

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President  
Braidwood FPD*

I hope everyone's holiday season was enjoyable and safe. I want to extend our best wishes to all in 2020.

As we start 2020, I want to remind everyone of our annual activities throughout the year including the Continuing Trustee Education (CTE), Winter Conference in southern Illinois, 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference which includes the full presentation of the Essential Trustee Training, the Illinois State Fair exhibit, and Legislative Activities in Springfield. Each event urges your participation but also invites you to volunteer. Contact Cheri or Karrie at the IAFPD Office to see where help may be needed.

2020 IAFPD Continuing Trustee Education Sessions (CTE) are underway with two held by the time you read this and two scheduled in March. Along with an informative legal and legislative update by a few of the best fire district attorneys in the state, IAFPD has devoted time on the program to address firefighter resiliency presented at each session by a longtime friend to the IAFPD, Keith "Doc" Patterson. I urge your trustees to attend these sessions as they are packed with excellent information you need to administer a fire protection district.

The 2020 Winter conference is set for February 21 and 22, 2020 in O'Fallon Illinois. For its 6<sup>th</sup> years, this conference brings an upward 100 members representing 45 downstate fire districts together for a two-day educational program, 15 vendors on

display and time allotted to visit. New to the 2020 program schedule is a program coordinated by the IFCA VCOC that will offer two sessions geared for Fire Chiefs. We are grateful to IFCA for working with IAFPD as we welcome to Forest Reeder and Al Yancey to the program.

Communications remains a priority for 2020 and where the IAFPD needs your help! Updating our member contact information is always a work-in-progress and Trustees (fire and pension), Commissioners and Fire Chiefs retire, relocate or move to other position. Please contact the office staff or view your membership profile online to confirm we have accurate information about your districts. We want everyone member to receive The Fire Call magazine and email communications. If you are not, I urge you to contact the office directly with current addresses.

2020 will bring a few more topics to the on-line webinar library, including the legalization of marijuana and another discussion the ISO process. Check the IAFPD website for these programs and a dozen other fire district related matters to listen/view at your convenience.

**Is Your Fire District's Vision 20/20?**  
**Find out at the IAFPD Annual Conference**  
Don't forget to save the date for the 2020 IAFPD Annual Conference in Peoria for June 18, 19 and 20. The conference committee has been conducting monthly meetings since August 2019 to assure

we will have another great conference - something you won't want to miss.

As we kick off 2020, I want to thank the members for renewing their annual membership. Collectively, the membership is an important component to any organization and contributes to our growth and stability. ■

Best Regards  
Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD  
IAFPD President