



81st Annual IAFPD Conference

It's Time to GET IT DONE!

June 11-13, 2026
East Peoria, Illinois




Opening Session Welome by
Chairman Yeakley



IAFPD Board

IAFPD 2026 Conference Commemorative Coins



We have a limited supply of the one-of-a-kind coin that provides a tribute to the 25th Anniversary of 911 and America's semi-quincentennial

Coins are Available for Purchase - \$20/ea (includes Shipping)
All sales proceeds will be donated to the IAFPD Foundation
To order call IAFPD at 217-525-6620.

Diamond Sponsors:



Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:

Alexis Fire Equipment	Kings Financial Consulting
BKV Group	MacQueen Emergency Group
Cashion Fire Equipment	Metro Paramedics
Dinges Fire Company	NFSA
Foster Coach Sales	Stobbs & Sinclair, Ltd.

Bronze Sponsors:

Air One Equipment
American Response Vehicles
Performance Services

Annual Conference Highlights



Nightscan



Sprinkler demo by NIFSAB



The Will Burt Co.



Alliance Disaster Kleanup



Fire Safety Consultants



Fire Service Administrative Professionals

Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors

1-800-BoardUp

1-800boardup.com

A.E.C. Fire * Safety * Security, Inc.

aecfire.com

Air One Equipment

aoe.net

Alexis Fire Equipment

alexisfire.com

Alliance Disaster Kleanup

alliancedk.com

American Response Vehicles

arvambulance.com

Axios Group/Chubb Combined Insurance

axiosinsurance.com

Banner Fire Equipment, Inc.

bannerfire.com

BKV Group

BKVgroup.com

Cashion Fire Equipment

cashionionfire.com

Compass Insurance Partners

compasspasscoverage.com

Dinges Fire Company

dingesfire.com

Discovery Works Collaborative

discoveryworkscollaborative.com

Eagle Engraving, Inc.

eagle-engraving.com

E-Enviornmental Solutions

e-enviro.com

EMS Management & Consultants, Inc.

emsmc.com

FeatherShark

feathershark.com

FGM Architects, Inc.

fgmarchitects.com

www.iafpd.org

Fire Safety Consultants, Inc.

Fireresafetyfsci.com

Fire Service, Inc.

fireserviceinc.com

Fire Truck Resource

firetruckresource.com

FirstNet Built with AT&T

firstnet.com

Fortress Data Management

fortressdm.com

Foster Coach Sales, Inc.

fostercoach.com

Frederick Quinn Corporation

fquinncorp.com

Garage Technologies Inc.

shopgarage.com

Garner Sales and Service

IL Assn. Fire Protection Districts & IAFFD

Foundation

iafpd.org

IL Fire Chiefs Association

illinoisfirechiefs.org

IL Fire Inspectors Association

illinoisfireinspectors.org

IL Fire Service Administrative Professionals

www.ifsap.org

IL Public Risk Fund

iprf.com

IL Firefighter's Association

illinoisfirefighters.org

Johnson Fitness & Wellness

johnsonfitness.com

Kings Financial Consulting, Inc.

kingsfci.com

Lauterbach & Amen, LLP

lauterbachamen.com

MacQueen Emergency Group

macqueengroup.com

Metro Paramedic Services, Inc.

metroparamedics.com

Municipal Emergency Services

mesfire.com

National Fire Sprinkler Association

nfsa.org

Northern IL Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board

iresprinklerassoc.org

NPPFA Benefits

nppfabenefits.org

Office of the State Fire Marshal

sfm.illinois.gov

Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc.

paramedicservices.com

Performance Services

performanceservices.com

Promos 911 Inc.

promos911.com

R3 Rescue, LLC

r3-rescue.com

Railside Citrus Insurance Agency

railsidecitrus.com

RWK IT Services

rwksolvesit.com

SCBAS, Inc.

scbas.com

Stifel

stifel.com

The Will-Burt Company

willburt.com

VFIS / Midwest

vfis.com

Whelen Engineering

whelen.com

Dynamic Speakers & Engaged Attendees



*Rosanna Barbaro-Flores, Illinois
Comptroller's Office*



Michael Dugan, FDNY



Open Forum Panel



Danielle Mains, 911 Wellness



Rick George, Lake Egypt FPD



Attorneys Eckert, McGinley and Livingstone



Peter Dyer, Schaumburg FD



Joe Miller & Megan Lamb (Attack on our Taxes)



Attorney John T. Brady & Jeff Bryant, Dinges



Karl Ottosen (Hiring Issues)



Chatham Presents Y-not Daycare Incident



Brittan Bolin & Jim Sinclair



*State Fire Marshal Michele Pankow & Chief
Heather Moore, IFSI*

Conference Highlights



American United Traveling 911 Exhibit



IAFFPD Board and Staff



Sing along performer:
Marcell Guyton



Gayle Schuldt and Peggy Kilburg



Auxiliary Members Crafting a t-shirt Quilt



Happy attendees from Cissna Park FPD



Antique Apparatus Display thanks to Art Kilburg and Don Loos



Conference Swag

Attendance at 2026 Conference

78 Fire Districts in Attendance

Avon FPD

Barrington Countryside FPD

Beecher FPD

Bellflower FPD

Benson FPD

Bourbonnais FPD

Braidwood FPD

Bristol Kendall FPD

Carol Stream FPD

Chatham FPD

Cherry FPD

Cissna Park FPD

Coal City FPD

Coal Valley FPD

Countryside FPD

Crete Township FPD

Divernon FPD

Dunlap Community FPD

East Joliet FPD

El Paso FPD

Elwood FPD

Emerald Mound Lebanon FPD

Erie FPD

Forman FPD

Fosterburg FPD

Fulton FPD

Germantown FPD

Glen Carbon FPD

Granville Hennepin FPD

Hammond FPD

Hampshire FPD

Hardin FPD

Hollywood Heights

Hudson FPD

Jefferson No. 1 FPD

Knoxville FPD

Lake Egypt FPD

Liberty FPD

Limestone Township (Peoria) FPD

Limestone Township FPD

(Kankakee)

Lincoln Rural FPD

Lisle-Woodridge FPD

Lockport Township FPD

Logan-Trivoli FPD

Lynch Area FPD

Manhattan FPD

Martinton FPD

Minooka FPD

Mt. Pulaski Rural FPD

New Lenox FPD

Newark FPD

North Palos FPD

Northern Tazewell FPD

Pingree Grove & Countryside FPD

Prospect Heights FPD

Reading Community FPD

Riverton Area FPD

Roberts Park FPD

Rochester FPD

Salem FPD

Sangamon Valley FPD

Schaumburg Fire Dept.

Schuyler County FPD

Serena Community FPD

Sherman FPD

Shoal Creek FPD

Shumway FPD

Spring Bay FPD

Stillman FPD

Sugar Grove FPD

Sunnycrest FPD

Taylorville FPD

Timber-Hollis FPD

Tri-State FPD

Virden FPD

Wauconda FPD

Williamson County FPD

Wonder Lake FPD

Fire Service Memorial



Bell Ringer IAFPD Chaplain Richard Joyce with Gary Mueller, Jim Hoscheid & Rick George



Memorial Moderator, Damon Schuldt, IAFPD President



Vocalist Haley Rickbark and Guitarist David Fulton



IAFPD Fire Service Memorial

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Remembering friends, honoring those we have lost and supporting the families and fire departments for their losses over the past year. IAFPD dedicates today's program to you and the people who have devoted their lives to serving their communities and the Illinois Fire Service.



Michael E. Altman (32)
Chicago Fire Department
3/17/2026
Firefighter



Steven M. Decker (61)
Chicago Fire Department
5/14/2026
Firefighter / CFD Engineer



Illinois Line of Duty Firefighter Fatalities:

Honoring our friends and members who served the Illinois Fire Service

William Artman (82)
Cedarville FPD
9/4/2025
Firefighter



Ralph Hall (64)
Norris City FPD
1/5/2026
Fire Chief (ret)



Daryl D. Mesch Sr. (85)
West Suburban FPD
6/6/2025
Firefighter/EMT



Lonnie Barnes (59)
Greenup FPD
1/2/2026
Firefighter/EMT



Susan Huss (53)
Tonica Fire Department
6/2/2025
Paramedic



Brian Mitchell (73)
Carlinville FPD
2/28/2025
Trustee



William Brennan (74)
Chillicothe FPD
12/12/2025
Arson Investigator



Aron Jaime (34)
Morris FPD
12/14/2025
Firefighter



Keith Oncken (93)
Milledgeville FPD
1/20/2026
President



Cyrus "Cy" Bunting (83)
QEM FPD
3/2/2026
Trustee



Bradford Janzen (83)
Timber Hollis FPD
6/6/2025
Trustee Secretary/Firefighter (ret.)



Donald Poole (79)
Akron-Princeville FPD
11/19/2025
Fire Chief (ret)



Timothy Deutsche (77)
Bloomington No. 1 FPD / IAFPD
11/29/2025
Trustee President
IAFPD Legislative Liaison



Brett P. Kunkel (69)
Shoal Creek FPD / IAFPD
3/29/2026
Trustee / IAFPD President



Jayne Schirmacker (73)
Orland FPD
10/19/2025
Trustee Treasurer (ret.)



Michael Dillon (75)
Braidwood FPD / IAFPD
11/1/2025
Trustee / IAFPD President



Robert McCook (82)
Cherry FPD
6/10/2025
Former Mayor



Gary W. Williams (73)
Timber-Hollis FPD
5/23/2026
Assistant Chief (ret.) / Trustee



Todd Fitzpatrick (63)
Blackhawk (Rock Island) FPD
5/4/2025
Fire Chief



Sandra Meade (74)
Wood Dale FPD
8/27/2025
Trustee



Steven Woods (67)
Fulton FPD
2/27/2026
Trustee



Honor & Recognition Award Presentations

The IAFPD Honor & Recognition program was established in 2009 as an opportunity to recognize members who have served multiple terms of office with their fire districts. We also invite the opportunity to recognize members who have gone beyond the call of duty during this time. The program invites those recognized to attend the Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the Annual Conference. It is a great way for your fire district members to say 'thank you' for their years of service also.

Trustees' Service Award: Recognizing Trustees who have served 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 or 42+ years with a fire protection district.

Trustees' Outstanding Service Award: Awarding a nominated trustee for outstanding service to the IAFPD, the fire district or the Illinois Fire Service.

Association Outstanding Service Award: Awarding a nominated individual within the Illinois Fire Service for outstanding service to the IAFPD or a fire protection district.

Nomination forms are included in the winter Issue of The Fire Call or may be downloaded at www.iafpd.org. Awards will be presented during the Annual Conference.



2026 Outstanding Service

Awards a nominated fire protection district trustee (past or present) for outstanding service to the IAFPD, a particular fire protection district or districts, or the Illinois Fire Service.



Steve Gustafson has served the Hampshire Fire Protection District for 49 years, the past 19 years as a member of its Board of Trustees. Throughout his tenure as both a trustee and lifelong member of the fire department, he has exemplified outstanding leadership, integrity, and commitment to protecting the residents of the Hampshire Fire Protection District. His dedication to providing high-quality fire protection and emergency services has left a lasting impact on both the district and the community it serves. Beyond his local service, Gustafson has been a long-time supporter of the IAFPD and its mission to strengthen fire protection district governance through education and training. His engagement with professional development and educational opportunities has helped advance the knowledge and effectiveness of fire protection district officials throughout Illinois.



2026 Distinguished Member

Cashion Fire Equipment

Distinguished Member - Recognizes an Associate Member (company or organization) who has proven dedication and loyalty to the Association through multi-year top-level sponsorship and active participation at the Annual Conference and ongoing support of the organization's mission.

CASHION FIRE EQUIPMENT - In recognition of their unwavering commitment as an Associate Member since 2018 and the company's steadfast support as an event sponsor and active participant at the IAFPD Conferences. We appreciate to Brad Cashion and Cashion Fire Equipment for their dedication to furthering the Association's mission and serving fire protection districts throughout Illinois.

Trustee's Years of Service Award

The IAFPD Honor & Recognition invites our fire protection district members an opportunity to recognize their Trustees who have served multiple terms of office with the Board of Trustees. Every six years, the trustee can receive a new "YEARS OF SERVICE" lapel pin and special certificate from the Association and be recognized.

Name	FPD	Years as trustee	Years with Dept	Silver Pins
Debra Greist	Carroll FPD	13	13	12
Joe Doherty	McHenry Township FPD	6	6	6
Kurt Rodewald	McHenry Township FPD	6	6	6
Brian Bernardoni	Roberts Park FPD	6	6	6
Steve Stratakos	Roberts Park FPD	20		18
Steve Gustafson	Hampshire FPD	19	49	18
Name	FPD	Years as trustee	Years with Dept	Gold Pins
Thomas Long	Barrington Countryside	30		30



*Years 6, 12, 18 & 24 – Bronze Pin
Years 30, 36, 42 & 48 – Silver Pin
After 50 Years of Service – Gold Pin*

Honor & Recognition Award Presentations

2026 Kenny Long Award Recipients: *Michael Dillon and Brett Kunkel*

Established in 1996 and named after a leader, strong visionary and someone truly devoted to the mission of the IAFPD with a passion for helping small districts. Recipients are selected by the IAFPD Board of Directors and often follow the same philosophy and possess the same leadership vision as did Kenny Long. The award is given to a person who has made a significant difference to the fire service as a whole and their work will be seen for years to come. This year, IAFPD presented two deserving members with the Kenny Long Award posthumously.



MICHAEL DILLON - Before his passing in November 2025, Michael Dillon served as President of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts (IAFPD) for twenty years. Prior to assuming the presidency, he served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer from 2000 to 2005. His leadership with the Association began in 1996 when he was appointed as an Area Representative, and three years later he was elected to the Board of Directors. He served 52 years with the Braidwood Fire Protection District.

In addition to leading the IAFPD Board of Directors for two decades, Michael was a dedicated advocate for Illinois fire protection districts and the fire service as a whole. He represented the interests of our members before numerous state agencies and organizations, serving as a member of the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Fire Advisory Commission, Vice Chairman of the Illinois Fire Services Association, a member of the Illinois Fire Service Institute Advisory Board, and a member of the Statewide Interoperability Communications Executive Committee. His unwavering commitment to public service and the advancement of the Illinois fire service left a lasting legacy that continues to benefit fire protection districts across the state.



BRETT KUNKEL - Brett Kunkel exemplified leadership throughout his life. He served for many years as Mayor of his hometown of Sorento while also dedicating himself to the fire service. Beginning as a junior firefighter in 1970, Brett rose through the ranks of what would become the Shoal Creek Fire Protection District, helping shape the organization into the respected department it is today. Brett's commitment to the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts began in 1989 when he was elected as an Area Representative. His dedication and vision led him to the Executive Committee, where he served as Vice President and ultimately as IAFPD President until his passing in March.

Throughout his years of service, Brett proudly represented the IAFPD and its members in countless ways. He served on the Illinois State Fair Committee, was a familiar and welcome presence at the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts Conference, represented Illinois at the Congressional Fire Services Institute in Washington, D.C., and rarely missed the opportunity to honor Illinois firefighters at the Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor Ceremony.

As Chair of the IAFPD Annual Conference, Brett played a pivotal role in creating an exceptional experience for attendees. He managed the tradeshow, organized live demonstrations, secured outstanding keynote speakers, and believed that great fellowship was an essential part of every conference, often bringing live music to the association's social events. Brett's infectious enthusiasm left a lasting impact on the IAFPD that will be seen for years to come.