

# AROUND THE STATE



## A Word from our Fire Service Partners

**From the Editor:** The following column is intended to provide our readers an update on fire service activities from around the state.

### Illinois Fire Chiefs Association



Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Fire Call. The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association values our long-standing partnership with the IAFFPD. At the end of this month, Maureen Griseto will be retiring as the Executive Assistant for the IFCA. Maureen started with the IFCA in 1990 but has been a part of our organization for much longer than those 36 years. She has been the voice on the phone, the recipient of your emails, and the friendly face checking you in at our many events. She is a living encyclopedia of all things IFCA. She has been a great resource for me as the IFCA President, and I am sure every President before me. I join all the IFCA membership in wishing her a very happy retirement.

With Maureen's retirement, the IFCA took time to evaluate how to manage our organization. In February, the Board chose to sign a 3-year contract with Wisconsin Association Management (WAM) to transition into their organization to oversee all of the duties of the Executive Assistant and the Executive Director. WAM will utilize an effective team-approach for managing our Association and Foundation. The WAM team will provide administrative and executive management, public relations, event planning, membership recruitment and retention, publications and communications, and our website management. A complete transition is expected to be completed by the end of June 2026.

This year, the IFCA is celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Please join us on August

15, 2026, for an unforgettable evening at the Westin Chicago Lombard. The fun filled evening will feature great company, celebration, and memories in the making. RSVP and ticket purchasing information is available on the IFCA website. Secure your tickets, book your stay with our special group rate, and make it a great night. We look forward to celebrating with you and your spouses or significant others.

I hope to see many of you at the 2026 Illinois Fire Chiefs Educational and Research Foundation Golf Outing on July 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the primary fund raiser for the Foundation and a great time. The **Illinois Fire Chiefs Educational and Research Foundation** provides scholarships and grants to students and educational institutions for undergraduate, post-graduate and vocational education. In 2025, the Foundation was able to provide scholarships valued at \$66,000 to 77 Fire Service Personnel throughout the State of Illinois. Register on the IFCA website at [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org).

As a note, we have recently updated our social media presence and encourage you to follow us on Facebook at Illinois Fire Chiefs Association – IFCA.

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IFCA President.

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### Illinois Fire Service Institute

Spring is here and with it comes a new round of training opportunities with IFSI. Upcoming classes



include Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue, and Fire Apparatus Engineer. Smoke Divers, Emergency Medical Technician, and Fireground Command and Fireground Company Officer courses will also offer additional opportunities for hands-on training.

Check the IFSI website for a full list of training opportunities occurring in Champaign and around the state.

See below for information about other programs coming this spring and summer.

#### **2026 Fire College-Time to Train**

Registration is open for the 102nd Annual Fire College scheduled for June 5-7 in Champaign. IFSI is offering 22 unique courses from which students of all skill levels can choose to customize their training experience. Hands-on, live fire, and classroom training will be led by IFSI elite instructors.

A limited number of hotel rooms are available at no cost to Fire College registrants. Funding for accommodations is provided by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

New this year is the Fire College Expo. Vendors will be onsite displaying and selling items ideal for first responders. Leather goods, tools, gear bags, helmet shields, children's gear, novelty items, and IFSI apparel will be available for purchase.

Classes fill quickly. Register now.

### **IFSI-FOCUSING ON THE NEXT GENERATION OF FIREFIGHTERS**

Do you know someone interested in becoming a firefighter? How about individuals ages 15-20 who are already affiliated with a department and looking

*Continued on page 21*