

IFCA VOLUNTEER/COMBINATION CONFERENCE



January 19-20, 2024

Par-a-Dice Hotel

East Peoria Illinois

Illinois Fire Chief Assn

2024 VCOC Conference

The IFCA Executive Board, Director of VCOC, and the Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee members, would like to extend an invitation to all volunteer and combination Fire Chiefs, chief officers, officers, and members from around Illinois to join the VCOC in our Conference. This year's conference dates are January 19 & 20, 2024, at the Par-a-Dice Hotel, 21 Blackjack Blvd., East Peoria IL.

The IFCA-VCOC hosts one of the only conferences in the Midwest tailored for the education of volunteer and combination fire officers and members. There are many great conferences out there; however, very few focus on the specific topics important to the officer/members who are leading the very dynamic structure of a volunteer and combination departments.

When

January 19, 2024

5:30-10:00pm

January 20, 2024

8:00am-4:00pm

Where

Par-a-Dice Hotel

21 Blackjack Blvd.,

East Peoria IL

Hotel Registration

Block rate: Friday night \$139.00 plus tax: Hotel Code: **FCAA24C**

Block price expires December 28, 2023.

Call 1-800-547-0711 or 1-309-699-7711

Online Registration

<https://paradice.boydgaming.com/groups-and-weddings/group-reservation>

Cost

\$75.00 includes Friday reception, Saturday Breakfast and Lunch

Online registration:

<https://ilfca.memberclicks.net/vcoc-0124>

Speakers

State Senator Pat Joyce

State Senator Patrick Joyce is a local business owner and fourth-generation farmer, representing parts of Cook, Grundy, Kankakee, and Will Counties.

As State Senator of the 40th District, Joyce's priorities include making the health care system easier to navigate and more supportive for individuals and families suffering from serious illness, ensuring that everyone has access to clean and affordable drinking water, and reducing class sizes throughout the state.

Joyce understands the challenges facing families in the South Suburbs, Kankakee, and surrounding communities, and he is committed to being their advocate in Springfield and improving the quality of life for every resident of the 40th District.

Chief Shane Ray

Shane Ray began his fire service career in 1984 and worked through the ranks of career and volunteer organizations serving from firefighter to chief. He served 13 years as Fire Chief of the Pleasant View Fire Department in Tennessee. After serving as fire chief, he became Superintendent of the South Carolina Fire Academy and later was appointed by Governor Nikki Haley as South Carolina State Fire Marshal. Shane currently serves as President of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, a role he has held since 2015.

Chief Ray is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, the University of Maryland's Leadership Development Program, and the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Shane's education not only comes from universities and institutions but from practical experience as well. He spent many years as the 1st Vice President of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors and served on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Shane does not shy away from politics, he was the state legislative representative for the fire service in Tennessee and also served six years as the mayor of the Town of Pleasant View in Tennessee.

Shane was selected as Fire Chief Magazine's Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year for 2005 and Eastern Kentucky University's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award for 2006. He was also selected as Tennessee Fire Chief of the Year in 2011. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Nikki Haley in June of 2014. Shane is honored to be a life member of the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department, the Berea, Kentucky Volunteer Rescue Squad, the South Carolina Firefighters Association, and most recently in 2019 to the Tennessee Fire Chief's Association.

Chief Rudy Horist

Chief Rudy Horist of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District . The Fire Protection District protects a population of over 55,000 residents. The District is responsible for protecting a fifty-six square mile area from five fire stations with 181 employees. Chief Horist's dedication to the community is exemplified by his efforts with a variety of groups including his parish, Kiwanis Club and the Knights of Columbus. An advocate for education, Chief Horist has obtained bachelor's and master's degrees, certification from the Illinois State Fire Marshal as a Chief Fire Officer and recognition from the National Fire Academy as an Executive Fire Officer. Chief Horist was recently named the Illinois Fire Chiefs *Fire Chief of the Year*.

Tentative Schedule

Friday, January 19, 2024

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| 5:00pm | Registration Opens |
| 5:30-10:00pm | Food and Drinks provided |
| 6:00-7:00pm | State Senator Patrick Joyce |
| 7:00-9:00pm | Roundtable Discussion (invited participants OSFM, IFSI, IFCA/VCOC, IDOL, Red Cross) |
| 9:00-10:00pm | Open Floor Discussion |

Saturday, January 20, 2024

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|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 6:30-8:00am | Breakfast |
| 7:00-8:00am | Registration |
| 8:00-11:30am | Shane Ray |
| 11:30am-12:30pm | Lunch |
| 12:30-2:30pm | Rudy Horist |
| 2:30-2:45pm | Break |
| 2:45-3:45pm | OSFM LODD Reporting & Benefits |
| 3:45-4:00pm | Wrap-Up |

State Senator Patrick Joyce

"A conversation about what the State Legislature can do to help volunteer firefighters"

"State Senator Pat Joyce will lead a conversation to explore how the State Legislature might be able to help the fire service in Illinois. He will relate his personal experience with the EMS response in his rural community. But his real focus is to listen to the Volunteer Chief Officers to learn what he can do to help assure fire and EMS services are available throughout Illinois."

Shane Ray

"Modern Fire Environment and Fire Protection"

The modern fire environment has changed so much in the past 20 years that fire departments struggle to keep up. Improvements in the buildings fire protection systems have struggled to keep pace with the size, contents, and configuration of modern buildings. The volume of unregulated material in our homes coupled with energy storage systems (ESS) and electric vehicles (EV) is making the fire problem in America worse.

From homes to high-rises, mega-warehouses and ever-increasing big box stores that support our lifestyles, the unintended consequence is a modern fire environment that is overwhelming some of the best staffed, equipped, and trained fire departments in America. A glimpse of fires from 2015 through today will heighten awareness on challenges faced by firefighters and fire officers.

Let's have dialogue concerning the modern fire environment and how fire sprinklers and firefighters have to be partners in progress to save lives and protect property. The modern fire environment requires firefighters and fire officers to understand fire protection features of the building, especially active fire protection systems. Fire sprinklers and Firefighters equal an unbeatable team.

The overall program will discuss various portions and components of NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13D, NFPA 13E, NFPA 1620, NFPA 1700.

Chief Rudy Horist

"Firefighter Cancer Awareness"

Cancer is the most under-recognized health issue in the fire service and one that doesn't care if you are a volunteer, part-time or career Firefighter. Based on the Firefighter Cancer Support Network's curriculum, and the presenter's personal experience as a cancer survivor, this presentation will provide you with important information and recommendations to help both fire departments and individuals to reduce the risk of occupational related cancer. Topics include understanding the risks, types of exposure, how to reduce your risk, and specific actions that fire departments and their members, regardless of the type or size of department, can take now to help address this critical issue.