

BUILDING SUCCESS THROUGH EDUCATION

IAFPD 80th Annual Conference

June 19-21, 2025

I-Hotel Conference Center - Champaign, IL

A Message from Your Conference Committee...

Spring is here, and with it comes the busy planting season—whether it's flowers in our yards or farmers sowing their crops. The IAFPD is no exception. We're transitioning from our Winter Education programs and now planting the seeds for this summer's Conference schedule and programs, all designed to help our members keep "Building Success Through Education", this year's theme.

This year's conference will be held in Champaign, at the I-Hotel and Conference Center, just south of the State Farm Center on the beautiful University of Illinois campus—and only a few blocks from the Illinois Fire Service Institute, our State Fire Academy. We're excited to feature an outstanding lineup of speakers, including two from Illinois:

- Keith (Doc) Patterson, speaking on Thursday
- Roger Lunt, former Deputy Director of IFSI under Colonels Jaehne and Mortenson, will deliver the Keynote on Friday

We're returning to our traditional Thursday-Saturday format, with a schedule like our pre-COVID conferences. Social events are scheduled for Thursday and Friday evenings. On Thursday, we'll head off-campus to Riggs Brewery for an evening of light snacks, drinks, and music. On Friday, weather permitting, we'll gather outdoors to enjoy live music from a yacht rock band, cold beverages, and great company.

For Saturday, we've incorporated the traditional CTE program, usually held at IFSI in March, directly into the conference. While the entire event qualifies for CE credit, this Saturday session offers a 3-hour refresher for trustees who value an annual review of OMA, FOIA, and other legal responsibilities tied to managing a fire district.

On Thursday, attendees will enjoy a delicious lunch along with special recognition of Trustees' Years of Service and Outstanding Service awards. The traditional flag-raising ceremony will take place Friday morning to honor our country and the fire service, followed by the Fire Service Memorial on Saturday morning.

Our one-day tradeshow will be held on Friday after the Opening Ceremony, offering exclusive time to connect with vendors and sponsors. It's a great opportunity to explore new products, vehicles, and services. Plus, it's the perfect time to network, make new connections, and catch up with old friends—along with a chance to win a door prize!

The IAFPD is proud to return to Champaign, offering this valuable opportunity for members from across the state to come together, get educated, and stay informed on legislation, issues, and changes impacting their roles as trustees. Bring your Trustees, Chiefs, or neighboring board members to Champaign, June 19-21, and return home ready to Build Success.

*Ken Yeakley, Hammond FPD
Conference Chairman*



2025 Conference Committee:

Program Chairman:

Ken Yeakley, Hammond FPD

Exhibit Chairman:

Don Mueller, Emerald Mound FPD

Committee Members:

John T. Brady, Attorney at Law

Shawn Flaherty, Ottosen Law

Ann Joyce, Dunlap FPD

Brett Kunkel, Shoal Creek FPD

Don Loos, Liberty FPD

Damon Schuldt, Martinton FPD

Steve Schultz, Limestone Kankakee FPD

James Sinclair, Stobbs & Sinclair, Ltd.

Carolyn Welch Clifford, Ottosen Law

Staff:

Cheri Breneman, Association Administrator

Karrie Beneky, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Ridley, Program Coordinator

Tamiko Kinkade, Graphic Artist

Notice to IAFPD Members

The **Annual Membership Meeting** will be held in conjunction with the 80th Annual Conference on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 4:00 pm at the I-Hotel, 1900 S. 1st Street, Champaign, IL. Membership Credentials Certification is required to vote at the Annual Meeting. One vote per District by Credentials or by Proxy (**Mailed to Member Districts in April**).

REGISTER NOW!
Early-Bird Discount Ends June 9

www.iafpd.org

At-a-Glance Conference Agenda

THURSDAY JUNE 19	TOPIC
7:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration Open
7:00 am	Continental Breakfast
7:30 am – 11:30 am	Essential Trustee Training Part 1: FPD Organization & Administration
9:00 am – 10:00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethics & Discipline in The Fire Service Tier 2 & Public Defined Benefit Challenges & The Impact on Recruiting Firefighters Trustee Elections & Refereda
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Refreshment Break
10:15 am – 11:15 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AI & The Fire Protection Industry Non Career Firefighter Financial Incentives, Comp Programs How Not To Screw Up A Meeting—OMA Compliance Today
11:15 am – 12:30 pm	LUNCH & AWARDS
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Building Success through Education (General Session)
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Refreshment Break
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11K Purchasing Issues & New Construction/Station Renovations Case Law Update The New NERIS Platform Rollout that Replaces NIFIRS Effective in 2026
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Refreshment Break
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowing When & How to Bring Ambulance Service or EMS into the District Funding Pensions: New Thoughts on Approaching Actuarial Valuations Managing Chaos
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Annual Membership Meeting
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	Pre - Conference Meet & Greet
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Open Forum with Panel of Attorneys
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Outdoor Vendor Move In Option
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Social Event with Vendors at Rigg's Brewery
FRIDAY JUNE 20	TOPIC
7:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open
7:00 am	Continental Breakfast
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Indoor & Outdoor Vendor Move In
8:00 am – 8:45 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Writing Workshop
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Opening w/Keynote & State Agency Updates OSHA, IFSI, OSFM, IAFFD
10:45 am – 11:00 am	FLAG RAISING
11:00 am – 5:00 pm	Exhibits Inside/Outside Open
12:00 pm	Lunch with Vendors
12:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Essential Trustee Training Part 2: Finances, Procurement & Legal Liability
2:00 pm	Industry Partner Special Recognition
5:00 pm	Reception
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Parrot Head Party with The Boat Drunks
SATURDAY JUNE 21	TOPIC
7:00 am – 11:30 am	Registration Open
7:00 am	Hot Breakfast
8:00 am – 8:30 am	FIRE SERVICE MEMORIAL
8:30 am – 12:30	Essential Trustee Training Part 3: Personnel & Human Resources
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Annual Legislative Update
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Refreshment Break
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Managing The Mission CTE 2025 (trustee refresher)
10:15 am – 11:15 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than Smoke: Understanding the Changing Environment with Lithium-Ion Batteries Transitioning: Moving from Volunteer to Part Time/Career & Back Again
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Refreshment Break
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	How to React to Solar Energy Farms

General Information

Conference Venue & Tradeshow Facility

The I-Hotel Conference Center is located on the University of Illinois campus near the State Farm Center and Illinois Fire Service Institute.



Registration

All attendees must register online at IAFPD.org no later than June 16. Discount rates are offered for registrations received prior to June 9. If you need assistance with online registration, please contact IAFPD at 217-525-6620. Attendees will receive an email confirming their registration and other important details about their participation.

Registration includes a name badge that allows admission to all educational sessions the tradeshow, door prize drawings and special events. Registration also includes breakfast each morning, lunch on Friday. Thursday lunch is a ticketed event. .

	Before June 9	After June 9
Full Conference (Member)	\$140	\$190
Full Conference with ETT	\$190	\$240
One Day Registration (One day must select which day)	\$75	\$125
Guest Registration Fee	\$45	\$45

ETT Registration

This registration category includes the conference registration plus admittance to the 3-part (12-hour) Essential trustee Training, session handouts, the 2025 Handbook for Trustees and the 2025 Edition of the Text of Laws and admittance to the online presentation of IAFPD Opening Meetings Act training (to be held via live webinar in July)

Guest and Spouse Registration

The IAFPD Conference welcomes family and/or guests to walk the tradeshow and take part in the social gatherings being offered. Guests can register separately or be added to the fire districts registration but must be affiliated with fire protection district and not a commercial business.

ADA and Services for the Hearing Impaired

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the IAFPD will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you have special needs, contact Cheri Breneman at 217-525-6620.

Parking

Ample free parking is available at the I-Hotel Conference Center and at each of the hotels for hotel guests. A portion of the I-Hotel parking will be reserved for vendor displays and vehicles but should not impact conference attendee parking options.

Hotel Information

I-Hotel

1900 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Group Code: IAFPD

217-819-5000

www.StayAtTheI.com

\$159.00/night - 2-night minimum required to book

Room Block deadline: May 18

Additional lodging is available within a mile of the conference center with a discounted rate of \$165 per night using **Hilton online Reservation Code IFS**. Discounted rate are available until May 18th. Rooms booked after this date are not guaranteed the discount. Attendees should limit their booking to only those who have confirmed their travel plans. Cancellation penalties may apply.

- Hilton Garden Inn, 1501 S Neil Street, 217-352-9970
- Homewood Suites by Hilton, 1417 S Neil St., 217-352-9960

Tradeshow

The tradeshow is open on Friday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Name badges are required for entry onto the tradeshow floor. A one-day exhibit hall pass may be purchased for \$20 but must be done no later than June 16 and may have limited access.

Online Registration Tips

- If someone else is registering for you, be sure they know whether you need ETT or continuing education (CE) hours.
- You'll need your Members Only login credentials to register. If you've forgotten your password or don't yet have an account, use the links on the Home or Conferences pages of iafpd.org to request or reset your login info before starting.
- Choose the correct registration option—full conference attendance or Essential Trustee Training. *Note: You must be registered for ETT to receive certification.*
- Your individual email address is your key to all conference-related communication.
- Guest registration is available! Family and friends are welcome at all social events, and we encourage guests who won't be attending sessions to explore local businesses offering exclusive deals for conference attendees.

For questions, please call IAFPD at 217-525-6620 or email Karrie Beneky at karrie@iafpd.org.

What to Wear?

Business casual dress is suitable for the conference. It is recommended attendees bring a sweater to cope with cooler room temperatures. Friday night encourages flip flops and Hawaiian shirts to coincide with the Jimmy Buffet Parrot Head themed event.

Essential Trustee Training (ETT)

Essential Trustee Training This is an IAFFPD exclusive 12-hour training program highly recommended for all members of the Board of Trustees, but open to anyone with a desire to learn the roles and responsibilities of fire protection district administration. Trustees who complete the entire ETT Program under 70 ILCS 70/6 are entitled to additional compensation. This program curriculum is developed and presented by attorneys who specialize in local and municipal government.

Pre-registration and additional fee is required to attend.

Part 1 Organization & Administration of the FPD

Thursday, 6/19/25 - 7:30 am – 11:30 pm

Part 2 Finances, Procurement, Legal Liability

Friday, 6/20/25 - 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Part 3 Personnel and Human Resources

Saturday, 6/21/25 - 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

TRU\$TEE Grant\$

The IAFFPD Foundation Scholarship program has a Trustee's Grant Program that is available to assist trustee members of the Association who are interested in attending the Annual Conference but may have financial constraints hindering their ability to participate.



The vision of the program is simple:

- to promote education for those serving as an elected or appointed trustee,
- to present opportunities for networking with others tasked with the same role, and
- to provide a venue to learn from the experts who provide resources, specialty services, and fire equipment utilized by the fire services.

The Foundation's Trustee Grant may award up to \$500.00 in reimbursements per recipient for the 2025 Annual Conference. Some restrictions apply and all applications will be considered. For more details and application, visit IAFFPD.org.

Continuing Education Hours

Fire Protection District Trustees (A) Public Act 95-0799 requires trustees who have completed the Essential Trustee Training Program to fulfill a 3-hour annual continued education requirement. **All** sessions presented at the IFSC satisfy this legal training requirement.

Pension Fund Trustees (P) The IAFFPD Conference program offers **8 hours** of qualified pension training credit to fulfill the in ethics and pension fund administration. Some of the educational programs.

Guest Program Opportunity

Explore Champaign County: A Self-Guided Tour with Exclusive Offers for Conference Guests

Welcome to Champaign County! While you're here for the conference, we invite you to step out and experience the vibrant local scene through our *Self-Guided Business Tour*. Discover the best of what our community has to offer—at your own pace.

From cozy coffee shops and award-winning restaurants to unique boutiques, galleries, and wellness spots, participating businesses across the county are rolling out the red carpet with **special offers and discounts exclusively for conference attendees**.

Simply show your conference badge at any of the listed locations to enjoy:

- Complimentary treats and samples
- Exclusive discounts and promotions
- Chances to win prizes from local favorites

Whether you're looking to unwind after sessions, pick up a locally made souvenir, or get a taste of what makes Champaign County special, this self-guided tour is your passport to exploring like a local.

Pick up your IAFFPD Conference Guest brochure at registration to plan your route and make the most of your time in the area.

Top 10 Reasons to Attend:

- Earn Continued Education Hours
- 3-Part Essential Trustee Training Offered
- Dynamic Speakers Presenting Timely & Relevant Topics
- Interactive Tradeshow
- Demonstrations
- Entertaining Networking Events
- Fire Service Memorial
- Recognition Awards
- Guests Welcome!
- Meet the President!



Special Events

Honor & Recognition Awards Presentation Luncheon

Thursday 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

IAFPD uses the annual conference as an opportunity to recognize the members who have served multiple terms of office with their respective fire districts (Trustee's Years of Service Recognition) as well as a few select members who have demonstrated "outstanding Service" in their fire community or with the IAFPD.



Evening Reception at Rigg's Brewery

Thursday 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

All conference attendees, guests and vendors are invited to hop on board a bus for a 10 minute drive to Rigg's Brewery. Enjoy this opportunity to unwind after a long day of education and gather with attendees for tasty food and craft beers.



Opening Ceremony

Friday 9:00 to 10:30 am

Friday kicks off the day with general session including opening remarks by the Association's and State agency leaders, followed by keynote Chief Roger Lunt

Salute to America

Friday at 10:45 am

The traditional ceremony that honors our country by raising the flag (weather permitting) just following the opening session and introduction to the outdoor vendor display,

Parrot Head Party at the I-Hotel / Friday Night Social Event

Friday at 8:00 – 10:00 pm

The conference committee invites all attendees to enjoy an evening of fresh air, live music and beverages and fellowship at the I-Hotel Conference Center (parking lot). Transportation will be provided from the Hilton Garden and Homewood hotels to the I-Hotel.

Fire Service Memorial

Saturday, 8:00 am - 8:30 am

This special dedication pays tribute to fallen firefighters and other members of the Illinois fire service who have passed away during the past year. To include a person on the necrology and program, please be sure to notify IAFPD before May 15. You can submit a name on the conference page of the IAFPD website (www.iafpd.org).

Keynote Presentations



Thursday Keynote:

Building Success through Education Doc Patterson

Building Success Through Education is the climate of the fire service today. We have the opportunity to share global leadership trends for our next generation of firefighters and leaders. What's amazing is that we have a new firefighter culture, and we must continue to modify how they learn and are skill-tested. We will present the attributes and experience needed to meet the global challenges of today's America Fire Service.

Leadership and mentorship must earn the respect of others instead of demanding it. The best in our profession are fire service members who share their education and experience and pass that knowledge on to the next generation with pride and tradition. Firefighters are empowered to step into this environment and love it. We must never forget that we don't teach subjects; we teach people.

Doc Patterson is a passionate, charismatic motivator who understands what it takes to build high-performance people. With over 39 years of experience in the motivational and leadership industry, Doc is genuinely an example of how you are given a title and you own your character. He lives this principle every day in his professional and personal life.

Doc has successfully trained people to use the power of the mind to make their visions and personal goals a reality. He serves as Commander of the Southeast Iowa Regional Fire Honor Guard and is a Field Staff and Mentor with the Illinois Fire Service Institute.



Friday Keynote:

Leadership-Education-Training to Avoid Fire Scene Chaos - Chief Roger Lunt

A well-organized fire scene has become an elusive longstanding challenge for too many fire departments. The solutions to this challenge require time and commitment through essential leadership at all department levels. Chief Lunt accentuates the values of Trust based on Ethical and Moral Standards for fire department leaders. While distinguishing between leadership and management, he will show that both are essential to achieving department response goals and community responsibilities. With a subject matter deep-rooted in his experiences over a 40+ year career, Chief Lunt will hold everyone accountable, from the Fire District Trustee to a new firefighter recruit. The title cannot be fully addressed in a brief presentation. However, significant questions about self-responsibilities, personal accountability, and actions impacting scene chaos will be addressed. Chief Lunt's book, *Avoiding Fire Department Induced CHAOS*, will be referenced in his presentation.

Chief Lunt entered the career fire service in 1978 with the Urbana Fire Department and retired as Taylorville Fire Chief in 2007. Chief Lunt is a founding member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. As a member of FEMA Region V DMORT, he deployed to New York within 24 hours of the collapse of the World Trade Center towers and as a US HHS DMORT WMD team member in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Chief Lunt has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement Administration and a Fire Science Technology Associate Degree and has attained numerous State of Illinois Fire Service Certification Levels.

Chief Lunt has been an instructional staff member at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute since 1983. He served as the IFSI Deputy Director under Dir. Richard Jaehne and Dir. Royal Mortenson and retired in 2013.