

September 1, 2009
Submitted to Structure committee
Conversation with Joanne Greenberg, Summit Ranch
Former Lookout Mountain Firefighter

I solicited input from Joanne Greenberg as I know she was an officer on the former Lookout Mountain Fire Department with me and felt she would be someone good to contact regarding the District. Joanne also attended the last Board meeting in August.

First, I felt it was worthwhile to provide some history on Joanne Greenberg's contributions to the community. Joanne served as an officer and one of the first women on the Lookout Mountain Fire Department when women were not generally accepted in the fire service. Her willingness to challenge the process and contribute should not go unnoticed. She continues to be active in changing the wildland signs in the District and helps to communicate wildfire risks for the area. She has also helped at Ralston Elementary in serving students over the years. While these are not all of Joanne Greenberg's accomplishments for the District she certainly has valuable opinions that should be considered. I want to thank Joanne for her service to the community.

In our discussions, we reviewed some ideas regarding changes in the structure. We reviewed ways that community members could serve in less physical activities to help with basic needs of the District. We also discussed the combination of paid and volunteers, and finally, we discussed the possibility of a paid Chief.

Joanne Greenberg suggested that we solicit additional volunteers to meet less physical needs and tasks of the District through the Canyon Courier and the Firefly. This would be cheaper and help with the mundane tasks that are needed. We also discussed that a specific community publication serving only Foothills District does not exist which complicates communications. Activities such as cleaning the stations, removing trash, packing and repacking hose after fires and other duties could be completed easily. I felt this was a great idea and am volunteering to help build the program. Retired firefighters, community members, and cadets would be excellent members of the group. Perhaps some of these individuals may volunteer as firefighters in the future but this was not intended to be the focus. The group would complement the volunteers and auxiliary.

Secondly, it was felt that having a combination of paid and volunteers was needed due to the demographics and current commitments of volunteers for work, family, and obligations outside of the District. These variables have changed dramatically over the years. Call volume and increased certification requirements have also increased the demand for combination personnel.

Finally, the discussion was certainly positive though we did not determine any final recommendations on an exact solution to resolve leadership needs of the District.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Smith, FFPD Board Secretary