

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." **This year's meeting will be impacted by our ongoing construction work. The meeting room is in the middle of significant changes all around and it will look torn up. Please pardon our mess. Parking will also be an issue as part of the parking lot is being occupied by construction equipment and materials. Please Park safely where you can find space, which may require a short walk.**

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 current financial health of the district; and possible future financial requirements and how to fulfill them. In October, 2022 we sent a flyer to members of the district that discussed these same issues particularly the need for the modifications to the station. If you cannot make the meeting and would like to review that information, a link is posted on the station website <http://www.whisperingpinesvfd.com/>

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, four of the Director's terms will expire. Those four 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 four positions for another 2 years.

The safety concerns presented by the continued presence of the **Covid-19** virus are still with us although recently developed vaccines and treatments and the downturn in infections have lowered the risk. There are not specific recommended covid protection protections suggested this year. If you feel you need to take personal precautions, please do so.

If you have a question concerning fire or emergencies, please call 911, you can communicate with the VFD via different methods using the links below.

wpstation@whisperingpinesvfd.com
www.whisperingpinesvfd.com
www.facebook.com/whisperingpinesvfd

Alan Anderson, Board President
P: 605-391-2819 | E: 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 boosters. 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..

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.

WE NEED YOU TO HELP ANSWER THE CALL!

When calls for **HELP** come in, we respond to all of them: House Fires, Forest Fires, Wildland Urban Interface Fires, Medical Emergencies, and Vehicle Accident/Fires.

Our volunteers are diverse and come from all walks of life. No previous training or experience is necessary. There's a job for everyone: Firefighter, Driver/Operator, EMT, and Administrative Support to name a few.

We will provide:

- First Class Training with Modern Equipment
- Professional Development, Team Building, and Comradery.
- Exciting and Rewarding Experience Helping Others.

*Fires don't wait, neither should you,
volunteer today!*

Website: www.whisperingpinesvfd.com/apply-today

Someone is available **Thursdays from 6:30 - 7:00 pm** for questions at 7980 Clarkson Road.



Online
Application



Whispering Pines

Volunteer Fire Department

7980 Clarkson Road
Rapid City, SD 57702



Two Meetings in One

As we have been doing for many years, this meeting will be held in conjunction the annual area appreciation meeting of the Black Hills Electric Coop. The Coop will be there to update you on the happenings of the Coop and answer any questions you may have. Members of your Volunteer Fire Department will be there to conduct our VFD annual membership meeting. So, please visit and 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. (Please pardon our mess as the station is also in the middle of a remodeling project)

FREE SOUP/CHILI SUPPER WITH DESERT POTLUCK

Member Appreciation and Annual Information Meeting

Monday, February 20, 2023 | 5:30 to 7:00 P.M.
Whispering Pines Fire Hall

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
RAPID CITY, SD
PERMIT NO. 618



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WhisperingPinesVFD



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