

# ASSOCIATION UPDATE



By Cheri Breneman  
Association Administrator

## Pushing Forward During Uncertain Times

**E**lection Day, the race for President and countless other notable seats, emerging issues, and campaigns will be over by the time you receive this message. We can undoubtedly expect many changes for the future regardless of the results. While we as an organization do not endorse specific candidates or a political party in the General Election, we ARE calling for a vote in another very important election.

This issue of The Fire Call contains important details and a call for action from our members who have a vote in the **Illinois Fire Pension Investment Fund Election**. The IAFFPD has been lobbying for a seat at this table (by statute) long before the passing of the pension consolidation legislation last year. Our efforts continue as we introduce and support two highly qualified candidates (John Perry and David Geary) who are willing to serve and represent the interests of fire protection districts that have an Article 4 pension fund. **Please refer to page 31 for this important message and urge the President of your fire district to mail his/her ballot.**

Turning to other Association priorities and activities for the fall season, IAFFPD has added **six webinar programs** to its online learning library. These include *Marijuana; OSHA Inspections: Worker's Comp; Ethics; Anti-Harassment* and a revised *Down & Dirty* presentation, which is the Annual Calendar & Checklist of responsibilities, filings, reporting, and record-keeping duties.

We recently presented **Open Meetings Act Training** and will have

the recorded program available online in the weeks ahead for members who need to meet the State of Illinois training requirement. IAFFPD's program meets the requirement and has been developed specifically for fire protection districts and will earn (2) CE hours for those who need them.

The **COVID Resource Page** on the website is regularly updated with new reports and developments as they occur. We just added a few announcements regarding compliance with the Open Meetings Act, COVID Funding resources and the state's list of fire departments exposed to COVID is posted weekly.

While applying for funding is rarely an easy process, the COVID resource page has useful information and tips on the **Illinois Local CURE program**, fire districts are eligible.

The funding is administered through Illinois DCEO ([www2.illinois.gov/dceo](http://www2.illinois.gov/dceo)) and a few rounds of disbursements have already occurred, but the process continues to award funds until the monies are exhausted.

IAFFPD has also joined the efforts of a **National Coalition of Special Districts** who has been educating U.S. Congress on the financial hardship the pandemic has had on Special Districts across the nation and why they should be included in H.R. 7073 – HEROES Act funding.

This advocacy group has provided sample letters and templates for you to share talking points with your U.S. officials in your District and the 'Essential Services' provided to your community.

Finally, I want to take an opportunity to **thank our interns**, Matt and Brooklyn, undergraduate students attending the University of Illinois at Springfield. Their skillsets have been of been a great asset to our staff during a busy season for member relations. Along with a few member-outreach projects, they have contributed to the significant increase in IAFFPDs social media presence. We are connected to more member pages and more Facebook followers plus; organizational pages on Linked-In, Twitter and Instagram. Our goal is to simply to connect with our online community wherever they wish to see us!

### Thanks to our IAFFPD interns!



**Brooklyn Goings** is from Trenton, Illinois. She is a college sophomore working on a Bachelor's in Marketing through the UIS Capitol Scholars Honors Program.



**Matthew Traxler** is from Philo, Illinois. He will graduate in December earning a Bachelors in Business Finance major with Marketing and Accounting minors.