

**Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department – AGM.**  
**President's Report – April 25, 2009.**

The current board elected at last year's AGM (held March 22<sup>nd</sup>), consisted of myself Laura Williams (President), Ann Phelps (Secretary), Walter Rawlinson (Fire Chief), Shayne Ralston, John Duyvewaardt, Ron Yorke and Kate Zabell (directors at large). Diane Skidmore, our Vice Chair stepped down at last year's AGM, but offered to complete the required reporting for the Gaming grant that we received for Fiscal 2008. We were sorry to lose Diane as she contributed enormously to some of the key issues dealt with over the first year.

Most of the current board members have been on the board now for 2 years, with Kate and Ron being elected at last year's AGM. During the year Shayne Ralston stepped down, and in January of this year, Mark Wilson was asked to join the board and accepted. Over the past 2 years we have accomplished many goals as a group, and I personally would like to thank the board members for their dedication and commitment on the various tasks assigned and completed.

We have been successful in obtaining grants from the Gaming Commission for the last 2 years, which has contributed to some major upgrades to essential equipment and required training. Walter will cover this in his report in a few minutes. We will file our report for this year in the summer and hope to apply for another grant for our next operating year.

During the current year we had a complaint raised with the Human Rights Tribunal, by one of our former fire fighters. He had left the department in April of 2008, but had felt unfairly treated by some of the members. As a result a complaint was filed, and a hearing was held between the parties on April 17<sup>th</sup> of this year. The issue has been resolved. As in any such proceedings, the details of the final agreement and the terms of the settlement must remain confidential to protect the interest of both parties. There were some legal fees incurred for approx. \$683, which was for initial discussions that were carried out, but the majority of the costs were covered by our insurance company.

The members of the fire department contribute and take part in a number of community events over the year, including the Easter egg hunt and the kid's races during the summer. In July last year, we had a BBQ for the members of the department, as a thank you, for all the hours they contribute to the department throughout the year. On the September long weekend, we were involved in the first annual 'Garage Sale', which I believe is going ahead this September long weekend. There was a great turnout and certainly lots of fun, and a great way to meet the community. We raised a 'whopping' \$255 for the

department that day, which is huge considering most of the transactions were for 25 or 50 cents. So when you're having your spring clean out this year, think about saving some of your 'old stuff' if you'd like to donate it to the cause.

I would like to thank all the members of the Society for supporting the department through the payment of your annual dues and the donations of the empties that you provide. Without your support we would have no fire department, and given our proximity to Hope and emergency services, it's critical to have folks trained in first aid and the essentials of fire fighting. Sure I admit we're not as highly trained as some of the funded departments within the cities and municipalities, but I feel confident our department could respond in excellent time and tackle a house fire or other emergency requiring first aid or other assistance. As an example, we had a call last year that had a response time of less than 5 minutes. As it turned out it was a false alarm but the security company that had raised the initial alarm couldn't believe we had responded so quickly to the call. Another point to make is, if we didn't have our volunteer department and in the event of a house fire you would be hooped. On that note, I would just like to **emphasize the importance of paying your fire dues, and thank you again for all those that do**. One of the priorities of the board over the next year will be to come up with a new 'Marketing Strategy' to increase our presence within the community.

I would also like to take this opportunity of giving a tremendous thanks to the volunteers of the department for their efforts and contributions over the last year. A community like ours relies on these folks who are willing to donate their time and energy to help protect life and property within the Valley.

We are always looking for volunteers and I would encourage anyone who is considering it, to give it some serious thought. My point of view is if anything ever happened to our cabin, **I would want as many members on that response team as possible!!!!** You can chat to any of our volunteers or board members if you want more information or have any questions.

Thanks everyone!!