



## **IFCA Monthly Information JUNE 2020**



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

### **Illinois Fire Chiefs Association**

#### **From President Greg Earle, Centralia FPD**

Welcome summer -well hello to all, needless to say things have not settled down just yet, but I am confident that they will. I should start off by telling you that this week a letter went out from me where I announced the cancelling of the annual conference. This was a very tough decision, but one made after much thought and as Grady will say some prayers also. So, this year I missed throwing out the ball at the symposium and officially handing the gavel over – Not Fair but it is what it is. I am confident that as we move into the summer months things will settle down and we will eventually all get together. So please read this newsletter, read the Gong and take time to look at our partners websites and messages. I believe we have remained consistent in messaging and our commitment to you the members of the IFCA and the Fire Service of Illinois. So, until we meet again stay safe. GE

#### **From Executive Director Chief Jim Grady, III (retired)**

Well the times continue to change and you as Fire, Rescue, EMS responders continue to do your job no matter what is cast upon you. This team effort is also combined with the faithful service of our police officers and the men/women of our military.

As you have read, we made the decision to cancel the 2020 annual IFCA conference. This was not an easy decision by any means. The process included a survey, phone calls, emails and yes, a prayer or two, but in the end the decision to cancel was based upon a number of reasons that I truly feel in the long run will help us not hurt us. I wish I could say that things will turn around soon, but it seems like the move we move forward, setbacks hit us. I can tell you this – we will still hold our elections, by electronic ballots. We will be making an announcement on meetings for 2020 & 2021 which will include in-person plus by zoom. I am hoping that by using the zoom method we might pick up a few new area representatives that just can't travel to all of the meetings.

I would like to talk about Memorial Day 2020. This year as in past my wife and I went to the Abraham Lincoln Cemetery in Elwood to place flags on graves. This was the first year that the official flag setting was cancelled and honestly it was tough to see so many graves without flags, SO I am asking you to keep in mind Wreaths Across America in December and try to donate your time, purchase some wreaths and plana morning at a national site for this honoring of those who have served. I will keep you updated on date, times and locations.

Finally – an observation if you will; with everything happening I am truly convinced and dismayed how much social media is controlling our lives. The news, the Facebooks, the twitters and God knows what else has become the forum for so much negativity that the good intention of media is gone. This is just my opinion and observation – I guess if we could think before hitting send, perhaps things might be a bit better, just a little bit I would hope.

I would like to thank Maureen, Dave, JB, Larry and the team at James Howard for their help and guidance.

So, take care, don't stress yourself and may God Bless you, protect you and Bless the USA.

#### **IFCA Legislation Committee Update**

As many of you are aware, the Legislature met in an abbreviated Special Session a couple of weeks ago. Obviously, this has been a very different legislative session. While they technically convened in Regular Session as well, they effectively completed substantive business in Special Session. When the Senate finally adjourned just after 1:00am, twenty-two bills had passed both houses. It should be noted that all the bills passed this year were part of the special session, meaning they needed to relate to the very narrow qualifications the special session was called to address.

#### **Here are some of the highlights that pertain to the fire service.**

HB2096 – Allows certain bids to be opened electronically.

HB2174 – Extends the 9-1-1 Act. Moves NG9-1-1 deadline from 7/1/2020 to 12/31/2021. Moves surcharge deadline from 12/31/2020 to 12/31/2021. Extends the sunset date to 12/31/2021.

HB2455 – Adds Covid as presumptive under workers compensation. For FF/EMT, must have worked during the 14 days prior to contracting Covid. Adds Covid presumption to the Chicago Police and Fire pension articles.

SB0471 – For Public Employees (including firefighters) extends the one-year period to return to work by 60 days if the physical recovery from an injury was hindered by Covid occurring on or after 3/9/2020 and on or before 12/31/2020.

SB0685 – Allows for Counties to delay penalties and interest for property taxes up to 120 days or the month after the Governor’s emergency declaration ends. (Note: many Counties have already acted on this)

SB2135 –Codifies current electronic meeting ability for local (not State) government and adopts certain rules. Limited extensions on adoption of municipal appropriation ordinance and annual budget.

As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, six of the twenty-two bills have been sent to the Governor (he signed one so far). The remaining bills are still being processed. The Governor is expected to sign all the bills.

The chambers adjourned the Spring Session, with the next scheduled date on November 17th (veto session) or by special call. The Legislature did not pass legislation allowing for their own electronic meeting, so any further legislative action would need to take place in person in Springfield. While this was a very interesting end of session, it will be just as interesting to see where this goes in the next few months.

Please check the legislative section of the IFCA website for updated information. We will update our watchlist when we understand more about how the session will continue. <https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/legislation/legislation-watchlist/>

#### **Information Technology:**

As we have previously indicated, we are in the process of updating our member management systems. With the help of our Directors and Area Representatives, we have been reviewing and updating member information. In addition to that assignment our Area Representatives will be looking for help in delivering our message. We can have multiple representatives, so don’t be surprised if you are asked to help us help all of us. We will soon begin staff training on the new program with a planned rollout this summer. Stay tuned for additional details! For more info: [jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org) [jrbuckleyjr@gmail.com](mailto:jrbuckleyjr@gmail.com)

#### **GEMT Webinar**

**Thursday, June 11, 2020 – 0930-Noon CST**

**Featured Speaker:** Chief Mark Puknaitis, Naperville FD

**Session Content:** History of the GEMT program; Steps to achieve success; Teamwork necessary for program implementation; Cost reporting; Communication process between Local, State and Federal agencies; Ongoing resources necessary to maintain eligibility

**REGISTRATOIN REQUIRED:** Email Bureau Chief Phil Giannattasio at [giannattasiop@naperville.il.us](mailto:giannattasiop@naperville.il.us) with your name, department and email address.

#### **Cancellation/Postponements**

IAFPD Annual Conference, Peoria, June 18-20, 2020 – postponed

Senior Officer Development, Barrington Countryside FPD, June 24, 2020 - postponed

IFCA Educational & Research Foundation Scholarship Golf Outing, Lemont, July 8, 2020 – cancelled

Wisconsin Fire Chiefs Conference June 2020 - cancelled

IFSI Classes – refer to website for detailed information [www.fsi.illinois.edu](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu)

IFCA Foundation Classes – postponed until further notice. [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

**IFCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 11-14, 2020**

#### **Watching**

IFCA Foundation Fishing Classic, dates to be announced

#### **IFCA 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

The IFCA Annual Conference scheduled for October 11-14, 2020 in Peoria will not take place this year, please refer to President Greg Earl’s letter (attached).

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

Training: VCOC will be hosting a Recruitment/Retention program within the next month so please watch for emails, Facebook blasts along with our website for information. This is being spearheaded by Chiefs Yancey and Weiss.

#### **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) .

### **Assessment & Consulting**

We are now rescheduling Assessment Centers along with lining up many new projects. Every Assessor Team is using social distancing protocol where/when necessary. We are making good progress in developing our assessment centers and written examinations on a virtual platform. Traditional and virtual assessment center options will be available on our menu soon. Please do not hesitate to contact me for updates, information and future endeavors.

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

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

### **★ Annual Foundation Golf Outing July 8, 2020, Gleneagles Golf Club, Lemont IL – CANCELLED**

**LAST CALL for the mail-in raffle.** Winners will be chosen on July 8, 2020. Tickets need to be returned by July 3, 2020. This year more than ever before raffle support is **crucial to scholarships in 2021**. If you need additional raffle tickets, please contact the IFCA office.

### **New Fundraising Event T-Shirts for Sale – Support the IFCA E/R Scholarship Program.**

The shirts will be ordered through our partner, Unique Apparel Solutions in Elk Grove Village. CEO Jim Clifton donated his website, production and shipping departments to assist the Foundation in raising funds in the absence of our regular Foundation fundraisers. Jim and his team worked on the custom design in the development of the RED Fundraising, “We’re in this Together” shirt. Jim works with over 200 fire departments and is the nationwide apparel provider to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Emmitsburg, MD.

To order your shirt(s), select the link <https://ifcftshirt.itemorder.com> to see the shirt and place an order. You can also access the site by going to the IFCA website: [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org) The Foundation will receive \$10.00 for each shirt ordered. Thank you for your participation.

### **Fire Officer Course Offerings**

At this time all classes have been canceled until further notice. The coordinators are in talk with the different locations to move forward with holding classes again.



### **1-Day Officer Development Seminar Class**

It's a new decade and the Foundation has updated and restructured the Senior Officer Development program. It is now a **One-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)***

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 IFSAP Board Members that were recently sworn in during a zoom board meeting.

President Sharon Szynalski – Alsip FD; Vice President Courtney Michaels – Barrington FD; Secretary Lisa Berger – Roberts Park FPD; Treasurer Britta Eggebrecht – South Elgin FPD

Directors Marilyn Russell – Riverdale Fire-Rescue Dept; Coleen Wattleworth – Deerfield Bannockburn FD; Marlene Thoma – Chicago Ridge FD; Executive Director Michelle Nabor – Retired Member; Immediate Past President Laura Haiden – Glenside FPD  
The following Directors are in the second year of their term. Directors Merry Morris – Elburn & Countryside FPD; Alicia Pavone – Darien Woodridge FPD; Kristine Murphy – Broadview FD; Christine Calich – Palos Heights FPD.

Please watch for more information on the application process for the Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professional of the Year. Deadline October 30, 2020.

## ***Our Partners***

### **Office of the State Fire Marshal**

Please look at our website for updates and information on the activities of the OSFM.

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

### **Illinois Fire Service Institute**

Please check out our website for news and happenings with our state training academy <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/>

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

### **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/>

### ***National Firefighter Registry Website Now Active***

Reprinted: [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com)

The National Firefighter Registry website is now active. Please take time to click the below to learn about it and how every firefighter-*every firefighter* - should be made aware of and participate in this important project.

To better understand the link between on-the-job exposure to toxicants and cancer, Congress directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to create the National Firefighter Registry (NFR). The NFR will be used to track and analyze cancer trends and risk factors among the U.S. fire service to help the public safety community, researchers, scientists and medical professionals find better ways to protect those who protect our communities and environment.

#### **DETAILS HERE:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/registry.html>

### **Dates to remember:**

July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebrate with the thoughts of why we exist as a nation and as Americans

### **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*



# ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to excellence in the Fire Service*

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June 1, 2020

To the Members and Partners of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association:

Going into 2020, there was great anticipation for the IFCA's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium and 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Unfortunately, COVID-19 hit. The cancellation of the Symposium was disappointing, but not surprising, with the state mandates that went into effect.

Our attention then turned to the Conference. Contact was made with the Peoria groups, a few of our sponsors and vendors, as well as our members. The overall result of these communications was: we don't know! The list of unknowns for us include:

- If a resurgence of the virus will occur in late summer, early fall.
- If the state mandates will allow groups of more than 250 people to gather at that time.
- If the vendors and sponsors would be in attendance.
- If financial constraints and/or directives on travel by communities would affect the attendance of the Fire Chiefs themselves.

Due to these unknowns, the decision has been made to cancel the IFCA's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, which was scheduled for October 11-14, 2020.

The decision at this point was not taken lightly – but the time was right. The longer the Conference Committee continued planning, the cash outlay would begin to increase and more likely not be recoverable.

In the coming weeks and months, more information will become available regarding electronic voting, a virtual oath of office, business report(s), etc.

Please bear with us through these unprecedented times. We look forward to the future, and next year's Symposium and Conference.

Thank you and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Greg Earle, President  
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association