

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

New Year, New Tasks



By Cheri Breneman
Association Administrator

As we dive into the new year, I want to begin with a simple but productive invitation and one that sets the tone for how we will connect, collaborate, and grow in the months ahead. Our first “new year task” is this: log into our new membership platform and make it yours. While the process is easier to navigate than our previous system, our administrative assistant, Karrie Beneky is the key person and will happily assist with any questions or issues.

Prior to the passing of our devoted President, Karrie evaluated various systems and presented a proposal to the Board to invest in this platform, as we all believe that strong communication and engagement are the heartbeat of a thriving membership community. This new system is more than a technological upgrade; it’s a shared space designed to help us listen better, respond faster, and build stronger connections across our entire network.

Six months later, we are launched and ready to put it to work for us. When you log in, you’ll find tools that make it easier to stay informed, register for events, update your profile, and connect with fellow members. Like other apps you may have utilized, the Glue Up Membership platform safely allows communication to flow both ways—between the association and members, and among members themselves. Take advantage of the opportunities it presents, and let us know if we can help.

Member engagement doesn’t happen by accident; it happens when people show up, participate, and feel heard. This new platform helps us do exactly that, but its success depends on you. Every profile update, discussion post, event registration, and shared idea strengthens the community we’re building together.

So, as you set your goals for the new year, I encourage each member of your board, the commissioners, the fire chief, and the attorney to activate their presence on our new membership platform. Explore it, engage with it, and let us know what you think.

To keep in line with the new year’s tasks, I urge all members who have

not used one or more of the IAFPD’s educational resources to add them to their lists. Whether you choose to download a webinar from the online learning library, join us for a day at the Capitol (March 25), or make plans to attend and enjoy one of the two Conferences (Feb 27-28, O’Fallon, or June 11-13, East Peoria) that we work diligently to offer every year. Engaging with others never disappoints!

Thank you for your continued commitment, continued support, and trust. I’m excited about what we’ll accomplish together in the year ahead—and I look forward to connecting with you in new and more dynamic ways. ■



IAFPD Membership

- **630** Members
- **75%** of the Total (800) Fire Protection Districts in the State
- **2,800** Individuals - Trustees, Fire Commissioners, Chiefs, Attorneys
- **80** Year History of Continued Support