



Illinois Fire Chiefs Association 71st Annual Conference Program

Sunday, October 16, 2022

7:00-9:00pm

Tired Travelers Reception

Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette Hotel

Monday, October 17, 2022 - Peoria Civic Center

7:30am

Registration

8:00-8:30am

New Member/First Time Attendee Presentation

General Session

8:30-9:00am

Welcome to the 2022 Conference

Chief John Kachanuk, Havana FD, IFCA President

Presentation of Colors

Peoria Fire Department Honor Guard

Invocation

Peoria Fire Department Chaplin

Memorial Service

IFCA Funeral Committee

Welcoming Remarks

Chief Shawn Sollberger, Peoria Fire Department
Mayor Rita Ali, City of Peoria

9:00-9:45am

Keynote Address "Emerging Issues in the Fire Service"

Rob Brown, CEO, International Association of Fire Chiefs

9:45-10:00am **BREAK**

10:00-11:30am

"Liked or Respected—Fully Involved"

Mark vonAppen

11:30am-12:15pm

Reports

IAFC Great Lakes Division, Division Chief Matt Knott, Rockford FD
IFCA Annual Report, Exec Dir., Chief James Grady, III, Ret.
IFSAP Annual Report, Ms. Courtney Michaels, Buffalo Grove FD,
IFSAP President
2022-23 Election & By-Law Report, Chief Don Shovelin,
Immediate Past President, IFCA

12:15-1:15pm

Lunch with our Vendors

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall

12:15-4:00pm

Exhibits Open

4:00-5:00pm

Hospitality in the Exhibit Hall

Evening on your own. Explore Peoria and the surrounding communities.

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 - Peoria Civic Center

7:30am

Registration

8:00-9:30am

"Intoxicated Leadership"

Benjamin Martin

9:30-9:45am **BREAK**

9:45-11:00am

"Stop Complaining and Start Thinking "

Craig Haigh

11:00-11:30am

IFCA Educational & Research Foundation Report

Chief Andy O'Donnell, Ret., Foundation President
2022 IFCA Scholarship Report and Presentation

11:30am-1:00pm

Lunch with our Vendors

Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall

Exhibit floor open

1:00-2:30pm

"Addressing Firefighter Suicide: A Proactive Approach to Prevention"

Dena Ali

2:30-2:45pm **BREAK**

2:45-4:00pm

"Developing Mature Fire Officers"

Tom LaBelle

5:00pm

"IFCA Installation Banquet"

Following the banquet a "IFCA Recognition Reception" will be held adjacent to the banquet room until 10:00pm

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 - Pere Marquette

7:30am

Registration

8:00-9:00am

Breakfast Buffet (sit down meal)

Report: OSFM, OSFM Representative
Report: ISFI, Director Jim Keiken

9:15-10:45am

"Fire Service Ethics, Is That Your Final Answer"

Diane Schroder

11:00am-Noon

"Organization Marketing Through Social Media

Tracy Lillard

71st Annual Conference Concludes

2022 IFCA Conference Invited Speakers



J. Robert "Rob" Brown, Jr., serves as the CEO/Executive Director of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and President and CEO of the IAFC's majority owned public safety consulting firm – *Emergency Services Consulting International*.

Brown joined the IAFC staff in 2015 after 38-years in the fire and rescue service - - serving 20-years as fire chief. Immediately prior to his retirement, Chief Brown served as Fire Chief of the Fresno City (CA) Fire Department - California's 5th largest City.

In 2016, Brown left the IAFC for two years to serve the Commonwealth of Virginia as Chief Regional Coordinator of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in Northern Virginia and the National Capital Region (NCR). In 2018, Brown returned to the IAFC as Assistant Executive Director to oversee the IAFC's international outreach and global public safety solutions subsidiary. With his long history as an organizational change agent, Brown was asked by the IAFC Board of Directors to step in as the Interim IAFC CEO/ Executive Director in September 2019 to address financial and organizational culture issues. During his time as interim, Brown guided the association back to solid financial ground; saw the IAFC through the severe impact of the global coronavirus pandemic; and implemented new business strategies and a member focused ethos. Brown was appointed permanent IAFC CEO/Executive Director in April 2021.

Brown holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri and is a master's degree candidate in Intelligence and National Security at the Daniel Morgan Graduate School of National Security in Washington, DC. Brown is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program and is an internationally recognized speaker on emergency operations and crisis management.

"Emerging Issues in the Fire Service – Is There a New Normal"

As we navigated the challenges of a global pandemic, did the fire service have to "pivot" like other industries? As we emerge from the COVID "nuclear winter", has the fire service mission changed? Many say the fire service is facing a plethora of "emerging issues" and talk of this as the "new normal".

IAFC CEO/Executive Director and retired fire chief Rob Brown will discuss emerging issues in the fire service through a critical review of past, present and future challenges. Chief Brown will discuss emerging issues, both pre- and post-Covid, and challenge the assumption that the emerging issues facing the fire service - today and in the future - are not a "new normal". Chief Brown's presentation will illustrate "how and why" the fire service has become the "*solution-chest*" and offer why the overarching emerging issue for the fire service is "expectations".



Mark vonAppen, a member of the fire service since 1998, is assigned to the suppression division where he holds the rank of captain. He has served a committee member for California State Fire Training and contributed to the development of Firefighter Survival and Rapid Intervention curriculums. Mark has been a featured presenter at The Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) since 2015,

published in Fire Engineering Magazine, and is the creator of the fire service leadership blog FULLY INVOLVED. He has been an instructor for the Santa Clara County Joint Fire Academy, a recruit instructor for Palo Alto Fire, and an academy instructor at Evergreen Community College.

FULLY INVOLVED is geared toward professionals who wish to expand their abilities in leadership. This presentation is aimed at anyone who wishes to lead at any level. FULLY INVOLVED is rooted in improving team performance and has application in both the public and private sectors. FULLY INVOLVED has worked for over 40 years in professional football, the fire service, and applies to the business world as well. Thousands of fire service professionals have attended the FULLY INVOLVED Leadership Seminars and are now among the involved. "Getting team members to pull towards a common goal is a key component in successful operations. FULLY INVOLVED gives students the tools to create a pact that is applicable to all levels of the organization."



Craig A. Haigh is the retired Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Management for the Village of Hanover Park Fire Department. He is the author of the new book, [The Dynamic Fire Chief: Principles for Organizational Management \(2022\)](#). Chief Haigh began his fire service career in 1983 as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Hampton, Illinois. He served more than 30 years as a fire chief leading departments in both Illinois and North Carolina. He has also served as an Interim Village

Manager. He was named the 2012 Illinois Career Fire Chief of the Year and is the recipient of the 2019 International Association of Fire Chiefs - Chief Alan Brunacini Executive Safety Award. He has published more than forty trade journal articles on a variety of leadership topics. He retired in July 2021 and now serves as an independent consultant focused on management and organizational leadership as well as firefighter health and safety. His consulting work regularly extends into the private business sector as well. He is the spokesperson for the congressionally mandated National Firefighter Registry (NFR). The NFR is a program of NIOSH/CDC and is focused on tracking cancer in the fire service. He is a regular speaker and presenter sharing his experiences and insights with both emergency service and private sector leaders.

Stop Complaining and Start Thinking Is the fire service still the greatest job in the world? If this is the case, why are we struggling with firefighter recruitment, retention, and an overall lack of interest in climbing the organizational ladder? In this no-nonsense presentation, Chief Haigh will challenge our thinking related to:

- Firefighter recruitment: Are we advertising for the "job we actually do" compared to the "job we sometimes do?"
- What is the impact of global recruitment, and who are we really competing against for our new firefighters?
- Is the 24-hour shift still the best work schedule?
- Is sleep deprivation adding to our mental health challenges?
- How is "working from home" in our COVID world an opportunity for the volunteer fire service?
- Why should we dump the annual performance review and move to a nimbler, less formal "employee check-in" meeting?
- Why use "stay interviews" compared to "exit interviews?"
- Why are the top organizational jobs no longer attractive?
- How do we begin developing our future fire chiefs as the "chief executive officer" rather than "the senior firefighter?"



DENA ALI is a Battalion Chief with the Raleigh (NC) Fire Department where she has worked her way up the ranks. She previously served as a police officer for five years. Ali has a degree from North Carolina State University and an MPA from the University of North Carolina—Pembroke, where her research focused on firefighter suicide. Dena has served as a subject matter expert at the National Fire Academy where she assisted in curriculum

review for their health and wellness curriculum. Dena is an advocate of awareness, education, and understanding of mental health disorders and suicidality. She speaks locally and nationally on these topics and is a QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Instructor. She has written several articles on topics such as suicide prevention, peer support, wellness, and post-traumatic stress. Dena is the founder and director of North Carolina Peer Support where she helped to develop their statewide curriculum.

Addressing Suicide: A proactive approach to prevention

Attendees will learn the importance of proactive mental health as a means to combat the many mental health disorders that are common among first responders, including depression, addiction, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress symptoms. Tragically, when not addressed, the end result of each of these can be suicide. We discuss methods to prevent suicide by learning its traceable causes. Rather than focusing on individual risk factors, this session will explain how creating an environment to encourage help-seeking behavior can alter an individual's trajectory from reaching suicide. Several coping skills will be discussed, including sleep, mindfulness, social support, therapy, and peer support.

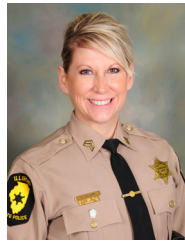


Tom LaBelle's experience includes more than 30 years of fire service experience including 15 years at the command staff level. Prior to joining Henrico Division of Fire, he served as a Division Chief for Albemarle County Fire Rescue from 2013 till October of 2018. He spent 19 years with the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, first serving as the Director of Government Affairs and later as the Executive Director. In this role, he led an organization with more than 11,000 members with programs ranging

from code development, fiscal management, fire service training, state legislation, and fire service communications. He also spent 20 years with the North Greenbush Fire District where he rose through the ranks from Firefighter to Assistant Chief.

Chief LaBelle is certified as an Instructor II, Fire Officer III, Fire Investigator, Hazmat Technician. He has extensive experience in emergency management and EOC operations. He has actively served on several committees within the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Delmar Publishing Advisory Board, and served on the NFPA 1720 Technical Committee. He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Hartwick College and recently completed the third year of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy.

Developing Mature Fire Officers—Every fire chief seeks to have a team of officers whom they know they can trust to get the job done on and off the fire ground. At the same time fire officers hope to be able to be the kind of officer that the members can trust to “do the right thing”. Chief LaBelle has over 30 years of service in career, combination and volunteer departments. This program will discuss what you can do in your own department and with your own development. Attendees understand what makes good officers great and great officers legends. Once you understand the process that makes consistent, strong officers, you can help officers become the mature leaders everyone wants and wants to be.



Effective Social Media Sergeant Lillard (AKA Trooper Tracy) will explain three ways to have effective social media platforms. Social media can be used to educate the public, provide emergency information to the masses quickly, and showcase what an agency is doing. It can also be used as a resource for citizens, first responders, and news outlets such as radio, television and newspapers.

Presentation objectives: Enable the participants to see how social media can be effective to relate to the public. Help the participants utilize their agency/department social media platforms to gain followers. Provide tools to aid agency to utilize better content which, in turn, makes social media a great educational resource.

Are You a MEMBER of the IFCA? If not, this is why you should be!

You are a fire chief – or aspire to be – or you serve as a deputy, assistant, or battalion chief. Your position places you in a leadership role. Yet, the position has never been more isolated, the task been more difficult, the resources fewer, or the challenges greater. Where do you turn for help?

The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association is a progressive leader in national and state fire service issues. As a Member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA), you have access to cutting-edge information about your profession, knowledge and training to succeed as a leader, networking with fire service experts, advocacy for fire service legislation, and the ability to discuss issues with other chiefs. Help is just a phone call away.

Join the premier fire chief organization committed to promoting your success. Find the resources to help you excel.

How We Can Help You Succeed

A fire chief embraces many critical challenges – from personnel to planning, supplies to suppression, and discipline to decision making – your colleagues share the same issues.

We offer you tools to become more successful – to manage and lead more effectively. Our Members – besides being local fire chiefs, like you – serve on state, national and consensus committees, and have access to the latest information and coming trends. You benefit from their expertise and involvement. Whether you attend a conference, review the website, read the Gong, or call to ask a question, YOU will broaden your skills! YOU will evolve and develop professionally! YOU will become a better fire chief!

Your voice in the Association – through our participation and voting – makes us stronger and better able to meet the needs of Illinois fire chiefs

Become a Leader in the ILLINOIS Fire Service!

Illinois is in the forefront of fire service change and the IFCA leads the way.

We have developed a cadre of fire service leaders that can assist you cope with current and future public safety challenges. Our Executive Board and dedicated committee members represent our Association at local, regional, state and federal meetings related to the fire service and EMS. Our proactive, engaging approach provides our Association and YOU with opportunities to succeed every day!

Using the strength of our Membership, the IFCA is a strong advocate for the fire service and our citizens. In partnership with other fire service and associate organizations, you as a Member are provided with cutting-edge information through a variety of networking channels.

The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association invites YOU to become an active Member in our dynamic organization. TOGETHER, we can continue to influence the delivery of fire, emergency medical services and special operations to our citizens, and help support the needs of our firefighters and officers.

For **NEW** Memberships please email info@illinoisfirechiefs.org.

Hotel Information

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association—Headquarters

*Marriott Pere Marquette - \$150.00/per night + tax
Courtyard by Marriott - \$150.00/per night + tax
Reservation Number: 309.637.6500.*

*To register online use the link at: <https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/resources/annual-conference/>
Block Cut-off - 09/24/22*

Illinois Fire Apparatus Mechanics Association - Headquarters

*Hotel Holiday Inn & Suites East Peoria, 101 Holiday Street, East Peoria
Reservation Number 309-698-3333*

*Please mention IFAMA or Illinois Fire Apparatus Mechanics Association
Price 132.00 + tax Block Cut Off: 09/28/22*

Other Area Hotels

Staybridge Hotel

*300 W Romeo B Garrett Ave, Peoria, IL 61605
Phone: 309-673-7829 0.2 mile from Civic Center*

Embassy Suites by Hilton E Peoria Riverfront Conf Center

*100 Conference Center Drive, East Peoria IL, 61611
Phone (309) 694-0200 0.7 mile to Civic Center*

Holiday Inn Express & Suites East Peoria - Riverfront

*1100 Bass Pro Dr, East Peoria IL, 61611
Phone (309) 694-9800 1.0 mile to Civic Center*

Mark Twain Hotel

*225 NE Adams St, Peoria IL 61602
Reservations Number 309-676-3600 1.0 mile to Civic Center*

Par-A-Dice Hotel and Casino

*21 Blackjack Boulevard, East Peoria IL,
Phone (309) 699-7711 1.9 mile to Civic Center*

Illinois Fire Chiefs Spouse/Significant Other Information

There is not a planned program for Spouses/Significant Others this year. Your significant other is more than welcome to attend the Annual Conference with you. The registration cost is \$50.00 and includes Tired Travelers, Lunch tickets at the Civic Center on Monday and Tuesday, Banquet ticket for Tuesday evening and a Lunch Ticket for the Breakfast on Wednesday.

IFCA Conference Notes

- ◆ **Class "A" Uniform** The IFCA Executive Board invites you to wear your Class "A" uniform to the Annual Banquet on Tuesday.



IFCA 71st ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

October 16-19, 2022

Peoria Civic Center • Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette
Peoria, Illinois

Online Registration Available and Encouraged: <https://ilfca.memberclicks.net/conf22>

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: (please complete one form for each attendee)

RANK:	FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:
DEPARTMENT:		
MAILING ADDRESS:	CITY, STATE:	ZIP:
PHONE NUMBER:	EMAIL ADDRESS:	
Will spouse/guest attend: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
SPOUSE NAME (if attending):		
Will you be attending the IFCA's 71st Annual Banquet, Tuesday Oct. 18 This is for meal planning guarantees, you are always welcome <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Will you be attending the IFCA's Breakfast, Wednesday, Oct 19 This is for meal planning guarantees, you are always welcome. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

REGISTRATION	<i>Types & Fees: (Active/ Sworn Personnel)</i>	<i>Payment Options</i>
	Advance Full Registration \$200.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Department PO # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card See below Total: \$
	Full Registration at the Door \$225.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Daily Registration Fee – Monday, October 17 \$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Daily Registration Fee – Tuesday, October 18 \$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Daily Registration Fee – Wednesday, October 19 \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Daily Registration does not include Banquet or conference gift.	
	Retired IFCA Member Chief \$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Spouse/Guest \$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:

Card Number:	Expiration Date (MM/YYYY):
Cardholder Name:	Security Code
Cardholder Address, City, Zip:	
Cardholder Phone Number:	

HOW TO REGISTER:

Online: www.illinoisfirechiefs.org Email form to: mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org Fax form to: 847.966.0782
Mail form and payment to: Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, PO Box 4424, Lisle IL 60532.