

# ASSOCIATION UPDATE



*By Cheri Breneman  
Association Administrator*

## Thank you for Contributing to Our Success

**A** new year is here and the IAFFPD is gearing up for a busy year full of exceptional educational programming. Working with our members, fire service partners and supporters we have developed great content for the ATS Sessions, Winter Conference, Webinars and our Annual Conference in 2019. There are many key players that contribute to the success of our programs every year and who help to grow the Association. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a few of these supporters.

Thank you to the Education Committee and our team of attorneys: Jim Sinclair, Shawn Flaherty, Carolyn Clifford, John Brady, and Bernie Weiler who collectively brainstormed topics for the conferences and webinar programs. Your involvement brings quality to our programs and you are all greatly appreciated!

Also appreciated are those who sponsor our events and programs. The Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition is our official Online Education sponsor helping us connect with and educate the online community. Sawyer Falduto Asset Management and Paramedic Services of Illinois also are huge supporters of our online communications. A big thank you as well to our many sponsors that step up every June to allow us to offer great programming, fun events and great speakers every year at our Annual Conference. Your support allows us to offer affordable, convenient and timely information to our members.

A sincere thank you to the 600+ members who have renewed their IAFFPD

membership. Along with the renewals, we are grateful for the \$750 collected in donations to the Foundation Scholarship program! Your membership and support of the organization's purpose, programs and mission is vital to our stability and quality of the services provided.

Thank you to all who responded to the online survey we conducted to obtain your insight on the programs resources and benefits that come with IAFFPD membership. To show our appreciation, we would also like to congratulate the members listed below as winners in a drawing that awarded of a FREE IAFFPD webinar of your choice! Check out the online library and let us know which one you would like to download and we will take it from there!

Josh Reese, St. Joseph-Stanton FPD; Lynden Prange, Maestown FPD; Ross Schultze, Ashley Community FPD; Fred Seibold, Sadorus FPD; Mark Guth, East Dundee & Countryside FPD.

Another shout-out to the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Executive Director Jim Grady for partnering with us on the Administration Training Sessions (ATS) and bringing an informative overview on

Firefighter Recruitment and Retention to the half day sessions we are presenting throughout the state.

Finally, a very special thank you to Chiefs Jim Keiken and Sean Burke at the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) for inviting me (and our new lobbyist, Brittan Bolin) to suit-up and experience a glimpse of what our heroes do on a regular basis. While I hold a high regard for firefighters and their willingness to do what they do, a live burn experience validates the importance of physical fitness. This lesson also demonstrated the high priority given to hands-on training, the need for new technology, quality gear and functioning equipment that make the job easier and safer in the environment they work in. A live burn is an ideal way to teach common people and legislative leaders representing us, about the fire service and what IFSI offers for education, training and research. Photo credits and thank you to Katrina at IFSI for capturing it for us!

I look forward to the year ahead of us and working with those who making it happen! ■

