



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 75 NO. 1

Organized and Trained for the Protection of Life and Property

February 2026

From The President

Ross Emery



Hello and Happy New Year from the Emery family. As your President, I would like to start off by wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year for 2026. I hope 2026 will be all you want it to be. It hardly seems possible that we should already be dating everything in 2026, but I guess the reality is that time just keeps moving along no matter what we have going on in our individual lives.

As we venture into the new year, I am reminded how precious life is and how thankful I am for my family, my fire family, my friends, and my neighbors that truly enjoy giving of themselves in providing helping hands to those in need. We need to remember those that may be experiencing the loss of a family member, co-worker, or friend. If you are struggling with an issue or loss do not be afraid to reach out and

I encourage you to make a pledge to yourself, your family, your agency, and your community to make this year the best you can and set some goals

you can work towards achieving.

Our Association is blessed to have to have so many talented professionals as members and although very few of us ever act with the desire to be singled out and awarded for what we do please review the different IVFA awards, although the February 1st deadline have passed for 2026 awards, please always consider nominating someone from your department, as I always say every department has someone deserving.

In 2026 we will hold our 3rd Jr. Firefighter Competition, there is still time to apply, please see the IVFA website for more information, we look forward for this program to continue to grow. Our goal is 12 contestants for the 2026 contest. The deadline to apply is April 1st.

Each year the IVFA awards 4 \$1,500 scholarships the deadline for the scholarship is March 1st, please see the IVFA website for more details.

On December 18th, The United States Congress expanded Line of Duty Death and Disability as part of the National Defense Act. I am not going to go into great detail on this, however please check out Eric Johnson's whose is the Executive Director of SUPPORTINGS HEROES article in this edition of the paper for a more detailed explanation of this. Eric and Supporting Heroes are a great partner of the IVFA and we look forward to Eric becoming a regular contributor to our newspaper.

Hopefully by time you read this article we will have launched our political action committee, our PAC is going to be a vital part of our future, it will give

President *continued on pg 4*

Intro and PSOB Cancer Presumption

Submitted by Eric Johnson

Greetings, and thank you for the opportunity to be part of the IVFA Newsletter. I am excited to share my first article with you and look forward to contributing regularly in the months ahead.

For those who may not be familiar, Supporting Heroes is a nonprofit organization that, for more than 21 years, has responded to line-of-duty deaths of first responders throughout Indiana, Kentucky, and, more recently, Missouri. Our mission is to support the families of fallen heroes and assist agencies with what we all hope never happens.

In this first article, I am pleased to share very good news regarding the passage of new federal legislation that significantly expands line-of-duty death and disability benefits for firefighters and other first responders. As part of the National Defense Authorization Act, Congress enacted provisions establishing a presumption for certain cancers, allowing deaths and permanent and total disabilities caused by those cancers to qualify for federal Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) when specific criteria are met.

Most importantly for the volunteer fire service, the law makes no distinction between paid and volunteer firefighters. It also applies retroactively to eligible deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2020.

The bill was signed into law on December 18. The next step is for the U.S. Department of



Justice to interpret the statute and establish regulations governing the submission, review, and determination of claims – a process that will likely take weeks to months.

What is known at this time is that to be eligible under the presumption, a firefighter must have completed five or more years of service prior to diagnosis and must not have been separated from active service for more than fifteen years prior to diagnosis. In addition, the firefighter's primary cancer (not metastatic) must be one of the following:

Bladder; Brain; Breast; Cervical; Colon; Colorectal; Esophageal; Kidney; Leukemia; Lung; Malignant melanoma; Mesothelioma; Multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; Ovarian; Prostate;

Skin; Stomach; Testicular; Thyroid; or any form of cancer considered a WTC-related health condition under section 3312(a) of the Public Health Service Act.

We will post updates to our website as additional information becomes available and as regulations are developed.

To learn more about Public Safety Officers' Benefits in general, or specifically about these new provisions, please visit www.SupportingHeroes.org and select FEDERAL BENEFITS from the menu. If you would like to discuss how we might assist you or your agency with a potential claim, or if you have questions about Supporting Heroes or other line-of-duty death-related topics, please contact me directly at EricJohnson@SupportingHeroes.org.

**2026 CONVENTION : JUNE 17-19 AT WYNDHAM INDIANAPOLIS WEST
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MAY 2026 DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2026

VOTE



Jan 2026

“Political” talk

By Larry Curl, IVFA Member and your Lobbyist

Greetings my Fellow officers and members, firefighters, emergency service Responders, EMTs, paramedics and IVFAA members.

Another quarter has passed by since my last newspaper article; “Fire House to the State House”

By the time you are reading this article in our IVFA QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER the bills will all have been filed and the legislative process will be in full motion.

As of the drafting of this legislative update for the current session set to begin on Jan 5 2026, the house members have filed over 150 bills and the Senate members have filed nearly 75. Remember this is a short session beginning on Jan 5th 2026 and guesstimated

ending by 3rd week in Feb.

We are currently reading through all the bills and attempting to determine what bills will impact our service. We will attempt to post weekly updates as we move through the process and we will identify any bill that is moving through the system. We ask that YOU the members also assist in that process by contacting the legislative committee (members found on the IVFA website listed under the committee section) and be our eyes and ears too. This is believed to be a very quick paced session.

As well due to the short timing of this session we have moved our 50 Year Members celebration outside the session time frame. We are going to host

a “special” 50 year members celebration on April 24th 2026 at the Indiana State House. A personal letter will be mailed to all those members who as of this past year (2025) have reached their 50 years of service as a volunteer firefighter / EMT. We will host a program, presentation, a luncheon and invite the honorees, their families, and a member of their fire department to join us.

We are currently working on an opportunity to be able to meet and greet the legislators who represent each of you.

ITS ELECTION TIME... FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF THOSE RUNNING FOR STATE OFFICES YOU CAN CONTACT THE SECRETARY OF STATES OFFICE ELECTION DIVISION.

Also let’s not forget we should be seeing many candidates who will be running for election or re-election starting to make their way around our communities. We should make sure our departments and our membership are well informed and in attendance at such political



From the State House to the Fire House



by Larry Curl

functions. Lets not be bashful, ask the questions that is on your minds. Are these candidates working with us or against us. Can you count on them to support the volunteer services?

We will attempt to provide / update you as to those folks running for office in your district as they become available, reach out to them invite them to a meeting, attend a meeting that they are hosting, stay connected and stay informed. Its you vote they makes a difference.

REMEMBER VOTING IS NOT ONLY OUR PRIVILEGE BUT OUR RIGHT. DON’T PASS IT UP

So let’s talk about some legislation, education & information my three favorite topics.

As I travel the state addressing many of you at your district meetings you often hear me talk about the issue of fund raising. I hope there will come a day when we do that as a community project and not as a means of keeping the lights on, the doors open and the apparatus running. I hope we can see a day when the federal, state, and local governments and our citizens we

protect realize our responsibility should be to provide a professional and quality service to our communities and the cost of providing that service should be the responsibility of those we serve.

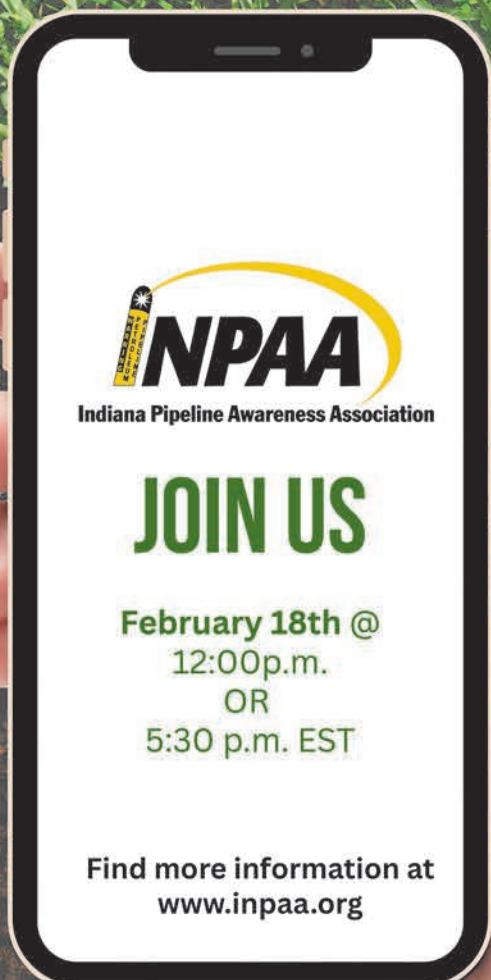
We have revisited our cost savings study of Oct 2020 that showed we saved the taxpayers \$4.5 Billion we now save our taxpaying citizens over \$6.1 Billion annually because of our service after five years we are going to revisit that savings number as in five years the cost of everything we buy, use, and need has gone up drastically so we are attempting to see what our cost savings are after five years.

I hope to see you, talk with you, visit, and share and learn with and from you as I continue to visit the District meetings. You can find most of them listed on the calendar page of our website. Please take the time to be involved and stay informed in your IVFA district

Wishing you and yours a Happy Valentines Day Be safe and thank you for your services Larry Curl IVFA Lobbyist

TWO FREE PIPELINE SAFETY VIRTUAL TRAININGS

Join a two-hour virtual training designed to strengthen your pipeline safety knowledge. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with local pipeline and gas distribution operators, network with first responders and operators, collaborate on coordinated response planning, and access the most up-to-date operator and emergency contact information.



JOIN US

February 18th @ 12:00p.m. OR 5:30 p.m. EST

Find more information at www.inpaa.org



SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS. EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.

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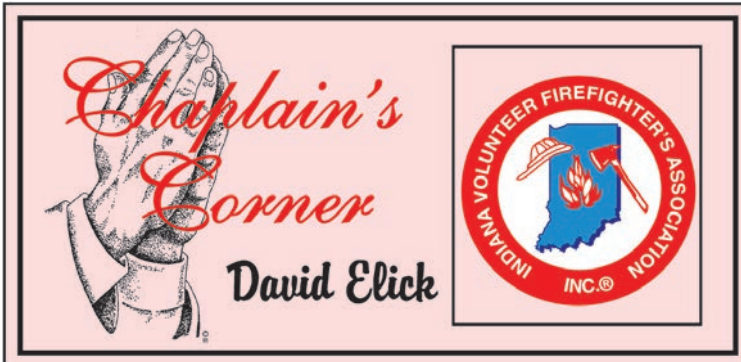
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Greetings all! We are now into a new year, which is a good time to not only reflect on the past, but to also look forward to life's new adventures. This past quarter, the IVFA community lost a wealth of knowledge with the passing of Chaplain Emeritus Charlie Baker, and Past President Larry Ketchem. As we grieve their passing, we can rejoice that they are both free of their earthly ailments, and watching over us from a much better place.
 As 2025 is now in the history books, and we look forward to what 2026 has to offer, I ran across the following:

A recipe for a Happy New Year
 Anonymous

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the engine — don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

One of the key ingredients for this job is our associate chaplains. Without the effort and hard work of these individuals, our recipe would not be complete, so to each I give a heartfelt thank-you and huge atta-boy. May God's guiding, healing hands be with each of us throughout the upcoming year.

Stay safe, and God bless –
 Dave Elick

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From the Historian's Desk

February 1, 2026



L.E. "Buz" Koehler
Historian

I want to welcome you all to 2026.

The new year has already effected change on our Association we now have a new Printing company for our newspaper and our Editor, Sheri Chaney has agreed to stay with us moving forward and we are grateful for her excellent work.

National Volunteer Fire Counsel, has reported that President Trump has signed the Honoring Our Fallen Heros Act, expanding the eligibility for Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program by establishing a presumption for certain Exposure-related Cancers

Looking back on 2025 we were able to finally receive our 75 Year History Book and distribution has begun. I hope all of you get a chance to get one, if you haven't already.

A Big "Thank you" to the Special Projects Committee for their work.

I will be adding more info to the history of the Association as we move forward so please

keep an eye open for any items you may find to add.

Be Safe Out There

Buz Koehler

Past President/Historian



President *continued from pg 1*

us the ability to help advance or legislative agenda, and will connect us better with our elected officials. We are asking for annual \$12 donation from our members to fund our PAC. We are in the infancy of this and are looking for great things in the future.

I would like to thank Sam Bisel for his years of service as a Dist. Chairman and PR Director, Sam decided to step away to focus on his health and family. Richard Sorg will now serve as PR Northeast.

As we seen in December anything is possible at the state capitol, we don't know what this legislative session will hold. What we do know is it probably wont last very long. Please follow our Facebook page, and the weekly legislative update on the website to keep up to date.

For those members who will

celebrate their 50 years in 2026 we will have that celebration at the statehouse in late April, you will receive an invitation in the near future with an itinerary for the day. I encourage you to attend this celebration it is well worth it.

As we move to 2026, I have no clue what is in store, but what I can tell you is the IVFA is here to support you. We will continue to work and look for benefits to help and support our membership.

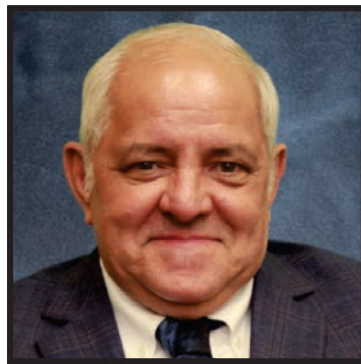
I would like to extend condolences to the family of Past President Larry Ketchem who served as association president from 2009-2011.

I look forward to continuing to serve as your IVFA President in 2026, if there is anything I can do please free to contact me.

Till Next Time
God Bless, Be Safe
Ross Emery
IVFA President

From The Vice-President

Larry Curl



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT GREETINGS;

Well another Christmas has come and gone and I hope everyone had a great Christmas and was able to be with family and friends and now we're into yet another year "Happy 2026".

By the time you are reading this article we can officially say Winter is coming to a close and Spring is in the air (somewhere)

Winter is the coldest and darkest season of the year in temperate and polar climates. It occurs after autumn and before spring, when the hemisphere is oriented away from the Sun as a result of the tilt of Earth's axis.

Spring officially starts in the Northern Hemisphere on Friday, March 20, 2026, with the vernal (spring) equinox, occurring at 10:46 a.m EDT (2:46 p.m. UTC), marking the astronomical beginning of the season with longer days and the Earth tilting towards the sun.

However, since I have absolutely no educational knowledge nor clear understanding of the weather and I'm not a meteorologist nor a weather presenter, I can't predict when it changes (but I do look at STUFF on the web) and all I can say is come on Spring.

However as Emergency Responders we all need to prepare ourselves both physically and mentally for each of the season and be ready for what ever the weather might be.

By the time you are reading this paper your IVFA leadership will either just finished or possible just getting ready to attend our leadership quarterly

meeting. Once a quarter all the leaders of your IVFA from President to District Leadership attend a two day session of meetings to share and or update the activity of your association. We discuss such things as rules, regulations, bylaws, memberships, committee and department Activities. These meetings are open to all IVFA members. While you will not have a vote you will have someone representing you and you can join the discussion on any subject that is being had. Again we meet every quarter and currently do so at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis 2501 S High School Road You can look at the website calendar for full details of dates, times, and locations.

While you are on line looking at the IVFA website look around, see what all is there that you may not have seen or known about. Also look at the apps we have that supports our Association and make sure you have downloaded them for faster, and the most up to date information about your IVFA, the only such association representing firefighter and EMS volunteers serving the residents of our great state, and remember the IVFA has a Facebook as so do most of our Districts. These are all good ways to stay informed and up to date on the activities of YOUR association.

Remember the IVFA has set up a Political Action Committee (PAC) account for the purpose of promoting our service to those in elected offices, supported by the voluntary contributions from our membership to help us support the mission and advocate for you the members.

The role of the PAC which is funded by voluntary contributions, is to support campaigns and candidates who advocate for the priorities of firefighters. These priorities often include:

- **Secure funding:** Ensuring departments have proper funding for adequate staffing, training, and equipment.
- **Secure benefits:** Supporting possible retirement security and healthcare benefits for our members.
- **Improve safety:** Advocating for safer working conditions, more advanced personal protective equipment, and legislation addressing health hazards like PFAS exposure.

• **Support legislation:** Influencing policy at all government levels, from local, county, state and to congress and the White House.

We are suggesting / asking for a \$1 per month contribution per member, hopefully paid by the year. So by supporting the IVFA PAC with your contribution the IVFA can join the other fire service organizations in Indiana such as the State Fire Chiefs, the Indiana Professional Firefighters Association and even some individual departments, Districts or Territory's, in building a strong more vibrant connection between the IVFA (and our members) with elected officials.

Your IVFA is now accepting dues for 2026. Please check with your department to assure your dues are paid as this will impact you current benefits such as scholarships, death benefit, and others. Also please make sure the IVFA central office has all your personal information updated and correct when you are paying your dues. Just a quick check might make a big difference. If the department is unsure please reach out to the Central Office at 877-606-4832 and ask them to look it up for you. **REMEMBER DUES ARE DUE BY JULY 31** each year or they are considered late and could impact some benefits. If you know of a department near you that does not belong to the IVFA give us a shout we would like to pay them a visit and see if we could get them on board with the only association that exclusively represents volunteer first Responders.

Its not to early to start your planning for the IVFA ANNUAL CONVENTION for 2026. Remember Conventions are what you make of them. A schedule will begin appearing soon. The 2026th IVFA State Convention we will be in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis Airport 2544 Executive Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46241 June 17-19 2026 and reservations are currently being accepted for hotel rooms and registrations.

Finally, Carol and I wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day (Feb 14) do something special for the someone special in your life.

Stay Safe and enjoy life
Larry

CLASSIFIEDS

Departments are entitled to 1 (one) freead 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.*

Please email all news, meeting notes, stories and photos to Sherri Chaney at the new email address: editor@ivfa.org

ALL CONTENT FOR THE THE MAY 2026 ISSUE IS DUE BY APRIL 1ST

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORTS

PR Director West Central Don Fultz



Did you make it pass Thanksgiving, Black Friday sales, Fire Department parties, work parties and the rest of Christmas? Then you are ready for the 2026 year. I made it to all my district meetings and attended two Memorial Services.

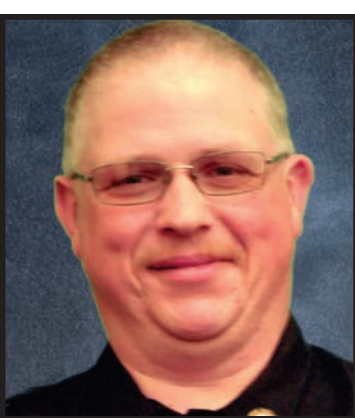
District 21 had a run off for a Miss Flame for convention 2026. Their Miss Flame is Leila Hosfield from Rossville Vol Fire Department. Their runner up is Leanna Moore from Perry Township Vol Fire Department in Cofax, IN

I attended a station dedication at State Line Vol Fire Department and presented them with a clock. This station is West Lebanon's number 2 station.

For the year of 2025, I took a tour of my districts and visited a number of fire stations.

I hope everyone has a great 2026 year.
Be Safe
Don Fultz
PR West Central

PR Director North West Jeremy Reef



Hello Everyone,
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
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.

We are going to be working on building attendance at our district meeting this year. I would like your thoughts and ideas about what it would take to get more attendance at district meeting. 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.

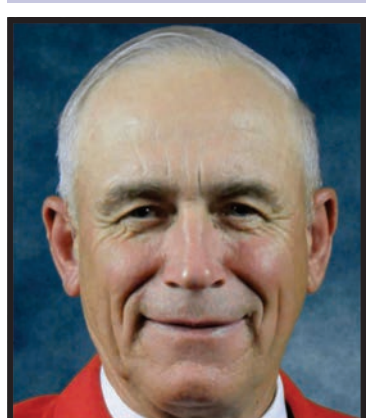
We are about 5 months out from the 2026 IVFA convention. This year's convention will be June 17th through the 19th at the Wyndham West in Indianapolis. We have a lot of new and exciting things happening this year at the convention! If you have any questions, please contact any state officer, central office, or visit the website (IVFA.org).

Did you know that we have an IVFA App for your mobile device? You can go to your App store or Google Play to download. This is a great way to keep up on all the newest information with the IVFA.

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

PR Director South East Edwin J. Scheele



As I am writing this, we are having very cold weather. It was a high of 7 degrees today and tonight it is supposed to be below zero. During this cold weather be very careful on emergency runs and be careful if there is snow or ice.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and had a Happy New Year. It is too late for awards for this year's convention, but get your scholarship applications in before March 1. Now is the time to be thinking about all the awards for next year. Go to the IVFA website and nominate your members for the various awards.

Ed Scheele
IVFA PRSE

I.V.F.A District Reports

District 1 Report



Marshall Neese - Chairman
District 1 IVFA Meeting
20 November 2025 / Ogden Dunes FD
Present 21 Attendees
• District 1 Chairman - Marshall Neese
• District 1 Vice Chairman - Brian Denney
• Secretary - Steve Cope
Special Guests
• IVFA Vice President - Larry Curl
• IVFAA State President - Phyllis Vargo
• IVFAA Chairman of the Board - Carol Curl
• IVFAA District 1 Miss Flame - Grace Wilson

Notes
• Meeting called to order 1900hrs
• Pledge of Allegiance
• Roll call taken
• Ogden Dunes Chief Eric Kurtz gave a brief history of the department and community. He also welcomed everyone to the meeting.

• Larry Curl presented fifty year membership pin and challenge coin to Thomas Tittle
• Marshall and Larry presented the Macqueen award to Phyllis Vargo. Phyllis has been involved with the State Auxiliary for fifty years.

• Minutes of the last meeting - brief update given
• Marshall spoke about the IVFA yearbooks that are available and are sixty dollars a piece.

• Marshall talked about the deaths of Griffith Batt. Chief Scott DeLauro and Griffith FF. Eric Damjanovic. Both passed away from cancer. Scott passed away in August and Eric passed away in October.

• Treasurers report - seventy-two dollars currently and no bills.

• Larry Curl - promoted the IVFA awards that are given out at the yearly convention. Awards can be found on the IVFA website. Larry also talked about getting yearly dues paid and the benefits that come along with that. Benefit books were passed out to everyone. It was also mentioned about the beneficiary information being up to date. Larry talked about the 2026 convention that will be held in Indianapolis in June. The next 3 years it will be held in Indianapolis. The Political Action Committee, funds from this will be used to promote items and benefits that the IVFA is fighting for in the state legislature. Larry is asking everyone to donate twelve dollars a year.
• Larry spoke on the cost

saving study. Volunteers saved the state 4.5 billion. It is now up over 6 billion in tax savings.

• House Bill 1427. Semi annual reports to the state fire marshal's office. This is required for every department.

• Senate Bill 1. The most damaging bill for all volunteer departments. This bill makes cuts to property taxes which funds public safety.

• Larry talked about the days of fundraising and how it can be bad for new members. They may possibly get the wrong idea and drop out. Larry believes we should not have to fundraise to pay for our departments.

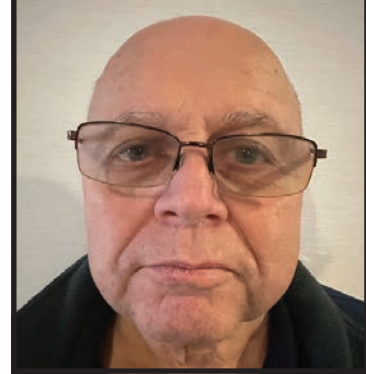
• Lake Ridge Chief Pyle mentioned their Caroling in the Station on Saturday Dec. 6th.

• Grace Wilson (Dravesky) introduced herself and gave a brief description on why she chose to be involved with the IVFAA.

• Marshall thanked the hosting department.

Meeting Adjourned @ 19:46hrs

District 4 Report



Uriah Mast Jr - Chairman

4th District News
November meeting was at Foraker Fire Dept .18 members and 5 departments represented. Election took place and no change to current administration. A presentation on out door search and rescue was given. Awards, cost study, savick purchasing and language translation was discussed. Thank everyone for your help in getting through last year as we start year 2.

Uriah Jr. Mast
4 District Chairman

IVFA Meeting
Host: Benton Township Fire Department
Location: Benton Township Fire Station
Date: 1-8-2026

Jr called the meeting to order @ 7pm beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Marvin Stalter offered Prayer.

Attendance
Departments represented included: Benton, Millersburg, Nappanee, Wakarusa.

With 8 members present.

Visitor
• John Schaefer, Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS)

Approval of Previous Minutes
Minutes from November 13, 2025, District 4 Meeting were read and approved.
Guest Presentation – IDHS

Update

John Schaefer provided state-level updates and encouraged open communication between local departments and IDHS. Key topics included:

• Winter Fire School (Jan 31–Feb 1, Plainfield): 56 free classes, instructor in-service on Friday, and a keynote by an FDNY 9/11 World Trade Center survivor.

• Reinstatement of the Instructor I state rules exam.

• New Live Fire Instructor certification.

• Legislative changes impacting open burns and agricultural exemptions (House Bill 1367).

• Mental health training requirements: mandatory for EMS certifications, optional but available to volunteers at no cost.

Legislative & Federal Updates

• Recent federal legislation now recognizes occupational cancer as a Line-of-Duty Death, providing a \$400,000 death benefit to qualifying firefighter families.

• Indiana participates in benefit coordination through Supporting Heroes.

Association Business

• Members were thanked for paying IVFA dues and supporting the association.

• A 50/50 drawing was held. Proceeds going to Hoosier Burn

Awards & Nominations

Members were reminded that IVFA award nominations are due February 1, including Angel Award, Bridgeport Scholarship, MacQueen Excellence Award, Junior Firefighter Award, Legislator of the Year, Medal of Valor, and Miss Flame/Mr. IVFA.

Member Benefits Review

IVFA benefits reviewed included memorial services, death and scholarship benefits, insurance coverage, clothing and eyewear reimbursement, blue light law support, license plate programs, and access to IVFA publications and mobile app resources.

Service Recognition

10-Year Service Pins were presented to:

- Jason Dunlap
- Michael Raber
- Josh Wernlund

Announcements

• The IVFA Convention will be held in Indianapolis for the next three years.

• Members were encouraged to use the IVFA mobile app and keep contact information current.

Closing

Appreciation was expressed to Benton Township for hosting and to all attendees. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Marvin Stalter
Secretary, IVFA District 4

I.V.F.A District Reports

District 6 Report



Mack Grobis - Chairman

IVFA District 6 held its final meeting of the year in November at East Central Fire and EMS. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to East Central Fire and EMS for hosting the meeting and for providing a wonderful dinner. Your hospitality and support of District 6 are greatly appreciated.

During the meeting, we did not have a Miss Flame contestant. We encourage departments to help spread the word, as we will make another attempt to fill this important role at our January meeting. We hope to see interest and participation in the coming month.

District 6 officers were also honored to attend several department Christmas banquets to present IVFA awards. A special thank you goes out to the following departments for their invitations and warm welcomes:
Southwest Fire District
West Central Fire District, where Bob Mayer was presented with his 50-Year Gold Card
Noble Township Fire Department, where Stephen Naugler was presented with his 50-Year Gold Card

In addition to the 50-year recognitions, several 10-year and 25-year service pins were also presented at these banquets, recognizing the continued dedication and commitment of our members throughout District 6.

As we move into the new year, it would be great to see more members and departments represented at District 6 meetings. These meetings are an important opportunity to stay informed, share ideas, and ensure District 6 has a strong voice within the IVFA.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that the IVFA Political Action Committee (PAC) has officially been launched under the name Volunteer Firefighters and EMS of Indiana PAC. Members who would like more information about the PAC are encouraged to reach out via email at Secretary@vfeioipac.com.

Additionally, I currently have IVFA convention challenge coins and Henry Rifle raffle tickets available. Please contact me if you would like to obtain either.

Thank you to all departments and members for your continued

involvement and support of IVFA District 6. We look forward to seeing everyone in January and to a productive year ahead.

District 7 Report



Richard Sorg - Chairman

District 7 Meeting Call to order

A meeting of District 7 was held at Berne Fire Depart. on November 17, 2025.

Pledge

Meeting was called to order by district chairman Caleb Vanlandingham at 19:50 with the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Ten departments were present with 35 members present.

Approval of minutes

Minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting began with special guest presentation at 19:30. Randy Spieth and Chad Montgomery shared a presentation from Indiana ready Mixed Concrete Association. Building construction with concrete formed walls.

Meeting called to order with pledge of allegiance, followed by roll call.

Minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

Jon Shafer the Director of State Training for Indiana was in attendance. Jon handed out flyers for the district 3 south fire academy at Bluffton Fire Department. June 13 to June 30, 2026.

The new training in acadis for Mental Health suicide prevention. EMT's are required for recertification and firefighters are highly encouraged to take this free class.

Annual reporting for fire chiefs started January 1, 2025. Not all departments are reporting.

Fire Academy in Plainfield, Indiana January 31 to February 1, 56 courses free for continuing education and training.

Changes to the OSHA regulations are on hold, reworking the mandates may not be as difficult to achieve.

Sam Bisel North East PR was in attendance. Sam is still in current position till December 31. Thanked Richard Sorg for stepping in and helping. He thanked each and everyone of us for being part of his life. He is really proud of District 7 and the turn out we have at our meetings.

IVFA quarterly meeting. The state fire marshal announced that charging for fire runs has increased. Structure fires and auto accidents can be billed. \$500.00 per truck and \$200.00 per command vehicle. It needs to be addressed that the insurance

companies are not paying. State fir fire marshal will address this issue. Sam has the paper work if interested.

IVFA awards need to be turned in by February 1, 2026. The McQueen Award can be given to anyone that deserves this award. This award can go to your neighbor who's not a member of the fire department.

Sam closed his report by thanking for the last 15 years of support.

District Chair Report

Caleb Vanlandingham reported using the IVFA logo needs proper paper work filled out. The logo is being missed used. Contact Caleb for proper paper work to fill out.

IVFA November newspapers are available and IDEM open burn and dumping cards are available. Hand these out to the public and businesses.

Updated membership benefit books are available. IVFA is looking at adding more to your benefits for 2026.

Grant program for fire departments. \$20,000.00 a year. Four, \$5000.00 grants a year. Departments must be in good standing with the IVFA and active. Application process is still in the works. IVFA is working on the funding. Caleb is looking for suggestions for other benefits.

IVFA Convention challenge coins are available. Convention is June 17,18, and 19 at the Wyndham in Indianapolis. Four trainings are scheduled one EMS and three Fire. Once the schedule is set, we will make it available to the membership. Let Caleb or Todd know of any ideas for the convention. Memorial service will be Friday morning.

Jr. firefighter challenge looking for more participants. The Jr. firefighters are going to have a more active role during the convention. Contact Richard or Caleb.

There will be 80 vendors, trying to get ten more. Trying to get the vendors to stay longer on Friday. Possibly Noon to Four.

Caleb has one entry for the McQueen award, would like more. Awards are on the website please get them filled out by February 1, 2026.

Gun raffle for the convention all proceeds go toward the convention cost. \$10.00 per ticket. Pictures of the guns are available. Two guns and \$500.00 cash.

Pins were handed out. 10 year - Gramh Becher, Josh Crider, Phil Goodwin, Randall Konger, Michael Padgett 25 year - William Grimm, Jeremiah Lipscomb, Bradley Yoder

District 7 Miss Flame candidate was introduced, Taylor Brown. Taylor is representing Monroe Volunteer Fire Department and is a Senior at Adams Central High School.

Meeting was adjourned 8:51

Announcements

Next meeting January 19, Bippus Fire Department at 7pm

Submitted by Todd Krueckeberg

District 8A Report



Rex Maynard - Chairman

Greetings Everyone,

The new year is here if you haven't heard, back in November office meeting in Indianapolis the State Fire Marshall came to our meeting and talked. He told us about change his office made to The Indiana code 36-8-12-13 the way you charge for runs. His office raises the amount you can charge, it went up. Plus, he gave us a template Invoice that we can use to Bill. If they don't pay in sixty days results in a 10% Penalty (IC 36-18-12.2-11) you need to thank the State Fire Marshall Office for this.

If you would like to come to a office meeting the next one is in February 21, 2026, just let me know.

IVFA Convention for next 3 years will be at the Wyndham Indianapolis west, the date June 17-19, 2026, June 17-19, 2026, June 16-18, 2028.

The next District 8A Meeting is March 25, 2026, Cicero twp. VFD Tipton, Indiana 46072.

Hope to see you there.
District 8A Chairman
Rex Maynard

District 8B Report



Mikey Armstrong - Chairman

2025 was an amazing/sad year for me and my family. It was my first year as District 8B Chairman and my daughter Former District 8B Miss Flame Hannah Armstrong graduated high school but after convention in 2025 I started to slack but I had my reasons because I was helping taking care of one strongest that I've ever met. Pennville Volunteer Fire Department Captain Sean Paul Whitcomb took his last breaths on this earth at 8:56AM Tuesday December 23rd after a 3-year battle with cancer. He was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon and liver cancer on December 24th, 2022.

I remember months before his diagnosis we were hanging out in Iron Mike's Pub (my garage/man cave) drinking beer and smoking cigars like we had for the last 4

summers in a row and he told me that he was having stomach issues and I told him that he needs to get it checked out just to be safe. Of course, you know the badass vol firefighters we claim to be he told me not to worry about it; he will be fine. I remember his phone call on Christmas Eve. He was scared, angry, but he told me that he wasn't going to quit. I told him that we would do this together. I was going to be there for him, no matter what.

From Day 1 along with his parents and Aunt Peggy and Uncle Brian; I was there. Numerous doctor's appt, blood draw appt, chemo treatments you name it Team Whitcomb was there. He had glimpse of hope late spring 2023 Seany went into remission. Our department was so excited we was going to get our captain back, but that was short lived.

Cancer came back with a vengeance, but he never gave up. After the cancer came back after every phone call, we would tell each other that we loved each other. I know that's not some people's thing, but it was ours. It was a brother love. Last words I spoke to him was the Wednesday before he passed. I told him Seany I love you and don't you ever forget it. You see I wouldn't even thought about being a District Chairman if it wasn't for him. He knew that I would do great at it and he was very passionate about the IVFA. He wanted to see this Association do great and wonderful things.

January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month, but it doesn't have to be just this month. It needs to be every month. If Seany was here he would tell you not to be stubborn like him and get yourself checked out. It doesn't make you less of a man or woman by going to the doctor. In closing I want to promise District 8B and the IVFA I will do better than I did in 2025 and I love you.

Mikey Armstrong
765-578-0107
District 8B Chairman
District8b@ivfa.org

District 10 Report



John Ray - Chairman

Greetings from District 10

Hope everyone had a blessed Christmas holiday with your family and friends. We had a great time with our family; a joyfully and wonderfully blessed

I.V.F.A District Reports

time!
 In November we traveled to Greensburg Fire for our last meeting for 2025. We presented their department with an IVFA clock, which is given to each department with a new station. Special guest, State IVFA Miss Flame, Ava Verakamp crowned McKenzie Schnieder as 2026 District 10 Miss Flame. McKenzie is sponsored by the St. Paul Vol. Fire Dept. IVFA Miss Flame Ava is asking all District Miss Flames to collect paper and other nonperishable goods for Ronald McDonald house; as their service project for 2026.

Marshal Steven Jones presented Indiana State Fire Marshal's Meritorious Service Awards to the following 2025, 50 yr. members from district 10: Kenneth C. & David Thomas Stone, Marion Twp.; Gene Wever, Columbus Twp.; Richard Woehleke, Nineveh Twp.; Donald Hedrick, Hartsville; Danny Strasser, Southwest; Jackie Brockman, Amity Fire & Rescue; Charles Deweese, Clifford; & Gayle Gatewood, Westport Fire.

Upcoming meeting dates to put on your calendar now are: February 18 at Trafalgar; March 18 at Adams; April 15 at Scipio/Geneva; & May 20 at Morristown. Meeting times are 7 p.m. Hope you will plan to come to these meetings for the latest information, programs and activities of your IVFA. Thank you for all you do to protect those you serve. May you have a blessed, healthy and safe 2026!

John M. Ray, District 10 Chairman

District 11A Report



Pete Taylor - Chairman

Greetings from District 11A.

It's a new year! Lets see if we can make it a record year. Our last district meeting was in Posey Twp. State representative Tim Yocum was our speaker and was very interesting.

FDIC is coming in April 20th-25th. Stop by and see us at the IVFA booth and grab a free give away!

The IVFA needs to push for awards for the upcoming year. Go online to IVFA.com to see all the awards and nominate someone from your department. There are a lot of deserving people. Let's represent 11A.

Jr. firefighters challenge takes place at the upcoming IVFA

convention. District 11A is seeking more participants ages 15-18 years old and must be a son or daughter of an IVFA member. Spread the word and represent us strong!

Convention is at Wyndham hotel in Indianapolis June 17th-19th. Go check out the IVFA Facebook page for more information. There are so many activities to check out and it is impossible to list them all here.

IVFA is updating their website. Members will be able to pay their dues online.

The State Fire Marshall has raised the fees for billing insurance company. You can review that information and changes under Code 36-8-12-13.

Volunteers fire fighters are putting themselves out there everyday for their communities. They serve with honor and distinction. I could not be more proud to call them my brothers and sisters. Until next time, be safe!

District Chairman,
Pete Taylor

District 13B Report



Jeff Biehl- Chairman

Greetings

I would like to thank Chief Donnie Jackson and West College Corner Fire Dept. for hosting our November meeting.

Meeting was called to order Chairman Biehl at 7 pm, guest present were Vice President / IVFA Lobbyist Larry Curl, East Central Public Relations office David Israel, and IVFAA Chaplain Judy Wirth.

Members were reminded to get their nominations for the IVFA awards. Bridgeport Scholarship are due by March 1st.

Chief's need to check the web site and make sure all your department information is correct, if let me know and we will get it changed.

A lot of discussion was held about township consolidations. With less than 1500 population consolidating with neighboring townships.

Next meetings January 18th Centerville 1 pm & March 12th Williamsburg 7 pm

I will be visiting dept. to get service pins & coins passed out. Please be safe out there.

Jeff Biehl
13B Chairman

District 14 Report



Rick Cannon - Chairman
Happy New Year from district 14

Been a busy time as we have been working to get the new Utica Fire and Rescue up and running we trained since August and went in operation on January 1 2026 with 47 members and people are still coming over to volunteer.

If your department needs any of our service pins or you are building a new station get ahold of me so I can get out to your station.

By the time this hits the paper we have crowned our 2026 District 14 Miss Flame Randi Palmer Sipes from Vienna Township fire department so if you need her for an event get ahold of me.

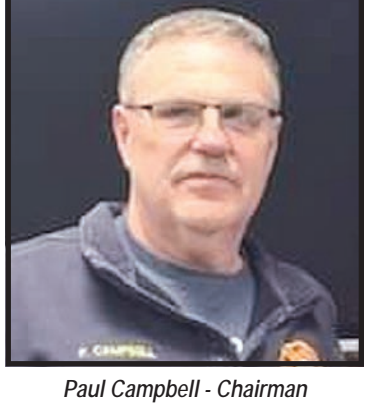
A lot of stuff in district 14 is in the works for the fire service also I hope to give more info in the next paper.

Also thanks to every department that has donated equipment to Utica Fire and Rescue we could not be where we are with out help.

The equipment we did not use was sent to departments in district 14 so all equipment is in use by other departments.

Rick Cannon Dist 14 chairman

District 15 Report



Paul Campbell - Chairman

Welcome to 2026.

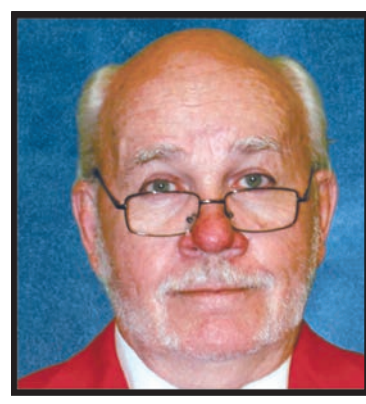
I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

As we begin this new year, as members of the fire service, whether we are a chief officer or a firefighter, we need to look back on the year and evaluate everything that we have done. What did we do right? What did we do wrong? What do we need to work on to make yourself better? What do we need to do to make our department better? All this needs to be looked at for one reason, the citizens that we serve. Our world is constantly changing, and we need to adapt to it.
 We are approaching the

deadlines for our annual awards to be handed out at our convention in June. Please look at all the awards that are available and take note of the deadlines for each award. All of them are listed on the IVFA website and nominate someone. They do not have to be members of your department. It could be someone from your community that is always there to help. The awards committee is looking for multiple submissions and needs a challenge. If you need assistance with any of the awards, please reach out to the awards committee or your district chairperson.

Please be safe out there as we start a new year and look forward to seeing you at the next district meeting or at the convention/

District 17A Report



Sam Emery - Chairman

District 17A Report

Oct. 11, 2025 - Switz City chili supper fundraiser

Oct. 12, 2025 - Spurgeon Award Pins presented

Oct. 14, 2025 - Cannellburg Award Pins presented

Oct. 13 - Nov. 2, 2025 Attended State Officers meeting in Indianapolis

Nov. 3, 2025 - Elnora Award Pins presented

Nov. 4, 2025 - Attended a memorial service for William Traylor, Petersburg

Nov. 5, 2025 - Cornerstone School fire demonstration

Nov. 12, 2025 - Washington 17A meeting IVFA Pres. on hand and gave information along with input and questions. Thanks to all in attendance and thank you for the meal.

Dec. 18, 2025 - To members our loss of Thomas Daugherily and a member of Vincennes Twp. VFD and Past President Larry Ketchum, remember the family.

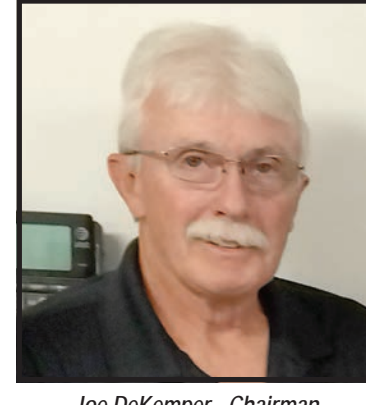
Dec. 28, 2025 - Vincennes sausage supper a Highland Woods Comm city, Jan. 17, 2026, we hope to see you there.

Dec. 28, 2025 - Miss Flame 17A Natalee Richard

Submitted by Sam Emery
IVFA 17A Chairman



District 18 Report



Joe DeKemper - Chairman
Hello from District 18

I hope everyone had a Great Christmas and Happy New Year. Sad to say we have been busy with several memorials, I want to thank Chaplain Jaden Hinkle and Associate Chaplain John Smith for their services to our fallen brothers.

I've been busy presenting pins to firemen thru out the district great to meet new and old friends.

Don't forget to make plans to attend the IVFA Fireman's convention at Indianapolis.

The last meeting was held on Nov 20th at Luce Fire District.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice Chairman John Smith.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by all members present.

Vice Chairman Smith gave opening prayer and remembrance of Stephen Terry of Anderson twp.

Gary Beadles of Huntingburg Vol Fire.

The Business meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm by Vice Chairman John Smith and welcomed everyone who has joined us tonight.

Roll call taken with 35 members representing 9 departments answering 347 alarms.

Treasures report was given with \$5833.04.

Vice Chairman Smith introduced the guests present.

Ava Verkamp State Miss Flame, Jack Kerney PRSW State Office.

Ross Emery IVFA State President, Kathy Smith IVFAA Chairman, Jazmyne Little District 18 Miss Flame, State Senator Daryl Schmitt.

State Officers report Jack Kerney talked about a bill that will hopefully take Osha out of the fire service. Jack also talked about the reporting system is changing to NIRES.

Ross Emery talked about the \$10 million that the state was giving to departments for gear in the last year budget cycle but were not going to give it in this years budget.

Talked about the taxes on the fire service.

Ross also talked about the shutting down townships with less than a population of 2500

Talked about insurance
 District 18 continued on pg

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I.V.F.A District Reports

District 18 *continued from pg 7*

benefits for you and your family if you are a member of a volunteer fire department.

Vice Chairman John Smith reported on behalf of Chairman DeKemper on making sure you let the IVFA office know if there will be any officer's changes for 2026.

Spoke about the new state fire marshals new filling schedules for runs made.

Reminder to put your department events on the IVFA website.

Nomination for IVFA state awards are due by Feb. 1st this also includes the district McQueen excellence award.

Old business thanked Jasper Fire Dept for hosting the District 18 Parade and Miss Flame contest.

Thanks to the Carter Fire District for hosting the District 18 Memorial service.

Senator Schmitt talked about the government about budget years and non budget years, Also spoke about senate bill 1 and tax money.

Vice Chairman Smith thanked the host department for the meal. Announced the next meeting and date Jan 15, 2026 St Anthony Fire Department. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Joe DeKemper District 18 Chairman

from staffing to funding. The fiscal impact of SB 1 and the ramifications for fire departments across the state are real. This session there will be discussion on local government reform and as volunteer firefighters we need to be engaged. We can't be a hard no on everything, but we do need to have a seat at the table when these decisions are being made.

Reach out to your representatives and senators and develop a relationship. If they only hear from us when we are complaining it won't have the same impact as when we talk with them regularly. The IVFA is working on forming a Political Action Committee, get involved. The volunteer fire service is under a tremendous amount of pressure and change is coming, we need to be informed and involved to have an impact on what the change will be.

Ben Sieverding
District 19
Chairman



District 19 Report



Ben Sieverding - Chairman

District 19 IVFA

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and enjoyed their New Year's celebration. We traveled to the Moorefield VFD station for our November meeting. It is always good to recognize members for their years of service to their department and community. Moorefield firefighters receiving their years of service pins were; 10 Year: Robert Crandell, Jeremy Sams, Bradley Stevens, Darrel Thayer; 25 Year Pins: Glenn Cradell & Carl Smith.

We will be traveling up to Franklin County to the Drewersburg VFD for our January meeting, hope to see a big crowd in Franklin County. As we start a new year all of us need to be diligent and engage with what is going on at the State House. There are some real challenges facing the volunteer fire service

District 21 Report



Blaine Butler - Chairman

IVFA - District 21 Quarterly Meeting West Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department

A light meal was served. There were 8 departments represented with 18 members and 17 guests. The meeting was called to order at 1930 hrs by Chairman Blaine Butler with the pledge of allegiance following. Minutes from the November meeting were read and approved.

Blaine talked about the 2026 IVFA Convention. The 2026 IVFA Convention will be held June 17-19 at Wyndham Indianapolis West. Blaine discussed the new billing rates for fire departments for runs. Talked about the NERIS system that is going in for all fire depts as of January 1st.

Larry talked about the Jr. Firefighter competition, Larry talked about the awards given at the convention. He challenges

each department to nominate someone from their department for an award. The awards can be found on the IVFA website.

Ryan Thoma from Indiana Homeland Security talked about what is going on at District 4 around Fire Trainings.

We held the 2026 Miss Flame contest. Leila Hosfield was crowned District 21 IVFA Miss Flame and LeAnna Moore was crowned 1st runner up.

Blaine presented 3 10 year pins and 3 25 year pins.

Our next meeting will be held at Madison Twp. Volunteer Fire Department on February 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm. A light meal will be served at 6:30 pm. The address is 606 E Jackson St. Mulberry, In. 46058.

2026 Quarterly Meetings:

- Feb 23rd Madison Twp Vol Fire Dept
- May 18th Otterbein Area Vol Fire Dept
- Aug 24th Johnson Twp Vol Fire Dept
- Nov 23rd Sheffield Twp Vol Firefighters

Thanks,
Blaine Butler Jr
District 21 Chairman

**I.V.F.A.
Secretary**
Leighanne Ellis



INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING Oct. 31-Nov 1, 2025 Crowne Plaza Hotel Indianapolis, IN

Meeting was called to order by President Ross Emery at 1333. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Larry Curl. The Invocation was given by Chaplain David Elick.

Roll Call was taken with 22 District Chairman present and 3 absent, 6 Public Relations Officers present and 0 absent, and 8 past presidents.

Reading the minutes from the last meeting, Richard Glant made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. David Elick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests:

1. State Miss Flame Ava Verkamp is present.
2. State Fire Marshall Stephen Jones, has the ability to adjust fees for billing the

runs that we respond on. Has increased the fees for runs we are responding on. He has a template for bills and we can use this to be able to send out for the billing. Has copies of the state statue and also an explanation of how to use it and how to bill for it. Needs reports of inability to make runs due to lack of volunteers. Need to also make sure you are reporting in NIFRS/NERIS. It is in the state statue. Can send the first page of the NERIS Report to insurance company to prove that fire department was at the scene so they can pay insurance to the resident. OSHA standard is currently stalled out, keep it on our radar.

3. Jill Jackson and Bo Carr with AMBA group, providing benefits for public employees and educators. Provides marketing with the program. Helps to recruit members to that association and brand recognition. Offer additional benefits to the association. We are going to review this and decide what would work for us. Need to see if there are any conflicts with other benefits we have. <https://getamba.com/index.php>

Old Business:

1. 2026 Washington DC trip March 16-19, 2026 turn names into Larry.

2. Copier is repaired and working and no more problems.

3. Hose Cart is in bad shape, talking about donating it to the fire museum in New Albany. Brent will bring it to next meeting

4. IVFA Coins have been ordered and received. Sgt. At Arms has coins and treasurer keeps track of it.

5. Recording device was received and being used.

6. Webology App invoice is an annual thing and will be discussed.

7. 2026 committee assignments are out and need to be filled out and returned to Pres. Emery. Also has next year's meeting list has been made.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Luke Kluender, report was emailed out. Jack Kerney gave motion to accept, Mack Grobis gave second, motion passed unanimously.

Central Office Report: Jack Kerney, entering dues still, Paid/Not Paid lists emailed out. Dept. rosters emailed out. Pin reports emailed out. Gold Cards- 107 life member list. Deceased members- 46 total deceased. Around 80 Gold cards for this year. . 12,230 addresses prepared for newspaper, Post office form prepared, 207 total bad addresses. 12,619 total membership count. Need to contact the 53 department who paid last year and have not paid this year. 0 pending AIL Claim, \$220,064.53 paid out to date from AIL. Total license plates 4,919. Buz Koehler makes a motion for John Grolich to investigate membership and logo usage and work with Jack Kerney on this. Jerry Liston made the second. Motion passed with 2 Nays. Discussion held on what needs to be discussed to find out the answers. David Elick makes a motion to strike out previous motion. Jeremy Reef gave the second. Motion passed.

Discussion held about purpose of committee and use of the logo committee.

Executive Committee

Report: President Emery, 2027 convention at this time no districts have stepped up to host. Suggestion of State Convention Committee will host the convention. Benefits summit now the Annual Network Meeting be held in Iowa, suggested to send David Israel and Jerry Liston. History Book discussion, we have halted the sales of the book due to a printing issue. We are addressing this issue through a lawyer and written letter to Acclaim Press. We are waiting on a response from the printer. Discussion held on the situation we have. We will need to make a decision on how to move forward and how much we want to spend on it and length of time to wait. Expectations are that we have a full history book. We have also not received the 20 books to be used as gifts as per contract. We are wanting to have Acclaim Press reprint a special edition for the dept. and also provide personalized books to each member of that department and also complete the contract request. We are going to reach out to attorney. Mack Grobis made motion for board action to pay \$1000 retainer to attorney, Rex Maynard gave the second. Motion passed. Life Saving award and medal for Dillan Davidson from District 19.

Committee Reports:

Awards- Vice President Larry Curl- Deadline is February 1, 2025. Please talk about the awards at your next meeting. Discussion on if we are notifying the award members prior to convention so they show up to convention. We will leave it up to the committee to create a letter to send out to notify award winners of the award, keeping letters non-specific.

Mr. IVFA, Pete Taylor- no letters submitted as of the meeting. New tailor has been obtained for them jacket.

Angel Award, Diane Harrison- nothing to report

Miss Flame Program: Leighanne Ellis, gave report on Miss Flame Project and how we are going to do that.

Bridgeport: Past President Richard Glant- will have another claim coming.

Budget: Treasurer Luke Kluender sent out reports, have 2 CD's that will mature and need to handle through board action. Proposed Budget for next year will need to be approved in board action. There is about 3-4% increase in the budget this year. Question posed of where the Junior Firefighter program fell, Luke will check into it. Buz Koehler made motion to move proposed budget and CD's to Board Action. Brent Bush gave the second. Motion Passed.

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

Chaplin Dave Elick, discussion on changing requirements for district meetings being changed from required 6 meetings per year to a minimum of 4 meetings a year and if you want to continue with 6 you can still have those. The By-law, SOG, and SOP, and District Guidelines

Secretary *continued on pg 10*

Secretary *continued from pg 9*

are not the same everywhere and need updated then placed onto the thumb drives with current correct copies. Sign off for all three documents are kept in office and need to have signed copies from everyone.

Clothing Claims: District 5 John Grolich, claim for shoes at \$130. approved

Convention: David Israel-2026- Steve Anderson- Districts 6,7, and 8B being held in Indianapolis at Wyndham Indianapolis. 115 pre-registrations. Convention Coins are available for sale now. June 17-19, 2026

2027- going to be working on it, if we don't get a district, we will have the state committee begin planning this.

2028- no interest from Districts for hosting

EMS: Tom Fentress, PI Forums are complete, the only one available is at IEMSA Conference. The state has free training available through JB Learning. Remember to complete new Acadis trainings that are required.

Health and Wellness

Committee, Tom Fentress, ESOgard, esophageal cancer detection system, they would like to partner with us for a no cost benefit and we are going to get more information and marketing material to get out to our members. Look for grant funding to help with workout, meal planning costs, and place it on our app and it be free for our membership.

Jr. Firefighter Program:

Mack Grobis, review of website and forms to make sure all is correct. Make a new tab on website directly to forms. survey to dept.'s to identify where jr. firefighter programs are in the state. Current Winner is planning on applying to the NVFC competition.

Insurance: Luke Kluender, nothing to report.

Legislation: Lobbyist Larry Curl and Past President Buz Koehler, want to know what is going to be discussed in the special session. If it is redistricting or finances. We are looking to get turnout gear back for members. Meeting Nov. 17 with IN Farm Bureau and talk about what our priorities are. Training session Nov. 5 with IN Trustee Association, Public Safety Day and Strengthening Volunteer Fire Service in your community. We are going to send 4-5 people to this training. Met with Public Safety Secretary ISP Superintendent. Talked about the PAC

LODD: Paul Holcomb, Dist. 18 had a LODD reported.

Logo: District 18 Joe DeKemper, nothing further to report.

Membership and Marketing:

Sam Bisel, Savvik Group Posters, where are they? Brought issues on dues coming to central office and packets getting out, talked to webmaster and the ability to get a way to pay on the website and the roster. Also, website portal with department access and wanting to place dues payments and rosters on the portal and creating a flow chart for this process.

Meeting recessed at 1739 until Sunday Nov. 2, 2025, at 0830.

Meeting is reconvened at 0834 am by President Emery.

Morning message given by chaplain Elick.

State Miss Flame Ava Verkamp reported on her duties from this quarter.

Newspaper: Past Pres. Buz Koehler, make sure your pictures that are going into the newspaper are clear.

Public Relations and Education: Jerry Liston Trailer will be going to have repairs done to the wrap. FDIC Booth, sharing space with the Fire Marshalls office, will be double checking. Show schedule is Sausage supper, IERC, IEMSA, FDIC and Convention. Trailer has been out to 6 dept. over the year. Need an Ipad for selling of coins from the convention

Social media and Website: Anthony Smith, app users 839, recommendation on website to update by adding a search feature to website, it will cost. Add ecommerce to the dues on the website and Paul will work with Matt on the website. Mack Grobis makes a motion to send to board action, complete the website update and not to exceed \$2000. Tammy McCaffrey gave the second. Discussion was held on the process and how it will work going to the Central Office. Goal is to have completed by next dues cycle. Motion passed unanimously. Miss Flame and Jr. Firefighter have tabs placed on the website for easier access.

Special Projects: Past Pres. Buz Koehler, working on the District Chairman Guidebook and updating the book. Goal is to have the book completed by next meeting so it can start being used.

Training: Steve Anderson, Discussion on TIM training. Train the Trainer course for TIM is out. Zach Matthews and reps on curriculum for week long Fire Chiefs training Steve has been working on them. They would like to have sponsor for after hour dinner and social hour, looking for a sponsor to cover the cost for around \$500. If we cant get a sponsor, we will have to fund 2 times, spring and fall, capped at 30 students plus staff. Jack Zeeks makes a motion to send to board action that we find a sponsor first for the event and if not we spend \$500 for each two events. Larry Curl gave the second. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee, Jack Zeeks, nothing to report.

Representative Reports

Board of Firefighter

Standards and Education: Steve Anderson, working to identifying what trainings are mandatory and not. Next meeting in December.

Fire Alliance Steve Anderson, Buz Koehler, and Larry Curl, talk about legislation and starting to address the future of the fire service.

IDHS Senior Advisory Committee, Jack Zeeks, grants are completed and waiting to be able to get funds where they need to go.

IN-TIM, Jack Zeeks- meeting are starting back up and being put on.

NVFC, Jack Kerney, - went to Rapid City, SD, State Farm

Program awarded \$1.5 million in funds to 150 eligible fire dept. receiving \$10K. Indiana had 6 dept. receive the funding. Dist. 14, 2, 10, 8B, and 16 had dept. receiving funds. Senate Hearings on apparatus increased pricing also covered. Nat. Fire Dept. Registry, recruitment and retention review over training roles. NVFC and FEMA group report, Letter about another OSHA standard change. Strategic planning report completed for the review of the next 10-15 years. NVFC Capitol Hill meeting May 14, 2026 for special advocacy day. Jerry Liston- OSHA rewrite is currently stalled but not gone. Looking at poss. Reorganization of FEMA.

PAC- John Grolich, Federal Paperwork is in holding pattern, State paperwork is filed and waiting to be returned. Plans for Jan. 1 to get things going. Mack has website put together. Exploring ways to do online crowdfunding. Brought EMS onboard with them as well to make sure that we are covering agencies.

Officer's Reports:

President, Ross Emery, worked on history book issue, went to Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service and participate, LODD service, district meetings, discussion came up about language barriers on scene. Language Line Solutions is the organization and start sharing the information.

Vice President, Larry Curl, need to increase award nominations, sought input on what we can do for our membership, Jerry Liston brought up discounted gym membership for members. Talked about the PAC.

Secretary, Leighanne Ellis, read 2 cards received from family and IFCA.

Treasurer, Luke Kluender, nothing to report

Chaplain, David Elick, Tom Keller Assoc. Chaplain having medical issues. Need to turn in funeral vouchers for this past quarter.

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

Historian, Buz Koehler, nothing to report

Chairman of the Board, Jerry Liston, nothing to report

PRNW, Jeremy Reef, nothing to report

PRNE, Sam Bisel, Richard Sorg, getting into the position and getting out into the area.

PRWC, Don Fultz, attended district meeting, fundraisers and memorial service

PREC, David Israel, all but one district meetings

PRSW, Jack Kerney, 7 district meetings, Gala, memorial service 3673 miles, fundraiser, open house, NVFC meeting, gold card presentation.

PRSE, Ed Scheele, district meetings

Asst. Treasurer, Bev Harker, absent

Asst. Secretary, Diane Harrison, absent

Webmaster, Anthony Smith, nothing further to report.

Past President's Reports:

Jerry Liston, 2 State Farm presentations, has Fallen Firefighter Memorial pamphlets, Push Savvik group, Gala, IDEM

Posters are available and getting more burn cards, Provident Insurance Forms need to be filled out and given to central office.

Steve Anderson, nothing to report

Richard Glant, nothing to report

Jack Zeeks, nothing to report.

Buz Koehler, nothing to report.

Jack Kerney, nothing to report.

David Israel, nothing to report.

Paul Holcomb, nothing to report

Larry Ketchem, absent

District Reports:

District 1, Marshall Neese- Don Fultz reported election held at district meeting

District 2, Tom Fentress, district meeting, reached out to non-paid has 4 that went to full time dept., 1 Chiefs conference, IFCA Conference, service pins passed out.

District 3, Jim Garner, working on getting dept. back in, 2/8 back in and 2 in process and 1 not coming back.

District 4, Uriah Mast, Jr., electrical safety seminar at last meeting. Training at next meeting is on search and rescue and using drones.

District 5, John Grolich, 2 district meetings, 700 miles with working on PAC paperwork. Lunch with Fire Marshall, Worked to get funds from County Council from HB1454 for Special Projects and \$50,000 per dept. in the county.

District 6, Mack Grobis, district meeting, dept. visits, memorial service, service pin presentations, MacQueen presentation, County Fire Academy, Lunch with Fire Marshall, New Haven Fire Muster

District 7, Caleb Vanlandingham, district meeting, 3 memorial services

District 8A, Rex Maynard, nothing to report

District 8B, Mikey Armstrong, district meetings, NVFC grant dept. visit, memorial service,

District 9A, Pascal Moon, Jeremy Reef reports district meeting

District 9B, Randy Denton, Jeremy Reef reports district meeting, concerns of township consolidations.

District 10, John Ray, MacQueen Award, fundraiser, 2 district meetings, service pins

District 11A, Pete Taylor, district meeting, service pins, dept. visits, retirement ceremony, insurance check delivery

District 11B, Scott Peebles, district meeting, service pins, 2 50-year cards,

District 12 Steve Kershaw, district meeting, getting out into districts, worked on non paid list and 10 are now career dept.

District 13A, Don Cushman, nothing to report

District 13B, Jeff Biehl, District meeting, grant writing class, dept. visit, service pin presentations

District 14, Rick Cannon, going to do a landing zone class, 2 memorial services, sent equipment to Dupont Fire.

District 15, Paul Campbell, Steve Anderson reports District meeting with TIM Training. Next meeting will have annual

EMS Skills meeting.

District 16, Nick Faulkenberg, district meeting, fundraisers, dept. meetings, open houses

District 17A, Sam Emery, memorial service, MacQueen Award presentation, dept. meetings, fundraisers, January 17, 2026 Vincennes Sausage Supper

District 17B, Tammy McCaffry, 2 meetings, memorial service, service pin presentations,

District 18, Joe DeKemper, district meeting, 3 memorial service, 1 LODD, MacQueen award, fundraisers, District Memorial program.

District 19, Ben Sieverding, 2 memorial services, service pins district meeting

District 21, Blaine Butler, district meeting, 2 memorial services, working on district email chain, fundraisers, pushing the Jr. Firefighter Program.

New Business:

1. Grant Programs, John Grolich spoke on 2 proposals on grant program funding to members of the association. Discussion held on how to fund these. Steve Anderson made a motion to table so there can be review of this proposal after receiving the information for review. Jim Garner gave second. Motion passed.

David Elick made Motion to Adjourn meeting, Blain Butler gave second. Meeting adjourned at 1147

INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING Oct. 31-Nov. 2 2025 Crowne Plaza Hotel Indianapolis, IN

Board Action Business Meeting called to order by Past Chairman of the Board Jerry Liston at 11:59 am..

Reading of the minutes, Paul Holcomb made a motion to accept them as emailed, second was made by Jack Zeeks, and the motion passed.

Old Business:

Board Action- Business:

1. Attorney's fee to handle the 75 year Anniversary book legal actions. Not to exceed \$1000. Motion made by ben Sieverding. Second was given by Richard Glant. Motion passed unanimously,

2. 2026 budget approval-motion given by John Grolich. Second given by John Ray. Motion passed with one nay.

3. Association CD- allow for treasurer to reinvest the CD to the best interest rate he may find in searching for rates. Richard Glant made a motion and Brent Bush gave the second. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Updating the website not to exceed \$2000. Motion made by Jack Zeeks and Mikey Armstrong gave the second. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Cheif's Academy food sponsor for \$500 twice a year at a total of \$1000. Attempt to find a sponsor first. Jack Zeeks made the motion and Mack Grobis gave the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dave Elick, Second by Richard Glant . The meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.



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- (2) 2.5" Discharges Driver's Side, 2.5" Aux Intake, 6" Master Intake
- Deck Gun with TFT Crossfire Monitor Stack Tips
- Extended Front Bumper with hose tray and 1.75" discharge
- Top Raise Telescoping Scene Lights
- ALL LED Lighting and Emergency Lighting
- 24' Extension, 14' Roof, 10' Attic Ladders
- Federal Q Siren
- Electric Siren
- Dual Air Horns
- AMDOR Roll up Doors
- Storage for (3) SCBA Cylinders wheel wells
- Aluminum Wheels
- Front Tires 315/80R 22.5
- Rear Tires 12R 22.5
- 42,000 GVWR

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A Penny for your Thoughts

Submitted by Luke Kluender

“A penny saved is a penny earned”, “Costs a pretty penny”, “Worth every penny”

These, and other penny idioms, may disappear from our lexicon, as the penny itself disappears from use. The smallest unit of our currency has apparently outlived its usefulness, a victim of value inequity: it costs far more to make a penny than it is worth.

The volunteer fire service also faces challenges of perceived value. In many communities, the increased demand for EMS services has outstripped the ability of the traditional volunteer fire department to respond effectively. New models of public safety combine Fire and EMS with paid and volunteer staffing, but these models present their own problems as well, the greatest of which is funding.

Indiana Code defines the roles, responsibilities and rates



for providing fire protection. However, the management, implementation and funding for EMS is glaringly absent in Indiana Code. This is probably because EMS is a latecomer to the public safety arena. Regardless of the reason for the oversight, the result is that EMS is like the proverbial black sheep of the public safety family. No local agency wants to take it on for fear of being overwhelmed by the weight

of it. Across our state, EMS varies in quality, is poorly funded, yet sorely needed. The legislature conducted a state-wide survey of EMS services. It highlighted many of these issues. What results have come of that survey?

It is far past time that Indiana law thoroughly addresses EMS issues to improve the management, funding and delivery of EMS so that health care in Indiana, “Shines like a new penny”.

Obituary

Larry DeWayne Ketchem



Larry DeWayne Ketchem, 85 of Montezuma, was restored to good health and sound mind on Friday, December 26, at Clinton Gardens, in Clinton, Indiana.

Born on April 28, 1940, in Odon, Indiana, Larry was the youngest of four children. His parents, Vertis J. “Bert” Ketchem and Edith (Johnson) Ketchem and siblings, Naomi, Jack, and Jean Ann, all preceded him in death.

A proud 37-year veteran of the Indiana Army National Guard, Larry retired as Command Sergeant Major of the 38th

Infantry Division.

One of Larry’s other great passions was the volunteer fire service. He joined the Odon-Madison Township Fire Department with his dad, Bert, chief of the department, and brother, Jack, at the age of sixteen. He rose through the ranks, ultimately, becoming Chief of a department after moving to Parke County, Indiana.

In 1995, he was named Mr. IVFA, the highest award in the Indiana volunteer fire service. Larry was recognized as a 50 member of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter’s Association. In 2007, he was elected President of the IVFA.

Larry’s other honors include two Sagamore of the Wabash awards. One for his service to the State of Indiana during this tenure with the IN National Guard and one for his dedicated service to the IVFA, Legion of Merit for his service with the National Guard, Meritorious Service Award from the Fire Marshal, and he was named a Kentucky Colonel.

Family always brought a smile to his face whether it be his daughters, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren.

Larry married Barbara Edmondson, August 28, 1959. They celebrated 63 years together before her untimely passing in 2023. That union produced two daughters, Jodi (Anthony) Rohr of Montezuma and Jill (Larry) Vandivier of Rockville, four grandchildren, Jared (Alexandria) Rohr of Rockville, Capt. Heath (Samantha) of Clovis, NM, Carly (Quenton) Hill of Montezuma, Lucas (Anna) Vandivier of Terre Haute, four great-granddaughters, Haley, Makayla and Gracelyn Rohr of Center Point, Olivia Vandivier of Terre Haute, three great-grandsons, Jenson and Parker Hill of Montezuma and Aleksiy Vandivier of Terre Haute plus two bonus great-granddaughters Dixi and Gracelynn of Rockville.

Larry attended the Montezuma Christian Church.

Services will be 11 a.m, Saturday, January 10 at the Montezuma Christian Church, 1081 N Jefferson St., Montezuma, IN, with Greg Goodrick officiating. Burial will follow at the West Union Cemetery, with full military honors. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m., Friday, January 9 at the church. IVFA and IVFAA Memorial Services will be at 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to either the Montezuma Christian Church or Operation Honor Guard. Envelopes will be available at the church.

The family would like to say a special thank you to the staff of Clinton Gardens for their loving care given to Larry, especially during his final hours.

STUDY BOTH BILLS, LOOK AT ALL OPTIONS THEN CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR ASKING THEM TO VOTE FOR THE ONE THAT BEST SERVES YOUR DEPARTMENT, YOUR COMMUNITY

HB1315 TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION

Provides that on January 1, 2028, certain townships are dissolved and their powers, duties, offices, and property are transferred to a municipality or county. Requires a township to adopt a resolution not later than June 1, 2026, that designates the municipality or county (designated unit) that will reorganize the township. Requires the appointment of a joint board consisting of representatives of the township and the designated unit to prepare a plan of reorganization. Provides that a township must reorganize with the county if: (1) the township does not adopt a resolution by June 1, 2026; or (2) the municipality that the township designated in its resolution does not adopt a reorganization plan by December 31, 2026. Provides that a designated unit has all of the powers of the government modernization act in reorganizing the township. Amends the government modernization act to require a political subdivision to respond to a resolution that names the political subdivision as a participant in a proposed reorganization.

THIS BILL IS TOWNSHIP POPULATION BASED

SB270 TOWNSHIP MERGERS

Requires the department of local government finance (department) not later than December 31, 2026, to compile data on each township (excluding townships in Marion County) and assign points based upon the township government’s performance. Requires a township government that is assigned at least four points (designated township) to merge. Requires a merger to satisfy the following requirements: (1) A designated township must merge with at least one township that has less than four points (recipient township). (2) The merger must satisfy contiguity requirements under the township merger law. Provides that if all townships in a county have at least four points, the county executive must designate a township to act as the recipient township. Requires the county executive to designate which townships will merge: (1) taking into consideration the wishes of the designated townships and recipient townships; and (2) the contiguity requirements under the township merger law. Provides that all mergers in a county are effective not later than January 1, 2028. Establishes provisions for an interim township government for the new merged township government until a new township trustee and township legislative body are elected during the 2030 general election. Provides that a township merger does not affect the office of township assessor of a township participating in the merger. Repeals a law that allows township governments to dissolve a merger.

WHICH WAY MAKES MORE SENSE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR DEPARTMENT CONTACT YOUR IVFA IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

TO VIEW EITHER OR BOTH BILLS IN THEIR FULL TEXT GO TO IVFA.ORG CLICL ON LEGILATION GO TO [Weekly Bill Track](#) THEN View Report In New Window



Please email all news, meeting notes, stories and photos to Sherri Chaney at the new email address: editor@ivfa.org

ALL CONTENT FOR THE THE MAY 2026 ISSUE IS DUE BY APRIL 1ST

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DISTRICT #9A	VACANT	
DISTRICT #10	LORI BAXTER	
810 N. Harvey Rd., Greenwood, IN 46143	Cell (317) 755-9648	
E-mail: ivfaadistrict10@ivfaa.org		
DISTRICT #11A	BEVERLY TAYLOR	
721 E. Hwy. 40, Brazil, IN 46834	Home (812) 448-3232	
/ Cell 812-236-0955 - E-mail: ivfaadistrict11a@ivfaa.org		
DISTRICT #11B	JODI ROHR	
4720 Rohr Rd., Montezuma, IN 47862	Home (765) 592-0827	
E-mail: ivfaadistrict11b@ivfaa.org		
DISTRICT #12	CHARA LEAVER	
106 E. Wall Street, Advance, IN 46102	Phone (317) 445-6358	
DISTRICTS #13A & 13B	HUNTER DAVIS	
504 W School St., Centerville, IN 47330	Phone (765) 322-0014	
E-mail: ivfaadistrict13a@ivfaa.org / ivfaadistrict13b@ivfaa.org		
DISTRICT #14	JoANN SMITH	
25509 Gill Rd., Nabb, IN 47147	Cell (502) 380-7532	
E-mail: ivfaadistrict14@ivfaa.org / jsmith19513@yahoo.com		
DISTRICT #15	VACANT	
DISTRICT #16	VACANT	
DISTRICT #17A	MARIE EMERY	
799 East Harvest Church Rd., Bloomfield, IN 47424	Home (812) 384-8748	
/ Cell (812) 381-0107 - E-mail: ivfaadistrict17a@ivfaa.org		
DISTRICT #17B	VACANT	
DISTRICT #18	KATHY SMITH	
109 Oak Street, Huntingburg, IN 47542	Home (812) 683-3697	
/ Cell (812) 631-1501 / E-mail: ivfaadistrict18@ivfaa.org		
DISTRICT #19	VACANT	
DISTRICT #21	PATTI FULTZ	
1007 Haan Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906	Home (765) 463-2970	
/ Cell (765) 426-6615 / E-mail: ivfaadistrict21@ivfaa.org / dpbfultz@gmail.com		

PAST PRESIDENTS

DIANA GRAY.....	2011-2013
799 Hippensteel Drive, Warren, IN 46792- (260) 224-0774 didagrays@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 (Deceased).....	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.
We have some districts that the

chairman position is vacant. We are looking for IVFAA members to fill these positions. The vacant districts are 5, 9A, & 17B. If you are interested, please contact one of the line officers.

It's never too early to talk about convention! The 2026 IVFA/IVFAA convention will be June 17th – 19th at Wyndham West in Indianapolis. The convention registration and hotel information are on the website.

As I have traveled around the state attending as many meetings as possible, 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

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best to be there. I also want to personally let you all know that everyone 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.

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 2025 / 2026

Committee meetings will follow the I.V.F.A.A. By Laws & Robert's Rules of Order.

AUDIT

- Carol Curl – Chair
- Suzie Lewis – Co-Chair
- Sue Glant
- Dawn Harris
- Tammie Ruvalcaba
- JoAnn Smith
- Judy Wirth
- Carolyn Zeeks

VICE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

- Bev Vanlandingham – Chair
 - Suzie Lewis – Co-Chair
- All district chairman, line offices & members need to sign up for a time slot.

MEMBERSHIP

- Cindy Krueckeberg – Chair
- Kathy Smith – Co-Chair
- Hunter Smith
- Tami Daily
- Jodi Rohr
- Chara Leaver
- Andrea Weaver
- Diane Stapleton

BY LAWS & SOGS

- Jodi Rohr – Chair
- Dawn Harris – Co-Chair
- Tammy Smith
- Diane Stapleton
- Tammie Ruvalcaba
- Virginia Elick
- Patti Fultz
- Bev Taylor
- Marie Emery

BUDGET & FINANCE

- Tammy Smith– Chair
- Carol Curl – Co-Chair
- Kathy Smith
- Cindy Krueckeberg
- Hunter Davis
- Andrea Weaver
- Tammie Ruvalcaba
- Sue Glant

CHINESE AUCTION

- Lori Baxter – Chair
- Hunter Smith – Co-Chair

All district chairman, line offices & members need to sign up for a time slot.

MISS FLAME COMMUNITY SERIVE AWARD

- Patti Fultz – Chair
- Suzie Lewis – Co-Chair
- Kathy Smith
- Tami Daily
- Dorothy Reiter

NEW DISTRICT CHAIR TRAINING

- Bev Vanlandingham– Chair
- Kathy Smith
- Joyce Nevil
- Beth Caudill
- Tammy Smith
- Bev Taylor
- Patti Fultz
- Marie Emery

JEWELRY

- Suzie Lewis – Chair
- Diana Gray – Co-Chair

INSTALLATION

- Leslie Spears – Chair
- Kathy Smith – Co-Chair
- Virginia Elick
- Carol Curl

LOIS BOAZ AWARD

- Judy Wirth
- Betty Schroder
- Janet Matthews

MIRIAM SCHAEKEL AWARD

- Tammy Heishman
- JoAnn Smith
- Tammy Smith

HISTORIANS

- Phyllis Vargo
- Buzz Kohler

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Dawn Harris – Chair
- Janet Matthews – Co-Chair
- Lori Baxter
- Kathy Smith
- Hunter Smith
- Judy Wirth
- JoAnn Smith

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION

- Virginia Elick- Chair
- Judy Wirth – Co-Chair
- Cindy Krueckeberg
- Andrea Weaver
- Lori Baxter

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY

- Phyllis Vargo
- Beth Caudill
- Carol Curl
- Diana Gray

CHAPLIN ASSISTANTS

- Judy Wirth – State Chaplin
- Phyllis Vargo – Northwest
- Suzie Lewis – Northeast
- Leslie Spears – East Central
- Pete Taylor – West Central
- Kathy Smith – Southwest
- Pam Gerdowsky - Southeast

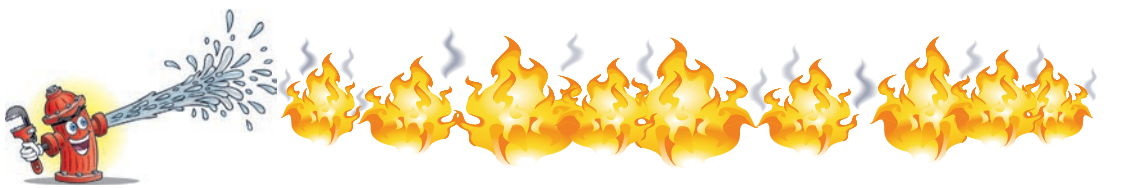
NOMINATING

- Carolyn Zeeks – Chair
- Sue Glant – Co-Chair
- Marie Emery
- Dorothy Reiter
- Diana Gray

MEMORIAL THROW

- Carol Curl – Chair

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



Recording Secretary

Janet Matthews



IVFAA Quarterly Meeting November 2, 2025

Crown Plaza, Indpls, IN

President Christina Reef called the meeting to order @ 8:30am. Chaplin Judy Wirth gave the opening prayer & Sergeant at Arms Suzie Lewis led the Pledge to the flag Christina informed the group that the meeting is also via zoom today & that there are participants attending via zoom. This is the second meeting that we will try to see how it works out.

Recording Secretary Dawn Harris

took roll call of those in attendance 20 officers 9 individuals present today, no guests. Members by department 460, Individuals 142, Life members 33 Total members 635.

Corresponding Secretary Janet Matthews

was asked to read the minutes from the May quarterly meeting. Tammy Smith made a motion to suspend the reading of the August minutes & accept them as they were sent out, Martha Biehl seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. August minutes accepted as they were sent out.

Treasurer Report Martha Biehl

will give the account balances of the organization; she emailed them out to the officers & copies available in room for those that want one.

- General Fund Amount \$32,744.00
- CD Amount #1 \$11,440.20
- CD Amount #2 \$21,047.83
- Miss Flame Community Service Award Amount \$2,163.37
- Miss Flame Amount \$3,716.44
- Gaming Amount \$9,916.24

All accounts/books are available & are subject to audit. Will have to have officers' information by December to submit for the gaming licenses.

State Miss Flame Ava Verkamp came to the room & gave a report on the events that she has already attended & a list of those events that she will go to in the next quarter. Please let her know if you would like her to appear at one of your events. She thanked everyone for their support & assistance. You can email her at missflame@ivfa.org if you would like to invite her to an event that you are having.

Chaplain's Report Judy Wirth

informed the group that there are cards going around the room for signatures as we still have many that need to know that we are

thinking about them.

President Christina Reef asked for committee reports

• Auditing- Carol Curl reports she did take all our files to her CPA, but he had an illness in the family & was not able to complete the review. She will take the items back to him to get them completed.

• Budget & Finance- Tammy Smith reports her committee met yesterday & will meet for a longer meeting on Saturday of February quarterly meeting.

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

• Chinese Auction- Lori Baxter reports her committee will meet on Saturday of the February quarterly meeting. Be thinking about your baskets.

• Historian- Phyllis Vargo is not present today

• Installation- Christina reports that Leslie informed her that they will be ready.

• Jewelry- Suzie Lewis reports that she has all the jewelry with her if anyone needs anything. She will order name tags for District 10 & District 6 chairman. Andrea Weaver is the new district 6 chair & is present at the meeting today.

• Lois Boaz- Judy Wirth, encouraged group to send in letters to nominate someone for the award. Nominations need to be submitted by February 1st.

• Membership- Cindy Krueckeberg reports that we still need ideas to increase membership

• Memorial Throw- Carol Curl nothing to report.

• Miriam Schaeckel- Joann Smith encouraged group to nominate someone.

• Miss Flame Community Service Award – Patti Fultz, nothing to report.

• Miss Flame- Janet Matthews reported that the committee met today & discussion of the entertainment changing this year. Ava is working on the community project for the year.

• Nominating- Carolyn Zeeks had nothing to report.

• Parliamentarian- Beverly Vanlandingham all is ok

• President Advisory- Phyllis Vargo is not present today, Carol Curl reports all is going ok.

• Social Media Communication- Virginia Elick encouraged everyone to post events on Facebook & to put them on the organization calendar.

• SOG's & By Laws- Jodi Rohr reports that the committee met yesterday & reviewed the Code of Conduct as a committee & corrected grammar error.

• Vice President Project- Beverly Vanlandingham reports that the 50/50 drawing will be an event at the convention. Reminded everyone to get updated driver's license info to her or Martha so they can update gaming license. If anyone has had an address change, we also need to know that.

Old Business: President Christina Reef asked if anyone had any follow ups from old business? Anthony Smith loaned us some microphones for the meeting to be able to use for the zoom meeting trial. There are participants on zoom today for the meeting. Ten Minute break was

taken so everyone can partake in the snacks that was brought in for the meeting.

Buz Koehler brought newspapers to the room, Steve Anderson came to talk about the convention registration & rooms. There is a convention meeting today after business meetings are concluded, if you are on that committee please plan to attend. Steve informed the group that this will be the 80th anniversary of the convention, looking to have T-shirts available for purchase. Challenge coins are here & are available for purchase from the convention committee. There will be raffle tickets made & sent out to each fire department for the convention raffle.

New Business: President Christina Reef informed the group that the Code of Conduct will be available for all district chairman, committee chairman & line officers to review & sign at the February quarterly meeting. Carol Curl made a motion that the organization purchases binders & page protectors for the Code of Conduct to be given to each chairman, Virginia Elick seconded the motion, all in favor, they will be purchased & brought to the February meeting. New updated copies of the SOG & Bylaws were passed out to all chairman & line officers, please discard any other "old" copies that you may have in your possession. February 21st @ 1pm there will be district chairman training, this is for new chairman & any that would like to have a refresher. At this meeting Dawn Harris will also go over how to navigate the new membership roster that has been created. If you have a personal computer & would like to bring it to the meeting, we can assist you with your own devices of where to find it & how to manipulate it. This will be held in one of the conference rooms on the 2nd floor. Anthony Smith is the new web master for the IVFA & will be working on the website. If you have questions you can contact him, but he will need time to get all in order, he can be emailed at asmith@williamsburgfirerescue.org or call him. Christina informed the group that she still has the historian fireproof file cabinet & in it there are a few newspapers & convention books along with 2 picture albums. Buz has scanned all the material that we have up to current date, so the question is do we still need to keep the file cabinet? Discussion was held among the group, motion made by Carol Curl to donate the large fireproof cabinet to another non-for-profit organization, Judy Wirth seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Christina will first offer the file cabinet to the IVFA, if they do not need/want it then she will ask others, the cabinet is heavy & requires 2-3 men to move it. Dawn Harris will store the picture albums in her fireproof box that the recording secretary has. Christina gave an update regarding Quick books for the organization to use for their bookkeeping. Tech Soup is a site where we can get this at a yearly fee from \$80-\$240 per year. Martha Biehl will apply for it & see what our cost will be & begin the process. Discussion



IVFAA
Chaplain
Judy Wirth



Hello! I hope all of you have had a blessed Merry Christmas and a very happy start to your Happy New Year.

I am hoping 2026 will be very grand for everyone. The New Year always brings new beginnings as in the Book of Lamentations 3:22-23 states - The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness. Enjoy your new beginnings. I also hope all of you wrote your nomination letters for Convention 2026 Awards. There are deserving folks in every department across our state! Take care n holler if you need anything.

was held about the accounts that the organization has, Janet Matthews made a motion to close the Miss Flame Community Service Award account & move the funds into the general fund of the IVFAA. The association sponsors essay winners each year & there really is no longer a need to have a separate account for that project. Tammy Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Martha Biehl will get this account closed & transfer the funds into the general fund. Christina asked if anyone had anything else for the good of the order to discuss or

mention. Chairman announced any upcoming events that was being held in the upcoming months. Closing prayer given by Judy Wirth. Hunter Smith made a motion meeting adjourned Lori Baxter seconded the motion, all in favor, meeting adjourned 10:15 am. Next quarterly meeting will be February 22, 2026. Social time on Saturday 2-21-25 will be Valentine Bingo bring a \$5 gift & let's play Bingo!
Respectfully Submitted by:
Janet Matthews
IVFAA Corresponding Secretary

MEMORIAL EDITION

Charles J. Baker, Author

"There are firefighters working right now in this state who never met Charlie Baker, but who will go home safely to their families because of a technique he taught, a procedure he wrote, or a standard he set. That is a legacy that never dies!"

Steve Jones
Indiana State Fire Marshal

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

District 7 Report



Cindy Krueckeberg - Chairman

IVFA Auxiliary Minutes

Call to order
A meeting of the IVFA District 7 Auxiliary was held at Berne Volunteer Fire Department on November 17, 2025, by District 7 Auxiliary Chairman Cindy Krueckeberg.

Attendees

Attendees included 14 members and 2 guests.
Approval of Minutes and Reports
The minutes from the past meeting in September were read and approved.

The Treasure's report stands read and approved.

Old Business

Cindy mentioned in the last meeting that we need to put together ideas for the basket to be put into the Chinese Action during the convention. She said she had something for the kids' basket, and Bev Vanlandingham said it was good enough to leave on its own. Now that the kids' basket is complete, we need to create an adult one. It was suggested to do a taco, baking, family game night, Christmas, painting, or school supplies theme basket. Logan Lockwood volunteered to take care of the baskets, and Bev said she would help. Bev made a motion to do the "baking" and "school supply" baskets with a \$50 limit per basket. Logan seconded the motion. Cindy requests that all donations be received by the January meeting so that Bev and Logan can complete them by the following state meeting.

New Business

Cindy has papers from the last meeting. If anyone is interested, please come and get one.

The 2026 State Convention will be held in Indianapolis and hosted by Districts 6, 7, and 8B. We have been working to ensure everything runs smoothly. Bev has registration forms for the convention and room forms for the hotel, and Cindy is taking payments. Caleb Vanlandingham (IVFA Dist. 7 Chairman) has challenge coins for \$20 apiece. Todd Krueckeberg (IVFA Dist. 7 Secretary/Treasurer) has been collecting donations. Todd is also selling raffle tickets. The raffle is for two guns or \$500. They are \$10 each, and the money goes towards helping cover the cost of the convention. We are continuing to ask local companies to donate to the goodie bags, Chinese auction, or silent auction. We also ask that if members are willing to donate door prizes for these events, that would also be appreciated. This year marks the 80th Convention, so we will have specialty shirts available for purchase at the convention (both embroidered and printed). Poe Auxiliary will be hosting/donating this year's Coffee Clutch.

Cindy gave membership cards for several departments that were in attendance. If anyone needs membership forms, please see Cindy, and she will get you one.

The district is seeking nominations for the state awards presented at the convention. If you know anyone, even at the local level, who would be willing to accept this award, please send in a form. Often, it is the small-town local people who go unnoticed, and those who are most deserving of these awards, and the state wants to recognize them. The forms can be found on the IVFA website.

There are new SOGs and Bylaws. If you are interested in the changes, please see Cindy as she has a copy of them.

Announcements

Monroe has breakfast with Santa on December 6th, from 6:00 to 10:00.

Monroeville hosts its "Holiday Magic" event on December 7th, from 12:00 to 4:00.

Geneva has breakfast with Santa on December 13th, from 8:00 to 10:00.

Poe is currently selling their

famous peanut brittle, along with also having a chocolate and nut sale.

The next meeting for the IVFAA District 7 will be on January 19, 2026, at the Bippus Volunteer Fire Department, starting at 7:00 pm.

Cindy then moved the meeting to join the IVFA to present pins. Aubrie Krueckeberg, 2025 District 7 Miss Flame, presented and crowned Taylor Brown from Monroe Volunteer Fire Department as the 2026 District 7 Miss Flame. Congratulations and good luck, Taylor!

The meeting was then adjourned by the IVFA District 7 Chairman, Caleb Vanlandingham.

Aubrie Krueckeberg
IVFAA District 7 Secretary

District 11A



Beverly Taylor - Chairman

Hi from District 11A!

Our last district meeting was at Posey Twp. We did not have a quorum so the ladies auxiliary met with the men. Since we didn't have a meeting, here are a few reminders.

Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

It is time to start getting our nominations turned in for IVFA awards. We have had extremely low nominations in the past. I encourage everyone to go to the website, review the awards, and nominate someone from your district.

Any young lady between the ages of 15-18 years old interested in running for Miss Flame for the 2026 year should contact their IVFA or IVFAA district chair. The information about the application and information

about the program in on the IVFA website.

Be thinking about ideas for Chinese auction. We need to decide what we will provide from District 11A.

Look for some good recipes to be included in the IVFAA cookbook.

Our next convention is at the Wyndham hotel in Indianapolis. Registration will be \$100 till June 1st and then will raise to \$135.

Our next meeting will be at Van Buren Twp and will be hosting the Miss Flame contest. It would be nice to see a big crowd.

Until next time, stay safe!!

District 11 A IVFAA
Chairman,

District 11B Report



Jodi Rohr - Chairman

Good sunny morning from District 11B. I write this letter with a heavy heart, as many of you know my dad, Past President, Larry Ketchem, passed away the day after Christmas. He touched many lives in his sixty plus years in the Indiana Volunteer Fire service. His passing leaves void in many our hearts and lives. He never missed an opportunity for teaching moments. Being a daddy's girl leaves a huge hole and big shoes to fill. As a little girl, he would take me with him to demonstrate pumps, saying it was so easy, even a child could do it.

Not much has been going on in the district. Our November meeting was hosted by Helt Fire and Rescue with eleven members and two guests present. We enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal prepared by the host department. This meeting was also to be the time that we crown our Miss Flame but due to health issues she was unable to attend, that will be done at our January meeting at the Cayuga Fire Department.

Discussion was held regarding current e-mail addresses for all members. The hope is to be able to e-mail meeting minutes from the quarterly meetings to our membership. It was discussed to please be specific when writing letters for the awards, you do not just say Jane/John Doe has been a member of their department for 12 years. Please be specific about the accomplishments and things that he or she has done during their tenure with the IVFAA.

It was announced we have a new Webmaster, Anthony Smith, who will be updating all the information on the website. His address is asmith@williamsburgfireandrescue.org if you

have anything to post to the site please contact Anthony.

The Code of Conduct will be ready to be given out to the district chairman and all line officers after our next quarterly meeting in February. All district chairmen will be required to sign that they have read it and understand the content.

Upcoming events are the Vincennes Sausage Supper, January 17th the doors open at 4:30. If you have never attended, add it to your calendar. Do not forget Convention June 17th through the 20th at the Wyndham hotel. Get your reservations and registration sent in as soon as possible.

Our next meeting will be January the 11th at the Cayuga Firehouse with the meal being served at 1:00, meeting to follow. We will also crown our Miss Flame at that time.

Stay safe and do not forget to tell those people in your life how important they are to you. Until next time.

Jodi Rohr
District 11B chairman

District 17A



Patti Fultz - Chairman

District 21 IVFAA meeting met at West Lebanon Vol Fire Department on November 24, 2025. We had 13 members and 2 guests present.

We joined the men's meeting due to the IVFA presenting 10 year and 25 year pins and the Miss Flame run off.

District 21 Miss Flame for convention 2026 is Leila Hosfield from Rossville Vol Fire Department. Our runner up is Leanna Moore from Perry Township Vol Fire Department in Colfax, IN.

We have a new web master Anthony Smith.

A reminder of the 2026 convention at the Wyndham Hotel June 17-19, 2026. Registration is \$110.00 as of June 1, 2026 it is \$135.00.

If you are not able to come to convention the Memorial Service will be zoomed.

The IVFAA will have a 50/50 drawing and a Chinese auction at convention.

The deadline for IVFAA awards is February 1, 2026. Please go online and submit someone from your department.

Our next district meeting will be at Madison Vol Fire Department in Mulberry, IN on February 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm, we eat at 6:30 pm.

Hope to see you there.
Patti Fultz
District 21 Chairman

Please email all news, meeting notes, stories and photos to Sherri Chaney at the new email address: editor@ivfa.org

ALL CONTENT FOR THE THE MAY 2026 ISSUE IS DUE BY APRIL 1ST



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Fundraiser

Miss Flame Community Service 2026

Immediate Needs Wish List

- Hand Sanitizer
- Cascade Dishwasher Detergent
- Lysol Spray
- Forks, Knives, and Spoons
- Clear Organizing Bins
- Corded Hand Blender

Snacks Wish List

- Granola Bars
- Nutrigrain Bars
- Instant Potato Cups
- Pudding Cups
- Microwave Popcorn
- Variety Pack Chip Bags
- Mac and Cheese Cups
- Tuna
- Pop Tarts
- Oatmeal Cups
- Other Varieties of indiv. cup foods

Immediate Needs Wish List

- Laundry Detergent Sheets
- Crest Toothpaste
- Travel Deodorant
- Disposable Razors
- Feminine Products
- Household cleaners
- Chapstick
- Pots and Pans
- Laundry Drying Rack
- Shower Curtains
- Batteries
- Clorox Wipes

Select an item from the Wish List at <https://www.rmhccin.org/give/wish-list/>

LET'S COME TOGETHER AND SPREAD THE LOVE!

I.V.F.A. Convention 2026 Registration Form

WYHDHAM INDIANAPOLLIS WEST June 17 - 19

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

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Email Address: _____

Fire Department / Company: _____

Name of Spouse or Guest (if registering): _____

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To make hotel reservations call (317)-248-2481 or use booking link <https://book.passkey.com/e/51042088>

What is included in your registration fee?

1. Access to all events on the convention schedule. Exceptions: Miss Flame preliminary judging and luncheon
2. 4 meals are provided with each registration.

Wednesday: Dinner at the Burn Camp Auction & Welcome Party

Thursday: Dinner at the Taco Bar / Beer Bust

Friday: Breakfast at the Coffee Clutch

Buffet style Banquet Dinner

3. Drinks (beer & soft drinks) throughout the convention.

Drinks will be available in the Hospitality Room and with most meals. This does NOT include the hotel bar. Cash bars will be available at certain events for other types of refreshments.

4. Kids Meals. Kids age 13 and under can eat at all events except the Friday night banquet without a ticket. There will be a kid's party Friday night during the banquet, with food and drinks provided, for those not attending the banquet. We encourage all older kids to register so all meals are included. Other options include the hotel restaurant, the lobby café, or food you provide on your own.

I.V.F.A. CONVENTION SCHEDULE – JUNE 17-19, 2026

Indianapolis Wyndham Airport

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2026

8:00 AM-1:00 PM	Golf Outing	TBD
Noon-5:00 PM	Registration & Chinese Auction	Intl Boardroom
5:30 PM-6:45 PM	Welcome Dinner	Golden Ballroom
6:00 PM-6:30 PM	Jr. Firefighter Mixer	Fortune Square A
6:15 PM-6:45 PM	Miss Flame Mixer	Fortune Square C & D
6:30 PM-8:30 PM	Hoosier Burn Camp Auction	Golden Ballroom

THURSDAY JUNE 18, 2026

7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Vendor Set Up	Golden Preconvene
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Registration & Chinese Auction	Intl Boardroom
8:00 AM-Noon	Miss Flame Judging (closed to public)	Director’s Row 2-4
9:00 AM-4:30 PM	Vendors Open	Golden Preconvene
9:30 AM-Noon	Jr. Firefighter Contest	Rear Parking Lot
Noon-1:00 PM	Miss Flame Luncheon	Fortune Square A
12:30 PM	Jr. Firefighter Luncheon	TBD
1:30 PM-3:00 PM	Jr. Firefighter Interviews (closed to public)	Director’s Row 2-3
2:00 PM-3:00 PM	Miss Flame Open Judging	Fortune Square C & D
3:00 PM-4:00 PM	IVFA Officers Meeting	Fortune Square A
3:15 PM-4:00 PM	IVFAA Officers Meeting	Fortune Square C & D
5:00 PM-6:30 PM	“Nozzle Noodles” Pasta Bar	Golden Ballroom
7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Open Meeting	Golden Ballroom
9:30 PM-11:30 PM	Entertainment TBD	Golden Ballroom

FRIDAY JUNE 19, 2026

7:00 AM-7:45 AM	Coffee Klutch	Hospitality Room
7:30 AM-3:00 PM	Registration & Chinese Auction	Intl Boardroom
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Memorial Service	Golden Ballroom
9:30 AM-12:30 PM	IVFA Business Meeting	Golden Ballroom
9:30 AM-12:30 PM	IVFAA Business Meeting	Fortune Square C & D
11:00 AM-4:00 PM	Miss Flame Outing	offsite
5:15 PM-9:15 PM	Kids Pizza Party and Activities	Fortune Square A
5:30 PM-9:00 PM	Banquet	Golden Ballroom
9:30 PM-Midnight	Entertainment	Golden Ballroom

Training Seminars yet to be added



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Your Fire Department

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POLITICAL

ACTION

COMMITTEE



Marshall Neese,
District 1
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 1

Eric Damjanovic honored with Memorial Service



We had memorial service for Eric Damjanovic at Griffith FD on November 1, 2025. He was on the Lake Ridge Fire Department for 7 years and spent 2 years on Griffith when he passed away.

Vargo awarded for 50 years of service



Larry Curl and Marshall Neese Honored Phillis Vargo for her services of over 50 years with the McQueen award at the November 2025 IVFA District Meeting.



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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 4

25 year pins awarded



Uriah Mast Jr.,
District 4
Chairman



Jefferson fire department 25 year pin recipients. Photos submitted by Marvin Staller

10 year pins awarded



Fire Chief Jason Dunlap received 10 year pin at the District 4 meeting hosted by Benton Twp.



Josh Wernlund received 10 year pin.



Micheal Raber received 10 year pin



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John Grolich,
District 5
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 5

Yankeetown Vol Fire Dept hosts annual family Christmas party



Yankeetown Vol Fire Dept Hosted thier Annual Christmas party We had awesome food, kids Christmas crafts, play Dirty Santa Ornament game and even had a fire run. All photos submitted by Misty Wallace

Fire Chief Dave Wallace, FF/Captain Misty Wallace and FF Ben Wallace help the children in making the Christmas craft.

Moments from District 5 in 2025



Yankeetown Volunteer Fire Department Fire safety winners From Yankeetown Elementary School.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 7

District 7 New Miss Flame has breakfast with Santa



Richard Sorg,
District 7
Chairman



Taylor Brown our new 2026 Miss Flame at Monroe VFD Breakfast with Santa.



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Mikey Armstrong,
District 8B
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 8B



Former District 8B Miss Flame Hannah Armstrong congratulation New District 8B Miss Flame Mallory Hudson at the District 8B Meeting at the Saratoga Fire Department on November 12, 2025.



January 4th at the Portland Fire Station. Mike Aker's Retirement Party. Pictured from left to right. Portland Chief Mike Weitzel, Firefighter Mike Aker, District 8B Miss Flame Mallory Hudson and Firefighter Chad Aker (Mike's son.) Congratulations Mike on 53 years of Service and enjoy your retirement with Linda and your family.



John Ray,
District 10
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 10



Pictured below (center), Charles Deweese of Clifford, District 10 with his family after receiving his 50 yr Meritorious Award from Marshal Jones in December.



50 yr Meritorious Service Award winners, brothers Marion Twp. Firefighters David & Kenneth Stone, are pictured following their presentation by Marshal Jones in September.



Pictured from left: State Fire Marshal Steven Jones; 50 yr Meritorious Award recipient, Richard Woehlecke of Nineveh Twp. & 10th District Chair, John Ray. Firefighter Woehlecke received his award in October.



Pictured below with his family, is Westport Firefighter, Gayle Gatewood along with Marshal Jones after receiving his 50 yr Meritorious Service Award in December.

District 10 Meritorious Award for Jackie Brockman



J10th District Firefighter from Amity Fire & Rescue, Jackie Brockman received his 50 yr Meritorious Award in December from Marshal Jones. Pictured from left are: Connie Brockman, wife of Jackie; Brockman; 10th District Chair, John Ray & Marshal Steven Jones.



Southwest Firefighter Danny Strasser received his 50 yr Meritorious Award from State Fire Marshal Steven Jones in October. Pictured with them are on left, his wife Judy, & far right daughter, Samantha Jones.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 11A



Pete Taylor,
District 11A
Chairman



3 firefighters from Honey Creek Fire department received their 10 Year service pin.



Jeff Biehl,
District 13B
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 13B



Hagerstown Firefighters Brigham Davey & Larry Shoemaker receiving their ten year service pins from 13B Chairman Jeff Biehl



Hagerstown Firefighter Mr. William Powell received his 50 yr. gold challenge coin from 13B Chairman Jeff Biehl

Bentonville firefighters preparing fish for their annual fish fry. pictured on left Mark Baker on right The Mayor turtle (Greg Pflum)





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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 14



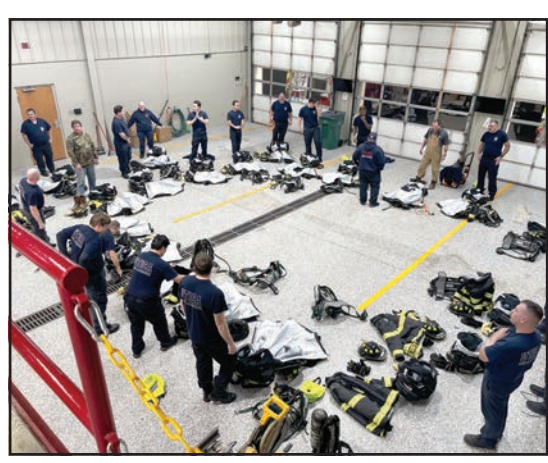
Rick Cannon,
District 14
Chairman

District 14 new Utica Fire and Rescue

December 23, 2025 at 10:29 AM

Last night we met in our brand new classroom, our new addition gives us a large classroom, a lighted gear room with motion sensors so as firefighters come into the firehouse for a middle of the night run the lights come on, and a bedroom that will sleep 4 on duty volunteers.

Once the steel structure was built by our friend Frank Hoskins, it was completed by all volunteer labor.



Utica fire and rescue dinner and graduation ceremony for our new department members

Please email all news, meeting notes, stories and photos to Sherri Chaney at the new email address: editor@ivfa.org

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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 17A



Sam Emery, District 17A Chairman

Awards presented at Spurgeon VFD



Spurgeon VFD presented pins on October 12, 2025. Members pose in front of the firetruck.



Cannelburg Fire Dept. Presented 10 year pins



Sam Emery IVFA 17A Chairman, Brian Graber, Jordan Graber (18 yr.) Lester Wagler and Justin Yoder.

Fire Prevention Pump Operation



Firefighter Kristi Pump Operation

Cornerstone School Fire Prevention



Student hose operation

Taylor Twp VFD fire prevention



Chief Randy Baker and fireman Trevor Mast.





Joe DeKemper, District 18 Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 18

District 18 10 Year Pins Awarded



District 18 Chairman Joe DeKemper, 10 year pin presentation to Brian James, Joseph James, Colton Story, Phillip Dauby
Submitted by Joe DeKemper



Pictured receiving his pin is Luce Firefighter Allen Taylor. Photo & information submitted by Dist. 18 Vice-Chair John "Bull" Smith



At the annual awards dinner of the Huntingburg Vol. Fire Department, Fire Lt. Mike Dilly was presented with the IVFA 10 Year Service Pin. Photo & information submitted by Dist. 18 Vice-Chair John "Bull" Smith

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District 18 pins awarded

At the Dist. 18 meeting of 20 November, Vice-Chairman John "Bull" Smith presented three members of the Luce Fire Territory with the IVFA 10 Year Service Pin. Receiving his pin is Luce Firefighter Allen Taylor. Also receiving the award, but not present, were members Jim and Lori Downs. Guests at the meeting gathered for a "group shot" at the conclusion. Article and photos provided by Vice-Chairman John "Bull" Smith



Pictured (l-r) State Senator Daryl Schmitt, P-R SW Jack Kerney, Dist. 18 Miss Flame Jazmyne Little, Vice-Chairman Smith, State Miss Flame Ava Verkamp, IVFA President Ross Emery.

Huntingburg VFD Host Halloween

On Halloween night the Huntingburg VFD (Dubois Co. Dist. 18) hosted their annual "Halloween at the Firehouse". Over 400 area children and grownups, came to show off their costumes, get their pictures taken in the fire trucks, and with the firefighters. Treats, sticker badges, activity and coloring books were handed out. This year we were again joined by members of the Huntingburg Police Department, Dubois Co. Sherriff's Dept, and Dubois Co. Conservation Officers. Newly crowned Dist. 18 Miss Flame Jazmyne Little also came and along with HVFD mascot "Buckets" greeted and posed for pictures with the visitors. Both even posed with HVFD Firefighter and Dist. 18 Vice Chairman John "Bull" Smith. Can goods were also collected to help the local food bank.



Article and photo provided by Huntingburg VFD



Two telescoping lights 12 volt. \$100. Electric hose reel 300 feet of 3/4 hose \$500.00 Dubois Vol. Fire Dept. Contact Joe DeKemper **812-639-3367**

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 18

St Anthony Vol Fire department 25 year pin presented



St Anthony Vol Fire department 25 year pin presentation by Joe DeKemper District 18 Chairman
Firemen, Rick Verkamp, Jeremy Verkamp, Luke Wehr.
Submitted by Joe DeKemper District 18 Chairman

More 25 year pins presented



25 year pins presented to Kurt Sermersheim, Chris Hasenour, Chris Burke, Jeff Bieker.
Submitted by Joe DeKemper District 18 Chairman

50 year gold card presented



50 year gold card presented to Nick Mathies retired Dubois fireman by Joe DeKemper District 18
Chairman. Submitted by Joe DeKemper District 18 Chairman



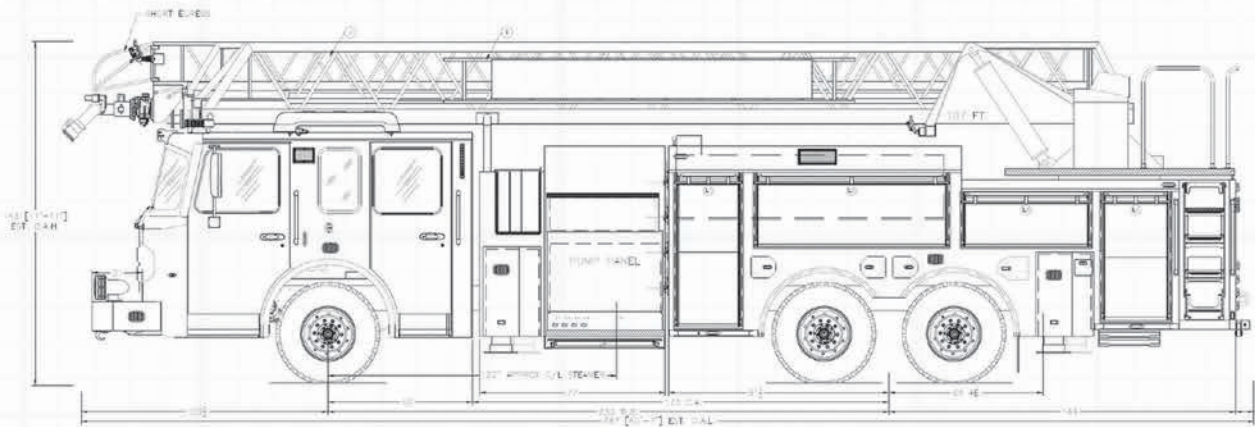
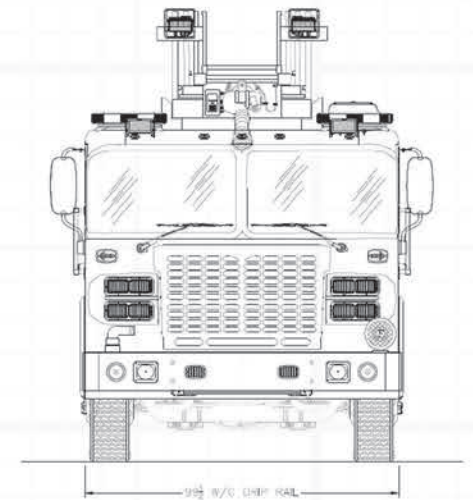
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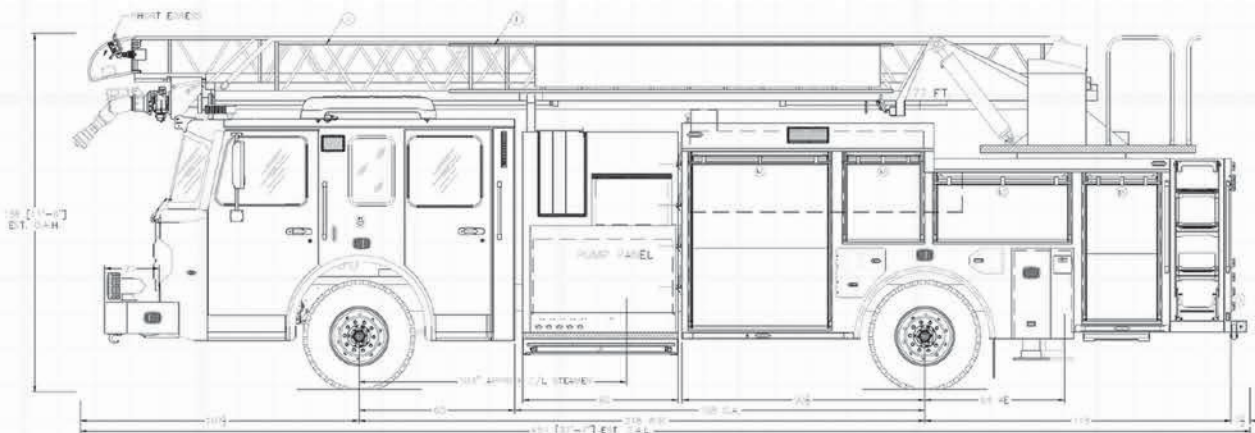
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Ben Sieverding,
District 19
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 19

Moorefield VFD firefighters receive Years of Service Pins



Receiving 10 Year Pins are Robert Crandell, Jeremy Sims, Bradley Stevens and Darrell Thayer.



Receiving 25 Year Pins are Glenn Cradell and Carl Smith



Blaine Butler,
District 21
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 21

Awards presented in District 21



Don Fultz PRWC presented 10 year and 25 year pins to members of the Tippecanoe Twp Vol Fire Dept.



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler presented Kenneth Keller with 25 year pin



Don Fultz PRWC presented State Line Station #2 with a Department Clock.



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler presenting 10 years of Service Pin to Toby Ellis



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler presented Scott Hunter with 25 year pin



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Blaine Butler, District 21 Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 21

Holiday fun in District 21



2026 District 21 Miss Flame Laila Hosfield Participating in Kirklin Vol Fire Dept Santa Parade.



Kirklin Vol Fire Dept Fire Truck Parade with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus.



District 21 IVFA 1st Runner-up at Perry Twp Vol Fire Dept Santa Parade.



Madison Twp Vol Fire Dept Breakfast with Santa. District 21 Chairman as Santa.

Shadeland VFD vs West Point VFD Chili Cook-Off



2026 Miss Flame Leila Hosfield visiting Shadeland Vol Fire Dept for their Chili Cook Off.



Shadeland Vol Fire Dept vs. West Point Vol Fire Dept Chili Cook Off.



Shadeland Vol Fire Dept vs. West Point Vol Fire Dept Chili Cook Off. West Point was the WINNER.



District 21 2025 IVFA Miss Flame Tatum Moore giving her speech.

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- Burning must be conducted on the site where the vegetation was generated.
- The burning of vegetation must be for maintenance purposes only, and not for clearing land or change in land use.
- Farms and businesses may not burn trash or business waste for disposal purposes.

These rules **must** always be followed:

- Only vegetation can be burned. Materials such as household trash, plastics, tires, building materials, demolition debris, coated or treated wood, asbestos, or any non-vegetation items cannot be burned.
- Agricultural land open burning must occur in an unincorporated area.
- Burning must be done during safe weather conditions, not during high winds or when the air is stagnate.
- Fires must be attended until completely extinguished.
- Fires must be extinguished if they create a nuisance or fire hazard.
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Properly dispose of trash, chemicals and/or debris



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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



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



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