

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President  
Braidwood FPD*

I want to thank all the members, volunteers, speakers and supporters who participated in the 2024 combined conference held in September, and a first-ever for IAFFPD. It was a great time and beneficial to all.

Unfortunately, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association has decided to return to an exclusive event held in October 2025, therefore, the IAFFPD will return to the I-Hotel in Champaign June 19-21, 2025 with a schedule similar to what was presented in 2022.

As a reminder, the IAFFPD Winter Conference is being held February 14 & 15 in O'Fallon Illinois and there is a virtual Continuing Trustee Education (CTE) session to be held on January 11th.

The IAFFPD Annual Meeting of Membership was held during the combined conference. The following members were elected to the Board of Directors: Mike Dillon, Brett Kunkel, Larry Brown, Don Mueller, Steve Schultz, and Damon Schuldt.

At the quarterly Board Meeting held September 18, area representatives Gary Mueller, Rick George, Don Loos, and Brian Bernadoni were appointed to serve a one-year term as area representatives.

The following officers were appointed: Mike Dillon President, Brett Kunkel Vice President, Tom Harnsberger Secretary and Ken Yeakley Treasurer.

I want to THANK the Directors and Area Representatives for their continued support as I look forward to another year as IAFFPD President.

Two important items that need our members' attention are the Illinois Fire Pension Investment Board election and your continued membership.

The association has been working legislatively to get a fire district member a permanent seat on this pension board. The IFPIF Board is responsible for the investment of our firefighter pension funds' assets and for the actuarial calculation to determine the annual minimum employer pension contribution. While there are 296 Article 4 firefighter pension funds, roughly one-third (109) of those pension funds are Fire District pension funds. A representative from the fire district community is what we need on the IFPIF Board.

Karl Langhammer (Carol Stream FPD) is on the election ballot for the Illinois Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund (IFPIF) Board and we/IAFFPD are supporting his candidacy.

Karl Langhammer has a 14-year history of serving the Carol Stream Fire Protection District. He served as a paid-on-call firefighter for 7 years and has been a trustee on both the Fire District and Pension Fund Boards for the last 14 years, currently as Treasurer. These important leadership roles in the Fire District community speak to Karl's readiness to serve IFPIF. His participation would focus on being a responsible fiduciary while being fiscally prudent, considering the unique needs of Fire Districts and their pension funds. The IAFFPD would endorse Mr. Langhammer for the pension board

position.

The election ballot should have arrived in late October. It is the Fire District Board President who must cast the vote (not the Pension Board President or any other Fire District official). Return the completed ballot by November 20th to allow time for the delayed mail service and arrival by the December 1st deadline. If you do not receive a ballot before October 31st, please contact Cheri Breneman at [cheri@iaffpd.org](mailto:cheri@iaffpd.org) or 217 525-6620 and she can assist you with getting a replacement ballot from IFPIF. Again, PLEASE give Mr. Langhammer your support.

Your membership renewal packet will also arrive during this time. Please take a moment and review the information as it pertains to the programs, services and resources available to your fire district.

Watch the IAFFPD website for updates on current fire service action, legislation and upcoming events. If you need more information on ways your district can work with the IAFFPD or questions on how the IAFFPD can assist your district, the Board of Directors, Staff and I are interested in hearing from you. ■

Sincerely,  
Michael Dillon  
Trustee, Braidwood FPD  
IAFFPD, President