

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President  
Braidwood FPD*

**I**t is with great sadness I open my Spring message with the recent Line of Duty Death of Captain Jake Ringering of the Godfrey Fire Protection District. Godfrey FPD has been a long-time member and great supporter of the Association and I extend heart filled condolences to Captain Ringering's family, his fire department and all who knew him. May God bless you all.

The 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly has been very active with new bills passing the House and Senate. Several of these bills will affect fire districts throughout Illinois. I urge everyone to follow the advocacy section of our website to see the activities happening in Springfield. Please pay close attention to the email blasts that are sent out from IAFFPD and take time to review our Lobbyists weekly reports posted. Submitting electronic witness slips (via ILGA.gov Dashboard page) and contacting your Senator and Representative directly are very effective part of the process. It is important to let them know our position on the legislation they are reviewing and voting on.

The 2019 Administrative Training Sessions (ATS) have been completed. Thank you to all the outstanding attorneys who presented, the members who attended, the hosts for their assistance, support and participation and our staff and devoted volunteers who help coordinate these educational programs. I am proud of the IAFFPD Education Committee and the work they put into this plan every year!

As you will see throughout this issue of *The Fire Call*, the Annual Conference is next and will be held June 27-29, 2019 in Peoria. The conference theme

this year is "Setting Our Sights on New Horizons" and coincides perfectly with the challenges local governments face today. The information and detailed brochure have been sent via email to those we have addresses. Additionally, the brochure is sent U.S. mail to your fire protection district's primary contact and its also posted the IAFFPD website [www.iaffpd.org](http://www.iaffpd.org). The Board and Committee's goal is to be the best fire service conference in Illinois. The 2019 Conference is one that you won't want to miss, especially if you are newly appointed or elected. This is an opportunity to improve your current and future plans by creating relationships with suppliers, share practical innovations and important new trends which will result in improvements to your fire district.

If you have a conflict with attending our conference there is an important item I am requesting you do. Please complete the Credentials and Proxy forms that are included in the 2019 Conference Brochure and previously published in the winter issue of *The Fire Call* and send them to the IAFFPD Office so that we meet our requirements for the Annual Membership Meeting which is Friday, June 28, 2019. If you have a change and can attend our conference the proxy can be "pulled" and you can express your vote in person.

Next is the Recognition and Awards Program. The Trustee's Years of Service, Outstanding Service and Fire Service Appreciation awards will be presented during the Fire Service Luncheon on Saturday, June 29. It is always gratifying to see our member District Trustees recognized for their dedication and devotion to their fire district. The forms

have been published in previous issues of *The Fire Call* and can be printed from the web site ([www.iaffpd.org](http://www.iaffpd.org)) If you have questions about the program or completing the forms you may contact the IAFFPD Office (217-525-6620).

The IAFFPD on-line learning library continues to grow with content and popularity. We greatly appreciate the online program sponsor, Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition for supporting our educational offerings and the many speakers who have developed webinars for this educational platform. Visit the IAFFPD website for a list of topics and how to access them at your convenience.

As always, I, the members of the IAFFPD Board and staff are available to attend county meetings, open houses, dedications and other events. If your Fire District would like to have someone from IAFFPD at their meeting, please reach out to us so that arrangements can be made.

See you all in June! ■

Best Regards  
Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD  
IAFFPD President

**Notice To  
IAFFPD Members:**  
IAFFPD Annual Membership  
meeting will be on Friday,  
June 28, 2019 at 5:00 pm.  
Membership Credentials  
Certification is required to vote at  
the Annual Meeting.