

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

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FLMD, west of I-25 at the end of West Baptist Road, is a Title 32 service district in El Paso County established in 1985. FLMD is the half-acre operating district responsible for the public infrastructure and utility and general governmental services for the residents of PPMD 1, 2, and 3, which actually collect the property taxes. PPMD 1 and 2 are not part of Monument, but the

commercial section PPMD 3 is within the town limits. FLMD holds joint board meetings with PPMD 1, 2 and 3, which were established in 2004.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 4 in the Classic Homes office at 6385 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Colorado Springs. Meetings are usually held the first Monday of each month. Meeting notices are posted on the district website <http://forestlakesmetrodistrict.com> and at 3625 Mesa Top Drive, Mon-

ument, an open-space tract owned by all four districts. For general questions, contact Ann Nichols at 327-5810 or at

[anicholsduffy@aol.com](mailto:anicholsduffy@aol.com).  
*Lisa Hatfield can be contacted at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).*

*Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Oct. 17*

# Wescott welcomes volunteers, receives a gift

*By Jennifer Kaylor*

The Oct. 17 meeting of the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) included a swearing-in ceremony and the presentation of a painting given by a local artist. Brief comments by the staff and the public, chiefs' reports, and other administrative items resulted in a 20-minute review of business.

Directors Joyce Hartung and Harland Baker were excused from the board meeting.

## A bevy of volunteers join Wescott

Community support for the district shone brightly as evidenced by the record number of volunteers sworn in. Board President Greg Gent led five men and three women in promising to uphold "the Constitution of the United States and the state of Colorado and the laws pursuant thereto, and to faithfully perform the duties of volunteer firefighters for the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District upon which [they were] about to enter."

Fire Chief Vinny Burns stated that the training exercises and initiations by which the volunteers learned equipment, standards, and procedures stretched throughout the year. Burns applauded the volunteers' families for supporting them in their learning process.

Family and friends pinned their respective volunteers with a badge fashioned after the Maltese cross. The badge is the symbol adopted by firefighters worldwide and the cross's eight points represent "observation, tact, resource, dexterity, explicitness, discrimination, perseverance, and sympathy," explained Burns. Treating others gently in the face of trauma, stepping up when duty calls, commitment to the fire service, honor, and courage culminate in the character demanded of the badge. Burns reminded the volunteers that they not only represent DWFPD, but all fire districts and firefighters, living and fallen. Burns, Assistant Chief Scott Ridings, and Lt. Brian Ackerman welcomed the initiates into the broad family of firefighters.

Following the ceremony, the volunteers presented the professional staff with a gift expressing their appreciation for providing the extra time and energy necessary to conduct their training. Burns and Ridings graciously received the large wooden flag and discussed options for displaying the surprise gift.

**Painting honors first responders**  
Carlin Kielcheski, accompanied by his wife, Shirley, spoke of the debt we all owe to the firefighters and police officers who responded to the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. Kielcheski, a retired art instructor for the Air Force Academy, painted his vision of first-responder sacrifices in a "situation that no one could prepare for." Kielcheski gave the painting to the district in appreciation

of the times Wescott firefighters came to his aid.

## Financial status reviewed

Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich reported that the district's funds now total \$1.78 million, a draw-down of about \$144,500 from the previous month. The Profit and Loss vs. Actual statement confirmed income from the wildland fire deployments of slightly less than \$48,000\*. The specific ownership tax also exceeded budget expectations by adding more than \$25,000 to the district's income. Year-to-date total income stood at 102.6 percent of the budget. Despite higher-than-anticipated expenses in the legal counsel; identity insurance; station repair and maintenance; professional accreditations; and information technology (IT) infrastructure line items, year-to-date expenses lingered at 51.8 percent of the budget.

**Note:** Ridings responded to resident Gary Rusnak's question stating that when firefighters deploy to wildfires elsewhere, the district receives reimbursement to pay the deployed firefighters and the backfill (backup) firefighters' overtime. Backfill can be provided by either part-time or full-time firefighters, but not volunteers.

## Chiefs report dispatch and deployment activity

Ridings provided run reports for August and September. The district switched to a new inverse-reporting system that is tied to El Paso County's computer-aided dispatch and generates reports immediately, Ridings said. Wescott responded to 35 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and 36 fire calls in August and 27 EMS and 26 fire calls in September for a total of 124 calls over the two months. In comparison, the total call volume for 2016 was 2,709. This is

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MONUMENT ACADEMY CELEBRATES

**VETERANS**

★ DAY ★

HONORING ALL WHO HAVE SERVED

**Friday, Nov. 10, 2017**

**9:45 a.m.**

**Monument Academy  
Gymnasium**

Join us for a tribute performance by students and a keynote speaker  
**Continental Breakfast will be served at 8:30 to all**

Veterans and active duty in attendance along with one guest. Please RSVP by November 6th.

**Monument Academy Charter School**  
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Monument, CO 80132  
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