



# THE FIRE CALL

A publication of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts

April - June 2026  
Vol. 73, Issue 2  
(USPS 017-356)

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:  
Cheri Breneman

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR:  
Karrie Beneky

IAFPD PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:  
Damon Schuldt, Chair  
Paul R. Grzelak, James Sinclair,

GRAPHIC DESIGN:  
Tamiko Kinkade, CP Solutions, Inc.

IAFPD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Damon Schuldt 815-370-4407  
President

Marvin Hill 847-713-2042  
Vice President

Ann Joyce 309-243-5150  
Secretary

Ken Yeakley 217-262-3341  
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Lawrence Brown 815-315-5977  
Paul Grzelak 815-922-4448  
Rick George 618-559-6917  
Don Loos 217-430-9136  
Don Mueller 618-779-9332  
Gary Mueller 217-415-3555  
Steve Schultz 815-937-1987

AREA REPRESENTATIVES  
Brian A. Bernardoni 312-731-1407  
James Hoscheid 815-228-2525  
Art Kilburg 563-613-3764

STAFF:  
Cheri Breneman, Assn Administrator  
Cheri@iafpd.org

Karrie Beneky, Admin. Assistant  
Karrie@iafpd.org

THE FIRE CALL is published four times a year in the interest of Fire Protection Districts by the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts (IAFPD).

Periodic Postage Paid at Springfield, IL and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster - Send address changes to:  
IAFPD  
1201 S. 6th Street - Springfield, IL 62703  
217-525-6620

©2026 Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts

## FEATURES

Financial Tools Available to Illinois FPDs ..... 36  
Receipt Means Receipt: FOIA Timing..... 40

## COLUMNS

President's Message .....6  
Association Update .....8  
Fire Counsel Notes ..... 10  
Compliance Corner..... 15  
Legislative Update ..... 16  
Member Services..... 18  
Around the State ..... 20  
Honest & Open Government Update ..... 26  
District Profile: Cherry FPD..... 30  
Pension Pointers ..... 32  
Insurance Insights ..... 34  
In the News..... 52  
Calendar of Events ..... 54

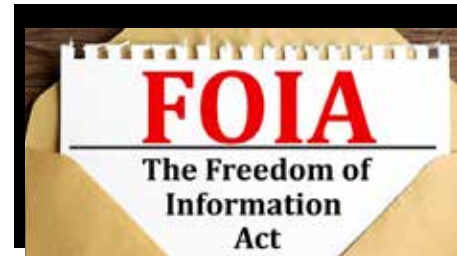
## OTHER INFORMATION

2026 Winter Conference Highlights .....7  
Illinois Fire Services Legislative Day 2026 ..... 17  
IAFPD Foundation Golf Outing Details ..... 19  
IAFPD 81st Annual Conference Information ..... 44  
Essential Trustee Training ..... 47  
Annual Meeting Credential & Proxy Form ..... 49  
Trustee Scholarship Application ..... 50

# IN THIS ISSUE



Page 36



Page 40



The content of articles contained in THE FIRE CALL solely reflects the personal opinions of the authors or contributors and does not necessarily represent the official opinion or position of the IAFPD, its officers, directors, members or staff. THE FIRE CALL Publication is intended and designed to provide accurate and authoritative information regarding the subject matter covered. These services are provided with the understanding that the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts is not engaging or rendering in any specific legal or professional services.

The products and services advertised in THE FIRE CALL are not to be construed as being endorsed by IAFPD, its officers, directors, members or staff.