

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Michael Dillon, President
Braidwood FPD

Wash Your Hands Wear Your Face Covering Practice Social Distancing

These criteria still exist but now we have vaccines that will help us control this virus/pandemic yet we have a long way to go. As Fire District Trustees I want to continue to remind everyone that we need to assure the safety of all our first responders. If one person is exposed to the virus, it could mean having a whole fire company or fire station closed or several individuals quarantined. I urge each fire district to contact their County Health Department or the agency that is responsible for administering/distributing the COVID vaccine in your area to assure that the fire and ems first responders are being given the opportunity to get the shot.

Thank you to all the fire districts and associate members that have renewed their IAFFPD membership for 2021. Your Association, the Board of Directors and Staff continue to remain focused on our commitment to our mission: Supporting better governance by fire protection district officials through education, resources, communication and legislation". The Education Committee has finalized the Continuing Trustee Education (CTE) and for 2021 with in-person and online attendance options. The classes will be held at Plainfield FPD, Fulton FPD, IFSI and Cherry Valley FPD with the Winter Conference will be presented in an all-virtual format. Class details and registration is on the IAFFPD web site (iaffpd.org) or calling the office staff. I want to

also thank the associate members and sponsors who have stepped up to assist and support these upcoming programs. In addition, I want to remind everyone of our on-line programs which can be easily accessed from the IAFFPD website.

Communications – a repeat and very important item - IAFFPD needs your help updating member contact information as Trustees retire, move to other positions with pension boards or commissions our database and contacts need to be updated. It's as easy as an email or phone call to the office staff to make sure they have accurate information. The office staff puts out blast messages and other information distributed via email. The district's membership data needs to be kept updated so the distributed information, notices and blast messages can get to the correct people.

The 2021 Annual Conference will be June 24 to 26 with a new location and session format. The education sessions will be Thursday (6/24) and Saturday (6/26) with the vendor displays on Friday (6/25). The conference will be both in-person and virtual from the I-Hotel in Champaign, IL just up the road from the Fire Service Institute (FSI). The conference committee has picked "Where Do We Go From Here" as our theme for 2021 which I feel is very appropriate while we continue to move forward in spite of the pandemic and meeting our responsibilities as District Trustees. Since we were forced to cancel the 2020 annual conference I urge our members to plan to join us for this year's conference to learn" where do we go from here".

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 IAFFPD.

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

Michael Dillon
Braidwood FPD
IAFFPD, President

**IAFFPD Annual
Conference
In-person and online
June 24-26, 2021
New Location:
I-Hotel, Champaign, IL**

