

ASSOCIATION UPDATE



*By Cheri Breneman
Association Administrator*

Thank You!

One of the greatest joys of working in association management is observing the meaningful relationships established among the membership, with our fire organization partners, and meetings we host. The IAFFPD has initiated long-lasting relationships between our Directors and Area Reps, along with their spouses (the IAFFPD Auxiliary), the attendees, loyal supporters, program speakers, award recipients, and gracious volunteers that look forward to connecting each year whether attending the conference. For those who could not attend, we thank you for supporting our first annual Illinois Fire Service Conference, and congratulations for being part of this history-making moment for both organizations. For those who could not join us, we hope you will consider attending next year.

All attendees were emailed a post-event survey on July 19th that serves as a valuable component as we advance with the next conference phase, which is planning for 2024. If you have not done so, please take a few minutes to complete this or send an email to our office that can help us do better. So far, the collected suggestions have been very productive and supportive. Thank you for understanding the value of this feedback.

Throughout this issue of *The Fire Call*, you will see some beautiful highlights and can view more photos on our website.

With that, a special shout-out goes to photographers Paul Grzelak and Tim Olk for their time and quality service in capturing the conference.

Two topics presented and well-received at the conference have been recapped as feature articles in this publication. Thank you, Dr. Denis Oneal and Joe Miller, for sharing your well-received messages in this format.

Another quick reminder to conference attendees, the IFSC conference app invites you to download handouts from the conference program. While the speaker handouts are not as impactful as being in the classroom, the information provided may benefit those who wished they could be in two places simultaneously.

As Damon Schultz mentions in his message on page 30, many people were involved in the planning and execution of this event. While some are paid professionals, more people contribute their personal time, unique skill set, or experienced insight to lend a hand in our successful event.

Collectively, I cannot calculate the number of hours spent, but those who supported the endeavor have executed something monumental and should be proud of this accomplishment.

Looking ahead at more education options for our members, we recognize the election year may have new trustees who need or want to complete the

Essential Trustee Training and could not attend the conference presentation. Good news for you: this IAFFPD exclusive, 3-part, 12-hour program will be presented on November 4th and 5th at West Chicago Fire Protection District. This training is ideal for new trustees but available to anyone who wants to fully understand their roles, responsibilities, policies, and legal requirements expected of the administration. Check out the facing page for program content and IAFFPD.org for registration and other details.

Next up, we also have the IAFFPD Winter Conference held in Southern Illinois planning underway. Please watch your email for more specific program details and registration in the months ahead. If you have not yet attended, this 1.5-day program includes 3 hours of legal training, an interactive forum for Q & A, a legislative update, and a hot topic presentation.

Finally, IAFFPDs social media presence has grown in popularity with much thanks to the events we promote on these platforms. The online community has been proven effective in spreading the word. Follow us on Facebook or Linked In to show support for our mission and stay connected on what's happening. We also will share your district's events and news.

Until the next time, enjoy your summer. ■