

ASPENDELL SOUTH FORK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DBA ASPENDELL SOUTH FORK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

January 25, 2014

Re. New Year Newsletter and 2014 ASFRA – ASFVFD Membership Drive

Dear Neighbor,

The Aspendell South Fork Residents Association (ASFRA) Board of Directors wishes to extend our thanks for a great 2013 and our best wishes to you and your family for the coming year!

We also wish to take this opportunity to provide you an update of our activities establishing a new fire protection and prevention organization serving both the Aspendell and South Fork communities. Lastly, we would like to invite you to become a supporting member of our organization, which is a principal means of financing our new fire department.

First, we are pleased to announce that ASFRA received 55 donations in 2013 that resulted in start up funds in excess of \$26,000. Of these, 46 of the donations were \$500 or less and the balance were for more than \$500. Thank you to those of you who have contributed time and or funds!

With these funds, we purchased a suitable fire engine apparatus that carries 500 gallons of water and is capable of delivering 750 gallons per minute. The apparatus is powered by a turbo diesel engine and has an automatic transmission. Important to our operation, the fire engine is just below the threshold where any special DMV licensing is required to operate the truck. The engine is now registered with the DMV and both liability and workers compensation insurance has been obtained for its operation and the administration of the ASFRA organization.

As previously reported, this past summer the ASFRA board of directors filed and received articles of incorporation from the California Secretary of State as a 501(c)(3) organization. Recently, an application to the IRS has been submitted for approval of 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. When this determination is made, ASFRA will be eligible for a variety of public and private support and grant opportunities. Such a determination will also allow your donations and membership support fees to be tax deductible.

Another important milestone is that as of October 2013, ASFRA negotiated a lease with the Aspendell Mutual Water Company to house our fire engine and our Aspendell South Fork Volunteer Fire Department (ASFVFD) operations. The water company has since moved all of its operations to their “Control Building” below and to the rear of the fire house and they have installed separate metering for utility billing.

As time permits and in advance of this coming summer, the ASFRA board has an action plan of making arrangements for training and ordering and obtaining the necessary protective gear for volunteer fire fighters and re-equipping the fire engine. Donations for the purchase of such equipment and gear are still needed. Before submitting this order, if you or your neighbors have any hand tools, fire hose, brass fittings, wrenches, fire extinguishers, first aid kits or other potentially

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useful gear to fire fighting and prevention activities, please contact us at asfra@asfra.net or by mail. Return of such gear that was previously made available to the community is respectfully requested and will be greatly appreciated.

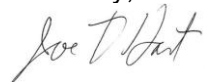
Regarding membership to ASFRA, below please find a tear off stub to use as a means of submitting an annual application, a donation or both. As the membership fee requested is **not** a "fee for service", it is not necessary to become a member in order to receive fire protection service. The fee is only for the general support of the organization and its purpose, which is to provide unrestricted fire prevention and suppression support to both the public and private interests in the Aspendell and South Fork communities. The amount of the membership fee specified below reflects considerable deliberation of the needs of the organization, what the board feels is a reasonable annual contribution and what relative benefits the organization may offer to varied demographics.

As the fee is voluntary, a member may adjust the level of their contribution. Since the success of the organization will largely be determined by the level of community support, we hope all of you will participate.

Lastly, it is the hope of the Board to announce an "Open House" (fundraising) event to be held late Spring or early Summer. The date may coincide with Bishop's "Mule Days" Memorial Day weekend if there is enough interest in participants. The event may be a "Chili Cook Off" or a Barbeque. Please let us know below if you might be interested in participating/volunteering.

The ASFRA Board of Directors and the ASVFD volunteer fire fighters are very excited at the prospects of becoming operational this summer and working with you to fulfill our common goal of fire safety and protection, particularly in a drought year such as the one we are now facing. The role of our organization will be all the more important given the increased demands on and the limited resources of CALFIRE and the USFS. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Joe Hart, President
Michael McBeth, Secretary
Mike Johnston, Treasurer

----- detach and return -----

Name: _____ I am interested in attending the "Open House " _____ (Yes/No)

Email address: _____ I am interested in volunteer opportunities _____ (Yes/No)

Aspendell South Fork Address: _____

Other mailing address: _____

house # name of street City Zip Code

Membership Fee enclosed: _____

Membership fees:

Additional donation amount: _____

Aspendell lot and house: \$200; lot only: \$100

Total enclosed: _____

South Fork lot and house \$135; lot only: \$65

Please return with your check in the enclosed envelope to: ASFRA, 111 Columbine Drive, Bishop CA 93514