

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

We Exist Because of You



By Cheri Breneman
Association Administrator

At a time when our members have multiple meetings to attend, other priorities demanding their time, options to evaluate when it comes to training and a variety of places to obtain useful resources, our goal at IAFFPD is to place high on your list of options. IAFFPD members can count on us for each of these items and so much more.

We will close out the year with good numbers on all fronts and we owe a debt of gratitude to the membership for their confidence in us, their support of the programs and involvement with the legislative work we do. Numbers speak volumes and your voice was essential to our success this year and going forward in a year of many changes on the horizon.

As your District Board of Trustees meets this fall, please consider placing IAFFPD on your meeting agenda and use the time to review the annual newsletter you received in October to review the legislative changes and details for the programs we are offering.

Another recommendation is to invite the Board to use time during the meeting to pull up the website (IAFFPD.org) and review the online learning library and order a download for everyone to watch, listen and learn together as a group. Many members rely on the IAFFPD [Annual Calendar and Check List](#) and the IAFFPD online library has a complete one-hour program that covers this entirely! The webinar serves as a great review and provides explanations on the requirements, roles and responsibilities. Sexual Harassment, Bidding and Consolidation are other

valuable programs available for you to view from the fire station, your home or office. Call our office if you need assistance with your order!

This Fall, the IAFFPD welcomed an intern from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Anna Fessler is studying business and marketing and will obtain her Bachelors in May 2020. She has been learning about our organization and the membership benefits, understanding marketing strategies and using various resources to establish communications with the fire districts who are not receiving the benefits of this great Association. We have plenty of projects that can prepare students heading into the business workforce and internship programs are a good fit for delegating the staff workload. A win-win!

Speaking of staff and marketing, we all have been actively promoting the IAFFPD resources and getting involved outside the office by attending fire organization meetings and conferences. We have used these opportunities to distribute program announcements, collect member information, give short presentations and most important, learn what is happening around the state. It's also a nice way to put the face to the name they see in print or the voice they hear on the phone.

With that same thought, you will see in this issue of [The Fire Call](#), a new column that is written by the voice many of you hear when you call IAFFPD, Karrie Boardman. One of the primary responsibilities Karrie has as the administrative assistant goes beyond answering the phone, but

is to maintain the membership data and all contact information, manage the event registrations and members communications. Please take a moment to read this column to better understand the process we utilize and ways we strive to improve what we do.

As we prepare for the end of year, we invite your fire protection district to share your news, your challenges and your successes with IAFFPD. We enjoy publishing your stories, exploring solutions to your concerns and celebrating your accomplishments!

Before closing, I wish to share a word of thanks to the Illinois Fire Service Institute Jim Keiken, Col. Mortenson and their team for hosting a fall training program that included a facility tour during their light-n-fight training. It was a great legal program presented by Jim Sinclair and a perfect day for our members to see the firefighter training grounds in action. ■



IAFFPD intern Anna Fessler