

HUNTINGTON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Letter from the Chief—Brother Chris

Generosity

I am consistently impressed with the generosity of the people of Huntington Lake!

Over recent years the department has been able to bring help, comfort and often life saving care to people in need, because of your help. Even during the current financial crisis, members of our community have managed to keep the Fire Department high on their priorities with continued monetary gifts. We are extremely grateful for your continued support both with your help with the pancake breakfast and your financial contributions.

We too have benefitted from the vision and contributions of the HLVFD Board of Directors who have worked hard to help chart our future and reduce the need for funding by preparing grants to pay for major purchases. Most recently we were granted over \$38,000 from FEMA for structural protective clothing, a cost our donors will not have to bear.

We have also been blessed with firefighters who give their time, talent, and often treasure to make our service to others possible. Sadly, this fall, we lost one of those gifted and generous firefighters to cancer.

Bob Leach made a real difference at Huntington. He committed himself from the first day he joined the department to learn as much as he could about medical care, rescues and firefighting so that he could better serve those in need. Bob completed all the training for EMT and firefighter for our department and went on to master the course and in-service work for paramedic, so that he could be even better prepared to bring medical care to our patients. As a board member he worked hard, first on the

Engine 62 replacement project and later on the ambulance project to make a first class medical rescue unit a reality for our community. Firefighter Leach fought many fires and participated in difficult rescues during his tenure. On countless occasions I had the honor of serving at his side ministering to patients who were suffering, as he gave help, hope, and medical care. People are alive today that may not have been without his dedication, training, and generosity. I counted Bob as a close friend, and like many of you miss him very much. The Huntington Lake Fire Department will never be the same without his enthusiasm, humor, dedication, and professionalism.



Scripture says that the ultimate gift is the one given “with no hope of return “. Bob Leach gave that kind of gift-of-self for others. He was proud and pleased that he could be of service as a member of the Huntington Lake Fire Department and from time to time, after a 911 call or a training that went

well, he could be heard to say “*God we’re good!*”

I say to you Bob, *yes we are!*because of people like you, who have given their best, *so that others may live!*

Bob Leach Memorial Fund

Bob Leach believed that the key to saving lives and protecting property was through enhanced firefighter training. As a tribute to Bob, we have established the Bob Leach Memorial Training Fund. We encourage your gifts to make sure Bob’s vision of well trained firefighters will continue for years to come.

Special points of interest:

- Our generous families
- Bob Leach Memorial fund
- July 4th annual HLVFD Pancake Breakfast
- Silent Auction

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Mark your Calendars for Sunday, July 4th!

Not only is that date our country's birthday, it is also the date of the annual Huntington Lake Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Huntington Lake Association to benefit the Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department. As always, the Pancake Breakfast will be held at Lakeshore Resort and will begin at 7:00 a.m. It will be ending at 11:00 a.m. so make sure you arrive in plenty of time. We are ever grateful to Lakeshore for hosting this event. And there will of course be some very cool Fire Department clothing items on sale.

The Pancake Breakfast is our target date to make sure that your fire prevention checklist has been completed: (1) Property cleared of fire fuels; (2) Batteries in the smoke detectors working; (3) Fire extinguishers fully charged and within the validity period; and (4) chimney cleaned within the last five years.

Introducing a Silent Auction at the July 4th Pancake Breakfast!

ANOTHER REASON TO SAVE THE DATE! On Sunday, July 4th, our famous Huntington Lake Pancake Breakfast will also include the HLVFD's first ever SILENT AUCTION! Why didn't we think of this before? A number of items donated by our favorite locals at Huntington Lake and Shaver Lake will be offered. You will not want to miss these—there will be dinners for two, beautiful cabin style table lamps, a watercolor painting, an original photograph by a local, kayak rentals and the cutest carved bear you can imagine. Lots of things of great interest to Huntington Lake folks will be auctioned, along with a couple of additional very unique and special items. Keep your eye out for our Silent Auction flyer: a list of items, along with all the details for the auction, will be mailed to you all in mid June for your review. It's a WIN-WIN for us all: You will have an opportunity to find some

Exceptional, local, high quality items, and all the proceeds will go to help the HLVFD continue to maintain its reputation as the best VFD in the STATE!

A Message from the Board of Directors

Even in this difficult economic climate, the Department's finances remain solid and will remain so as long as the members of the Huntington Lake community continue to provide the support we need. The transition from having the Huntington Lake Association collect on the Department's behalf to our direct appeal has been largely successful.

We also want to make sure that we are notified of all Association and Tract Meetings so Department representatives can attend and answer any questions you may have. Please let us know the time and place of your meeting by e-mail at Chief@hlvfd.org. or leave a message at the firehouse—(559) 893-2347.