners and families for their enduring support of our employees in their work as West Metro Firefighters, and in acknowledgement of the important role our partners play in ensuring we are able to serve those that depend upon us.



Firefighter Andy Ayd

Retirement Award. Firefighter, Andy Ayd, retired on May 15, 2007, after serving at Station#1 for twenty-three years.

Years of Service Awards. The following employees were recognized for their years of service to the West Metro Fire-Rescue District and the communities we serve: Stephen Klick, 35 years of service; Scott Crandall, 30 years of service; Mike Durand, Dan Roby and Marge Runnakko 20 years of service, Tim Herlofsky, Paul Larson, Tom Anderson, Glen Beske, Gary Boyle, Tom Eliason and Dave Neuenfeldt, 15 years of service, Erick Anderson, Jeff Hurney and Aaron Surratt, 15 years of service.

Firefighter of the Year Awards. Station#1, Captain, Tom Anderson; Station#2, Lieutenant, Karsten Nelson; Station#3, Firefighter, Mike Todd. These firefighter of the year award recipients (one per station), exemplify the character, commitment and compassion and service that are hallmarks of the

firefighter profession. These members represent what it means to be a West Metro Fire-Rescue District Firefighter.

Rookie of the Year Award. Firefighter, Amy Leininger. This rookie of the year recipient has demonstrated proficiency, dedication and leadership during her first two-years of employment with the District. This member exemplifies what it means to be a West Metro Fire-Rescue District Firefighter.

Customer Service Award. Inspector/Lieutenant, Shelby Wolf. This customer service award recipient has demonstrated initiative in providing excellent service to the public, the efforts of this employee results in lasting and significant positive customer relations. This firefighter is consistently responsive to requests for District services and/or improving procedures to enhance efficient delivery of District services. She provides friendly service, with commitment and professionalism, demonstrates good judgment, and communication skill when dealing with customers under a variety of situations including circumstances of adversity. The efforts of this employee result in lasting and significant positive customer relations.

Inspiration Award. Firefighter, Kath Hammerseng. This inspiration award recipient has demonstrated a positive attitude which contributes to a beneficial work environment. This firefighter possesses a spirit of commitment that invigorates the workplace, contributes to a "can do" attitude, achieves high work standards in cooperation among fellow employees and makes a difference in getting the job done through her example. This employee strives to cultivate a positive work environment.

Station Pride Award. Station#2. This recipient of the station pride award best represents ongoing pride in their station, apparatus and equipment, ensures response readiness at all times, outstanding customer service, an ongoing effort to reduce response times, active participation in public education programs and the annual open house, and noteworthy service above and beyond the call of duty.

Lifetime Achievement Award. District Chief, Steve Longaecker. This lifetime achievement award recipient best represents achievement of what most others would consider unattainable, you have achieved through your effort to succeed. We applaud you for accepting nothing less than perfection. We take note of your lifetime of achievements and what you have accomplished.

Board Member Merit Award. Past Board Member, Jim Look. This board member merit award recipient has demonstrated dedication beyond the call of duty while serving in the capacity of a member of the Board of Directors. Accomplishments of this individual should serve as a model for all board members that follow.

The Golden Nozzle Award. Probationary Firefighter, Van Le. This golden nozzle award recipient best represents an instance where the individual's actions made them blush or caused a spontaneous outburst of laughter amongst their colleagues while on the job. Accomplishments of this individual should serve as a model other firefighters graciously endure, but avoid if possible.

Auxiliary Merit Award. President, Shelby Georgeson. This auxiliary merit award recipient has demonstrated initiative by providing leadership to the West Metro Fire-Rescue District Auxiliary through ongoing, outstanding and noteworthy service above and beyond the call of duty. This recipient has selflessly promoted programs and projects that have benefited the Auxiliary, the West Metro Fire-Rescue District and the Community.

Douglas C. Smith Award. District Chief, Dave Neuenfeldt. This Douglas C. Smith award recipient has demonstrated outstanding service, excellence and dedication. This award has been given in recognition of his outstanding commitment to further the goals, objectives and vision of the West Metro Fire-Rescue District and his excellent service to the citizens of the District.

Presentation of the colors. Performing their first official ceremonial presentation, the new West Metro Fire-Rescue District Honor Guard.

The 130 attendees included current employees, retirees, auxiliary members and members of the District's Board of Directors and their partners.

District Chaplains Dwight Gorder and Tedi Anne Hasapopoulos, provided opening and closing blessings for the event.

Chief Scott Crandall closed the event with the following statement. "Thank you to all West Metro employees for the job you do, to our retirees, thank you for showing us the way, thank you to our partners and families for supporting the work we do. And finally, thank you to our board for ensuring we are able to provide the highest possible quality of fire and emergency services to the communities we serve".

About West Metro Fire-Rescue District

West Metro Fire Rescue District provides fire services to the communities of Crystal and New Hope through a joint powers agreement. Organized July 6, 1998 after over six years of study, discussions, consultant's reports and special legislation, the District provides an efficient delivery system eliminating duplication while reducing and stabilizing future budget costs. A board of directors appointed by each City Council governs the Fire District.

West Metro Fire-Rescue District is committed to providing quality fire and safety services and security to the people, businesses and the environment within the district in an efficient and cost effective manner. We pledge to respond in a timely manner, provide competent well-trained personnel, treat our customers with respect and provide a sense of value for our service.

West Metro Fire-Rescue District provides emergency response to fire situations, specialized rescue and emergency medical support. We also provide fire prevention services through constant inspections and public fire safety education across the District.