



## IFCA Monthly Information February 2021



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

#### **Illinois Fire Chiefs Association**

**From President Don Shovelin, Harlem-Roscoe FPD;** Welcome to February. As I write this it is 8 degrees with a wind chill of -4. Hey, it is winter, and the groundhog saw his shadow, so I guess we will hunker down a little longer. But I assure you things are heating up. The new general assembly is in place, we continue to move ahead with plans of holding our Symposium, the conference committee is working hard planning for our annual conference in October and the board continues to meet. As we work on items please watch you email from the Association for responses, we need from you. I know we will be sending a survey regarding the symposium needing valued input from you. If history continues, I am sure there will begin to be legislative activity, the question is if and what may pertain to the fire service. Stay warm, be safe and thank you for what you do.

**Don**

**From Executive Director Jim Grady** as you look through the monthly new letter from the IFCA please feel free to share the messages with others. Soon a short survey will be out regarding the IFCA Annual Symposium it will be short and to the point with 2 – 3 questions.

Scholarships are open through the IFCA Education – Research Foundation please take the time to apply!

In this newsletter we have updates on MemberClicks and Legislation please take the time to review.

I would like to welcome to our “IT: Team Courtney Michaels! Courtney along with Ross Boshera and Tom Bentley will work with Facebook Pages for us so if you have information please forward and I will make sure they receive. I would also like to welcome aboard as our CRR Team Leader Ms. Marsha Giesler – Marsha brings a great wealth of knowledge along with enthusiasm that will help the program grow in so many positive ways.

There are many things happening within the membership, and I am sure I will miss many but here are just a few:

- To the many recipients of service pins congratulations – your pins have been given to area representative and directors for delivery – I congratulate you & thank you for your support.
- Chief Pat Kenny (now retired Chief Pat) has a number 1 book on Amazon at several different levels – take the time to read it or listen to the audio tape - well worth it and for a great cause.
- Last month January 18<sup>th</sup> was the anniversary of our past beloved director, mentor to many of us and just another good guy Jerry Burke’s passing. The man lived a good life and set the example for us within the IFCA. I along with many are thankful for Jerry’s friendship and wisdom. I leave you with this when Jerry whispered in your ear saying “James my man..... “you had better listen to the voice of a leader who never gave bad advice. So, to Jerry and all we have lost God Speed and take care Brothers & Sisters we miss you all.



#### **Legislation**

Much has happened in the Illinois legislative world since our January update. As we are sure everyone knows, the legislature met during lame duck session. The activity during this session was remarkable, and controversial, even for Springfield. Immediately after the lame duck session ended, the 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly was sworn in. With this came the election of a new Speaker of the House. (Emanuel) Chris Welch from the 7<sup>th</sup> District replaces long time Speaker Michael Madigan. The House will meet in Springfield on February 10<sup>th</sup> to adopt new rules, including an anticipated rule to allow virtual hearings. The Senate will not meet until March.

Bills continue to be introduced as well as a number of bills impacting the fire service. The legislative committee continues to review the legislation and work to assure our message is heard. To follow the bills the committee is monitoring or actively working on, check out the legislation section of the IFCA website. We anticipate hearings to begin in March and the month of May to be very busy prior to the May 31<sup>st</sup> recess. As the legislature moves through this process, we will begin to have a much better idea on what legislation will need our attention. Stay tuned for future updates.

**IT Update MemberClicks ---** We continue to work to integrate our member management solution into the operations of our organization. In January, each Fire Department/District and retiree should have received an email with a 2021 invoice. Thank you to all those who have paid their annual dues. If we have not received your payment, we will be emailing a reminder to you

soon. If you need a new invoice or need to make changes, you may access this by logging into the member's only section or send us an email at [info@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:info@illinoisfirechiefs.org). For assistance signing in and updating your profile, try viewing a video with this [link](#).

If you are on Facebook, make sure to like the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association – IFCA page. This page is a great place to recognize the achievements of our members. Also, keep in mind that the Volunteer and Combination Officers Committee (VCOC) has their own page at Illinois Fire Chiefs Association – VCOC – to target volunteer and combination members.

### **VCOC Programs & News:**

#### **Apply Now for Rural EMS Training Grant**

The deadline to apply for the FY 2021 Rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Training Grant program has been extended to March 18. The purpose of the grant is to recruit and train EMS personnel in rural areas. Rural EMS agencies operated by a local or tribal government and nonprofit EMS agencies can apply. **Read the funding opportunity announcement.**

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-21-005> The grant program is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

#### **VCOS Fire Equipment collection:**

If you are doing end of the year cleaning of closets and storage areas don't forget - The VCOC Committee is collecting equipment to donate to departments in-need throughout the state. Contact Chief David Weiss – [dweiss@westmont.il.gov](mailto:dweiss@westmont.il.gov) for additional information.

#### **Looking for Additional Committee Members**

VCOC Committee is looking for more committee members, go to: <https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/who-we-are/intro-for-committee-form/> or email [dweiss@westmont.il.gov](mailto:dweiss@westmont.il.gov) .

### **Suicide Prevention in Today's World**

February 17, 2021 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Eastern Standard Time - Online

Join Chief Joe Chornock, Chief Adam Farrar and Chief Pat Kenny on **Wednesday February 17 at 7 PM ET** for a discussion about suicide prevention actions. Life stressors are impacting our firefighters more today than ever in our history. The pandemic and the changing response procedures are having a negative impact on many of our firefighters' mental wellness. The lack of social interaction is also impacting our firefighters at home.

This panel discussion will bring current strategies and tactics used by company officers and chiefs that recognize or suspect a brother or sister firefighter is behaving differently. Please join this one-hour panel discussion moderated by Chief John M. Buckman III. [Webex Registration](#)

### **\$300 Stipends Available to Support Your Home Fire Sprinkler Outreach**

#### **May 16-22, 2021 Home Fire Sprinkler Week**

#### **Apply Today – March 1, 2021 Deadline**

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) will award stipends to 30 qualifying fire departments that demonstrate a plan to conduct community outreach during Home Fire Sprinkler Week 2021.

Only BUILT FOR LIFE Fire Departments may apply for the stipend. If you are not a BUILT FOR LIFE Fire Department, sign up today!

<https://homefiresprinkler.org/fire-department-application/> It's free to join.

To apply for the stipend: <https://homefiresprinkler.org/300-dollar-stipends-to-support-hfsw/>

#### **Assessment & Consulting**

For information on the IFCA Assessment & Consulting Services please contact: [dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

#### **Be Prepared for Promotion & Leadership Workshops**

The March series of workshops is **full**. We have just confirmed that we will hold an additional series April 13-15, 2021 at Homer Township FPD, Lockport. Registration will open Monday February 15. Please note: To maintain social distancing each workshop will be limited to 20 attendees. Registration at [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

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

**Scholarship Application Period Open** –Please help spread the word that the application process is Jan 1-Mar 15, 2021. Chiefs, the applicants will need your help. A letter of recommendation is needed from the **Chief Officer** to complete the application process. For the Chief Officer, a letter of recommendation is needed from your superior (i.e., Trustee, Mayor, Village Mgr., etc.). The application will be posted January 1 on our website at [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org). Good Luck to all.

## **Fire Officer Course Offerings - Upcoming Fire Officer Courses**

To register <https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/fire-officer-courses/>

### **Fire Service Instructor 1**

March 8-10, 15-16, 2021, North Palos FPD, \$300

### **Fire Service Instructor 2**

Feb 15-17, 22-23, 2021, North Palos FPD, \$300

### **Incident Safety Officer (ISO)**

May 10-14, 2021, North Palos FPD, \$300

### **Company Fire Officer (CoFO)**

April 26, May 24-28, June 7-11, 2021, Pleasantview FPD, \$1000

### **Advanced Fire Officer (AdFO)**

Mar 1, Mar 29-Apr 2, Apr 12-16, 2021, Elk Grove Village FD, GRANT FUNDED

### **Training Program Manager (TPM)**

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021, West Chicago FPD, \$300

April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021, Plainfield FPD, \$300

For additional class dates visit [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/education](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/education)

## **IFCA Foundation Fundraising Updates**

**Inaugural 5K, Hometown Hero's Hustle** in cooperation with the VFW and American Legion. Planning is underway and we are looking at a morning 5K race on **May 22** in Batavia. Stay Tuned!

**Fishing Tournament June 5, 2021** at Marina. 5am to Noon. Cost \$150/person, 6 to a boat. Ten boats reserved. Watch the website for additional information and registration info.

**Sporting Clays** – Looking at a June shoot South Event, watch for information.

**Golf Outing** – July 7, 2021 – Gleneagles Golf Course – Lemont IL.

**Blood Drives** are continuing. Working with Vitalant to create Virtual Drives where a department can host a drive and Donors can go to any collection center.

Watch the website and Hot Sheet for online orders for the **IFCA Foundation “We’re In This Together Sweatshirts and Shirts.**

## **Officer Development Seminar Class**

### **Oak Forest Officer Development Seminar Rescheduled**

**April 14, 2021** is the new date for the Oak Forest seminar that was canceled October 2020. A flyer will be sent within the next week to those who had previously registered to confirm attendance. Registration will then be opened through the IFCA Website.

*It is a new decade, and the Foundation has updated and restructured the Senior Officer Development program. It is now being offered as a **one or two-day** program with topics chosen by the Host Department, so it is relevant to your department's area.*

*Interested in hosting – contact DC Tim Leidig, West Chicago FD. [tleidig@wegofpd.org](mailto:tleidig@wegofpd.org)*

## **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.

## **Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals (IFSAP)**

### **About Us**

The Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals (IFSAP) was founded in September, 1980, when a group of ten secretaries from across the State of Illinois gathered for the purpose of determining the educational needs of the Fire Service Secretary.

IFSAP has since developed into a professional organization built around the Fire Service and the needs of the administrative support staff that operate within it. Our belief is that it is necessary and advantageous for us to network, share ideas and train together whenever possible.

Is your Administrative Professional a member of this group??? Please visit [www.ifsap.org](http://www.ifsap.org) for more information and membership application.

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

## **Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)**

**FY 2020 APPLICATION PERIOD ANNOUNCED: 1/4/21 - 2/12/21**

Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

For Further information: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/assistance-grants/documents>

### **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

Information is constantly changing. Visit the following websites for up-to-date information. Stay Safe.

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/first-responders.html>

EMS: <https://www.ems.gov/>

IAFC: <https://www.iafc.org/>

IDPH: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>

IFCA: <https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/>

Illinois Coronavirus Response: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>

IFSI: <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/>

OSFM: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Pages/default.aspx>

US Fire Administration: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

### **IFCA - Chiefs Corner – One Stop Shop for all your IFCA Apparel**



IFCA has partnered with **Eagle Engraving** to sell a variety of apparel and other items with the IFCA logo. Please visit Eagle Engraving website. Go to [www.eagle-engraving.com](http://www.eagle-engraving.com) then click on Chief's Corner and shop or head right to the page at: [https://eagle-engraving.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=133\\_134](https://eagle-engraving.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=133_134). Check out the "NEW" variety of apparel – Tall sizes now available.

*You are receiving this correspondence as a member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association*

### ***IFCA Director for contact***

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