

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President  
Braidwood FPD*

Unfortunately, this message begins with acknowledging the passing of IAFPD's former Director, Past President, and former trustee with Cissna Park Fire Protection District. Dick Baier was an inspiration to all the directors and many Association members as well as people with people in his community. He was active with the District for 45 years and was influential in many projects, including a new fire station. My sympathies to his wife Myrna, a former member of the IAFPD Auxiliary, and the entire Baier family.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, THANKYOU to everyone who attended the IAFPD 78th Annual Conference, in-person or online. THANKYOU to the exhibitors and sponsors for participating and supporting our organization and its event.

THANKYOU to Cheri, Karrie, and Kathy for the respective roles you play and the work you do for this conference. Our staff does an outstanding job keeping the members informed, the website up-to-date, and sending information, news, and important reminders via email or Constant Contact blast messages. Your dedication to the IAFPD is appreciated.

The leadership of Brett Kunkel, Ken Yeakley, Damon Schuldt, and Jim Sinclair are significant components of the Education and Conference committees and collectively work in sync on the conference topics, format, and programs. The IAFPD Foundation raffles and scholarship program were led by Larry Brown, who I thank for your efforts with the fundraising activities. The event has a powerful team that includes area representatives, directors, auxiliary, and other members that contribute each year.

Now, we begin to prepare for the 2023 Conference, which will be in partnership with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and held at the Peoria Civic Center. We have laid the groundwork and have begun working on the details with education and vendor displays. Please mark your calendar for June 14-17, 2023, and watch for more information in the months ahead for the first annual combined conference.

I want to congratulate Directors Tom Harnsberger, Paul Grzelak, and Ken Yeakley for being re-elected for another 3-year term to the IAFPD Board. Also re-appointed as area representatives were Damon Schuldt, Don Loos, Gary Mueller, and Art Kilburg. Together, the work of these members makes my job as President easy. Each individual, along with the office staff, handles committee assignments and several responsibilities with dedication and devotion to the IAFPD.

Trustee Richard George from Lake Egypt Fire Protection District is the newest Area Representative and was appointed in June to serve a one-year term. I welcome him to the board and look forward to working with him.

As we look ahead, we will be working the fire safety tent at the Illinois State Fair

on August 12th. We will begin preparing for the next legislative session, planning for our return to O'Fallon for an in-person Winter Conference, and making arrangements for the annual Continuing Trustee Education training sessions. Also, I ask that if you have not attended any educational programs this year, the online learning library has several informative programs available to refresh trustees (and fire chiefs) on their legal and administrative responsibilities.

Please enjoy the conference highlights and timely articles in this issue of the Fire Call as there is a lot of good information provided.

As always, visit [IAFPD.org](http://IAFPD.org) for updates on current events, legislative updates, and announcements. If you need information on ways that your District can work with the IAFPD, or you have questions on how the IAFPD can assist your District, the Board of Directors, Staff, and I are interested in hearing from you.

Enjoy the remaining time of summer and be safe. ■

Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD  
IAFPD, President



*Area Reps Don Loos, Rick George & Damon Schuldt*



*Re-elected directors, Paul Grzelak,  
Ken Yeakley & Tom Harnsberger*