



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)

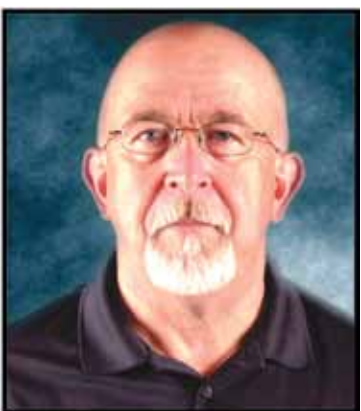
VOLUME 73 NO. 1

Organized and Trained for the Protection of Life and Property

February 2023

From The President

Jerry Liston



All the information on the various awards and criteria is available on the website.

While you are reviewing those, you might also look at the available Bridgeport scholarship information and even if you do not need that educational financial assistance reach out to your fellow department members or a graduating high school student meeting the requirements and encourage them to apply. The Association gives out Four \$1500 dollars scholarships annually at our State Convention in June. The deadline to submit the Bridgeport application and apply is March 1.



The word that everyone hates to hear or see is again front and center of our fire service world. PFAS chemicals and our own protective equipment are the center of safety discussions. There is an apparent move nationwide to have manufacturers create better products for the health and safety of firefighters. The Indiana State Legislature passed a bill (HB 1341) during this last legislative session that provides after June 30, 2024, an Indiana fire department may not purchase firefighting gear unless it contains a permanently affixed label indicating whether or not the firefighting gear contains PFAS.

Remember, we can still all take the extra precautions by keeping our assigned PPE and equipment clean between incidents and try to reduce some of the risks and hazards we can control until the manufacturers and the industry get this figured out

In the meantime, make sure you are each getting regular cancer-related screenings and if you have not ever talked to your doctor about what you do, either as a career or volunteer firefighter, you need to have that discussion. In almost all cases early detection gives you the best survival odds.

If you ever have the opportunity to participate in any type of research or study as the scientific/medical world attempts to better understand our risks, please do so. The more information that can be gathered increase the odds we can find ways to reduce risks to not

See President page 4

REMEMBER TO TAKE THE CANCER SURVEY WITH QR CODE PAGE 4

2023 Miss Flame takes Indiana State Fair Queen Title

IVFA's 2023 Miss Flame, Alexxys Standish was crowned 2024 Miss Indiana State Fair Queen on January 7, 2024. Alexxys competed in and won the 2023 Miss Newton County Fair Queen contest, earning her a spot to compete in the 2024 Indiana State Fair Pageant, where she vied for the title along with 82 other County Queens.

Making history as the first District 9B Miss Flame, Alexxys also made history as the first Newton County Fair Queen to become a Miss Indiana State Fair Queen.

Alexxys is the daughter of Dustin & Andrea Standish of Kentland, Indiana. She has two (2) sisters, Addysen and Alyssa. She has lived in Newton County for the majority of her life. Graduated with honors from South Newton High School in 2022 as Salutatorian of her class. She was a four (4) sport athlete,



Miss Flame, Alexxys Standish, was crowned Indiana State Fair Queen for 2024. Photo from Facebook IVFA District 9B

See Miss Flame page4

Jerry Knepp Final Ride Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department

In the last 2 years Liberty Twp. VFD has lost 3 great men. 158 years of service to Liberty Twp. and the



surrounding areas. I know those 3 men are smiling down on us. Please keep us safe brothers. Content from Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department Facebook Page. Submitted by Jean Smith



Determined to Serve, Determined to Protect

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



May 2024 DEADLINE IS April 1, 2024

**Feb 2024
"Political" talk**

By Larry Curl, IVFA Member and your Lobbyist

Greetings; my Fellow Officers, Members, Firefighters, Emergency Service Responders, EMTs, Paramedics and IVFAA Members.

I am composing my article this quarter from part of my past writings with some change and some updates, so some of you might say as you are reading this oh this sort of sounds familiar and you will be sort of right it might.

Another Christmas and New Years has past us by; and I hope everyone had a chance and a reason to enjoy the both, sharing them with family and friends as we look forward to the future, 2024.

Another quarter has passed since my last newspaper article "From the Fire House to the State House". So let's talk about some legislation, education and information, my three favorite topics.

As I and Carol had the opportunity to travel, visit, meet and talk with many of you during the past year I had much to share, talk about, and discuss but nothing more important than addressing the many ways we are hoping we are helping others.

We've talked about what it takes to provide a quality service, the need for staffing and funding, and it takes both to be successful. The many opportunities we have and the opportunities we need to build a stronger, better staffed, well funded Volunteer fire service in Indiana.

We have talked about the money we save as is shown in the "cost savings study" we had done, how to best utilize the data and who to share it

with. We hope the information in that document has not gone stale although the date of study was 2020 I can assure you the information is till valid and good with one exception, if we were to update it we would see the cost vs. the savings have increased, can any one tell me the last time taxes has gone down with any significant amount, that's might point the date may be somewhat outdated but the information has only gone up in cost.

We have addressed a benefit package for our members as a tool for retention and recruitment (remember the more we can retain the less we have to recruit the better trained we are as a department (and the less it will cost us overall). Ask me and we can talk more about this item in the future. We have addressed concerns about training our members, both new and old and how to best accomplish the skill set and experience needed to service our communities.

We have addressed many times the benefits of being an IVFA member, the insurance, the award recognitions, the sharing among fellow members' experiences, knowledge and support and simply the opportunity to help our neighbors. We have celebrated together, laughed together, even cried together but that is all a part of being a family together.

So where do we go or what do we see for 2024?

Not being a fortune teller, what I see is we still have work to do to claim that we are providing the best for the best. I see we need to step up our game on retention so as to slow down our need for recruitment. We will never be able to stop recruiting but we should be able to step up our retention too.

Welcome to 2024 and good bye 2023. As we begin 2024 we must first stop to look back at what a year 2023 has been. I have reached the age where I not only can talk about the past but have had the opportunity to live some of the past and never in all my years have I seen what I have seen in 2020 and 2021. Bet I am not alone in this conversation and thought. We could talk about what was but I would rather put yesterday in the past (and learn from it) and talk with you about the future that we see today.

So where are we as we head into the Indiana General Assembly 2024 Session?

Where to begin; let's start with IVFA requested legislation. Currently we have not requested any specific legislation but fear not, we will soon (by the release of the edition of the paper) have plenty to work with, talk about, and even choose a side in some cases as to what works best for the IVFA.

We will continue to work on HB 1454 (from last session) making sure everyone is aware of it, everyone has some understanding of it, and finally hoping every fire department has began to work with their county council to

at least share information such as budgets, income, replacement cost to show the need for the additional income afforded us by the General Assembly last year. Remember this is a "MAY" provision meaning we must show a need and provide a compelling case to our County Council Members as to why we should be including in the sharing of the Distribution of Public Safety LIT Revenue taxes.

I have stated many times as we traveled the state last fall this is ours to lose, and lose we will if we do "nothing" we should be in full presentation and information sharing mode as of this article or we will lose for sure.

This session is what is know as the short session meaning it typically is three months in length beginning on Jan 8th 2024 and ending on or before Mar 14th 2024. During a short session there is "typically" no budget related legislation introduced.

We will be monitoring as always all bills that will or could have an impact on our opportunity to serve our communities. This sometimes

becomes a challenge when we end up with 500 - 600 bills proposed so my ask of each of you is this; should you see, hear, or are being told about a bill and if said bill might impact either positive or negatively our ability to serve please let us know so we can look into it, monitor it, support or oppose (as appropriate) during the process of this years session.

A couple of items worth mentioning, some of you are still asking about grants at IVY TECH for those who serve as a volunteer fire or EMS member. This past year we have learned from IVY TECH they would no longer sponsor this "free" degree program that they have so graciously offered for a good many years but make no mistake we owe IVY TECH a Hugh thank you for what they did for many of our members. So to Dr. Sue Ellspermann and her staff THANK YOU

Having shared the news about IVY TECH let us share another opportunity with you the members; if you will go to <https://nextleveljobs.org/> go to a category listed as FOR JOB SEEKERS The Next Level Jobs Workforce Ready Grant is a grant program that covers the tuition and fees of qualifying certificate programs. Look at the page titled AVAILABLE JOB TRAINING HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES section you will see that Basic Emergency Medical Studies (EMT) is listed as one of the categories that Successful completion meets Indiana requirements to test for certification as an EMT.

So as you can see the IVFA continues to work for the betterment of our members, with promotional education opportunities, legislation and keeping you informed as to

See *Statehouse* page 4



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4	Merrillville	01/11/24	12:00 PM	CST
5	Lafayette	01/16/24	5:30 PM	EST
6	Kokomo	01/17/24	12:00 PM	EST
7	Wabash	01/18/24	5:30 PM	EST
8	Fort Wayne	01/22/24	5:30 PM	EST
9	Muncie	01/23/24	5:30 PM	EST
10	Indianapolis	01/24/24	12:00 PM	EST
11	Darville	01/25/24	5:30 PM	EST
12	Crawfordsville	01/30/24	5:30 PM	EST
13	Terre Haute	01/31/24	5:30 PM	EST
14	Bloomington	02/01/24	5:30 PM	EST
15	Richmond	02/06/24	5:30 PM	EST
16	Greensburg	02/07/24	5:30 PM	EST
17	Scottsburg	02/08/24	5:30 PM	EST
18	Odon	02/13/24	5:30 PM	EST
19	Huntingburg	02/14/24	5:30 PM	EST
20	Evansville	02/15/24	5:30 PM	CST

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- Talgrass Energy
- TC Energy - ANR Pipeline Company
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- Texas Gas Transmission, LLC
- Town of Chrisney, IN Gas Department
- Town of Lapel
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- Valero
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- West Shore Pipe Line Company
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2024 INPAA EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

TACTICAL PIPELINE RESPONSE TRAINING
NEW DISCUSSION BASED SCENARIO EXERCISES

First responders receive updated information and create relationships with your local pipeline operators and gas distribution companies.

- Steps for Registration:**
 - Please visit www.inpaa.org
 - Select the meeting you wish to register for
 - Once completed you will receive a confirmation email
- At the program you will receive:**
 - Up to date pipeline materials with contact information
 - Communication with your local pipeline operators
 - Free meal and new pipeline safety training

IN PERSON LIAISON

Lunch Meetings
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm Registration / Lunch
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm Program

Dinner Meetings
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Registration / Dinner
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Program

For questions or additional information, contact us at (844) 693-7788 or visit our website at www.inpaa.org

PROGRAM

- Know the Operators.....Know their Products
- In-Person Operator Information
- Virtual Incident Scenario
- On-Scene Chemistry/Hazmat Basics
- Valuable Networking and Interaction
- Safe Digging Practices (811)



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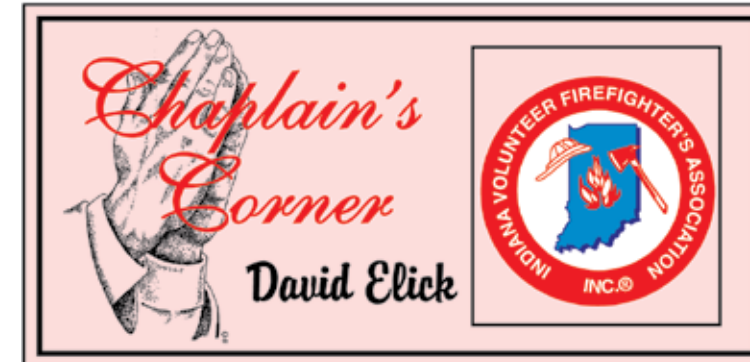
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Greetings all, and welcome to 2024! As of this writing (early January 2024) winter has been relatively mild, as far as winters go in northern Indiana. We, as your chaplain corps, hope you all had a joyous holiday season, and have a prosperous year in 2024.



Each of us has many blessings that we should be grateful and happy for, all year long. In 2 Corinthians 9:8-10, the Bible tells us, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you'll abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.'" These verses hold true, not only in our personal lives, but also our professional and volunteer endeavors, as well.

As volunteers, we are blessed that we can, AND want, to share our God given talents with our families, friends, and communities. There are times, however, that even though our hearts are in the right spot, our judgement, our decisions can be clouded, tainted, even persuaded or misguided to not follow the right path. Our good intentions can be misinterpreted.

Each of us, we are all human. We are going to make mistakes in life. But when we do falter, make bad decisions or poor choices, we MUST own each of those, and be prepared to take any consequences that come our way. By making and owning the mistakes we make, we become better humans, parents, friends, leaders. We learn from our mistakes, our poor choices, so as not to repeat them.

Lord, our new year, 2024, faces many challenges. New tests, new challenges, new elected officials, new decisions on what paths we should take. Please follow, guide and direct each of us to be better tomorrow than we were yesterday and today. Amen.

Stay safe –
Dave Elick

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President

continued from page 1

only our members but the future members of the fire service.

If you have not done so already please take the time to participate in the IVFA Cancer Survey with our partner, the National Institute for Public Safety Health (NIPSH), please scan the attached QR Code or visit <https://redcap.link/volunteerfire> to complete the survey.



In 2019, the IVFA Board of Directors commissioned a study to determine the economic value that the Indiana volunteer fire service generated for Indiana taxpayers. While we all knew that value was significant, I do not think that many realized just how significant it was. At the time of the study, the Indiana volunteer fire service saved Indiana taxpayers 4.5 million dollars annually. We have shared this information with our members, local elected officials, and state legislators over the last 2 to 3 years and will continue to make our elected officials aware of this savings.

Recruitment and Retention is one of the most challenging issues facing volunteer fire departments these days. Recent NVFC data has shown us that the number of volunteer firefighters in the United States has decreased by over 150,000 between 1984 and

2018. During the same time, call volume has more than tripled. So, what can departments do to address the recruitment and retention issue that we are seeing in our State. How about starting a junior firefighter program for your department? These programs are an important source for recruiting the next generation of firefighters, and the benefits to both the department and the junior firefighters far outweigh the effort.

We as an association are currently in the process of creating a phone App for smartphones to reach our younger members and yes, even our older members adept with modern technology. We realize that the younger generation communicates in a totally unique way and the new App will allow us to use "push notifications" to reach these members. More information to follow as we finalize the App.

Speaking of communicating, if your department would like to communicate with us via e-mail, please give your district chairman a valid e-mail address that you or your department check regularly. We struggle as an association to get information out to our departments and members in a timely manner.

The State of Indiana Training Academy is offering Indiana fire departments and firefighters the ability to download all available IFSTA Training Books at no cost to the department or firefighter. Go to the IDHS website for more information. Indiana is the second state to make this available to its fire departments and firefighters, Kentucky was the first.

This year we will be honoring Seventy-nine (79) of our members for Fifty (50) years of service. All honorees will be sent a letter in the coming weeks inviting them and their

families to the Indiana Statehouse for a special recognition event. Once the date is confirmed and finalized the letters will be sent to the members.

Convention 2024 will be in Indianapolis at the Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel. The dates are June 13, 14 and 15. Please note the days are Thursday thru Saturday this year. This is a change from years past. The hope is the change will allow more of our members to attend the 2024 convention.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge PRNE Jean Smith and PREC Jeff Biehl for their service to our association over the last several years. Both Jean and Jeff will be stepping down from their PR Director positions at the start of 2024. I thank both Jean and Jeff for your service and wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors.

In closing, let us all strive to do what we can to make 2024 the best year yet, grow our membership, and above all keep each other and those we serve safe! If any officer or I can be of assistance please reach out, our contact information can be found on the IVFA website or in the IVFA newspaper, we are here to serve you-the members.

Finally, I would like to leave you with this quote from Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi: "Practice does not make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect". When your department or you train in the future, make the most of your time and train like your life depends on it!

Thank you for doing what you do every day for your department and community and the State of Indiana. Serve Proudly. Be Safe. I hope to see you at a future IVFA event or a department function.

Jerry

Statehouse

continued from page 2

information to help you the member.

Visit the IVFA website to stay in touch, in tune and informed about the IVFA and legislation for 2024.

In closing as many of you already know State Representative Randy Frye as well as others retired following the end of the session in 2023. To Representative Frye we want to thank you publicly for your service and your assistance to PUBLIC SAFETY in Indiana. Your commitment to our service has been most welcome, most helpful, and very much appreciated and we wish you well in your retirement from the General Assembly but hope we still see and hear from you about the single item for the most of us PUBLIC SAFETY in Indiana from time to time. Please enjoy

the your retirement,

Finally remember "June" is convention time and you will be hearing, seeing, learning more each month, week, and day until Jun 13 is here. Hope you and your fellow members will join us Jun 13, 14, and 15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis where IVFA District 12 hopes you will be Inspired - Excited - Energized - and Included.

Remember our Gratitude is reflected in our Attitude.

Please stay safe, stay protected, and continue to serve.

I am but a phone call, email, text away should you have a question or concern about anything I have shared in our first 2024 newspaper article or about some legislation, education or information, you might have heard about; my three favorite topics.

Welcome to 2024!!!
Larry Curl - IVFA Lobbyist

From The Vice-President

Ross Emery



Greetings, and hope everyone has recovered from the holidays.

As we enter a new year, we will continue to push to help departments understand HB1454 which allows County Councils to provide some additional funding to volunteer departments. We held roundtables throughout the state last year. We hope to do some informational meetings this spring/summer. Our plan is to do these in a Zoom/Teams online, conference call format.

We are still conducting the cancer study, if you haven't completed it, please do this information is vital for us to collect. We are seeking responses from volunteer firefighters who have never had cancer, as well as firefighter cancer survivors. Participation in this survey is anonymous and voluntary. It should take approximately 30 minutes to complete the important questions. Feel free to skip any questions you prefer not to answer. The National Institute for Public Safety Health (NIPSH), a research collaborator with Ascension Public Safety Medical, is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to gain a better understanding of cancer risk among Indiana Volunteer Firefighters.

February 1st was the deadline for most of the IVFA awards, so I hope you nominated someone for an award. We have tons of people deserving but get very few nominations.

There is still time to apply for the Bridgeport Scholarship, each year the IVFA gives out 4 \$1,500 scholarships. Applicant must be a member in good standing of the IVFA; or the spouse, son or

daughter of a member in good standing of the IVFA (having paid the current year's dues by July 31). The member in good standing must also have been a member for the (2) two years prior to the year of application. Applicant must be a current high school senior, high school graduate or earned a GED; and enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited advanced educational institution. Applications are available on the IVFA website at www.ivfa.org. They shall provide the criteria to follow: The address of the IVFA Office is P.O. Box 4797, Evansville, Indiana 47724. The phone number in Evansville is 812-867-3293 or toll free within Indiana 877-606-4832. Applicant must provide certain information including personal data, financial statements, recommendations, etc. All pages of the application must be filled out in their entirety. Family financial statements are to be made by a parent or guardian of the applicant. All information on the application will be treated with strict confidence. Applicants that are sons or daughters of a Volunteer Firefighter "killed in the line of duty" will receive a ten percent (10%) bonus on points on their graded application. The entire application is to be mailed to the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association Office, P.O. Box 4797, Evansville, Indiana 47724. All applications shall be in the Office of the IVFA by March 1 of the year the application is presented. If the Application is sent by registered or certified mail, a postmark prior to March 1 will be considered as eligible.

We are just a few moths away from our annual convention, I know Larry Curl and crew are working hard to make this year's convention a huge success. If you have never attended, it is a great opportunity to attend training sessions, network with vendors, and fellow firefighters honor the members we have lost in the last year, and celebrate our annual award winners, we will also Crown the 2024 Miss Flame, and this year we will host the inaugural Jr./cadet firefighter competition.

We will once again honor our 50-year members at the state capitol in the next couple of months, if you are a 50 year member in 2024 you will be receiving information from our lobbyist Larry Curl with the information on this event. I encourage our 2024 50-year members to attend this wonderful event.

Till next time stay safe
Ross Emery
IVFA Vice President

CLASSIFIEDS

Departments are entitled to 1 (one) free ad of 50 (fifty) words or less per issue. One (1) item only. Additional items or words will be billed at current rate. **RATES:** Twenty-five (25) words or less, including name and address = \$9.40. **TERMS:** CASH with advertising copy. Include name and address in your ads. Submit legible copy. Publisher is not responsible for errors caused by illegible copy. Type or print all ads. *Your co-operation is appreciated.*

Deadline for the May 2024 Issue of The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter April 1, 2024
[ivfa@hurley.com](mailto:hurley@ivfa.org)



Designed by firefighters for firefighters



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From the Historian's Desk

L.E. "Buz" Koehler
Historian



It's a New Year with new adventures, be they ices skating or sledding we should enjoy.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Miss Flame Contest is a big part of our yearly Convention. But did you know that in 1993 the first Miss Congeniality Award was given? The lucky young lady was, Kay L. Capron Dist. 5.

We are continuing work on our 75 Year Book History, and getting ever so close to a

finished product.. The very last day anything can be added to the History book is February 29, 2024

We continueing to collect any and all , old news papers and convention Books from the past years, and put them in a safe place in digital form. If by chance you have any old newspapers (1984 or earlier)and think we might need to scan them into the archives, please contact me at: Lkoehler@ivfa.org .

If you have an old newspaper and we can scan it into our records, it will be returned to you once we have completed the scan.

Please make a trip back in time see what was happening and maybe find some amazing facts about our Association and it's Newspaper.

Have a geat start to your year and be safe.

IVFA Historian
L.E." Buz" Koehler
lkoehler@ivfa.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORTS

better than it was. Thanks Again.

That's right, there is a new PREC in town, wanting to make some changes in how the Districts are run. Some of the District Chairman in PREC have made changes on how, when and where there meetings are with Training on Saturday Mornings and a short Meeting. That's right 10AM on Saturday Mornings (8B) will be having Saturday morning meetings and training meetings in 2024. You don't have to look them up. 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 IVFA CALENDAR ivfa.org.

I would bet that some of the Depts. never got the INFO from there District Chairman because of bad email addresses, you should have, for what ever reason like (did you know there was 7million dollars in a line item from the Governors Budget for turn out gear and SCBA's for the next two years). More to come on HB 1454 stay tuned.

We need the 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. Hey Ron and Bill we may need to make a couple of road trips in the coming months of 2024. Do I need to get permission from anyone for you?

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.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE CANCER SURVEY ON THE WEB SITE: ivfa.org

Here is what we need from you. Participation from you, it's a two way street. I will get off the soap box

NOW it's going to be a fun 2024.

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

See you at the next District Meeting.

David R. Israel - PREC
prec@ivfa.org

Public Relations Director Southeast

Edwin J. Scheele



I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Christmas. We are in the cold part of the year, everyone needs to be safe when responding to incidents if roads are bad.

The State Convention will be coming real soon. There is still time to get Bridgeport Scholarship applications turned in. They need to be at the IVFA Office by March 1st.

On December 9th I had the honor to attend Rising Sun Fire Dept. Annual Christmas Dinner and to present Charlie Levi his 50 year Gold Card, pin and challenge coin, and 50 year resolution from the State House. It truly was an honor to meet him and his sons and to attend their annual Christmas dinner.

ED Scheele
PRSE

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORTS

Public Relations Director Northwest

Jeremy Reef



Hello Everyone, HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I missed the last newspaper. So, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be the Public Relations officer for the Northwest again this year. I enjoy seeing everyone and seeing the different fire departments at all the district meetings.

I made all but 1 of my 5 District meetings last quarter. It is difficult to get to them all when some are on the same nights. We are going to be working on that this year. The attendance was pretty good at the ones I made. I would like your thoughts and ideas of what it would take to get more attendance at your district meeting. I'm hoping this year is as good or better than last year. Also, if you have events or meetings that you would like for me or your district chairman to attend, please let us know. We would be happy to attend.

I'm happy to announce that 4 out of 5 of my IVFA districts have named their Miss flames. District 9B is still waiting to find a contestant.

We are about 5 months out from the 2024 IVFA convention. This year's convention will be June 13th through the 15th at the Crown Plaza Hotel Indianapolis Airport location. We have a lot of new and exciting things happening this year at the convention! If you have any questions, please contact any state officer, central office, or visit the website (IVFA.org).

I hope to see you all at your next district meeting. Remember if you need help with anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe out there,
Jeremy Reef
IVFA PRNW

Public Relations Director Northeast

Sam Bisel



Hello everyone! I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and a good new year with your loved ones.

For those that do not know me my name is Sam Bisel and I am the new Public Relations Representative for North East Indiana for the Indiana Volunteers FireFighters Association. This comes with a great privilege and honor to represent district 4, 5, 6 and 7.

I have 33 years as a fire fighter and a member of IVFA, in those years I have held Caption, Assistant Fire Chief with 28 years at Geneva Volunteer Fire Department and currently Fire Chief at Nottingham Township Volunteer Fire Department. Also, for the past 33 years as a heavy farm machinery mechanic with 23 of those years spent at Truland Equipment, Inc. in Bluffton, Indiana. In the past 2 years I have made an additional change in my life to help the fire departments in Jay, Adams, Wells, Huntington, Blackford and Grant counties in becoming a sales representative

with Dinges Fire Company. This has allowed me to host a grant writing class and getting to know the financial needs of the fire departments. Having the past 10 years representing District #7 as Chairman has unsurpassed the friendships, I have gained in a short amount of time not only in the district but of the entire state of Indiana.

I would like to take a moment to thank Jean Smith for his many years of service as Public Relations Representative for North East Indiana.

As for the New Year, I look forward to meeting with North East Indiana Districts of the Indiana Volunteers Firefighters Association and passing along knowledge of my years of representing the Indiana Volunteers Firefighters Association. This year's agenda focusing on retention and recruitment for the Volunteer Firefighters for our Indiana Volunteer Fire Departments.

Here is to the beginning of a New Year!
Sam Bisel
PRNE

Public Relations Director Eastcentral

David Isreal



Hey Everybody: Happy New Year 2024!

Jeff, On behave of all the IVFA Districts of PREC Districts 8A, 8B, 10, 13A,13B, THANK YOU for all that you have done to help make the Districts better than they were. Thank You for all your dedication to the IVFA PREC for making it a little bit



Deadline for the May 2024 Issue of The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter
ivfd@hardmedia.com

I.V.F.A. DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT 1 REPORT



Marshall Neese

IVFA District 1 Meeting
9 November 2023 / 19:30 hrs / South Haven Fire / 17 Present

Notes Taken By: Steve Cope
Pledge of Allegiance led by: Marshall Neese
Attendance taken by: Marshall Neese
Special Guests:
SHFD K9 Jack
Phyllis Vargo - IVFAA
John Shaver - State Fire Marshal Office
Meeting Notes:
• Brief history given by SHFD Asst. Chief
• John Shaver spoke on state paying for IVFSTA books and now offering swift water rescue certs and flood waters certs.
• Minutes from the last meeting moved and second to suspend the reading, motion by Keith Austin, 2nd by Steve Cope. motion carried
• Treasurer report. \$1,333, check made for one thousand dollars to cover IVFA Challenge coins, current balance \$333.00
• Marshal said he will have more IVFA challenge coins this week. Twenty dollars a piece, if interested please get ahold of him directly.
• SHFD FF Kush, showed a video covering trauma
• SHFD FF Keith Austin was given his 25 year IVFA pin
• Phyllis Vargo IVFAA. Spoke about the auxiliary and that if anyone or department is interested in joining to contact her directly.
• Marshal asked if everyone is getting their newspapers.
• Lake Ridge will be hosting christmas caroling in the state December 2nd, 5p-8p
• Dave Denny spoke on their shop with a firefighter event.
• Dave Denny asked for an explanation of what exactly the IVFA does and offers for firefighters. Marshal offered the booklets that list all the information.
• 50/50 \$10.50 ticket 2869.
• Convention June 13th-17th in

Indy.
Old Business:
• If hosting a fundraiser submit the event on the IVFA website calendar
• IVFA booklets, if anyone would like one. Lists all of the different items that are covered and offered from the state.
Next Meeting/Meeting Adjourned.
TBD/ 2028hrs

DISTRICT 2 REPORT



Tom Fentress - Chairman

10/19/2023
IVFA - District 2 Bi-Monthly Meeting
Location: Lake of the Four Seasons - Hebron, IN
Time: 7:00 pm

Guest: Please sign in on the attendance sheet
1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
• District 1
• District 2
4. Guest Introductions
• State Officers
• Dignitaries • Lifetime Members acknowledgement
• 10-year or 25-year members acknowledgement
• Chief of the Host Department
• Chief Guests
• History of the Department
5. Minutes from the last meeting
• Additions/corrections
6. Communications
• President Report
• Public Relations Report
• Dignitaries
7. Treasurer's report - No treasurers report.
8. Old Business
• Meeting dates:
12/21/2023 - Canceling this meeting - November meeting will be with D1
• IVFA 75th Anniversary books are still available - order them soon.
• Cancer Survey - Look for the information in emails and we should have flyers out.
• Savvik Buying Group - Did everyone get the information? Anyone using it?

9. New Business
• HB 1454 - Discussion
• Convention Notes: 2024 will be in Indianapolis, 2025 will be in Madison
• Looking at creating 2 district trainings
• 4 meetings next year - will revolve around the quarterly meetings
• Challenge coins - I have extra for sale
10. EMS announcements:
11. Good of the Order
• Announcements
• Indiana EMS Association Conference - November 30, and December 1, 2023 - French Lick, IN
• Department Fundraisers
• Department Trainings coming soon?
• Other Good for the Department announcements
12. Next Meeting
• District 1 - 11/9/2023 - South Haven Fire Dept
• District 2 -
13. Comments from the guests
14. Adjournment

DISTRICT 5 REPORT



John Grolich - Chairman

IVFA 5th District Meeting
November 9, 2023
Bourbon Fire Department, Bourbon IN

Refreshments were served by the host department prior to the meeting.
GUESTS
Jean Smith PRNE
Kay Shumaker IVFAA 5th District Chairperson
Savannah Lyon 5th District Miss Flame
Meeting was called to order 1930 hrs by chairman John Grolich with the pledge of allegiance following. There were 13 members representing 6 departments. Minutes from September meeting were read and approved as submitted
Jean discussed the IVFA cancer study. John discussed cancer in the fire service, DOCUMENTATION IS VERY IMPORTANT.
Jean passed out Academy files. Also passed out information on cancer risk survey online to support a research study.
Talked on the SAVVIK purchasing program for volunteer fire departments. John discussed the training opportunities available. Remarked on fire territories, equipment, and funding. Talked about H.B.1454 and funding for the volunteer fire service.
Savannah Lyon was crowned District 5 Miss Flame for 2024.
Assistant Chief McIntire of Tippecanoe Fire Department talked about a battery charger that was mounted in their fire engine that caught fire and destroyed the truck.
Argos Fire reported that they purchased a truck from Bremen Fire Department at their auction.
Next meeting January 11, 2024

at Macy-Allen Fire Department Meeting was adjourned 1950 hrs.
Respectfully Submitted by Paul W. Martin
5th District Secretary

I.V.F.A. 5TH District Meeting
January 11, 2024
Fulton-Liberty Twp Fire Department, Fulton IN

Refreshments were served by the host department
Meeting was called to order by Chairman Grolich at 1937 hrs with the pledge of allegiance following. There 8 members representing 5 departments present.
November minutes were read and approved as submitted

GUESTS:

Sam Bisel PRNE
Savannah Lyon
5th District Miss Flame
Pascal Moon 9A chairman
Larry and Carol Curl

Sam Bisel introduced himself and gave us a bit of his history.
Christina Reef discussed the IVFAA and the awards available for both the IVFA and IVFAA.
Larry Curl discussed the Legislative bills and Senate bill 54 in particular. He commented on the 2024 convention in Indianapolis June 13,14, and 15.
John presented a 50 yr. several 25yr pins and 10 year pins.
He discussed the 75 year IVFA historical book and the Training opportunities available and bomb threats. There have been several bomb threats recently in the area so be aware.
Next meeting March 14 scheduled at Lagro Fire Department
Meeting was adjourned at 2041 hrs.
Respectfully submitted,
Paul Martin
District 5 Secretary

DISTRICT 6 REPORT



Mack Grobis- Chairman

Greetings to all of those in District 6! I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are starting off with a prosperous New Year. Unfortunately, at the time of writing this article, there is no accumulation of snow on the ground...which is very disappointing. The district

has been very active during the Christmas Season. As you have seen on Facebook, many departments had the opportunity to bless many children with Shopping with a Firefighter! That was a great way to spread Christmas cheer to those who may be struggling this year. You guys are awesome! This was the first time I was involved with the Shop with a Firefighter event and I can tell you it was a very humbling experience to see the smiles on kids' faces. If your department can raise money to do this event, I strongly suggest it as you will not regret it!

The district held a Bi-Monthly business meeting on November 28th at West Central Fire District. I would like to thank Chief Gale Stelzer for hosting the meeting! We had quite a few distinguished guests in attendance including IVFA President Jerry Liston, IVFA Lobbyist Larry Curl (and wife Carol Curl), IVFA State Chaplain Dave Elick, Public Relations Northeast (PRNE) Director Jean Smith, PRNE-Elect Sam Bisel, and IDHS Academy Director John Shafer. Director Shafer presented updates about what is happening in the state. One of the main highlights of his presentation was that the state is providing FREE online books to IFSTA. There were some changes to the water rescue certifications with the addition of a new certification for Ice Water Rescue. That will be rolled out once instructors are certified. Another guest presenter was Ray Easterly from Clean X-Treme. He let us know what his bio-hazard control and clean up company can offer to first responders during certain kinds of incidents. There were three 10-year pins, four 25-year pins, and two 50-year Challenge coins presented. There was a Miss Flame contest held during the meeting as well, but due to unforeseen circumstances, it needed to be held again at a later date.

The redone Miss Flame contest was held at Corunna Volunteer Fire Department on December 9th. I would like to congratulate Jenna Mackin, who represents the East Central Fire & EMS for being the 2024 District 6 Miss Flame representative! She will represent the district at the State Convention in Indianapolis this year. If your department has any promotional opportunities, please feel free to reach out to her. She will be on Facebook soon.

As you are reading this, the January business meeting was held at the Ashley-Hudson Volunteer Fire Department, but the article will be published later... STAY TUNED!

I hope you all have a Safe 2024!

God Bless,
Mack Grobis
Chairman



I.V.F.A. DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT 8A REPORT



Rex Maynard- Chairman

Hope everyone had a Happy Holiday now that new year is here. I hope you are. All getting ready to talk.

to your County Council about Indiana enacts Hea 1454 for Firefighter know as a local option Income Tax (loit) of 0,1 to 0.5 % The funds would be used. For the Volunteer Fire service only. Base on the Assessed value within their coverage District. It's a new year. Some Departments have new officers. If you have a new chief or assistant chief please send their name Phone. number and E-Mail to me. Remember the 2024 IVFA

Convention will be held in June 13-15 at the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport 2501 South School Road.

It would be nice to have someone from every Department to come to our District 8A Meeting. you can receive a lot of good information from the IVFA. our next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. March 27, 2024

at Pleasant Twp. VFD State Road 18 & 500 west Sweeter Indiana. District 8A Rex Maynard

DISTRICT 9A REPORT



Pascal Moon - Chairman

Good Day to all, Well another year has pasted by and how they seem to go by quick!

The time we spent over the holiday's soon gives way to the cold evenings and gray days of winter. Before you know it, the leaves will be budding and the yards will be growing again.

It seems like we never get all of the things done that we plan to do in a year?

Here is what is going on in District 9A, with our last meeting in Delphi and the next being at Democrat Township.

I would like to see a few new faces, and few of the older ones also. But lets get the numbers back up to before the covid times.

The last big meeting I had was in November of 2019, when I had almost 30 at a meeting.

If you have not been to a meeting for a while try to join us for one, bring another member along also. There has been a lot of changes in departments, and

equipment in the last couple of years. Visit with the meeting department, see what they got new, and talk with them on the runs they had in the last year or so. Learn something new.

Communicate with your members, about some of the changes that are going on in the fire service.

this is for both the older members and the new ones. Don't be closed minded about moving forward and to try something new.

We need to move forward and not be left in the dust!

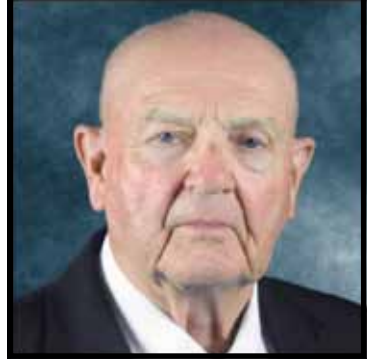
We are living in an ever changing world?

What could be you next call? Battery fire, active shooter, or an extrication with the newer car models?

Please be safe and hope to see more at our next Meeting.

Pascal

DISTRICT 10 REPORT



John Ray - Chairman

Greetings from District 10:

District 10 and IVFA sadly report the loss of 3 longtime Firefighters: Ronnie McIntyre, Harrison Twp., Scott Litmer, New Point Vol. Fire Dept., and Charles Israel, Burney/Clay Twp. passed away during 2023. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, as they begin this new year without their loved ones.

Happy New Year! Now, get out your new 2024 calendar and "save the date", for the IVFA Convention which will be held June 13-15, 2024 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Indianapolis, IN just off I-465 on Sam Jones Expressway. Look elsewhere in this paper, or go onto the website; ivfa.org, for more information.

November 1st Rushville Twp. member, Jonathon Singleton was presented his 10 year pin; also, Thomas Colestock and Richard Tracy were presented 25 year pins.

Our November District meeting was at Columbus Twp. V.F.D. with 25 firefighters and guests attending and reporting 231 Runs. Firefighter, Johnna Wilson, received her 10 pin. Susan Raisor from IDEM talked about open burning and wild fires. She has more information you may have, by contacting her office at (812) 358-2027 or go to her website, sraisor@ideam.in.gov .

In December, we traveled to Rushville to present 50 year member, Anderson Twp. Firefighter, Rick Disbro a Gold Coin. Also, in December, Hope Firefighter, Bruce Neal was presented his Gold Coin at the Dept's. annual Christmas Dinner and awards banquet.

Our current Miss Flame, Natalie Israel was again, chosen District 10 Miss Flame for 2024. Natalie is the Granddaughter of David and Peggy Israel and represents Burney/Clay Twp Fire Dept. The 75year Anniversary

Yearbook will be available, in the near future.

May 2024 be a safe and prosperous year! In behalf of District 10 Secretary, Jim Davis and myself; we thank you for your participation and support of IVFA and dedicated service to your communities-protecting life and property.

John M. Ray, District 10 Chairman

DISTRICT 11A REPORT



Ralph 'Pete' Taylor - Chairman

Well Thanksgiving and Christmas is over. The house seems empty. We had family from Texas to New York here for about 10 days .

We loved having them, hated to see them go.

I have attended several memorials and a lot of awards banquets. Ive given out 10 and 25 year pins.

Need all firefighters to do the Cancer Survey. Its on the front page of the last issue of the paper.

I've given out several 50 yr coins to the 50 yr members.

Miss Flame will be chosen on Jan. 20, 2024 at Van Buren TWP fire house at our next district meeting. Good luck girls , we have 4 running

Convention is in June 13- 15 2024 Thursday the Saturday. Hope to see everyone there. Its at the Crown Plaza in Indianapolis District 12 is hosting.

Till next time stay safe.

District 11 A Chairman Pete Taylor

DISTRICT 11B REPORT



Jason Ryan - Chairman

Well, I really hope everyone had a great Holiday Season!!! With the New Year coming in brings in New Officers to some Department's, with that being said please send me a list of officers and contacts with phone numbers and emails, I would love to be able to send out meeting reminders that way also.

The district's last meeting was held Sunday November 12, 2023 at Helt Fire in Dana. This meeting was also the District's Miss Flame contest and Thanksgiving dinner. The opening prayer was held and led by Pete Taylor, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Christina Reef. After a small opening we broke for the wonderful meal that was provided. The meeting was resumed at 1:55 p.m. We had

3 contestants for the 11B Miss Flame contest, they were Jaeden Doan (Helt Fire), Elizabeth Stone (Floyd Fire), and Madalynn Ryan (Marshall Fire), guest present for the IVFA were Ross Emery, Vice President, Brent Bush, State Sgt of Arms, Jeremy Reef, PRNW, Pete Taylor District 11A Chairman and Larry Bartlow, PRWC. Jodi Rohr, District 11B Auxiliary Chairman introduced her guest, Christina Reef, State Auxiliary President, and Bev Taylor, 11A Auxiliary Chairman. Roll call for the meeting was 6 departments with 23 members. The minutes from the July meeting were read and approved as written, Tresure report was given by Larry Bartlow with \$5,182.69, was approved as gave. Why the judging of the Miss Flames was taking place, guest spoke of things going on within the IVFA and District. Larry Bartlow talked about the free books that you can get online thru DHS from IFSTA, Vice President Ross Emery added more on the available books and how the program works, VP Emery also discussed the awards that are available thru the IVFA at convention and also spoke on the funds that the state has for gear and training. Ross also spoke on the challenge coins that are available for the upcoming convention and the cancer survey. Cameron Chapman of Donley safety was present and spoke about the company and what they all have to offer. Chairman Ryan spoke on the awards and how to nominate individuals for them thru the website. The 2024 Convention will be held in Indianapolis at The Crowne Plaza Hotel as the host area with events taking place at other possible locations near the hotel. The dates of the convention are on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday this year of June 13th thru 15th. Chairman Ryan is asking that all departments provide him with 3 points of contact for the departments, he is needing good names, phone numbers and emails, you can email him the information at district11b@ivfa.org or call him at 765-592-0306. 50/50 drawing was done, along with other drawings, Congratulations to the winners of the drawings!!! A big shout out to Chief Brooks of Floyd Township who donated a GurdianAngel light to be gave away also!!! Well, the judging was over the Miss Flame contest, last year's Miss Flame Jordan Peebles was in charge of the contest this year. The Miss Flame for District 11B for 2024 is Madalynn Ryan of Marshall Volunteer Fire Department, 1st Runner up Elizabeth Stone of Floyd Township and 2nd Runner Up Jaeden Doan of Helt Fire. Congratulations to all of the contestants!!! The next meeting will be held January 14th with location TBD. Prior to the end of the meeting Anthony Rohr asked all Veterans to stand for we could honor them, then the closing pray was led by Anthony Rohr. Thank You Jason Ryan Chairman 11B

DISTRICT 12 REPORT



Larry Curl - Chairman

"Hello!" and Greetings from District 12

"Good morning." "Good afternoon." "Good evening." depending upon the time of the day you are reading these updates from our District in your quarterly IVFA newspaper.

First let me say good bye to 2023 and welcome to 2024.

As we closed out 2023 in District 12 we were honored to have had the opportunity to hold our "second annual" District 12 Holiday and Awards Meeting/Meal graciously hosted by Paragon Vol. Fire Dept. on November 18, 2023 with 40 + in attendance. We are glad we had the honor of being with the Director of IDHS Director Joel Thacker, State Fire Marshal Steve Jones, and IVFA President Liston all who shared some very enlightening information about the current and future state of public safety in the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Fire Marshal's Office and about the IVFA as they addressed those gathered.

We presented a few longevity pins for 10 and 25 year members and with the help and assistance of Gary Davis from the MacQueen Emergency we were able to present this year's MacQueen Excellence Award to Chief William Davis on behalf of his department and his auxiliary for the service and dedication far beyond that of the emergency services, that they show and share with the citizens of Paragon Indiana. Congratulations Paragon Fire & Auxiliary well deserved.

We've have had a very busy year in District 12 beginning January 30 with our first District Meeting in Advance Fire Dept, followed by our second meeting on March 6 hosted by Amo Vol. Fire Dept. then on May 8 we were hosted by Brown Twp Fire Dept, and then July 10 at Jamestown Volunteer Fire Dept. Then on August 12 District 12 hosted our first (of what we hope to be another annual event) Family Picnic hosted by Gregg Twp Fire Dept.

We want to give a shout out to each of these departments for their help in our meeting needs; your willingness means so much to our success here in District 12.

We also would like to invite any department in our IVFA District 12 an opportunity to host one of our bi-monthly meetings which we host typically in Jan, Mar,

See District 12 page 8

More meeting notes on page 8

I.V.F.A. DISTRICT MEETINGS

May, Jul, Sep, and Nov, If your department would be interested in hosting a District meeting please reach out to myself Larry Curl Cell: 317-605-6669

Email: district12@ivfa.org or our District Secretary Chara Leaver

Cell: (317)-445-6358 Email: ivfaadistrict12@ivfaa.org We would be happy to talk with you about setting up a meeting at your Fire Department.

We here in District 12 live by the motto of "A Family That Prays Together and Plays Together Stays Together" so that is why we attempt to bring family into our meetings as much as possible and we use the following as our guidelines for our family activities.

- 1. Spontaneous 2. Inexpensive 3. Make it simple 4. Prioritize family time 5. Let creativity guide 6. Everyone involved

We will continue to use these guidelines in our 2024 meeting and gathering schedules.

One last but very important topic: Your District has been selected to host the 2024 IVFA State Convention June of 2024. So what does that mean to first our District and Second to the State.

For District 12 it is a true honor to have the trust of the State Convention Committee and the vote of the IVFA membership who attended the 2022 State Convention vote District 12 as the next convention hosts. To have the trust and support of both is very meaningful and we Thank You. Now comes the work; hosting a state convention is not just finding a location and setting a date; it includes picking a location, setting the date, and creating the activities that will occur during the convention, and oh by the way findings a means to pay for the expenses for said convention ie, all invited speakers, all meals, all activities,

I think you get the picture so again our ask of you District 12 members we need your help in all the above. By the time you are reading this article we will be well underway but I still want to offer to all a chance for your involvement, assistance, help, finding sponsors and making 2024 the year of the IVFA State Convention to shine.

For the State, we here in District 12 ask only a couple of things from you; attend and enjoy. With you we will be able to have a successful 78th State Convention, without you well I'm sure you know it will certainly not be a success story.

Look for the Convention details in another location in this paper

As Always thanks to our District Membership, Our District Leadership and to the IVFA

Your District 12 Leadership Team

Larry Curl - District 12 Chairman, Jim Leaver - District 12 Vice Chairman, Chara Leaver - District 12 Secretary / IVFAA District 12 Chairperson, Rick Rusie - District 12 Chaplain, and Ed Orr - District 12 official Photographer look forward to seeing each of you at our holiday / awards dinner. Reach out to any of us if there is anything we can help your department with.

Welcome to Winter 2024!!! Thank you, hope your holidays were the best and god blesses you one and all...

Larry, Jim, Chara, Rick

and Edward Your District 12 Leadership Team

"BUILDING A DISTRICT WITH A PURPOSE AND A PURPOSE FOR OUR DISTRICT."

DISTRICT 14 REPORT



Rick Cannon - Chairman

Happy New Year from District 14

We have been busy getting out to departments and passing out pins if we haven't been to one of your meetings please contact me and we will show up and talk to your members.

Also please try to attend one of our district meetings they are held on every other month on the 3 Thursdays our next one will be March 21 2024 at 19:00 hrs and will be held at FairPlay Fire Company #1 in Madison Indiana 403East Main Street.

And also we are starting to work on the 2025 Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association Convention witch will be held in June 2025 at the Clifty Falls State park so get ahold of us if you want to help out with the convention.

Thanks Rick Cannon Chairman 592-523-2665

DISTRICT 15 REPORT



Paul Campbell - Chairman

District 15 Report Happy New Year to all the fire departments in District 15. Let me start out by apologizing for the late introduction. My name is Paul Campbell, and I am the District 15 Chairman. I took over for Steve Anderson (hold the applause) at our July meeting. I am currently the assistant fire chief in Newburgh and work full time at Toyota in Princeton. I have served in all the officer roles at Newburgh since joining in 1991. I served 10 years as Fire Chief.

Please try to have someone at our quarterly meetings. The meetings will be posted on the IVFA calendar and on our Facebook page. Each quarterly meeting is held in one of our 4 counties. In 2024, we will continue with having our meetings in conjunction with some training. They will be as

follows:

1st quarter: will be held in Vanderburgh County. Date, location and time is TBD.

2nd quarter: will be held in Warrick County. Date, location and time TBD

3rd quarter: will be held in Posey County. Date, location and time TBD

4th quarter: will be held in Gibson County. Date, location and time TBD

On July 16th, we will hold our meeting in Posey County. It will start at 1830 and our annual elections for officers will be held that evening.

The annual IVFA convention will be held in June in Indianapolis this year. Please keep an eye on the IVFA newspaper for information on this event. Chairman Curl and his committee are planning some exciting things this year's convention.

The IVFA is in the process of developing an app and is hoping to roll it out this summer. We are hoping this will make it easier for people to get information from the IVFA and the districts.

If you need to get in contact with me, I can be reached by email: district15@ivfa.com. If you have an urgent need to speak with me, I can be reached via text at 812-573-9473 and I will get back with you as soon as I can.

Everyone be safe and keep an eye on each other.

DISTRICT 18 REPORT



Nicholas Waninger- Chairman

Good Morning or good evening when you are reading this! I'm hoping for a calm winter as I write this on New Year's Eve. If you haven't been to a district meeting in awhile, I'd like to challenge you to come to one this year. Our first meeting in January, Southern Indiana Power will be in attendance to give a power demonstration. In our March meeting, IDEM will give a presentation. District 18 is and continues to be known for our good food! (Thank you to all departments!!!) In 2024 I'd like to get a little more out of meetings. I will do my best to schedule presentations for each meeting. If there is something you'd like to see, don't hesitate to give me a call!

District 18 IVFA

November 16th, 2023

The last meeting of the district 18 on November 16th 2023 and was hosted by Holland fire department

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Nick Waninger

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all members present.

Chaplain Jaden Hinkle gave the opening prayer, and remembrance of Robert Whitehead from Rome

The business meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm by Chairman Waninger and

welcomed everyone thatbhas joined us tonight.

Roll call was taken with 56 members representing 15 departments answering 400 alarms.

Treasurer's report was given with \$5,9737.87

Vice Chairman Smith introduced guest present Mike Follie McQueen Equipment, Kathy Smith Chairman District 18 IVFAA, Moley Goffenett new District 18 miss flame, Jon Hancock District 10 coordinator, and John Schafer director of state training academy.

State Officer's report

None

District Chairman's report

Nominations for state awards are due by February 1st.

Chairman Waninger stated that Fire Marshall Jones talked about thinking ahead for example can someone bring fuel if on a scene for a long time, or a large number of patients.

District officer's report

Vice Chairman Smith talked about the supporting heroes.

Smith also talked about the cancer survey that is going around to all departments.

Committee reports.

Carter Fire will host the 2024 District 18 parade and miss flame.

The Dubois county fire school for 2024.

Old business

none

New Business

Report from Guest present

Jon talked about the things that are going on in the state fire academy, Jon also talked about the Arcadis Portal trying to make it easier to use, also talked about the new e-book that all fire departments can get and use for free

Announcement- good of the order.

2024 state convention will be held in Indianapolis on June 13-15 at the Crown Plaz

Chairman Waninger thanked the host department for the meal.

Announced the date and location of the next meeting. It will be on January 18th 2024 with the Troy fire department host.

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

DISTRICT 19 REPORT



Ben Sieverding- Chairman

District 19 Paper Article (December 2023)

District 19 held their September meeting at the Hogan Township VFD in Dearborn County. A good crowd was in attendance as Hogan Twp VFD members received their years of service pins. In November our district meeting was held at the Milan VFD station. Again a good crowd was in attendance. Years of Service Pins were presented to members of the Milan VFD.

Ed Scheele traveled to the Rising Sun VFD Annual Christmas Dinner to present Charlie Israel with his 50 Year

Gold Card. Congratulations to Charlie for his many years of dedicated service to the Rising Sun VFD and the Rising Sun community.

Recently departments in our district have experienced long time members passing and moving on to that station above. Our thoughts and prayers are with these departments and the families of those deceased members.

As we enter a new year, hard to believe it is 2024, the volunteer fire service faces many challenges. Recruitment, retention and funding continue to be the largest challenges we face. HB 1454 has started the discussion state wide in regards to funding our volunteer fire departments. There still remains a lot of work to do. All of us need to get involved and emphasize to our local and state politicians the importance of this issue. Each of our communities face different challenges, but this issue is a common cause that all of us can get involved with and make a difference.

With the cold winter months upon us please remember to stay fire safe. Remind your communities of fire safety during cold weather as they heat their homes. Also remember to be aware of the added safety concerns to our firefighters as they respond to emergency calls during the winter months.

We would love to see everyone at our next District 19 meeting. We would love to see at least 1 or 2 representatives from each department. Our crowds keep growing, come join us.

DISTRICT 21 REPORT



Don Fultz- Chairman

District 21 meeting was held at Linden or Madison Twp Vol Fire Department.

A light meal was served.

There were 5 departments present with 31 people.

Elections were held Don Fultz as District 21 Chairman and George Buck as Secretary and Treasurer were elected.

Miss Flame for the district was crowned. District 21 Miss Flame is Tatum Moore. She is from Perry Twp Vol Fire Department in Colfax, IN. Tatum shared what the Miss Flame project for the 2024 convention would be.

John D. Goodrich from West Lebanon Vol Fire Department received a 50 year coin.

Other business was discussed.

Our next meeting will be at Romney Vol Fire Department (Randolph) on Monday, February 26, 2024

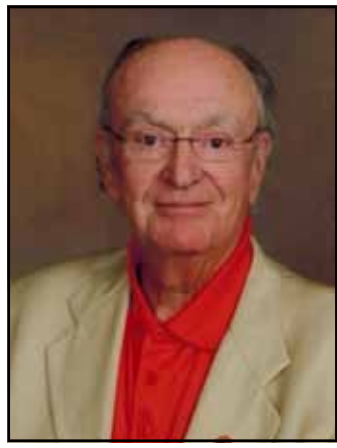
The address is 11508 S. US 231 S, Romney, IN 47981

The meeting starts at 7:30 pm with a light meal at 6:45 pm.

The IVFAA joined the men's meeting.

Don Fultz District 21 Chairman

In Memory



Timothy Richard Downey

February 16, 1935 - October 9, 2023

Timothy Richard Downey passed away on Monday, October 9, 2023. Timothy (T.R.) graduated from Bishop Noll Catholic High School and went on to St. Joseph's College. While he was in college, he took a sabbatical in the United States Marines Corps. Following his service, he was honorably discharged and returned to St. Joe's and graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing.

He then was hired by Federated Insurance Company and worked in Kokomo, Indiana where he later started his own agency. Throughout his career, he was involved with and founded several successful companies including Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services (VFIS) and Indiana Public Employers Plan (IPEP). Over the years, he was an active supporter of the Professional Insurance Agents (PIA) and the Independent Insurance Agents of Indiana (Big I).

He served on many boards but one of his greatest honors was being a member of the SJC Board of Trustees. He was a member of the Indy Northside Lords of the Region and was a 3rd Degree Member in the Knights of Columbus.

T.R. was also the beloved husband of Mary Ann Downey, father of Christopher, Clara, Patrick (Erin), and grandfather to Kate Finnegan and Colin Patrick.

In honor of T.R., memorial contributions may be made to Toys for Tots. In addition, an Insurance Degree Scholarship in his name will be announced at a later date.

From The Secretary

Leighanne Ellis



INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING November 3-5, 2023 Crowne Plaza Hotel INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Meeting called to order at by President Jerry Liston at 1:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Ross Emery. The Invocation was given by Chaplain David Elick.

Roll Call was taken with 19 District Chairman present and 6 Absent, 5 Public Relations Officers and 1 absent, 7 past presidents, the Lobbyist, Webmaster, Assistant

Treasurer. Reading of the minutes from the last meeting, Richard Glant made a motion to accept minutes as emailed. Don Cushman second the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Luke Kluender, report passed out to members. Discussion was held on accounts and the convention account is higher than normal due to taking on Convention 2023 account management. No questions or discussions were posed during the presentation.

Motion to accept treasurer report as emailed made by Mack Grobis. The second was given by Tom Fentress. Motion passed.

Guests:

State Fire Marshall Stephen Jones, talked about fire dept. planning and preparedness when it comes with a disaster or incident. Spoke on teaming up with EMA, EMS, LEO to have a collaborative plan to respond with. Discussion on safety in day-to-day business; making sure all seatbelts are on prior to rolling a vehicle, air packs are ready, and gear is maintained. Cancer discussion in trying to prevent exposure and reduce cancer numbers. There are a number of studies that are coming out in the next year. Spoke on how to keep gear clean when needed and spoke on the problems and a solution to identify on a county level to have a facility to let dept. use to clean equipment. Wanted feedback on issues from the last

time he visited and what the office needs to change. Discussion on threat levels and encryption of email addresses. Would like to make it where every dept. has a state email address to obtain those encrypted emails. The email systems is \$5-\$6 per month which is \$50-60,000 per year for these emails. Would like to team up with other state dept. (LEO, EMA, LEPC) to find the solution for the funding portion.

Public Safety Education Academy Director John Shafer, spoke on the Next Level firefighting initiative. The initiative is made to fund training facilities to make the area within a 35 minutes drive of any department for a training. Their budget is \$7.1 million, have 4 hub and spoke locations, Corydon, Rensselaer, Wabash, and Linton. Spoke about the PPE program, \$10 million dollars for purchase, 249 dept. applied for request. Will be rolling out more information soon. Handed out information about updates, spoke on Acadis and Vectron information. They are sharing all trainings submitted through the state website, <https://www.in.gov/dhs/training/fire-training/opportunities> Pre-requisites list are update and current at <https://on.in.gov/academy-prerequisites> has resources and coaches to help with this information and you can reach out to them for help. <https://www.in.gov/dhs/files/instructor-recertification-form.pdf> is updated in the instructor corner and available for continuing education. Investigator certification updated to current from 2009. Driver Operator Certification updated and using current IFSTA standards. Planning on updating all courses on a 2-year rotation. All forms have been updated onto Acadis and is all standardized. Water Rescue Certification: surface water rescue, operations, and tech, ice rescue ops and tech, floodwater rescue ops and tech. these are new courses and becoming an instructor will have variances until enough are certified to then start having instructors. IFSTA eLibrary: all textbooks are available through a subscription program at <https://on.in.gov/ifsta-library-request> once you register, you get 36 books for free through this program. ResourceOne accounts created at <https://moodle.ifsta.org> this is specifically for fire dept. within the state of Indiana. We are the second of 2 states to sign on for this program. Every firefighter has the ability to access this and we need to use this. All leadership trainings are listed on acadis and are planning to start in February.

Old Business:

1. Savvik buying group- link has been updated on their website for our membership to sign up.
2. NIPSH Ascension St. Vincent Cancer survey- 57 members have completed the survey. It does take some time to complete the survey. It can take anywhere from 15-30 minutes to complete.
3. Central Office Report: Jack Kerney, Reports are going to be processed and emailed out as requested due to getting dues packets sent out. July received dues packets are being entered. If there is a specific report needed contact office. 38 deceased members to date, have 17 from rosters with causes we are using for tracking. 12,500 addresses prepared for newspaper. 278 bad addresses. 22 addresses on hold for newspaper mailing, 219 total bad addresses. reports emailed out to district chair. 13962 Active members 2022 dues cycle, 12,372 2023 dues cycle

13 active members 2023 dues cycle, 41 service members, 720 gold members, 13,356 members of association. 1 pending AIL Claims, \$220,064.23 paid out to date from AIL. 4,954 license plates sold Jan.- Dec. 2023.

Executive Committee Report:

Discussion on LODD notifications and how to handle those along with guidelines of those notifications. Discussed 50 year coins, you need to meet with Brent Bush or Jerry Liston to obtain coins. Phone app information discussion about what it offers, and what it can do for the membership with communication and information. Information shared on safety plan for April Solar Eclipse event. Next year meeting dates are Feb. 2-4, May 3-5, July 26-28, and Nov. 8-10, 2024. Looking for a district chairman for District 16, Jack Zeeks and Jack Kerney will work on speaking to a few people.

Committee Reports:

Awards- Vice President Ross Emery- awards are coming up and due Feb. 1. Need names for MacQueen District Award. We need to make sure we are notifying the representatives to come and attend meetings to present award to member along side of you.

Angel Award, Diane Harrison- nothing to report

Jr. Firefighter Award, Jack Kerney- nothing to report

Mr. IVFA, Brent Bush- going to have to go back to the last 5 recipients due to passing of the last 2 recipients

Ivan Nevil Leadership Award- Larry Curl- nothing to report

Miss Flame- Leighanne Ellis-Bridgeport- Past President Richard Glant, have one LODD claim will be coming, push out the scholarship for awards in February.

Budget:

Treasurer Luke Kluender, nothing to report.

By-laws and S.O.G.'s:

Chaplin Dave Elick,

Clothing Claims:

District 5 John Grolich, nothing to report.

Convention:

David Israel- 2023 Jeff Biehl and Anthony Smith- still have 2 gun winners that are still trying to get communication set up to deliver the items.

2024- Larry Curl- convention will be June 13-15, 2024, which is a Thursday-Saturday days. They will have a pre-conference day on Wednesday June 12 for the golf outing, The BFFPSE and EMS Commission meetings will be on Wednesday as well. Holding a raffle for a pickup truck. If the dept. sells all the ticket sent then they get an entry into the drawing, if every dept. in the district sells all their tickets, then the district is also entered into the drawing. Looking for small businesses to get donations from for \$200 donation in supporting the membership to come to convention. "Sponsor a Firefighter" to come to convention. Looking into Education components as well. Challenge coins are being designed. All promotions and information will be sent electronically. District 12 will be building a website for their convention so all the information can be accessed. \$129 room rate for Crowne Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis.

2025- Madison, Rick Cannon- Contract will be signed next week

2026- accepting bid letters- must be turned in by February 2024.

EMS:

Tammy Wright, IEMSA/ IENA Conference Nov. 30-Dec. 1. The commission meeting is Wednesday before the Conference at French Lick. EMS is their own organization at the state level now. Kraig Kinney is doing an EMS 2025 survey report, Larry Curl is our representative. Covers our needs for EMS in Indiana. Make sure your rosters are being updated on Acadis. Reach out to Robin Stump for assistance. EMS Expo 2025 is in Indianapolis.

Insurance:

Luke Kleunder, nothing to report

Legislation:

Lobbyist Larry Curl and Past President Buz Koehler, next session is planned to be a short session of 2 months. Legislative committee look at working on HB 1454 and continue with Zoom calls in place of roundtables. Plan to tie together Cost Savings report along with the Legislation and they are going to put together the program to help present it. Will keep group updated during the session of progress. 50-year presentation will be in the works.

LODD:

Paul Holcomb, LODD in Prairie Creek VFD. Plan to connect group with State Fire Marshall office and work on keeping all communication together amongst all the groups.

Logo:

District 18 Nick Waninger, nothing to report

Membership and Marketing: District 7 Sam Bisel, nothing to report. President wants group to be tasked with marketing opportunities.

Newspaper:

Past Pres. Buz Koehler and Sam Bisel, 40-page issue with 15 advertisers, 12,720 papers printed. We need advertisers it is running about \$.80 per copy per member. Look at small businesses that support your dept. that would like to advertise. Business card adds are \$30 per issue. Periodical report has been filed.

Public Relations and Education:

Steve Nolan and Don Cushman, nothing to report.

Social Media and Website:

Anthony Smith, nothing to report.

Special Projects:

Past Pres. Buz Koehler, Last submission deadline is Nov. 15, will be proofed and planned to be ready for delivery by March. Buz has 7 boxes of old newspapers that have been scanned and saved on hard drive. Discussion about sending to IU Press to send to their archive instead of destroying the papers.

Training:

Steve Anderson, nothing to report.

Younger Membership:

District 6 Mack Grobis, nothing to report.

Health and Wellness Committee,

Tom Fentress, Cancer Survey discussed and keeping gear clean.

Meeting Recessed at 4:21 p.m. Will reconvene at 0830am Sunday, November 5, 2023.

Sunday November 5, 2023 Business Meeting reconvened.

Secretary

continued from page 9

Meeting was called to order at 0830 by President Liston.

Morning message was given by Chaplin Dave Elick.

Tammy Wright with AIL spoke with the group and introduced Nicole Johns who will be working with us. They have a child-safe app that goes with the child-safe kits that they have. AIL Plus has 60-80% savings for health costs. They are doing in-person meetings along with virtual meetings. Today to date \$659,971 has been paid out. This includes the no-cost AD&D benefit and additional benefits that members have paid for.

Representative Reports

Board of Firefighter Standards and Education: Steve Anderson, last meeting did not have a lot of variances. Report from Steve Jones and John Shafer.

Fire Alliance Steve Anderson, Buz Koehler, and Larry Curl, spoke about the legislation and the solar eclipse. Discussed training and management classes for volunteer firefighters. The cancer survey needs more female firefighter involvement. Next year EMS conversation will be large during legislation next year.

Hero's Competition, District 11B Jason Ryan, event no longer exists, the program has changed to Skills USA and includes LEO and EMS for career academy groups. Will reach out to Anthony Smith

IN-Time Jack Zeeks, nothing to report, still pushing the 4-hour incident management course.

IDHS Senior Advisory Committee: Jack Zeeks, reviewed grants for school resource officers and radios.

National Volunteer Fire Council Jack Kerney and Jean Smith, Red Cross Workgroup Don

Cushman, Aug. 2-15, 2024 for State Fair and will be closed on Mondays. Unsure of the smoke alarm issue to groups.

Officer's Reports:

President, Jerry Liston, participated with Fallen Firefighter Memorial in September, had a large turnout, and honored 12 individuals this year. Has 3 names from Knightstown for 1800's that are wanting to go onto memorial, will work on this along with getting onto National memorial.

Vice President, Ross Emery, filled in for Steve Nolan with the roundtables, other meetings and station dedication.

Secretary, Leighanne Ellis, pass Treasurer, Luke Kluender, pass Chaplain, David Elick, needing funeral vouchers turned in he had 1 out of 9 vouchers turned in. He has all supplies to turn out if needed. Will need to order more bibles and more boxes. He ordered 150 last year and is down to about 50 boxes.

Sergeant-At-Arms, Brent Bush, 50-year member coins passed out to district chairman, make sure they are documented and returned so we have updated lists.

Historian, Buz Koehler/ Jason Ryan, thank you to those who have helped compile past issues of newspaper and convention books.

Chairman of the Board, David Israel, attended Rural Caucus and 2 roundtable discussions, 5 district meetings, station dedication, and 2 dept. meetings

Webmaster, Josh Reisert, absent, Paul Holcomb- computer screen has went out again, to replace is \$50, new computer would be no more than \$800. Leighanne Ellis made a motion to purchase a computer up to \$800, second given by Jeremy Reef. Motion carried to board action.

PRNW, Jeremy Reef, 4 meetings, 7 department visits,

fundraisers, and memorial service

PRNE, Jean Smith, 4 memorial services, 4 district meetings, dept. visits. Incoming Sam Bisel- 75-year member recognition.

PRWC, Larry Bartlow, 3 district meetings, roundtable, 2 memorial services, and working with a few new depts.

PREC, Jeff Biehl, 14 meetings, 16 department visits, 5 roundtable meetings, fundraisers, 2 memorial services, working on getting a projection screen

PRSW, Steve Nolan, absent

PRSE, Ed Scheele, 2 district meetings, 4 roundtable meetings, 2 memorial services.

Asst. Treasurer, Bev Harker, nothing to report

Asst. Secretary, Diane Harrison, absent

Past President's Reports:

Richard Glant, nothing to report.

Jack Zeeks, nothing to report Buz Koehler, nothing to report

Jack Kerney, 3 memorial services, district meeting and training session, NVFC Meeting.

Larry Ketchem, absent

David Israel, nothing to report Steve Anderson, district round tables, traveled to district meetings and state committee meetings.

Paul Holcomb, nothing to report

District Reports:

District 1, Marshall Neece, meeting at Beverly Shores Fire Dept., 3 departments and 9 members present, program on history of Beverly Shores fire dept. and update on state info. 1 memorial service. Dept. visits, Highland fire returned to organization. 3 open houses.

District 2, Tom Fentress, 2 district meetings, MacQueen Award handed out. 50-year presentation to Cedar Lake, Roundtable, Honor Guard Meeting,

District 3, Les Jensen, absent

District 4, Elton Schafer, meeting at Oslo Fire Dept., 5 departments and 21 members present. 3 memorial services MacQueen Award, fundraiser

District 5, John Grolich, absent

District 6, Mack Grobis, service pins passed out, district meeting, 2 roundtables,

District 7, Richard Sorg, 2 roundtables, memorial services, MacQueen Award,

District 8A, Rex Maynard, meeting at Madison Twp. Fire Dept., 5 departments present. 1 memorial service. Service pins awarded. Roundtable, MacQueen Award

District 8B, Tony Dalrymple, absent

District 9A, Pascal Moon, meeting at Camden-Jackson Twp. Fire Dept., 6 dept. and 15 members present. Program on HB 1454. Memorial service for 50-year member from Cutler Fire. MacQueen Award, roundtable meeting

District 9B, Randy Denton, MacQueen Award, fundraisers with Miss Flame

District 10, John Ray, meeting at Needham, 6 dept. and 14 members present. The program was given by Lucas Machine. Meeting at Edinburg, 9 dept. and 20 members present, a program given by Erik Johnson of Supporting Heros, and a tour of Edinburg's new station with station clock dedication. Meeting at Clarksburg, 8 dept. and 14 members present, the program was IDEM open Burning by Susan Raisor.

District 11A, Pete Taylor, meeting at Forrest Park for the district picnic, 6 dept. and 15 members present, program honored Mr. IVFA Dave Phelps, and Joan Hays with her IVFAA

50-year gold card and pin.

District 11B, Jason Ryan, dept. fundraisers

District 12 Larry Curl, district family picnic, awards banquet scheduled,

District 13A, Don Cushman, district meeting, roundtable

District 13B, Anthony Smith, absent

District 14, Rick Cannon, meeting at North Vernon Fire Dept., 5 dept. and 15 members present, program on blood draws for Cancer by Greg Neville. Will be having a grain bin training coming up. Pawsability information passed on. Roundtable

District 15, Paul Campbell, meeting held at Wadesville Fire Dept. 6 dept. and 12 members were present. Training was held at the meeting. 2 memorial services.

District 16, Vacant position, looking to host a district meeting after the first of the year to find a chairman in that area.

District 17A, Sam Emery, meeting held at Washington Twp. Fire Dept., 4 dept. and 25 members present. Program on HB 1454. 2 Memorial services. Jan. 20, 2024, Vincennes Sausage Supper doors open at 5 and dinner starts at 6 pm.

District 17B, Tammy Wright, absent

District 18, Nick Waninger, meeting at Grandview Fire Dept. 13 dept. and 35 members present. The program was the upcoming Miss Flame contest and Parade. Talked about future presentations at district meetings. 3 memorial services, district memorial services, station dedication.

District 19, Ben Sieverding, meeting at Hogan Twp. Fire Dept. 7 dept. and 27 members were present. 2 memorial services.

District 21, Don Fultz, meeting at Wea Vol. Fire Dept., 4 dept. and 11 members present. 3 memorial services. 2 roundtables, 6 fundraisers, station dedication, MacQueen Award, Sheffield Fire 125-year celebration.

New Business:

1. E-mail addresses- District Chairman, needs to work on the dept. to get current emails from their departments.

2. Applied Webology- IVFAApp, can be designed to what we want, unlimited updates, push-out notifications, \$1800/year. Discussion was held and Larry wants to allow for iamresponding to allow them the opportunity to provide this technology since they have provided services for 10 years. Their program might not provide what we are looking for with this app. The members would sign up on their own. The apple app would be free of charge and it would take them 30 days to develop the app. Would like for the social media committee to take charge on this project. Richard Glant makes motion for up to \$2000 for the program and let social media committee review both IamResponding and Applied Webology app and make the decision. Rex Maynard seconded the motion. Motion passed to carry into board action.

Eric Johnson with Supporting Hero's addresses the group, Supporting Hero's Gala is July 13, 2024. They will have a Friday Evening event and a breakfast on Sunday Morning. Autopsy rules for LODD were discussed. There was a change in the rules many years ago and you do not have to have an autopsy to receive benefits. Spoke on the harm that completing an autopsy can do when investigating and getting the benefits due to the cause of death. Spoke on the Hometown Heros Act from 2003 and the 24-hour rule benefit and rules. They

have an app and will allow for notifications for certain locations. Encouraged to download app. Spoke on Covid, there is a 3-year window from time of death for filing for LODD due to Covid, let them know so they can help you get the benefit. There is also a federal disability benefit for permanent and total disability due to injuries. Spoke on suicide, federal government PSOSA Public Safety Officer's Suicide Act. This will extend benefits to suicide victims in public safety. They look at the past 45 days in the activity of that responder to identify precursors, and they also look at long-term events with seeking treatment and they have retro pay it back to Jan. 1, 2019. They are still working on regulations for paying out with this benefit.

Leighanne is going to look into a wireless recording system to update current recorder due to wear and tear of system and discontinued.

Vice President Emery brought up a suggestion from Anthony Smith about doing a grant program of \$20,000/ year for dept. to apply for wants it to be sent to a committee to do a study on it.

Past President Holcomb brought up the challenge coins and we need to buy more coins. 500 ordered, 50 to active past presidents, amount sold was around 118, there are roughly 332 out in the group that need to be accounted for.

Buz Koehler made motion to adjourn meeting, John Ray gave second. Meeting adjourned.

INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING November 3-5, 2023 Crowne Plaza Hotel INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Board Action Business Meeting called to order the Chairman of the Board David Israel.

Reading of the minutes, Don Cushman made a motion to accept them as emailed, second was made by Richard Glant, motion passed.

Board Action- Business:

1. \$2500 for Miss Flame Budget- Mack Grobis made the motion, Richard Glant gave second, Motion passed.

2. Luke looks and budget and the expense vs. costs, loss from California Casualty and decrease of dues. Looking into CD investment from online specials with our bank. Dave Elick made the motion to allow the treasurer to do the investment, Rex Maynard gave second, motion passed.

3. Webmaster computer motion made for purchase up to \$800 for new computer, Rex Maynard made a motion, Jeremy Reef seconded, motion passed.

4. \$2000 allotted for the production of an app for the membership, Paul Holcomb made motion for app technology, Mack Grobis gave second, motion passed.

5. Motion to accept the budget for 2024, Steve Anderson gave the motion, Dave Elick gave the second, motion passed.

Board Chair David Israel was voted into PR position at convention and is stepping down from Boar Chair position. There needs to be a new Board Chair elected, Mack Grobis nominated Paul Holcomb, Jeremy Reef gave the second, unanimous vote for Paul Holcomb as Board Chair.

Chaplain gave benediction.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jeremy Reef, Second by Don Cushman . Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.



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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	CAROL CURL 3047 N. Raceway Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46234 Phone: (317) 557-2606 / E-mail: ivfaapastpresident@ivfaa.org

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DISTRICT #17A	KATHY SMITH 109 Oak Street, Huntingburg, IN 47542 Home (812) 683-3697 / Cell (812) 631-1501 / E-mail: ivfaadistrict18@ivfaa.org
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PAST PRESIDENTS

DIANA GRAY	2011-2013 799 Hippensteel Drive, Warren, IN 46792- (260) 224-0774 didagray@yahoo.com
BETH CAUDILL	2009-2011 15120 Lucas Rd., Brookville, IN 47012 - Cell (765) 309-2940
MARTHA THOMAS (Deceased)	2007-2009
JOANN HAYS	2005-2007 4430 South 8th St., Terre Haute, IN 47802 - (812) 299-1574 / Cell (812) 230-5506
BARBARA KERNEY (Deceased)	2002-2005
MARY MACKIN (Deceased)	2000-2002
FAYE SALLEE (Deceased)	1998-2000
LOU BARTLOW	1996-1998 Box 12, Montezuma, IN 47862 - (765) 245-2125 / Cell (765) 593-2227 E-mail: larry_bartlow@att.net
PHYLLIS VARGO	1994-1996 7756 Durbin Street, Schererville, IN 46375 - (219) 322-4286 / E-mail pavargo1@yahoo.com
MAXINE DAVIES (Deceased)	1992-1994
NANCY NEAL	1990-1992 749 Walnut Street, Hope, IN 47246 - (812) 764-1852
TONI SORG (Deceased)	1988-1990
LORETTA NULLINER	1986-1988 10830 Cape Coral Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46229 - (317) 622-2863
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 - (317) 614-5669 - Cell (317) 519-4445
LUCY STOFER	1978-1980 718 South Ingomar Street, Indianapolis, IN 46241 - (317) 241-1946
VICA MCGILL (Deceased)	1976-1978
MARY BOYD	1975-1976 32933 Timberlake Dr., Mt. Dara, FL 32757 - Cell (407) 495-8249

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 you all had a safe and wonderful holiday season with your friends and family. I am personally looking forward to warmer weather and spring flowers.
As I have traveled around the state attending as many meetings as I can, I want to thank you all for the amazing hospitality! It has been great meeting new people and visiting places that I have never been to in our beautiful state. I am looking forward to going to more departments,

auxiliaries, and events that I have not been to yet. If there is something that you would like me or another line officer to attend, please let us know. We will do our best to be there. I also want to personally let you all know that anyone is welcome to attend the state quarterly meetings. This is a great opportunity to learn about the IVFAA and to meet some amazing people. If you are interested in attending, please contact your district chairman or a line officer.

Our SOG and By Law committee has been diligently working for a little over 2 years on reviewing and updating all our SOGs and By Laws. These have now been uploaded to the website. Please discard the older versions and use these moving forward.

Please continue to complete our IVFAA survey. This will greatly help us in understanding what our membership needs from us. Your district chairman should be passing out the surveys at your meetings. The survey is also on the website. If you are having any issues with finding the survey, please reach out to your district chairman or one of the line officers. We can help you!

Please support the advertisers!!

It's never too early to talk about convention! The 2024 IVFA/IVFAA convention will be June 13th - 15th at the Crown Plaza Indianapolis Airport location. All the convention registration and hotel information are on the website.

Lastly, please continue to post your meeting date, time, and location on the website calendar and on the IVFAA Community Facebook page. 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



IVFAA COMMITTEES FOR 2022 / 2023

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- Carol Curl - Chair
 - Suzie Lewis - Co-Chair
 - Kristy Bisel
 - Martha Biehl
 - Dawn Harris
 - Connie Ray
 - EJ Smith
 - Patti Fultz
 - Kim Smith

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 - Beth Moon
 - Kathy Smith

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 - Tammy Smith
 - Jodi Rohr
 - Madi Reeder

- BY LAWS & SOGS**
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 - Bev Vanlandingham - Co-Chair
 - Marie Emery
 - Jodi Rohr
 - Diana Stapleton
 - Chara Leaver
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 - Kristy Bisel
 - Virginia Elick
 - Jodi Rohr
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 - Connie Ray

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 - Joyce Nevil
 - Joann Hays
 - Phyllis Vargo
 - Bev Taylor
 - Kay Shumaker
 - Martha Biehl
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- Kimberly Smith - Chair
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 - Kay Shumaker
 - Dawn Harris
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 - Beth Caudill
 - Tammy Smith
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- Bev Taylor
 - Suzie Lewis
 - Judy Wirth

- MIRIAM SCHAEKEL AWARD**
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 - Beth Caudill
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 - Phyllis Vargo - Northwest
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 - Leslie Spears - East Central
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 - Sue Glant - Co-Chair
 - Marie Emery
 - Chara Leaver
 - Beth Caudill

- MEMORIAL THROW**
- Carol Curl - Chair

- CHAPLIN EMERITUS & COMMUNICATIONS**
- JoAnn Hays

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

IVFAA DISTRICT CHAIRMEN REPORTS

DISTRICT 11A REPORT



Beverly Taylor - Chairman

Hello from district 11 A A Aux. We had a really Nice Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hope everyone did. We had our last district meeting at Otter Creek VFD. We didn't have a quorum so we stayed in the mens meeting with them. Our next meeting will be our Miss Flame contest. We have 4 girls running . Hope to see a crowd. It will be on Jan. 20, 2024 at Van Buren TWP. Fire house at 1:00 PM. Convention is June 13 - 15 Thursday - Saturday at the Crown Plaza in Indianapolis District 12 is hosting. A lot of suprizes and different programs. Looking forward to seeing you. Stay safe District 11 AA Aux. Chairman Beverly Taylor

DISTRICT 11B REPORT



Jodi Rohr - Chairman

Hello from damp, dreary Parke County. We all survived the holidays relatively unscathed. I hope you all were able to enjoy the holidays with friends, family and loved ones. On November 12th, District 11 B held our Miss Flame contest. Thank you again to Helt Township Fire and Rescue for the delicious Thanksgiving meal they prepared. We had three lovely young ladies vying for the crown. They represented the Helt Township Fire and Rescue, Floyd Township, and the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department. The judges worked

their tails off choosing a winner. Congratulations to Madelyn (Maddie) Ryan representing the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department.

This year, the Miss Flame Community Project is to gathering items for the Wheeler Mission in Indianapolis. They are collecting items for a women and children's shelter, a men's residential center and various cleaning items needed for the operation of the shelter. Food items are also greatly appreciated such as canned soups, granola bars, peanut butter, jelly etc.

Get your reservations and registrations in for convention "Racing back to Indy in 2024", at the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport, June 13-15. They are trying something new this year and returning the convention to a Thursday, Friday, Saturday event to facilitate the working families.

Please send in your nomination letters for all the awards. A complete list of the awards can be found at IVFAA.org. From the Home page, click Association, then choose awards. Contrary to popular belief, these awards are not for the officers, they are for your everyday firefighter and auxiliary member. Everyone knows of someone deserving of each of these awards. Let's make this a difficult decision for each of the committees.

Our next district meeting will be January the 14th, 1:00 PM at the Black Diamond fire station, 501 W Washington St, Clinton, IN, hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted, Jodi Rohr District 11 B IVFAA Chairman

DISTRICT 21 REPORT



Patti Fultz - Chairman

IVFAA District 21 meeting for November was held at Linden Vol Fire Department.

A light meal was served. Not enough members for a meeting, so we joined the men's meeting.

The next meeting will be at Romney Vol Fire Department February 26, 2024 at 7:30 pm with a light meal served at 6:45pm. Hope to see you there.

Patti Fultz District 21 Chairman

IVFAA Chaplain

Judy Wirth



Hello to all of you and Happy 2024!

By the time you read this the Holiday Season is behind us. I hope you had a very blessed time with family and friends and had time to set back and reflect on the real reason for the season. Jesus took His place as a flesh and blood human so when He shed His precious blood and died on the cross, He was able to know what we encounter as humans in our sin. Praise His name that He loves us.

He gives us a new start everyday, to follow His direction, to choose right from wrong, and for us to realize He is always with us through good, silly, fun times as well as trials and tribulations. All we have to do is turn to Him and His Word for guidance and direction. So as we start a new year, we can start each day fresh and new-no smudges, no mistakes, no mess ups. Hopefully 2024 will be more happy, full of laughter, helping one another, working together as a team, to doing God's work year.

Since the cold weather will be around for awhile please be careful and may our firefighters and first responders stay warm and safe while they help all in need in the communities where we live.

Take care and if you need me, just holler.



Miss Indiana State Fair, Alexxys Standish (Newton County), her Court, and Miss Congeniality. L-R: 3rd RU: Alex Kerkhove, White County, 1st RU: Maya Narayan, Elkhart County, 2nd RU: Sadie Herring, Vigo County, 4th RU: Hannah Martinez, Steuben County, Miss Congeniality: Avery Shrider, Wabash County. Photo from Facebook page Indiana State Fair Queen Program by BRAM, Official Photographer of the Indiana State Fair Queen Program

Miss Flame

continued from page 1

member of Student Council, National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, FFA, Class Officer, involved in various community groups and activities and held a part-time job throughout.

Currently, Alexxys is a direct admit to the School of Public Health at Indiana University, majoring in Kinesiology with a minor in Nutrition. After graduation, Alexxys plans to obtain her Doctorates in Occupational Therapy at Indiana University Indianapolis, in hopes to obtain employment through Riley's Children's Hospital. Alexxys continues to serve her hometown community through

the Kentland-Jefferson Township Volunteer Fire Department, IVFA Miss Flame, IVFA District 9B, Newton County Fair & 4H, Junior Achievement and many other local groups and events. She also now serves her current community through groups and clubs, such as, 3HS; a club for Honors Students, the Monroe County Volunteer Corps, Best Buddies Support Group, Hoosiers Outrun Cancer and through her new church, City Church in Bloomington.

Alexxys will conclude her reign as Miss Flame just in time to begin her travels around the great State of Indiana, visiting the County Fairs, meeting the newly crowned Fair Queens and promoting the Indiana State Fair.



Deadline for the May 2024 Issue of The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter is April 1, 2024

ivfd@hurdmedia.com

Deadline for the May 2024 Issue of The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter is April 1, 2024
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FOR RESERVATION/REGISTRATION QUESTION CONTACT
OUR R&R GURU STEVE ANDERSON 812-480-5014**

Remember... 2024 is leap year so we have an extra day instead of 365
we have 366 so why not spend that extra day at your 2024 state convention

WELCOME TO YOUR CONVENTION 2024 WHERE **OUR** DESIRE IS TO
INSPIRE – EXCITE – ENTERGIZE AND WOW **YOU!!!**
WE HOPE **YOUR** INTENTION IS JOIN US

SEE YOU IN JUNE 2024!



Clay Volunteer Fire Department



The Clay Township Volunteer Fire Department

The Clay Township Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1951. Though there had been a great need for a fire department in the township, none had been created. Some of the first people involved in the formation were: Kenneth Dunn (builder, lumber and appliance dealer), L.D. Gleason (farmer), Ralph Israel (mechanic), Lloyd (Shorty) Cochran (farmer) Charles Oliphant (mechanic), Nolan Roszell (farmer) Ralph Smith (farmer) and Joe Hoban Township Trustee. Ralph Israel was the first chief.

Other fire chiefs in the early years were: Bob Ward, Clarence Fogle, Dallas Kennedy, and Charles Oliphant, who also served many years as the Instructor for new firemen. Mr. Ralph Alexander was the first secretary. Rev. Irven King, who pastored the Burney Baptist Church at the time, was also instrumental in the initial fire department formation.

The first fire truck was a 1950 Dodge. The truck cost \$1800.00 and by the time it was fitted with a tank and pump, the fire department had just \$2500.00 in their

first fire truck. As an interesting side light this same truck, now fitted with a flat bed, is used by Lowell Wilmer in his farming operation.

When the truck was finished and ready, the next need was obvious: a new fire house. Ralph Pavy donated the empty lot just east of his store for this purpose, and, with help of many interested people both financially and physically, a 20' x40' concrete block building was completed in the late fall of 1952. The cost was \$1000.00.

As the years progressed, new equipment

and personnel were added. In 1954 a second truck fire truck was added. In the 70's, with aid of a special government grant, another new truck, and improved and specialized equipment were purchased. Also, in the 70's the Clay Township Fire Department became known as Burney-Clay Township Volunteer Fire Department. This was done due to another Clay Township and mail issues.

It was in 1980 before the fire department was able to remodel and move to their present location in the old Burney School Building.

In 1999 the department was able to purchase a New 1999 KME 5-man cab pumper for \$ 140,000.00 with the help of a \$100,000.00 Build Indiana Grant. In 2003 we received a Grant for \$150,000.00 to purchase a New Tanker in 2003 from US Tanker 3,000 gl. Rounding out our fleet is a 2001 Chevy Suburban EMS support vehicle, 1985 Chevy Brush Truck and our 1958 Ford F600 pumper.

We applied for an Indiana Commerce Grant in 2004 for \$500,000.00 to build a new fire station. We received the grant in 2006. The Clay Township Trustee's Office gave us a 99-year lease to build the New Fire Station. We moved into the new station in 2007. When you get the right people in the right place things can happen. Burney-Clay Twp Fire Chief, David Israel. The Burney Clay Twp Fire Dept. would like to thank all that have supported the department and been a member and our Fire Dept.

When the mission is critical, you shouldn't have to worry about the reliability of your vehicle!



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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 1



Marshall Neese, District Chairman

50 Year Member Honored



50 Year Member & Past President Phyllis Vargo with IVFAA President Christina Reef. Photo submitted by Christina Reef.


HAPPY Galentine's Day

Deadline for the May 2024 Issue of The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter is April 1, 2024
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	Denim Shirt Short Sleeve - \$25.00			
	Wind Shirt - Black - \$35.00			
	Tee Shirt - Gray - \$15.00			
	Tee Shirt - Navy - \$15.00			
	Black Sport Shirt - NEW - \$25.00			
	Sky Blue Golf Shirt - NEW - \$25.00			
	White Golf Shirt Navy Stripe Collar - NEW - \$25.00			
	Olive Green Golf Shirt - NEW - \$25.00			

SHIPPING INFORMATION

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<p><input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MASTER CARD</p> <p>CREDIT CARD NUMBER</p> <p> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> </p> <p>EXPIRATION DATE _____ CVV # _____</p> <p>SIGNATURE _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(As Shown On The Credit Card)</p>	<p>DATE OF ORDER</p> <p>_____ - _____ - _____</p> <p>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO IVFA</p>
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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 2

Submitted by Tom Fentress, District Chairman



District 2 Miss Flame Crowned

IVFA District 2 held a runoff for Miss Flame District 2 Representative. The 2 young ladies that wanted to represent District 2 were Miranda Ruvalcaba from Keener Twp Vol Fire Dept and Lilly Postma from Lake Twp. Vol Fire Dept. These ladies made the judges' jobs extremely hard to do... in fact, only 1 point separates them.

The judges stated that it was a shame that only one could win because both these ladies have a wonderful and bright future, and they can't wait to see what they bring to the fire service.

In the end, the winner of the runoff was Lilly Postma.

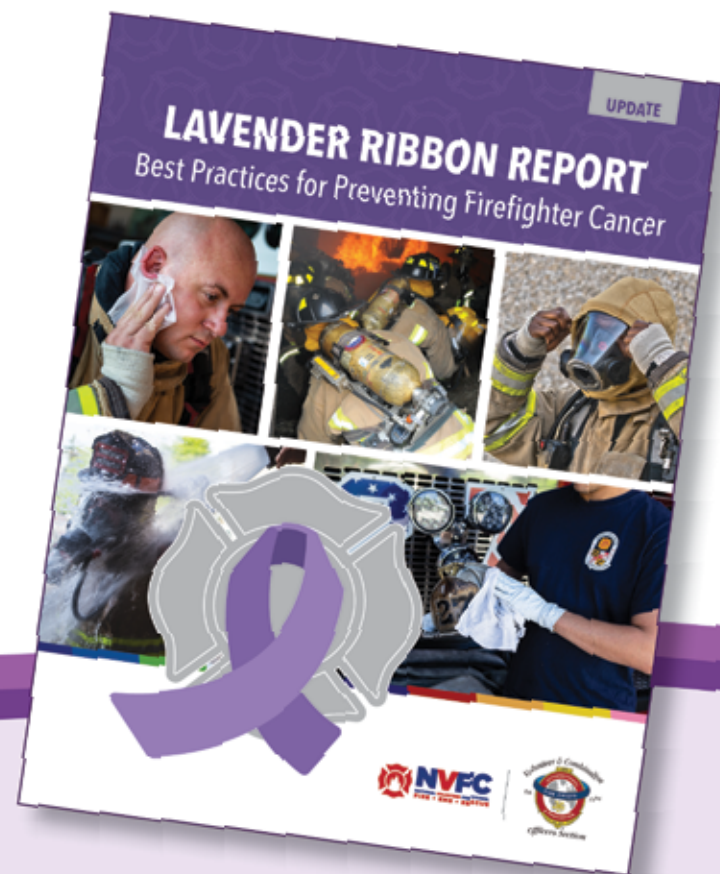
Thank you to our judges who gave their time to help crown our District 2 Miss Flame. To the parents of both young ladies, thank you for supporting your daughters and the IVFA.

And to Lilly & Miranda, thank you both for showing what we get to look forward to in the fire service. We are grateful to have you!

District 2 Chairman Tom Fentress



FIREFIGHTER CANCER PREVENTION



STARTS HERE

Studies have shown that firefighters face an increased risk of developing cancer due to the occupational hazards they face. However, there are steps you can take to protect yourself and your crew. The National Volunteer Fire Council and International Association of Fire Chiefs' Volunteer and Combination Officers Section's **Lavender Ribbon Report** provides 11 actions firefighters can take to lessen their risk of occupational cancer.

Protect your health and future. Download your copy today at nvfc.org/lrr.





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THE **JR FIREFIGHTERS** COMPETITION**

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INSPIRING MESSAGE THEY HAVE FOR US AND BE ON HAND AS WE INTRODUCE
THE **2024 AWARD WINNERS** AT THE ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

BE A PART OF 2024 CONVENTION HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Visit the IVFA Webpage at www.ivfa.org once you are on the home page
click on the word **convention** at the top for more details and shared information

REGISTRATION IS **\$90 PER PERSON UNTIL MAY 1ST 2024
WHEN REGISTRATION WILL GO TO **\$125** PER PERSON
Room Reservations will be \$129.00**

**SPACE WILL BE LIMITED SO
DON'T DELAY GET REGISTERED TODAY**

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YOUR 2024 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN LARRY CURL 317-605-6669
FOR RESERVATION/REGISTRATION QUESTION CONTACT
OUR R&R GURU STEVE ANDERSON 812-480-5014**

Remember... 2024 is leap year so we have an extra day instead of 365
we have 366 so why not spend that extra day at your 2024 state convention

WELCOME TO YOUR CONVENTION 2024 WHERE **OUR** DESIRE IS TO
INSPIRE – EXCITE – ENTERGIZE AND WOW **YOU!!!**
WE HOPE **YOUR** INTENTION IS JOIN US

SEE YOU IN JUNE 2024!

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 4

Elton Schafer, District Chairman,
Submitted by Jean Smith 

District 4 Miss Flame



District 4 Miss Flame Grace Dunlap, New Paris Fire Department.
Photo submitted by Jean Smith.


NEWS FROM DISTRICT 6

Mack Grobis, District Chairman, Submitted by Jean Smith 



Southwest Fire District Douglas Guiler, Dayton Klepper, Michael Williams Zack King, receive 10 Year IVFA Service Pins. Bruce McBride received 10 and 25 Year IVFA Service Pins. Photo submitted by Jean Smith.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 6

Mack Grobis, District Chairman,
Submitted by Jean Smith 

Aboite Fire Department recognizes their own at Awards Banquet

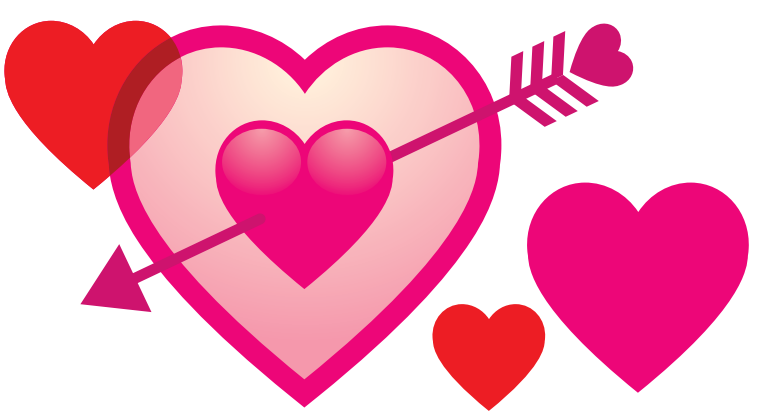
Aboite Fire Department ends the year with an Awards Banquet honoring their members before they become West Central Fire Protection District in 2024. Awards and recognition went to all the members of the department that made Aboite Fire Department what it is today. Some of those that were recognized, the three of their founding members, firefighter of the year, paramedic of the year, department officers, board of directors, those that made 75 plus runs this year. The list goes on and on showing the gratitude. It was an honor to be a part of this great celebration. Thank You! Submitted by Jean Smith



Aboite Fire Department members honored for 10 Years of Service. Kristi Smith, Andrew McCallister, Jessica Everett by Chief Gale Stelzer. Photo submitted by Jean Smith.



Aboite Fire Department members honored for 25 Years of Service. Garry Teegarden, Chief Gale Stelzer, Michael Stockman and Dawn Otis not available. Photo submitted by Jean Smith.





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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 6

Mack Grobis, District Chairman, Submitted by Mack Grobis



10 Year Pin Recipients from Aboite Township Fire Department



From left to right: PRNE Jean Smith, Jessica Everett, Kristi Smith, District 6 Chairman Mack Grobis. Not pictured Andrew McCallister.

Aboite Township Fire Department 25 year pin presentation



From left to right: PRNE Jean Smith, Garry Teeguarden, District 6 Chairman Mack Grobis. Not pictured: Dawn Otis, Chief Gale Stelzer, Michael Stockman.

Aboite Township Fire Department 50 year Challenge coin presentation



From left to right: PRNE Jean Smith, Life Member Denis Pauze, District 6 Chairman Mack Grobis

Concord Township Volunteer Fire Department Christmas dinner- 10 year Pin Recipients



From left to right: District 6 Vice-chairman Jerry Sprague, Nick Johnson, Jacqueline Shuman, District 6 Chairman Mack Grobis

Concord Township Volunteer Fire Department Christmas dinner- 25 year pin recipients

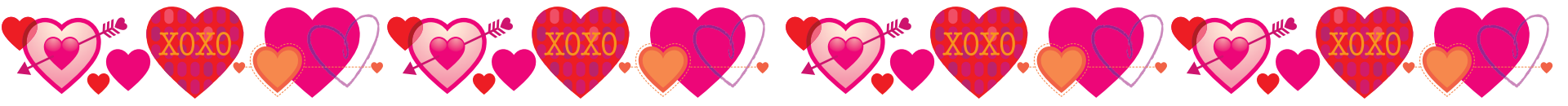


From left to right: District 6 Vice-chairman Jerry Sprague, Ben McKean, Shannon Wilson, Steve Scheurich, District 6 Chairman Mack Grobis

Northeast Allen County Fire & EMS 50 year member presentation



From left to right: PRNE Jean Smith, Life Member Carl D Lyvers, District 6 Chairman Mack Grobis



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 6

Mack Grobis, District Chairman, Submitted by Mack Grobis

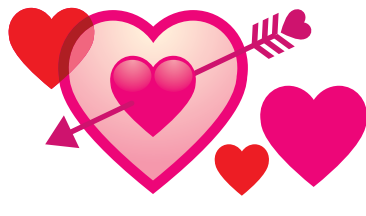


Left: District 6 2024 Miss Flame Jenna Mackin
Right: District 6 Miss Flame Runner Up Kaylee Knight



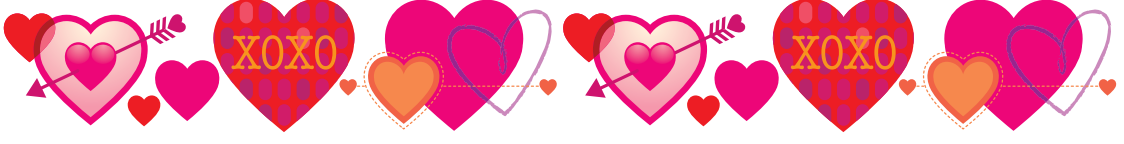
Noble Township Volunteer Fire Department Christmas dinner- 10 year pin recipients

From left to right: Todd Pritchard, Austin Shuler, District 6 Chairman Mack Grobis



Noble Township Volunteer Fire Department Christmas dinner - 50 year Challenge Coin recipients.

From left to right
Life member Junior Gray, Life Member Herbert Anderson Jr, District 6 Chairman Mack



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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 7

Richard Sorg, District Chairman



The Liberty Center Volunteer Fire Department holds First Annual Pork Chop Dinner



On November 4th, The Liberty Center Vol. Fire Department in Wells County (District 7) held their first annual pork chop dinner at their station. This dinner was aligned with Veterans Day and all veterans' meals were free. Special Thank you to the Indiana Patriot Guard, Ossian Smoked Meats and Liberty Center Deli for sponsoring the veterans' meals. A total of 250 meal tickets were sold with an additional 50 for veterans.

Special note- If you have a loved one deployed in the military and would like to have the Indiana Patriot Guard, send them care packages, please email your loved one's name and deployed address to insc@patriotguard.org with "Deployed" in the subject line. - for more information about the Indiana Patriot Guard, visit their website at www.inpatriotguard.org Content submitted by John Petro

Poe VFD member receives District 7 McQueen Award

Miss Flame makes Peanut Brittle better



Tom Dekoninck of the Poe VFD received the District 7 McQueen Award. He was nominated for his many years of service and fund raising for Poe, especially the departments auctions. District 7 Chairman Sam Bisel presented the award to Tom Dekoninck. Future firefighter Jamison Florian helped present the award to his grandpa. Photo submitted by Richard Sorg.

District 7 Miss Flame Aubrie Krueckeberg helped make peanut brittle at Poe VFD. Picture by Chris Bultemeier.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 8A

Rex Maynard, District Chairman



50 Year Challenge Coin Awarded



LaFontaine-Liberty Twp. VFD, 50 years challenge coin awarded to Dennis L. Jones.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 9A

Pascal Moon, District Chairman



Miss Flame District 9A

District 9A Miss Flame, Leighann McKnight and District 9A Chairman Pascal Moon



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 10

Submitted by John Ray, District Chairman



10 Year Pin Awarded



Columbus Twp. Firefighter, Johnna Wilson, receiving her 10 yr pin from John Ray, District 10 Chairman

50 Year Gold Card Awarded



Retired Anderson Twp. Firefighter, Rick Disbro receiving his 50 Gold Coin from John Ray, District 10 Chairman, John Ray

50 Year Gold Card Awarded



Rushville Twp. firefighters receiving their awards (L to R): Richard Tracy & Thomas Colestock 25 years; Jonathon Singleton, 10 years; District 10 Chairman, John Ray.

Edinburgh Fire & Rescue new fire station holds district 10 meeting



Left: Edinburgh Fire And Rescue recently hosted the 10th District monthly meeting and Open House tour of their new Station, located at 4100 W 900 N, Edinburgh, IN.

Below: Edinburgh Fire & Rescue recently hosted the District 10 monthly meeting at their new Station located just off US Highway 31



Natalie Israel, District 10 Miss Flame, serving pancakes at Hartsville Breakfast with Santa event in December.





Honoring our military

We are exceptionally proud of our members that are serving in the military; they not only place their communities first, they also place their country first. We would like to thank them for their service to their country. Below is a list of military personnel who are members of the Association and on active duty around the world.

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



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



MARINES
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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, Bobby	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
Uffelmann, 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

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 11A

Submitted by Ralph "Pete" Taylor, District Chairman



10 Year Pins, 25 Year Pins & Gold Card Presented



District 11A 25 Yr pin firefighters from New Goshen Fire & Rescue received there 26 yr pin



District 11A 50 yr Gold Card Joseph Kenworthy from Honey Creek TWP VFD received his 50 yr Gold Card



District 11A 10 yr pins Fighters from Union Fire Protection Territory received the 10 yr pin Mark Goodwin Steven Solomon



District 11A 10yr pins Firefighters from New Goshen Fire & Rescue received there 10 yr pins



District 11A 10 yr pins Firefighters from Carlisle Hadden Twp VFD received there 10 yr pins

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 11B

Submitted by Jason Ryan, District Chairman



50 Year Gold Coin Presentation



Presentation of 50 Year Coin Left to Right: Jim Hershberger (Hillsboro Fire) Miss Flame Madalynn Ryan

10 Year Pin Presentation



Presentation of 10 Year Pin Left to Right: Jason Ryan, Chairman 11B Joseph Wilson (Cayuga Fire)

10 Year Pin Presentation



Presentation of 10 Year Pin Left to Right: Jason Ryan, Chariman 11B Marsha Spencer (Helt Fire)

Miss Flame District 11B



Left to right: 1st Runner Up - Elizabeth Stone (Floyd Twp) Miss Flame - Madalynn Ryan (Marshall VFD) 2nd Runner Up - Jaeden Doan (Helt Fire)

10 Year Pin Presentation



Presentation of 10 Year Pin Left to Right: Shelby Curtis (Hillsboro Fire) Miss Flame Madalynn Ryan



Deadline for the May 2024 Issue of The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter is April 1, 2024

ivfd@hurdmedia.com



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 14

Submitted by Richard Lee Cannon Sr., District Chairman



The Driftwood Fire Department gets a New Fire Station



Members of Driftwood fire department in their new fire station



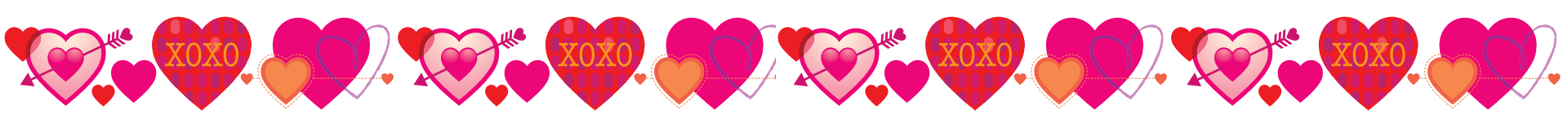
Presenting the officers with their new station clock



Members of Driftwood fire department in front of their new fire station



Driftwood fire departments new fire station



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 18

Submitted by John Smith Asst. District Chairman & Nicholas Waninger District Chairman



Dubois Volunteer Fire Department New Fire House

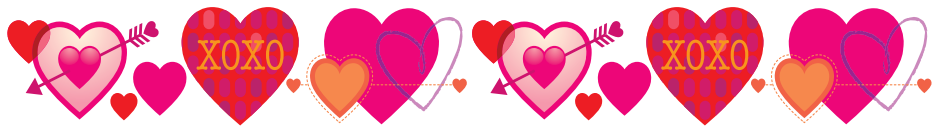


Dubois Fire House Building Committee

In October Dubois Vol. Fire Dept welcomed the community for a dedication day of their new fire house. Their old Station was from the 1960's and has served them well over the years. The new station will better serve with more room for the bigger trucks and department meeting room.



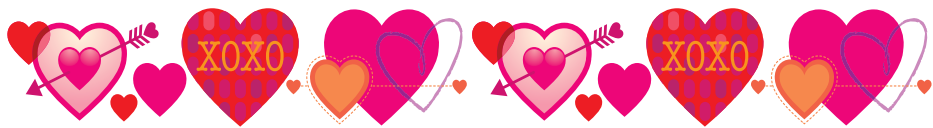
Left Ross Emery - IVFA State Vice Chair, Middle Steve Kaub -Dubois Fire Chief Right: Nick Waninger - IVFA District 18 Chairman



10 Year Pins Awarded



At the annual awards dinner of the Huntingburg VFD, 10 Year Service Pins were presented to two members. Pictured (l-r) are Huntingburg Fire Lieutenants Adam Meece and Brad Buechler. Presenting the awards are Dist. 18 Chairman Nick Waninger and Vice Chairman John "Bull" Smith.



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 19

Submitted by Ed Scheele & Ben Sieverding, District Chairman



50 Year Gold Card Presentation



Member os Rising Sun Fire Dept. at Charlie Levi's 50 year Gold Card presentation.



Charlie Levi with his sons and Chief Armstrong & PRSE Ed Scheele.



Charlie Levi with his sons.

Milan Service Pins Presented



Charlie Levi with his sons and Chief Armstrong & PRSE Ed Scheele.



Milan firefighters receive Years of Service Pins; Chief Alex Hooker, Rod Johnson, Dillon Davidson photo submitted by Ben Sieverding

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 21

Submitted by Don Fultz District Chairman



10 & 25 Year Pins Presented



10 and 25 year pins were presented @Michigan Township Volunteer Fire Dept. by Don Fultz (District 21 Chairman).

50 Year Awards Presented



50 year coin presented to Jerry Arvin from Sheffield Volunteer Fire Dept. by Don Fultz (District 21 Chairman).



50 year card and pin were presented to David Ingram of Michigan Township Volunteer Fire Dept. Along side stands, Chief Jeff Cline and Don Fultz (District 21 Chairman).



50 year coin was presented to John Goodrick by President Jerry Liston and District 21 Chairman Don Fultz.



50 year coins were presented to Philip Lehman and Thomas Lehman, who was receiving on behalf of his father who is being treated in a health care center.

I.V.F.A. Benefits

I.V.F.A. DISTRICT MEETINGS

What Is A District Meeting?

- A place to gather information.
- A place to meet those departments around you and in your district to discuss things that you have in common and problems that you may also have in common.
- A place to meet your state officers and ask them questions and voice concerns.
- A place to see new equipment and receive training in the form of a short program.
- A place to discuss and vote on items that affect the Association and your departments as members.
- A place to voice your opinions and give direction to the Association.
- A place to let everyone around you know what fund raisers and events are going on in your department.

District meetings are held every other month and in the evening at a time decided by the District and on a date set by the District. This allows each district to pick a time that will work the best for that general area.

Each year (usually in July) a district chairman is elected to represent each district at the state level and this is a very important meeting.

As members of the Association, we should look to one another for help to solve problems and lend support to each other.

Please support your districts by attending your district meetings.

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EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2016

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Register Now for the 2024 NVFC Training Summit Travel stipends are available

Press Release from NVFC

Kimberly Quiros, Chief of Communications

Kimberly@nvfc.org

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2024 NVFC Training Summit, taking place June 21-22 in Buffalo, NY. This signature conference, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2024, provides an opportunity for firefighters and EMS providers to participate in valuable classroom training, idea sharing, and networking. Three learning tracks will focus on responder health and safety, volunteer recruitment and retention, and emergency service leadership.

The Summit includes two days of classroom-based breakout sessions with nationally-known instructors, keynote speakers, general sessions, networking events, and a vendor expo. The agenda features a selection of 18 courses relating to critical topics impacting the volunteer emergency services, with a focus on physical and behavioral health, safety considerations during different types of response and training, recruiting new volunteer responders, best practices for retaining volunteers, and leadership. View agenda.

While the Training Summit is a great value, the NVFC recognizes that cost can be a challenge. To remove this barrier and help offset the costs, stipends are available that reimburse up to \$800 of conference-related

expenses, including hotel, airfare/mileage/transportation, and the event registration fee. To be eligible for a stipend, you must be a current member of the NVFC. Not a member? Join for just \$21 at www.nvfc.org/join.

The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo Hotel and Conference Center. The hotel is in historic downtown Buffalo, just a short walk, ride, or (free!) streetcar trip to museums, restaurants, and the Canalside waterfront district. As in previous years, the NVFC will offer a networking social event after class concludes on Friday, June 21. The reception will include a vendor area featuring sponsors and partners. Sponsorships are available – go to: <https://nvfc.swoogo.com/2024nvfcsummit/sponsors> for more information.

Learn more about the 2024 NVFC Training Summit, register, and apply for a stipend at www.nvfc.org/summit. Read about the 2023 Training Summit here. Questions? Contact Rachel Buczynski, NVFC chief of training and education, at rachel@nvfc.org.

About the NVFC

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides critical resources, programs, education, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Learn more at www.nvfc.org.



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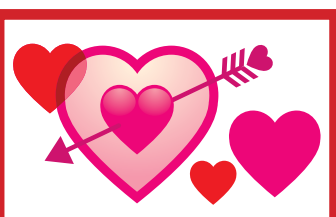
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Note from your editor:

To submit copy or photos for the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter please send your files to Sherri Chaney at ivfd@hurdmedia.com

The deadline for February is January 1, 2024

*Thanks,
Sherri*

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