



COMMISSION TO RECRUIT WOMEN FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

FIRST EDITION

PUBLISHED JAN. 2007

WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT

Research tells us the number of women testing for the fire service is on the decline.

To address this critical issue, in September 2005, the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC) Board created the Commission to Recruit Women for the Fire Service.

Debra Pryor, Berkeley Fire
Kathleen McGowan, CDF Firefighters
Lisa Beaty, Contra Costa County Fire (co-chair)
Judi Cutaia, Davis Fire
Emily Lo, Davis Fire (co-chair)
d'Lisa Davies, Los Angeles City Fire
Cori Tipton, Los Angeles City Fire
Wendy Dowdy, San Diego Federal Fire
Karen Heald, San Francisco Fire



**A Message
from CFFJAC
Chair
Dan Terry**

When the CFFJAC Board established the Commission to Recruit Women for the Fire Service in September 2005, we knew it was a long overdue good idea whose time had come. The Commission members are to be congratulated for their outstanding work and commitment to their goal to recruit, retain, and promote women in the fire service during 2006! Charting new waters is never easy and they have done an incredible job!!

The New Year is filled with Commission-sponsored events and workshops designed to welcome and encourage more women to enter our profession. I am proud to know and support the Commission members and look forward to working with them in 2007!

the Fire Service Conference in Oakland, in May, sponsor and conduct Recruitment Fairs in Southern and Northern California; and, in the Fall of 2007 conduct a Workshop at the CFFJAC Conference in Palm Springs.

Please visit the Commission's website by logging on to: www.cffjac.org and link on to the women's commission. You can email questions or reach a Commission member at Womens-commish@cpf.org.



Commission members meeting on November 14, 2006, at the CFFJAC Office are (left to right) Emily Lo, Cori Tipton, Kathleen McGowan, Lisa Beaty, Judi Cutaia, Wendy Dowdy, d'Lisa Davies.

The Commission was asked to develop an outreach plan to encourage and recruit women for the fire service.

Comprised of women firefighters representing a wide-range of departments throughout California, the Commission is dedicated in its mission to:

Recruit, Retain, and Promote Women in the Fire Service.

Appointed by CFFJAC Chair Dan Terry, in September, 2005 and currently serving are Commission Members:

The Commission meets monthly to develop and promote its mission. Members have presented outreach workshops at the November 2005 CFFJAC Conference in Palm Springs, the June 2006 "Women Building and Protecting California" Conference in Sacramento, and in July 2006 the Commission was invited by the U.S. Department of Labor to conduct a workshop at its 2006 Workforce Innovations Conference in Los Angeles.

In April 2007 the Commission will conduct a Workshop at the Women in

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER!!

At the suggestion of many of you the Commission decided to produce a quarterly newsletter that will keep you apprised of the Commission and its activities. To bring you current, we decided to produce the first Newsletter in January.

We hope you enjoy our First Edition. Look for future editions throughout 2007!

Thank you for a very good suggestion!

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“HOWDY DOWDY!”

We thought you'd like to know a little more about our Commission members. This issue features San Diego Federal Firefighter, Wendy Dowdy.



Wendy Dowdy, Engineer, San Diego Federal Fire Department.

Wendy Dowdy looks forward to the “Howdy Dowdy!” greeting she gets from the crew when she walks into the station house. Once you meet Wendy you understand why she takes the good-natured greeting in stride and responds with a quick and bright smile.

Wendy, no stranger to the fire service, served as a firefighter in the U.S. Navy from 1984 to 1988. After receiving her honorable discharge in 1988 she started her firefighting career with the San Diego Federal Fire Department. From 1988 to 1994 she was a Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator in fire prevention. After that, she returned to fire suppression where, as a Hazardous Materials Technician, her responsibilities included hazardous materials incidents. Wendy also earned her Department of Defense Certificate from Firefighter I through Fire Officer I.

For Wendy, the year 2006 was most eventful as she promoted to Engineer in June, and then became a CPAT proctor in October!

CFFJAC Chair Dan Terry, asked Wendy to become a Commission member at its first meeting in September 2005. As a Federal firefighter and with her tour of duty in the military, Wendy makes the perfect Commission liaison for recruitment/outreach to the Military Transition Offices in California.

Wendy has been a CPR instructor for over 12 years, and teaches CPR within her community including the girl and boy scouts.

Wendy’s hobbies include golf, actively participating in her son Ty’s baseball agenda, and serving as a volunteer at Ty’s high school.

“Serving as a Commission member has proven to be a great experience for me. The enthusiasm and fresh ideas on recruitment outreach is a real confidence builder. I am looking forward to working on the Commission in 2007,” said Wendy.

Now that you know a little more about Wendy, feel free to stop her at any upcoming Commission events and greet her with a heartfelt “Howdy Dowdy!”



"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

October 6, 2006, was Neighborhood Night Out in the city of Davis and the Davis Firefighters hit the streets running covering over 30 neighborhoods and distributing 1,500 Davis Fire Department informational packets that included the Commission's very own recruitment brochure! Sponsored by the City of Davis, this annual event offers local citizens a chance to meet city government officials, ask questions, and to get to know the people living in their own neighborhoods.

The fire department packets included fire safety literature, open house information, disaster preparedness, and brochures on recruiting firefighters. The Women's Commission brochures were a big hit, resulting in many parents and young women wanting to know more about the profession.

A big thank you to Davis Fire Chief Rose Conroy for using our brochure and a big thanks goes to Commission members Emily Lo and Judi Cutaia for their work on this project!



Davis Firefighter Ryan Crow hard at work labeling the Women's Commission brochure for Neighborhood Night Out.

COMMISSION WORKSHOP AT WOMEN IN THE FIRE SERVICE CONFERENCE

We are proud to announce the Commission will conduct a "Preparing for Outreach Success" Workshop at the April 24-29, 2007 Women in the Fire Service Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Oakland.

The Commission is scheduled for Thursday April 26 from 3:30 to 5:30.

Additional workshop details will be posted on our website as they are developed.

In the meantime, mark your calendar and plan to attend the Conference and our Workshop! For Conference information, log on to the Women in Fire Service website at: www.wfsi.org.



Does your department need recruitment materials targeting females?

Contact the CFFJAC
and receive posters
and brochures!*

cffjac@cpf.org

*Free to CFFJAC participating
departments.



Calendar of Events for 2007

- March** Statewide Community Colleges' Spring Career Festival
Date and Location to be Announced
- April 2** Fremont High School Career Fair
Hilton Hotel, Newark
- April 26** Workshop Presentation – "Preparing for Outreach Success"
Women in the Fire Service Conference
Marriott Hotel, Oakland
- May 12** Commission's Outreach Fair
CPAT Testing Center, Orange
- May 19** Commission's Outreach Fair
CPAT Testing Center, Dublin
- Fall 2007** Workshop Presentation
CFFJAC Conference
Date and Location to be Announced

**SAVE THE
DATES**

**FIREFIGHTER
RECRUITMENT FAIR**



The Commission to Recruit Women for the Fire Service invites you to save the date and spend a few hours at the 2007 Firefighter Recruitment Fair.

**Southern California CPAT Center
Saturday, May 12th, 2007
10 AM – 4 PM
626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868**

**Northern California CPAT Center
Saturday, May 19th, 2007
10 AM – 4 PM
6723 Sierra Court, Suite G
Dublin, CA 94568**

Sponsored by:
California Fire Fighter Joint
Apprenticeship Committee's
Commission to Recruit Women
for the Fire Service



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FOR THE FIRE SERVICE**

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