



INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

"Aiming to foster and promote unity and harmony among volunteer fire departments throughout Indiana"

THE INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

(USPS 262-480)

VOLUME 74 NO. 3

Organized and Trained for the Protection of Life and Property

August 2025

From The President

Ross Emery



out of the park. I would also give a huge thanks to the staff at the Clifty Falls Inn, they showed us some real Southern Indiana Hospitality. I think the whole city of Madison welcomed us with open arms to their historic little town, and how about the folks from the 6 Madison Fire Stations and the Fire Museum!!!! How fantastic was that! If you didn't take advantage of that on Friday afternoon sorry about your luck.

I would like to congratulate all our award 2025 award winners, I am not going to list them all, you can find them pictured in this newspaper. I would like to congratulate our 2025 Miss Flame from Dist. 18 Ava Verkamp and thank all of the Miss Flame Contestants for their participation in this wonderful program.

I would also like to congratulate the 2025 Jr. Firefighter Competition winner Isaac Lindsey from Dist. 15; I would like to congratulate all the contestants that participated in this year's contest, and I expect a huge jump in contestants in 2026 in Indy.

The last award, I want to mention is the Presidents award, and that went to my Mom & Dad, they have supported me in the fire service and in life and have always had my back, it was nice for a change to get to surprise them with an award.

We elected our officers for 2026 at convention, and I want to thank the membership for once again putting their faith in me to lead this association. As I said in my closing comments at convention, we got work to do and we have to get more politically active, and we are in the process of starting a Political Action Committee, so look for more to come about that. We know volunteers save the state 6.1 billion dollars each year by providing the services to our

President *continued on pg 2*

Greetings Everyone,
As I write this article here in Southern Indiana the heat and humidity are on, and soon the kids will be back to school. That means my favorite time of year is here, high school football season.

Since my last article there were two line of duty deaths within the members of the IVFA. First on April 5th 2025, Roy Smith of Posey Twp. In Clay County made his last call. Also, on April 25th Scott Adams of Milton Washington Township Fire Department & Boston Community Volunteer Fire Department in Wayne County made his final call. On behalf of the association to both of their families, friends and their communities I again send my condolences.

During the last quarter I have traveled to many District meetings, events fundraisers, I just want to thank each and everyone of you for your hospitality to me, I really enjoy traveling through out the state and meeting our members and their families.

We held our annual convention during the month of June, I have to give a huge shout out the Convention Chair Rick Cannon and his team, they knocked it

IVFA 2025 Award Winners



2025 VFA Miss Flame
Ava Verkamp



2025 Jr Firefighter of the Year
Isaac Lindsey



Angel Award
Paige Bush



Ivan Nevi Award
Richard Sorg



Mr. IVFA
Larry Tempel



Lois Boaz Award
Janet Matthews



Ollie Sandberg Award
Miguel Ruvalcaba



President Award
Sam and Marie Emery



IVFAA President Award
Dawn Harris

More winners and convention photos on pages 18-20



Determined to Serve, Determined to Protect

Sponsored By The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association To Create And Promote Good-Will Among its Members



November 2025 DEADLINE IS October 1, 2025

Political Action Committee

By Larry Curl
IVFA Lobbyist

As you have seen in at least a couple other articles in this July addition of our Newspaper, we are forming a Political Action Committee

At our 2025 State Convention a discussion and decision was made to pursue, develop, promote and implement a PAC

A Fire Services PAC (Political Action Committee) is a political organization, often affiliated with a firefighters' union or association, that raises and spends money to support candidates and initiatives that align with the interests of firefighters and the fire service. These committees work to influence legislation and elections at the local, state, and federal levels to advocate for issues like funding, staffing, safety, and collective bargaining rights for firefighters.

As all of you know we continue to advocate for things like benefits such as better medical coverage, retirements after serving a long period of time, for tax relief for our membership, reimbursements and stipends, cancer screening and protections, opportunity for higher educational opportunities and many more.

We all know that even lobbying for many of these benefits we still fall way short in receiving a fair and reasonable benefit package.

So why a PAC

PACs can be a way for members of a specific organization or group to pool their resources and collectively support or oppose political candidates

Fire Services PACs are crucial for the fire service because they provide a means to advocate for the specific needs and concerns of firefighters in the political arena.

A Political Action Committee (PAC) can be a useful tool for influencing elections and policy, primarily by pooling financial resources and directing them towards political campaigns and related activities that share common issues or concerns

These committees are formed to support political candidates and initiatives that align with the interests of firefighters and their families.

The Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association is the only fire service organization in Indiana that currently does not have a PAC and we are feeling the difference at the State House in the support we receive from out elected officials.

So with the agreement at the state convection we are moving forward and asking each of you as members that we represent locally, at the state and national level to please give serious consideration to supporting this new endeavor.

We are actively putting together the paperwork to file with the State and forming a VOL- PAC in Indiana

We will be setting up a means of fund collections that will be based on individual participation and we are asking for \$1 per month as your voluntary contribution (that is not tax delectable) to support this newly created Political Action Committee.

Additionally as an Association we have made a committee to visit with as many local and state elected officials as possible during the summer months to talk with them and share our issues, concerns, and desires before we begin this next legislation session.

We will be calling on some of our department chief's to join us as we get this project moving to attend, participate, and bring to our elected officials a local flavor of our concerns.



JULY 2025 "Political" talk

**Greetings TO ALL,
HB 1001 STATE BUDGET
to HB 1427 DEPARTMENT
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCEFROM HB 1233
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION TO HB
1113 FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICTS
FROM SB 1 LOCAL
GOVERNMENT FINANCE
TO HB 1454 EMERGENCY
AMBULANCE SERVICES.**

Oh what a busy year with 714 House Bills and 534 Senate Bills and very few that did anything to improve the services of a Volunteer Firefighter

Even with two meetings with the Governor we still ended up empty handed. We thought we would be able to continue the Volunteer Firefighter Turn-Out gear in this budget cycle but we even lost that.

So after several meetings with our legislative committee and many of the IVFA officers we have decided to change our approach to legislation. First we are going to take a offensive approach vs a defensive position. Second we are going to begin a Political

Action Committee. Third we are hitting the highways beginning in July attempting to personal meeting with as many legislators as possible to share / discuss our future as a Volunteer Fire Service.

We will be calling on many of you to join us when we are in your districts to attend the meetings with us, getting to know and talking with the legislators that you, your members, and your family vote for. We want them to know the value we bring to the residence of the State of Indiana by the cost savings we provide. Remember just a short 5 years ago we were able to show a savings of \$4.5 billion in savings to our residence state wide.

Well in a review of that proposal just 5 years later we can now show a savings of \$6.1 Billion.

The interesting fact is when the state got their fiscal impact just a short two weeks before the end of the session and found they were short of the projected income by over \$2 Billion you would have thought the sky was falling as they begin to scramble

to attempt to get a balanced budget.

Just think what the shortfall would have been with out the saving from the Volunteers. Remember \$6.1 Billion and that cost / savings is not going down it will continue to grow.

So we are asking for your assistance and help as we approach our legislative agenda from a different angle.

If any of you have a personal relationship with a member of the General Assembly please let us know who and how as we want to talk with them.

Now on a good note, we were able to honor and recognize over 100 members this past year with 50 years of service to their communities and their Volunteer Fire Departments.

Of those honored / recognized we had over 50 attend a celebration in their honor at the state house. Congratulations to all who this past year reached the milestone of 50 years of service

Be safe and thank you for your services

Larry Curl
IVFA Lobbyist

President *continued from pg 1* communities, it is time the state sets down at the table with us, and has some real discussion about benefits for the volunteers. We will be scheduling meetings with key legislators in the near future to discuss these issues,

but we need your help!!! We must unite our volunteers as one voice.

Again, I want to thank the members of this association for everything they do for their communities, and the sacrifices they make to serve, and thank

you to families of our members for all the sacrifices they make because none of us could do what we do without a support system at home.

Till next time
Be Safe
Ross Emery

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Phone 260-563-8326 - e-mail: IVFD@hurdmedia.com

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The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter

c/o Sherri Chaney - 573 S. Western Heights Loop - Monticello, IN 47960

Phone: 574-870-5101

Email: IVFD@hurdmedia.com

Postmaster send all address changes to:

I.V.F.A. Central Office

P.O. Box 4797, Evansville, IN 47724/info@ivfa.org

INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER OFFICERS

President - Ross Emery

11350 S. Brookview Ct.

Haubstadt, IN 47639

Cell : (812) 459-4062

E-mail: vicepresident@ivfa.org

Vice President - Larry Curl

3047 N. Raceway Road

Indianapolis, IN 46234

Cell :(317) 605-6669

E-mail: lobbyist@ivfa.org

Secretary - Leighanne Ellis

4034 N. 150 E.

Camden, IN 46917

Cell (765) 564-0256

E-mail: secretary@ivfa.org

Board Chairman - Jerry L. Liston

P. O. Box 83, Cicero, IN 46034, Cell: 317-385-2309

Email: jliston@ivfa.org

Treasurer - Luke Kluender

61 Sherwood Lane

Bedford, IN 47421

Home (812) 508-8476

E-mail: treasurer@ivfa.org

Sergeant-At-Arms - Wm. Brent Bush

8504 S. SR 71

Dana, IN 47847

Cell (812) 243-0140

E-mail: sgtatarms@ivfa.org

Chaplain - David Elick

725 North Canal Street

LaGrange, IN 46761

Cell : (260) 336-2246

E-mail: chaplain@ivfa.org

INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION PAST PRESIDENTS

Paul Holcomb

207 Conner St.

New Albany, IN 47150

Home (812) 945-4111 -

Cell (502) 664-5736

E-mail: pholcomb@ivfa.org

Steve Anderson

1526 Reiter Drive

Evansville, IN 47712

Cell (812) 480-5014

E-mail: sanderson@ivfa.org

David R. Israel

2070 S. Co. Rd. 700 West

Greensburg, IN 47240

(812) 663-8952 (home)

(812)593-1564

E-mail: disrael@ivfa.org

Larry Ketchem

P.O. Box 6, 117 Chestnut St.

Montezuma, IN 47862

(765) 245-2482

E-mail: ldketchem@yahoo.com

Jack Kerney, Sr.

2412 S. E. Browning Rd.

Evansville, IN 47725

(812) 867-2641 (Home)

E-mail: JKerney@ivfa.org

L.E. "Buz" Koehler

6225 Swallow Dr.

Harrison, MI 48625

Cell: (219) 866-1128

E-mail: lkoehler@ivfa.org

Jack Zeeks, Jr.

6147 State Road 37

Mitchell, IN 47446

Home (812) 849-2606

Cell (812) 583-6187

E-mail: jzeeks@ivfa.org

Richard "Dick" Glant

619 South East St.

Bremen, IN 46506

(574) 546-3509

E-mail: RGlant@ivfa.org

Billy J. Sunday

2256 White Tail Run

Warsaw, IN 46582

(765) 468-6412

E-mail: bjskofish2@gmail.com

IVFA LOBBYIST - Larry Curl

3047 N. Raceway Road

Indianapolis, IN 46234

Cell :(317) 605-6669

E-mail: lobbyist@ivfa.org

HISTORIAN - L.E. "Buz" Koehler

6225 Swallow Dr.

Harrison, MI 48625

Cell: 219-866-1128

Email: historian@ivfa.org

MISS FLAME

E-mail: MissFlame@ivfa.org

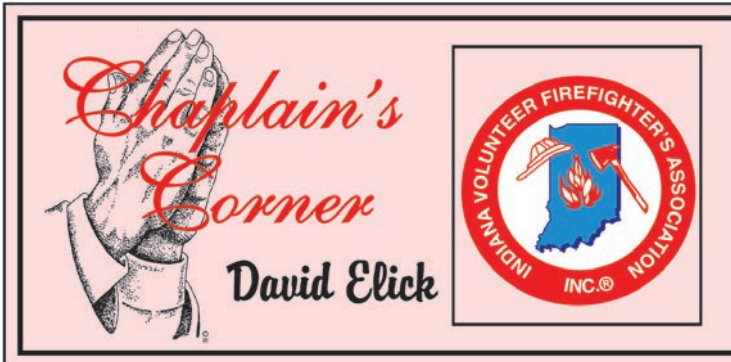
WEBMASTER - Josh Reisert

5817 Harmony Woods

Memphis, IN 47143

(502) 643-2114

E-mail: admin@ivfa.org



Greetings all, and welcome to Summer 2025!

Thanks to Rick Cannon, District 14, and all the committee members and volunteers for a fun filled convention at Clifty Falls in Madison, and congratulations to all of this year's award winners. The 2026 committee has their work cut out for them.

I am humbled and blessed, more importantly, honored to be permitted to serve as your chaplain for another year. This position would not be remotely possible if not for a great staff of associate chaplains. These people bring valuable insights, dedication, and commitment to the table that I am forever grateful for. Thank you. Two little words that seem so insufficient yet could not be more genuine and heartfelt.

The fire service, public safety, EMS, our military, is often referred to as a brotherhood, a second family. Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." Take a moment and reflect on this, ponder it a little. When you think about it, we all volunteer to be a friend to any stranger in need. Whether we realize it or not, we are looked upon by the general public to set the bar, to be the example of how it's supposed to be. We may not always be big fans of those who need our help, but that's not our choice to make.

Lord, help each of us to be better humans. Help me to be a better friend, a better brother, a better sister, a better human being tomorrow, than I was today. Amen.

Stay safe –
Dave Elick

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAINS:

PRWC - RALPH "PETE" TAYLOR - 721E. U.S. HWY. 40, BRAZIL, IN 47834 - Home: (812) 236-0955 - E-mail: district11A@ivfa.org (Districts 11A - 11B - 12 - 21)

PREC - BRAD SCOTT - 209 E. HENRY ST., FARMLAND, IN 47340 - Cell: (765) 278-0562 - E-mail: bcad03@yahoo.com
BRAD BRANDT - 8415 N. COUNTY ROAD 100 E., SPRINGPORT, IN 47386 - Cell: (615) 540-0263 - E-mail: pastorbenbrandt@gmail.com (Districts 8A - 8B - 10 - 13A - 13B)

PRSW - JADON HINKLE - 8538 WEST U.S. HWY. 150, WEST BADEN, IN 47469 - Cell: (812) 508-4378 - E-Mail: jhinkle68@gmail.com (Districts 15 - 17A - 17B - 18)

PRSE - JUDY WIRTH - 7673 N. 1000 W., COMMISKEY, IN 47227 Cell: (812)592-7317 E-mail: ivfaachaplain@ivfaa.org

PRNW - THOMAS L. KELLER - 410 S. DEER CREEK ST., GALVESTON, IN 46932 - Cell: (989) 254-0307 - Email: thomaskeller@hotmail.com (Districts 1 - 2 - 3 - 9A - 9B)

PRNE - DAVID ELICK - 725 NORTH CANAL STREET - LAGRANGE, IN 46761 - Cell: (260) 336-2246 - E-mail: dave_ elick@yahoo.com
(Districts 4 - 5 - 6 - 7) **JOSH WATTS**, 2875 N IN-3, LAGRANGE, IN 46761 - (260) 577-0752 - josh.watts@shieldsunderfire.org

I.V.F.A. CENTRAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 4797 - EVANSVILLE, IN 47724
877.606.4832 ~ 812.867.3293
812.867.3471 - FAX
STATE SECRETARY
LEIGHANNE ELLIS
4034 N. 150 E. - CAMDEN, IN 46917
PHONE - 765-564-0256

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORS - ELECTED

Northwest - Jeremy Reef

4780 S. 20 W

Cutler, IN 46920

(765) 237-7414

e-mail: PRNW@ivfa.org

Districts 1, 2, 3,
9A, 9B

Northeast - Sam Bisel

6734 E. 1100 S.

Keystone, IN 46759

Cell: 260-849-0193

Email: prne@ivfa.org

Districts 4, 5,
6, 7

West Central - Don Fultz

1007 Haan Drive

West Lafayette, IN 47960

(765) 714-4515 (Home)

e-mail: PRWC@ivfa.org

Districts 11A,
11B, 12, 21

East Central - David R. Israel

2070 S. Co. Rd. 700 West

Greensburg, IN 47240

Cell (812) 593-1564

E-mail: PREC@ivfa.org

Districts 8A, 8B,
10, 13A, 13B

Southwest - Jack Kerney Sr.

2412 S.E. Browning Rd.

Evansville, IN 47725

Home: 812-867-2641

Email: prsw@ivfa.org

Districts 15,
17A, 17B, 18

Southeast - Ed Scheele

1161 Sawmill Rd.

Batesville, IN 47006

(812) 934-2779 (Home)

Cell (812) 212-5766

e-mail: PRSE@ivfa.org

Districts 14,
16, 19

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - Marshall Neese

4908 Cleveland St.

Gary, IN 46408

(219) 688-8272 (Home)

e-mail: district1@ivfa.org

District 2 - Tom Fentress

P.O. Box 248

DeMotte, IN 46310

(219)798-3371

e-mail: district2@ivfa.org

District 3 - Les Jensen

7150 S. 450 E.

Knox, IN 46534

(574)806-6970 (Cell)

e-mail: district3@ivfa.org

District 4 - Uriah Mast Jr.

402 W. Centennial Street

Nappanee, IN 46550

Cell: 574-221-1460

e-mail: district4@ivfa.org

District 5 - John Grolich

411 Franklin St.

Plymouth, IN 46563

574-933-3352 (Cell)

e-mail: district5@ivfa.org

District 6 - Mack Grobis

221 S. Poplar Street

Lagrange, IN 46761

(260) 585-3213 (Cell)

e-mail: district6@ivfa.org

District 7 - Richard Sorg

11218 N. 600 E.

Ossian, IN 46777

(260)438-0580 (Cell)

e-mail: district7@ivfa.org

District 8A - Rex Maynard

312 E. 12th Street

Jonesboro, IN 46938

(765) 517-1937 (Cell)

e-mail: district8a@ivfa.org

District 8B - Mikey Armstrong

415 South Union Street

P.O. Box 203

Pennville, 47369

765-578-0107

e-mail: district8b@ivfa.org

District 9A - Pascal Moon

8181 East St. Rd. 16

Twelve Mile, IN 46988

Cell (574) 725-5351

e-mail: district9a@ivfa.org

District 9B - Randy Denton

301 S. Milton St.

Rensselaer, IN 47978

(219) 866-4166 (Home)

(219) 964-1717 (Cell)

e-mail: district9b@ivfa.org

District 10 - John Ray

9303 N. Co. Rd. 1050 E.

Hope, IN 47246

(812) 343-5304 (Cell)

e-mail: district10@ivfa.org

District 11A - Ralph "Pete" Taylor

721 E US Highway 40

From the Historian's Desk



L.E. "Buz" Koehler
Historian



Sometimes history just is in the making and if we get a chance to capture it we should. I happened to catch a junior firefighter meeting with the Living Statue at our Convention in Madison, IN. It struck a note in my heart, to see this little one, bumping fists and greeting the Statue. He was unafraid as if he knew that the Statue represented a person of great courage. He may or may not have known, but he was having a good time and all smiles. It truly warmed my heart as I watched history in the making. As I have noted before, we raise our families the same way, to think of others, and care about others.



So as you go about doing your duties remember, someone cares about you, and they're proud to know you are a Volunteer Firefighter. God gave us children to remind us that no matter who you are, someone cares. We will continue collecting, as we still have some gaps to fill. If anyone that may have or acquires newspapers printed before 1985, please contact me. L.E. "Buz" Koehler
Past President
Historian

From The Vice-President

Larry Curl



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings; As I set here today penning yet another article as your IVFA Vice President, It's been my pleasure to serve as your Vice President serving with our re-elected President Ross Emery. I do so with great admiration and appreciation for the vote of confidence I received during this past IVFA State Convention allowing me to serve yet another year as your Vice President.

Speaking of state conventions, the 2025 State Convention was recently held in Madison Indiana at the Clifty Inn State Park. This years convention hosts were great, the hotel was super, the location was over the top, and our trip to downtown Madison to tour to the firehouses and Including Walnut Street Fire Co., Indiana's oldest volunteer fire department started in 1873. The original building is now a museum with a vast collection of vintage and modern firefighting tools and equipment along with learning more about the history of firefighting from 1850-1920s. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Frank Taff for opening your hearts and the doors allowing our membership to enjoy your vast collection and all the knowledge of our history about the fire service of years gone by. The only thing missing was many of our members. Even though we did have close to 250 our of our 13,000 members we can do better in attendance.

So where does the IVFA go from here? We've hosted 79 state conventions hosted all over the state of Indiana but our attendance continues to drop so... we are embarking on a

new adventure for conventions. Beginning in 2026 (and for a minimum of three years) we will host our annual state convention in the center of the state, at the Wyndham Hotel 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46241. This location is large enough to accommodate larger attendance, bigger displays, and more activities. So put it on your calendar JUNE 17-20, 2026 IVFA State Convention. We'll bring the activity and excitement you bring the family, your department members and have fun.

As Vice President of the IVFA, it's exciting to share some news regarding new initiatives, successful projects, or upcoming events. I hope each of you will take the time to read our quarterly newspaper and more importantly share in the activities, and actions of your departments, your districts, and our Statewide adventures. Everyday I work to assure our organization is as strong and vibrant as possible so we can continue to move the our association to the top of public safety.

As we look to the future of the IVFA we need your input. Stop and think about where you are as a member, a department, an association. Are we where we want to be or is there other things we need / should be addressing for our association and our membership. Are you OK with status Que, or would you like to see more. I believe when we accept Status Que we are really saying we are ok with not moving forward. Also I believe if we are not moving forward we are falling behind... standing still is not just OK. So if you have any suggestion on the direction or position we need to think about, please share them. You can share them by email to any of the state officers, your District Chairperson, or you can even call me if you would like to have that type of conversation. Our membership is our most valuable asset. As we continue to work for you the members, we want to hear from you, see you at our District meetings, and know what you need from us to make volunteering in your communities better, safer and stronger for those you serve.

As we go about serving our communities are we providing all that we can or all that we can afford. Are we giving our communities what they expect and deserve or are we just giving what we have always given. Is it time we as an Association look deep into what services and what opportunities we should be providing to our tax paying citizens? We Should we also be discussing with our taxpayers the tax savings we bring to the table?

Remember five short years ago we were able to show a \$4.5 Billion savings because of our services. Today five years

later and after another review and update we can now show a \$6.1 Billion savings across the state. Are our taxpayers aware of the savings because of YOUR service? And are we talking to them about our needs to be able to continue those savings, the need for increased staffing, benefits for recruitment and continued funding for turn out gear that was in the last state budget cycle.

You need to share your concerns with your members of the Indiana General Assembly and let them know we save their state budget \$6.1 Billion ANNUALLY, but we need help as well. I certainly hope so. Its because of our service, our staffing, our willingness to provide that those kinds of dollar saving are being seen all across our state, but if we are not addressing them how do they know

I certainly hope so. Its because of our service, our staffing, our willingness to provide, we see those kinds of dollar saving are being seen all across our state, but if we are not addressing them how do they know? We should be hosting open house gatherings and sharing with our residents our needs and making sure they understand the savings we bring to them. When the STATE OF INDIANA came up \$2.5 billion short of their projected state budget you would have thought the world was ending, imagine if we were not there what would happen to the state budget?

Remember this year we were able to honor 107 life time (50 Year) members at the state house. If one of those that we honored at the state house was one of your department members please reach out to that member and honor them at your department as well.

What else is the IVFA looking at... glad you ask. At this years convention a vote was taken to begin an IVFA PAC. That would be a Political Action Committee to support the efforts and energy of the IVFA when it comes to interaction with our Elected Officials.

Every decision about our service to others is influenced by someone who was either elected or appointed. Volunteer fire fighters needs to build relationships with decision makers and communicate with the voters who elect them. As long as elected officials are involved we need to be involved with our elected officials.

So we are in the process of filing the required paperwork, establishing the officers, and stepping up to support or oppose folks who control our destiny.

You can find a full article elsewhere in this months IVFA newspaper.

Again thanks to all for your support and confidence in allowing me to serve again as your Vice President

Larry Curl



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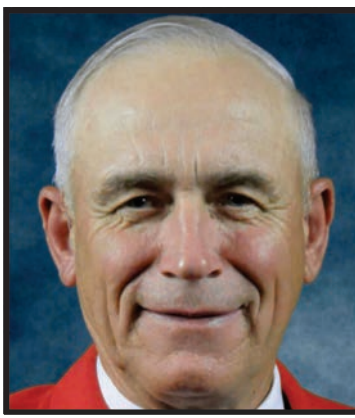
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PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORTS

PR Director South East

Edwin J. Scheele



Greetings,
I hope everyone that attended the state convention had a good time.

I would like thank Ben Sieverdin for taking his time to teach the four hour instructor in-service triaing and thank all that attended. The hotel staff was excellent.

The weather in Southern Indiana is getting very hot. As I am writing this, it is supposed to be the the 90's all week. Be careful and drink plenty of liquids.

Ed Scheele
IVFA PRSE

PR Director North West

Jeremy Reef



Hello Northwest Indiana,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity of being the Northwest Public Relations officer for the past year. I enjoy seeing everyone & seeing the different fire departments at all the district meetings. I wanted to thank all the delegates at convention this year in my 5 districts (1, 2, 3, 9A & 9B) that voted to keep me as the PRNW for another year.

I have been to several department events/fundraisers over the past year & I look forward to making many more. It is always great to connect with each department for some fellowship & always amazing food. If you are having an event & would like the information posted on the IVFA Facebook, please message the page & we

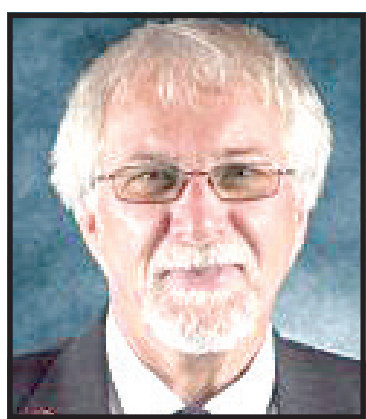
will get it posted for you. Don't forget to post all meetings & events on the IVFA calendar on the website or the IVFA app. This greatly helps state officers, like me & other members in your area know when your meetings & events are. If there is a specific meeting or event you want me to attend, please send me an email or text. My contact information is on the IVFA website & IVFA app. I will do my best to attend.

I encourage you all to attend your next district meeting in the upcoming months for new information from the annual meeting at convention. Remember if you need help with anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe out there.
Jeremy Reef
IVFA PRNW

PR Director East Central

David Israel



2025 the place to be, Madison Indiana for OUR Annual Convention.

CONGRATULATION TO ALL THE AWARD WINNER'S

Please, MAKE SURE YOU CHECKED YOUR BENEFICIARY, IS IT CORRECT???? CHECK IT!!!

ALSO MAKE SURE YOUR START DATE IS CORRECT?????

WE THE OFFICERS OF THE IVFA WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US THE IVFA.

I believe this year will be the year of the Volunteers to get the respect we need to support our Communities. Lobbing is not free. So supports us.

HOW DID YOU LIKE BEING ABLE TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD BY CALLING THE CENTRAL OFFICE. NOT SURE WHAT WAS GOING. WE HAD A LOT OF DEPARTMENTS NOT GETTING THEIR PACKET'S

MIGHT JUST HAVE TO HAVE DIST. CHAIRMAN AND PR'S HAND DELIVER THEM THIS YEAR.

I BELIEVE THERE ARE A FEW OF US THAT HAVE A REGULAR DAY, JOB PLUS A SIDE JOB. DO YOU KNOW WHAT SEASON IT IS IN LATE MARCH, EARLY APRIL 2025

IT IS CALLED PLANTING SEASON.

SAM AND I TRY TO COVER EACH OTHERS DISTRICTS WHEN WE CAN. THIS LAST MONTH NEITHER ONE OF US COULD MAKE THE MEETINGS. WE BOTH CALLED OUR DIST. CHAIRMAN AND SAID SORRY. HOPE YOU UNDER STAND.

Some of the District Chairman in PREC have made some changes, to a short Meeting and a possible short training. They are already posted on the IVFA Calendar. You don't have to wait to find out when they are, there on line NOW. Where THE IVFA CALENDAR ivfa.org. DIST. 8B will be having District Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. WE ARE GOING TO STEP BACK AND SEE IF WE CAN LOOK AT THIS A DIFFERENT WAY TO HIT THIS HEAD ON. YOUR DIST. CHAIRMAN WILL BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

Since the District Chairman can't seem to get your DEPT. Email address, WOULD YOU THE Fire Chief or someone. PLEASE SEND ME YOUR CURRANT FIRE DEPT EMAIL ADDRESS and MEETING NIGHT TO David Israel at prec@ivfa.org.

THIS WINTER I AM GOING TO TYPE ALL MY DEPARTMENTS EMAIL ADDRESSES IN AND SEE WHO'S ADDRESSES COMES BACK, YOUR CHAIRMAN AND I ARE COMING TO YOUR DEPT. NEXT MEETING. (TO CORRECT THE DEPT. EMAIL ADDRESS SEND ME YOUR, CORRECTED EMAIL AND I WILL GET IT CORRECTED)

I have a plan. HOW MANY OF YOU EVEN ASKED YOUR TRUSTEE FOR MORE MONEY?? HEY I COULD JUST LOOK IT UP ON THE ITA'S WEB SITE.

NOT SURE IF ALL THE TURNOUT GEAR AND SCBA'S HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED, GUESS WHAT WE SURE HOPED THE NEW INCOMING GOVERNOR LEAVES THAT LINE ITEM IN THERE. IT DIDN'T HAPPEN. **PRESSURE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS.**

THE TURN OUT GEAR DIDN'T MAKE TO THE TURN OUT GEAR EITHER. Congratulation's to those Departments RECEIVING NEW TURN OUT GEAR which is very much need to our Indiana Fire Departments DON'T LOOK FOR IT.

IT'S NOT THERE.
We have Twp Trustee's that don't even have a tax base to be able to fund a Fire Dept BY LAW.
I hope our New Governor

whom ever it is continues the 10 million for SCBA's and Turnout Gear. Next year will be a Budget year hopefully the IN COMING Governor will keep the SCBA/ Turnout Gear, line Item in the next two years.

WE DIDN'T GET .

We need the PREC District's input (all of them not just one or two, all of you) to make things better, on the training side, did you know you can down load all the IFSTA books from the book store?

District Chairman need two contact people from each Dept. So we can communicate to see what you need. We all have more going on in our lives than we can handle. Thanks for the Memories Phil.

But could we at least try to make an effort to have two people at a District Meeting from each Department. Please go to the IVFA web site (ivfa.org) look up your Dept. INFO and make sure your INFO is correct IF not, send me the corrections that need to be done and I will correct them on the web site for you. Thank You

Now is the time to start THINKING about the 2026 IVFA Awards.

MORE TO COME ON THE 2026 CONVENTION, THE SAME PLACE WYNDHAM THREE YEARS IN PLACE

Here is what we need from you. Participation it's a two way street. I will get off the soap box NOW it's going to be a fun 2025.

OH!! If I don't answer PLEASE leave a message or TEXT me!!

See you at the next District Meeting.

PREC
David R. Israel
prec@ivfa.org
(812) 593-1564

PR Director West Central

Don Fultz



I survived another convention. I want to thank Rick Cannon, his committee and the employees of Cliffy Falls for a great convention.

There were many awards presented.

At one of the meetings, I met a lady who was going to college and asked her if she had applied for the IVFA scholarships. She was not aware of the scholarship.

It is too late this year to apply, Told her to apply the first of February, 2026.

We need people to apply for all the other awards.

Stay hydrated in this hot weather.

Be safe
Don Fultz
PR West Central



I.V.F.A District Reports

District 1 Report



Marshall Neese - Chairman

Meeting Called order at 1900 hours

Pledge led by Union Twp. Fire Chief Mark Werno

Roll Call taken by Marshall Neese Dist. One Chairperson

3 Departments in attendance 30 members

A Guest total of 6 at the

meeting and 36 in attendance

Did not have a quorum of 5 departments to have an official meeting so we had

Informational meeting.

State Officers Vice President Larry Curl his wife Carol Curl past President of IVFAA

The Hosting Department is Lake Station F D.

Fire Chief Chuck Fazekas and His Deputy Chief Allen Rieck giving history about the fire department.

Read off the last meeting minutes. (no vote)

Communications:

VP Larry Curl talked about what was going on in IVFA and Legislation

in the State House.

Old Business none to report

New Business Gave out two 25 year pins no

District 1 continued on pg 6

I.V.F.A District Reports

District 1 *continued from pg 2*
 recipients ther to receive pins also gave out two 50 year gold cards to Robert Janes from Lake Station F.D. and Jack Runion from Union Twp F.D. Death in Dist. with just 1 Announcements: Washington TWP having 50 Year Anniversary June 14 at the fire station 4pm to 9pm Next IVFA Meeting TBA. Thanks to Lake Station for Hosting Meeting Adjournment at 20:10

District 2 Report



Tom Fentress - Chairman

District 2 Quarterly Meeting minutes, written and submitted by Chairmen Tom Fentress Hebron, IN – May 15, 2025

Volunteer firefighters from across Northwest Indiana gathered at the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department on Thursday evening for the District 2 Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA) quarterly meeting. With a full agenda and strong turnout, the meeting, led by District 2 Chairman Tom Fentress, focused on updates from state leadership, legislative concerns, new technology tools, and ongoing efforts to support recruitment and retention within the fire service.

After opening with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call, the group welcomed several notable guests: IVFA Vice President Larry Curl, District 9B Chairman Randy Denton, IVFAA Past President Carol Curl, and District 2 IVFA representative Tammie Ruvalcaba. Lifetime members were recognized, along with members celebrating 10 and 25 years of dedicated service.

State Leadership Updates: Legislation, Convention, and Cost Savings

Vice President Larry Curl delivered a comprehensive update on recent state legislative activity. He described the 2025 session as challenging, citing a significant \$2.1 billion state budget reduction driven by the new governor's fiscal agenda. As a result, there was little movement—positive or negative—on fire service-related legislation. Of particular note was Senate Bill 1, which shifts funding responsibility from the state to local governments, causing concern among departments already operating on tight budgets.

Curl advised departments to postpone major purchases until more is known about the long-term impacts of these changes. Looking ahead, he said the IVFA plans to launch an aggressive legislative campaign in 2026 to highlight the critical contributions of Indiana's volunteer firefighters.

In better news, the association's updated Cost Savings Study has been approved. The study, along with a companion document outlining the value IVFA departments bring to their communities, was presented to the Governor as part of a broader strategy to bolster volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention across the state.

Convention Plans and a New Mobile App

The IVFA Convention is set for June 18–20, 2025, in Madison, Indiana. While the Clifty Falls hotel is booked solid, the Comfort Inn still has openings, and campsites are filling quickly. For the first time, the convention will include educational hours on Thursday. Starting in 2026, the convention will move to Indianapolis, hosted at the Wyndham Hotel near the airport for the next three years.

Attendees were encouraged to share feedback and ideas to improve future conventions.

On the tech front, the new IVFA mobile app is officially live and already proving useful. Members can download it from their app stores or scan QR codes provided at the meeting. The app includes quick access to association news, member benefits, and event updates.

Fire Marshal's Office Looks to Modernize Education

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's office is pushing for a centralized Learning Management System (LMS) to streamline all fire service education and continuing education (CE) tracking statewide. There are also plans to relocate the Fire Marshal's training division to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy building, which would reduce facility rental costs and encourage cross-agency collaboration.

Expanding Member Benefits

IVFA members were reminded about the Savvik Group partnership, which offers exclusive perks such as discounted hotel rates through Hotel Engine, rental car deals with Hertz, and group purchasing options for fire department equipment. A Savvik mobile app has also been released to make accessing these benefits even easier.

Spotlight on Cancer Prevention and Hero Support

The Firefighter Cancer Support Network continues to offer vital resources to departments, including printable materials and online training to help

reduce occupational cancer risks. Members were encouraged to watch the impactful YouTube video, "Dying to Save You."

Additionally, the 20th Annual Supporting Heroes Gala will be held on July 27 in Owensboro, Kentucky. This signature event honors first responders lost in the line of duty and raises funds for the families they leave behind.

EMS Education Updates and New Requirements

The EMS section of the meeting included several important announcements:

- **Mandatory PI Education** Forums will be held across the state between July and October. All Primary Instructors must attend one session to maintain their certification.
- **Recertification Changes:** Adult education hours will remain at 12 per cycle, while the required hours for teaching EMS have been reduced from 80 to 40.
- **New Mandate:** All EMS instructors must now attend at least one state-sponsored EMS education update per cycle.
- **The state also plans to cover the cost of the first two attempts at the NREMT certification exam for all levels.**

Looking Ahead

District 2's next quarterly meeting will be held on August 21, 2025, hosted by the Lakes of the Four Seasons Fire Force. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, followed by the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Other upcoming events include:

- Running with Shears & Golden Sirens Award Banquet – May 17 in Indianapolis
- IVFA Convention – June 18–20 in Madison, IN
- Supporting Heroes Gala – July 27 in Owensboro, KY
- Indiana Fire Chiefs Association Leadership Conference – September 17–19 in Indianapolis

Closing

The meeting concluded with an open forum for "Good of the Order" remarks before adjourning for the evening.

District 6 Report



Mack Grobis - Chairman

Happy summer!! I hope for all of those people who kept complaining it was "cold" this winter are happy! (You know who you are-- SB!!)

We held our spring district meeting on May 27th, hosted by the Fremont Fire

Department. A special thank-you goes out to Fremont for their warm hospitality—they grilled burgers and hot dogs, and several attendees brought side dishes to share. It was a great evening of fellowship and connection.

We were honored to welcome Indiana Fire Academy Director John Shafer, who provided a valuable update on the state's fire training programs and priorities. His remarks gave us a clearer picture of where we are headed in terms of firefighter education and readiness.

Also joining us was IVFA Vice President and Lobbyist Larry Curl, who delivered an update on association business and the IVFA Awards Program. Larry encouraged everyone to begin preparing nominations now for next year's awards. Recognizing the hard work of our fellow firefighters is a core part of our mission—so don't wait until the last minute to submit!

During the meeting, we were also proud to present years of service pins to several members of the Fremont Fire Department. These awards are a testament to the dedication and commitment that defines our fire service family. (See photos included.)

I also had the pleasure of attending the IVFA State Convention in Madison, Indiana from June 18–20. Thank you to all the District 6 members who made the trip and represented our district with pride. A special shout-out goes to Maddi Tigner of the Albion Fire Department, who served as District 6 Miss Flame. Maddi did a fantastic job this year and will continue to represent our district for the rest of the year! Our new Public Relations – North East Director is Richard Sorg (Previously District 7 Chairman).

We would like to thank Sam Bisel for his great work during his tenure as PRNE. I ask that you keep Sam and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he navigates his battle with bladder cancer. We hope for a swift recovery!

Some exciting news to give you all is that we are joining forces with Districts 7 and 8B to host the 2026 IVFA Convention in Indianapolis. We need any available departments to pitch in with door prizes from their area! Call, text, or email me if you are interested in helping with next year's convention!

By the time this issue is printed, we will have held our summer meeting on July 22nd. In the next edition, we'll report the results of the District 6 officer elections, so stay tuned!

As always, thank you for your continued service—and stay safe out there.

District 8B Report



Mikey Armstrong - Chairman

Hello again everyone. Can anybody else believe how fast this year has blown by, because I sure can't believe it.

On the morning of April 5th, I traveled to Redkey for the Redkey Volunteer Fire Dept Annual breakfast. Chief Randy Young and the crew cooked on heck of a breakfast with all the proceeds going to their firework show on July 5th after the Redkey Jr League Firecracker Tournament.

That afternoon I attended the Pennville Volunteer Fire Department had their 4 Annual Beef and Noodle Dinner. Chief Lonnie Bell and the crew had the best turnout they've ever had for this dinner with yours truly making sure there wasn't that many leftovers. With what leftovers we had me, District 8B Miss Flame Hannah Armstrong, First Responder April Pennington, and new Firefighter Richie Justice traveled to Portland and Dunkirk to make sure Jay County EMS, IU Health Jay Hospital, Portland Fire and Jay County Dispatch had a nice warm meal.

On April 10th I traveled to FDIC with a few members of the Pennville Volunteer Fire Department and the South Adams Fire Academy. This is my 2nd time attending FDIC and I'm now convinced that I need more than one day to see everything, but we had a great time, and I can't wait to go back next year.

On April 12th as myself and a few other Pennville Firefighters made our way to South Bend for the Notre Dame Blue and Gold game we made a stop in District 7 and attended the Berne Volunteer Fire Department for their annual breakfast. Chief John Crider and the gang did an amazing job.

I attended the May Quarterly Business meeting. For the next 3 years the IVFA Convention will be held in Indianapolis at the Wyndam Hotel (2544 Executive Drive Indianapolis, IN 46241). For the 80th IVFA Convention the dates will be June 17-19, 2026, 81st June 16-18th 2027 and 82nd June 14th-16th. For the 2026 Convention District 6, 7 and 8B is going to be hosting the convention. If you are interested in volunteering your time, donating's or help of any kind please let District's 6, 7 and 8B know.

I.V.F.A District Reports

On May 10th I and our Miss Flame attended the Bryant Volunteer Fire Department Annual Breakfast. Chief Mike Kimmel and the crew always make a fantastic breakfast, and this year might have been the best one yet.

May 17th Portland Fire Department along with Bryant Volunteer Fire Dept had a breakfast with all the proceeds going towards the expenses for Jayla Huelskamp as she traveled to Atlanta for the SkillsUSA National competition. During FDIC Jayla and her other classmates competed in the State SkillsUSA competition which Jayla won. Becoming the first girl to ever win the competition and the 2nd to ever place.

District 8B is so proud of Jayla and the rest of the South Adams Fire Academy.

This academy is taught by Tony Heiser. Tony is a firefighter on the Monroe and Decatur Fire Department. Thank you for everything you have done for the younger generation Tony. Go Irish.

On June 5th I had the wonderful opportunity to present three 50 yr gold cards to Dennis Brown, Jay Harris and Randy Painter of the White River Twp Vol. Inc Dept. Thank you gentlemen for 50yrs of service to the IVFA, Randolph County and the beautiful state of Indiana.

From June 18th-20th I was able to attend the 79th Annual IVFA Convention in beautiful Madison at the Clifty Falls Inn. Congratulations to the 2025 IVFA Miss Flame District 18 Ava Verkamp, 1st Runner up District 2 Miranda Ruvalcaba, 2-time Miss Congeniality District 7 Aubrey Krueckeberg and all the other Miss Flames. You ladies did an outstanding job, and you should be so proud of yourself.

I'm going brag just a little bit about our Miss Flame my daughter Hannah Armstrong. Her 1st convention in 2022 was a tough for Hannah because she was not comfortable but with help from IVFAA president Christina Reef, IVFA secretary Leighanne Ellis, IVFAA Corresponding Secretary Janet Matthews and her mother PVFD First Responder Lindsey Armstrong she got through it. Her 2nd and 3rd convention you could see her coming out of her shell and acting herself that I warned everyone about.

Also to mention she won the 2023 and 2024 dance competition with yours truly. But this year she was different. She had so much confidence it was awesome to see because I always knew she had it in her. I am so proud of you Cubbie and thank it's an honor to be your dad. In case you were wondering.. Yes, we did win the dance competition again this to

become the 3-time champions. If you have any questions about the Miss Flame competition, please let me know, because as of right now we don't have a Miss Flame for next year.

Hopefully, I get to see some of you on July 9th at the District Meeting in beautiful Ridgeville and the Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Station at 7:00pm. Remember to be safe and make sure you hydrate this summer.

Mikey Armstrong
IVFA District 8B

District 10 Report



John Ray - Chairman

Greetings from District 10

Congratulations to Josh McClain a cadet member of Hope VFD, who was one of 4 young firefighters to receive one of the Bridgeport \$1500 hundred scholarships at the IVFA Convention in June at Clifty Falls Inn in Madison. Josh is the son of Tony and Suzanne McClain of Hope, a member of Hope Moravian Church, where he is an active member of the Youth Group, and weekly volunteer at the Church Meal Site. He is a 2025 graduate of Hauser High School and will be attending Ball State University to study Criminal Justice with a minor in Fire Science and Investigation. Josh is a fine young man & we at District 10 are proud of his accomplishments.

A huge THANK YOU, to Rick Cannon District 14 Chairman, his Team and volunteers for a great convention at Clifty Falls State Park in June. Congratulations to each of the award winners. One of the highlights was a downtown tour of 4 fire stations of Madison along with the Fire Museum; and the Fair Play Fire Station, which is still in active use. If you have the opportunity, you must go visit! It is a very interesting experience!

May district meeting was Anderson Township Fire Dept. The IVFAA annual food auction, the main fundraiser for the IVFAA District 10, was the highlight of the meeting raising \$524. A portion of the money raised is given to Natalie Israel, District 10 Miss Flame, to help cover her Convention expenses & activities. We presented 10year pins to Dean Bacon, Jonathon Webb, Eva Hershberger, Menno Hershberger, Derrick

Justice all from Anderson Twp. Congratulations & thank you, firefighters for your faithful service to your department and communities.

Please note the meeting date and locations for the rest of the year:

August 20 German Twp; September 17 Fairland; October 15 Posey Twp; November 19 Greensburg. January 21, 2026 will be our first meeting of the new year, to be held at Columbus Twp.!

Have a safe and blessed summer; and take time to savor each day!

John M. Ray District 10
Chairman

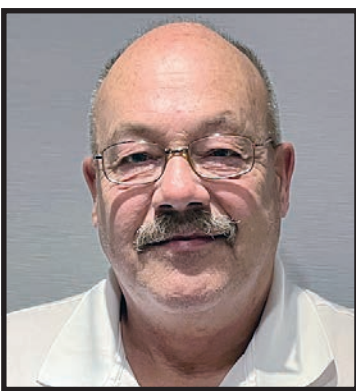
District 11B Report



Scott Peebles - Chairman

Greetings from District 11B, I hope this finds you well and enjoying your summer. I would like to thank District 14 for hosting the 2025 Convention in Madison you done an awesome job. If you've never been to a Convention consider taking the drive to Indy next year June 17-19. Our last district meeting was held at Kingman-Millcreek Vol. Fire Dept. we had 5 departments 6 members. I talked about the awards and encouraged everyone to start thinking of someone to nominate. Talked about the IVFA App. We talked about family day at Burn Camp. I've been out and about handing out pins and one 50yr card to Jackson TWP Vol. Fire Dept. member Obie Sowers. I've also attended several department fundraisers and department meetings. I would like to ask all the departments in the district to email me with your department information like Chiefs name and number, department phone number, department mailing address, meeting date and time and a good email address so I can get our district info up to date on website. If any department would be interested in hosting a district meeting feel free to reach out to me. November will be here before you know it it's time to start thinking about the district Miss Flame contest if your department would have any young ladies interested go over to the IVFA website for rules and application.

District 12 Report



Steve Kershaw - Chairman

Hello from District 12, Sorry I missed getting an article in the last IVFA paper.

Our last meeting was hosted by the Fire Department of Liberty Township at station 106. Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum to hold a meeting, but we did have some good discussions.

I attended the IVFA convention in Madison Indiana and it was a great time at a very nice facility. A big thank you to District 14 for hosting the convention, a job well done!

Congratulations to the new Miss Flame and to all the award winners!

Everyone stay safe and stay cool!
Steve Kershaw
Chairman, District 12

District 14 Report



Rick Cannon - Chairman

Welcome from district 14 where we had a great time hosting the 2025 Indiana volunteer firefighters convention held in Madison.

I want to thank everyone who came out and made it a great convention.

I want to thank all of the district 14 staff and my family for everything they did.

We had 14 teams in the golf scramble sponsored by Hussung Mechanical.

We had over 38 vendors and 4 junior fire fighter in the junior firefighter competition.

I hope everyone enjoyed taking the trolley downtown to visit the fire houses on Friday and I want to thank all the departments for opening up the fire houses.

Thank you Rick Cannon
District 14 district chairman

District 16 Report

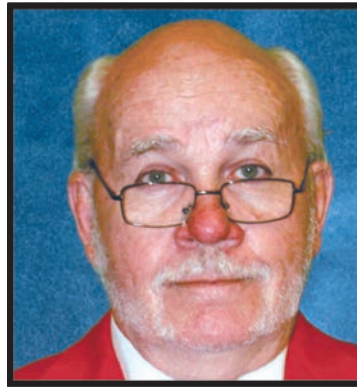


Nick Faulkenburg - Chairman

Our district has been extremely busy with the Crusade with Children. We had a fanatic turnout by setting several new department records. I would like to thank District 14 for the hard work; The IVFA convention was a huge success. Madison was beautiful. Taking the trolley to town and visiting the firehouses was awesome as well.

Nick Faulkenburg
District 16

District 17A Report



Sam Emery - Chairman

Greetings once again, Taylor VFD meeting March 19th and Plainville VFD March 20th. I presented several awards.

March 25th I attended the 50 year awards presentation at the State House. Several presentations were made.

March 17th A life saving award was presented to Washington Twp VFD Member Fletcher Rhoads.

April 19th I attended a fund raiser at the Plainville VFD, the food was great.

May 10th I attended a fund raiser, awards were passed out at Sandborn VFD.

Meeting on May 14th, Martin Co. C.D. Fire & Rescue was held with good information to those in attendance. Good food as always.

June 18th - 21st, 2025 convention was held at Clifty Inn at Madison. This was the 79th held. Vendors were on the HAVQ. The meals served were great. Thanks to Holly and rick Cannon and the staff everything was great. Hope to see you at the next convention.

June 21st a memorial service was held for Ron Bell, 54 year member of the IVFA. Sympathy to his family.

July 16th District 17A IVFA Meeting will be hosted by Loogootee VFD. There will be an election of officers. See you there.
Sam Emery
IVFA 17A Chair



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I.V.F.A District Reports

District 17B Report



Tammy Wright - Chairman

Hello everyone,
Please remember the fellow firefighters lost in the Idaho ambush.
I hope everyone is doing well. I want to congratulate Marion Fire of Mitchell on their new fire house. It's absolutely beautiful and was much needed.
First and foremost it's hot outside be sure to hydrate hydrate hydrate!! If you feel sick or don't feel right in this heat then please step out of a scene and rest and cool off. You can't help others if you become the patient.
I'm asking departments in 17B to please reach out to me and set up for a meeting. I have pins for members I'd love to get to them.
I hope everyone enjoys the summer and keep yourself healthy.
Tammy Wright
17B Chairman.

District 18 Report



Nicholas Waninger - Chairman

Greetings from district 18! What a wild early start to the summer weather it has been! We have had plenty of rain as of the end of June! Hopefully we will keep enough rain around to help tamp down potential field fires. It is with great pleasure that on behalf of I and district 18 congratulate Ava Verkamp as not only the District Miss Flame, but as of this year's convention, the 2025 IVFA State Miss Flame! It has been 19 years since district 18 won in the state contest (Katelyn Rickelman 2006.) Each time that district 18 has won, the district has won back to back! (1994 - Erin Byam, 1995 - Sara Steckler, 2005 - Amanda Gutgsell, 2006 - Katelyn Rickelman.) Congratulations to all past and best of luck to whomever represents the district in 2026! Ava you have represented the district and

Schnellville well! Moving on to the last order of business. I would like to thank all dist. 18 departments for the last 4 years as Chairman. In that time, I got married in October 23' and had a beautiful daughter in December of 24'. I will pass along the torch to the next elected chairman in the July meeting to allow more time with my family.

May 15th 2025

The last meeting of the district 18 was held on May 15th 2025 and hosted by Chrisney Fire District

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Nick Weininger

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all members present.

Chairman Waninger gave the opening prayer, and remembrance of Dale Roll from English fire dept. Kenneth Faulkenburg, and Cleon Brahm both from St. Meinrad fire dept. Kevin Haven from Haysville fire dept.

The business meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Chairman Waninger and welcomed everyone that has joined us tonight.

Roll call was taken with 29 members representing 12 departments answering 420 alarms.

Vice Chairman Smith introduced the guest present.

Ava Verkamp District 18 Miss Flame and Jack Kerney PRSW state office

State Officer's report

Jack stated that dues were mailed out on April 11th. Jack also talked about the 2025 state convention at Clifty Falls in Madison IN. Jack stated that there were 107-50-year life Members that got the gold card this year. Jack talked about the new turnout gear with some of the problems with it. When washing the gear do not use a washer with an agitator it will break the gear down. He also talked about the state farm and the NVFC grant for \$10,000.00. State convention will be held in Indianapolis for the next 3 years.

Talked about the cost savings to the state of 6.4 billion dollars

District Chairman's report

Chairman Waninger stated that if your department has any events to put them on the IVFA website. Chairman Waninger also stated that he has put all the district 18 meetings on the IVFA website for the whole year.

District officer's report

Vice Chairman Smith talked about the dues and make sure that your chief signs the card. So, you can run blue lights. Smith also talked about the IVFA APP.

Committee reports.

Parade will be on Oct 12th 2025 and Jasper fire department will be the host. Carter Fire District will host the 2025 Memorial service on October 5th

New Business

gave miss flame \$150.00 for

the items for the miss flame contest.

Nomination committee was chosen

Benjamin Brown, Nick Waninger, and Mike Toban.

Report from guest present.

Miss flame Ava Verkamp talked about the project that the Miss flame contestants are working on with a firefighter. A motion was made and voted on to give Ava \$100.00 for her project.

Announcement- good of the order.

2025 State convention will be held in Madison IN. at the Clifty Fall State Park.

2026 state convention will be held in Indianapolis

Carter fire will be hosting the 2026 parade.

Dubois Fire Department stated they would like to hose the 2027 parade

Chairman Weininger handed out a 10-year pin to Austin Hagan and a 25-year pin to Damian Kock both from Chrisney fire Department.

Chairman Waninger thanked the host department for the meal.

Announced the date and location of the next meeting. It will be on July 17th 2025 and hosted by Celestine Fire Department.

Last call for any other business to be brought before this body. There was none.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM
Secretary/treasurer
Stan Seifert

District 19 Report



Ben Sieverding - Chairman

With the 2025 Convention in the books, I would like to take this time to commend the Madison Fire Department and their efforts in preserving I their history. The tours of the stations and museum were definitely a highlight of the convention. If you love fire history you should make a trip to Madison and tour their stations and the museum, truly impressive history of the fire service in Madison IN.

We would also like to thank everyone that attended the Fire Instructor In-Service during the convention. The training session had 27 attendees from all walks of the Fire Service.

I would also like to thank Austin Ronnebaum, from the Eagle Fire Company Oldenburg, for representing District 19 in the Junior Firefighter competition. This competition should have representatives from every

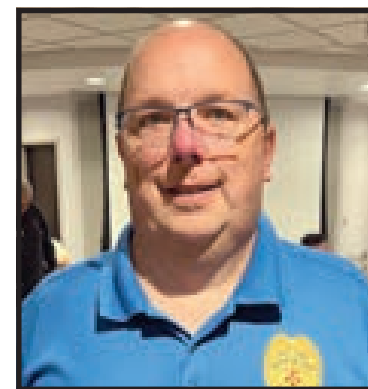
district. The volunteer fire service is facing serious concerns in regards to recruitment and retention. This program could be an excellent recruiting tool for all our departments in Indiana.

Congratulations to Rick Dillion on receiving the District 19 McQueen Award of Excellence this year at the convention. Rick serves the Versailles community as the department's Safety Officer and Vice President.

On a more serious note, everyone needs to be informed about the new state budget bill that was passed this past session at the statehouse. This budget has some major changes to property taxes and will have a significant impact on the funding of the fire service. We all need to be informed and proactive with our elected officials and try to minimize the damage this bill could cause to our budgets. Please talk with your Township Trustees, Town Boards and elected officials and be diligent and proactive. There will be significant impacts throughout the state when it comes to funding our departments. The volunteer fire service is already facing a crisis in our state with funding and staffing, all of us need to get involved in the political process. The volunteer fire service is a large voting body, but only if we get involved.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer. We are looking forward to our July meeting in Dillsboro and then we will travel to Ohio County and the Bear Branch VFD for our meeting in September.

District 21 Report



Blaine Butler Jr. - Chairman

Wabash Twp Fire Dept. Station1 hosted the District 21 IVFA Quarterly meeting on May 19, 2025. A light meal was served. There were five departments represented with 7 members and 7 guests. The meeting was called to order at 1930 hrs by Chairman Blaine Butler with the pledge of allegiance following. Minutes from the February meeting were read and approved. Blaine discussed about the 2025 Convention at Madison In, and about 2026-2029 State Conventions. Blaine talked about nominating people for the different awards the IVFA and IVFAA has. Larry discussed current legislation that affects

volunteer firefighters. Larry also discussed about the Washington DC trip they went on. Guest Ryan Thoma from IDHS talked about updates to State Trainings and upcoming training dates in District 4 area. District 21 IVFA Miss Flame Tatum Moore talked about her community service project she is doing. Tatum is collecting patches from Fire Departments, EMS Departments, and Police Departments from around the state to give to a 3 year old with a rare birth defect. Hailey will be having a major surgery in January and she is wanting to fill her walls at the hospital with the patches. Don Fultz discussed about the Burn Camp coming up. Our next meeting will be held at Michigan Twp Volunteer Fire Dept. on August 25, 2025 at 7:30pm. A light meal will be served at 6:45 pm. The address is 100 E. 7th St. Michigantown, In. 46057.

Thanks,
Blaine Butler Jr
District 21 Chairman

I.V.F.A. Secretary

Leighanne Ellis



INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING May 2-4, 2025 Crowne Plaza Hotel Indianapolis, IN

Meeting was called to order by President Ross Emery at 1331. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Larry Curl. The Invocation was given by Chaplain David Elick.

Roll Call was taken with 18 District Chairman present and 7 absent, 5 Public Relations Officers present and 1 absent, and 7 past presidents.

Reading the minutes from the last meeting, Jeremy Reef made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Mack Grobis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests:

1. Steve Bauer with Firefighter Cancer Support Network, provides peer services, and has a network of all volunteers that are supporting firefighters that are being diagnosed with cancer. They are looking to build a team in Indiana. Video on YouTube called Dying to Save You. You can contact him at:

Secretary continued on pg 10

Secretary *continued from pg 9*

2. Natalie Corbin with Hoosier Warrior Coffee came and spoke on their program of giving back to their affiliate programs. They are partnering with organizations to support the organization.

3. State Fire Marshall Stephen Jones- spoke on legislation and the deficit for SB1 creation, concern that in a rural area and taking a dept. out of service has a huge impact rather than an urban area where multiple assets are available. Suggests holding off on projects to show where revenue is at and not spend the money when we aren't going to have it in the budget. 2.4 billion dollars short on state budget across the board. Would like to have a person who places training online in one space that can track training and host it online for anyone to take. Training towers should all be up now. Wants to work towards having the fire academy at the same place as ILEA and work together to build the partnership.

Old Business:

1. Emergency Call List was updated and sent out. Discussion on calling and when or what is an emergency. Who does LODD calls go to versus an emergency and who are district chairman supposed to be used.

Treasurer's Report, Treasurer Luke Kluender, report was emailed out to review. Balance sheet has new account for 2026 convention created. Payment for convention is made up front. Watching budget for balances and projections, currently on point.

Central Office Report: Jack Kerney, Still moving files. Copier was hit by lightning, trying to get it repaired, cost of repair \$12-1500. Dues notices out by April 11, 2025. New computers are installed and learning to use new system. Paid/Not Paid lists emailed out. Dept. rosters emailed out. Pin reports emailed out. By-Laws and S.O.G. updated and emailed out. Gold Cards- 107 life member list. Deceased members vouchers that are not

turned in this weekend, will not be placed into the memorial program until next year. 117 names listed on the program. Name Badges are all completed. Gold cards have all been passed out. 13,158 addresses prepared for newspaper, Post office form prepared, 273 total bad addresses. 13,405 total membership count, 1106 new members were added. 1 pending AIL Claim, \$237,74.7424 paid out to date from AIL. 5 LODD death paid out from Bridgeport Fund. 24 scholarship applications received. Total license plates Jan.-Mar 1555.

Conversations held on making membership payments and applications electronic and how to be able to pay online and still record within the office system. Need to identify what the office needs for receiving online dues.

Executive Committee Report: President Emery, no meeting for this quarter, have a few life-saving awards to decide on. New District Chairman training held, going to revamp the District Chairman guidelines, start assigning mentors to new chairman. American Income Life

complaints- make sure to collect as much information about the agents doing the problems and forward to Ross so we can make sure this is handled.

Committee Reports:
Awards- Vice President Larry Curl-

Angel Award, Diane Harrison-

applications have been received
Mr. IVFA, Steve Anderson- will be selecting winner this weekend. We might have to be looking for a new tailor to make jackets.

Miss Flame Program: Leighanne Ellis, Ready to go for convention.

Jr. Firefighter Program:

Mack Grobis, Discussion held on dual contest into both Jr. Firefighter and Miss Flame Program. Schedule and contest being finalized and discussed how the essay program will go to make the process fair. T-shirts will be made, need to have the digital logo sent to Mack Grobis to finalize T-shirts. Will be giving out a Sportsmanship Award, and the winner will be given a Class A Uniform in addition to their trophy

Bridgeport: Past President Richard Glant- 4 scholarship winners selected. Looking at streamlining process for presentation of LODD checks to families.

Budget: Treasurer Luke Kluender, In treasurer report.

By-laws and S.O.G.'s: Chaplin Dave Elick, suggestion brought up where they can live and serve. An amendment will be presented at the convention officers meeting to be sent out Article 4 Section 13. Wanting to add the live or work in the adjoining district you represent.
Clothing Claims: District 5 John Grolich brought up the cost of hearing aids currently, and how we only give \$150 when they are costing around \$5-10,000 for the aids. Cost of glasses are also increased as well, brought up insurance for the dept. covering it and we cover the deductible or look at another way to cover this benefit better.

Convention: David Israel- 2025- Madison, Rick Cannon- 30 vendors, needing Miss Flame and Jr. Firefighter registrations, golf outing ready to go.

2026-2028- Tentative plan set up, June 17-19, 2026, June 16-18, 2027, and June 14-16, 2028. Contracts signed at the Wyndam Hotel in Indianapolis, Bank Account is established and ready to go. We will be needing to look for districts to host the Convention. Steve will oversee hotel reservations, Buz Convention book, Rick Cannon has signs, Ed Scheele is, Dave Elick Memorial Service, Anthony Smith A/V Equipment, Jack Kerney Golf Outing, Jerry Liston-vendors, Host committee- Local treasurer, secretary, registration, bags, raffle and door prizes, some food menu choices, koffee klutch, training seminars and tours, photography, sponsorships, decorations, entertainment, and kids party. 2027 bids need to meet with Dave Israel to get the program in the works.

EMS: Tom Fentress, SB 505 Transporting to Mental Health Facilities and Urgent Cares

and be reimbursed IERC- Sept. 17-19, 2025, leadership conference. Mandatory Mental Health trainings that have to be completed start Jan.1, 2026, EMT course start June 1, 2025. Commission meeting Article 4, code of ethics mirror state compact and affect training institutions, EVOC waivers and new certifications, Continuing Education hours CE Hours can be logged into NREMT and sent to the state to be logged. Training Institution must have an ADA policy, and be vetted, and show teaching above an 8th grade level, background checks and drug screens required.

Health and Wellness Committee, Tom Fentress, IEMSA doing quarterly round table mental health meetings around the state, Crackly magazine trying to come in to do an article in the paper. Grants for the gear washers, look/talk to Savvik about buying power for this. Also face wipes, soaps for after exposure incidents. Firefighter Physicals and getting a price point to send out statewide.

Insurance: Luke Kluender, might have an increase in workman's comp. increase. Working through the process right now. May '24 increased chaplain pay and did not have updated by-laws for them to start in January as required. John Grolich made a motion to retroactively pay the chaplains \$25 due to error. Richard Glant second the motion. Motion passed.

Legislation: Lobbyist Larry Curl and Past President Buz Koehler, covered bills we watched. 50 year member celebration was held at state house and members were honored. Governor asked for a list of benefits the volunteers would like to see, putting a list together to submit to the Governor.

LODD: Paul Holcomb, 6 fire deaths and 1 EMS death, significant increase for Supporting Heros across their areas. Their Gala helps to support these funds. Would like to look at the level of sponsorship level we support at the gala and compare what we do to support our survivors families.

Logo: District 18 Nick Waninger, nothing to report

Membership and Marketing: Sam Bisel, Savvik Group sent out poster with options along with QR code for sign-up, we are going to try and get 6 more for the PR Reps so they can show it at their district meetings. IVFA App improvements are still being worked on. Asking what the benefits are that the members wanting? Looked at NVFC and they use grants for their benefits. Look at helping to provide money to provide for grants.

Public Relations and Education: Jerry Liston and Don Cushman, held via zoom meeting, FDIC booth has new presentation look. Sold \$330 worth of coins in booth. It was shared with St. Fire Marshall. Trailer names have been added. Start tracking usage of the trailer. Try to find a way to get trailer promoted out more. FDIC Drawing held District 12 Justin Birchfield with Paragon Fire.

Newspaper: Past Pres. Buz Koehler, asking the district chairman to each find 2 companies to advertise in the paper. Will be sending out a cost list. Look at revamping advertising and sponsorship costs.

Social media and Website: Paul Holcomb and Anthony Smith, new booth has been sent out, might need to have a call with app providers to figure out how to go around having an account. Current Email issues that have come up and identify security issues. There will be push notifications that will be sent out.

Special Projects: Past Pres. Buz Koehler, 4 sections have been proofed and returned, Plan for final proof at end of day 5/5/2025.

Nominating Committee: They are prepared to go for the convention.

Training: Steve Anderson, updates from previous meetings, talked about training towers and budget hits from the state government office. A group is looking at weeklong curriculum for fire chiefs' course, so the instructors know what needs to be completed on needs. Class sizes recommended to be capped at 35 attendees. Will be required for newly appointed career fire chiefs and then waitlisted chiefs will go next, then volunteer chiefs will go next on the list of admissions and finally officers of the dept. will be allowed in. Two courses are offered each year. The organizations that support this are looking to sponsor a meal one night of each day of the program. Potentially look at doing this in February 2026.

Representative Reports
Board of Firefighter Standards and Education: Steve Anderson, working on two issues, 655 Language interpretation with Driver/Operator. Next meeting during convention at 11 on Thursday.

Fire Alliance Steve Anderson, Buz Koehler, and Larry Curl, met during FDIC, working with Steve from Firefighter Cancer Support Network. Covered the revenue loss/gains in the bill from the legislature. Amount of money the trustees are able hold in funds is not going to be able to be accumulated without being allocated. It has to be allocated to something every year.

IN-Time Jack Zeeks, starting to push the training again.

IDHS Senior Advisory Committee, Jack Zeeks, nothing to report.

Meeting recessed at 1756 until Sunday May 4, 2025, at 0830.

Meeting is reconvened at 0830 am by President Emery.

Morning message given by Chaplain Elick.

Officer's Reports:
President, Ross Emery,
Vice President, Larry Curl, absent.

Secretary, Leighanne Ellis, nothing to report.

Treasurer, Luke Kluender, nothing to report.

Chaplain, David Elick, make sure funeral vouchers are in this meeting. Complete services or make sure you are making contact and turning in vouchers even if a service was not completed but items were given.

Sergeant-At-Arms, Brent Bush, nothing to report.

Historian, Buz Koehler, nothing to report.

Chairman of the Board, Jerry Liston, nothing to report.

PRNW, Jeremy Reef, few district meetings.

PRNE, Sam Bisel, few district meetings, escorted members to the state house event

PRWC, Don Fultz, May 28th is Visitors Day at Hoosier Burn Camp. District meetings, memorial service.

PREC, David Israel, all meetings in the district,

PRSW, Jack Kerney, fundraiser, 3 dist. Mtg. 75-year presentations, state house, 2 memorial services.

PRSE, Ed Scheele, 3 district meetings, 50-year presentation, 2 memorial services,

Asst. Treasurer, Bev Harker, absent

Asst. Secretary, Diane Harrison, absent

Webmaster, Josh Reiser and Paul Holcomb, nothing to report.

Past President's Reports:

Jerry Liston, 50-year state house event. 2 Fire alliance meetings, FDIC, 4 fundraisers, 2 district meetings. IDEM handouts are available just ask for them. June 7, 1-800 Board-up golf outing.

Steve Anderson talked to the auxiliary about convention, talked about pin records and keeping them updated. Talked about his equipment supply he has to get handed out to dept. that need it.

Richard Glant, nothing to report.

Jack Zeeks, nothing to report.

Buz Koehler, nothing to report.

Jack Kerney, nothing to report.

David Israel, nothing to report.

Paul Holcomb, work on the phone app, notify him if there are issues with the websites.

Larry Ketchem, absent

District Reports:

District 1, Marshall Neese- monthly meetings, service pins passed out, fundraiser, district meeting, memorial service.

District 2, Tom Fentress, district meeting, 2 memorials services

District 3, Les Jensen, absent

District 4, Uriah Mast, Jr., meetings, service pins passed out, 2 memorial services. 50 year celebration.

District 5, John Grolich, 1250 miles, 2 district, county and chief meetings, fundraisers, Washington D.C., State House Event, FDIC, working with Purdue Extension on grain bin training, looking at maybe Anhydrous Ammonia training.

District 6, Mack Grobis, dept. visits, Washington DC, State House event, Winter Fire School.

District 7, Richard Sorg, FDIC, State House event, Washington DC.

District 8A, Rex Maynard, absent

District 8B, Mikey Armstrong, 6 business mtgs, 6 fundraisers, memorial service, open house, FDIC, talked about Skills USA Event May 17 at Portland Fire 7-10a, fundraiser to send Jayla to Atlanta.

District 9A, Pascal Moon (Jeremy Reef), district meeting, memorial service

District 9B, Randy Denton,

district meetings, fundraisers
District 10, John Ray,
District 11A, Pete Taylor,
 district meetings, 50-year gold
 card, service pins passed out, 2
 memorial services, FDIC, State
 House Event.

District 11B, Scott Peebles,
 district meeting, service pins
 passed out, fundraisers
District 12 Steve Kershaw,
 working on fixing dept. roster
 lists that have changed from Vol.
 to Career.

District 13A, Don Cushman,
 nothing to report.

District 13B, Anthony Smith,
 State House event, LODD,
 memorial service, trainings
 are being incorporated into
 district meetings, had some gear
 transfers, AIL issues,

District 14, Rick Cannon,
 State House, FDIC, Working on
 Convention,

District 15, Paul Campbell,
 memorial service, fire chief
 meeting,

District 16, Nick Faulkenberg,
 legislative Meeting, service pins
 presented, fundraiser

District 17A, Sam Emery,
 dept. visits, State House Event,
 service pins presented, Life
 Saving Award presentation.

District 17B, Tammy Wright,
 service pins passed out.

District 18, Nick Waninger
 (Bull Smith), memorial service,

District 19, Ben Sieverding,
 meeting at St. Leon VFD, 8
 dept. and 34 members present.
 program held was from IDHS
 Fire Investigators. One memorial
 service.

District 21, Blaine Butler,
 district meeting. Memorial
 service. Service pins passed out.

New Business:

1. 2026 Washington DC trip
 March 16-19, 2026.
2. Cost-Savings study

completed and asked for the
 company to find us benefits
 data and the cost of benefits to
 provide to the governor. John
 Grolich motion to move to board
 action, Jeremy Reef seconded,
 motion approved.

3. Where do we go for
 legislation. Ross and Larry have
 worked on a plan of identifying
 5-6 legislators on each side and
 put a benefits agenda together
 and go to the group and push
 for our benefits. Look at putting
 a political action committee
 together. Mack Grobis and Jack
 Kerney are researching this
 committee. Had a conversation
 with Chief Tim Smith about
 putting this together. Next Steps
 would be to get a lawyer to help
 with this. Jack Kerney made a
 motion, and John Grolich gave
 the second. Question on cost of
 this and the attorney came up.
 Motion passed. Questions also
 came up about what monies
 can be used or where they
 come from. Anthony Smith is
 questioning how to pay for the
 lawyer prior to going to get the
 lawyer. Mack Grobis reports
 in his research that association
 money can be paid for the lawyer
 initially.

4. Hoosier Warrior Coffee
 Company- Anthony Smith made
 a motion to affiliate with them.
 John Grolich gave the second.
 Motion passed.

5. Richard Glant made motion
 to increase the Supporting Hero's
 Gala sponsorship from \$2500 to
 \$5000. Tom Fentress gave the
 second. Questions held on what
 we get vs. what we spend and its
 found that we will only spend an
 extra \$1000 and saving \$2000.
 Motion passed to send to board
 action.

6. John Grolich made a motion
 to send to board action buying a

wooden plaque for \$50 to present
 175 year award. Dave Elick gave
 the second. Motion passed.

7. Mack Grobis has a list of
 92 departments that need to be
 verified with the state as still
 active in the state or if they have
 merged.

Anthony Smith, Motion to
 Adjourn meeting, John Ray gave
 second. Meeting adjourned at
 1040

INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING May 2-4, 2025

Crowne Plaza Hotel
 Indianapolis, IN

Board Action Business
 Meeting called to order the
 Chairman of the Board Jerry
 Liston at 1041 am..

Reading of the minutes, Mack
 Grobis made a motion to accept
 them as emailed, second was
 made by Tom Fentress, and the
 motion passed.

Old Business:

Board Action- Business:

1. Cost Savings benefits
 update to the governor for
 \$2000, Richard Glant made a
 motion to pay the money. John
 Gorlich made the second, motion
 passed.

2. Increase Supporting Hero's
 Gala sponsorship from \$2500 to
 \$5000. Motion made by Jeremy
 Reef, second gave by Mikey
 Armstrong, Motion passed with
 1 nay recorded.

3. Motion given by Anthony
 Smith to buy a frame for the 175-
 year certificate costing no more
 than \$50. John Grolich gave the
 second. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn meeting by
 Anthony Smith, Second by Tom
 Fentress. The meeting adjourned
 at 1044.

I.V.F.A. Treasurer

Luke Kluender



Follow the Money

There is an old saying that
 implies if you want to know
 the priorities or intentions of
 an individual or organization
 you should watch their financial
 transactions, i.e., "Follow the
 Money". I have found this to be
 true. Despite what some person
 or group may say is important
 to them, what they do with their
 money usually tells the true
 story.

We have seen it again in the
 news: another public official
 has been accused of misusing
 public funds for personal gain.
 It doesn't happen too often
 and I am certain that most
 public officials are trustworthy.
 However, if the accusations are
 true, it reflects poorly on the
 group, as a whole, "One bad

apple spoils the bunch".

In such cases, I am not certain
 that all the blame lies with the
 individual in question. We
 are all human and subject to
 temptation. The problem may
 be that the financial system of
 accounting and reporting is too
 simple, too lax, too uncertain,
 making the misuse of the funds
 too easy.

To be sure, we can try to avoid
 malfeasance by selecting our
 money handlers carefully. They
 should be of good character,
 reliable, and not have financial
 troubles of their own. Ideally,
 we should choose someone who
 is independently wealthy, as
 they have demonstrated careful
 stewardship of their own funds,
 and may have no need for
 someone else's money.

We really owe it to ourselves
 and our organizations to establish
 robust, rigorous financial
 accounting systems, with several
 people involved in handling
 the funds, for good checks
 and balances in the system.
 Expectations should be clear
 and irregularities not tolerated.
 Performance bonds may be
 required.

I think that it is the best
 interest of public safety that
 handling the public purse is done
 with the utmost integrity and
 transparency, so that everyone
 finds it easy to, "Follow the
 Money".

NVFC HOLDS ANNUAL SPRING MEETING IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

The National Volunteer
 Fire Council (NVFC)
 Board of Directors met on
 May 8-11 in Alexandria,
 VA to conduct council
 business, participate in
 committee meetings, and
 guide the direction of
 the organization. There
 were 57 directors from
 38 states present at the
 Spring meeting, including
 Jack Kerney and Jerry Liston from Indiana,
 along with other leadership from State Fire
 Associations, Corporate Members, Sponsors,
 NVFC Staff and Guests.



Jerry Liston

The NVFC Spring Conference is a vital
 opportunity for Council leadership, fire service
 representatives, and corporate members to
 connect, share insights, network and develop
 strategics that advance the volunteer Fire, EMS
 and Rescue Services. Through leadership,
 knowledge exchange, and collaboration are key
 to driving the Council's mission forward into
 the future.

NVFC committees met on a range of
 issues including health and safety, legislation,
 recruitment and retention, wildland, standards
 and codes, and much more. The packed agenda
 also included an update on the proposed
 Federal OSHA Re-write from Dave Denniston
 (NY) and a presentation on sustainable energy
 by AES's Justin Vos.

The proposed OSHA Rewrite is beginning
 to gain momentum again at the National level.

The good news is that the volunteer fire service
 now has a seat at the table, which was not
 the case when we first heard of the proposed
 rewrite in April of 2024. The NVFC, State
 Directors and the volunteer fire service across
 America have played a big part in making this
 happen.

In addition to all the committee meetings,
 two general sessions were held with the full
 board to discuss matters of national and state
 interest and provide input and guidance on
 the strategic direction of the organization. A
 strategic planning session was conducted to
 map the future direction of the organization.

Also, during the meeting the Elections of
 Officers were conducted by those Directors'
 present and Steve Hirsch from Kansas was re-
 elected Chairman to lead the organization.

This was my first NVFC Spring Meeting
 after being appointed by IVFA President Ross
 Emery at the first of the year. The information
 shared and learned at the different meetings
 is very informational, interesting and, on the
 same hand, somewhat overwhelming to a first
 timer attending their first meeting. Another
 important aspect to attending the meeting is the
 networking opportunities, which is priceless to
 say the least. I look forward to the Fall meeting
 in September.

The Fall NVFC Meeting will be held in
 Rapid City, SD on September 21-24, 2025
 and will be hosted by the South Dakota
 Firefighter's Association.

Jerry Liston

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4780 S. 20 West, Cutler, IN 46920
E-mail: ivfaapresident@ivfaa.org
VICE PRESIDENT BEVERLY VANLANDINGHAM
9411 Minnich Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46816
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY JANET MATHEWS
204 High St., St. Paul, IN 47272
RECORDING SECRETARY DAWN HARRIS
7197 Bartlettsville Rd., Heltonville, IN 47436
TREASURER MARTHA BIEHL
P.O. Box 186, Mooreland, IN 47360
CHAPLAIN JUDY WIRTH
7673 N. 1000W., Commiskey, IN 47227
SGT-AT-ARMS SUZIE STOUT LEWIS
2627 N. 400 E., Lagro, IN 46941
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT CAROL CURL
3047 N. Raceway Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46234

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2024 - 2025

DISTRICTS #1 PHYLLIS VARGO
7756 Durbin St., Schererville, IN 46375
DISTRICTS #2 TAMMIE RUVALCABA
12601 N. 600 W., DeMotte, IN 46310
DISTRICT #3 DIANE STAPLETON
2374 S 500 E, Mill Creek, IN 46365
DISTRICT #4 VACANT
DISTRICT #5 VACANT
DISTRICT #6 VIRGINIA ELICK
725 North Canal St., LaGrange, IN 46761
DISTRICT #7 CINDY KRUECKBERG
9510 Hoagland Rd., Hoagland, IN 46745
DISTRICT #8B VACANT
DISTRICT #9A VACANT
DISTRICT #10 LORI BAXTER
810 N. Harvey Rd., Greenwood, IN 46143
DISTRICT #11A BEVERLY TAYLOR
721 E. Hwy. 40, Brazil, IN 46834
DISTRICT #11B JODI ROHR
4720 Rohr Rd., Montezuma, IN 47862
DISTRICT #12 CHARA LEAVER
106 E. Wall Street, Advance, IN 46102
DISTRICTS #13A & 13B HUNTER DAVIS
504 W School St., Centerville, IN 47330
DISTRICT #14 JOANN SMITH
25509 Gill Rd., Nabb, IN 47147
DISTRICT #15 VACANT
DISTRICT #16 VACANT
DISTRICT #17A MARIE EMERY
799 East Harvest Church Rd., Bloomfield, IN 47424
DISTRICT #17B VACANT
DISTRICT #18 KATHY SMITH
109 Oak Street, Huntingburg, IN 47542
DISTRICT #19 VACANT
DISTRICT #21 PATTI FULTZ
1007 Haan Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906

PAST PRESIDENTS

DIANA GRAY 2011-2013
799 Hippensteel Drive, Warren, IN 46792
BETH CAUDILL 2009-2011
15120 Lucas Rd., Brookville, IN 47012
MARTHA THOMAS (Deceased) 2007-2009
JOANN HAYS 2005-2007
4430 South 8th St., Terre Haute, IN 47802
BARBARA KERNEY (Deceased) 2002-2005
MARY MACKIN (Deceased) 2000-2002
FAYE SALLEE (Deceased) 1998-2000
LOU BARTLOW (Deceased) 1996-1998
PHYLLIS VARGO 1994-1996
7756 Durbin Street, Schererville, IN 46375
MAXINE DAVIES (Deceased) 1992-1994
NANCY NEAL 1990-1992
749 Walnut Street, Hope, IN 47246
TONI SORG (Deceased) 1988-1990
LORETTA NULLINER 1986-1988
10830 Cape Coral Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46229
MAXINE DAVIES (Deceased) 1992-1994
NICKIE SUNDAY (Deceased) 1984-1986
BARBARA PARKER (Deceased) 1982-1984
BARBARA SURBER 1980-1982
2003 Flamingo Way, Franklin, IN 46131
LUCY STOFER 1978-1980
718 South Ingomar Street, Indianapolis, IN 46241
VICA MCGILL (Deceased) 1976-1978
MARY BOYD 1975-1976
32933 Timberlake Dr., Mt. Dara, FL 32757

PAST PRESIDENTS

JOAN KELLER (Deceased) 1973-1975
CAROLYN McCARTY (Deceased) 1971-1973
ROSELLA BOUSMAN (Deceased) 1969-1971
MARY STAFFORD (Deceased) 1967-1969
BARBARA KERNEY (Deceased) 2013-2016

IVFAA President

Christina Reef



Hello Everyone,
I hope the summer is hot enough for everyone & you are having some fun but relaxing family time in.
We had an amazing time at the IVFA-IVFAA 2025 convention at Clifty Falls State Park in Madison this year.

strongly encourage you to attend one. I promise you will have a good time & meet some amazing people.

I want to congratulate our 2025 award winners for this year. Lois Boaz award winner is Janet Matthews from district 10. Miriam Schaeckel award winner is Tammy Smith from district 13B. IVFAA President's award winner is Dawn Harris from district 17B.

The Miss Flame contestants did an amazing job this year. They certainly did not make the judge's task easy in deciding who the winner was. I am very proud of all the young ladies that competed this year.

Please support the advertisers!!

from district 2, Keener Twp. Fire Department. Miss. Congeniality winner is Aubrie Krueckenberg from district 7, Poe Volunteer Fire Department.

At our annual IVFAA meeting we elected our 2025-2056 officers. President - Christina Reef, Vice President - Beverly Vanlandingham, Recording Secretary - Dawn Harris, Corresponding Secretary - Janet Matthews, Treasurer - Martha Biehl, Chaplin - Judy Wirth, Sargent at Arms - Suzie Lewis.

This year we will continue to work on building our membership. We will also be continuing our survey to some of you to gather some feedback on how we can improve & better serve our members.

Any young lady between the ages of 15 to 18 years old, interested in running for Miss Flame for the upcoming year, should contact their IVFA or IVFAA district chair.

Also, it is time again to pay your annual IVFAA dues.

President continued on pg 16

IVFAA COMMITTEES FOR 2024 / 2025

AUDIT
Carol Curl - Chair
Suzie Lewis - Co-Chair
Martha Biehl
Dawn Harris
Connie Ray
Kay Schumaker
Chara Leaver
CHINESE AUCTION
Lori Baxter - Chair
Madi Reeder - Co-Chair
Joyce Nevil
Joann Hays
Phyllis Vargo
Bev Taylor
Kay Shumaker
Martha Biehl
Hunter Davis
Tami Daily
VICE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT
Bev Vanlandingham - Chair
Suzie Lewis - Co-Chair
Cindy Krueckeberg
Judy Wirth
Diane Gray
Dorothy Reiter
JoAnn Smith
Patti Fultz
Kathy Smith
Diane Stapleton

MEMBERSHIP
Cindy Krueckeberg - Chair
Kathy Smith - Co-Chair
Tammy Smith
Tami Daily
Jodi Rohr
Chara Leaver

BY LAWS & SOGS
Tammy Smith - Chair
Bev Vanlandingham - Co-Chair
Marie Emery
Jodi Rohr
Diana Stapleton
Chara Leaver
Kay Schumaker

BUDGET & FINANCE
Jodi Rohr - Chair
Carol Curl - Co-Chair
Martha Biehl
Kathy Smith
Cindy Krueckeberg
Virginia Elick
Bev Vanlandingham
Patti Fultz

MISS FLAME COMMUNITY SERIVE AWARD
Dawn Harris - Chair
Suzie Lewis - Co-Chair
Bev Taylor
Connie Ray
Patti Fultz

JEWELRY
Suzie Lewis - Chair
Diana Gray - Co-Chair

INSTALLATION
Joyce Nevil - Chair
JoAnn Smith - Co-Chair
Phyllis Vargo

LOIS BOAZ AWARD
Suzie Lewis
Judy Wirth
Betty Schroder

MIRIAM SCHAEKEL AWARD
Pam Gerdowsky
Tammy Heishman
JoAnn Smith

HISTORIANS
Phyllis Vargo - Chair
JoAnn Hays - Co-Chair
Buzz Kohler

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dawn Harris - Chair
Janet Matthews - Co-Chair
Virginia Elick
Madi Reeder
Lori Baxter
Kathy Smith
Hunter Davis

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION
Virginia Elick - Chair
Judy Wirth - Co-Chair
Cindy Krueckeberg
Diane Stapleton
Lori Baxter

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY
Phyllis Vargo
Beth Caudill
Carol Curl
Diana Gray

CHAPLIN ASSISTANTS
Judy Wirth - State Chaplin
Phyllis Vargo - Northwest
Suzie Lewis - Northeast
Leslie Spears - East Central
JoAnn Hays - West Central
Kathy Smith - Southwest
Pam Gerdowsky - Southeast

NOMINATING
Carolyn Zeeks - Chair
Sue Glant - Co-Chair
Marie Emery
Dorothy Reiter
Beth Caudill

MEMORIAL THROW
Carol Curl - Chair

CHAPLIN EMERITUS & COMMUNICATIONS
JoAnn Hays

*Miss Flame Committee is to be determined by the IVFA.



IVFAA Chaplain

Judy Wirth



who attended Convention and enjoyed all the activities that were available. Congratulations to all award winners. A job well done. Please know that each department in our state has eligible folks to win any of these awards! Write those letters of nomination!

Awards in the Bible are described as crowns and rewards. The scripture found in Matthew 5:12, Jesus says to rejoice in heaven for enduring persecution. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, the apostle Paul compares the Christian life to a race, where believers strive for an imperishable crown. And in Revelation 22:12 where Jesus says He's coming soon with His reward to give according to each person's work. Is your work here on earth going to meet Jesus' expectations of His plans for your life. Will you get your crown in glory or award, when the time comes? Take care, and have a great summer!

Love to all!
Judy

Hello to all fire family members!

I hope everyone will be enjoying the summer activities of festivals, fairs, family reunions, and all gatherings. Please be safe and ENJOY! We also want to remember all our fire family who are undergoing surgeries, treatments and therapies after surgeries. May they find comfort in the healing hands of Jesus!

Before I get any farther I need to ask Mr. Larry Curl how he enjoyed the fried bologna sandwiches at the Convention?

Thank you to everyone

Recording Secretary

Janet Matthews



Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association Auxiliary Quarterly Meeting May 5, 2025

Crown Plaza Indianapolis, IN
President Christina Reef called the meeting to order @ 8:30am. Chaplain Judy Wirth not present today so Leslie Spears gave the opening prayer & Sergeant at Arms Suzie Lewis led the Pledge to the flag

Recording Secretary Dawn Harris took rollcall of those in attendance, 29 present, 18 officers, 10 individuals & 1 guest. Organizational count as of today there are 29 Life members, 173 Individual members, 534 By departments for a total of 736 members.

Corresponding Secretary Janet Matthews was asked to read the last quarterly minutes from February. Martha Biehl made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes &

accepted them as they were sent out, Carolyn Zeeks seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Minutes accepted as they were written & sent out.

Treasurer Report Martha Biehl gave the account balances of the organization as of 4/30/2025

- General Fund Amount \$31,833.62
- CD #1 \$11,309.46
- CD #2 \$20,620.80
- Miss Flame Account \$4,116.44

• Miss Flame Community Service Award \$2,313.37
• Gaming Amount \$8,532.00
All accounts/books are available & are subject to audit.

Chaplain's Report Judy Wirth was not present. Patty Fultz & Kathy Smith were both at the meeting today & thanked everyone for the thoughts/prayers & cards that were given & sent during their time of recovery from health issues. Names for the memorial service have been received for the convention, there are 17 on the list. Suzie Lewis read a Thank you card to the group.

President Christina Reef asked for committee reports:

- Auditing- Carol Curl reports will be ready for August,
- Budget & Finance- Jodi Rohr reports committee met yesterday & are looking at an increase in budget of 5%.
- Chaplain's Assistants- Judy Wirth is not here today.
- Chinese Auction- Lori Baxter reports they are ready, & thanked those districts that did bring their baskets to her today. Encouraged everyone to get them to her up their arrival at convention.

• Historian- Phyllis Vargo is not here today.

• Installation- Joyce Nevil not here today, JoAnn Smith reports they will be ready.

• Jewelry- Suzie Lewis reports that she has supplies with her today if anyone wants to get any pins to come & see her. Reminded the chairman to let her know if they are in need of a rolling bag or wants a tote bag for their chairman items.

• Lois Boaz- Suzie Lewis informs us that the committee is ready.

• Membership- Cindy Krueckeberg reports committee has done research on past membership trend. Feb 2014, we had 1000 members, June 2014 dues raised up to \$10.00 per year, June of 2015 we had 1025 members. November 2016 891 members & saw an increase in life membership. November 2019 675 members & as of today we have 736 members. Any ideas are welcome to help boost membership.

• Memorial Throw- Carol Curl throw was made & presented in honor of JoAnn Hayes.

• Miriam Schaekel- Eula Bush said they are ready.

• Miss Flame Community Service Award – Dawn Harris reports the letter for the essay is written & she will discuss it at pre-convention Miss Flame gathering today.

• Miss Flame- Janet Matthews shared with everyone the 2025 Miss Flame community project this year for convention will be Supporting "Shop with a Firefighter" in District 14 where the convention will be held.

Matthews continued on pg 14



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Matthews *continued from pg 13*

Today from Noon to 3pm we will be hosting a pre-convention gathering for any Miss Flames that want to attend. There are 19 contestants this year.

- Nominating- Carolyn Zeeks we will be ready, be thinking if you want an office.
- Parliamentarian- Beverly VanLandingham all is ok
- President Advisory- Phyllis Vargo not present
- Social Media

Communication- Virginia Elick informed the group of a proposal to change the Facebook page name to IVFA Auxiliary as the current name, Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Auxiliary-IVFAA is too long & difficult to search. Carolyn Zeeks made a motion for the name change, JoAnn Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried, the Facebook page name will be changed.

- SOG's & By Laws- Tammy Smith is not present today, Beverly Vanlandingham informed the group that the committee met yesterday & have some items to discuss & vote on to continue to clean up the verbiage in the SOG's. Will discuss them in new business.
- Vice President Project- Beverly VanLandingham reports will be doing 50/50 drawing so please sign up for times during convention to help sale the tickets. A bigger barrel will be brought to put the tickets in this year.

Steve Anderson came to the meeting to inform the group that for the next 3 years 2026, 2027 and 2028 the yearly convention will be held at the Wyndham Hotel here in Indianapolis, the state officers will support a portion of each convention. 2 districts in the state will be asked to assist with the convention each year. Tasks that will be carried out by the assisting districts will be, registrations, ditty bags, raffle & prizes, manning hospitality room, set up food for meals, coffee clutch, provide treasurer & secretary for the convention, setting up trainings, set up photography, help with sponsorships, decorations for the event, entertainment, Dates for next 3 conventions: June 17-19 2026, June 16-18 2027, June 14-16 2028. Please contact me if you feel your district is interested in supporting one of these conventions. Buz Koehler came to deliver newspapers, reports that the history book will be getting the final proof.

Old Business: President Christina Reef asked if anyone had any follow ups from old business? Carol Curl informed the group that she did speak with the CPA that she was referred to about doing an external audit on our books & they do not wish to service small businesses such as our non-profit organization. Discussion was held & Dawn Harris made a motion for Carol to check with her personal business CPA to see if they would be interested in doing the external audit for the IVFAA, Marie Emery seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried & Carol will get pricing & bring it back to us from her personal CPA.

Break was taken.

New Business: President Christina Reef had Suzie Lewis pass out the new proposed budgets that the committee came up with. Jodi Rohr explained to everyone that there was a copy of what it would be with a 3% raise as well as with a 5% raise. Discussion as had, Virginia Elick made a motion to accept & approve the 5% increase in the budget, JoAnn Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried to accept and approve the budget proposal for 5% increase for 25/26 budget. Christina made everyone aware that the IVFAA code of conduct will be sent out for everyone to review & that there will be an acknowledgement page that line officers, committee members & all district chairmen will be required to sign, once signed they will receive a copy of the signature page. Christina reminded the chairman to turn a copy of their last district meeting minutes, at each quarterly meeting & on the bottom of them please note on there the number of auxiliaries that you visited or the work that you completed in that quarter.

Also reminded them that if they have any service year pins to present to a member to make the president/vice president aware of date/time they will be presented to the member. Try to take pictures of the presentation please. Dawn Harris will be sending out the dues packets & will include membership flyers, and the awards that are available, survey. Reminder to all chairman that the membership cards will be sent to them to pass out to the members that have paid.

Dawn Harris has emailed each chairman a members list & years of service for their district, please review this listing to verify with your members for accuracy. Please let Dawn know if you did not receive this email from her. Beverly Vanlandingham informed the group that her committee did discuss Purse Bingo yesterday as an option for a fundraiser at the 2026 convention. This would fall under the VP project & it will take several to assist with it. Discussion was held about how purse bingo works, when it would be held during convention, and how the purses will be obtained. She asked everyone to think about it as if we decide to do this, we will have to add it to the gaming license for 2026 convention. Christina talked about & wanted ideas on the potential of holding our quarterly meetings via Zoom or Teams meeting to offer another way for the members to be able to join meetings for quarterly & convention. Discussion was held, items that it would require would be a web cam but one would not be purchased until we have tried it once with a borrowed one to see how it goes. Carol Curl made a motion that we try a zoom meeting at the August quarterly meeting, Dawn Harris seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Christina will work on this & also have a link posted on the private Facebook page prior to the meeting & send out emails for the August quarterly meeting so we can get the word out to the members of this trial. The IVFA

live streams the memorial service yearly at convention on their Facebook page and it goes well, so we will see what we can do for our members regarding the availability of state meetings.

IVFA president Ross Emery came to the meeting to talk about the upcoming convention & hope that everyone has their reservations all set. According to the convention committee there are still some registrations coming in, all rooms are set/ assigned. Discussion was held amongst the group of ideas of where the IVFAA will make our yearly donation of \$100. Many non-profit organizations were mentioned, Carolyn Zeeks made a motion to donate \$100 to the Ronald McDonald House, Martha Biehl seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Martha Biehl will send out the donation to the Ronald McDonald House from the organization. Christina reminded everyone to be thinking of the committees that they wish to serve on as a new committee list will be made after convention. Beverly Vanlandingham reviewed with the group:

First SOG proposal is verbiage that needs to be changed in several places within the SOG's: need to make the name change from Mary Mackin Fund & put in Miss Flame Community Service Award. Jodi Rohr made the motion of making changes of removing Mary Mackin Fund to Miss Flame Community Service Award, Lori Baxter seconded the motion, all in favor, motion passed the changes will be made in the SOG's.

Second & Third SOG proposal that needs voted on for change is: Immediate Past President- Section VIII #3. Purchase a corsage for the President & present to them at convention officers meeting. & President-Section I #10. Provide a corsage for immediate past president to be given at the officers meeting on Thursday at convention. Discussion was held within the group & Marie Emery made a motion that both items be removed from the SOG's as it does not need to be a required action by either the President or Past president to purchase & present corsages at convention, Hunter Davis seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The SOG committee will remove both items from the perspective sections.

Fourth SOG proposal falls under Committees-Section X D Currently reads: #1 1. This fund started in 2004 with \$300 dollars, to perpetuate and enhance to the fund, the I.V.F.A.A will put \$100 dollars annually in the fund and donate to another non-profit organization to be voted on by the I.V.F.A.A at the May quarterly meeting. The proposed change reads: #1 the I.V.F.A.A will put \$100 annually in the fund and donate to another non-profit organization to be voted on by the I.V.F.A.A. at the May quarterly meeting. Group discussion was held & JoAnn Smith made a motion that we make the verbiage change to Section X as proposed, Jodi Rohr seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The SOG

committee will make the changes as voted on.

Fifth SOG proposal is wanting to add a duty to Jewelry-Section X: #4 Order new member, 10-year and 25-year pins. Order 50-year gold cards. Sue Glant made a motion that this duty to the SOG as proposed, Patty Fultz seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The SOG committee will make the additions as voted on.

Beverly thanked everyone for the discussions that were held & the efforts of the SOG/ By-law Committee of wanting to clean up the SOG's. Christina asked if anyone had anything else for the good of the order? Nothing more to discuss, closing prayer was given by Leslie Spears. Motion made by Beverly Taylor for adjournment, Hunter Davis seconded the motion, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Janet Matthews
IVFAA Corresponding Secretary

State Convention Meeting Friday June 20, 2025 Clifty Inn Madison, IN

President Christina Reef called the meeting to order @ 9:00am. Chaplin Judy Wirth gave the opening prayer & Sergeant at Arms Suzie Lewis led the Pledge to the flag

Recording Secretary Dawn Harris took roll call of those in attendance 19 officers & 24 members present today. Update of membership 536 By department, 171 Individuals, 29 Life members, Total of 736 members as of the end of May 2025

Corresponding Secretary Janet Matthews was asked to read the minutes from the 2024 state convention meeting. Minutes read, no changes or updates need to be made to them, Joyce Nevil made a motion to accept minutes as read, Tammy Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer Report Martha Biehl gave the account balances of the organization

- General Fund amount- \$31,129.01
- CD #1 amount- 11,309.46
- CD #2 amount- 20,620.80
- Miss Flame Community Service Award amount- \$2,313.37
- Miss Flame amount- \$4,116.44
- Gaming amount- \$7,908.24

All accounts/books are available & are subject to audit. Chaplain's Report Judy Wirth informed the group that there are cards going around the room so members can sign them & she will mail them out to those in need of thoughts & prayers. Reports that funds have been secured already for the living statue to be able to attend the memorial service again next year. Voiced that she was very pleased with the memorial service last evening.

President Christina Reef welcomed the Miss Flames to the meeting, each one introduced themselves & the district which they represent. Congratulations to 2025 Miss Flame Ava Verkamp District 18 & 1st runner up Miranda Ruvalcaba District 2. President Christina Reef asked

for committee reports:

- Auditing- Carol Curl reports she is as spoken to her tax attorney & they are willing to review our financial books but she is unsure of the cost. Carolyn Zeeks made a motion to have the tax attorney to a financial review of the organization with the maximum cost of \$500 per year paid out of the gaming funds, June Cahill seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Carol will contact them to verify the cost & if it is under \$500, she will set up a time to have the review completed.

- Budget & Finance- Jodi Rohr informed the group that a budget increase of 5% was passed & will be effective July 1, 2025.

- Chaplain's Assistants- Judy Wirth reported all is going well.

- Chinese Auction- Lori Baxter reports that we have some good baskets this year & ticket sells are still going on with the drawing being this afternoon.

- Historian- Phyllis Vargo not present,
- Installation- Joyce Nevil reports they are ready.

- Jewelry- Suzie Lewis reports that she has supplies with if anyone needs any

- Lois Boaz- Winner Janet Matthews thanked the committee for the award & all the members as well.

- Membership- Cindy Krueckeberg reports committee is needing ideas to boost the membership.

- Memorial Throw- Carol Curl JoAnn Hays was the last one to be made.

- Miriam Schaekel- Eula Bush announced the winner will be revealed tonight.

- Miss Flame Community Service Award -Suzie Lewis reports that 3 winners will be announced tonight at the banquet.

- Miss Flame- Janet Matthews shared that tonight Miss Congeniality will be selected from her peers & announced.

- Nominating-Carolyn Zeeks reports that they are ready.

- Parliamentarian- Beverly VanLandingham all is ok

- President Advisory- Phyllis Vargo not present
- Social Media

Communication- Virginia Elick informed everyone the new Facebook group name is IVFA Auxiliary.

- SOG's & By Laws- Tammy Smith reports that District 11B has submitted a proposed SOG change to raise the organization dues from \$10 to \$15 per year. Much discussion was held in the room; many would like to take this back to their districts & ask more questions from the members of what it is that they would like to see for their yearly dues that they pay each year. President Christina Reef assured everyone that this decision is not being made lightly & aware of the effect it could have on the organization by doing the increase as well as by not doing the increase in dues. She has tabled this proposal until next year at the convention meeting as we need feedback before we proceed.

- Vice President Project- Beverly Vanlandingham reports will be doing 50/50 drawing at

Matthews *continued on pg 16*

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- Electric Siren
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- Front Tires 315/80R 22.5
- Rear Tires 12R 22.5
- 42,000 GVWR

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Matthews *continued from pg 14*
the banquet tonight.

Steve Anderson came to the meeting to give information about next year's convention as it will be held in Indianapolis at Wyndham on June 17th-19th. He brought registration forms for the rooms as well as convention registration. They will be taking registrations today & tomorrow if you wish to register early. Nicole Johns from American Income Life Insurance came to the room to remind everyone that renewal time is coming up & reminded everyone to ensure that their beneficiaries are up to date.

15 Minute break was taken all members reminded to resign back into the book upon return to the room as we will do the election of officers before the meeting ends & member count will be first item of business after doors are shut.

Recording Secretary Dawn Harris did roll call for all members returning to the room. She verified

with Carol Curl, Past President & confirmed that there are now 40 members in the room that can vote.

New Business: President Christina Reef informed the group that we have 9 districts that do not have a District Chairman. Districts without chairman are 4,5,8A,8B, 9A, 15,16,17B,19 we will be sending letters to all members in these districts to make them aware that a chairman is needed to see if anyone wants to fill a position.

Reminded the District Chairmen that the membership cards will be mailed to the chairman for those with departments & they will be responsible to hand them out. The individual membership cards will be mailed to the members by the recording secretary as well as those departments that do not have a chairman. Christina informed everyone that at the August quarterly meeting there will be a trial of setting up the meeting as a zoom/team meeting as well as a live meeting. A link for the August meeting will be posted on Facebook page prior to the meeting & Christina will send out emails to get the word out to our members that we are going to try this to see if it allows more people an opportunity to join the meetings that we have. Ideas are being requested for what a 75-year member award would look like from the organization, please let line officers know if you have any suggestions, we do not have one yet, but we will in the future. President Christina Reef asked Vice President Beverly VanLandingham to discuss with the group ideas of fundraisers for the state auxiliary.

Beverly informed group that purse bingo was discussed at the May quarterly meeting, of what it is, what it would take to do one possible at the convention in 2026. Martha Biehl has looked at what needs to be done to add this to the gaming license. Discussion was held & many ideas & much interest was shown. This topic will continue to be discussed & decisions will be made if this event is to take place.

Election of new officers for 25/26: Christina Reef turned the meeting floor over to the

nominations committee. Carolyn Zeeks confirmed that there are 40 members in the room that can vote. nominations for line officers began.

President-Christina Reef slated; Carolyn Zeeks offered nominations from the floor x 3. No floor nominations, Recording Secretary Dawn Harris cast one unanimous vote for Christina Reef as President.

Vice President- Beverly VanLandingham slated; Carolyn Zeeks offered nominations from the floor x 3. No floor nominations, Recording Secretary Dawn Harris cast one unanimous vote for Beverly VanLandingham as Vice President.

Recording Secretary- Dawn Harris slated; Carolyn Zeeks offered nominations from the floor x 3.

No floor nominations, Vice President Beverly VanLandingham cast one unanimous vote for Dawn Harris as Recording Secretary.

Corresponding Secretary- Janet Matthews slated; Carolyn Zeeks offered nominations from floor x 3. No floor nominations, Recording Secretary Dawn Harris cast one unanimous vote for Janet Matthews as Corresponding Secretary.

Treasurer- Martha Biehl slated; Carolyn Zeeks offered nominations from floor x 3. No floor nominations, Recording Secretary Dawn Harris cast one unanimous vote for Martha Biehl as Treasurer.

Chaplain- Judy Wirth slated; Carolyn Zeeks offered nominations from the floor x 3. No floor nominations, Recording Secretary Dawn Harris cast one unanimous vote for Judy Wirth as Chaplain.

Sergeant at Arms- Suzie Lewis slated; Carolyn Zeeks offered nominations from floor x 3. No floor nominations, Recording Secretary Dawn Harris cast one unanimous vote for Suzie Lewis as Sergeant at Arms.

Carolyn Zeeks thanked her committee for their help during elections today & congratulated all of the elected officers.

Installation of officers conducted by Joyce Nevil & Joann Smith.

Christina reminded everyone to be thinking of any committees that you would like to be a part of

& let her know as she will be making out new committee lists for the year.

Christina asked if anyone had anything for the good of the order to discuss, no one spoke up.

Closing prayer given by Judy Wirth. Marie Emery made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Janet Hargrave, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully Submitted by: Janet Matthews
IVFAA Corresponding Secretary

**State Officers Meeting
Thursday, June 19,2025
Clifty Inn Madison, IN**

President Christina Reef called the meeting to order @ 3:05pm. Chaplin Judy Wirth gave the opening prayer & Sergeant at

Arms Suzie Lewis led the Pledge to the flag

Recording Secretary Dawn Harris took roll call of those in attendance 19 officers & 3 individuals present today. Will have the total organizational count tomorrow at the convention meeting.

Corresponding Secretary Janet Matthews was asked to read the minutes from the 2024 state officers meeting. Minutes read, no changes or updates need to be made to them, Carol Curl made a motion to accept minutes as read, Joann Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer Report Martha Biehl will give the account balances of the organization at convention meeting tomorrow.

Chaplain's Report Judy Wirth informed the group that there were 18 deaths in the IVFAA that will be recognized at the memorial service. She passed out white carnations with lavender ribbons to each person in memory of JoAnn Hayes.

President Christina Reef asked for committee reports:

- Auditing- Carol Curl reports 2024 Audit went well
- Budget & Finance- Jodi Rohr reports the 5% budget increase was passed

- Chaplain's Assistants- Judy Wirth all is going well

- Chinese Auction- Lori Baxter reports it is going well & tickets are being sold.

- Historian- Phyllis Vargo not present,

- Installation- Joyce Nevil reports will be ready for tomorrow

- Jewelry- Suzie Lewis reports that she has supplies with her if anyone needs anything.

- Lois Boaz- Suzie Lewis informs that the committee is ready

- Membership- Cindy Krueckeberg reports committee is needing ideas to boost the membership.

- Memorial Throw- Carol Curl nothing to report.

- Miriam Schaeckel- Eula Bush, we are ready.

- Miss Flame Community Service Award – Suzie Lewis is active chair for the convention & reports we are ready.

- Miss Flame- Janet Matthews shared with everyone the 2025 Miss Flame community project this year for convention will be Supporting "Shop with a Firefighter" & a member of the Town council will be present today to receive the donations that were collected. 19 girls are here & competing for the State Miss Flame.

- Nominating- per Marie Emery the committee is ready.

- Parliamentarian- Beverly VanLandingham all is ok

- President Advisory- Phyllis Vargo not present, Diana Gray reports all is OK

- Social Media Communication- Virginia Elick encouraged everyone to post events on

Facebook & to put them on the organization calendar.

- SOG's & By Laws- Tammy Smith reports that the code of conduct is still undergoing editing & will be pushed out at the August quarterly meeting.
- Vice President Project-

Beverly VanLandingham reports that tickets are being sold for the 50/50.

New Business: President Christina Reef reviewed the minutes from the May quarterly meeting regarding the topics of most recent new business. Reports she will discuss more in depth on the topics of need tomorrow at the State convention meeting to ensure all are notified. Beverly VanLandingham did discuss the idea of purse bingo & Martha Biehl informed that she did contact the gaming commission about what had to be added to the gaming license if we do decide to do one at the 2026 convention. The election of officers for 25/26 will take place tomorrow at the meeting. Christina asked if anyone had anything for the good of the order & Martha Biehl asked the officers to be able to just make all check presentations to the winners tomorrow at the banquet so she will have time to get the winners' information & parents' information for them to be written to. All in favor, Janet will get Martha the required information about each winner & checks will be presented at the banquet.

Closing prayer given by Judy Wirth. Hunter Davis made a motion for meeting adjournment Jodi Rohr seconded the motion, all in favor, meeting adjourned 3:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Janet Matthews
IVFAA Corresponding Secretary

President *continued from pg 12*
Dues are \$10 per year. Our membership form is on the IVFAA website. If you do not have access or you cannot find it, please ask your district chair or our Recording Secretary Dawn Harris for a copy to be sent to you.

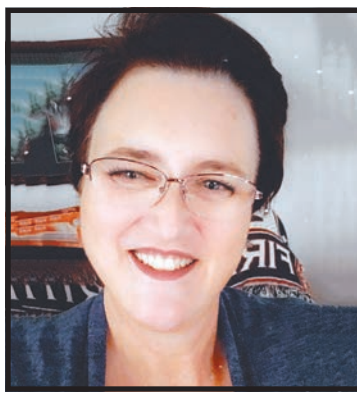
Lastly, I want to thank everyone for being so nice & helpful to me in my past year as president. I had an amazing year & met some wonderful people as I went to meetings all over the state. I look forward to getting to as many meetings & events as I can this year as well. If you would like me or 1 of the other state line officers to attend an event or meeting, please let us know. We will do our best to attend.

Please continue to post your meeting date, time, and location on the website calendar & on our Facebook page, IVFA Auxiliary. Please also post any events happening in your district. This will not only help me know when your meeting is but will also let others know in your surrounding areas. Please let me know if you need anything or have any questions. I'm always happy to help.

Sincerely,
Christina Reef
IVFAAPresident@IVFAA.org

I.V.F.A.A. District Reports

District 6 Report



Virginia Elick- Chairman

**May 27, 2025 7:00 p.m.
District 6 IVFAA Meeting
Minutes Fremont VFD**

Roll Call Dept total 0,
East Central Fire & EMS ___
Cathy Mackin, Jenna Mackin,
Thornecreek Township Fire ___
Individual total 8, Andrea
Weaver, Dave Elick, Deanna
Armstrong, Jeff Schwartz, Jerry
Sprague, Mack Grobis, Vicki
Harrison, Virginia Elick
Guests total 1, Carol
Curl-IVFAA Immediate Past
President

Reading of previous meeting minutes - Last meeting held March 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. – Johnson Twp. VFD

Entertain motion to suspend the reading of the minutes.
Motion by Dave Elick to suspend the reading of the minutes. 2nd by Jeff Schwartz. All in favor, all opposed, motion carried. Virginia has a copy if anyone wants to read them.

Treasurers Report (before 50/50)

Current balance \$ 254
Last call for anyone wanting 50/50 tickets for tonight.
Total 50/50 collected \$98,
Winner \$49, Sam Bisel (Took \$5 and gave \$44 to Madison Tigner)

New balance after 50/50 \$303
At this time, we need to have a motion and to vote on the amount of money we are donating to our Miss Flame for the 2025 convention. Please keep in mind we do need to save some money to help cover costs for postage and other minor incidentals.

Motion by Dave Elick for \$100

Second by Mack Grobis for \$100

All in favor of \$100 being donated to Dist. 6 Miss Flame, Madison Tigner for convention signify by saying aye. All opposed? Motion carried.

Membership – New membership forms are available. \$10 per year which includes \$3500 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefit. Please contact Andrea or Virginia tonight to make sure we have your current contact information including your email address.

Death notifications – Please contact Andrea, Virginia, or the State Chaplain, Judy Wirth if an auxiliary member has passed away. An auxiliary memorial service may be performed for



I.V.F.A.A. District Reports

them. A Bible, candle and rose are given to the family. If the family chooses not to have a memorial service – that's ok too.

Awards – Lois Boaz, Miriam Schaeckel – winners to be announced at the Convention June 18 – 21 in Madison. The awards honor the member's involvement with the fire department, community and family.

Miss Flame, Madison Tigner – update on activities Madison has been raising money for the state Miss.Flame community service project. Madison has also been trying to go to as many events as she can.

State quarterly meeting minutes highlights – Meeting held in Indianapolis on May 3 – 4, 2025. I do not have the official minutes from that meeting yet.

Members – There are a total of 736 members. Ideas on how to increase membership are welcomed. An increase in dues is still being considered but has not yet been passed. An increase is being proposed to help offset the costs paper, postage, ink, software updates, hardware updates, etc. Dues have not been raised since June 2014.

Miss Flame community project for 2025 – “Shop with a Firefighter”. Monetary donations and Wal-Mart Gift Cards will be accepted. The donations will go to support over 150 kids. If you wish to donate, please see Madison, Andrea, or Virginia.

75 year book – Buzz Kohler reported the 75 year book is still being worked on. Buzz reported he was getting the final proof on May 5th. He was hoping to get the final approval to them by May 9th. It will take 6 -7 weeks to have it printed and bound. Hoping to have it by convention.

Chaplains report – State Chaplain, Judy Wirth, conducted 17 memorial services.

Committee reports – All other committees are ready for convention.

Social Media - The State IVFAA page has had a name change – it is now the IVFA Auxiliary. It was the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association Auxiliary – IVFAA page We are hoping the shorter name will be easier to find and get more participation. Please submit events/information to the page.

2025 Convention – June 18 -20, 2025 in Madison.

IVFA District 6 – Thank you to Andrea Weaver and Kirsten Sheley for help with the District basket for convention.

The basket is done every year and needs to be turned in at the State quarterly meeting in May.

Please watch the District 6 Facebook page for any new information or events that may be taking place in the district. Please submit posts to the page regarding your department or auxiliary. Anyone can post to the page. You may also send your event information to Andrea or Virginia – we will then get it posted on your behalf. Duplicate posts will be removed so the page doesn't get bogged

down.

Please let Andrea or Virginia know if there are any auxiliary members that have not received their 10- or 25-year pin and would like one. We want to make sure everyone is recognized for their dedication to the fire service.

Next meeting date: July 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Albion Vol. Fire Department
210 Fire Station Dr. Albion, IN 46701

Future meeting date:
September 23, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
Columbia Twp. VFD 22 E. Radio Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725

District 7 Report



Cindy Krueckeberg - Chairman

Minutes of the District 7 IVFAA Aux. May 21, 2025 at Markle VFD station #2

Meeting called to order by Chairman Krueckeberg with the pledge to the flag.

Roll call answered with 7 members present.

Minutes from the March 2025 minutes were read and some corrections have been made. The minutes were then approved.

No Treasurer's report as the Secretary/Treasurer not present.

Chairman Cindy spoke about the last quarterly meeting of the IVFAA and some of the highlights of the upcoming convention.

Cindy discussed at length the potential raising of the IVFAA dues from \$10 to \$15, The women at the meeting were in favor of the increase. This is the second District 7 meeting this has been discussed at and it has been in favor both times. Cindy will pass this along back at the next IVFAA meeting.

Chris Vanlandingham made a motion second by Joyce Nevil to give Miss Flame Aubrie Krueckeberg \$600 to put toward Miss Flame expenses. Motion carried.

Chairman Krueckeberg asked for any other announcements or upcoming events in the area.

Reminder to all that election of officers will be held at the next District 7 meeting on July 21, 2025.

Meeting adjourned.

Beverly Vanlandingham
Substitute Secretary.

District 7 of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Auxiliary met on March 17,2025 at Roanoke Volunteer Fire Dept.

Meeting was called to order at 7: 30 by District 7 Chairman Richard Sorg with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll call was answered by 9 members, 2 individuals, and 5 guests.

Last meeting minutes were

read and approved.

Treasurer's report, Check wrote to Cindy for \$50 dollars for quarterly meeting, withdrawal of 200 dollars for change for bake sale. Balance forward \$1746.74

SOG about treasures was voted on at the state meeting and passed, Law suite was also voted on at the state meeting and passed. There is still discussion about raising dues.

Ideas for fundraising are purse bingo, cookbook. If you have any ideas for fundraisers bring them up and they can discuss those at the state meeting.

Larry Bartlow, Joann Hayes, Lonnie Matthews passed away. Card was given to Diana Grey for the passing of her son.

Discussion was had about what we would like to do as a district for the chinese auction. Bev made a motion to make a spa basket for the teen table Kaitlyn seconded. Joyce stated that she will help get items. If there is enough donated they will see about putting together a second basket. Any Items for the baskets need to be given to Bev before the May Quarterly meeting.

Miss Flame mixer will be at the May Quarterly meeting.

Get nominations for awards in! If a member passes, get that information to the proper people so that they can get that member the service.

Email addresses are needed for everyone. Meeting times for department meetings get those to Cindy so that she can hand out awards. Membership packets need to be given to every department. Get membership cards from the district chairman to save on postage.

Buz is still working on the 75 year book.

Bev made a motion to reimburse Kaitlyn for the stamps that she bought from the District account. Seconded by Diana. Total for the stamps was \$56.00.

Next meeting will be May 19,2025 at Uniondale Volunteer Fire Department.

Aubrie Krueckeberg motion to adjourn meeting seconded by District 10 Miss Flame Natalie Israel at 8:08.

Bake sale after the meeting total was \$895.00.

Kaitlyn Ritter-Butz District 7 Recording Secretary

District 11B Report



Jodi Rohr - Chairman

I hope everyone has recovered from the Convention. “Make the drive in ‘25” was well worth the drive! Chairman, Rick Cannon and District 14 provided us with a great experience all around. Many thanks to all

those involved in making this a memorable trip. The ‘26 committee has their work cut out for them.

There were 19 lovely young ladies vying for the title of Miss Flame. After sitting in on the open judging, I knew the judges had their work cut out for them!

Congratulations to all the award winners! In case you missed any, they were as follows:

Mr. IVFA – Larry Temple
Lois Boaz – Janet Matthews
Miss Flame – Ava Verkamp
Miss Flame Runner Up – Miranda Ruvalcaba

Miss Flame Community Service Awards – Natalie Rickard, Miranda Ruvalcaba, Emmalyn Harris

Ollie Sandberg – Miguel Ruvalcaba

IVFA President's Award - Sam and Marie Emery

IVFAA President's Award - Dawn Harris

Ivan Nevil Fire Service Leadership – Richard Sorg

Angel Award – Paige Bush

Junior Firefighter – Issac Lindsey.

In the absence of Buz Koehler, I presented the Miriam Schaeckel Award to Tammy Smith.

The officers of both the IVFA and IVFAA will remain the same for the upcoming year, other than PR Northeast. Sam Bisel has stepped away and Richard Sorg was elected to fill that position. Those folks are named in various places in this paper.

It is not too early to nominate people for the before mentioned awards. EVERY department and auxiliary have someone worthy of these awards. Let's make the committee's jobs difficult! The forms are available on the IVFA.org website.

District 11-B held its last meeting, Thursday, May 15th, at the Kingman Fire Department. We only had 6 members present. Our attendance is down so much. Folks, this is pretty discouraging. What can we do to increase attendance? We meet on Sunday afternoons to try not to conflict with evening activities, except for the May meeting which would fall on Mother's Day. Our district isn't the only one that is facing declining numbers. Please give all your district chairmen feedback on this issue. We attend quarterly and annual meetings to bring information back to our membership. It is hard to do when we see the same faces each meeting.

I'll get off my soapbox now. Please let me know when your auxiliary meetings are. I'd love to come, meet with you and get to know members in this district better. Dues packages should be coming out soon. Remember that dues are due the end of July.

I previously mentioned Sam Bisel stepping down from his PR position, please keep he and his family in your thoughts and prayers as they face some medical issues.

Our next meeting, which will be the election, is scheduled for Sunday, July 13 at the New Market Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted
Jodi Rohr
Chairman, District 11-B

District 17A



Marie Emery - Chairman

Greetings

A great convention was held. Thanks to Rick and Holly Cannon and the staff everthing was excellence from the time we arrived to the closing.

Congratulations to all the winners, and to the new Miss Flame. Hope you have a great year representing the Indiana Fire Service. To all Miss Flames you were wonderful and did an excellent job.

Same and I fell very honored to receive the President's Award, our son never ceases to amaze us and yes son you can take your dad with you anytime.

To Natalee our Miss Flame you did a great job representing 17A and to your parents, Joe and Victoria and your sister Emma, a future Miss Flame, thanks for sharing Natalee with us she attended every meeting and function that she could.

In closing sympathy to the family of Lucy Stofer of the IVFAA and Ron Bell of the IVFA.

Marie Emery
IVFAA 17A Chair

District 17A



Patti Fultz- Chairman

District 21 meeting for May 19,2025 was held at Wabash VFD. We had 8 members present.

The State budget was passed with a 5% increase. Two money makers were discussed. Doing a cookbook and a purse bingo. Nothing has been decided yet.

The convention was held at Cliff Falls State Park in Madison, IN on June 18-20,2025. A good time by all attending. The memorial service at convention was on Zoom.

The next three years of conventions will be held in Indy at Wyndham Hotel at the old airport. Convention for 2026 is June 17-19,2026.

Our next IVFAA meeting will be at MichiganTown VFD on August 25,2025.

Check the IVFA calendar for the address.

Hope to see you there.

Patti Fultz
District 21 Chairman

2025 IVFA CONVENTION

A word with 2025 Miss Flame Ava Verkamp



I am deeply honored and grateful to the IVFA for selecting me to represent our great state. This recognition is not only a personal milestone but also a humbling reminder of the responsibility that comes with such an esteemed role.

Being chosen as a representative is a privilege I do not take lightly. It fills me with a sense of pride and excitement, and I am wholeheartedly committed to approaching this opportunity with unwavering dedication, enthusiasm, and integrity.

I am eager to collaborate with fellow representatives, share insights, and learn from the best. This platform offers a meaningful chance to contribute to the broader firefighting community while shining a positive light on the incredible work being done in our state.

Lastly, I would like to thank both my district and department for their support, without them I would not have been able to make it this far. I look forward to serving with distinction and doing everything I can to make our state proud.

Sincerely, your 2025 State Miss Flame,
Ava Verkamp

IVFA 2025 Award Winners



2025 Miss Flame Miss Congeniality
Aubrie Krueckeberg



Miss Flame 1st Runner Up
Miranda Ruvalcaba



Mariam Schaekel Award Tammy Smith

I.V.F.A. Convention 2026 Registration Form WYHDHAM INDIANAPOLLIS WEST June 17 - 19

Pre-registration Fee: \$110.00 per person (On June 1, 2026 price jumps to \$135)
Price includes 4 meals (dinner Wed / Thurs / Fri & Fri Breakfast)

Name: _____
(Print as you want it to appear on your badge)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) - _____ - _____ IVFA District: _____

Email Address: _____

Fire Department / Company: _____

Name of Spouse or Guest (if registering): _____

Registration Type	Yours	Spouse / Guest	Title
State Officer	_____	_____	_____
Auxiliary Officer	_____	_____	_____
District Chairperson	_____	_____	_____
IVFA Member	_____	_____	_____
IVFA Aux. Member	_____	_____	_____
Guest	_____	_____	_____



Friday night banquet only tickets available for \$45 each. Add _____ tickets to my registration

Number of children attending kids party (age 3-6): _____ (age 7-10): _____ (age 11+): _____
*children 14 and older need to register if they will want meal tickets for convention meals

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Make check payable to Convention 2026)

To pay by credit card, circle card type Mastercard Visa other _____ Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____ Code _____ Signature: _____
(3 digit—back)

**MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND REMITTANCE TO: Convention 2026- Registrations
9411 Minnich Rd.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46816**

For Information please call Beverly Vanlandingham at 260-450-1821 Date received _____

CONVENTION HQ: WYNDHAM INDIANAPOLIS WEST, 2544 Executive Dr. (46241)

To make hotel reservations call (317)-248-2481 or use booking link <https://book.passkey.com/e/51042088>
What is included in your registration fee?

- Access to all events on the convention schedule. Exceptions: Miss Flame preliminary judging and luncheon
- 4 meals are provided with each registration.
 - Wednesday: Dinner at the Burn Camp Auction & Welcome Party
 - Thursday: Dinner at the Taco Bar / Beer Bust
 - Friday: Breakfast at the Coffee Clutch
Buffet style Banquet Dinner
- Drinks (beer & soft drinks) throughout the convention. Drinks will be available in the Hospitality Room and with most meals. This does NOT include the hotel bar. Cash bars will be available at certain events for other types of refreshments.
- Kids Meals. Kids age 13 and under can eat at all events except the Friday night banquet without a ticket. There will be a kid's party Friday night during the banquet, with food and drinks provided, for those not attending the banquet. We encourage all older kids to register so all meals are included. Other options include the hotel restaurant, the lobby café, or food you provide on your own.



Indiana State Fire Marshall Steve Jones addresses convention attendees at the 2025 Indiana Volunteer Firefighter Convention.

From the Desk of Past President Richard Glant

Bridgeport Scholarship Winners

As Chairman of the Bridgeport Committee, I congratulate the 2025 Scholarship winners. We had 4 this year and they are as follows.

From Dist. 7 Miss Chloe Couch, also from Dist. 7 is Miss Faith Cook then from Dist. 10 Mr. Joshua McClain and from Dist.19 Miss Audrey Weaver. Congratulations and the very best of luck in your future endeavors.

PS If you need to reword this it is just fine. I do not have pictures of these award winners. They are somewhere but I don't have access to them.

Richard Glant
dglant@mchsi.com



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- No burning of paper, trash, leaves, tree limbs, brush, yard waste, or demo/construction debris is allowed in Clark, Floyd, Lake, and Porter counties.
- Residents in all other Indiana counties are allowed to burn only clean wood products (no paint, stain or treated wood) and paper. You can't burn trash, cardboard, construction debris, or other waste for disposal.
- Burning directly on the ground is not allowed. Residents burning clean wood or paper should use a metal, non-combustible container that has sufficient ventilation, enclosed sides, and a bottom.
- Burning must be done during safe weather conditions, not during high winds, Air Quality Action Days, or if a local burn ban has been declared.
- Fires must be attended until they are completely extinguished. And adequate fire suppression equipment must be present at the site.
- Fires must be put out if they create a fire hazard, nuisance, pollution problem or threat to public health.
- Recreational or ceremonial fires, such as fires for scouting activities or cooking, may only burn clean wood products, paper, or charcoal. These fires can't be used for disposal of trash or waste. The pile to be burned shall be less than or equal to 1,000 cubic feet (LxWxH) and for any pile more than 125 cubic feet in size you must notify the local fire and health departments 24-hours prior to any burning and state the date, time, and location of the burning.



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Marshall Neese, District 1 Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 1

50 year Gold Cards Awarded



Gold Card recipient Robert Janes (red jacket) pictured here with a group from Lake Station FD.



Larry Curl awards Gold Cards to Jack Runion from Union TWP FD then to Robert Janes from Lake Station FD with Marshal Neese assisting. More awards pg 22

Class of 2025 Fire Academy June 13 2025



L to R top: Lt. Tim Seaton, Chief Marvin Pyle, FF Skylar Rothgeb, District 1 Chairman Marshall Neese, Lt. Don Stojakovich
L to R bottom: Probationary Firefighters Kenya Jordan, Tim Whitmore, Brayden Seaton, Terrell Farmer, Kameron Stojakovich



Graduation from Dist. One of 40 FF From Lake and Porter Co. Dept.



Please join us in congratulating Probationary Firefighter Mathew Michael on his graduation from the District 1 Fire Academy this evening! Mathew put in a lot of time and effort over the past several months, and we're proud to see him reach this important milestone. He now returns to continue his probationary period. Congratulations, Mathew!

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DISTRICT 1

50 year Gold Card Awarded



Receiving a 50 yr recognition is George Schmidt and Receiving his 50 yr. gold card



Washington Twp had their 50 yr Anniversary 6-14-2025 with State Fire Marshal Jones



Tom Fentress, District 2 Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 2



Tom Fentress presents Hebron Fire Chief Chad Franzman Honored with McQueen Award for Dedication and Leadership

Greetings,
 Hebron Fire Chief Chad Franzman Honored with McQueen Award for Dedication and Leadership
 Hebron, IN – The Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA) District 2 is proud to announce that Fire Chief Chad Franzman of the Hebron Fire Department has been awarded the prestigious McQueen Award in recognition of his outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to the fire service.
 Chief Franzman has dedicated more than 25 years to the Hebron Fire Department, steadily rising through the ranks and leaving a lasting impact on both his department and the wider fire service community. Known for his steady leadership and tireless advocacy, Chief Franzman has worked to ensure his team has access to the highest quality equipment and training. Under his guidance, the Hebron Fire Department has become a model for professionalism, teamwork, and community service.
 “Chief Franzman has built a strong and supportive culture within his department—one where members

feel valued and motivated to grow,” said Tom Fentress, IVFA District 2 Trustee. “He doesn’t just lead by example; he lifts others up and helps them become better firefighters, better leaders, and better people.”
 Beyond Hebron, Chief Franzman has played a key role in strengthening the fire service across Porter County. His collaborative spirit and willingness to lend a hand have made him a respected and trusted leader among neighboring departments and across the region.
 The McQueen Award is given annually by the IVFA to individuals who demonstrate exemplary service, dedication, and a lasting impact on the volunteer fire service. Chief Franzman’s decades of commitment, servant leadership, and heartfelt advocacy make him a truly deserving recipient.
 “I’ve known Chad for nearly his entire career,” added Fentress. “It’s been a privilege to watch him grow into the kind of leader we all admire—and even more of a privilege to call him a friend.”
 The IVFA District 2 proudly congratulates Fire Chief Chad Franzman on this well-earned recognition and thanks him for his continued service to the Hebron community and the fire service at large.
 Thank you so much!
 Tom Fentress, MBA, NRP, PI, CFI
 Fire Chief
 Keener Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.

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THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS

Deadline for the
November 2025 issue is
October 1, 2025 please
email your meeting
notes, press releases,
events, awards and
photos to
Sherri Chaney
ivfd@hurdmedia.com

The Power of Recognition: Why Great Leaders Celebrate Their People

By Tom Fentress, District 2 Chairmen, and Fire Chief, Keener Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.

Leadership isn't about having the loudest voice in the room—it's about lifting others up. One of the most overlooked yet powerful tools a leader has is the ability to recognize and celebrate their staff. Whether it's in a firehouse, a corporate office, or a classroom, the message remains the same: People want to feel that their work matters—and that they matter.



Tom Fentress

As leaders, we must create a culture that celebrates our people. Recognition shouldn't be saved for the rare, grand moment. Instead, we should make a big deal out of the little things—because, for our team members, those "little" things often feel huge.

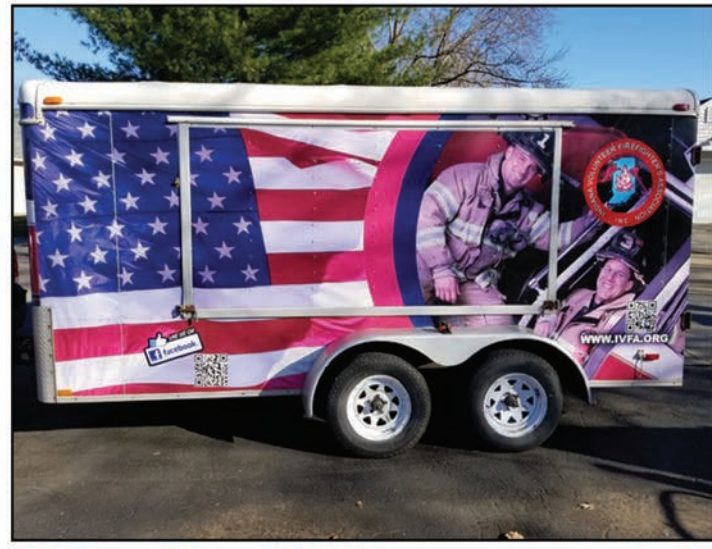
We're approaching the time of year where the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA) is accepting nominations for their annual awards. I challenge every department leader and firefighter reading this to think of someone they know who is worthy of being recognized—because let's be honest, we all know someone. The IVFA does an outstanding job hosting a banquet that honors our fire service heroes, and it's up to us to make sure those stories are told and those individuals are celebrated. Don't let their impact go unnoticed.

But recognition doesn't have to wait for an annual banquet. It starts with the small gestures—a thank you card, a pat on the back, an announcement welcoming a new hire, or a quick shout-out for a job well done. These moments tell your people, "I see you, and you matter." Don't forget to remember birthdays, congratulate milestone achievements, or even acknowledge when someone is leaving—whether for retirement, a new job, school, or to care for family. Recognizing their journey honors their time with you and shows that you care about more than just their role—you care about the person.

Creating opportunities outside of the job is just as important. At our fire department, we take the fifth Tuesday of any month and turn it into a family night. No business. No drills. Just laughter, food, and fellowship. We've also started hosting family breakfasts, coffee with retirees, and the occasional trivia night at a local restaurant. These events may not sound like much, but they build bonds that can't be formed in the middle of a fire or on a busy shift.

Today's employees—especially in public service—are driven by purpose. They want to do something meaningful. They want to know they're making a difference. As leaders, it's our job to remind them, again and again, that they are. We don't just lead missions or manage projects—we lead people.

If there's one thing I've learned over the years, it's this: When you take care of your people, they will take care of the mission. Let's do more than supervise—let's celebrate.



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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 6

Fremont Fire Department 25 Year Pins Awarded



Pictured left - right: Chairman Mack Grobis, Chief Eric Hufnagle, Dewayne "Tootch" Eck Not Pictured: Paul Wicker

Fremont Fire Department 10 Year Pins Awarded



Pictured left - right: Chairman Mack Grobis, Travis Zimmerman, Eric Flochr, Chad Zerkle, Adam Kitson, William Schmucker, Jason Vanderpool, Tony Shook, Andy Longardner and Michelle Vanderpool



Mack Grobis,
District 6
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 8B

25 Year Pin & Gold Cards Awarded



Miss Flame Hannah Armstrong presenting Chuck Denney of the Portland Fire Department with his 25 year pin on May 17th. Jay Harris, Bud Harris and Brad Newbauer 3 Generations of White River Twp Fire Dept. Dennis Brown and Jay Harris receiving their 50 yr gold cards.



Mikey Armstrong,
District 8B
Chairman

Bryant Volunteer Fire Department holds Annual Breakfast



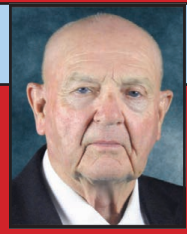
District 8B Miss Flame Hannah Armstrong and the Bryant Volunteer Fire Department at their Annual Breakfast.

District 8B Miss Flame Hannah Armstrong



District 8B Miss Flame Hannah Armstrong at the 79th IVFA Convention. Miss Flame Hannah Armstrong passing out leftover Beef and Noodles to IU Health Jay, Jay County EMS and Portland Fire Department.

Deadline for the November 2025 issue is October 1, 2025 please email your meeting notes, press releases, events, awards and photos to Sherri Chaney ivfd@hurdmedia.com



John Ray,
District 10
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 10

Columbus Twp. Awards 10 & 25 Year Pins



Chris Selking from Columbus Twp. Receives his 10 yr pin from District 10 Chair, John Ray.



Daniel Merz of Columbus Twp. receives his 10 yr pin from District 10 Chair John Ray.



Emily Bass receives 10 & 25 yr pins respectively on behalf of her parents Courtney & David Barnhill, who are also from Columbus Twp.



Tim Tibbs of Columbus Twp. receives his 10 yr pin from 10th Disttict Chair John Ray



Josh Ferrenburg of Columbus Twp receives his 10 yr pin from District 10 Chair John Ray

Not in attendance but also honored for their years of fire service were, Amy Michelle & Christopher Gephart for 10 & 25 yrs respectively.

Anderson Twp Firefighters Awards 10 Year Pins

Bridgeport Scholarship Winner

East Columbus Fire Awards 10 Year Pins



Anderson Twp firefighters receiving their 10 year pins from District Chair, John Ray at the 10th District May meeting. Dean Bacon, Jonathon Webb, Menno & Eva Hershberger.



From left to right: District 10, Chair, John Ray & East Central PR David Israel congratulate Bridgeport Scholarship winner Josh McClain, along with parents Tony & Suzanne McClain & sister Breanna, at the IVFA Convention Awards Banquet.



Johna Wilson of East Columbus Fire receives her 10 year pin from 10th District Chair, John Ray

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John "Scott" Peebles, District 11B Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 11B

Jackson TWP Vol. Fire Dept. Awards 50 Year Gold Card & 10 Year Pin



50 yr Gold Card presented to Obie Sowers of Jackson TWP Vol. Fire Dept.



10 yr pin presented to Michael Kunkle of Jackson TWP Vol. Fire Dept.

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The Pompier, Pump and Playpipe Society of Indiana and the Koorsen Fire Museum present a muster, flea market, and a chance to see one of the finest fire museums in the U.S.

Come spend the day with us on September 27th, 2025. The flea market and museum open at 9 and the muster starts at 10. The event ends at 3. No charge for rigs attending. There will be drafting available.

The event will be held at the Koorsen Fire Museum, 2820 N. Webster Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219

The featured marque for this muster is Howe.

Bring your Howe rigs out for a "Howe Homecoming!"

Contact Jeff Rider for more information by email: firetruckjr@yahoo.com

or call 812-498-4777

Flea market spaces are available for \$25. Flea market set-up is 8 a.m. All spaces are outdoors. For more information call Ted Moore (317-538-8833) or Scott Rollins (317-439-8425).

To register a rig or for a flea market spot, contact above or e-mail: pppsifleamarket@gmail.com by 9-12-25.



Rick Cannon,
District 14
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 14

IVFA Raffle Winner



Paul Carlow of Western Fire Company #3 with Pete Bacus and FairPlay Fire Department #1 Mike McKay who sold the winning IVFA convention ticket to Paul for the IVFA Convention Raffle of \$1000 dollars

McQueen Award Presented



District 14 McQueen award winner Richie Cannon with his dad District Chairman Rick Cannon



Nick
Faulkenburg,
District 16
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 16

Local Departments participate with Crusade for Children



Heth TWP Vol Fire Department at Crusade for Children



Harrison Twp Vol Fire Department at Crusade for Children



Leavenworth Vol Fire Department at Crusade for Children

District 16 Presents 10 Year and 25 Year Pins



Southeast Vol. Fire Department receiving 10yr and 25 yr awards.



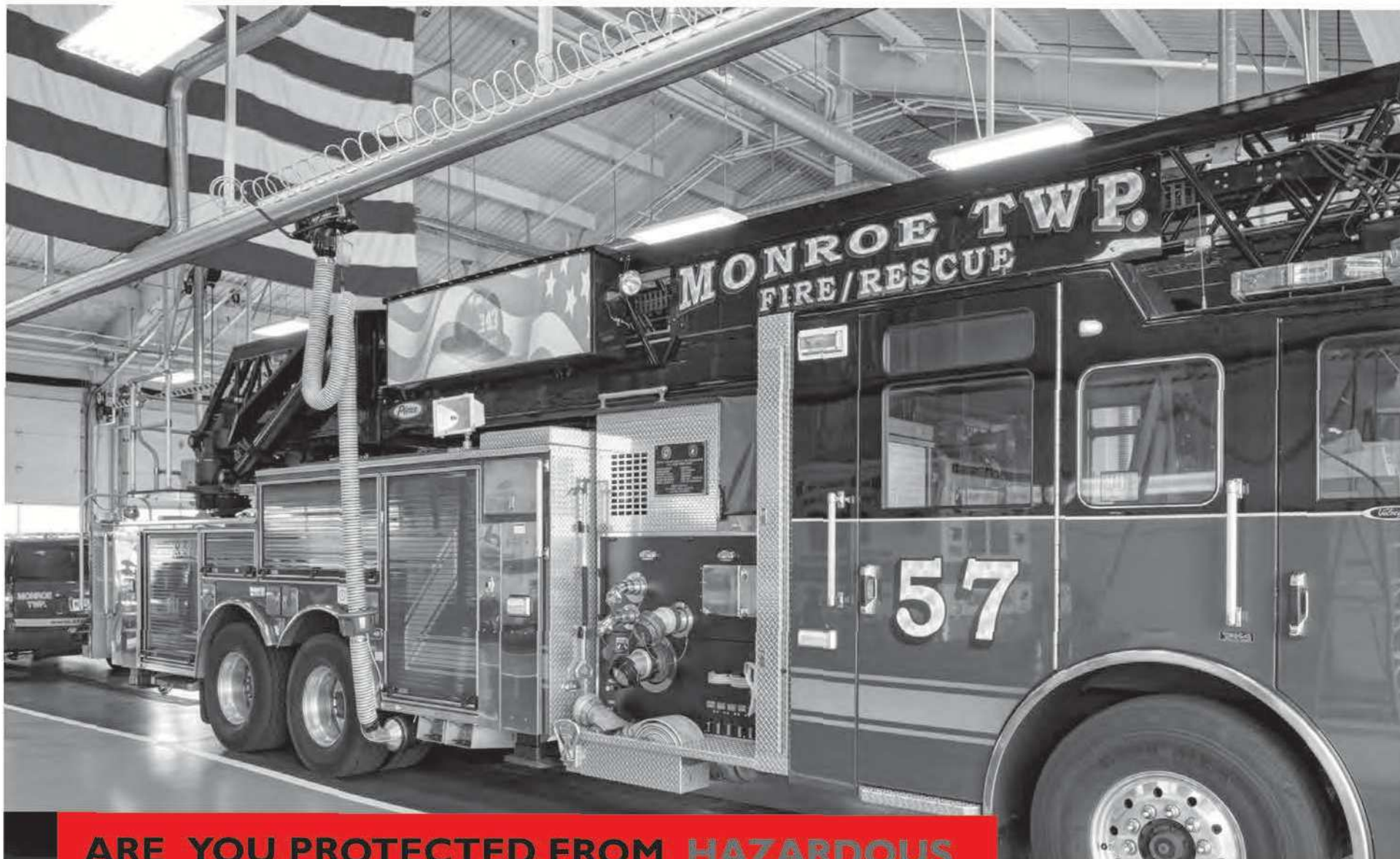
Elizabeth Vol Fire Department receiving 10yr and 25yr awards



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Sam Emery,
District 17A
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 17A

District 17A Awards 10 & 25 Year Pins and Gold Cards



Sam Emery, Dist. 17A Chair awarded 10 year pin to a Sandborn VFD member.



Sam Emery, Dist. 17A Chair presented 10 year pins to Plainville VFD members, Alex Brumett and Delmar Wagler



Sam Emery, Dist. 17A Chair presented 50 year gold card & 50 year pin to Dennis G. Eaton, Plainville VFD



Sam Emery, Dist. 17A Chair presented Donald Brit, Plainville VFD with 25 year pin



Life saving Award Presented to Fletcher Rhoads. left to right, David Gray, Washington VFD, Sam Emery, Dist. 17A Chair, Fletcher Rhoads and IVFA President, Ross Emery



Sam Emery, Dist. 17A Chair presented 50 year gold coin to James Johnson, Sandborn VFD



Plainville VFD Chief Steve "Mike" Heshelman with three 50 year members, Dennis Eaton, Bennett Mallett and Harold Shafer



Sandborn VFD Members

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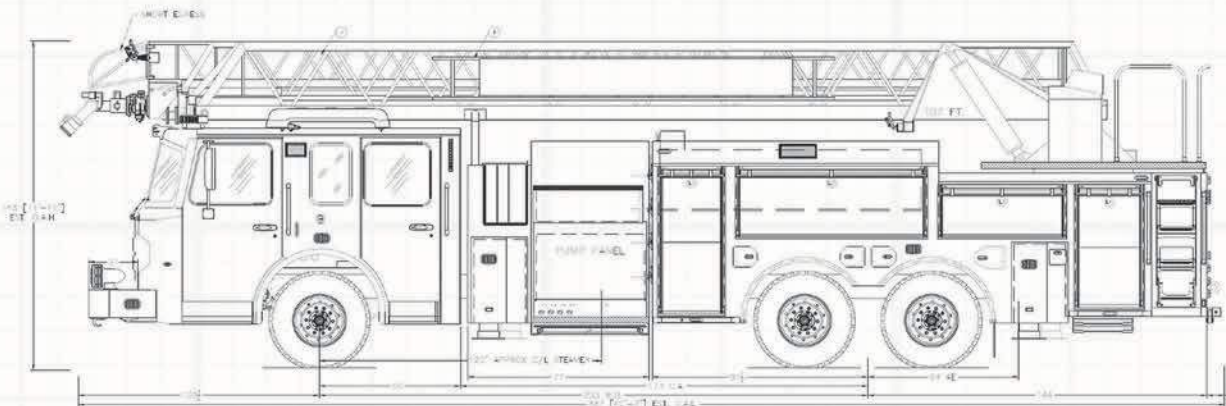
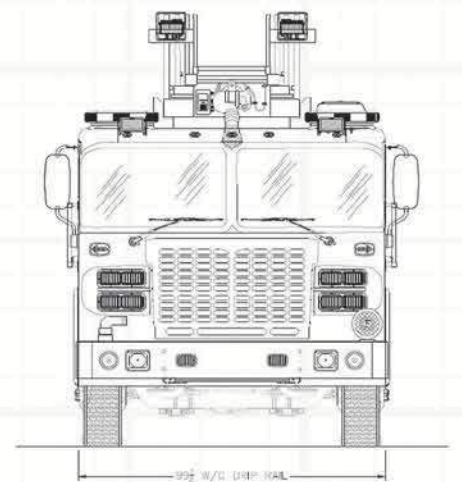


Plainville Fire Dept. Members

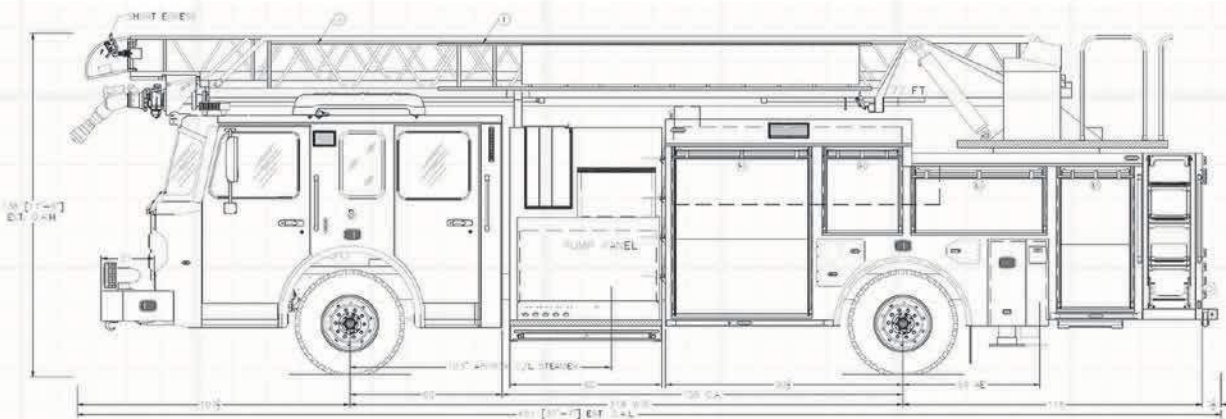
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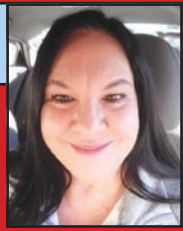
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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 17B



Tammy Wright,
District 17B
Chairman



Pleasant Run Fire of HELTONVILLE Chief Darin Kinser with Miss Flame Emmalynn Harris and Treasure Tonya Hudson presenting check for convention.



Miss Flame Emmalynn Harris being interviewed from local radio station.



Miss Flame Emmalynn Harris with Shawswick Fire Chief Bobby Brown presenting check for convention



Miss Flame Emmalynn Harris at Convention at Madison with former 17B Chairman Bobby Brown and former PRSW Steve Nolan and their wives



Miss Flame Emmalynn Harris at Marion Fire New Fire House Open House PRSW Jack Kearney, Chief Dane Fountain, Vice President Larry Curl

Marion Twp Fire Department Open House was held on Saturday, June 28, 2025



Marion Twp. Trustee Gina Sullivan.



Marion Twp FD Chief, Dane Fountain



Presenting the IVFA Station clock left to right are, Past President Jack Kerney, Marion Twp. Trustee Gina Sullivan, Dist. 17B Miss Flame, Emma Harris, and IVFA Vice Pres. Larry Curl.



New Fire Station, Stoll Steel in Odon, IN was the general contractor. Open House Photos submitted by Peter Horton

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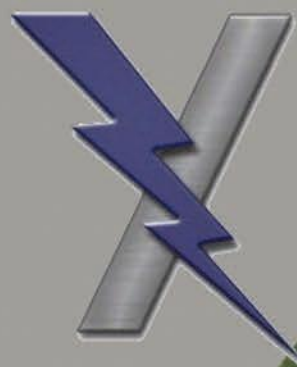
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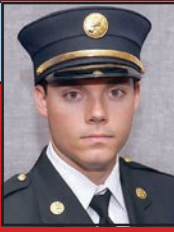
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Nicholas Waninger, District 18 Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 18

10, 25 and 50 Year Awards Presented



At the May 12 meeting of the Central Perry VFD, three members were presented with the IVFA 25 Year Service Pin. Pictured (l-r) are CPVFD Firefighters Charles Goffinet, Brian Suhrheinrich, and Robert Royer. Photo provided by Dist. 18



Ireland VFD Recognizes 50 Years Members
On 12 June a special meeting of the Ireland VFD was held. Three members were presented with framed copies of the this year's Concurrent Resolution as well as their 50 Year Gold Cards, Pins, and Challenge Coins. Pictured (l-r) is Thomas Mundy, Ronald Hulsman, and Michael Bueltel. Photo and information provided by John "Bull" Smith Dist. 18 Vice Chair.



Layla Thayer (left) and Justin Naylor (Right) presented their 10 year pins



Austin Hagan is presented his 10 Year pin



Damian Koch is presented his 25 Year pin



Ben Sieverding District 19 Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 19

McQueen Award Presented

District 19 Junior FF Competitor



Rick Dillion and his wife Jill; District 19 McQueen Award of Excellence winner



Austin Ronnebaum & his parents from the Eagle Fire Company, District 19 Junior FF Competitor





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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 21

10, 25 and 50 Year Awards Presented



Blaine B. Butler,
District 21
Chairman



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler, PRWC Don Fultz, and District 21 IVFA Miss Flame Tatum Moore Presented 50 Year Member Pins at Shadeland Vol Fire Dept to Michael Kuipers, Steven Massey, and Dick VanSchepen.



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler Presented 10 Year Member Pins at West Point Vol Fire Dept to Jeffery Payne, David Price, and Cole Snider.



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler Presented 10 Year Member Pins at Darlington Vol Fire Dept to Jacob Burris. Not pictured Zach Adeline, Justin Sparrow.



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler Presented 25 Year Member Pins at Darlington Vol Fire Dept to Mike Gleason, Dave Hampton, Michael Smith. Not pictured Joe Newkirk, Keith Adeline



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler Presented 25 Year Member Pins at West Point Vol Fire Dept to Tom Brown, Issac Cheesman, and Mark Brown



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler, PRWC Don Fultz, and District 21 IVFA Miss Flame Tatum Moore Presented 10 Year Member Pins at Shadeland Vol Fire Dept to Jonathan Chrtiansen and Nick Kopf.



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler, PRWC Don Fultz, and District 21 IVFA Miss Flame Tatum Moore Presented 25 Year Member Pins at Shadeland Vol Fire Dept to Ben Bol, and Kevin VanSchepen. Not pictured Richard Bol

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Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association Members On Military Leave Updated 2/11/21



Member Name	Department	City	State
Andras, Jarred Jude	Crown Point Vol. Fire Dept.	Merrillville	IN
Banter, Blake Andrew	Chester Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Liberty Center	IN
Barton, Steven Daniel	Prairie Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Brookston	IN
Blanton, Jake Thomas	White River - Hazleton V.F.D.	Hazleton	IN
Blevins, Toby	Clay Twp. Vol. Fire Dept. Inc.	Richmond	IN
Bloom, Stephen Michael	Huntertown Vol. Fire Dept.	Fort Wayne	IN
Colgate, Nicholas Michael	Huntertown Vol. Fire Dept.	Fort Wayne	IN
Dickerson, Michael Ryan	Jefferson Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Middletown	IN
Doane, Joshua Tanner	Shoals Vol. Fire Dept.	Shoals	IN
Garrett, Layton Christopher	Cloverdale Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Quincy	IN
Garver, Jeron Blaze	Clinton City Vol. Fire Dept. Inc.	Clinton	IN
Gill, Gary Dwight	Van Buren Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Bloomington	IN
Gillett, Matthew Steohen	Washington Twp. Vol. Fire Dept. Inc	Pacifica	CA
Holland, Rick L.	Utica Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Anderson	IN
Hollingsworth, Brian Lee	Chester Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Bluffton	IN
Johnson, Franklin Delano	Jefferson Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Goshen	IN
King, Jacob Davis	Highland Twp. Fire Dept.	Bloomfield	IN
King, Odis Ray	Marion Twp. Rural Fire Dept.	Mitchell	IN
Kirby, Michael S	Oolitic Vol. Fire Dept.	Oolitic	IN
McCoy, Jason Evan	Roanoke Volunteer Fire Dept.	Fort McCoy	WI
McCoy, Timothy Russell	Roanoke Volunteer Fire Dept.	Hubbard	OH
Miller, Tracie Jeanette	Columbia City Vol. Fire Dept.	Columbia City	IN
Mustin, Devin	Cambridge City Vol. Fire Dept.	Cambridge City	IN
Myers, Aaron Dean	Covington-Troy Mound Fire Dept.	Covington	IN
Osgood, Cody Michael	Farmland Vol. Fire Dept. Inc.	Farmland	IN
Pemberton, Cean L.	Sandborn Vol. Fire Dept.	Victoria	TX
Perez, Lidia Lizania	Porter Vol. Fire Dept.	Porter	IN
Pugh, James Christopher	Cambridge City Vol. Fire Dept.	Cambridge City	IN
Real, Christian Joe	Daleville-Salem Twp. Fire Terr.	Daleville	IN
Rhea, Owen Parker	Cambridge City Vol. Fire Dept.	Cambridge City	IN
Rickard, Bradley Edward	Nevins Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Brazil	IN
Robbins, Brett Allen	Concord Twp. Fire Dept.	St. Joe	IN
Rodgers, Travis Gene	Jackson TWP. Vol. Fire Dept.	Kingman	IN
Rohr, Heath	Helt Fire Rescue	Cannon AFB	NM
Schnebelt, Saben	Hogan Twp. Fire Dept. Co. 1	Lawrenceburg	IN
Scudder, Darin Ray	Rising Sun Vol. Fire Dept. Inc.	Rising Sun	IN
Sears, Matthew Douglas	Tippecanoe Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Battle Ground	IN
Service, Matthew Shane	Amity Comm. Vol. Fire Dept.	Edinburgh	IN
Skaggs, Andrew Thomas	Ligonier Vol. Fire Dept.	Marrero	LA
Snowden, Steven	Milton-Washington Twp. Fire Dept.	Fort Bragg	NC
Stewart, Jacob Donny	New Middletown Fire Dept.	Corydon	IN
Tharpe, Riley Cole	Trafalgar Vol. Fire Dept.	Mountain Home	ID
Thompson, Courtney Loraine	Bloomfield Vol. Fire Dept.	Beaufort	SC
Uffelman, Conner James	Poe Vol. Fire Dept.	Fort Wayne	IN
Vance, Eric Robert	Ligonier Vol. Fire Dept.	Ligonier	IN
Walters, Joshua	Culver-Union Twp. Vol. Fire Dept.	Culver	IN
Weaver, Michael D.	Ligonier Vol. Fire Dept.	Ligonier	IN
Williams, Clayton D.	Georgetown Vol. Fire Dept.	Logansport	IN
Willis, Emmanuel Syphen	Merrillville Vol. Fire Dept. #71	Merrillville	IN
Windle, Joey Cartell	Jonesboro Vol. Fire Dept.	Jonesboro	IN
Yoakum, Christopher G	Cambridge City Vol. Fire Dept.	Fort Belvoir	VA
Zehnder, Dustin Thomas	New Chapel Fire Company	New Albany	IN

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