

# Decisionmakers

**T**eresa O'Dette first joined the ranks of the North Tahoe Fire Protection District board of directors because of her company. She started O'Dette Mortgage Group five years ago and does business with several North Tahoe firefighters.

"I got involved because many of the firefighters are my customers and asked me to run — as a fiscal literate on the board," O'Dette said.

Money smarts aside, O'Dette recognizes the importance of not only being involved in the community, but supporting those who put their lives on the line for others.

"I have a vested interest — I was raised here, I have a business here and this is where I'll raise my family," she said. "I think we have a responsibility to protect our investment ... this is a global treasure."

O'Dette has been in Tahoe since the 1970s and graduated from North Tahoe High School in 1986. She has two young sons and lives in Kings Beach.

"I think it's important to give back to your community above all else. Most of the firefighters are clients of mine and this is the very least I can do," she said.

O'Dette is a unique board director in that she's the only woman, the only person under 50 years of age and the only new director to be elected in the last 15 years. But she, too, doesn't intend to give up her position any time soon.

"I plan to serve indefinitely because I absolutely believe in the fire district. I believe the men and women who serve for the district are heroes. And we have a responsibility to our community," she said.

— Joanna Hartman, Sierra Sun



**Name:** Teresa O'Dette

**Position:** Vice President of the North Tahoe Fire Protection District Board of Directors

**Age:** 39

**When term began:** January 2005

**When term ends:** December 31, 2008

**Years on the board:** Two and a half years

**Appointed or elected:** Elected in November 2004

**Voter registration:** No party affiliation

**Residence:** Kings Beach

**Last big vote:** A 25-year contract to serve Alpine Meadows.

**Compensation:** Health benefits