

ASSOCIATION UPDATE



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Productive Outcomes from Strategic Planning

As I write my sixty-eighth article for The Fire Call, the same thought runs through my mind. Where has the time gone, what's next, and how will we get there?

The IAFFPD has embraced several changes, taken new leaps in growing our services, and faced challenges. The Board has utilized the strategic planning process to set goals, define objectives and develop a road map on how best to move forward. Some of the significant changes and growth areas include: expanding the Awards program, developing the Essential Trustee Training, presenting an annual memorial event, creating a downstate Winter Conference, and investing in an online learning platform to bring educational programs directly to your computer. More recently, we invested in a permanent office building, focused on member outreach programs, established a social media presence, developed a program for Open Meetings Act Training specifically for fire districts, created a digital map of our district members, and pushed our way through a global pandemic. We could not have done any of this without the support we have from our membership.

As for the future, we have great plans to continue focusing on what our members value most: presenting quality educational programs in person and online and providing valuable resources not available elsewhere. We strive to have every fire district in the state as members and will continue promoting the importance of membership.

The annual conference is one of the most significant ways to showcase our

organization, and we hope you will take advantage of this exceptional event! I speak on behalf of the Conference Committee when I say we are thrilled to be hosting this event with fewer gathering restrictions and welcoming back social events. This year we offer more sessions, expanded the tradeshow space to invite more vendors, and scheduled more networking events. Registration is open (at IAFFPD.org), and details are included throughout this publication.

While we all may be a bit burned out from zoom meetings, the association recognizes that some people prefer online options for training. For this reason, we will present the conference in a hybrid format that allows in-person or virtual participation. We learned a few things by investing in this online meeting technology last year and will use that experience to improve

and prepare for what we anticipate will be another excellent attendance online and in person. For those choosing online attendance, please review the tips and information provided as they will make your experience more pleasant.

You will be glad you did for those planning to attend in person! It will be great to see you there.

Also on the forefront, we have announced an exciting conference partnership with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association that I urge you to put on your calendar June 14-17, 2023, as this too will be a conference you won't want to miss! We'll have all the same great programs and activities our members have grown to expect, along with more members of the fire service and vendors. Watch for more news as the two organizations work to bring this concept to fruition. ■

NEW EDITION COMING SOON!

The 2022 Edition of the **Text of Laws Relating to Illinois Fire Protection Districts and State Fire Marshal** is currently in production and will arrive in June.

An IAFFPD exclusive resource, this book is a compilation of state laws which most directly apply to fire protection districts and the Illinois fire service in general. It contains the Fire Protection District Act, Open Meetings, Freedom of Information Act, Municipal code, Vehicle code and numerous other Acts as amended through Public Act 100-576 of the 100th General Assembly.

Each member receives one FREE copy of the book. Members may pick up their copy at the IAFFPD Conference or it will be mailed to the primary address on record in August.

