

ASSOCIATION UPDATE



By Cheri Breneman
Association Administrator

One of the greatest benefits that come with my job is the opportunity it presents for me to engage with people. Whether we connected by Zoom, via email, over the phone or meeting in person, the communications were essential during a time we all faced challenges from the pandemic. While waiting for some form of normalcy, our goals stayed focused on meeting the needs of our members, working with our legal partners and other fire organizations to address the issues.

It is with great enthusiasm I provide a snapshot of activities that the Association, its leadership and the committees have been participating and the various areas we have represented fire protection districts throughout the year.

- **Training:** Our exclusive Essential Trustee Training, the exclusive Open Meetings Act Training, the webinars, two conferences, and four regional trustee training sessions have allowed us to reach greater than 800 fire officials (representing 300 fire districts) across the state. This second-year run during a pandemic has seen an incredible outcome.
- **Regional Meetings:** We appreciate any platform that allows a chance to enjoy fellowship with good people and the opportunity to present the status of the items related to fire districts across the state. Thank you to IFCA, the South Central Fire Chiefs, the Fire Instructors, and the Fire Safety Alliance for allowing IAFFPD a place on your event agendas.

- **Community Risk Reduction:** IAFFPD is part of a robust working group spreading a statewide message that minimizes risk while inspiring community ownership and providing resources. No district is too small to work with their community, and we are here to help everyone learn ways to embrace the concept. Start by watching Marsha Geisler's CRR video presentation available on the resource page of IAFFPD.org.
- **Illinois Fire Pension Investment Fund:** Our communications and persistent call to action successfully won fire protection districts a seat on the IFPIF Board of Trustees. Trustee/Treasurer for Lisle Woodridge Fire Protection District, John Perry, will serve a 2-year term. The victory brings our voice to meetings with the overseeing your fire district's pension fund. Congrats to John Perry on winning the election and thank you to all who supported his efforts.
- **Special Events:** It is an honor to present awards, celebrate retirements, attend station dedications and visit during open house events. We appreciate any opportunity that allows us to support our members, acknowledge their commitments and successes.
- **Illinois State Fair:** Our day at the Fire Safety Tent to educate families on home and fire safety, sharing a message we hope is never needed, but if it is, that your message may have saved someone's life.

- **Fire Prevention Week:** Joined by 300+ friends of the fire service, the annual IFSA Luncheon recognized legislators for their support opposing firework sales and remarks from other fire organizations.
- **IFCA Conference & Tradeshow:** Representation at a well-attended event that allows us to connect with mutual members, supporters, and partners.
- **Legislative Summit:** A roomful of leaders representing 14 fire organizations spend a day developing a plan that supports each other's legislative initiatives to present to the Fire Caucus.
- **IFA Down & Dirty at IFSI:** IAFFPD appreciates the Illinois Firefighters Association partnership that allows us to attend their conference! The event is packed with affordable hands-on firefighter training with outstanding instructors at a training ground comparable-to-none.

The above list reminds us that IAFFPD membership has value beyond the personalized service, unique publications, and exceptional resources highlighted throughout our membership renewal. Our members, event partners, and loyal supporters are what make us stand out and remain stable.

As we enter the holiday season and wrap up a productive year that passed quickly, please know that the IAFFPD Board and Staff are thankful for the people we serve, the relationships we have established with the work we do. Sincere wishes for a blessed holiday! ■