



***IFCA Monthly Information  
December 2017***



***Diversity, Communications, Training, Education, Safety***

**From President Christian;** On behalf of the Executive Board of the IFCA, I wish each and every one a very happy holiday season. I also want to stress the importance of making sure our family, friends, and staff remains healthy not only physically but mentally. This time of year, we as emergency providers typically see a rise in mental emergencies that we are responding to and we must be cognizant of this critical issue each day. There are many tools available for fire service leaders to utilize in understanding and assisting individuals who are suffering and the IFCA is committed to providing any assistance necessary. Stay safe and I wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

***Illinois Fire Chiefs Association***

**IFCA Legislative:** December is a relatively quiet month on the legislative side with the Legislature recessed until late January. We are taking this opportunity to refocus the legislative committee and how we will be providing timely information to our members. If you have legislative concerns that you feel the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association should champion or questions on the IFCA legislative process, email Chief John Buckley at [jbuckley@plvw.org](mailto:jbuckley@plvw.org).

**IFCA Web Information:** We have been working hard to upgrade our website. Chief Larry Moran from Forest View has stepped up to complete the redesign and maintain the site. We are in the final stages of testing and this month's project is to go live. Watch for updates!

The **Chief Emeritus Committee** is currently reviewing the nomination process to more clearly define documentation needed in submitting nominations for consideration. In the past, the difference between career and volunteer Chiefs has been very evident and the Committee believes some individuals are intimidated by the nomination packet. We are currently reviewing the entire process to make it more "user friendly" while not degrading the selection of individuals worthy of becoming a recipient.

The **ITTF Board** over the past year has been totally reorganized in the four separate working committees to identify and justify financial support for Homeland Security funding. The Fire Service Workgroup is headed by Col Mortenson and Jay Reardon with representative from IFSI, Rockford, MABAS, Quad Cities, OSFM, AFFI, IFCA, Quincy, Bloomington/Normal, IFA, Peoria, Champaign/Urbana, and Joliet. Recent discussions have focused on developing an understanding of the various needs and funding sources as they may relate to the fire service. Maintaining what is currently in place, to include specialized teams, equipment (i.e. Decon Units, Light Trailers, TRT & Haz-Mat Team Equipment, etc.) and a funding source that will support on-going training costs/expenses (including back-fill/overtime) The funding of UASI and subsidies has also been a focus of discussion. Our committee fully understands the other three committees are struggling

with similar concerns/requirements/needs and with the limited amount of funding available it becomes what is in the best interest of our state. An executive summary to the Governor must will identify there is no sustained funding source to maintain everything the fire service has today. Lack of capital replacement/improvement plan; lack of ongoing integrated agency/functional area joint exercises. Although alternative funding sources have been sought, we have not been successful to date.

### **Assessment & Consulting:**

- Projects in cue or Proposal Phase: 16 (includes entry level FFPM, Captains, Lieutenants, Chief Officers)
- Equipment upgraded two (2) mobile printers for assessment centers.
- Beginning to revise all Assessment Center grading forms/sheets/methods
- Reaching out to our Directors/Area Representatives to assist in marketing our services.
- Focus on:
  - Working with Harper Community College on Workshop sessions
  - NEW: ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER Oral interviews
  - Assessment Centers
  - Our ability to provide station location/consolidation by way of analysis studies
- Be Prepared Workshops scheduled for Winter/Spring 2018 (new location: Joliet Junior College. Classes will be offered: Joliet Junior College – Jan 17-19, 2018, Mar 14-16, 2018; Buffalo Grove Feb 7-9, 2018; and Addison Apr 11-13, 2018. Registration available at: <http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/>
- New Class: **“Preparing for Fire Department Entry”**,  
February 2, 2018 at Joliet Junior College.  
March 2, 2018 at Elgin Community College.  
Registration information available at: <http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/>

### **IFCA Educational & Research Foundation**

**Scholarships-** Now is the time of the year for everyone to reach out to their membership to encourage their organization, association or local union to sponsor a scholarship to honor a retiring, past, present or deceased member of their organization. The Foundation will match those donations to double the amount of the scholarship awards that will be decided on in April of 2018.

The Foundation counts on all members of the Illinois fire service to help spread the word of the scholarship program’s matching grant program. Please contact the IFCA Office or a Foundation Board Member for details.

### **Chief Fire Officer**

The 2018 Chief Fire Officer deadline has been extended until **December 15, 2017**. Classes start in January 2018. For more information on the program visit the IFCA website <http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/>

### **Fire Officer I & II**

Registration for Winter/Spring 2018 classes are open. or more information and registration forms visit the IFCA website: <http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/>

## **Senior Officer for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The Foundation is continuing the Senior Officer Development Classes. There is no cost for the class but due to the OSFM being unable to offer grant assistance, hotel costs will be the responsibility of the student. These classes are appropriate for all officers who wish to increase their knowledge and prepare for future job responsibilities. Three (3) classes were scheduled.

*Bourbonnais* – was held the weekend of December 2-3, 2017 and was very successful with 19 students. Topics covered were Team Building, Leadership for Fire Department Officers, Laws & Regs., May Day for Mental Health; SOP's, Fire Service Planning, Duty-Pride-Tradition and Fireground Safety.

The next two scheduled are:

Centralia – January 20-21, 2018

Harlem-Roscoe – February 17-18, 2018

Visit [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org) for registration information.

**Holiday Shopping?** The IFCA Foundation is registered with AmazonSmile. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select *Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Educational & Research Foundation* as the charity you would like to support. A percentage of your purchase will be sent to the Foundation. *Thank you.*

### **SAVE THE DATE for our 2018 Fundraising Activities:**

- ❖ Fishing Trip - Saturday, June 2nd - Waukegan Harbor & Marina
- ❖ Golf Outing - Wednesday, July 11th - Gleneagles Golf Club, Lemont
- ❖ For Information on the LifeSource Blood Drive Program, please contact Chief Tracy Kenny: [tkenny@broadview-il.gov](mailto:tkenny@broadview-il.gov)

## ***For the Good of the Association***

### **OSFM & IFSI News;**

The Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Illinois Fire Service Institute have reached an agreement regarding testing for certification. Effective 01-January-2018 and going forward, the OSFM has granted state equivalency to IFSI exams that lead to state certification. Consequently, IFSI courses/classes that lead to state certification will no longer require two exams. This process has been a long-anticipated venture that has finally arrived and will be very beneficial for firefighters across Illinois. Effective date forward is 01-January-2018.

**IFCA Clothing Line:** Please visit Eagle Engraving website and click on The Chief's Corner for some great IFCA items and deals. Starting in 2018 please see our pre-order set up for the symposium and conference. Go to <http://www.eagle-engraving.com> then click on Chief's Corner and shop.

Congratulations to Chief Mac McCastland as the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors – Instructor of the Year & Life Time Achievement Recognition. (recognition date is 23-February-2018)

**Sick/Injured:** Jeff Bruno Captain Kankakee FD, Chief Steve Ivonelli Franklin Park FD (retired)

### **Promotions/Retirements:**

- Prospect Heights Battalion Chief Bob Pyzyna retired on October 31, 2017. Bob also works for Northbrook.

- Northbrook Fire Department Deputy Fire Chief Dan Quinn retired in August of 2017. Andy Carlson was appointed the new NBKFD Deputy Fire Chief.
- Fire Chief Mike McGreal retired from the Wilmette Fire Department in August 2017 and is now the new Deputy Fire Chief for the Wheeling Fire Department.
- Ben Wozney is the new Wilmette Fire Chief.
- Marty Feld has been named the Fire Chief for The Niles FD.
- Fire Chief Jeff Jorian is retiring after 35 years with Hoffman Estates FD.
- Retiring from Arlington heights FD is BC Tom Zerfass with 31 years of service.
- Chief Galen Bennet from Byron Fire is retiring after 30 years of service.
- Wauconda FD Fire Chief Mike Wahl is retiring after 33 years of service.
- Dave Geary has been named the Fire Chief of the Wauconda FD.
- Chief Jay Reardon is retiring as MABAS CEO December 2017

**Congratulations to all!**

**Dates to remember:**

Dec 7, 2017 – Metro Chiefs Installation & Holiday Luncheon

Dec 15, 2017 – IFSAP Award & Graduation Luncheon

Jan 2, 2018 - IFCA Foundation Scholarship Competition Opens

Jan 25-27, 2018 – NIAFPD Annual Conference

Feb 16-17, 2018 – IAFPD Mini-Conference, Fairview Heights

Feb 23-25, 2018 – The Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors Conference, East Peoria

Apr 17-18, 2018 – Congressional Fire Service Caucus, Washington DC

May 8, 2018 – Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Ceremony, Springfield

May 16-18, 2018 – IFCA 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium, East Peoria

Jun. 2, 2018 – Fishing Trip, Waukegan Harbor

Jul. 11, 2018 – Golf Outing, Gleneagles Golf Club, Lemont

The monthly information will be sent to Area representatives, Directors and Presidents as general announcements at monthly meetings. We will also post to our web-site.