

## BIO – LAURIE GOLDING

After my husband, John, retired from the Air Force and four fun years on our farm in Tennessee, we relocated in 1977 to Austin to reenter a cultural environment. We had been in our current home a short time when a house two doors up the street burned. At that time, the Jollyville Volunteer Fire Department had two trucks – an old open cab (now in the Round Rock museum,) and a Forest Service surplus tanker painted white (with a paintbrush!) and 17 volunteer firefighters. But we were so impressed with their professionalism and compassion.

That night began John's second 21 year career as a firefighter/fire chief with the Jollyville Fire Department. He participated in the establishment of the Williamson County Emergency Services District 1, and I believe that was the best thing to have ever been done for the fire department.

Because of John, I have been part of the Jollyville "family" for nearly 40 years, and I was so pleased to be invited to become an ESD commissioner 8 or so years ago, and I am extremely proud of the present and past board members and our accomplishments. One of the best decisions we've made was to hold an election to collect the available one percent sales tax, which was successful. The comptroller's estimate was for an annual income of approximately \$50,000; we are realizing more than \$400,000. Since we had lost about 53% of our tax base due to Austin annexation, the sales tax income has "saved our lives!"

I have attended four or five SAFE-D conventions and am registered for the upcoming one in February. I believe Jollyville to be the best fire department in all of Central Texas and maybe in the entire state and I am so very proud to be associated with it and with the ESD board. I hope to be a commissioner for many more years.