

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President
Braidwood FPD*

As we approach the end of 2019, I want to say “thank you” to all who volunteered and assisted in our programs and activities throughout the year: Continuing Trustee Education (CTE), Essential Trustee Training (ETT), the 76th Annual Conference, the IAFPD Day at the Illinois State Fair Fire Safety Tent, and several legislative matters.

The IAFPD’s mission statement is: “Supporting better governance by fire protection district officials through education, resources, communication and legislation” and has been our ongoing focus for the year.

Education and Training

Throughout this issue of The Fire Call and on the IAFPD website, you can always find the educational programs being conducted around the State, at the Winter Conference and the June annual Conference. We also continue to add to the on-line programs which can be easily accessed from the website. While we are always adding on-line training sessions in 2019 4 hours of pension training was added along with explanations of consolidation and a review of the duties of the Treasurer.

Resources

The IAFPD has several publications to assist your trustees in finding the information needed to better perform their duties. Thanks to the Publications Committee, staff and our fire service partners, this magazine has timely articles

of fire issues in Illinois. The Handbook and Text of Laws are exclusive publications we urge every District to own at least one copy of each.

Communications

This is where the IAFPD needs your help! Member contact information is always a work-in-progress and we need your help when Trustees retire, take another position or do not get re-elected/appointed, to make sure we have names and contact information of the current Board of Trustees, Fire Chief, Attorney, and Commissioners. The districts member data needs to be updated so the distributed information, notices and blast messages can get to the correct people. The IAFPD 2019 Annual Update is an annual communication piece that is mailed to the District’s primary contact with your membership renewal. It contains more detail on the subjects I have mentioned in this article.

Legislation

Your Association tracked 89 of the 6,100+ bills introduced this year. The Legislative Committee and ongoing communications with our lobbyist Brittan Bolin did an excellent job staying on top of the issues that have direct impact on fire districts now and in the future. The General Assembly is finishing up the first of a two-year legislative session. Challenges and emerging issues that we will be watching are the marijuana legislation that goes into effect January 2020, pension

consolidation, and firefighter health (cancer) awareness. IAFPD will do its best to make sure our members are kept informed, especially if you provide us with your current contact information.

By now, your districts should have received your membership renewal materials. Please take a moment to review the information and consider adding it to your next meeting agenda so you can learn about the legislative outcomes and calendar the educational events for next year.

Watch your email or visit the IAFPD website for updates on current fire service 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. ■

Best Regards
Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD
IAFPD President