



***IFCA Monthly Information
February 2018***



Diversity, Communications, Training, Education, Safety

From President Christian;

"Now that the holidays are behind us, I hope things are settling down and our membership is able to focus back on current issues at hand. As you are aware, our Legislators are back in Springfield and the process of drafting new legislation is moving forward. The IFCA Legislative Committee is hard at work under the guidance of IFCA Director Chief John Buckley to deliver to our membership clear and concise information as to Association positions on Bills. Our goal this year is to provide you with the necessary tools to educate your local officials on IFCA positions so that we are all on the same page when presenting. I look forward to a positive year in Springfield yet remain guarded as to what will be accomplished in this session. Stay safe and stay tuned....."

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

IFCA Legislative Update The legislative committee is hard at work watching the various bills that have been introduced in Springfield the past few weeks. The group will be evaluating the bills in the next week and determining the position of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.

This year we are taking a little bit of a different approach. You may recall that in past years, we would ask our members to "slip" many bills heading to committee. After working with our lobbyist and talking with some legislators, we have decided to slip many of the bills on behalf of the IFCA and not ask all our members to slip these bills. Typically, this will be done by President Christian. If you feel strongly on any particular bill, please remember that you can slip any bill on your own. Although we anticipate asking for your help less frequently this year, we will undoubtedly still be asking you to act when certain situations arise. Sometimes this will be slipping a bill, sometimes it might be contacting your Legislators directly (through email or by phone) and we might even ask our members to show up in Springfield for a hearing. Each situation is different, and we will be watching carefully to determine the best response.

The key to all this is, **when we ask for your help, please take the time to help.** We will try not to ask too often, but when we do, we need **your** help.



SAVE THE DATE & PLAN TO ATTEND
Illinois Fire Services Legislative Day
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
A Day at the State Capitol
An Evening Reception at the Doubletree Hotel
Springfield, IL



Save the date for the 2018 IFCA Springfield Legislative Day on April 11th. If you have never been to our annual event, please consider joining us. We begin early in the morning and conclude with a reception for the legislators in the evening. More information will be available toward the end of the month.

Also in April is the fire service lobby day (actually days) in Washington, DC. This has been a great opportunity to discuss Illinois issues with the Illinois Congressional Delegation. For more information on either of these legislative lobby events, email John Buckley at jbuckley@plvw.org.

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.

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!

VCOC Program

Save the Dates - The VCOC Committee will be sponsoring a **Fire Rescue Organizational Guidelines (FROG)** class, April 13-15, 2018 at the Harlem Roscoe FPD, Roscoe IL.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: If you are a leader in your department (Fire Chief, Chief Officer, Company Officer, Senior Leader), you need to be here!

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN: Participants work together to develop solutions to common leadership challenges through scenario and facilitated-based discussions. Topics include analyzing and understanding the fire department's people, processes and culture. At the conclusion of the course, participants will have practical guidelines, customized to their organization, which can be immediately implemented upon returning home.

Visit <http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/> to register for this outstanding program.

Assessment & Consulting:

- 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: Joliet Junior College. Classes will be offered: Joliet Junior College, 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”**
March 2, 2018 at Elgin Community College.

JLMC Basic Assessor Course

Plainfield Fire Protection District

April 3-5, 2018

Registration information available at: <http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/>



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 www.eagle-engraving.com then click on Chief’s Corner and shop.

Mental Health Support/Services

Where would you turn if one of your firefighters came to you needing help. Your department should have this information readily available to you and your personnel. Make sure your department is in a position to help. There are many resources and training available to you and your personnel. Be prepared, don’t let your employee down. Here are a few.

Illinois Firefighter Peer Support:

Illinois Fire Fighter Peer Support is defined as assistance provided by a trained individual or group of trained firefighters and emergency responders who answer the call to their brothers and sisters in need, regardless of the need.

Call Toll Free 855-90-SUPPORT (855-907-8776)

<http://www.ilffps.org/self-help/>

The **Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI)** has also developed a Firefighter Resiliency Program to address firefighter mental health. Please contact your cornerstone representative to have a course delivered:

<https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/resiliency/>

There is also free online awareness training available through the NFFF Fire Hero Learning Network:

https://www.fireherolearningnetwork.com/Training_Programs/Stress_First_Aid_for_Fire_and_Emergency_Medical_Services_Personnel.aspx

FHLN Launches New Emergency Services Certificate Program

<https://www.fireherolearningnetwork.com/>

Tax Reform Act & Fire Sprinkler Incentives

reprinted courtesy of NFSA

In December, Congress passed the most sweeping tax reform legislation since 1986. Included in this legislation (P.L. 115-97) are two provisions that will greatly incentivize the installation of fire sprinklers. The National Fire Sprinkler Association appreciates the efforts and work that happened for 14+ years prior to this passage that allowed fire sprinklers to be included. A special thank you to Congressman Jim Langevin, who has championed this inclusion since the beginning as a result of

the Station Nightclub fire being in his district. We also thank all of our fire service partners – Congressional Fire Services Institute, International Fire Chiefs Association, International Fire Fighters Association, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, National Fire Protection Association, Common Voices, National Volunteer Fire Council, Security Industry Association, Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors and many others. Understanding the costs of fire is important to business owners across America, and NFSA now shifts our work to sharing this information with our fire service allies and stakeholder groups that are directly affected.

For further information visit the NFSA website at: www.nfsa.org.

IFCA Educational & Research Foundation

** Life Source presented a check to the IFCA Educational and Research Foundation at the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Annual Holiday Installation Luncheon on December 7th at Empress Banquets in Addison. These funds are in response to the Foundations “Everyday Heroes” Blood Drive Program and will be utilized for future scholarships awarded by the Foundation. ***Thank you to the departments that set-up and ran the Blood Drives throughout the year!!***

Scholarship Competition is-now open:

The Annual Foundation Scholarship competition opened on January 2, 2018. The application deadline is 6pm March 15, 2018. The Foundation will be using a new online program for the applications which we feel will make it easier for all. The major changes are:

- 1) When you access the link, you will need to create a username and password. This will only be used for the scholarship application process. It will also allow you to come back to the application if you need additional information or get interrupted.
- 2) A signed letter of recommendation by the **Chief Officer** is required. This letter will be uploaded to the application.

The link for the scholarship application is: [2018 Scholarship Application](http://2018.Scholarship.Application). If you have trouble accessing you can cut and paste: <https://goo.gl/qMsDvm>

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 21st 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.

Upcoming Classes:

Harlem-Roscoe – February 17-18, 2018

Centralia – April 7-8, 2018 (rescheduled date)

Visit www.illinoisfirechiefs.org for registration information.

Shopping? The IFCA Foundation is registered with AmazonSmile. Go to 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

For the Good of the Association

OSFM & IFSI News:

OSFM & IFSI News; Worth repeating

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.

Note of interest: OSFM & IFSI have an office at each other's headquarters.

Still Time to Register for the IFSI 2018 Annual Conference – Feb 23-25, 2018

Par-a-Dice Hotel, 21 Blackjack Blvd., East Peoria IL

Annual conference highlighting firefighter mental health, leadership, accountability and Initial Action Training. Instructor of the Year awards. Award banquet and networking. Keynotes are Chief Deputy Joseph Castro and Sarah Gura. Jones and Bartlett and Target Solutions on hand to assist with building Fire Department training curriculum.

To register for conference http://www.ill-fireinstructors.org/classes/detail.cfm?class_id=315

For hotel reservations:

+Group Code is 0223FSI Call **1-800-547-0711** press 9 and reference code

Or go to this exact web address <http://www.paradicecasino.com/groups> and enter in group code.

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)

Promotions/Retirements:

- Chief Jason Brandt has been named the Fire Chief of the Skokie FD. (Chief welcome to Illinois.)
- D/C Joseph Falaschetti (Acting Chief) of the Beecher FPD was voted unanimously by the District Trustees to be appointed Fire Chief of the Beecher FPD.
- Captain Jeff Bruno was appointed the Deputy Chief of the Kankakee FD

Congratulations to all!

Dates to remember:

Jan 2-March 15, 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 13-15, 2018 – Fire Rescue Organizational Guidance, Harlem-Roscoe FPD, Roscoe

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

May 8, 2018 – Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor 25th Annual Ceremony, Springfield

May 16-18, 2018 – IFCA 48th Annual Symposium, East Peoria

Jun. 2, 2018 – Fishing Trip, Waukegan Harbor

Jun 21-23, 2018 – 75th Annual IAFPD Conference, Peoria IL

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

Aug 2, 2018 – Anthony LaRocca Memorial Golf Outing, Bloomingdale

Aug 8-11, 2018 – IAFC-FRI Conference, Dallas TX

Sep 6, 2018 – Survivor’s Retreat, Carol Stream IL

Sep 7, 2018 – Chicagoland NFFF Tournament, Glendale Lakes, Lemont IL

Sep 8-9, 2018 – IFCA VCOC 9th Annual Conference, Bloomington/Normal

Oct 14-17, 2018 – 68th Annual Conference, Peoria IL

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.