

# ASSOCIATION UPDATE



*By Cheri Breneman  
Association Administrator*

## Thank You for Supporting IAFPD

**A**s we step into 2025, I want to reflect on our achievements together in the past year. Thanks to your continued support, dedication, and involvement, 2024 was another year filled with progress, collaboration, and success.

We celebrated significant milestones, from the second year of success with the 2-year conference partnership with the IFCA to being a voice for our members with the Federal OSHA regulations changes. We applied multiple marketing concepts and strategies to increase awareness about the benefits of IAFPD, which contributed to our retention goals. We expanded our social media network using videos and attended a few more conferences and local meetings to learn and put our organization in front of new audiences. All of these successes are the work of many volunteers, the proactive leadership of the Board of Directors, and the support we have from our membership. The staff is working diligently to keep our members informed and the communications active.

It has been exciting to see our members travel a little further out of their region to attend the in-person trustee training, see new faces using the online learning programs, and hear from members who want to share their kind words and gratitude for the work we do.

It will be another year of growth and opportunities to strengthen our impact on those we serve. Our working committees are eager to meet or exceed the outcomes of the previous year's event attendance and participation in the online learning programs.

On the immediate front, this year marks the 10th year we have planned the Winter Conference held downstate. While this year is actually the 8th Annual due to COVID cancellations, we are very proud of the continued success this conference has presented each year.

This year marks the 80th Annual IAFPD Conference that returns to the I-Hotel in Champaign. While the hotel is small and requires us to use multiple hotels nearby, the event space fits our education and tradeshow needs. I strongly encourage you to do so this year if you have never attended. Scholarships are available for members who may have budget constraints.

IAFPD will co-host the 25th Annual Legislative Day in Springfield with our fire service partners (NIAFPD and IFCA). We typically welcome 50-60 fire service officials for a productive day of networking, learning, and promoting good legislation that directly impacts our members. I would be thrilled to see more trustees participate in this important event. See page 17 for details.

We will update both books we publish after each General Assembly adjourns. The 2025 Editions of the Text of Laws Relating to Fire Protection District and the Handbook for Trustees will be discounted for conference attendees and available to order online in July. The publications are by far among the best investments for every board of trustees.

Lastly, another equally valuable investment a member of the Board of Trustees can make is to attend the 3-Part

Essential Trustee Training (see page 31 for details). As an appointed or elected local government official, you are not required to complete this program. However, the important duties and responsibilities that are placed on you are covered in depth within this 12-hour program. The statute (70 ILCS 705) permits trustees who complete the program to be qualified for additional compensation should they receive a stipend.

Please take advantage of the many offerings IAFPD makes available throughout the year, and thank you once again for being an integral part of our community. Here's to a bright and prosperous new year filled with even more accomplishments and shared success.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and successful 2025! ■

### More Reasons to Attend the IAFPD Conference:

- ✓ **Program** offers 20 timely and relevant educational topics
- ✓ **Exclusive Training** for New Trustees, Pension Board Trustees & Open Meetings Act.
- ✓ A **Trade Show** display of firetrucks, technology & service providers
- ✓ **Social Events** for networking
- ✓ **Awards** to honor our own
- ✓ **Fire Service Memorial** to pay tribute to those who passed