

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Thank you for renewing your IAFFPD Membership!



By Cheri Breneman
Association Administrator

This time of year, we are preparing for so many great happenings, programs and events that it seems as though our promotions and communications are constant. We have made announcements and shared handouts at training sessions, published forms, emailed dates, posted links, and e-blasted a ton of news and information. We share so much that it is easy to lose some of the information that you are looking for in the shuffle. Thankfully, the website continues to be a great reference for the latest IAFFPD news.

Most of our members have been members for many years. I recognize that fire district leadership changes over time, and I thought it may be helpful to provide a recap on the many benefits and services that come with your IAFFPD membership.

- IAFFPD is a voice for nearly 80% of the fire districts in Illinois and our membership supports the goals and objectives that protect their interests, rights and privileges as local government
- There are specific educational programs and resources we provide to trustees and the administration that are not available elsewhere. Advance Trustee Training and our new Online Learning Programs are just two examples.
- Our leadership is always working on ways to provide education programs that are not only useful and affordable for our members,

but more convenient than ever before.

- We take pride in the quarterly publication, *The Fire Call* which keeps our members informed on the both the chaos and the progress happening with the legislature, along with feature articles written by experts among local government law who represent many fire protection districts.
- When invited, IAFFPD will attend and present an update at your Board meeting or countywide organization meeting or present a certificate at a special event held at the station.
- We are here to offer guidance to city fire departments as they work through the process of becoming a fire protection district for the betterment of their respective communities.
- Our office staff, directors and counsel are proactive and available to assist with questions or information on the legal responsibilities of your trustees.
- The IAFFPD website contains a wealth of information including an archive of articles available in the "Member's Only" section.
- We have new 2018 Editions of our most demanded publications: *The Text of Laws* and the *Handbook for Trustees*. Each District member receives one free *Text of Laws* and

discounted pricing on purchases of either book.

- We will recognize and award trustees who have served multiple terms of office and/or go beyond.
- We honor and pay tribute to friends and members who have passed on.
- We present two conferences each year (southern and central), and the one in June offers 25 topics, includes television celebrity Randy Mantooth and legendary fire service leader Rick Lasky as guest speakers, 65 vendor displays and special events to enjoy after class programs.
- We award scholarships to assist students enrolled in a college fire service curriculum and other scholarships to assist fire protection districts who have trustees who want to learn from the conference but have financial constraints hindering their participation.

I urge all members to take advantage of the organization's resources. We want you to succeed in the role you have with your fire protection district and we are here with the tools you need, including comprehensive training for newly elected or appointed trustees. The best way to get informed on all offerings of the Association is to make sure we have your email address and you have ours (Cheri@iaffpd.org).

I look forward to seeing many of you in Peoria in June. ■