



**IFCA Monthly Information**  
**March 2019**



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

**Illinois Fire Chiefs Association**

**Symposium 2019 is getting closer:**

Mark your calendars now for the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium – May 15-17, 2019, Par-A-Dice Hotel, East Peoria. We hope that you can make it, our committee has been working hard to bring some excellent speakers and current topics. We will have our annual Open Forum with our legal team. Plenty of great conversation, fellowship and you just might get some answers to your important questions. **Thank you. Chief – President Mark Puknaitis IFCA & Naperville FD**

**New Committee Announcement: Transportation Committee** This committee will address concerns for our membership that covers the areas of roadways, tollways, air travel, waterways and railroads,. So far we have Chiefs John Christian, Jim Arie and Brian Lambel. Please feel free to volunteer and offer your expertise by contacting ED Jim Grady at [jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

Recognition of our own. The Annual Medal of Honor will be held on Tuesday May 14, 2019. Information is available at the OSFM website.

**IFCA Annual Conference**

Survey link for the Annual Conference has been sent to the members. Please take a moment to complete the survey. Your input is appreciated. The survey may also be accessed by using this link:  
Mark your calendar – Dates for 2019 are October 13-16, 2019 Peoria IL

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual VCOE Conference –**

**Mark your calendars –** Dates are September 14-15, 2019 at the Bloomington/Normal Marriott. Watch for further information.

**Tollway Reimbursement**

Negotiations are ongoing. Further information will be provided when available. Questions can be directed to Chief John Christian, [chiefchristian@grayslakefire.com](mailto:chiefchristian@grayslakefire.com) or 847.223.8960.

**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. *for more info:* [jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

**GEMT:**

The Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) supplemental funding program is a goal for the IFCA where if successful would allow for any Illinois municipal or fire district agency that provides emergency medical transport to submit for additional Medicaid reimbursement for a percentage of the cost of the service that is outstanding after receipt of the initial Medicaid claim. This could bring millions of additional dollars on an annual basis to agencies that transport Medicaid patients and could open the door for a state wide mobile integrated health care reimbursement program as well. *for more info:* [puknaitism@naperville.il.us](mailto:puknaitism@naperville.il.us)

**CRR:**

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) will continue to be a goal throughout this presidential year. CRR is growing and taking shape throughout the national fire service. The goal is to identify the specific major risk factors in your community and

determine what can be done through programs, initiatives or actions to prevent these occurrences before they occur. The IFCA consulting group is equipped and able to assist with this effort. CRR if applied correctly can save costs in a variety of ways for citizens within your communities. *for more info:* [dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

### **IFCA Legislative Update:**

We are continuing to work through the legislation that has been introduced. We are well into the Committee process now and have been working to address concerns (both positive and negative) through the Committee process. A good source of information is the legislative section on the IFCA website. We have a number of items posted there that can be helpful with legislative questions.

Please consider attending the Illinois Fire Service Legislative Day, April 10 in Springfield. The day starts at 8:00am in the cafeteria of the Stratton Building and concludes with a reception at 6:00pm at the President Abe Lincoln Hotel. There is no charge for the event, but registration is recommended. Registration is available at [www.iafpd.org](http://www.iafpd.org) and more information is available on our website.

### **IFCA Web Information:**

We continue to work on the website to reflect what you – the members – want to see. If you have ideas on enhancements, please send your ideas with detailed information to Maureen [mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org). The Executive Board has also discussed a review of all the Associations Information Technology programs and initiatives. We will be soliciting thoughts and ideas throughout the Spring.

### **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](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org) for registration.

#### **Scheduled Workshops**

Riverton FD, March 9-10, 2019

Amboy FD, March 16-17, 2019 **Rescheduled from January**

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

Mar 2 – ATS Session, Champaign IL

Mar 23 – ATS Session, Cherry Valley, IL

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

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).

Don't forget Mark Your Calendar – **10<sup>th</sup> Annual IFCA Volunteer/Combination Conference September 14-15, 2019, Normal IL.**

#### **Fire Chief of the Year**

Applications are available on the website and are due August 9<sup>th</sup>. There are four categories of Chief Officers who will be considered: Full time Chief Officer with a population 25,000 or more, Full time Chief Officer with a population under 25,000, Part time Chief Officer, and Volunteer Chief Officer. The committee encourages applications at any time, so don't delay! Please consider nominating a deserving Chief Officer for this prestigious award and make sure to join us at the conference in October when the IFCA Chief(s) of the Year will be awarded.

#### **2019 Membership Dues:**

Please watch your mail for the 2019 Membership Dues Invoice. Please make any updates needed and email to [mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org). A corrected invoice will be emailed back.

**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.

<b>Workshop 1 Oral Interview</b>	<b>Workshop 2 – Employee Counseling, Citizen Interaction, Group Problem Solving &amp; Writing</b>	<b>Workshop 3 Tactical Exercise</b>
Mar 19, 2019 – Homer Township FPD	Mar 20, 2019 – Homer Township FPD	Mar 21, 2019 – Homer Township FPD

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

**IFCA - Chiefs Corner**

**Symposium Special**

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.

**IFCA Educational & Research Foundation**

**Scholarship Application DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2019** - The Scholarship Competition is now open. Please encourage your personnel to apply. **This year there is a requirement to have the Chief's letter of recommendation on department letterhead with signature, so it can be scanned and attach to the application.** The scholarship application is an online at [2019 Scholarship Application](#).

**Fire Officer Classes:**

The IFCA Foundation will not be conducting any of the Fire Officer I or II classes in 2019 due to the fact we were forced to cancel classes last year due to low enrollment. The IFCA Foundation Board felt it would be unfair to students trying to complete the series before the June 30 deadline to accept registrations and then maybe having to cancel due to low enrollment and leaving them stranded without any options. Please check with IFSI, NIPSTA and other options for the classes. Our Winter 2019 class offerings include Company Fire Officer (grant funded) and Advanced Company Officer (grant funded), Instructor I & II, Incident Safety Officer and Training Program Manager. Visit the IFCA website to register: [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

**UPCOMING CLASSES:**

**Advanced Fire Officer – Grant Funded through Orland/Cook County**  
Class held at Moraine Valley Community College

April 1, April 29-May 3, May 13-17

Registration available at [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

### **Other Classes**

Instructor I – Apr 22-24, 29-30, 2019

Instructor II – Mar 18-20, 25-26, 2019

Registration available at [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

### **Senior Officer Development for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 are scheduled.**

Evanston – March 30-31, 2019 – **rescheduled from January**

Amboy – April 6-7, 2019 – **deadline March 27, 2019**

visit [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org) for registration information or email [mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.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.*

### **SAVE THE DATE for our IFCA Foundation Fundraising Activities:**

- ❖ For Information on the Life-Source Blood Drive Program, please contact Jeff Swanson at [jeffreyswanson@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyswanson@gmail.com)
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fishing Classic – Waukegan Harbor/Marina – May 11, 2019 –
- ❖ 2019 Annual Golf Outing – July 10, Lemont IL – Registration Now Open - [IFCA Golf Outing 2019](#)

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

### **Illinois Fire Service Institute**

IFSI needs students at the Chief and Firefighter levels for the April 1 – 5, 2019, Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM) Class in Champaign, IL. Visit <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu>

Don't forget to check the IFSI website for classes including Cornerstone offerings.

### ***Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals***

IFSAP – Please support this organization as they support us as an organization and our organizations.

Visit [www.ifsap.org](http://www.ifsap.org) for more information. Please ensure your Administrative Professionals are aware of the upcoming Annual Conference - Apr 24-26, 2019, Eagle Ridge, Galena IL

### ***Illinois Fire Inspectors Association***

2019 Annual Fire & Life Safety Conference March 20-22, 2019, Paradise Hotel, East Peoria IL - for information and registration: <https://www.illinoisfireinspectors.org/>

### ***Blackhawk Firefighters' Association Fire & EMS Conference 2019***

April 27th, 2019 - Amboy High School

<https://www.facebook.com/ilbffa>

In conjunction with the conference the Illinois Firefighters Association will be hosting a Round Table at the Amboy Fire Station from 11a-1p. Event will be attended by state fire organization leaders.

**Retirements**

Chief Jeff Macko – Cary FPD  
Chief Tony Nichols – Mattoon FD  
Chief Dave Weiss – Westmont FD  
Chief John Buckley – Pleasantview FPD  
Chief Jeff Steingart – Countryside FPD

**Dates to remember:**

Mar 9-10, 2019 – Recruitment/Retention Workshop, Riverton IL  
Mar 16-17, 2019 – Recruitment/Retention Workshop, Amboy IL – *rescheduled from January*  
Mar 20-22, 2019 – IL Fire Inspectors - 2019 Annual Fire & Life Safety Conference, East Peoria IL  
Mar 30-31, 2019 – Sr. Officer Development for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Evanston IL – *rescheduled from January*  
Apr 6-7, 2019 – Sr. Officer Development for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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  
Apr 27, 2019 – Blackhawk Firefighters' Association Fire & EMS Conference 2019, Amboy IL  
May 11, 2019 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fishing Classic – Waukegan Harbor/Marina  
May 14, 2019 – Medal of Honor Ceremony, Springfield IL  
May 15-17, 2019 – IFCA 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium, East Peoria IL  
Sep 14-15, 2019 – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual VCOC Conference, Normal IL  
Oct 13-16, 2019 – 69<sup>th</sup> Annual IFCA Conference, 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.*