



I would appreciate your vote for the South Metro Fire Rescue Board of Directors.

About Cheryl

My family and I have been residents of Parker since 1972. Our children all graduated from Ponderosa High School and three of the grandchildren graduated from Legend High School.

Community Involvement ...has been a defining part of my life. My first endeavor was to join Douglas County's first planning document development effort. In 1975, I became a volunteer dispatcher for Parker Fire Protection District and in 1981 I became a volunteer firefighter. Eventually, I became a program administrator where I handled public relations, education and other administrative functions such as writing and managing grants. In this role I was also the Executive Director for the South Metro Safety Foundation.

In 1991, I started the formation of a nonprofit entity which became the South Metro Safety Foundation. The focus was to save lives and started with the implementation of CPR and First Aid classes and saving the lives of Teen Drivers.

I started teaching for the National Fire Academy in 2002, in that role I have worked with numerous fire departments in over 45 states.

My interest in community, spans beyond the Fire Department. In 1981, I signed the incorporation papers for the formation of the Town of Parker. While serving as the Chair of the Douglas County Parks and Open Space Commission, we built community parks including Challenger Park. Later, I started the Parker Parks and Recreation Commission. While in that role we built the first segments of the Cherry Creek Trail System and the Recreation Center. More recently, I served on the Parker Town Council.

I also served on the Board of Directors for a 4,000+ acre community with over 1,554 property owners in northern Colorado for the last 12 years.

Recently, I was involved with an entity that had been awarded \$57 million in grant funds for the development of wireless telecommunication systems on tribal lands. In this role, I handled grant reports, purchasing, and hiring.

Challenges

South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) has grown significantly over the years with the merger with neighboring fire departments. This was done for many reasons, but primary reasons were for economics and safety. The nature of firefighting has changed, requiring more firefighters to staff the equipment and increased needs for higher levels of medical response. Our emergency response times have dropped from 15-20 minutes to 3-4

minutes on average; this increases survival rates and reduces the dollar loss with fire and rescue responses. The increased levels of service demands, require more staff and more equipment all of which are very expensive.

The SMFR Board of Directors are charged with balancing the increasing demands for service, the increasing cost of operations as well as providing for the safety of our firefighters. I believe this is the key role for a Board Member, and I believe that I am uniquely qualified for this position.

Education

Fire Science Technology, A.A.S., Red Rocks Community College

Political Science, Public Policy and Administration, B.A., University of Colorado-Denver

Master of Arts, Adult Education and Communication, Graduate Honors, Regis University

Doctoral Studies, Dept. of Education, Instructional Technologies, University of Wyoming

Contact: 303-829-0126 cheryl@poage.com