



IFCA Monthly Information December 2018



Diversity, Communications, Training, Education, Safety

From our President; I want to wish you a Merry Christmas along with a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

As we move into 2019, I want to repeat our message “we are your organization” the IFCA wants your involvement and we value you as a leader. With that said please feel free to contact me personally if you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions. Our team is willing, able and ready to listen. Our commitment to you is to continue diversity within our organization. Seeking input and involvement from Volunteer, Combination and career organizations. Together we gain strength and momentum. God Bless and Have a Merry Christmas.

Thank you. Chief – President Mark Puknaitis IFCA & Naperville FD

Community Risk Reduction is a project that is part of our strategic plan that we will continue to support and move forward. This will also be incorporated into our consulting services. The IFCA will be a center point for CRR with a summit in 2019 where the IFCA will meet with several other state representatives from across the United States at a meeting to be held in the O’Hare Airport area.

GEMT – we recently sent out a survey requesting your input as to whether you would like to participate. This program bridges costs for Medicare transports and the loss of revenue as related to your actual costs of transports. We received back just under 200 responses that should give us a good foundation for the Department of Health-Human Services to allow us to move forward. Much more to come.

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Symposium 2019 is getting closer:

Mark your calendars now for the 49th Annual Symposium – May 15-17, 2019, Par-A-Dice Hotel, East Peoria.

Our annual conference information:

While 2018 was a success the Conference Committee continually seek to improve the programs, venue and activities. With that said a survey will be out soon asking several pointed questions that will assist our team in providing another successful venue based upon what YOU are asking for.

Committee Members:

The IFCA is looking for individuals to serve on IFCA committees. Please visit the IFCA website for the committee application or contact your area representative. Our Area Representatives will also be looking for back up help in delivering our message, so don’t be surprised if you are asked to help us help all of us.

IFCA Legislative Update:

Last week the 100th General Assembly came to a close. The Veto Session was very eventful with the General Assembly addressing 73 vetoes (46 total vetoes/27 amendatory vetoes) pending during the Fall Veto Session. Of those, the Legislature overrode 13 amendatory vetoes, 16 total vetoes and accepted 1 amendatory veto. There is a small possibility that one or two of the unsettled Veto’s will be addressed during the lame duck session in January.

The legislative committee is gearing up for the 101st General Assembly. If you have issues that you believe the IFCA should address, email John Buckley at jbuckley@plvw.org. The legislative committee is always looking for help, if you are willing to dedicate just a little time, email Chief Buckley to find out what you can do to help.

IFCA Web Information:

Our website is up and running. With the assistance of Maureen and Chief Larry Moran we work in keeping the site updated and current with news for you. Watch for additional and new updates! If you have any questions or would like something posted please contact me, Maureen or Larry. jbuckley@plvw.org , mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org, lmoran@illinoisfirechiefs.org

VCOC Programs & News:

Recruitment/Retention Workshop

This two-day course provides chiefs and officers with the knowledge, tools and resources to begin a more successful recruitment program. You will also learn valuable tips on how to retain those quality volunteers. Even though this course is primarily set up for volunteer/combo departments, it is open to all. The course can offer valuable suggestions on other marketing strategies to attract qualified candidates. This course is offered at **NO CHARGE**. Visit www.illinoisfirechiefs.org for registration.

Scheduled Workshops

Amboy FD, January 19-20, 2019

Riverton FD, March 9-10, 2019

The IFCA-VCOC will be partnering with the IAFFPD delivering a short version of R&R to the Trustees at their weekend workshops.

Fire Equipment Auction

The Knollwood FD recently ceased to exist and was located between Libertyville and Lake Forest IL. Many of their assets are being auctioned off. Here is the link for more information. Auction starts closing on Monday, December 10, 2018.

<https://www.obenaufauctionsonline.com/cgi-bin/mndetails.cgi?obenauf119>

IAFC/VCOS Reports WORTH REPEATING!

Please take the time to review the following two important reports:

Lavender Ribbon Report: Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer. This can be found at:

https://www.iafc.org/about-iafc/sections/vcos/vcos-resource-detail/vcos-lavender-ribbon-report-best-practices-for-preventing-firefighter-cancer?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VCOS

Yellow Ribbon Report: Under the Helmet. This can be found at

<https://sites.iafc.org/files/1VCOS/VCOSYellowRibbonFinal.pdf>

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 .

Assessment & Consulting:

Be Prepared for Promotion Workshops schedule for 2019. Visit the IFCA website to register for the workshops. This series of seminars are intended to be an individual initiative and are not necessarily intended to be supported through Fire Department funding.

Workshop 1 Oral Interview	Workshop 2 – Employee Counseling, Citizen Interaction, Group Problem Solving & Writing	Workshop 3 Tactical Exercise
Jan 29, 2019 – Buffalo Grove FD	Jan 30, 2019 – Buffalo Grove FD	Jan 31, 2019 – Buffalo Grove FD
Mar 19, 2019 – Homer Township FPD	Mar 20, 2019 – Homer Township FPD	Mar 21, 2019 – Homer Township FPD

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 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. Check out the "NEW" variety of apparel – Tall sizes now available.

IFCA Educational & Research Foundation

Senior Officer Development for the 21st Century

This **FREE** two-day mini-symposium has been put together for officers to help you better understand duties and liabilities of the Chief Officer. This program is aimed at those individuals who may be new at the chief officer rank; act to support the administrative function or as a tool regardless of rank of those who aspire to be a Chief Officer someday. This program is designed as an interactive program with its success directly related to your participation. At the end of each section the students are asked not only offer their feedback on the instructors but also the relevancy of the material which then drives curriculum revisions.

The program's mission is to develop the knowledge skills in leadership and the support tools to grow an organization for a safe and successful future. The Senior Officer Program offers topics necessary in a new to the role and refresher for more veteran officers. Topics such as Duty, Pride, & Tradition, Officer Leadership (Buddy-to-Boss), Recruitment & Retention, Training Awareness, Fire Service Planning (Succession though Shift), Mental Health and Safety for Firefighters, Conflict Resolution, Legal Requirements, Political Advocacy, Team Building, and Preparation for the Modern Fireground.

The following Workshops have been scheduled.

Evanston – January 12-13, 2019

Charleston – February 9-10, 2019

Amboy – April 6-7, 2019

visit www.illinoisfirechiefs.org for registration information.

Chief Fire Officer

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2019 class which begins in January. Application can be found at www.illinoisfirechiefs.org. There are going to be three sessions offered this year 2 on Wednesdays and one on Saturdays to support the Volunteer/Combination Fire Officers. **Registration Deadline Extended – December 15, 2018**

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 IFCA Foundation Fundraising Activities:

- ❖ For Information on the Life-Source Blood Drive Program, please contact Jeff Swanson at jeffrejaswanson@gmail.com
- ❖ 2019 Annual Golf Outing – July 10, Lemont IL

For the Good of the Association

To better serve you and continue to gather news the IFCA Board is in the process of assigning 2-3 area representatives to directors so that an additional pipeline for information can be obtained to keep all of our members informed. We will also be addressing Facebook and other outlets to provide information.

Our VCOC section is working on some pamphlets that will address volunteering, recruitment/retention, response to schools and a few other worthwhile information pamphlets that can & will benefit many.

Operation North Pole

As you may know, the Metro Fire Chiefs has been a proud supporter of Operation North Pole. Operation North Pole (ONP) is an event where kids with life-threatening or terminal illnesses and their families get a day of family fun riding a Christmas train to the “North Pole” and then spending an afternoon with Santa and Mrs. Claus in a Winter Wonderland (in the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center at 5555 N. River Rd in Rosemont) – an opportunity for one day to enjoy the holidays as a regular family and not think about hospitals, doctors, chemotherapy, the finances of having a sick child, etc. Information can be found at www.operationnorthpole.org. There is also a link to the ONP Facebook page on this website.

Throughout the year, many ask how their departments and firefighters can get involved. We welcome participation and hope to answer those questions with this email.

This year’s big event day for our special families is Saturday, December 15th. In the morning, before the train ride, starting at about 8:30 a.m., the families get to see fire engines, police cars, police K-9s, police horses, etc. up-close – and get to talk with the firefighters and police officers. Some that haven’t eaten get a small breakfast.

At about 10:30 a.m., the families get on buses that are escorted by police and fire vehicles in a caravan with lights and sirens as they travel to a Christmas-theme-decorated train that brings them to the “North Pole.” On the train are games, snacks, singing, therapy dogs, firefighters, police officers, “elves,” crafts, Mr. Conductor, Mrs. Claus, and much more. Along the train route are firefighters, police officers, and citizens cheering-on the families and showing the way to the “North Pole” (again, thanks so much to those of you providing crews along the train route). Another lights-and-siren escort after the train ride brings the families back to the convention center at about 1:30 pm or so, where Santa greets them and leads them through the “Gauntlet of Honor,” which consists of firefighters and police officers on one knee clapping and cheering for the families, “high-fiving” as the families move through the “Gauntlet” into the Winter Wonderland. This is very emotional and moving for the families and the firefighters/police officers alike.

If you would like to send a marked department vehicle and personnel to participate in the morning “show-and-tell,” or the lights-&-siren caravans, we would welcome that. Also, please ask your personnel if they would like to participate in the “Gauntlet.” Gauntlet set-up to finish is less than an hour. There is no limit to the number of firefighters – we can use all that are interested. Participants need to bring and wear their bunker pants/suspenders/boots, fire helmets, and “North Pole Fire Department” t-shirts, which t-shirts will be issued that day for those that don’t already have them. Parking is in the Williams Street Parking Garage across the street from the convention center, with a covered walk-way to the convention center – and parking is validated by ONP.

In light of recent news reports from around the world at high-profile events, security will be very tight and we cannot have any “extras.” Thus, we ask that participants only be fire department personnel – not visitors, kids, spouses, etc. Participants also are not to bring others to watch. Each participant is required to register ahead of time – not just show-up that day. Each participant needs to carry an official fire department ID.

In both cases (vehicle for the show-&-tell and/or caravans, or Gauntlet-participants), please contact me at awax@desplaines.org if interested. Likewise, contact me with any questions.

Thank you for your support.

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Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals

IFSAP Annual Luncheon, awards presentation December 13, 2018, Alsip IL
Visit www.ifsap.org for more information.

Dates to remember:

Jan 11-12, 2019 – Sr. Officer Development for the 21st Century, Evanston IL

Jan 18-19, 2019 – Recruitment/Retention Workshop, Amboy IL

Jan 24-27, 2019 – NIAFPD Annual Conference Oak Brook/Westmont

Jan 29-31, 2019 – Be Prepared for Leadership/Promotion, Buffalo Grove IL

Feb 8-9, 2019 – Sr. Officer Development for the 21st Century, Charleston IL

Feb 15-16, 2019 - IAFPD Winter Symposium O'Fallon Illinois

Feb 22-24, 2019 –2019 ISFSI Conference, East Peoria IL

Mar 9-10, 2019 – Recruitment/Retention Workshop, Riverton IL

Mar 20-22, 2019 – IL Fire Inspectors - 2019 Annual Fire & Life Safety Conference, East Peoria IL

Apr 6-7, 2019 – Sr. Officer Development for the 21st Century, Amboy IL

Apr 24-25, 2019 – CFSI -31st Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner, Washington DC

Apr 24-26, 2019 – IFSAP Annual Conference, Eagle Ridge, Galena IL

May 14, 2019 – Medal of Honor Ceremony, Springfield IL

May 15-17, 2019 – IFCA 49th Annual Symposium, East Peoria IL

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