

# ASSOCIATION UPDATE



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Association Administrator

## Fall-elujah!!!

The colorful season is upon us, with many great happenings to report as we wrap up the year while preparing for the next.

**Kudos** to the 200+ fire protection districts with trustees who recognized the value of the Training programs during the year. IAFFPD proudly issued 33 completion certificates for the Essential Trustee Training and recorded CE credit for greater than 500 trustees. **Thank you** to the 106 fire protection districts and 46 associate members who were represented at our annual conference in June, contributing to the total of 394 persons in attendance. The **IAFFPD Online Learning** platform has seen significant usage showing 160 live webinar participants for the 3-part Back-to-Basic series and another 93 on-demand downloads since January. The year will close out with more downloads as we anticipate some trustees still need to fulfill their continuing education requirement by the December 31 deadline.

The online library is a convenient and affordable resource for accomplishing that training requirement.

The ongoing works of the IAFFPD Board, committee leaders, staff, and several fire service partners continue to flourish and offer new endeavors for our members' fulfillment. These are noted below:

**Combined Conference Partnership** – While both organizations are known for presenting exceptional conferences for decades, this monumental collaboration with the IFCA will deliver the best of both worlds in a one-stop shop format!

The initial groundwork has been laid for what we anticipate will double the average number of attendees and vendor

participation from previous years. We have incredible leaders from both associations working together on the details while collecting insight from members who have supported our events for years. This partnership is a win-win for those we serve and those who support our efforts. While many people have already done so, I strongly urge your fellow trustees and fire chiefs to place this special event on the 2023 budget and district's calendar of events.

**1st Annual Fire Service Conference  
Coming Together Driven by Leadership,  
Service & Dedication  
June 14-17, 2023  
Peoria Civic Center, IL**

**Community Risk Reduction** – The IAFFPD Board has been learning and supporting the statewide initiative to promote the CRR concept. CRR is defined as a data-driven process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact. We have been active with the CRR Task Force and have lent our hand in a few educational programs derived from this hard-working group of people.

**Digital Map** – This recently updated online resource presents a snapshot view of the fire protection district members across the State, divided by county, and outlines the legislative district boundaries. Clicking on a fire district provides additional demographical data. The project has initiated many conversations, including the service it lends to the data-collection efforts of the CRR Task Force and other fire agencies. There are plans to add more layers of data in the future.

**State Pension Board Election** – The IFPIF Board is responsible for all actuarial reporting to determine our annual pension cost and the investment of our pension funds. There are 296 suburban and downstate pension funds, and 109 represent fire districts. IAFFPD continues to work with lawmakers to secure a permanent seat and voice on this state Board. Until that happens legislatively, IAFFPD needs your Fire District to help us get **John Perry (Lisle-Woodridge FPD) re-elected in the upcoming Illinois Firefighters Pension Investment Fund (IFPIF) Board Election.** John Perry has a 37-year history with local government management, and his professional background won him the two-year term he served since 2021. He has proven his commitment by attending all board and several committee meetings.

**Member Outreach** – Your association has been promoting its programs and activities by attending more local, county, and state events than space allows me to list in this article. In short, we invite and appreciate any opportunity that will enable us to connect with our members, acknowledge their successes, celebrate retirements, or visit during open house events.

Your IAFFPD membership has value beyond the personalized service, unique publications, and resources highlighted in your annual renewal packet. Our members and loyal supporters keep us stable in an unpredictable climate.

We appreciate those we serve and the relationships we have established with the work we do—my best wishes to each of you for a blessed holiday season. ■