

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Spring Update



By Cheri Breneman
Association Administrator

There are several new and exciting happenings at the IAFFPD home front. Some of the news has been announced previously, but this message will serve as great reminders for the year ahead.



Its official, the IAFFPD has found a permanent office after many years of saving, planning and comparing options and has moved its headquarters to **1201 S. 6th Street**. Please be sure to make note of this new address.

While preparing for the big move, we cancelled, rescheduled and successfully presented the 3rd Annual Southern Illinois Winter Conference in Fairview Heights. We are pleased to report the attendance included 120 attendees representing 47 area fire protection districts, along with six excellent speakers and displays by 13 supportive vendors. We also educated 320 members representing 123 fire protection districts in attendance at the Annual Administration Training Sessions. Photos are included in this publication.



At each of the events mentioned above, we recognized IAFFPD 75th Anniversary and it was a delightful to celebrate with so many members who have contributed to the organization's success.

Our new website (launched in January) is updated regularly and contains all details, downloads and registration for the conference. The goal of our website is to be the convenient, user friendly as resourceful for our members. The new site is mobile friendly as well. We urge members to use the website to access online registration system. To get the member rate, you must log into the system, using your district username and password. This information was noted on the thank you card we mailed to your district upon receiving your membership renewal.

The IAFFPD Foundation has also rolled out the Trustee's Scholarship Program for members who want to attend the conference in June, but have constraints hindering their ability to participate. The details and application are published in this issue of The Fire Call. **Deadline to apply is May 25.**

The Annual Conference (June 22-25) plans are in full motion! I am anxious to see a large number of members, new trustees, first-time attendees, spouses, guests, special friends, long-time supporters and (of course) the other 350 attendees I can always count on seeing this time of year!

Several pages of the registration brochure have been inserted in this publication. We have more sessions

scheduled than other years with important, interesting and interactive discussions. IAFFPD is well-known for offering fun and entertaining social events and this year is no different! Thursday we added a tour of the Caterpillar Museum, Friday, we moved the outdoor patio Party to the Peoria Riverfront Museum which is a family-friendly venue with plenty to see and places to gather, visit and enjoy the fresh air, live music and cold beverages! On Saturday, please plan to stay around for the 75th Anniversary Celebration with a fabulous dinner, great entertainment and displays and stories to take a walk down memory lane! We urge you to bring the spouse and/or family as we have guest programs that invite their participation and Peoria has many attractions to enjoy. Please check out their website EnjoyPeoria.org to help plan your visit in June.

Once we wrap up the conference, we will get geared up for the Illinois State Fair. We welcome members interested in volunteering on opening day (August 11) for a day of teaching children and families about fire and home safety.

This fall, the Education Committee will be working on an online learning program that allows members to stay informed and learn without traveling. That's right, the IAFFPD will offer its members the opportunity to learn and hear about hot topics with fire district administration in the form of an interactive webinar series. Stay tuned as matters develop, we will pass them along.

In closing, I welcome your visits, phone calls and feedback on ways we may better serve you. ■