



81st Annual IAFPD CONFERENCE

It's Time to GET IT DONE!

June 11-13, 2026

**Embassy Suites Riverfront Conference Center
East Peoria, Illinois**

New Location, Same High-Quality Program

2026 Conference Committee:

Program Chairman:

Ken Yeakley, Hammond FPD

Exhibit Chairman:

Don Mueller, Emerald Mound FPD

Committee Members:

John T. Brady, Attorney at Law

Carolyn Clifford, Ottosen Law

Shawn Flaherty, Ottosen Law

Ann Joyce, Dunlap FPD

Art Kilberg, Fulton FPD

Don Loos, Liberty FPD

Damon Schuldt, Martinton FPD

Steve Schultz, Limestone Kankakee FPD

James Sinclair, Stobbs & Sinclair, Ltd.

Staff:

Cheri Breneman, Association Administrator

Karrie Beneky, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Ridley, Program Coordinator

Tamiko Kinkade, Graphic Artist

Notice to IAFPD Members

The **Annual Membership Meeting** will be held in conjunction with the 81st Annual Conference on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 4:00 pm at the Embassy Suites Riverfront Conference Center, East Peoria, IL. Membership Credentials Certification is required to vote at the Annual Meeting. One vote per District by Credentials or by Proxy (**Mailed to Member Districts in April**).

A Message from Your Conference Committee...

Mark your calendars because you don't want to miss out on this unique opportunity. This year, our Conference theme is simple but urgent: ***"It is Time to Get It Done!"***

As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, we honor the visionaries who built a foundation of liberty through grit and determination. Their legacy reminds us that progress isn't accidental - it's a choice made by those willing to do the hard work. At the same time, we will observe the 25th Anniversary of 9/11. Remembering the resilience and unity that defined our country in the face of immense challenge. That spirit of "coming together to move forward" is exactly what we need today.

While celebrating these two moments in history, we will present the same quality of Conference that our members have come to expect, but at a different venue. We will be at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in East Peoria.

We have many educational breakouts on Thursday and a few more on Saturday. The 3 Part Essential Trustee Training begins on Thursday, Part 2 on Friday afternoon, and Part 3 on Saturday. We are also presenting an EMS track this year, along with our traditional Pension, Administration, and Operations tracks. Thursday afternoon, after the breakout sessions, will be our Annual Membership Meeting, followed by the Open Forum, where you can get all your questions answered for free.

On Friday, we will have a Keynote panel featuring Mike Dugan and George Healy, who were at the World Trade Center on 9/11, moderated by Chief Jim Grady. Following the ceremonious Flag Raising, the day is devoted to our supporting vendors and sponsors, who showcase the latest equipment and technology. There will be live demos and a few 10-minute legal tips sessions during tradeshow hours. There will also be an area for antique equipment and trucks. The evening will conclude with an outdoor social event on the hotel's terrace overlooking the river with light snacks and beverages. Dan the Piano Man will entertain us with his piano music and maybe some patriotic songs.

Saturday morning, we will begin with the Fire Service Memorial to honor those we have lost in the past year, as well as all those who perished on 9/11. Following the Memorial will be more breakouts to finish out our Conference.

History has given us the foundation and the strength; now it's up to us to take action, so I encourage you to bring your Trustees, Chiefs, and neighboring districts to this year's Conference. We aren't just here to discuss ideas; we are here to execute them. Whether it's solving industry hurdles or building a better future for our communities, the time for hesitation has passed.

Let's use the IAFPD Conference to turn our collective energy into results. It's time to honor our past by securing our future. ***"It is Time to Get It Done!"***

Ken Yeakley, Hammond FPD, Conference Chairman

At-a-Glance Conference Agenda

THURSDAY JUNE 11	
7:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration Open
7:00 am	Continental Breakfast
7:30am - 11:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Trustee Training Part 1: FPD organization
9:00am - 10:15 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Market Investments: What they are and why public pension funds need to invest in them? • TIFs & Tax Objections • Don't Get Burned: Dos & Don'ts in Buying Used Apparatus • Financing an Ambulance, Billing & Special Services • CESSA
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Guest Program - Quilters and Crafters Lounge
10:15am - 10:30am	Refreshment Break
10:30am - 11:45am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing Records, Moving away from e-mailing documents • Case Law Update (incl Rev. Group Antitrust) • Fire Commissioner's Hiring Issues • IDPH Roundtable
11:45am - 1:00pm	Lunch & Awards
1:15pm - 2:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pension Retirement Benefit Calculation Issues • Tort Immunity & Liability for FPDs (incl \$31M judgement w/Rock Falls) • Command & Control: Fire Dynamics • Audits / AFR / Financial Reporting • Resilient Members
1:15 pm - 4:00 pm	Guest Program - Quilters and Crafters Lounge
2:30pm - 2:45pm	Refreshment Break
2:45pm - 4:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOIA Harassment (FOIA Wars) • Volunteer District Consolidation: Should You Consider It and How? • The Way Home • Physician Emergency Response Program
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Annual Membership Meeting
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm	Pre - Conference Meet & Greet
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Open Forum
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Outdoor Vendor Move-in Option
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Indoor Tradeshow Decorator Set Up
FRIDAY JUNE 12	
7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration Open
7:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
7:30 am - 10:00 am	Indoor & Outdoor Vendor Move In
8:00am - 9:45 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening: Reflections from the Front Line (FDNY on 9-11)
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Guest Program - Quilters and Crafters Lounge
9:45am - 10:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency Updates
10:45am - 11:00 am	Flag Raising Ceremony (outdoors)
11:00 am - 5:00 pm	Exhibits Open (Inside & Outside)
12:00 PM	Lunch with Vendors
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Trustee Training Part 2 Procurement • IFSI Training Prop & NIFSAB Sprinkler Demo
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	
2:00 pm	Industry Partner Recognition
5:00 pm	Reception hosted by Ottosen Law
6:00pm - 8:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own
8:00pm - 10:00 pm	Outdoor Social Event
SATURDAY JUNE 13	
7:00 am - 11:30 am	Registration Open
7:00am	Hot Breakfast in Hall
8:30 am	Fire Service Memorial
9:00 am - 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential Trustee Training Part 3
9:00 am - 10:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Legislative Update
9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Guest Program - Quilters and Crafters Lounge
9:45 am - 10:00am	Refreshment Break
10:00am - 11:15am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Communications
11:15am - 12:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatham YNOT Incident Lessons Learned (pending)

General Information

Conference Venue & Tradeshow Facility

The Embassy Suites Riverfront Conference Center overlooks the Illinois River and located next to East Peoria Riverfront Park and five minutes from downtown area's historic sites and museums.



Registration

All attendees must register online at IAFPD.org by June 6. Discounted rates are available for registrations submitted by May 30. Member-only rates apply to individuals listed in IAFPD's membership portal, GlueUp, and you must use the email address associated with your member profile to receive the discounted rate. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact us before registering. If you have not yet claimed your GlueUp profile, we are happy to assist you. For help with online registration, please contact IAFPD at 217-525-6620. Attendees will receive a confirmation email along with important details regarding their participation.

Registration includes a name badge that allows admission to all educational sessions the tradeshow, door prize drawings and special events. Registration also includes breakfast each day and lunch on Thursday and Friday.

	<u>Before May 30</u>	<u>After May 30</u>
Full Conference (Member)	\$150	\$225
Full Conference with ETT	\$250	\$325
One Day Registration (One day must select which day)	\$90	\$190
Guest Registration Fee	\$75	\$125

ETT Registration

This registration category includes the conference registration plus admittance to the 3-part (12-hour) Essential trustee Training, session handouts, and admittance to the online presentation of IAFPD Opening Meetings Act training (to be held via live webinar in July).

Guest and Spouse Registration

The IAFPD Conference welcomes family and/or guests to walk the tradeshow and take part in the social gatherings being offered. Guests can register separately or be added to the fire districts registration but must be affiliated with fire protection district and not a commercial business.

Register Today!
Sign-up before May 30th
and Save!



217-525-6620 - www.iafpd.org

ADA and Services for the Hearing Impaired

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the IAFPD will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you have special needs, contact Cheri Breneman at 217-525-6620.

Parking

Ample free parking is available at the Embassy Suites Riverfront Conference Center. A portion of the Embassy Suites parking will be closed and reserved for vendor displays and vehicles but should not impact conference attendee parking options.

Hotel Information

Embassy Suites - 100 Conference Cener Dr. East Peoria, 61611
309-694-0200

Group Code: 934 – Locate direct link on IAFPD.org.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/piaeses-embassy-suites-east-peoria-riverfront-hotel-and-conference-center/>

\$130.00/night - 2-night minimum required to book

Room Block deadline: May 20

Additional lodging is available within the area, however the IAFPD has secured this block for its members and the convenience and amenities it lends to their attendance plans.

Tradeshow

The tradeshow hours are Friday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Name badges are required for entry onto the tradeshow floor. A one-day exhibit hall pass may be purchased for \$25 but must be done no later than May 30 and may have limited access.

Online Registration Tips

- If someone else is registering for you, be sure they know whether you need ETT or continuing education (CE) hours.
- You'll need your Glue Up Member profile activated which requires an independent email for individual access to the new platform, all events and communities. Your individual email address is your key to all conference-related communication.
- Choose the correct registration option—full conference attendance or Essential Trustee Training. *Note: You must be registered for ETT to receive certification.*

For questions, please call IAFPD at 217-525-6620 or email Karrie Beneky at karrie@iafpd.org.

What to Wear?

Business casual dress is suitable for the conference. It is recommended attendees bring a sweater to cope with cooler room temperatures. Friday night encourages flip flops and Hawaiian shirts to coincide with the Jimmy Buffet Parrot Head themed event.

Essential Trustee Training (ETT)

Essential Trustee Training is an IAFFPD exclusive 12-hour training program highly recommended for all members of the Board of Trustees, but open to anyone with a desire to learn the roles and responsibilities of fire protection district administration. Trustees who complete the entire ETT Program under 70 ILCS 70/6 are entitled to additional compensation. This program curriculum is developed and presented by attorneys who specialize in local and municipal government.

Pre-registration and additional fee is required to attend.

- Part 1** - Organization & Administration of the FPD
Thursday, 6/19/25 - 7:30 am – 11:30 pm
- Part 2** - Finances, Procurement, Legal Liability
Friday, 6/20/25 - 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm
- Part 3** - Personnel and Human Resources
Saturday, 6/21/25 - 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

 <p>Part 1 4 hours</p>	 <p>Part 2 4 hours</p>	 <p>Part 3 4 hours</p>
<p>Fire District Organization & Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutes, Regulations & Court Decisions Board Governance Trustee Powers & Duties Policies & Ordinances Annexation & Consolidation Disconnection 	<p>Finances, Procurement & Legal Liability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax Levy Budget & Appropriation Process Financial Reports Equipment Acquisition Bidding Fire Station Construction Legal Liability 	<p>Personnel & Human Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer & Career Personnel Fire Commissioners Hiring & Employment Laws Training Requirements Pensions & Promotions Discipline & Discharge

GUEST PROGRAM

ATTN: QUILTERS, CRAFTERS and NEEDLEWORKERS



- The IAFFPD Auxiliary has planned a space to gather and work on crafts together. If you have a craft, bring it with you. Bring your own machine and whatever else you need. The room will be secure at night. We will also have water, drinks and snacks available for you while we work.
- Guests are encouraged to participate in a group quilting project and asked to bring one of your fire department t-shirts.
- We will have pella available and a heated platen to bond it to the back of the shirt.
- We'll cut the shirts to a 12 ½" square. Make sure that the name fits in the 12" square. Note: the ½" is seam allowance.

This quilt will be something we'll bring and display at IAFFPD events. Come and be a part of this new event at the conference.

Photo Source: Vienna (IL) FD Auxiliary Facebook

Continuing Education Hours

- **Fire Protection District Trustees (A)** Public Act 95-0799 requires trustees who have completed the Essential Trustee Training Program to fulfill a 3-hour annual continued education requirement.
- **All** sessions presented at the IAFFPD Conference satisfy this legal training requirement.
- **Pension Fund Trustees (P)** The IAFFPD Conference program offers **8 hours** of qualified pension training credit to fulfill the in ethics and pension fund administration. Some of the educational programs.

TRU\$TEE Grant\$



The IAFFPD Foundation Scholarship program has a Trustee's Grant Program that is available to assist trustee members of the Association who are interested in attending the Annual Conference but may have financial constraints hindering their ability to participate.

The vision of the program is simple:

- to promote education for those serving as an elected or appointed trustee,
- to present opportunities for networking with others tasked with the same role, and
- to provide a venue to learn from the experts who provide resources, specialty services, and fire equipment utilized by the fire services.

The Foundation's Trustee Grant may award up to \$500.00 in reimbursements per recipient for the 2026 Annual Conference. Some restrictions apply and all applications will be considered. For more details and applications, visit IAFFPD.org.

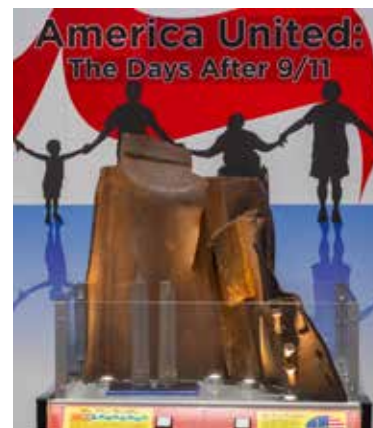
DISCOUNTS

An Incentive for Newcomers!



WE WANT YOU

The IAFFPD Foundation is excited to offer a special discount for districts that have not yet attended the Annual Conference. Eligible districts can send one member for half off full conference registration. This promotion is available to the first 40 districts that respond, so don't wait. If your district has been considering attending but faces budget constraints, this is an excellent opportunity to participate at a reduced cost. To take advantage of this limited-time offer, please call 217-525-6620 to secure your spot.



911 Exhibit

IAFFPD welcomes the American United traveling 911 Exhibit display to the conference in remembrance of The Days After 9/11. The display includes a scrupulously accurate time-line of that day and a breakdown of facts and events, the exhibit is centered upon what happened in the aftermath.

Special Events

Honor & Recognition Awards Presentation Luncheon

Thursday 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

IAFPD uses the annual conference as an opportunity to recognize the members who have served multiple terms of office with their respective fire districts (Trustee's Years of Service Recognition) as well as a few select members who have demonstrated "outstanding Service" in their fire community or with the IAFPD. The Awards Lunch is included in conference registration fee and is a great time to bring your fellow district members together for a meal.

Evening Reception in the Conference Center

Thursday 6:00 pm

After the Open Forum, please join other conference attendees, guests and vendors for this opportunity to unwind after a long day of education and enjoy some tasty food and complimentary beverages.

Opening Ceremony

Friday 8:00 to 10:30 am

Friday kicks off with a special tribute to a tragic day that profoundly affected our nation 25 years ago, the city of New York, and forever changed the landscape of the fire services.

Salute to America

Friday at 10:45 am

The traditional ceremony that honors our country by raising the flag (weather permitting) just following the opening session and introduction to the outdoor vendor display,

Party on the Terrace

Friday Night Social Event - Friday at 8:00 – 10:00 pm

The conference committee invites all attendees to enjoy an evening of fresh air, a lovely view of the Illinois River and city skyline while listening to a live piano music performance (and sing-along) with cold beverages and fellowship.

Fire Service Memorial

Saturday, 8:30 am

This special dedication to honor fallen firefighters and other members of the Illinois fire service who have passed away during the past year. The event welcomes family and fire department members to attend, share and remember with special music, flowers and a special reading. To include a person on the necrology and program, please be sure to notify IAFPD before May 15. You can submit a name on the conference page of the IAFPD website (www.iafpd.org).

Keynote Speakers

OPENING SESSION - FRIDAY, JUNE 12

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FRONT LINE

The opening session will pay tribute to a tragic day that profoundly affected our nation 25 years ago, the City of New York, and forever changed the landscape of the fire service. This session features an interactive, talk-show-style discussion with fire service leaders who confronted unprecedented challenges during and in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. The guests will be drawing on firsthand experience and will reflect on leadership under crisis, lessons learned, and how those experiences continue to shape the fire service today.



MICHAEL M. DUGAN, a 42-year veteran of the fire service, is also a 27-year member of the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), where he retired as the captain of Ladder Company 123. As a lieutenant, he served in Ladder Company 42 in the South Bronx and was a firefighter on Ladder 43. He is a member of the FDIC International and Fire Engineering advisory boards and is proud recipient of the 2020 Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award.



DEPUTY CHIEF GEORGE K. HEALY is currently a deputy chief with the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), assigned to Division 13 in South Queens. He began his career with the FDNY in April of 1991 where he worked his way through the ranks to his current position. He is an instructor for FDNY's Battalion Chief Command Course, the Deputy Chief Development Course and Chiefs Education Day. George is an inaugural member of the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI), part of UL Research Institutes, advisory board. Currently a deputy chief with FDNY, George utilizes FSRI's fire safety research every day.



CHIEF JAMES M. GRADY III retired after 40+ years with Frankfort Fire Protection District and 29 years as Chief who started as a proud volunteer. He is the former Executive Director of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and holds a master's degree in public administration with numerous state and national certifications. He served as a field instructor with VCOS Beyond Hoses & Helmets along with staff and the Illinois Fire Service Institute and several community colleges and universities. He is a longstanding member of Illinois Firefighters Medal of Honor Committee & Foundation as well as IAFPD.

Top 10 Reasons to Attend:

- *Earn Continued Education Hours*
- *3-Part Essential Trustee Training Offered*
- *Dynamic Speakers Presenting Timely & Relevant Topics*
- *Interactive Tradeshow*
- *Demonstrations*
- *Entertaining Networking Events*
- *Fire Service Memorial*
- *Recognition Awards*
- *Guests Welcome!*
- *Meet the President!*



IAFPD FOUNDATION TRUSTEES' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



The Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts Foundation's Scholarship Committee announces the application period is open to assist trustee members of the Association who are interested in attending the Annual Conference, but may have financial constraints hindering their ability to participate.

The vision of the program is simple: to promote education for those serving as an elected or appointed trustee, to present opportunities for networking with others tasked with the same role, and to provide a venue to learn from the experts who provide resources, specialty services and fire equipment utilized by the fire services.

The Foundation's Trustee Scholarship may award up to \$500.00 per recipient for the Annual Conference and up to 20 qualified fire protection district trustees. Some restrictions apply and all applications will be considered.

Interested members must submit Trustee Scholarship Application no later than May 5, 2026. Send completed form to IAFPD via email: info@iafpd.org, or mail to: 1201 S. 6th St. Springfield, IL 62703.

Trustee Scholarship Guidelines & Application

- Scholarships are awarded for attendance of the IAFPD Annual Conference in June.
- Scholarship recipient's fire protection district must be an IAFPD member in good standing.
- Recipients are reimbursed up to \$500.00 upon submission of receipts after conference.
- Reimbursements are limited to reasonable expenses incurred by attending conference (meals, lodging at conference host hotel or other approved location, mileage at federal rate and/or registration fees).
- Proof of conference attendance required for reimbursement (sign in at registration)
- Grantees must be trustees serving their first (or second) term of office.
- Applicants must describe the need for financial assistance, budget issues or financial constraints of the applicant and/or district which support the request for assistance

Fire Protection District: _____

Applicant Name _____ Title/Affiliation: _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

*Email: _____ Phone: _____

Date Appointed/Elected: _____ Have you ever attended the IAFPD Conference? Yes / No

Describe your financial need, funding constraint or reasons you are applying for the trustee scholarship.

If awarded a scholarship, will you commit to full conference, including the closing session on Saturday? Yes / No

Select (3) topics are you most interested in seeing presented at the conference?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Update | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidation | <input type="checkbox"/> Pension | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Reporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Keynote |

All applicants are notified by email of IAFPD's receipt of their application and again if they are granted a scholarship.

QUESTIONS? CALL 217-525-6620 or VISIT US ONLINE AT IAFPD.ORG