

# 2005 in Review

JANUARY, 2006

## HUNTINGTON LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



### Letter from the Chief

#### Special points of interest:

- *Our team and equipment is improved*
- *We have a new Board of Directors*
- *Our Financial condition is improving*
- *We want your feedback on future priorities*

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My professional life is spent as a firefighter for the City of Clovis but my heart is at Huntington Lake. I cannot possibly convey how proud I am of the advances our team has made in the last year. We have added another superior individual to our team, Peter Gregg, a professional firefighter who is with us all summer weekends. In addition, we have improved the condition of our equipment by gifts from the Community. We have been recognized by many agencies as being one of the best trained Volunteer departments in the State (because our people all carry EMT certification as well as other emergency response credentials). And finally, our average response time in the summer for the North side of the Lake is now under 6 minutes, a measure that compares very favorably with most professional urban fire departments.

Our active firefighters make

large personal sacrifices to be able to serve all of you. Because of the relatively small numbers on our team, whenever a team member is at the lake he or she is on call 24/7. This is why you will see each of them always carrying a dispatch radio. Further, until this year, we have not been able to fully fund the personal protective equipment and radio needed by each firefighter, so several of the firefighters have had to pay for their own. Finally, during the summer all firefighters are required to attend 4-5 hour training sessions EVERY Saturday from June 15 to August 15 to keep their skills sharp, to maintain their credentials and to learn about new advances in medical response and firefighting. These are very special people who are intensely dedicated to providing you all the best emergency response we can.

In closing, I want to thank the

members of the community who have stepped forward with very important multiple year gifts. Because of the overall level of giving this year by many of you and the multiple year commitments we have been able to order a new structure engine to replace our 1969 unit. This will be delivered to us in April of 2006 and will be in service at the lake in May of 2006. Finally, I am also happy to announce that Southern California Edison, after careful deliberation, has made a \$100,000 commitment to help replace our very old and dangerous water tender. We are hopeful that the difference between their gift and the purchase price can be made up by the community during 2006 allowing us to replace this piece of apparatus soon.

Thank you all again and may 2006 be healthy and fruitful for you all.

### A message from the Board of Directors

Hello from your new Board of Directors. Effective November 1, 2005 a new Board was elected and has been working to get up to speed on all the activities of the Department. Your new Board members are:

**John Slater**, President – John is a Cabin Owner in Dowville,

Treasurer of Dowville tract, and the senior partner of Slater Moffatt, an accounting firm in Fresno.

**Steve Soares**, Vice-President – Steve is a Cabin Owner in Huckleberry. He is a dentist in Los Banos and also owns a real estate agency there.

**Ned Fox** – Ned is a Cabin owner in Upper Line, is the Treasurer of that tract and is the CEO of a property investment firm in Los Angeles.

**Bob Wilson** – Bob is a Cabin owner in Idylwilde and is a senior partner in the law firm of Cotkin, Collins & Ginsburg in



## Board of Directors (cont.)

Los Angeles.

**Phyllis Thomas** – Phyllis is a co-owner of a cabin in Lower Line Creek and is a professional investor with NWQ Investments in Los Angeles.

**Tom Zinn** – Tom is the Chief of the department and has spent most of his summers at Huntington Lake since his youth. Professionally, Tom is a Captain with the Clovis Fire Department.

**Bob Leach** – Bob is a home-

owner in the Regatta Vista development and (through his wife) is a fractional owner of a cabin in Idylwilde. Bob is a retired electronics and software executive and is one of the firefighters.

The responsibilities of the Board are straightforward. We are charged with acquiring the resources the firefighters need to do the job, creating the legal structure and protections for the firefighters and being the on-going communication vehicle

between the Department and the community. With all the tasks our firefighters have, it is inappropriate also to ask them to do all of the fund raising, interface with insurance underwriters and public outreach. For example, for the last three years, our firefighters time was spent first on training, second on fund raising and third on making calls. Your Board hopes significantly to reduce the demand on the firefighters for this second task.

*Give us feedback on where we should improve our service in the future*

## Community Feedback

By all objective measures, the department now does a good job in the summer responding to calls on the North side of the Lake. As we look forward, we need to decide which areas of focus we should have regarding our improvements. Please review each of the items below and rank (1-3) the three items you think are most important for us to work on.

- Provide response for on/in water emergencies
- Faster response to vehicle accidents on Highway 168 from Tamarack Ridge to the Lake
- Improve winter response (e.g. snowmobile accidents, broken arms and legs from sliding, etc.)

- Provide faster transportation response to Hospital (currently transportation response time is about 45 minutes for vehicle to arrive at Huntington)
- Improve response to off-road emergencies (hikers, jeep trail accidents, horse/pack animal incidents)

## Return Your Responses to:

Karen Bare-Kamimoto  
HLVFD  
334 Shaw Ave. Suite 135  
Clovis, CA 93612



## Annual Financial Summary—2005

As you can see below, our fund raising efforts this year were very productive. **Generally we are pleased, but disappointed at the reduction of payments from the cabin tracts for their assessments.** We need to investigate why cabin owners are deciding NOT to pay their annual assessments. We will be undertaking a major effort to ensure that all who benefit from the Department pay their fair share.

We are very concerned by the increase in our insurance costs. Our training costs are well contained except for the one-time cost we incurred for uniforms for our staff. This cost was fully offset by designated gifts from the firefighters for these uniforms. Cost for fund raising is an ongoing one and was a simple oversight in budgeting. Our maintenance cost increase reflects the “surprises” we occasionally get with our older equipment.

Category	Actual	Budget
<b>Revenue</b>		
Operating Assessments	23,645.24	24,226.86
Fund Raising for Operations	4,961.75	
Unrestricted Donations	21,790.33	
Other Revenue	1,111.48	
Subtotal: Operating Funds	<b>51,508.80</b>	
Designated Gifts	131,956.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>183,464.80</b>	<b>24,226.86</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration	2,022.07	2,000.00
Equipment Purchases	4,290.83	4,500.00
Fund Raising Expenses	4,120.54	0.00
Insurance	8,084.00	5,700.00
Maintenance—Vehicles	8,069.45	1,500.00
Maintenance—Portable Equipment	142.24	2,050.00
Gas and Oil	1,000.81	1,200.00
Miscellaneous	1,132.40	0.00
Software	295.00	0.00
Telephone	1,381.22	800.00
Training	4,483.79	2,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>35,022.35</b>	<b>19,750.00</b>
Surplus <Deficit> from Operating Funds	<b>16,486.45</b>	<b>4,476.86</b>
Revenue Added to Designated Funds	<b>131,956.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

*Assessments DOWN  
but voluntary  
contributions UP*



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## Operating Principles

Your Board has adopted fundamental statements of principle about how the Department should operate. They are:

- 1. Each homeowner should pay their “fair share” of the cost of operating an efficient Volunteer Fire Department.**
- 2. Firefighters should spend their volunteered time to prepare for and deliver emergency assistance, not administrative tasks or fundraising.**
- 3. Management of the Fire Department should continually strive to get all users of Fire Department services (including campers) to contribute to the support of the Department.**
- 4. Planned improvements should be funded by “special fund raising” not operating funds.**
- 5. The collection of normal operating assessments should be nearly automatic, not an annual decision.**