

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Summer 2020



By Cheri Breneman
Association Administrator

So far in 2020, one thing we all have in common is a pandemic and the impact it has had on our lives, our families, our work, our community, and our decisions. We all have a desire to get back to normal or somewhere close to what had before it all started. In time, we will get there, but not likely without sacrifice, adapting to change, or some form of realignment.

IAFPD and nearly every association in the nation have felt the impact with financial losses, member engagement and event participation. **Thankfully, IAFPD is stable and our membership is our greatest asset!** The conference is always a significant contributor to our bottom line, but **our resilience is the support by those who recognize the value and importance in what we do** as an organization, the resources we provide and other services we offer to the membership. We have sacrificed in-person meetings, we are adapting to technology and realigning meeting objectives. We are solid with more than 600 district members and 50 supportive associate members (which are listed in a directory towards the back of this publication).

The time and energy normally spent managing conference logistics were redirected to alternate education planning, checking in with members and collecting data to help prepare for our future during uncertain times. We have witnessed **an increase in the use of our online learning platform and we're seeing higher open rates on our email communications.** I cannot stress enough how much I appreciate hearing from our members because they read

something we sent in an email! Thank you for recognizing the importance of this communication and being kept informed.

Speaking of email, we sent a short survey that asks if your district has new trustees who were planning to complete the **Essential Trustee Training** (12-hour presented in 3 parts) that we traditionally offer during the June conference. The survey allows us to measure the needs and interests of our members to help form a plan to present this training. At this time, we are planning September 11-12 OR October 2-3 for a hybrid presentation format (in-person and video conference) in central Illinois. If you have not told our office staff that you need the training, we may need your email address. While we depend on you to read The Fire Call for association news, we greatly rely on the use of email to announce all educational programs and other timely news that may not have been available at the time we printed the magazine.

As for other good news, we have a complete product line of **quality men's**

and ladies' apparel with our colorful embroidered logo. We invite you to visit the IAFPD Corner which is in partnership with Eagle Engraving to see how you can display your pride and support by wearing a shirt, vest, jacket or sweater to your next fire service meeting or gathering. The store also has a nice collection of desk and travel accessories available if you are looking for a unique gift idea. As part of the grand opening of our new storefront, **all orders placed before September 15 will receive free shipping and 10% off.** Check out the IAFPD Corner advertisement in this magazine click the link on the IAFPD website to be directed to Eagle Engravings shopping center.

As 2020 will be a year of incredible history and many new firsts for each of us, the IAFPD is facing the challenges with perseverance. We are embracing the opportunity it presents to enhance communication and strengthen partnerships that support our members while we all push forward together. ■

Stay healthy, stay safe and stay strong!



NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED 2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Rescheduled Date/Location:

August 15, 2020 at 12:00 pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel

3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield

In-person and online participation welcomed

Member Districts who attend the meeting and intend to exercise the voting rights of a Member District must submit appropriate credentials and, if fewer than a majority of the Board of Trustees of a Member District are present, a proxy for that person to exercise the voting privileges of the Member District at the meeting.