

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

2018: A Productive Year



*By Cheri Breneman
Association Administrator*

The Fall season at the IAFFPD is a time of reflection and planning: reflection on what we have accomplished over the past year for our membership and plans for the upcoming year. While preparing the annual newsletter, included with your District's membership renewal, it became evident that education was among our top accomplishments.

To summarize, we have presented 85 hours of education since January with an additional 12 hours planned for November. We offered 57 programs over 17 event days and currently have 10 hours of timely and useful topics available in Online Learning Library, our newest education platform. During the year, our event registration system recorded more than 1,200 event individual participants from 300 respective fire protection districts. We welcomed five fire protection districts and 15 companies as new members of the IAFFPD and welcomed back 13 members who had fallen out of touch. While membership has declined slightly in recent years, we stand strong with the support of 75% of the state's fire protection districts.

A new concept for our education programming are the webinars. These webinars are ideal for those who want to stay informed, learn from experienced presenters and earn continued education credit, all from the comfort of your home! A list of current webinars is published in this magazine but can also be found on the education page of IAFFPD.org in our Online Learning Library.

Another highlight of the year has been our involvement with our membership. The IAFFPD has been reaching out with personal phone calls, attending countywide meetings and arranging station visits. Our goal is to share information on current happenings but also collect information about our member districts and obtain new contact information where applicable. We enjoy visiting with you and learning about your district!

In planning for the next year, we are collecting your feedback to develop programs, utilizing your District's support as a member to communicate with legislators and working with IAFFPD committees to ensure another successful year for you and your fire protection district.

One of the avenues we are using to plan for the next year is through a 5-minute survey which was sent to your district via email to find out how we are doing and what we may do better to serve your needs. Interestingly, 82% of the survey responses identified our "publications" as

their most valuable membership benefit and 79% of the responses identified "legislative updates" as another valuable benefit. You can count on IAFFPD to keep these items as two of our highest priorities as well!

If you completed the survey, we appreciate your feedback and time! As a thank you, we have placed your name in a drawing to receive a free gift, with five winners to be notified by email. If you did not receive the survey, it's not too late to be entered in the drawing. Please help us fix that disconnect by sending your current email address to info@iaffpd.org. We do not sell your e-mail address or spam your account, we simply want to keep you connected. You may also access the survey on the IAFFPD website which asks for your email address during the process.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you! We value you and the work you do to keep your district running. I hope to see you at an education session, legislative event or district meeting in the near future! Until then, have a blessed holiday season. ■

New Fire Protection District Members:

- Central FPD
- Congerville FPD
- Northwestern FPD
- Oquakwa FPD
- White Hall FPD
- Wapella FPD

The word "Welcome" is written in a colorful, cursive font. Each letter is a different color: W (yellow), e (orange), l (green), c (blue), o (purple), m (red), e (pink).