

# ASSOCIATION UPDATE



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Association Administrator

## BONUS BENEFITS

**F**or IAFFPD, the Fall season allows an opportunity to review and reflect on the recent accomplishments and prepare for the year ahead.

As we invite our members to renew, we use this annual communication to encourage members to connect with the organization, to learn its value and understand the key factors that validate our strength, and stability that comes in numbers. As expected, we also promote the upcoming programs and unique services we provide to our members. Please be sure to let us know if you have changes to your district so we can update our records and get them acclimated to the IAFFPD.

While reminding our members and specifically the newly elected or appointed trustees of their standard membership benefits, I think it is equally important to share the "bonus" benefits in supporting the IAFFPD:

- IAFFPD is a voice for 80% of the total fire protection districts in Illinois and supports goals that promote better governance while protecting interests, rights and privileges as local governments.
- Some of the education and resources we provide are not available elsewhere. Advanced Trustee Training

(ATT) was launched in 2009 as a response to Public Act 95-0799. Since then, we have issued 825 certificates of completion of the 12-hour program. Many fire chiefs complete the training simply for the program content and administration purposes.

- The IAFFPD leadership is constantly working on ways to provide education programs that are not only useful and affordable for our members, but more convenient than ever before.
- When invited, IAFFPD will attend and present news at your board meetings, recognize members at special events, support accomplishments and can arrange a training program for all districts in your area to attend.
- We are pleased and excited to be actively assisting (3) city fire departments as they work through the process of forming a fire protection district for the betterment of their respective communities. If you or a neighboring department have an interest in learning more about it, we have information to share!
- The staff and leadership are proactive and available to assist with questions or information on the roles and responsibilities for fire district governance.

- The members, our affiliations and partnerships with various agencies and organizations help us support programs that make a difference to the industry as a whole.

IAFFPD's newest education endeavor, offers an online learning platform (webinar programs) and the program development is underway. The first program will be announced in November. Be on the lookout and please be sure the information is distributed to the Board of Trustees, the Commission and Pension Board. This option is quick and easy access to programs that directly impact your role with your fire protection district.

The best way to stay connected and hear "What's Happening" is to make certain you are receiving the IAFFPD blast emails. If we are not hitting your inbox and we should be, please send us your email address ([info@iaffpd.org](mailto:info@iaffpd.org)), we will respond. Communication is essential to being active with your association!

As we enter the holiday season and wrap up a productive year that quickly passed, I am thankful for the people we serve and good relationships we have developed.

My best wishes to you for a blessed holiday season. ■

### Coming this Fall...

It is with great appreciation to the IAFFPD Education Committee's and their hard work and the support of Paramedic Services of Illinois, IAFFPD will soon launch a series of Webinars for members to attend an educational program over their lunch hour or they may order on-demand to view at their convenience. The first program will be presented in November and reviews the annual requirements and ongoing responsibilities of the fire district administration. **Watch your email for registration details!**