

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President
Braidwood FPD*

The 76th Annual Conference of the IAFFPD held in Peoria was a great experience. We can always count on the conference for its great presentations, time to meet and see exhibits, events to network and recognize our members with awards. I call on those who attended to let us know if your expectations were met and more important, to tell others from your district or area who did not attend about the IAFFPD conference. The Association does what it can to promote and encourage attendance, but word of mouth and personal testimony is one of the best marketing tools available.

Thank you to all the attendees, vendors, volunteers and presenters that made the 2019 IAFFPD conference a great time for everyone.

I would like to thank all our sponsors for their financial support and dedication, because without them, we could not provide the national speakers, special ceremonies and social event.

Next, it is with great appreciation I congratulate Dinges Fire Company as the recipient of the 2019 Distinguished Member Award. Dinges Fire Company has supported the IAFFPD for many years by ways of sponsorship and tradeshow events.

Also recognized as 2019 Member Appreciation was Jeff Bryant from Dinges Fire. Jeff has been an active member of the association and the conference committee for numerous years. Jeff, your continued participation and devotion to our association and events is greatly appreciated. CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU!

The Fire Service Luncheon & Awards Presentation held in conjunction with the

conference recognized a few trustees for their years of service with their respective fire protection district and a few other members for their Outstanding Service. Please check out the highlights and recipients in this issue of The Fire Call and congratulations to all honorees on their achievements!

The Ken Long award, our most prestigious award, named after a leader, strong visionary and someone truly devoted to the mission of the IAFFPD with a passion for helping fire districts throughout Illinois was presented to Stan Seevers from Cisco FPD. Stan has given unselfishly to the IAFFPD and the fire service throughout Illinois. It is very fitting that he received this award. CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU Stan.

At the Annual Membership Meeting of June 28, 2019, the nominating committee proposed the re-election of three Directors. Re-elected for another 3 year term were: Paul Grzelak (Bourbonnais FPD), Tom Harnsberger (Carroll FPD), and Ken Yeakley (Hammond FPD). Additionally, the Nominating Committee proposed the names of three new area representatives, Don Mueller (Emerald Mound-Lebanon FPD), Don Loos (Liberty FPD), and Mike Hinz (Lake Egypt FPD). Don, Don and Mike were appointed to serve a one-year terms as IAFFPD Area Representatives. All individuals were sworn into office during the IAFFPD Board of Directors meeting held on Sunday, June 30.

I look forward for another busy year for the IAFFPD and want to Thank everyone for their past and continued support in making the IAFFPD one of the best fire service organizations in Illinois.

Looking ahead, the Education Committee has plans underway for more online training programs this year, a half-day educational program and live burn tour of IFSI in Champaign on October 5th and will coordinate the schedule and locations for 2020 training sessions. The Winter Conference will be held at the Regency Center in O'Fallon Illinois on February 21 & 22, 2020.

77th IAFFPD Conference is June 18 through June 20, 2020, in Peoria. Mark your calendars to assure you don't miss out on any great training and fire exhibits. In closing, my deepest appreciation to the Directors, Area Representatives, Auxiliary, Staff, volunteers, membership and all who have worked so diligently throughout the year to make our Association the best in Illinois.

PLEASE have a safe and enjoyable summer! ■

Best Regards
Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD
IAFFPD President



Newly appointed Area Representatives Don Loos, Don Mueller and Mike Hinz sworn into office on August 10th, 2019.