



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Date: January 31, 2010  
Release Date: Immediately  
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### **(Fire District Bids Goodbye to Longtime Board Member)**

After 15-plus years, Carol Gearin decided it was time to step down. She was honored at the January Board meeting by her fellow Board members, staff, and firefighters of TVF&R.

Carol began her relationship with TVF&R in 1995 when she was elected by the voters to fill an open Board position. With her 25-year career in nursing, business degree, and extensive experience in community politics, Carol proved to be a valuable asset to the Board. A key role for every TVF&R Board member is to represent the citizens served by the organization, and Carol took that role to heart. Be it advocating for community rooms in fire stations, providing policy input on the District's EMS vision, or analyzing new business initiatives, Carol was passionately committed to the citizens served by TVF&R. She was an active participant and Board member of the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) and SDAO's representative on the Metro Policy Advisory Committee, responsible for advising the Council on policy issues for regional land use, transportation, and the urban growth boundary.

During her tenure as a Board member, the District became an accredited fire department by the Commission on Fire Accreditation, International (CFAI) in 2000, and reaccredited in 2005 and 2010. The District also twice-received the prestigious International Association of Fire Chiefs' *Fire Service Award for Excellence*. In 2010 TVF&R appointed a new Fire Chief to lead the District and became one of the nation's first fire departments to add Cars to its deployment.

Fire Chief Mike Duyck states, "Our department was fortunate to have had her counsel, keen political mind, inquisitive nature, and – most of all – kind heart for over 15 years." Duyck added, "She was instrumental in helping bring the District to the place it is today."

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