

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President
Braidwood FPD*

I want to say THANK YOU to all the fire districts and associate members that have renewed their IAFFPD membership for 2025. If you know a neighboring District that may not have renewed their membership or is not an IAFFPD member let them know or remind them to contact the IAFFPD Office for new or renewal information. This is one way member Districts can help the Association. Your board of Directors and staff will continue to remain focused on our commitment to "Supporting better governance by fire protection district officials through education, resources, communication and legislation".

In my last President's message, I encouraged our members who were participants in the Illinois Fire Pension Investment Fund (IFPIF) to support Mr. Karl Langhammer to serve on the State pension board. This was a long and tedious process. When Mr. Langhammer chose to run for the position, petitions had to be circulated to get his name on the ballot. Karl received the signatures needed then the Pension Board had to approve the petitions and verify that Mr. Langhammer could be placed on the election ballot. The Fire Pension Investment Fund Board accepted his petition along with two other names for the election ballot. David Pileski, Mayor of the City of Roselle, and Michael Troup, Mayor of the City of Quincy. The ballot was created with the three names running for two open positions on the Board.

The fire pension ballots then had to be mailed to the fire pension investment fund

members, including the Municipalities and Fire Districts. These ballots had to be voted on by the Presidents of the Fire Protection District (not the President of the individual pension boards or other board members) and the Mayor of the Cities in IFPIF. Ballots had to be returned to the pension board (original ballots) no email or fax copies were allowed. The Illinois pension board then had to verify the ballots returned were acceptable by checking that the ballots were submitted by IFPIF members. The election ballots were then counted and certified the election results. The results were:

- 145 - David Pileski (Mayor, Village of Roselle) (certified winner)
- 144 - Michael Troup (Mayor, City of Quincy) (certified winner)
- 77 - Karl Langhammer (Treasurer, Carol Stream FPD)

While these results were not in our favor, I want to thank all those who worked together to get Mr. Langhammer's name on the pension board ballot and for sending reminders to complete the ballot correctly and return it on time. I want everyone to remember that there will be other elections for positions on the IFPIF board. I hope that we can get a candidate to participate in those elections.

Next up is the educational programs for 2025. We kicked off the year with the first Continuing Trustee Education (CTE) session, which was presented virtually on January 11, with more than 100 participants. The Winter Conference is next on February 14 & 15, 2025. The IAFFPD Annual Conference returns to Champaign

on June 19 - 21, 2025. All dates and registration information are listed on the IAFFPD website IAFFPD.org.

If any trustees or members of your fire district would like to volunteer while attending these events, please contact the Association Office.

We recently added two more programs to the online library (OMA and FOIA Updates and Cyber Attacks). This educational resource now has more than a dozen one-hour programs presenting timely topics for your professional development needs.

Legislative Day in Springfield is scheduled for April 30th, and I strongly encourage your district's involvement with this event, which helps support the legislative work of the IAFFPD and its legislative partners, the IFCA and the NIAFFPD. More information will be available on the IAFFPD website.

Thank you to the IAFFPD Directors, Area Representatives, Office Staff, and everyone for your support throughout the year. You all make my position as President enjoyable and rewarding. Just remember, I can't do it without you.

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 have questions on how the IAFFPD can assist your district, the Board of Directors, Staff, and I are interested in hearing from you. ■