

ASSOCIATION UPDATE



*By Cheri Breneman
Association Administrator*

Hindsight is 2020

The summer season wraps up a busy season of planning and presenting education and other successes, including the 77th Annual Conference that we have highlighted throughout this publication.

It is by the ways of the membership, their support, and most importantly, their engagement that we can thrive and succeed during a year unlike any other. Without these elements, we would not exist.

It is my pleasure to report on behalf of the Board, a few significant outcomes with the organization's programs, events, and projects. IAFFPD experienced a 100% member renewal rate, registered record-breaking attendance with educational events, reached an all-time high for newcomer conference attendees, and issued 100 completion certificates for the 3-part trustee training.

Like many organizations, we faced challenges that forced us to realign, pivot, seek opportunity, and focus on goals that need to be met while dealing with such unforeseen circumstances. We did that with the conference. For a better understanding, please take a moment to read Ken's message from the committee on what the group of leaders and volunteers achieved during this unusual time for their committee goals. The event participation was every bit of what we had hoped for and that we could accommodate while awaiting the state's Phase 5 for event gathering restrictions.

The event had 74 participate online and 170 attend in person. Together we had 127 fire protection districts represented and 38 supportive vendors and sponsors.

We will announce the date and location for the 2022 conference in the weeks ahead via email and on the website and greatly appreciate those who have contributed their input as we evaluate our options.

I have good news for those unable to attend the conference. Several programs will be made available for viewing on our website in the online learning library. This option is ideal for earning continuing education credit and learning about relevant topics presented by exceptional presenters. To that point, one of the most frequent comments on our event evaluation continuously speaks to the high quality of our conference speakers. Two conference topics have been recapped in this issue of *The Fire Call*. We appreciate the added efforts by Joe Miller and Megan Lamp for authoring the Case Law Update and Marsha Geisler for providing an overview on the developments with Community Risk Reduction (CRR).

In other news, the IAFFPD Foundation was successful with the two raffles they conducted to raise scholarship funds. While awarding several winners some fantastic raffle prizes, the Foundation can continue to issue annual scholarships that support education and training firefighters this fall. A friendly shout-out to the

generous donors and raffle ticket buyers for supporting the efforts that educate the next generation of the fire service. I invite you to find us and follow the IAFFPD Foundation on Facebook. The page was established recently and serves a place for fundraising activity information and recognize those supporting these efforts.

Speaking of scholarships, Congratulations to Colonel Royal Mortensen on his recent retirement from the Illinois Fire Service Institute. In his honor and beginning in 2021, the annual contribution of \$1,000 to the Illinois Fire Service Institute will be designated as the Colonel Royal P. Mortensen Scholarship. It is his vision and compassion that have created a new standard for successful partnerships and effective leadership. We applaud his service to our country, the state of Illinois, the association, and the 635 fire protection districts we represent.

As we enter the fall season, we will prepare for the upcoming year and communicate the plans for 'where do we go from here'. In the meantime, please know that your Association is always working together and strives to be greatest resource available to fire protection districts. ■