

On behalf of your **Whispering Pines Fire Protection District Board of Directors**, I would like to invite you to attend this annual meeting with your volunteer firefighters and district board members and see the quality and dedication of these individuals who willingly contribute time from their lives towards the protection of your homes and to your aid in numerous other emergency situations. We would enjoy meeting you, providing you current information on the department and getting your input. The vehicles and equipment of the department will be available for viewing, discussing, and “crawling around on.”

As we have been doing for many years, this meeting will be held in conjunction the **annual area meeting of the Black Hills Electric Coop**. They will be there to update you on the happenings of the Coop and answer any questions you may have.

Current issues being addressed by the Board and the VFD will be discussed. Those include the falling numbers of volunteers at our department, the other Pennington County VFDs and the volunteer fire service in general; our plans for maintaining emergency services for the district; the financial health of the district; and the status of proposed station modifications. An update on the performance of the recently installed station solar system will also be presented.

I would also invite anyone interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors to attend this meeting and become involved. The Board of Directors consists of seven elected members who serve two-year terms. Each year either three or four of those terms expire. This year, three of the Director's terms will expire. Two of the directors have agreed to run again. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please let me know and we can discuss what is required. We will be voting during the meeting to fill all three positions for another 2 years.

So, visit have soup or chili made by your firefighters and served by your Coop leaders and board members Oh and bring a desert to share if you are so inclined.

The safety concerns presented by the continued presence of the Covid19 virus are still with us although recently developed vaccines and treatments and the downturn in infections have lowered the risk somewhat. For those who would like to attend the meeting in person, we request you consider the standard Covid19 protocols, including hand sanitizing, face masks and social distancing if possible.

For those who do not feel comfortable attending in person but would like to hear our report on the status of your Coop and VFD, we have added a virtual component of the meeting using the Zoom software application. Please request the Zoom access information by contacting the Whispering Pines Volunteer Fire Department using the Contact form at:

<http://www.whisperingpinesvfd.com/contact.html> or contacting me using my info below.

If you have a question concerning fire or emergencies, you can communicate with the VFD via different methods using the links below.

wpstation@whisperingpinesvfd.com

www.whisperingpinesvfd.com

www.facebook.com/whisperingpinesvfd

<https://twitter.com/wpvfd>

Alan Anderson, Board President

phone 605-391-2819 email; alandand@rap.midco.net

The Heart and Soul...

... of all volunteer departments are its volunteers. They are the key element in providing effective fire and emergency services and keeping down the costs to our community. Volunteer organizations across the nation have been experiencing a significant reduction in the number of people who are willing and able to provide their time to the community for several years now. The Whispering Pines VFD is no exception.

We are continually looking for people who are interested in becoming firefighters, first responders, emergency medical technicians, admin support, auditors, and fire hall assistants. You do not have to live in the Whispering Pines Fire District to volunteer. All volunteers are offered the opportunity to be professionally trained in any, or all the areas listed. Working and training with a VFD is an excellent way to work into a professional career in fire and emergency services. The training is free, and the experience is often exhilarating. The camaraderie that develops amongst volunteers is similar in ways to that developed by members of the armed forces. Lifelong friendships can be created with fire and medical comrades across the county and sometimes the nation. As the climate warms, the need for wildland firefighters across the western states has increased substantially. Members of our department who have attained the appropriate certifications (including medical) are considered a national resource and respond when the circumstances permit to these national fire response teams. Responding to emergencies is a great way to do something important for your community, the nation, and yourself. The positive feeling one gets when helping others during an emergency is hard to describe. It is like little else one experiences in life. The appreciation expressed by people who have been assisted during what is sometimes the worst day of their life, is heartwarming to say the least.

We are now providing pay for some of the efforts provided by members of the department. The Fire Chief and the bookkeeper/admin are now paid positions. Other members receive stipends for certain responses. Not all our members need to train and respond to emergency calls. We are also looking for administrative support assistance, particularly in the form of bookkeeping. This is a paid, parttime position. We are now actively searching to fill the bookkeeper position.

The Whispering Pines Fire Department will be having an informational meeting in conjunction with our annual District Meeting for anyone 18 (or almost) years of age or older interested in joining the Fire Department. If that person is you, contact any firefighter at the meeting.





FREE SOUP/CHILI SUPPER WITH DESERT POTLUCK

Member Appreciation and Annual Information Meeting

Monday, February 21, 2022

6:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Whispering Pines Fire Hall



7980 Clarkson Road
Rapid City, SD 57702