

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President  
Braidwood FPD*

## Thank You for Supporting our Mission

**W**hile Covid-19 and its variants keep hanging around we need to continue to keep our first responders protected. Vaccinations are the best we have right now and it appears to be working. But there will be individuals choose not to receive the vaccination, and therefore jeopardizing our people, particularly our EMS responders. Please be diligent in keeping our people aware of the issues and the need to wear PPE if needed.

Thank you to everyone who attended the IAFPD 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference whether it was in-person or on-line. Thank you to our exhibitors and sponsors for their support and attending in-person. It was nice to see everyone's happy faces again. The virtual presentations and classes were enjoyed as well and a special thanks to the virtual tech team for their work that made the conference available online. I know we had a couple of glitches but overall the virtual presentations were well received.

Cheri and Karrie, thank you for all the extra work done on this conference: the new location, new format, the ever-changing Covid-19 guidelines and last-minute registrations as more people wanted to attend in-person. These ladies do an outstanding job for the association communication, keeping the website updated with current information and distributing news and announcements via email, constant contact blasts messages. Thank you again for your dedication to the IAFPD.

It is the mission of the Conference and Education committees led by Brett Kunkel, Ken Yeakley, Damon Schultd and that truly made this conference happen. Good

work by them and the other members of their committees that presented an event unlike any other and a job well done!

The IAFPD Foundation raffle drawings and fund raising are headed up by Larry Brown and Steve Schultz. Thank you both for your efforts with the Scholarship program.

There are other area representatives, directors, the IAFPD auxiliary and volunteers who assisted as well. THANK YOU to all this was as always a team effort and now we must look to 2022.

Congratulations to Directors Brett Kunkel, Bonnie Bayser, Larry Brown, Chuck Swanson, and Steve Schultz for being re-elected for another 3-year term to the IAFPD Board. As part of the IAFPD team, these people handle their committee assignments and responsibilities with dedication and devotion to the organization and help make my job as President very easy.

Next, here is where you as a member can come in. We need to know what you liked or did not like during the 77<sup>th</sup> conference, we need ideas on subjects

to present and any other ideas to help us make the 2022 conference even better.

Communications are a repeat and very important item: Member contact information is always a work in progress and we need your help as Trustees retire, new trustees are elected, or move to other positions, with pension boards or commissions our database and contacts need to be updated. Again, we need your help in making sure everyone is receiving the information we provide. Please contact the office with any changes, this will assist in us getting the IAFPD and Fire District information to our members in a timely manner.

As always, watch the IAFPD 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 IAFPD or questions on how the IAFPD can assist your district, the Board of Directors, Staff and I are interested in hearing from you. ■

Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD  
IAFPD, President

