

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President
Braidwood FPD*

I want to say THANK YOU to all the fire districts and associate members that have renewed their IAFFPD membership for 2023. If you know a neighboring District that may not have renewed their membership or is not an IAFFPD member let them know or remind them to contact the IAFFPD Office for new or renewal information. This is one way member Districts can help the Association. Your board of Directors and Staff will continue to remain focused on our commitment to "Supporting better governance by fire protection district officials through education, resources, communication and legislation."

A few events are underway that I hope you will consider adding to your 2023 calendar. First the Annual Continuing Trustee Education training sessions and the second being our Winter Conference in O'Fallon IL. Last, is the Combined Conference in June 2023. This new partnership is a large undertaking by both the IAFFPD and the Fire Chiefs Association who agreed to combine the conferences to offer provide a one stop shop of education, social events and a large tradeshow showcasing technology and apparatus/equipment. I have heard positive things about the plan and I am very excited to be part of these changes. I feel the combination event will improve both associations in what they provide for their members into the future.

Visit the IAFFPD website for more details on these programs. If you or another member of your fire district would like to volunteer for any of these events, please contact the Association Office.

Next up, is the political activity for the 103rd General Assembly who has been seated and the ongoing work of our legislative team for introducing many new legislators to the IAFFPD and who we represent. I strongly encourage all members to read Brittan's report in this publication but also check out her weekly reports online to know what is happening at the Capitol. On behalf of the board, I extend a word of thanks to committee chair Marvin Hill and lobbyist Brittan Bolin for their ongoing and forthcoming work supporting our interests.

Communications – I sound like a broken record for those who remember records. As mentioned earlier, we appreciate any assistance we can get from other members willing to promote IAFFPD with other fire districts and share their view with the value in membership. Keeping our member contact information updated is always a work in progress and we need your help as Trustees retire or other changes occur. The staff sends monthly emails to keep members informed on events and other useful information, The district's member profile needs to be reviewed regularly so their trustees are not missing out on this timely resource.

Cheri and Karrie do an outstanding job for the association keeping the website up-to-date and getting current information out to our members via emails, constant contact blasts or blast messages. THANK YOU both for your dedication to the IAFFPD.

In closing, I want to thank Art Kilburg Trustee with Fulton Fire Protection District and area representative for the IAFFPD who resigned in December. The Board is very grateful for the 4 years of service he and his wife Peg have dedication and support of the organization.

This leads me into the need for an area representative in the northwestern part of our state. If you have a trustee who may be interested serving the IAFFPD, we would like to hear from them.

As always, watch for the blast emails and visit the IAFFPD website for program information and updates on current events, legislative reports and fire service activities. 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. ■

Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD
IAFFPD, President