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20120320 Awards Presented to Woodland Fire Department Members

The annual recognition and awards banquet for the Woodland Fire Department was held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at the Lewis River Golf Course. The banquet was jointly funded by our current recruitment and retention grant, our members association, and the City of Woodland.

The awards presented were for service over the past year. Selecting just a few members to single out with awards is a very challenging task, with such a dedicated group. The thousands of hours of dedicated service from our 46 current members allow us to provide excellent service to our citizens at an exceptional value. Our community can rest assured that they are served by some of the brightest and most dedicated public servants anywhere. Our members, both volunteer and career, work very well together as a diverse and driven team. It is through the hard work of all of our members that we accomplish our mission of: service, as role models, with continuous improvement in response, risk reduction, and community involvement.

We are looking very forward to another exciting year as we strive to surpass industry standards while responding to the dynamic needs of our growing community with teamwork, ingenuity, and fiscal responsibility.

Below is a summary of the awards that were presented to our members:

Awards Presented for Service During 2011:

Business of the Year: Jack's Towing

This award is chosen annually by the membership for support, service, and assistance offered to our Department by a local business. This award was presented to Jack's Towing for their long-standing and ongoing support of our training and response to accidents. Jack's towing finds, delivers, and removes vehicles for our extrication and accident response training on a regular basis and has been providing this service free of charge for years. Dave Wells, owner of Jack's Towing and Dave's Garage previously served as a very dedicated volunteer with the Woodland Fire Department for over 25 years. Dave was one of very few volunteers that achieved Paramedic Certification along with firefighting and rescue training. Dave's continued service to the community and the Fire Department lend to our success and are very much appreciated. Congratulations to Dave Wells and Jack's Towing!

Bulldog Award: Brian Ellis

This award is selected by the previous year's recipient to recognize someone that they view as a leader by action with strong dedication and commitment to the Department. Brian began his volunteer service with the Woodland Fire Department in



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May of 2008. Brian was chosen by Eino Suomi for his continued dedication with regular response; hard work to facilitate and deliver training for other members; and general commitment to the Department. In addition to training and response, Brian routinely volunteers his expertise with our computer and technology needs. As a Senior Firefighter in our Department, Brian has gone above and beyond to help with our diverse and constant training needs. Brian's dedication and the pride he takes in our Organization and his work sets a positive example for new members. Congratulations Brian and thanks for your hard work!

Rookie of the Year: Josh Gleason

This award is chosen by the membership for exemplary service, hard work, and dedication displayed by a new member of the Department. Josh started with the Department on May 11, 2011. In the past year Josh has been extremely dedicated and dependable as one of our student interns. His hard work to attend class, study, and achieve his Firefighter I training and EMT certification over the past year have set a great example. His leadership by example is evident as he continually shows up early, stays late, works hard, and constantly offers help to citizens and our Department members. Josh is always among the first step in to offer assistance and help us fill open shifts without reward or compensation. Josh exemplifies integrity, professionalism, and pride that are the foundations for public trust and the success of our Department. Congratulations Josh and keep up the great work!

EMS Responder of the Year: Sandy Kern

This award is chosen by the membership for exemplary service, hard work, and dedication in the area of Emergency Medical Response. Sandy started her volunteer service with our Department in November of 2002. Over the past year, Sandy has continued her record of excellent volunteer service to our Citizens and Department Members. In addition to response and routine training, Sandy takes extra time and effort to maintain her EMT certification and IV technician status that very few volunteers have. Aside from what most people see, Sandy also gives her time for monthly food distribution to those in need in Northern Clark County from the Clark FD #2 fire station. Sandy's bright smile and upbeat attitude always make a positive environment for all of those around her. Her willingness to jump in and help with any task that comes her way is a true asset in both our operations and regular training. In addition to training and operations, Sandy regularly fills a critical role to help refresh responders and fill breathing air cylinders during training and fire incidents. Her long-standing and continued volunteer service as the Secretary/Treasurer for our Member's Association is key to that organization's success. It is certain that everyone would agree that Sandy is a true pleasure to work with and always exemplifies our mission for service and the values we strive for. Thank you and congratulations to Sandy!

Firefighter of the Year: Justin Gordon



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This award is chosen by the membership for exemplary service, dedication, hard work, and courage as a Firefighter and Responder. Justin started his volunteer service with our Department in December of 2002. As an officer and leader in the organization, Justin sets the example for dedication and commitment to the Department. Justin consistently achieves a high standard and record participation for both training and response. Regardless of what shift is scheduled, Justin is a well trained and capable responder that can be counted on to drop what he is doing and respond just about any day of the year. In addition to regularly responding as part of a crew, Justin volunteers his service as a Duty Officer for shift oversight and incident command functions on a regular basis. Justin also gives his service as the Vice President of our Firefighter's Association. Whether it is responding from home, filling a shift at the station, public education, or training, Justin is always ready and willing to help with 100% of his effort. Justin always helps to lead the way in achieving our mission and serving his community. Congratulations Justin and thank you!

Chief's Award: Kenny Bjur

This award is selected by the Fire Chief for Exemplary service to the Community and the Department with Integrity, Professionalism, Safety, Pride, and Courage. Kenny began his volunteer service to Woodland in December of 2002 before being hired as an employee in February of 2009. As one of three full-time firefighters, Kenny's hard work and dedication goes above and beyond expectation. Like our volunteer members, his commitment to serve the community goes far beyond a "job." Kenny willingly accepts and seeks out hard work and new tasks to meet the diverse needs of our Department. His commitment to managing our fleet maintenance program and hands-on work with countless small projects truly keeps our organization running. On-duty and off, Kenny is quick to drop what he is doing and respond to the needs of the Department and the Community. Along with two other career Firefighters, Kenny puts a tremendous amount of time and effort into coaching, teaching, supervising, and mentoring our student interns and other members. Kenny regularly stops in to offer a hand or respond back when he knows things are busy, all on his days off and without desire for compensation. Kenny exemplifies the: Integrity, Professionalism, Safety, Pride, and Courage that we hold as our core values. Congratulations Kenny and keep up the good work!

Chief's Award: Jade Bourke

This award is selected by the Fire Chief for Exemplary service to the Community and the Department with Integrity, Professionalism, Safety, Pride, and Courage. Jade has volunteered his service to Woodland and our Fire Department for over 5 years. After close to 4 years away from the Department, Jade jumped right back in with the 100% dedication and commitment he had given in years past. Jade shines as a true example of dedicated volunteer service while juggling a busy life of family, work, and many other commitments. His efforts in the past year to repeat training, attend a second EMT class for recertification, and refresh his skills add up to well over 400 hours of training alone. This dedication along with his unwavering commitment to respond and fill open



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shifts at the station help inspire others and set the example we strive for. Jade can always be relied on to humbly help with any task at hand and do it with pride. Large or small, critical or simply helpful, Jade seeks out work to be done and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Jade exemplifies the level of integrity, professionalism, safety, pride, and courage that we strive for. Congratulations Jade and thanks for exemplifying our high standard of selfless service!
