

# ASSOCIATION UPDATE

## Association Update Summer 2017



By Cheri Breneman  
Association Administrator

It brings a smile to my face to read and hear such nice comments that members have shared about the Annual Conference. Some comments are noted in the annual conference highlights sections contained in this publication. I truly appreciate these folks for allowing us to share their words, for attending the conference and allowing others to be reminded of the benefits in attending.

It is positive feedback (and negative) that helps us make adjustments that collectively work to exceed expectations on future events. It is never too late to offer suggestions, share a new idea or to get involved with our efforts. The conference clearly demonstrates the hard work of a great committee, those who develop the program, promote and recruit participation and several dedicated volunteers who work, attend and bring the conference to fruition and many organizations that sponsor and/or exhibit and help us do what we do. Thank you and kudos to all for a job very well done!

The post-conference data shows 663 individuals representing 144 fire protection districts and 63 exhibiting vendors. The number of individuals increased 16 from last year's attendance and only one less fire district represented. The Advanced Trustee Training (3-part program) attendance saw a record high (70 attendees) since we launched the program in 2009. Overall, we are very pleased the word is out and our members are

recognizing the value of the conference and the importance of our specialized training offered exclusively by IAFFPD.

New this year, we developed an incentive program that offered Trustee Scholarships for conference attendance which successfully enabled several new trustees to attend that may have otherwise opted out because of financial constraints. Congratulations Carroll FPD, New Milford, Reddick Community FPD as recipients of the grants and for completing the Advance Trustee Training to get acclimated with your new roles with your district's Board of Trustees.

While not a new program, the IAFFPD Honor & Recognition Committee recognized a few trustees for serving multiple terms of office with the Years of Service Recognition. We also awarded two deserving individuals for Outstanding Service which are listed in the conference highlights of this issue of *The Fire Call*.

On this topic, IAFFPD distributes the award process and submission forms in multiple means of communication (published, posted, emails and handout at programs) and was taken by total surprise when only 7 out of 650 fire protection districts used this opportunity to recognize their trustees. This is a friendly reminder about the program IAFFPD offers to present trustees with more than 12, 30 and 42 years as trustee with a special lapel pin and certificate. Knowing that many trustees are volunteers or paid

a small stipend for their service, we hope you will consider this program as your way of saying thank you.

Turning to other programs, the Education Committee is excited to announce that while plans are preliminary, they are developing content and programs to be presented online. Watch for more details sent via email and posted on our website about live or on-demand webinars (convenient and affordable access to useful information and topics) as they will be announced this fall.

Until then, membership communication and involvement is what helps us serve you better and we take pride in being your greatest resource. If our office may be of any assistance to your or your fire district, please do not hesitate to call or email me directly.