

To: Association Board
From: John Wurdinger
Re: Firefighter of the Year Nomination

I would like to respectfully nominate Thomas Neylan as the 2005 Menlo Park Firefighter of the Year. When an Association Member is nominated as Firefighter of the Year it is because of five criteria including the candidates quality as a firefighter, involvement in the community, attitude around the firehouse, contribution to the fire district and contribution to the association.

1. Quality as a Firefighter

Two weeks before I was to take my Engineers Test to get off of probation I had the pleasure to work my first shift with Tom Neylan. Prior to working with Tom, Bill Hembey told me that Tom was one of the best firefighters we had. It was after midnight that learned why.

Engine four was awakened by the doorbell and was informed that there was a fire at 84 Fairview, in Atherton. Tom told me to wake up the Captain and he called the fire in to dispatch. Engine Four had a jump on the call allowing us to make it on scene about the time all the other units came up on the tactical channel.

Because it was a flag lot Hembey had me dismount and lay in from the street. There was nothing to wrap and I held the hose against the fence as Engine Four drove down the drive way. By the time I made it back the rig Tom had pulled a line, thrown a ladder and placed a forcible entry tool at the front door. Tom has set high standards to follow.

2. Involvement in the community

Although I have only been here for 7 years I have frequently found Toms name at the top of the list when it comes to volunteering for the Easter Egg Hunt, the Pancake Breakfast, the Toy Drive, Christmas in April or any of the recent Muscular Dystrophy Fundraisers. (It is important to note that not only has Tom Neylan been extremely active in our Association but he frequently involves his boys to do our work)

Tom Neylan does a lot but his community involvement goes deeper then just the work he does for the Association. Tom has been a role model to many children with his many years of coaching the various local teams that his boys have been members of and he has been extremely active in the church. Tom all but runs the X-mas tree lot at Nativity along with various other church functions. Tom truly loves his community that he serves.

3. Attitude around the Firehouse

Just off of probation I was able to work with Tom Neylan and Rich Auger at Station 77. With less then 2 years under my belt, I would have never of guessed that I would have to

race a 16 year veteran to clean the toilets. In the short amount of time that I worked with Tom at station 77, I found him to be one of hardest working firefighters in Menlo Park and he always does it with a smile.

4. Contribution to the Fire District

Tom has been our District Vice President for going on six years. Few members can say that they have been the voice of the Association for so long. He has been party to his fair share of decisions that have shaped the District over the past five years and his fidelity to our District is second to none.

5. Contribution to the Association

Tom is like a bull dog when it comes to his work for the Association. In 2001 Tom started his work on the 401H program by 2003 Toms work evolved into the 501C Post Employment Health Program. This program has assisted many members in their quest for cheaper healthcare after retirement and the program is only getting better. This is just one of the many things Tom has done but be assured that Tom is in your corner when it comes to representing your interest as our President.

In the recent election Tom Neylan spend every Monday night at the Labor Council phone banks getting members to vote down Proposition 75. The only day he was absent was the week he spent at the Redmond Symposium, he attended the conference to better educate himself in the dealings with Labor and Management. Tom is truly a selfless individual.

As I look on the wall of Firefighter of the Year I am surprised not to see his name. Once again I would like to respectfully nominate Tom Neylan as the Association's 2005 Firefighter of the Year.

John Wurdinger
Member in Good Standing