

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Michael Dillon, President  
Braidwood FPD

## Wash Your Hands, Wear Face Coverings, and Get Your COVID Vaccination

**T**hank you to all who attended the 2021 CTE sessions and/or Winter Conference, and a great appreciation to the sponsors who contributed to the educational events. Due to the continuing restrictions with COVID, the CTE sessions were presented in-person and on-line and the winter conference was all-online. I am pleased to see the evaluations and comments from the participants were very positive. This provides the IAFFD another way to assist in education activities and communicating with our membership. That leads me to the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference "*Hindsight 2020: Where Do We go from Here?*" coming this June 24-26, 2021.

Since we will not "be out-of-the-woods yet" with COVID, the in-person activities will require masks and social distancing. The number of people allowed in a classroom session is still a pending question. The conference committee will be monitoring requirements right up to the conference.

One way to help is by getting the covid vaccine. I strongly encourage everyone to get the shot(s) to help mitigate this pandemic. The other option we will provide is to attend the conference on-line.

There are a few changes to our Conference this year.

- The conference will be held in Champaign at the I-Hotel on the University of Illinois campus (just up the road from the IFSI).
- Starting Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> will be educational sessions all day, Parts 1 and 2 of the Essential Trustees Training (ETT) and the IAFFD Annual Membership meeting (not Friday).

- Friday 6/25 will have the opening session, the Annual raising of the flag and time spent seeing exhibits. The change here is that vendors are only displaying the one day (Friday) and there will not be any sessions scheduled during this time devoted to the vendors.
- Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> we will start with breakfast and the annual memorial services leading into the final educational sessions and Part 3 of the ETT.

REMINDER – In order to conduct the business of the **Annual Meeting (Thurs., June 24, 2021 at 4:45 at the I-Hotel)**, it is necessary that there be a quorum of the membership represented in person or by proxy at the meeting. For that reason, I am requesting that, if your District does not plan to have an in person representative, it complete and submit the Proxy form along with the credential certification so that there will be a sufficient number of Members to hold the meeting.

**PLEASE** watch for blast emails and check the IAFFD website for updates and registration information for the conference. Communications – a repeat and very important item - This is where the IAFFD Office staff needs your help! Member profile and current contact information is always an ongoing task to keep current and why we must be notified when Trustees retire and new trustees are appointed or elected or change positions. New people need to receive the important correspondence and valuable communications from the start of their term. An recent example to justify the need for your assistance is when the staff sent out a blast email on March

15, 2021 which contained timely updates was not opened by more than 900 email contacts. Please check your inbox for this email (Subject: IAFFD Conference info and Spring Reminders) and if it's not there, check your spam or junk or contact the office so they can help get this corrected.

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 IAFFD.

As always, watch the IAFFD website for updates on current fire service legislation and upcoming events. If you need more information on ways your district can work with the IAFFD or questions on how the IAFFD can assist your district, the Board of Directors, Staff and I are interested in hearing from you. ■

Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD  
IAFFD, President

### NEED FOR CLARIFICATION:

IAFFD received correspondence regarding a prior issue of *The Fire Call* in which a hand gesture of a person pictured in an advertisement was found to be offensive. The Association has been unable to confirm the intent of the person shown in the photo as they are no longer employed by the vendor. The Association apologizes for any offense caused by the photo as it appeared, and the photo in no manner reflects the views, policies, or position of the IAFFD.