

ASSOCIATION UPDATE



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Post Conference Recap & More

The IAFPD has successfully demonstrated how to “Focus on the Mission” and you while there are many photos and highlights of the 75th Annual Conference included in this issue, the real evidence is with those who attended.

The organization takes pride in presenting an opportunity to gather 375 fire officials representing 150 fire protection districts in one place, for three days of second to none educational opportunities and networking with other fire service leaders. Alongside the annual trades show, showcasing 68 vendors (including 15 new companies this year) this conference is an ideal opportunity to keep up to date with the responsibilities of fire protection district officials, see innovations in firefighting tools and techniques, and meet the people who can show you how to make it all work. We brought 30 speakers to the program, presented 12 hours of specialized trustee training, 7 rounds of breakouts, 19 topics, 4 hours with our dynamic keynotes (Rick Lasky and Randolph Mantooth) and a Legislative review and open forum. Attendees had the opportunity to take advantage of 5 hours of exclusive time with vendors, devote time to honor and remember those we lost and time to recognize the accomplishments of those currently serving the fire service. The conference is the one event I urge our members to experience at least once during their years of service to fully understand its impact!

I echo the words of the IAFPD President by saying thank you to so many

individuals, companies, speakers, prize donors, sponsors and volunteers who contributed to the success of the 75th Annual Conference. Listing every person would use the entire page because there are numerous people that make it happen and make it great! Please know the huge appreciation the IAFPD Conference Committee has for your time, energy and commitment to the organization. Most important, thank you for a job well done! It is because of your involvement and the attendee’s event evaluations that this conference continues to be better every year.

For those unable to attend, we have several handouts posted on the IAFPD website and also have two of the conference topics recapped in the form of an article in this issue of *The Fire Call*. We appreciate the added efforts by Brian O’Connor who has authored the Military Benefits as well as John Brady and Dr. Scott Walker who co-authored the Fitness for Duty feature.

I have more good news for anyone who may want to watch one of the popular programs. The *Focus on the Mission* session, also presented by John T. Brady, was recorded and the complete audio/video and PowerPoint presentation will be available for download in our online learning library in late August. The session includes an in-depth discussion on how trustees and fire department command all want to do the best job possible for their citizens and firefighters. Even with the best of intentions, sometimes attention to the endless list of tasks to be accomplished can cause trustees lose focus, or even

to become complacent. This session will find ways to avoid this tendency and remind us to “focus on the mission” of our fire district. A promise by each trustee to remain committed and focused on the fire district’s mission could be a good starting point to this challenging task. This webinar tries to give a picture of what such a “trustee’s oath” might look like.

The online library is growing and contains a wealth of timely and useful programming that is easy to access, convenient and affordable. The webinars are an ideal platform for those who want to stay informed, learn from experienced presenters and earn continued education credit (where applicable). If you have limited time for travel, or a limited education budget for conference attendance, the IAFPD Online Learning Programs may be the solution you need! For those who appreciate the value and benefits in our awesome conferences, and especially for the officials newly appointed or elected, IAFPD has two upcoming events to calendar:

- **3-Part Advance Trustee Training** - Nov 2 & 3, 2018 at Teutopolis FPD
- **Southern Illinois Winter Conference** Feb. 16 & 17, 2019 at The Regency, O’Fallon

The dates and locations for the 2019 Administration Training Sessions will be announced soon.

Thank you for doing what you do for your local community, your fire district and your Association. ■