



*A Proud Past,  
A Promising Future*

*1943 — 2003*

# *Officers of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts*

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## *Acknowledgments*

Much of the historical data used in this narrative of the history of the IAFFPD was obtained from the Association's archived records including minutes, publications, and written correspondence.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the IAFFPD Board of Directors, Area Representatives, Past Directors, Counsel, Membership, and Staff, who provided additional information for compilation in this book.

It has been a privilege to work with you.

Rose M. Trader  
Executive Director

# *Foreword*

Prior to the formation of fire protection districts, fire protection was a hit-or-miss proposition in the unincorporated areas and small towns of Illinois. Usually, property owners voluntarily contributed to a fund to buy equipment and maintain fire departments. Non-participants in these ventures paid a set fee if they needed services of the department. In most cases, there was not enough available capital to buy all the equipment needed. In the late 1920s, several men in Durand, Illinois, began promoting the idea of forming districts, in which property owners could be taxed to provide money to organize and maintain fire departments. Among early proponents of the plan were: Matt Langley, John Peterson, Everett Patterson, and Dr. T. H. Young.

On numerous occasions, the men went to Springfield in an attempt to get the Illinois Legislature to set up statutes permitting the creation of fire protection districts. Eventually, their lobbying met with success, and on July 8, 1927, “An Act to Create Fire Protection Districts” was approved.

Even though the Fire Protection District Act was enacted into law in 1927, it was still a number of years before any noticeable changes were made in providing nonmunicipal fire protection throughout the state.

During the 1930s, the Great Depression wreaked its havoc across the nation. Millions of workers were without employment or income, tax revenues dwindled to menial proportions of previous levels, and the social trauma of the horrendous situation dictated a “make do” policy. This was no time to be thinking about forming a fire district.

By the early 1940s, the mobilization and advent of World War II brought an economy of full employment, a high level of human activity, and notable manpower and material shortages. The “make do” mentality continued to prevail during this time. By 1941, records show there were only 35 districts formed since the 1927 Act was passed. It was at this time, however, that a few members of existing fire protection districts saw the need to form a state association that potential districts could turn to for guidance and help in their formation and operation.

As you will read in the following pages of this narrative on the history of the IAFPD, it was not until the Association was formed in 1942, that the Illinois fire service truly began to grow and prosper. The rapid growth of the state association and thus, the Illinois fire service, were the result of many pioneers early on, who had the vision and foresight to form a cooperative organization to promote the interests of fire protection districts. There have been many districts and citizens of Illinois who have played tremendous roles to bring the IAFPD to the point it is today; perhaps your district was one of them.

*Read on . . .*

# *History of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts*

World War II, D-day, President Roosevelt's death, and the dropping of the first Atomic Bomb are things most remembered about the 1940s. Yet this period of time also proved to be an era in which Illinois Fire Protection Districts grew and prospered.

It all began in 1941, when a group of trustees from the northern part of the state, along with their attorneys, saw the need to have an association of fire protection districts. It was felt that a central clearinghouse for information was needed, and that an association would provide an opportunity to promote legislation beneficial for fire protection districts and to watch for legislation that might be harmful. Additionally, it was suggested that an association would offer an opportunity to hold an annual meeting, where those interested in nonmunicipal fire protection could convene and discuss their problems.



A.D. McLarty

The idea to form an association was then brought to the attention of the Illinois Municipal League because of the League's familiarity with fire protection districts through their Tax Division. The Illinois Municipal League's Executive Director, A.D. McLarty, assigned employee L.H. Glens, of their Fire Tax Division, with the job of organizing the association.

On February 18, 1942, two months after Pearl Harbor was attacked, a meeting was called to order at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago. It was at this meeting that discussions on the "Need for Cooperative Action by Fire Protection Districts" took place. A motion was made by Joseph Regner, of the McHenry FPD, and was seconded by L.E. Whitford of the Waterman FPD, to organize an association known as the ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS. The motion carried.

Immediately following, committees were appointed which included a Constitution Committee, Nomination Committee, Budget Committee, Resolutions Committee and Legislative Committee.

Shortly after the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm, those in attendance gathered in the Pan-American Room for dinner.

The next day, the meeting reconvened at the Hotel LaSalle. The 24 members in attendance wasted no time in getting down to work discussing fire district issues such as: legalities of bond issues; tax levies, appropriations and budgets; compensation and public liability insurance; fire classification and the specification of fire equipment.

A call for committee reports was requested, at which time Willis Overholser, Chairman of the Constitution Committee, read aloud the proposed constitution, which upon a motion was duly accepted. Mr. Anton Schmitt, of the McHenry Fire Protection District, was then asked to present the following nominations:

President — W.M. Marks of Lake Villa FPD  
Vice President — F.L. Barlow of West Peoria FPD  
Treasurer — W.E. Webster of Libertyville FPD

Nominations for the Executive Committee included:

Anton Schmitt of McHenry FPD  
L. E. Whitford of Waterman FPD  
Frank Rambo of LaMoille FPD  
A.M. Pierce of Oswego FPD  
Fred Scheel of New Lenox FPD

On motion of Attorney George Bunge, of Winfield, seconded by Ray Bastian, of Squaw Grove FPD, the report of the Nominating Committee was accepted, and the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the officers nominated. The Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts was now moving forward in full gear.



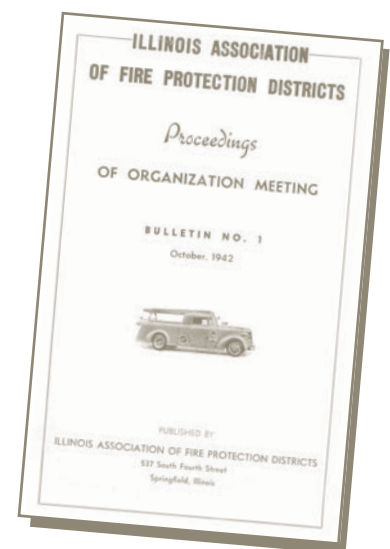
Broadwell Mansion – 1942  
First Headquarters of the Association

On March 17, 1942, a second meeting was held at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago. It was at this meeting, that a motion was made to appoint L.H. Glens as the first acting Executive Director, and Bernard J. Juron, of Waukegan, as Legal Counsel. Recorded minutes indicate Juron was to be paid a \$50.00 retaining fee for the first year of the organization.

The Association's first headquarters was located in the Illinois Municipal League's building, the Broadwell Mansion, located at 537 South Fourth Street in Springfield, Illinois. The office was situated directly west of the Governor's Mansion, where the Mansion View Hotel is now located.

In October 1942, the Association printed its first Bulletin of the "Proceedings of Organization Meeting" for that year. In addition to recorded minutes, the Bulletin included numerous informative articles written mostly by attorneys on topics such as: How to Organize a Fire Protection District; Public Liability and Workmen's Compensation Insurance; and Tax Levy and Appropriation Ordinances. The Association was well on its way to fulfilling Section 1 of their new Constitution which read: "to furnish information to fire protection district officials, in order to enable them to better perform their functions."

Over the course of the next few years, the Association continued to hold its annual convention at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago. During the 1946 convention, attendance was poor. History states that there seemed to be a lack of interest because member districts were not experiencing any problems at the time, and there was no controversy with legislation affecting fire protection districts. As a result of the 1946 Convention, the following year the annual convention was omitted. It is interesting to note that approximately 12 weeks after the last convention was held in 1946, the famous Hotel LaSalle fire occurred, destroying the hotel and killing 61 people. Immediately following, the media began to report that the hotel owners were negligent in meeting fire



1942 Proceedings of  
Organization Meeting

prevention codes in the hotel. Needless to say, the Association never went back to the hotel once it was rebuilt. Whether or not this decision was directly related to the fire and poor publicity, one can only speculate.

Although no annual convention was held in the year 1947, the Association was still quite productive. It was during this year that L.H. Glens came up with the idea to publish a handbook for rural fire protection districts. The Association contacted numerous attorneys to write the material in the book, and financing was provided by the manufacturers of fire equipment. In 1948, the association published its first edition of the "Handbook on Organization and Administration of Rural Fire Protection Districts." Through the years, this book also became known as "The Red Book" and "Chapter 127 ½." Today, this publication remains, and is titled "The Text of Laws Relating to Illinois Fire Protection Districts and the State Fire Marshal."

During this same time period, as America continued to heal from the aftermath of World War II, it appeared that a new war was brewing in Peoria. During the Association's Fifth Annual Convention held at the Pere Marquette Hotel, members in attendance learned for the first time that the Fire Protection District Act was being challenged as unconstitutional. In a case brought by the State's Attorney of Knox County for a local taxpayer, a challenge was made to the right of the Trustees of the newly formed Abingdon Fire Protection District to hold office. Specifically, the suit claimed Abingdon Fire Protection District to be an invalid organization of the district, based on the unconstitutionality of the Fire Protection District Act and, alternatively, the adjustment of the boundary lines of the proposed district by the judge who ordered the election on the formation of the district. This case was known as *People ex rel. Armstrong v. Huggins*.

As news of the "Test Case" began to spread throughout the state, fire protection districts became temporarily paralyzed in the administration of their districts. With the future of their existence unknown, buying equipment or improving their facilities now had to be placed on hold.

The year 1949 was to be a busy year for the Association. A tremendous challenge lay ahead for the fledgling Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, and for the first time since its inception, its power of advocacy would be put to the test. Immediately, the Association stepped in, retained the services of Attorney Ed Love, and set up a litigation fund to raise the money necessary to fight the hard legal battle which lay ahead.



From left to right:  
Attorney Frank  
Pfeifer, Executive  
Director L.H.  
Glens, Fire  
Marshal Otto  
Dahl, and  
Attorney Ed Love.

**T**he year 1950 stands out as a year of significant historical importance. As the Korean War was about to begin, it appeared as though the Association's war was about to be over. The Association's "Test Case," *People ex rel. Armstrong v. Huggins*, made it all the way to the Illinois Supreme Court, and in a landmark decision, the court ruled that the Fire Protection District Act was in fact constitutional, and that the Abingdon Fire Protection District was a duly organized and validly existing corporation. In a second point decided by the Supreme Court, the Court held that the County Court could adjust the boundary lines of the proposed district. After two long years, with much time and money invested, the Association had won its battle for existence. Today, this

precedent case is still referred to in court by attorneys so that an election on a formation or annexation can proceed without the necessity of beginning the process all over again.

Following the victory of the fire district's "Test Case," the next couple of years for fire protection districts were spent making up for lost time. The formation of new districts began in earnest all over the State of Illinois. Records show that during this period there were 354 fire protection districts in the State, of which 182 were now members of the Association.

The year 1953 brought both sadness and new milestones to the IAFFPD. In May of that year, longtime Executive Director Laurence H. Glens passed away. Larry, as most everyone knew him, was commonly known for his "gifted, real and refreshing outlook on life." He was highly respected by the people for and with whom he worked. His vision and leadership proved to be the motivating force in elevating the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts to new heights of accomplishment during his decade of service. Association officials stated at the time of Mr. Glen's death that his latest, and probably the crowning achievement during his outstanding career as executive director, was the fulfillment of his desire to publish a paper to furnish news of the Association for its members. In April 1953, one month before his death, Mr. Glens left the Association with one last legacy . . . *THE FIRE CALL*. Today, *THE FIRE CALL* magazine is the official publication of the IAFFPD, and is now in its 50<sup>th</sup> year of print.

In 1955, the Association changed the title of Executive Director to "Executive Secretary," and appointed Mr. Frank Foor to fill the position. The office was then moved to the executive secretary's home district of Prospect Heights. This same year, Governor William Stratton vetoed legislation which would have imposed the maximum of a 56-hour workweek for firemen. He maintained that the issue should be resolved locally according to each fire department's own specific needs.

As the 1960s arrived, Elvis Presley and the Beatles were now the rage of the nation. John Kennedy had been elected President, and the Space Age had arrived. A massive multi-billion dollar interstate system was under construction, and both urbanization and fire protection districts continued to expand at a rapid pace. Departments began to replace old apparatus dating back to the 1930s and 1940s, while at the same time expanding their facilities to better suit their growing needs. And, for the first time, districts were beginning to face the need to hire full-time paid firefighters.

During the year 1960, the Association moved its office to Wheeling and cooperative efforts began to take place among IAFFPD sister organizations. The Presidents of the Associated Firefighters of Illinois, Illinois Fire Chiefs' Association, Illinois Firemen's Association, and the IAFFPD called a meeting at the St. Nicholas Hotel in Springfield to discuss the possibility of a Liaison Committee for legislative issues. It was mutually agreed, that all the respective organizations were dedicated to improving fire protection and training for all firemen, and that through a coordinated and combined effort, more could be accomplished for the fire service in Illinois.

In 1968, the Association celebrated its silver anniversary and the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of the State of Illinois, at its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Peoria. The guest speaker was Senator Paul Simon.

That same year, the Association lost one of its most devoted supporters, Mr. Abe Gent, of the Illinois Inspection and Rating Bureau. Abe was a perennial speaker at the annual conference each year, and was deeply involved with the Association dating back to the 1940s. He was considered to





From left to right: C. Glen Cadell, President, Associated Fire Fighters; Roland Behrend, President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs' Association; Hubert Hall, President of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts; and Charles Gailliaert, President of the Illinois Firemen's Association.

be one of the most recognized persons within the fire service both statewide and nationally, at that time.

By now, man had orbited and set foot on the moon, and space probes were planned for Mars and Saturn. Civil unrest stemming from the Vietnam military conflict was beginning to cool.

An examination of the 1970s and 1980s suggests that the Association continued its course of public policy development and advocacy. In 1972, the Association presented and passed two important bills affecting fire districts. Senate Bill 447 authorized fire districts to provide ambulance service both within and outside of their district. House Bill 1742 removed the .10% levy rate which was in effect at that time, for both new districts and districts that were under the Butler-Hodge Act. The bill provided that all fire districts could levy at .125%, the rate that had been in effect since prior to 1954.

In 1974, longtime Executive Director Frank Foor passed away, after serving in his leadership position since 1954. A year later, the Association office was moved to 429 West Main Street in Barrington. Kenneth Long became President, Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary, and John D. Stobbs, Association Counsel. The main concern for Illinois fire protection districts during this time was the implementation of the new "911" system. Also during this time, most of the funeral homes in Illinois ceased providing emergency ambulance service as a result of Illinois Department of Public Health regulations. In the absence of this private form of ambulance service, in many areas, fire protection districts assumed this important emergency service and Section 22 was added to the Fire Protection Act providing authority for the provision of this service and a separate tax levy to support it. For many districts, the introduction of emergency medical services was an entry into a "brave new world" of service and regulatory compliance.

This same year, the IAFPD, through General Counsel, John D. Stobbs, published its first edition of "A Handbook for Trustees of Illinois Fire Protection Districts." The purpose of the manual was to provide trustees of Illinois Fire Protection Districts with a readable explanation of the laws which govern fire protection districts in Illinois. Today, this handbook remains in publication and is currently in its fourth edition.

It is important to note in the history of the IAFFPD that fire equipment manufacturers became involved with the Association from its early inception. Records show that during the 1948 and 1949 conventions, several equipment manufacturers attended, donating door prizes for attendees. In the years to follow, as the IAFFPD was in the process of fighting the “Test Case,” manufacturers generously contributed money to the litigation fund to help support the cause. Although fire equipment manufacturers were involved from almost the beginning, it was not until 1976 that the IAFFPD Board of Directors created the opportunity for Associate Membership. Within the first year of making membership available, the Association had only five new Associate Members. Today, the IAFFPD values its relationship with more than 120 Associate Members who have continued to generously support the organization in its endeavors.

As activities of the Association generated more interest and participation, increased membership demanded the need to bridge the gap between leadership and membership. In 1978, the position of Area Representative was created and Vaughn Brown of North Clay FPD, Richard Ritt of Algonquin FPD, Dale L. Hubert of Edge-Scott FPD, and Joseph W. Umbach of Easton Rural FPD were the first appointees.

By 1980, membership was at a record high with 451 active members throughout the state. John Tallman of the Bourbonnais Fire Protection District was now serving as President, Shirley Miller remained Administrative Secretary, and Robert Di Leonardi was Association Counsel. It was during this time period that the Association’s legislative efforts reached new heights under the leadership of Past President and Legislative Chairman Kenneth Long. Kenny, as everyone called him, had a reputation for knowing the “ins and outs” of working with the state legislature. He was highly respected by those that knew him and was often referred to as our “Key to the Capitol.”

Through the Association’s publications, conferences, special meetings and bulletins, membership was kept informed of pending legislation which might have an impact on fire protection districts. Each year, the Legislative Committee selected a legislative platform to pursue, and during this time period, the Association passed such bills as SB 1585, a bill to allow fire protection districts to provide emergency ambulance service without a referendum; SB 495, a bill authorizing boards of trustees of fire protection districts to increase the number of members on the board from three to five; and HB 319, a bill to prohibit municipalities which contain part of a fire protection district from taxing the property in the district for services provided to its residents by the fire protection district.

Legislative achievements, however, were not the only accomplishments of the Association during this decade. Training fire protection districts trustees on how to perform their job, became a top priority, and in 1985, the first series of Annual Trustee Training Sessions were held in cooperation with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute.

In 1989, the Board of Directors made the decision to move the IAFFPD office back to Springfield, only blocks away from where it had originally been located 47 years earlier. The Association headquarters made its new home at 520 S. Second Street in Lincoln Towers, conveniently located across the street from the Illinois State Capitol. That same year, Chief Timothy Deuschle of the Addison Fire Protection District joined Kenneth Long in assisting with the Association legislative activities.

The 1990s stand out as another important time period in the growth of the IAFFPD. In 1990, Robert DiLeonardi resigned as Association Counsel and was replaced by the Association’s current counsel, James S. Sinclair. One year later, the IAFFPD published a revised edition of “A Handbook for Trustees of Illinois Fire Protection Districts.”

During the 1990s, the Association grappled with the efforts of water utilities and the Illinois Commerce Commission to impose “public fire protection” charges on fire departments throughout the state which were served by privately owned water utilities. In many cases the proposed charges exceeded the total budgets of fire protection districts. This resulted in a significant legislative effort by the Association to prohibit the unilateral imposition of such charges by the utilities. The Association also worked through the implementation of OSHA regulations by the Illinois Department of Labor as they were applied to fire departments in Illinois. The Association similarly assisted districts in understanding and complying with the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act working hours and overtime requirements as applied by the United States Department of Labor.

In 1995, the IAFFPD created an Annual Scholarship Fund, providing one scholarship to each of the Illinois Community Colleges offering a curriculum in Fire Science. Today, this program has distributed more than 250 scholarships to students and is currently in its eighth year of running.

In 1996, Kenny Long passed away, after serving on the Board for more than 28 years, and providing legislative representation on behalf of the Association for more than two decades. His death was a great loss for members of the IAFFPD.

One year later, the Association hired Legislative Representative Charles R. Vaughn to fill the vacancy of Association Lobbyist. During the last half of this decade, the IAFFPD legislative staff spearheaded several important pieces of legislation, including a landmark bill to allow fire districts to continue to receive property taxes up to a five-year period on property taken by municipal annexations. Other important legislation included a bill to prevent municipal takeover of fire protection districts without a vote of residents.

Today, IAFFPD has continued its forward momentum that started nearly 60 years ago by a group of men who had the foresight and vision to form a cooperative organization to promote the interests of fire protection districts.

In 2001, the Association moved its headquarters to its present location at 230 Broadway where it is staffed by one full-time and one part-time employee.

The IAFFPD continues to employ an attorney experienced in fire protection district law, who consults with member districts on a daily basis. Throughout IAFFPD history, partnerships have been the key to our success. Productive relationships with leaders in the state are continually fostered and the work of our legislative advocacy remains as one of the most important services the IAFFPD provides today.

Currently there are 827 fire protection districts in the State of Illinois, of which 85% of them are IAFFPD members. An estimated 1,500 persons attend the Annual Conference each year, and the Trustee Training Sessions are now in their 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

As we look into the future, we cannot help but look at our past. Our history has been rich and prosperous. The IAFFPD has a proud past and a promising future.



IAFFPD's current Headquarters at 230 Broadway in Springfield.

## *A Chronology of Progress*

- 1942** - February 18, a meeting is called to order, and a motion is made to form the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts. Officers appointed include: W. M. Marks, President; F.L. Barlow, Vice President; and W. E. Webster, Treasurer.
- 1943** - First Annual Convention held at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago. Ray Bastian, President. There are now 75 fire districts in the state, of which 22 are members.
- 1944** - Second Annual Convention held at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago.
- 1945** - Third Annual Convention held at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago.
- 1946** - Fourth Annual Convention held at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago. Attendance is poor.
- 1947** - The first edition of the "Handbook on Organization and Administration of Rural Fire Protection Districts" is published. This book also became known as "The Red Book" and "Chapter 127½." No annual convention was held this year.
- 1948** - L. E. Whitford, President; L. H. Glens, Executive Director; and John H. Craig, State Fire Marshal. The Fifth Annual Convention was held at the Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria, on March 31 and April 1. Banquet speaker was Arthur C. Page, Farm Program Director and Associate Editor of "Prairie Farmer."
- 1949** - J. Michael Clemensen, President; L. H. Glens, Executive Director; and John H. Craig, State Fire Marshal. The Sixth Annual Convention was held at the Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria on February 7, 8 and 9. The State Fire Marshal was the banquet speaker.
- 1950** - Frank E. Foor, President; L. H. Glens, Executive Director; and Pat Kelly, State Fire Marshal. The Seventh Annual Convention was held on March 14, 15 and 16 at the Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria. Banquet speaker was Richard E. Vernor, Manager of the Fire Prevention Department at Western Actuarial Bureau in Chicago. Fire Chiefs were encouraged to attend the convention sessions, as well as spouses and firemen.
- 1951** - John Glennon, President; and L.H. Glens, Executive Director. The Eighth Annual Convention was held at the Pere Marquette on March 19, 20 and 21. Banquet speaker was Warren Y. Kimball, Editor of "Firemen," National Fire Protection Association, Boston, MA.
- 1952** - Henry Moehling, President; L.H. Glens, Executive Director; and Otto Dahl, State Fire Marshal. At this time the Executive Committee consisted of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and four Trustees. The Advisory Committee consisted of 16 members, Claude Randall, Chairman. The Legislative Committee consisted of 17 members, all of whom were attorneys. The Ninth Annual Convention at the Pere Marquette was held March 16-18. There apparently was no banquet that year. Instead, an open house was held in the ballroom, courtesy of manufacturers and distributors of fire fighting equipment.
- 1953** - Roy C. Cleveland, President; L. H. Glens, Executive Director; and Sanford Giles, State Fire Marshal. John Tallman became a member of the Advisory Committee this year. The Tenth Annual Convention in Peoria was held March 21- 23 and featured a Floor Show at the banquet. The first *Fire Call* goes to print.
- 1954** - Marty E. Schryver, President; A. C. Higby, Executive Director; and Sanford Giles, State Fire Marshal. The 11th Annual Convention at Peoria's Pere Marquette Hotel was March 20 and 21.

During the year, the Executive Committee met with Governor Stratton to discuss funding for fire protection districts. Member districts were asked to add the following line to their stationery: "Member Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts."

- 1955** - G. Dewey Briggs, President; Frank E. Foor, Executive Secretary; and John W. Twomey, State Fire Marshal. The 12th Annual Convention in Peoria was on March 19 and 20. Convention receipts were \$2,071.50 and expenses were \$1,895.93, which included \$50.00 for entertainment. Throughout the year, lengthy discussions were heard regarding the purchase of a typewriter. It was finally agreed to buy one at a cost of \$168.71. In September, the Association published a "Handbook For Trustees." A total of 208 copies were mailed to member districts. At the end of this year, there were 237 member districts out of 410 districts in the State.
- 1956** - Ray A. Dieter, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; and Ray Miller State Fire Marshal. The 13th Annual Convention in Peoria was on March 3 and 4. During the year, Association Counsel, Frank H. Pfeifer, recommended that the Association not pay Social Security Tax or Withholding Tax. Lengthy discussions were heard on "How to Get Directors To Work." The Association also agreed to accept promissory notes for dues from districts that had no money but wanted to join. Executive Committee meetings that had been held at various locations throughout the state, will now be held in Peoria in the future, because of poor attendance.
- 1957** - Claude H. Randall, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; and Ray Miller, State Fire Marshal. Clyde Alcock was named one of the four directors this year. The Annual Conference in Peoria on March 9 and 10 was attended by 400 persons. The ladies lunch was \$2.50 and banquet tickets were \$4.00. During the year, a resolution was passed that there shall be no advertising in *The Fire Call*. Membership now is 264 out of 500 districts.
- 1958** - Robert P. Johnson, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; and J. O. Simms, State Fire Marshal. Clayton C. Christenson became a member of the Advisory Committee. The 15th Annual Convention was held at the Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria, on March 1 and 2, and was attended by 576 persons. During the year, the Association bought a tape recorder for \$200. In October, the Advisory Committee was abolished and the number of Directors increased from four to nine. Also abolished was the office of Vice President, replaced by the office of Chairman of the Board.
- 1959** - Wayne Stonestreet, President; and Frank Foor, Executive Secretary. R. H. Armstrong was Chairman of the Advisory Committee, which was serving its last year.
- 1960** - Hubert A. Hall, President; and Frank Foor, Executive Secretary. There were 11 exhibitors at the 17th Annual Convention in Peoria.
- 1961** - Hubert A. Hall, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; and Dr. J. B. Meloan, Chairman of the Board. The 18th Annual Convention at the Pere Marquette was on March 25 and 26.
- 1962** - John R. Mattingly, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; Dr. J. B. Meloan, Chairman of the Board; and William Cowhey, State Fire Marshal. The 19th Annual Conference on March 24 and 25 featured Ozzie Osborn at the organ and the Bradley University Chorale at the banquet.
- 1963** - John R. Mattingly, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; Dr. J. B. Meloan, Chairman of the Board; and William Cowhey, State Fire Marshal. The 20th Annual Conference in Peoria was on March 23 and 24. One of the many topics on the program was "Chain of Command During Mutual Aid."

- 1964** - E. E. Wanders, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; R. H. Armstrong, Chairman of the Board; and William Cowhey, State Fire Marshal. Robert G. Walsh was named Editor of *The Fire Call*. The theme for the March 21 and 22 Peoria Conference was, "We Have Become Of Age."
- 1965** - E. E. Wanders, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; Clyde Alcock, Chairman of the Board; and William Cowhey, State Fire Marshal. The 22nd Annual Conference in Peoria featured an address by State Senator Philip Benefeil, on "Statutory Responsibilities of Trustees."
- 1966** - Clyde Alcock, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; Clayton Christenson, Chairman of the Board; and William Cowhey, State Fire Marshal. John Tallman was elected to the Board of Directors. During the 23rd Annual Conference in Peoria on March 12 and 13, Merle Parry, Trustee of the Chenoa Fire Protection District spoke on the subject, "The Trustee, His Job."
- 1967** - Clyde Alcock, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; Clayton Christenson, Chairman of the Board; and William Cowhey, State Fire Marshal. C. Merle Parry was elected to the Board of Directors. The 24th Annual Conference was in Peoria on March 10, 11 and 12.
- 1968** - Robert G. Walsh, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; Clayton Christenson, Chairman of the Board; and William Cowhey, State Fire Marshal. Kenneth L. Long was elected to the Board of Directors. This year's Silver Anniversary Conference was held at the Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria on March 15, 16 and 17. State Senator Paul Simon addressed the Conference on the topic "Influencing Your State Government." It was in this year that the Illinois Department of Transportation adopted the familiar slow-moving vehicle emblem. Philip Benefeil resigned as Association Counsel to become an Associate Judge and John Stobbs was appointed in his place.
- 1969** - Robert Walsh, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; Clayton Christenson, Chairman of the Board; and Joe Patton, Acting State Fire Marshal. The 26th Annual Conference in Peoria was on March 7, 8 and 9. In August, the Association was requested by several member districts to encourage firefighters to refrain from "borrowing" parts from the fire trucks in their station for their own vehicles. "It causes problems when they get a fire call and the truck will not start because someone has borrowed parts off of it."
- 1970** - R. H. Armstrong, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; and Clayton Christenson, Chairman of the Board. March 6, 7 and 8 were the dates for the 27th Annual Conference in Peoria. Average membership dues were \$51.67. They were increased in November to \$50, \$65 and \$90. It was confirmed that Winnebago County FPD #1 was the first fire protection district formed in Illinois.
- 1971** - Roland H. Armstrong, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; Robert G. Rowland, Chairman of the Board; and Robert E. May, State Fire Marshal. The 28th Annual Conference in Peoria was on March 5, 6 and 7 and featured talks on "Rural Fire Protection in Indiana" by the Indiana State Fire Marshal.
- 1972** - Lyle Haines, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary-Treasurer; and Robert May, State Fire Marshal. The 29th Annual Conference was on March 3, 4 and 5 at the Pere Marquette Hotel. The Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts became the first fire service organization to have its own office, in Wheeling. It was noted that the Association could not afford a full-time office person but arrangements had been made for messages to be received when no one was in the office.

- 1973** - Lyle Haines, President; Frank Foor, Executive Secretary; Kenneth L. Long, Chairman of the Board; and Robert May, State Fire Marshal. Max E. Johnson was elected to the Board of Directors. The 30th Annual Conference was on March 9, 10 and 11 at the Peoria Hilton Hotel.
- 1974** - Kenneth L. Long, President; A. Orman Harrison, Executive Secretary; C. Merle Parry, Chairman of the Board; and Bernard J. Sadowski, State Fire Marshal. Frank Foor passed away on January 6 of this year. He had served as Association Executive Secretary since 1954. Special guests at the 31st Annual Conference at the Peoria Hilton included State Senators Terry Bruce, Gene Johns, Edward McBroom and David Regner.
- 1975** - Kenneth L. Long, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; C. Merle Parry, Chairman of the Board; and Bernard Sadowski, State Fire Marshal. One of the topics covered at the 32nd Annual Conference at the Peoria Hilton was “How Important is a Fire Chief?”
- 1976** - Kenneth L. Long, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; and C. Merle Parry, Chairman of the Board. The Board of Directors at this time consisted of Clayton Christenson, Lyle Haines, Max Johnson, Briscoe Menke, Rocco Olita, John Tallman, Roy Walihan and Robert Walsh. The 33rd Annual Conference was held for the first time at the Holiday Inn East in Springfield on March 12, 13 and 14, with an attendance of 1500. The Bylaws were changed to allow Associate Members in the Association. All Directors were requested to write an article of some kind for *The Fire Call*.
- 1977** - Rocco J. Olita, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; C. Merle Parry, Chairman of the Board; and Robert G. Walsh, State Fire Marshal. The 34th Annual Conference was at Springfield’s Holiday Inn East. Association membership now stands at 410 or 56 percent of the State’s Fire Protection Districts. There are five Associate Members.
- 1978** - Rocco J. Olita, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; C. Merle Parry, Chairman of the Board; and Jack Carter, State Fire Marshal. March 10, 11, and 12 were the dates for the 35th Annual Conference in Springfield. The Bylaws were revised to create the positions of Area Representatives. The first four included: Vaughn Brown; Dale Hubert; Richard Ritt; and Joe Umbach.
- 1979** - John Tallman, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; and C. Merle Parry, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Dale Hubert, Joseph Umbach, and Richard Ritt. Jack Carter is State Fire Marshal. The 36th Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn East was held March 9–11, 1979. Attendees were invited to tour the Springfield Fire Department’s new Communications Center and Maintenance Facility.
- 1980** - John Tallman, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; and C. Merle Parry, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Harry Briggs, Dale Hubert, Howard Ludwig, and Briscoe Menke. Jack Carter, State Fire Marshal. Figures at year’s end showed that 62.7 percent of the fire protection districts in the State were members of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts. During September and November of this year, seven Local Officials Fire Protection Leadership Workshops were held throughout the State. All but two were very well attended. The IAFFPD was very much involved with these workshops.
- 1981** - C. Merle Parry, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; and Joseph W. Umbach, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives were: William Adsit; Harry Briggs; George Cusick; and Howard Ludwig. Jack Carter is State Fire Marshal. The 38th Annual Conference was on March 13, 14 and 15 at the Holiday Inn East. The first Thursday evening session at the Conference was held this year. It was a Rap Session where everyone was invited to come visit

with the Directors. Attendance at the Conference was 2,605. It was noted that the IAFFD Conference Exhibits rate third in national importance behind the New York Fire Chiefs and the International Fire Chiefs shows. It was also noted that the Sesser Fire Chief had sent home two of his firemen who were sporting beards, and told them not to come back until they had shaved.

- 1982** - C. Merle Parry, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; and Joseph Umbach, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Wallace Luke, Thomas Ray, and Milton Stading. Jack Carter is State Fire Marshal. George Cusick was elected to the Board of Directors. The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn East, Springfield was on March 12, 13, and 14. The ladies attending the Conference were pleased and impressed that Association President Parry took time to speak briefly to them and welcome them to the Conference. They felt that this should happen every year. Outside exhibits were displayed in the north parking lot at \$95 per vehicle and inside exhibits were in the Holidome at \$225 per 10 x 10 ft. booth. William Westhoff, Jr., appeared on the program speaking on "Ways to Kill a Good Fire Department."
- 1983** - Briscoe N. Menke, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; and Max F. Johnson, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Wallace Luke, Billy Pembrook, Thomas Ray, and Milton Stading. Jack Carter is State Fire Marshal. Richard Ritt became a member of the Board of Directors. The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Springfield was on March 11, 12, and 13. The Association now has 486 members representing 64.9 percent of the State's fire districts.
- 1984** - Briscoe N. Menke, President, Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; and Max F. Johnson, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Wallace Luke, Billy Pembrook, Thomas Ray, Milton Stading, and Lorin Duval. Harold L. Schmeilski is State Fire Marshal. The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was on March 16, 17, and 18 at the Holiday Inn East. There were 3,444 registered and an estimated 500 unregistered people in attendance.
- 1985** - Max F. Johnson, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; and Joseph W. Umbach, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Wallace Luke, Billy Pembrook, Don Thompson, and James Tucker. Harold Schmeilski is State Fire Marshal. Lorin F. Duval was elected to the Board of Directors. The dates for the Annual Conference were changed from March to June this year after many requests resulting from the adverse weather conditions experienced in March. The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference was held on June 28, 29 and 30 at the Holiday Inn East, Springfield. Among the speakers on the program were Patrick Ward, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health and Safety, City of Springfield, and State Senator Dawn Clark Netsch. The Executive Committee toured the Springfield Convention Center and adjoining hotels with the thought of possibly relocating the site for the Conference. Association membership now totals 496 with 14 Associate members.
- 1986** - Max F. Johnson, President; Shirley Miller, Administrative Secretary; and Joseph W. Umbach, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Samuel Adsit, Jack Grissom, Don Thompson, and James Tucker. Thomas Bestudik is State Fire Marshal. Milton C. Stading was elected to the Board of Directors. The first of the annual Trustee Training Sessions were held at six locations throughout the state this year in cooperation with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute.
- 1987** - Max F. Johnson, President; Jennifer L. Burka, Administrative Secretary; and George R. Cusick, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Samuel Adsit, Richard Logan, Billy Pembrook, and Arthur Ward. The Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn East was on June 26, 27, 28.

- 1988** - Max F. Johnson, President; Jennifer L. Burka, Administrative Secretary; and George R. Cusick, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Richard D. Baier, James Tucker, Richard D. Logan, and Arthur J. Ward. Thomas Bestudik is State Fire Marshal. The 45th Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn East was on June 23, 24, 25. There were 86 exhibitors listed in the program.
- 1989** - George R. Cusick, President; Jennifer L. Burka, Administrative Secretary; and Lorin F. Duval, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Richard Baier, and James Tucker. Thomas Bestudik is State Fire Marshal. The Board of Directors now consists of Max Johnson, Kenneth Long, Merle Parry, Billy Pembroke, Milton Stading, John Tallman, Don Thompson, Joseph Umbach. The Annual Springfield Conference was June 22, 23, 24.
- 1990** - George R. Cusick, President; Glenda Busch, Administrative Secretary; and Lorin F. Duval, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Richard Baier, Dick Gregory, Brett Kunkel, and James Tucker. Thomas Bestudik is State Fire Marshal. June 21, 22 and 23 were the dates for the Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn East. It was decided to start the Conference at 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays and discontinue the Sunday morning sessions. Timothy Deutschle joined the Legislative Committee. James Sinclair was named Legal Counsel for the Association.
- 1991** - Joseph W. Umbach, President; Barbara J. Williams, Administrative Secretary; and Milton C. Stading, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Lyle Coffman, Dick Gregory, Brett Kunkel, and Carl Roscher. Thomas L. Armstead is State Fire Marshal. The Association published a new "Handbook For Trustees of Fire Protection Districts" authored by Association Counsel, James Sinclair. A total of 766 of these Handbooks are now in the hands of Fire District Trustees and District Attorneys. Patricia Long was employed as part-time office assistant. Ken Long was named Director of Operations. The 48th Annual Conference was at the Holiday Inn East on June 20, 21 and 22.
- 1992** - Joseph W. Umbach, President; Barbara J. Williams, Administrative Secretary; Kenneth Long, Director of Operations; and John Tallman, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Lyle Coffman, Dick Gregory, Brett Kunkel, and Carl Roscher. Thomas L. Armstead is State Fire Marshal. Richard D. Baier was a new member of the Board of Directors replacing Milton Stading, who had moved from his fire protection district. The 49th Annual Conference was held at the Holiday Inn East on June 18, 19, 20, with 88 display booths in the Holidome and 95 outside displays. Bylaws were updated and revisions adopted. Position Statement on IDOL regulations was adopted. Kyle McGinnis named Association Auditor.
- 1993** - Billy L. Pembroke, President; Barbara J. Williams, Administrative Secretary; and John Tallman, Chairman of the Board. Area Representatives are: Lyle Coffman, Roman J. Stolcis, Jr., and Don Fontana. Thomas Armstead is State Fire Marshal. Carl Roscher was named to the Board of Directors replacing C. Merle Parry who retired after many years of faithful service. Membership in the Association now totals 594 of the 816 Fire Protection Districts in the State. There are 47 Associate Members. The 50th Anniversary of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts was observed during the Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn East in Springfield on June 17, 18 and 19.
- 1994** - Billy Pembroke, President; John Tallman, Chairman of the Board; Lorin Duval, Secretary; Richard Baier, Treasurer; and Kenneth Long, Director of Operations. Directors include: George Cusick, Max Johnson, Brett Kunkel, Carl Roescher, Don Thompson, and Joe Umbach. Area Representatives are Richard Logan and Don Fontana, and Barbara Williams is Administrative Secretary. Legislative Staff is Kenneth Long, Tim Deutschle and John Weidig. Fifty-first Annual

Conference was held June 16-18, at the Holiday Inn East in Springfield. The attendance at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Trustee Training Sessions reached a record high.

- 1995** - Richard Baier is President. Kenneth Long is Director of Operations. The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference is moved to Decatur, while construction takes place on the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. The Friday evening entertainment includes a “good ole country hoe-down and pig roast.” The IAFFPD Annual Scholarship Fund is implemented, and one scholarship is given to each Illinois Community College which offers a fire science or fire-related curriculum.
- 1996** - Richard Baier, President; Carl Roscher, Chairman of the Board; Lorin Duval, Secretary; and George Cusick, Treasurer. Longtime IAFFPD Lobbyist, Board Member, and Director of Operations, Kenneth Long, is presented with the first “Recognition and Honor Award.” Current Area Representatives are: S. Richard Booth, Michael Dillon, Tom Harnsberger, and Dr. Charles Neal. The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference is held for the last time, at the Holiday Inn Select in Decatur on June 13, 14 and 15.
- 1997** - Construction is now complete at the Springfield Crowne Plaza Hotel, and the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is held there for the first time, on June 19, 20 and 21. During the Annual Conference, the IAFFPD presents posthumously, the “Recognition and Honor Award” to Gerald Monigold, of the Fire Service Institute. Longtime Directors Carl Roscher and Lorin Duval retire from the board. Anthony J. LaRocca is appointed Area Representative.
- 1998** - Richard D. Baier, President; Dr. Charles Neal, Chairman of the Board; Brett Kunkel, Secretary; and George Cusick, Treasurer. Board of Directors include: Lyle Coffman, Michael Dillon, Tom Harnsberger, Billy Pembroke, Don Thompson, James Tucker, and Joe Umbach. Area Representatives are: Art Gatermann, Larry Graf, Anthony J. LaRocca, John Schaer, and Howard Swanson. Office Secretary is Susan M. Ansell and office assistant is Suzanne Boyd. Thomas L. Armstead is State Fire Marshal and James S. Sinclair, Association Counsel. Legislative staff now includes Charles Vaughn and Tim Deutsche. The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on June 18, 19 and 20. Keynote speakers are Alan V. Brunacini of the Phoenix Fire Department and Gene Carlson of Oklahoma State University. Conference attendees are invited to enjoy an evening of fun at the “Hillbilly Weddin” on Friday evening.
- 1999** - Joseph W. Umbach, President; Dr. Charles Neal, Chairman of the Board; George Cusick, Treasurer; and Brett Kunkel, Secretary. Directors include: Richard Baier, Lyle Coffman, Michael Dillon, Tom Harnsberger, Anthony J. LaRocca, Billy Pembroke, and Don Thompson. Area Representatives are: Art Gatermann, John Schaer, and Howard Swanson. Rose M. Trader is Executive Director and James S. Sinclair IAFFPD Counsel. The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on June 17, 18 and 19. *The Fire Call* begins taking advertisements in the spring issue. Association membership is now 620 members strong.
- 2000** - Joseph W. Umbach, President; Dr. Charles Neal, Chairman of the Board; Michael Dillon, Treasurer; and Brett Kunkel, Secretary. Directors include: Richard Baier, Lyle Coffman, George Cusick, Tom Harnsberger, Tony LaRocca, Billy Pembroke, and Don Thompson. Area Representatives are: Art Gatermann, Tom Jones, John Schaer, Gerry Stahr, and Howard Swanson. The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is held June 15, 16, and 17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Conference Keynote Speakers include a burn survivor and a convicted arsonist. Fire Districts begin receiving member initiative grants throughout the state. There are now 827 Fire Protection Districts in the state, of which 650 are now members of the IAFFPD.

- 2001** - Dr. Charles Neal, President; Michael Dillon, Treasurer; and Brett Kunkel, Secretary. Directors include: Richard Baier, Lyle Coffman, Tom Harnsberger, Anthony LaRocca, Billy Pembrook, John Schaer, Don Thompson, and Joe Umbach. Area Representatives are now Richard Hargraves, Tom Jones, and Gerry Stahr. Executive Director is Rose M. Trader, IAFFPD Counsel is James S. Sinclair and Ernie Russell is State Fire Marshal. The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is moved to downtown Springfield, and held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, Springfield Hilton, and the Springfield Renaissance. The conference theme is “Movin On Up!”
- 2002** - Anthony J. LaRocca, President; Charles Neal, Chairman of the Board; Brett Kunkel, Secretary; and Mike Dillon Treasurer. Directors include: Richard Baier, Lyle Coffman, Tom Harnsberger, Billy Pembrook, John Schaer, Don Thompson, and Gerry Stahr. Area Representatives are: Art Gatermann, Tom Jones, and Dr. Bob Rankin. The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is held for the second time in downtown Springfield on June 20, 21 and 22. The conference theme is “United We Stand.” Lt. Governor Corinne Wood speaks at the Opening Ceremonies.
- 2003** - Anthony J. LaRocca, President; Brett P. Kunkel, Vice-President; Michael M. Dillon, Treasurer; and Tom E. Harnsberger, Secretary. Directors include: S. Richard Booth, Lyle Coffman, Art Gatermann, Billy Pembrook, John Schaer, Don Thompson, and Gerry Stahr. Area Representatives are: Del Housenga, Zach Lawrence, and Bill Minton. Rose M. Trader, Executive Director; and James S. Sinclair, Association Counsel. The Association celebrates their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at their conference held on June 19, 20 and 21 in downtown Springfield. IAFFPD forms new Educational and Research Foundation and the Association revises the “Text of Laws Relating to Illinois Fire Protection Districts and the State Fire Marshal.”

*Recipients of the  
Honor and Recognition Award*

**1996** – Kenneth Long

**1997** – Gerald Monigold

**1999** – Richard Baier

**2000** – George Cusick

**2001** – Joseph Umbach

*Association Counsel*

**1941** – Bernard J Juron

**1947 - 1953** – Edward B. Love

**1954 - 1968** – Frank M. Pfeifer

**1968** – Philip B. Benefeil

**1969 - 1977** – John D. Stobbs

**1977-1987** – Robert J. DeLeonardi

**1987-1991** – John C. Broihier

**1991-Present** – James S. Sinclair

## *Office Locations*

The “offices” of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts were located in the homes of members of the Executive Committee or in fire stations until 1972 when the Wheeling office was rented.

**1941** – 537 S. 4th Street, Springfield

**1956** – 8 ½ E. McDonald Road, Prospect Heights

**1960** – 859 West Dundee Road, Wheeling

**1972** – 643 North Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling

**1975** – 429 West Main, Barrington

**1976** – 310 East Main, Barrington

**1983** – 120 Lageschulte, Barrington

**1989** – 520 South Second Street, Suite 224, Springfield

**2000** – 230 Broadway, Suite 200, Springfield