



# 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. 2

Organized and Trained for the Protection of Life and Property

May 2026

## From The President

Ross Emery



Greetings,  
I hope this finds everyone unfrozen as we speed ahead on into Spring and Summer. Spring is planting season in Indiana, meaning we will start seeing farm machinery and support equipment on our roads moving from field to field. Be careful when approaching farm machinery from all directions and give them plenty of room to maneuver. Every year we read about farm-related accidents involving farm machinery in all parts of our great state. Spring is also the start of severe weather in our state. First responders must focus on severe weather, as strong storms, flooding, and the potential for tornadoes are a few of the elements we can expect to see during this time. Our members and departments are relied on heavily in their respective communities when storms are crossing the state. Now is the time to review your department's severe weather plan or to make sure the weather siren for your community is working properly before the season

becomes very active  
We have quite a few things going on in our association as I write this article for May. The biggest is our 80th Convention to be held in Indianapolis in June at The Wyndham Indianapolis West June 17th-19th. The Committee is working hard to finalize all aspects of the 3 days and to make sure you have a great time in June. During the convention we will present our state awards for 2026, elect our state officers for 2027. We will also have our annual Miss Flame Contest, and our 3rd Annual Jr. Firefighter Competition. Last year we had 4 contestants, and I am proud to announce this year we have increased that number. Hope to see you there! Please come join us and enjoy some networking while we address the business of the fire service in Indiana.

Due packets were mailed to member departments in April. Please look them over and make sure all information shown on the roster sheets is correct. Change of beneficiaries and new members require forms to be submitted. Should you have questions, please reach out to your District Chairmen or the Central Office. NEW for this year is the ability to pay your dues online, instructions were included in your packet

On April 24th we honored this year's 50-year Gold Card recipients at the state house this is a very special event that the IVFA puts on each year inside the state capitol. The new recipients of the gold card get a chance to meet with their legislators, get to go meet the governor. I always enjoy

President continued on pg 4

## Indiana Miss Flames prepare for state competition

Congratulations to all 19 of our District Miss Flames!! As this group gets prepared to attend State Convention, please support them at the district level by inviting them to attend your events and district meetings.

District Miss Flames, please make sure to watch for mailings coming to you about events coming up and your community service project. Our Pre-Convention meeting will be held May 3, 2026 from 12p-3p at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Indianapolis Airport. This is not mandatory, but has proven to be helpful insight to the contest.

The Community Service Project this year is supplies to stock the Ronald McDonald House at Riley Children's Hospital.

Hoosier Burn Camp Visitor's Day is another great day to attend with your fellow Miss Flame's and give back to a great cause. This year visitor's day will be May 27, 2026. You can check out their website for more information and times.

This year we will be using GroupMe for communications during convention and leading up to. You can join the group at [https://groupme.com/join\\_group/114146593/UdFKxVbC](https://groupme.com/join_group/114146593/UdFKxVbC) if you



have not already joined.

Please reach out to Leighanne Ellis or Janet Matthews with any questions.

We can't wait to see you soon!!

## Benefits may be available for certain kinds of cancer

By Eric Johnson  
Executive Director, Supporting Heroes

In the last issue, I reported on a new federal law that allows the government to presume, under certain circumstances, that firefighters and other first responders who develop cancer did so as a result of duty-related exposure. While the presumption does not apply in every case, it does make benefits available in many situations without requiring proof that a specific exposure caused a specific cancer.

The basic guidelines are as follows: a first

responder must have served a minimum of five years and must either still be serving or have been out of service for no more than 15 years at the time of diagnosis. The law also limits the presumption to certain types of cancer, though the list includes several significant forms.

One point I did not explain clearly in the previous article is that this benefit applies only in two scenarios:

1. the first responder died as a result of the cancer, or

Benefits continued on pg 35

**2026 CONVENTION : JUNE 17-19 AT WYNDHAM INDIANAPOLIS WEST**  
**2544 Executive Dr., Indianapolis IN 46241**



### Determined to Serve, Determined to Protect

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



## AUGUST 2026 DEADLINE IS JULY 1, 2026

**From the State House to the Fire House**





*by Larry Curl*

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 session will have ended and most of the bills passed will have been sent to and possible signed into law by the Governor.

Keep in mind this was a short session meaning it should have been over by late March, but as we all know now it actually started in November with the suggested "redistricting" followed by a holiday break and returned in Jan only to finish in late February with a rush to get out and to get back home, remember it's election year and

everyone needs to be home and on the campaign trail so we ended this years session much earlier than most short sessions.

For a complete listing of the bills the IVFA tracked during the 2026 session go to the IVFA WEBSITE, click on Legislative, on that page click on Weekly Bill Track, and on the page that starts out Weekly Bill Track click on View Report in New Window. You will see a complete listing of the bills the IVFA was tracking during the session. One of most important will be SB 270 Township Merger Bill.

You will find a letter in this edition of the newspaper with full details about what SB 270 means to Volunteer Fire Departments written by Bill Jones. Very interesting reading for all.

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 has been mailed to all those 92 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.

**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 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.


Remember as you are speaking with the CANDIDATES running for office in your area we now save our taxpaying citizens over \$6.1 Billion annually because of our service to our communities.

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 and Blessed Summer Be safe and thank you for your services

Larry Curl  
IVFA Lobbyist

**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 AUGUST 2026 ISSUE IS DUE BY JULY 1ST**





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**Chaplain Message May 2026**

Welcome all, to Spring 2026! Hopefully we are done with snow, cold, the gloomy landscapes, and enjoying the fresh scents, sights and sounds of spring. A time for fresh starts and new beginnings.

These fresh starts can be seen in many ways. The changing of seasons, the sun rising each morning, even when the sky opens up with rain, washing everything clean for a new beginning. There is a story about a carpenter who has a trouble tree. Before he enters his house at the end of the day, he stops and hangs his troubles on the tree, then stops in the morning to pick them up again. For some it's a tree, for others it could be a shop rag, or a piece of paper. Funny thing is, whether it's a tree or a rag, when you go back in the morning, it seems as though there are not nearly as many to pick up as there was the night before.

The Lord works in mysterious ways. We don't know the how, or why, exactly, but God watches out for all of us, each and every day. All we need to do is, simply, believe in Him. Each day, He gives us a fresh pair of eyes to see each new day and experience the new opportunities that await. We're going to make mistakes, but that's how we learn, and thus get better at whatever we do.

Many thanks to our associate chaplains for all of their hard work and dedication. We look forward to seeing all of you at the 80th IVFA Convention in Indianapolis, June 17, 18, and 19!

Stay safe –  
 Dave Elick

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# From The Vice-President

Larry Curl



## GREETINGS

As I set here penning this article the Sun is shining bright, the grass has turned green (and already needs mowing) the trees are budding and the flowers are blooming. Yes; Spring has Sprung and we are rapidly heading toward summer 2016. So put away those heavy winter garments, bring out the light sweaters and jackets or possible just short sleeve will do. Aren't you glad you live in a climate where we can experience and appreciate all four seasons, I might not want to hear that answer.

Next I am reminded almost weekly by our president my first responsibility as your VP is to address the awards offered by the IVFA. All the award nominations for 2025-26 have now closed out, and we have gotten nominations in all categories, however in some categories we had just a few which tells us we could do much better. With nearly 13,000 members and over 800 departments, one would think we would have many many nominations to choose from. So our ask of each of you is when the nomination period opens up again for the 2026-27 award season to look at the list of awards (found on the IVFA Website by clicking on the Association Tab, and scrolling down to Annual Awards for a full list of awards offered) and choose a member of your department for each. The best way to show your appreciation to your fellow member is recognition and the awards will do just that.

As we set around the firehouse, participate in emergency calls, gather and socialize with our

fellow members be mindful that these are the folks that could, might be, should be deserving of one of our many annual awards .Annual Awards including, Angel Award, Bridgeport Scholarship MacQueen Excellence Award, Ivan Nevil Fire Service Leadership Award, Junior Firefighter, Legislator of the Year Award, Life Saving Award, Lois Boaz Award, Medal of Valor, Miriam A. Schaeckel Award, Miss Flame, Mr. IVFA & Ollie Sandberg Award. There is someone in every department who is worthy and desiring of one of these awards and you can help that happen by placing their name into nomination.

Speaking of recognition, this year the IVFA will recognize 92 members for their 50 years of service. Each of these "life time" members have been invited to join us at the Indiana State Capitol on April 24th where we will celebrate and honor each of them with a special resolution passed by the Indiana House and Indiana Senate during our last session. It will be a full day of recognition and honoring those who have served our fire service in our great state with 50 years of dedicated service. Watch for the next edition of the IVFA newspaper for full details and pictures of this event.

As we shared with everyone in the last issue or our paper 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.

We are suggesting / asking for a \$1 per month contribution per member, hopefully paid by the year. 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 stronger more vibrant connection between the IVFA and our elected officials.

Your IVFA dues are now due (unless they have already been paid as of this writing) and we have made paying them much easier.

You can now pay membership dues online. Go to the IVFA website look at the top bar in black and you will see the words HOME - CONTACT US DIRECTORY and now you will see the words SEARCH. Type into that white field any thing you want to find such as "Dues" hit the blue search tab and it will bring up a screen about Department Dues. You can fill in this form and with a credit card pay all your members dues on line.

Additionally the search feature will allow you to access any information found on our website by simply typing in a word or words in the search bar on the

home page. Take advantage of this feature to quickly look for anything on our website.

We have also added to the website past additions of the IVFA newspaper. Again through the use of the search tab you can view some past IVFA history simple by typing newspaper in the search bar. You could become very familiar with where we have been and where we currently are simple by using the new search feature.

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. 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 or they are considered late and could impact some benefits.

Finally I hope everyone is planning to attend the IVFA ANNUAL CONVENTION for 2026. Remember Conventions are what you make of them. The 2026 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 both hotel rooms and registrations.

OK finally for real, Carol and I wish everyone the best during the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday on Monday, May 25, 2016 as well as the summer of 2026.

Stay Safe and enjoy life,  
Larry

## From the Historian's Desk

**Historian Report:  
A Snapshot in Time**

As we look ahead to the promise of spring, it's also worth pausing to reflect on a memorable chapter from our Association's history.

The May 2016 issue of the newspaper offered a fascinating glimpse into a year filled with recognition, tradition and progress.

Printed in classic black and white, the paper itself served as a reminder of an era when the focus was firmly on people, service, and community pride rather than glossy presentation.

That issue proudly reported that the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association honored 54 dedicated members at the State House.

Among those recognized was Historian John Davies, who marked an extraordinary milestone—50 years of service. Such longevity speaks not only to personal commitment, but also to the enduring strength of volunteer firefighting in Indiana.


The same issue highlighted the next generation of leadership and involvement, featuring 23 young ladies from districts across the state competing for the title of State Miss Flame.


The newspaper also reflected the practical realities of sustaining the Association's work. An increase in advertising rates was approved to continue supporting the publication, ensuring it could remain a voice for members and communities alike.

Adding to the sense of heritage and celebration, the Fair Play Fire Company of Madison, Indiana announced plans for its 175th anniversary celebration, inviting everyone to join them on October 9, 2016, in honoring a remarkable legacy of service. Together, these stories captured a moment where history, recognition, and forward-looking stewardship came together on the printed page.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Convention in Indy

Be Safe Out There  
L.E. "Buz" Koehler  
Past President  
Historian





L.E. "Buz"  
Koehler  
Historian

## President continued from pg 1

being there and meeting some members, and their family that have been the foundation of our organization. This year we added 92 new lifetime members. If you could not attend the event at the state house your District Chairman will be getting ahold of you or your department to get a time to set up a presentation.

The IVFA has partnered with AMBA to offer our members the option to purchase insurance plans at a discounted price, along with other saving programs through AMBA. This program is a new program we are just getting started, and one I am very excited about. Stay tuned for more details.

I won't go into great detail because there are other articles that will cover this topic in detail and that is SB 270 and how will it affect the fire service. This might be a unpopular topic, but I truly believe the survival of the volunteer fire service will be the ability to be flexible, adapt. thinking outside the box, when it comes to staffing. I believe that includes forming fire territories and districts. I also believe that we need to do a better job of promoting the benefits we provide the state

of Indiana and is a savings of over 6 billion dollars annually, and we need to make sure every legislature understands that what works in Indianapolis, and the surrounding area of Indy, is not how it works in rural Indiana. We hope to put together some informational meetings about SB 270, and possibly the benefits of forming fire territory or district in the near future.

I urge all our members to get out and vote in the primary elections in May, primary races are very important part of the election process, no matter what party you vote for GET OUT AND VOTE!!!!!!

Lastly, I would like to once again send my condolences to the family, and fire departments of David Edmonson, Dave was

a 45-year IVFA member, a Deputy Chief with Vanderburgh County Fire Territory, and a Plant protection Officer at Kaiser Aluminum Warrick. Dave fought a courageous battle with cancer for about a year. I had the privilege of knowing Dave for close to 20 years, he was a close friend and had been fellow co-worker, and we worked on the same shift for the last few years. The influence Dave had on the fire service in his local area will truly never be known.

God Bless, and BE SAFE  
Ross Emery  
IVFA President

## Nominating Committee Report Here are the Nominations for election at the 2026 Convention

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ross Emery.....President          | PRNW.....Jeremy Reef      |
| Larry Curl ..... Vice-President   | PRNE..... Richard Sorg    |
| Leighanne Ellis .....Secretary    | PRWC.....Don Fultz        |
| Luke Kluender.....Treasurer       | PREC.....David Israel     |
| Serg-At-Arms ..... Wm. Brent Bush | PRSW..... Jack Kerney,Sr. |
| David Elick .....Chaplain         | PRSE.....Ed Scheele       |

## CLASSIFEDS

Departments are entitled to 1 (one) freead of 50 (fifty) words or less per issue. One (1) item only. Additional items orwords will be billed at current rate. **RATES:** Twenty-five (25) words orless, 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.*

# PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORTS

## PR Director West Central

Don Fultz



I attended all four of my district meetings and a couple fundraisers. When you have a district meeting or a fundraiser be sure to put it on the IVFA calendar. When listing your district meeting be sure to add your district number and the address of the city or town and name of fire department. Burn Camp is coming up soon. The date is May 27, 2026 for family day. To get there will be different, they are doing major construction on the road into Brookston.

When you go North 43 to the 4-way stop at 1250S, turn right stay on that road until you get to 300E turn left it is a t-road go North until the second stop sign that is SR 18 turn right to Springboro at the caution light turn left, then up the hill to camp Tecumseh. Hope to see you at your district meeting. Be safe Don Fultz PR West Central

## PR Director North East

Richard Sorg



Hello all! I hope that this finds you safe from all the severe weather that we have had this spring. At least I think that it is spring even though Mother Nature can't

seem to make up her mind. I have been making my district meetings and would like to thank the chairmen for the warm welcome at them.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your chairman, public relations, or any of your state officers. As the saying goes "We can't fix what we don't know!"

The Convention Committee has been busy with their planning of our annual convention coming up June 17-19 in Indianapolis. If you have never been to a convention, I would like to invite you to attend and see what it is about and make some new friends and connections.

Although the awards and scholarships are set for this year, it is never too early to start on next year's nominations. The information and applications are available on our website.

Have you looked at our website lately? There have been a few updates including a search bar at the top and an option to pay your dues online. If you have any suggestions about how to improve your site, please let us know.

Hope to see you in June!  
Richard Sorg, PRNE

## PR Director South East

Edwin J. Scheele



It will be time for the convention very soon. The weather is getting warmer and soon everyone will be getting gardens out and the farmers will be out in the fields. Don't get in to big of a hurry, we don't want to see people get injured, enjoy time with your families.

Ed Scheele  
PRSE



# I.V.F.A District Reports

## District 1 Report



Marshall Neese - Chairman

**IVFA District 1 Meeting**  
26 February 2026 / 19:00hrs  
/ UNION TOWNSHIP FD,  
Valparaiso IN. / Present 32  
Attendees

District Chairman - Marshall Neese  
District 1 Vice - Brian Denney  
Secretary - Steve Cope

### Special Guests

IVFA PR Northwest Rep. - Jeremy Reef  
IVFAA President - Christina Reef  
IVFA Miss Flame District 1 - Grace Wilson  
Sklarewitz Uniforms

### Notes

- Union FD Chief gave a warm welcome and thanked everyone for coming.
- Jeremy Reef spoke about the Beneficiary cards that are mailed to us. If you're in need of insurance, fill it out and mail it back. If you don't need insurance, throw them away.
- The state is rolling out a new dues packet; you will be able to pay your dues online.
- There's a new search bar on the IVFA website and an online store for merch. Jeremy showed off the 75-year books, they are 60 dollars apiece.
- Jeremy presented the schedule for this year's IVFA convention. If anyone wants one, see him.
- Jeremy spoke about different districts helping host the conventions.
- Jeremy spoke about the legislation going on down state. IVFA is asking for each member to donate a dollar a month to help with getting the votes we need with legislation.
- IVFA will have a booth at this year's FDIC.
- Marshall asked if it's possible to get more ladies from District 1 to this year's convention. This will help with voting on state positions for the IVFA.

If you are looking to go to the convention, get your registration done soon. Registration forms are in the IVFA newspaper.

Christina Reef, spoke about this year being her last year as IVFAA State President. Phyllis Vargo is looking to step down from her role as District 1 chairperson for IVFAA.

Anyone can join the IVFAA either from a department or

individual member. Christina spoke about the accidental death benefits the IVFAA offers.

- Christina spoke about the awards that are offered by the IVFA.
- Reading of the Notes from the previous meeting were suspended by vote
- Marshall offered the IVFA booklets that list all the benefits from the state.
- Marshall asked members to come to a funeral for a Chief from Beverly Shores FD.
- 3 ten-year pins were handed out to the IVFAA members from Griffith FD. Burnadette Cope, Janet Flutka, Jessica Welch

### New Business

- Next meeting at Highland FD April 9th.
- Our new District 1 Miss Flame Grace Wilson was crowned

### Treasury Report

Thirty-two dollars in the account. No bills

### Communications

- HazMat training is being offered in Valpo at the MAAC center. Look on the IVFA website for further details.
- IVFA grant programs. Look at the website for further details.
- Beneficiary forms. This will be offered by the US department of safety.
- Jeremy spoke about the Supporting Heroes Organization.
- Steve Cope from Griffith FD spoke about their Raffle taking place now until March 16th.
- Chief Marvin from Lake Ridge spoke about their pancake breakfast/easter egg hunt March 28th 8am-11am.

Meeting Adjourned 1957hrs

## District 2 Report



Tom Fentress - Chairman

**IVFA District 2 Discusses Key Fire & EMS Issues at Keener Township Meeting**

KEENER TOWNSHIP, Ind. — Members of District 2 of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA) gathered on February 26, 2026, at the Keener Township Volunteer Fire Department for their quarterly meeting, where a wide range of fire service and EMS topics were discussed.

While seven members were in attendance, falling short of the number required to conduct official business, the group used the opportunity to review

important legislative updates, health and wellness initiatives, and statewide EMS trends impacting departments across the region.

Among the key legislative topics was House Bill 1048, which has passed and allows township trustees to provide a \$250 gas and clothing allowance to volunteer firefighters. Attendees also discussed Senate Bill 270, which addresses township reorganization, as well as House Bill 1003, noting that language related to combining Fire and EMS boards had been removed.

Health and wellness efforts were a central focus of the discussion. District leaders indicated that a survey may soon be distributed to departments to better understand how agencies are supporting firefighter safety and well-being. Potential partnerships for annual physicals were reviewed, including options through healthcare organizations and federally qualified health centers, which may offer exams at reduced costs. Fitness opportunities and mental health resources, including free services through the 1033 Foundation, were also highlighted.

The group also discussed recognition programs and upcoming events. Nominations are currently being sought for the Bridgeport Scholarship, with officials noting a lower-than-expected number of submissions this year. Plans are also underway for the 50-Year Member Awards Day, tentatively scheduled for April 24 at the Indiana State Capitol.

Looking ahead, the 2026 IVFA Convention is scheduled for June 17-19 at the Wyndham, with discounted pre-registration available through June 1.

An update on EMS services revealed continued growth in call volume statewide. In 2025, fire departments responded to approximately 750,000 calls, while EMS agencies handled more than 1.2 million runs, an increase of 20,000 over the previous year. Additional changes under discussion include increasing required patient contacts for certification programs and enhancing oversight through more frequent audits.

Despite the absence of formal voting, the meeting provided an opportunity for collaboration and information sharing among fire service leaders dedicated to improving emergency services throughout northwest Indiana.

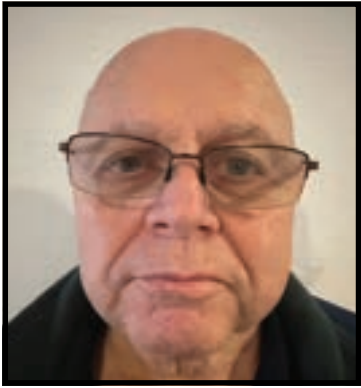
The next District 2 meeting is scheduled for May 14 at the Lake Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Thank you for the time and effort to add this to the newspaper.

All the best,  
Tom Fentress  
IVFA District 2 Chairman

# I.V.F.A District Reports

## District 4 Report



Uriah Mast Jr - Chairman

Date: March 12, 2026  
Location: North Liberty Fire Department  
Call to Order: Meeting called to order by the District chairman, Jr Mast. @7pm

### Opening Ceremony

- Pledge of Allegiance led by North Liberty Fire Chief.
- Moment of Silence observed for victims of recent tornadoes and severe weather damage.
- Opening Prayer offered by Marvin Stalter.

### Roll Call

Departments represented included: North Liberty, Nappanee, New Paris, Wakarusa and Walkerton. 15 Total members present.

### Guest Introductions

- Special guests recognized:
  - Richard Sorg – District 7 Public Relations
  - Larry Curl – IVFA Vice President (with wife)
  - Isabelle Dunlap – District 4 Miss Flame
  - Pete – Fire Service, Inc. (Ambulance Sales Representative)
- Minutes from the January 8, 2026 meeting at Benton Township were read by Marvin. Minutes were approved as read.

### Reports

- Discussion held regarding Severe Weather Preparedness Week.
- Department updates included:
  - New Paris: Weather watch operations conducted; minimal activity reported.
  - Wakarusa: Crews active until approximately 11:30 PM monitoring storm front movement.
  - Other departments: Staging trucks and monitoring campgrounds, public areas, and shelter locations during tornado warnings.
- General consensus was that procedures and previous training was effective.

### State Legislative Update

- Larry Curl provided updates on current legislation affecting fire service:
  - Key items discussed:
    - House Bill 1003: Merges Firefighter Standards Board with EMS Commission.
    - House Bill 1048: Volunteer

firefighter clothing/automobile allowance increased to \$500 annually (\$250 each).

- State Park funding proposal: Attempted to provide funding to fire departments serving state property – not passed.
- House Bill 1251: County EMS oversight proposal – ongoing discussions.
- Senate Bill 270: Township performance evaluation system that could require poorly performing townships to merge. Members were encouraged to monitor legislative updates through the IVFA website.

### IVFA Website and Communication Updates

Demonstration provided on new features of the IVFA website, including:

- Search bar for locating information quickly
- Online access to IVFA newspaper
- Online membership dues payment
- Legislative bill tracking updates
- Event calendar
- Online award nominations

Members were encouraged to use the website resources and keep membership information updated.

### Miss Flame Recognition

Isabelle Dunlap from New Paris was officially recognized as District 4 Miss Flame.

- Crown presentation was conducted.
- She will collect supplies throughout the year for donation to Ronald McDonald House.
- A fundraising car wash scheduled May 9 (9 AM–1 PM) by New Paris Fire Department.

Isabelle introduced herself and shared that she:

- Is a junior at Fairfield High School
- Enrolled in a cosmetology program
- Manages multiple school sports teams
- Participates in the New Paris Fire Department ride-along program

### Awards and Member Recognition

Leadership encouraged departments to submit more IVFA award nominations. Available awards include:

- Medal of Valor
- Legislator of the Year
- Junior Firefighter Award
- Bridgeport Scholarship
- Queen of Excellence
- Angel Award
- Mr. IVFA

Members were reminded that scholarships are available for firefighters and their families.

### Service Pin Presentations

- 10-Year Service Pin: Paul Grove
- 25-Year Service Pin: John Dooms and Todd Mathys

### Announcements

- IVFA Convention: June 17–19 in Indianapolis
- Early registration deadline: June 1
- Registration cost: \$120 (includes four meals)

### Additional reminders:

- Submit IVFA member numbers when reporting line-of-duty deaths.
- Departments can submit photos and stories to the IVFA newspaper.
- Departments encouraged to participate in the IVFA Political Action Committee.

### 50/50 Drawing

- Winning ticket drawn.
- Winner donated proceeds back to the cause.
- Funds continue to support Hoosier Burn Camp.

### Next Meeting

Date: May 14  
Location: Osolo Fire Department (County Road 6 & 11)

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned following final comments and appreciation to North Liberty Fire Department for hosting.

Meeting adjourned, Respectfully submitted,  
Marvin Stalter,  
District 4 Secretary

## District 6 Report



Mack Grobis - Chairman

District 6 of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association has had an active and productive start to the year, highlighted by strong engagement, important discussions, and the continued growth of our association.

On January 20th, District 6 held its meeting in Shipshewana, where we were proud to welcome Shipshewana back into the IVFA. Their return strengthens our district and reinforces the importance of collaboration among departments across our region. During this meeting, members took time to discuss legislative matters while the Indiana General Assembly was still in session, focusing on issues impacting the fire service and our communities.

We are also excited to announce our new Miss Flame for 2026, Ruby Weldy, who will be representing the Ligonier Fire Department. Ruby will serve

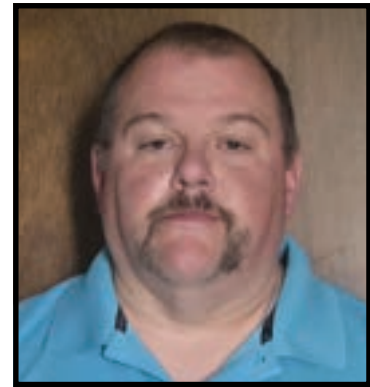
as an ambassador for the fire service throughout the year. If your department has an event you would like her to attend, please reach out at district6@ivfa.org to coordinate.

Continuing into the spring, our March meeting was held on March 24th at the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department in DeKalb County. We would like to extend our appreciation and welcome Jackson Township back into the IVFA as well. Their involvement is another great example of the continued growth and unity within District 6.

During the March meeting, members discussed recently passed legislation affecting the IVFA and the fire service at large. We also reviewed the launch and early progress of the IVFA Political Action Committee, which will play an important role in supporting initiatives that benefit firefighters and emergency services across Indiana.

District 6 remains committed to keeping members informed, engaged, and connected as we move forward throughout the year.

## District 7 Report



Caleb VanLandingham - Chairman

### Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Assoc. District 7 Call to order

A meeting of District 7 was held at Bippus east fire station on March 16, 2026.

### Pledge

Meeting was called to order by district chairman Caleb Vanlandingham at 19:30 with the pledge of allegiance .

### Roll Call

There were 8 departments with 25 members present. Special guest Richard Sorg NE PR, Jeremy Reef NE PR, and Nate Geerken District 7 Jr. firefighter representative

### North East PR Report

Richard Sorg spoke to the body about the SAVVIK buying group bulk buying web site. Jr. Firefighter competition at the 2026 Convention, how its growing and getting better. Special awards thru the IVFA especially the McQueen Award, this award is not firefighter based, can be any individual or organization in your community. Angel Award for the female firefighter.

Br ridge Port Scholarship there will 4 presented at \$1500.00

each. Senate Bill 270 on the township reorganization, no details at this time and moment. Just be aware.

Eric Johnson is the representative for Supporting Heros Organization was present at the IVFA quarterly meeting. Eric spoke about the new benefits for firefighters that pass away from cancer. Make sure your beneficiary information is up to date. Benefits can be retroactive, if a member is diagnosed with cancer or recently passed away, there is paperwork that needs filled out and needs to be on file.

The IVFA website has been updated. There is a search bar at the top of the page. Members can now renew there membership on line. New membership or any change in your current membership still needs filled out with the current paperwork and mailed in.

### Meeting Minutes

Caleb spoke about the Political Action Committee(PAC). The PAC is a Committee that allows the IVFA have a voice with politicians. The PAC is looking for donations. The forms for donating are available and send to Mack Grobis.

Membership for IVFA is 13181. American Income gas paid 2480.00 in benefits. 50 year awards your day at the capital is April 24th, this could change.

The IVFA has partnered with the Amba Group. You will get discounts at stores, restaurants and insurances. The IVFA is always working on getting its members benefits or discounts.

House Bill 1048 passed, raising your clothing allowance to \$250.00 and gas allowance to \$250.00. Members will receive a \$500.00 check. These checks will be mailed to each individual not your Department.

2026 Convention update-three training's on Thursday, 10 new vendors, golf outing, Jr firefighter competition will accept multiple applications from the same district. Meals will be different from the past years, if you come down for the day and want a meal. You will need to buy a meal ticket. The convention will be at the Wyndham for three years starting in 2026.

The IVFA will have a booth at FDIC. Same booth as the fire marshal.

Caleb presented a 10 year pin to Austin Eltzroth from Bippus Taylor Brown District 7 miss flame introduced herself to the body.

Sam Bisel- update on Sam was given, there are wrist bands available to purchase. Proceeds go to Sam.

### Special Events

Andrews VFD benefit auction 3/28, Poe VFD pancake breakfast 3/29, Monroe VFD pancake

# I.V.F.A District Reports

breakfast 4/4, Berne VFD pancake breakfast 4/18. Meeting adjourned, followed with Annual bake sale.

**Announcements**

Next meeting is May 18th at Bluffton FD

**District 10 Report**



**John Ray - Chairman**

**Greetings from District 10**

January District meeting was at Columbus Twp. Fire department. IVFA Vice President, Larry Curl announced the date of April 24th for the 50years of Service Award gathering at the IN State House. IVFA convention for next three years will be held at the Wyndham Hotel at 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis. Convention coins will be available at that time for \$20.

10 year pins were presented to Dan Merz and Nick Loyd. Dan Merz presented a program on SNERIS.

Trafalgar Vol. Fire Dept. was host for our February meeting. We were reminded that if anyone wishes to purchase an IVFA 75th Anniversary book, they are \$75 and still available. AFG Grants and SAFER programs will be available soon.

25year pins were presented Todd Bridges, Bryan Dunn, & Thomas Tharp of Trafalgar and Randy Cox of Edinburgh Fire & Rescue.

Our program was presented by Brian Russell of Sentinal Fire Equipment, who also furnished our evening meal; and shared information on new equipment.

In March, Chief Levi Weakly and Adams Twp. hosted District 10 at their new fire station, located at 4504 N Old Hwy 421, Greensburg, IN 47240. We presented Chief Weakly and Adams Twp. Dept. with a clock for their new Station. The program was presented by Mike DiMeglio of Donley Safety, informing us of new products available.

Lee Dugle and Steven Schott of Adams Twp. were presented 25year pins.

IVFA'S Political Action Committee was discussed and what funds would be used for. You can become a member of PAC by paying \$12.00 For more information on this, go to the IVFA web site at ivfa.org or contact your District Chairman.

Upcoming meetings are April 15 at Scipio/Geneva Twp.; May 20th, Morristown, & June 17-19,

IVFA Convention at the Wyndam in Indy; and Aug. 19 at Clay Twp., Bartholmews County.

Until next time, enjoy the Spring and be safe!

John M. Ray, District 10 IVFA Chairman

**District 11B Report**



**Scott Peebles - Chairman**

Greetings from District 11-B. hope this finds you well everyone doing well. Our last meeting was held at Veedersburg Fire Department in March. there was five departments represented and several guest. Senator Spencer Deery talked about house bills, VP and Lobbyist Larry Curl talk about legislation, PR West Central Don Fultz talked about the upcoming Burn Camp Family Day on May 27th, District 5 Chairman John Grolich discussed the Political Action Committee. Three 10 yr pins were presented to Veedersburg Fire Department members Danny Barnes, Tanner Seiblod, and Andrew Weber. At our January meeting I had the honor to present Cayuga Fire Chief Tim Wilson with District 11-B Maqueen Award. We also discussed the upcoming IVFA Convention June 17-19 at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. It's never to early to start thinking about awards for next year make sure to o check out all of the awards on the Website or on the IVFA App. Our next meeting will be held May 7th at 7pm at Floyd Township Fire Department.

**District 13B Report**



**Jeff Biehl- Chairman**

Greetings,  
I would like to thank Chief Joshua Smith and Williamsburg Fire Dept. for hosting our March meeting.  
Meeting was called to order Chairman Biehl at 7 pm, guest present were , East Central Public Relations officer David Israel.  
Members were reminded to start thinking of nominations for the IVFA awards for next year.  
Chief's need to check the

web site and make sure all your department information is correct, if not let me know and we will get it changed.

A lot of discussion was held about township consolidations. SB 270 was passed now we need to figure out who or what they might want to consolidate.

The IVFA has launched the PAC political action committee to raise funds to start supporting legislatures that support legislation that will benefit the IVFA. They are asking each member to donate 1 dollar per month to the PAC. More information at the next meeting

Next meetings May 14th Cambridge City Fire Dept. meal at 6:30 meeting at 7 pm

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

Please be safe out there.

Jeff Biehl

13B Chairman

**District 15 Report**



**Paul Campbell - Chairman**

Welcome to the May IVFA newsletter. Hopefully everyone had a safe winter and has started enjoying the warmer weather and mother nature has decided to take a break with the crazy weather the state has encountered this year.

The 2026 IVFA convention is just over a month away. Please make plans to join us this year. We will be having the JR firefighter competition again this year and it looks like we will have many competitors this year. Come out and support the future of the Indiana fire service.

If you are coming to the convention, please look at the schedule of events and plan to attend the Hoosier Burn camp auction and make sure you bid often to help raise money for a great organization. Each year we have been able to donate more money than the previous year.

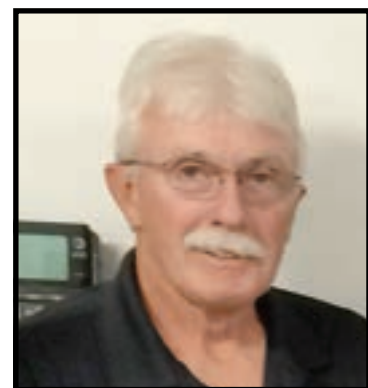
As far as things go down in the southern part of the state, everything is going well. If your department has an event going on, please let us know and we will make every attempt to attend. I like attending events as long as my schedule allows me to. If we know well in advance we may be able to get the district Miss Flame to attend or maybe the state Miss Flame.

The Miss Flame pageant will be held at the convention so good luck to all of the contestants. Each year the contestants do a service project for an

organization in the area where the convention is being held and this year is no different. This year the ladies are collecting a variety of items for the Ronald McDonald house. They need everything from sanitizing items, cleaning items to food items. If you need to know what is needed contact your district chairperson or check the IVFA for a complete list. You can go to [www.rmhccin.org/give/wish-list/](http://www.rmhccin.org/give/wish-list/) to view the list also.

Have a great summer and hope to see you at the convention.

**District 18 Report**



**Joe DeKemper - Chairman**

**Greetings from District 18**

By the time this comes out I hope we are done with the snow & ice and moving onto warmer weather.

I had the privilege of presenting Tom Lueken, retired fireman of the Ferdinand VFD his 50 year gold card, pin, and challenge coin.

I have been presenting 10 year and 25 year pins throughout the 18th District, meeting some new members and viewing their stations.

Our last meeting was held March 19th at St. Meinrad VFD.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DeKemper. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all members present.

Chairman DeKemper gave the opening prayer, and remembrance of Donnie Sander and Kermit "Clyde" Huff. The business meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman DeKemper who welcomed everyone who has joined us tonight.

Roll call was taken with 52 members of 14 departments, answering 234 runs.

Vice Chairman Smith introduced guests that were present; Jack Kerny, Central Office PRSW and Senator Daryl Schmitt.

Jack talked about some of the HB bills, and reminded everyone that dues will be mailed out soon.

Senator Schmitt talked about several bills, but focused on HB 270 and its outcome for the fire departments future.

Chairman DeKemper asked about previous McQueen Excellence award winners. He is trying to get a list of them put together. Chairman DeKemper also asked who has a Jr. Firefighter Program in their

departments,  
Chairman DeKemper reminded everyone about dues coming out and to try to get them paid as soon as possible.

Convention is fast approaching. It will be held at Indianapolis for the next three years. Come up and get involved and have a good time.

Our next District 18 meeting will be May 21st held at French Lick, IN, hosted by Orange County Rural District 1.

The 18th District Firemen's Memorial Service will be held on October 4th. It will be hosted by Carter Fire District.

The 18th District Fire Prevention Parade and Miss Flame contest will be October 11th hosted by Carter Fire District.

**District 19 Report**



**Ben Sieverding - Chairman**

**District 19 IVFA News**

Our most recent meeting in District 19 was held at the Bright VFD Fire Headquarters. The meeting was well attended by several departments. Bright Firefighters were recognized for both 10 years of services as well as 25 years of service.

In today's environment it is always a pleasure to recognized volunteer firefighters that have served their communities faithfully. Many times people do not recognize the dedication and commitment it takes to serve as a volunteer firefighter. I would like to take a moment and thank every volunteer firefighter that serves in our communities throughout our great state.

It was good news to see the bill raising the clothing and fuel allowance to \$500 for our volunteers. Our departments need to read this bill and take note of how the changes will affect their departments. This new law requires the entity to pay the allowance directly to the volunteer firefighters. This is a good thing since many volunteer firefighters do not see this allowance paid to them. As all of us struggle to maintain adequate staff this should be used as an incentive to membership. Departments should make sure they reach out to their townships, districts, territories or governmental units to be prepared for how this may impact your budgets.

Senate Bill 270 had been

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# I.V.F.A District Reports

## District 19 *continued from pg 7*

signed into law, like it or not, we have to learn how to live within this new environment. Every department needs to be proactive and research to find out how this bill will impact your community. Not every community will be impacted the same, but if we become informed and plan it will help our departments prepare for the possible coming changes.

Our next meeting will be May 28th at the Posey Township Fire Department in Switzerland County, hope to see a big crowd in May.

## District 21 Report



**Blaine Butler - Chairman**  
February 23, 2026  
IVFA - District 21 Quarterly Meeting was held at Madison Twp Volunteer Fire Dept. (Mulberry)

A light meal was served. There were 7 departments represented with 13 members and 9 guests. The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs by Chairman Blaine Butler with the pledge of allegiance following. Minutes from the November meeting were read and approved.

Blaine went over things that were discussed at the quarterly meeting. We had a guest speaker Brian Russell from Sentinel Emergency Solutions.

Blaine presented 1 10 year pin to Alex Jackson and 1 25 year pin to Jack Walker.

Our next meeting will be held at Otterbein Area Vol Fire Dept on May 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm. A light meal will be served at 6:30 pm. The address is 7628 S. 1150 E Otterbein, In 47970.

Thanks,  
Blaine Butler Jr  
District 21 Chairman



# I.V.F.A. Secretary

**Leighanne Ellis**



## INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING February 20-22, 2026 Crowne Plaza Hotel Indianapolis, IN

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

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

Guests: District 4 Secretary Marvin Salter, District 10 Fire Chief Dan Coon.

Reading the minutes from the last meeting, Richard Glant made a motion to accept the minutes as emailed. Jeremy Reef seconded the motion. Motion passed with 1 nay.

### Guests:

1. Jill Jackson and Bo Carr with AMBA group, discussed their program and showed the benefits of their program.

### Old Business:

1. Amba Presentation- Discussion on what we are going to do with them and we only have to give them name and address for information. Mack Grobis gave a motion to establish a relationship with Amba. Jim Garner gave the second. Questions was asked about length of time for decisions made. Vote was taken and passed unanimously.

2. 2026 Washington DC trip March 16-19, 2026.

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

4. Hose Cart – we would like to donate to the Fire Museum. Motion made to donate to the fire museum given by Jerry Liston, Richard Glant gave a second. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Grant Proposals- look at where money is and what we can do to create this program to give back to membership- 1 option- Training- 5-\$2000 grants to give out. Discussion held on ways to get funding and reaching out for funding to an education grant-NIPSCO, Centerpoint, and other groups that would support the

association.

**Treasurer's Report,** Treasurer Luke Kluender, report was emailed out. Was able to watch budget and save \$13,000 for 2025 year. This year, more money to convention committee has been out of the normal. 2 CD's are mature and will need renewed. Buz Koehler made motion to send board action, Mack Grobis gave second. Mack Grobis gave motion to accept report. Paul Campbell 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, went through vouchers, found things that will be clarified and corrected. For quarterly meetings, you will get \$25 for food. You do not pay for hotels for quarterly weekend. There is no mileage paid for going to your own district meeting. If you are sending vouchers electronically need to be scanned and sent. No pictures of vouchers will be accepted. Discussion on travelling to different areas outside of districts and pr areas. Information was sent for the By-Law and SOG committee to be reviewed. Life- Saving awards approved and discussed and went through. Discussion on lawyer on retainer, \$3000 a year for up to 12 hours and a free member consultation. We will not be paying for member services, we will allow for the contact to the lawyer for consultation then the membership would be paying the bill. Richard Glant makes a motion to send to board action to cover the retainer and to have clarification for the membership consultation. Brent Bush gave second. Motion passed unanimously.

### Committee Reports:

**Awards-** Vice President Larry Curl- has an Ollie Sandberg winner. MacQueen Award is due ASAP.

Jr. Firefighter Program- going to have a zoom meeting tomorrow for potential contestants. Have a career center interested in joining for membership and participation. Look into equip, Steve A. has available to use for the contest. Identifier for showing they are a participant of the program. Motion to bring up not allowing winners to compete in the competition after winning.

Mr. IVFA, Pete Taylor- have 6 letters and will be meeting to decide.

Angel Award, Diane Harrison- nothing to report

Miss Flame Program: Leighanne Ellis, went through paperwork to identify who still needed to send information in, discussed using IVFA Trailer to make donations to the Ronald McDonald House, all other tasks and events are being prepared and will be ready to go.

Bridgeport: Past President Richard Glant- need more applications in will have a short meeting in May for the decision.

**By-laws and S.O.G.'s:** Chaplin Dave Elick, discussion on proposed submission of a change in bylaws, it was denied and the district was notified and will not be revisited for 2 years. Discussed the Reimbursement Guidelines' for officers, will be reviewing that and giving a proposal at the next meeting.

**Budget:** Treasurer Luke Kluender , nothing to report.

**Clothing Claims:** District 5 John Grolich, claims for glasses during an ice rescue. Pay \$140 for claim.

**Convention:** David Israel-

2025 convention photos have been distributed.

2026- Steve Anderson- Registrations 125 currently. Have 219 hotel rooms booked. Work on funding for vendors, sponsors this next quarter. Tickets will be sent to indiv. departments for sell. Would like to have them returned by May 1. Discussion on changing the agenda of the officers meeting and deciding on how and when we will complete it prior to the annual meeting. Look into a virtual meeting prior to convention instead of an in-person meeting.

2027- most things will remain the same from 2026. If you are interested in convention hosting it is still available. Currently the state convention committee is going to handle this convention.

2028- If you are interested in convention hosting it is still available, currently state committee is going to be covering it.

**EMS:** Tom Fentress, goal is to get EMS info out to districts, create an EMS newsletter or area to get it pushed out on the website. HB 1003 discussed.

EMT Portfolio is being tightened up, minimum 20 (8 adult, 6 geriatric, and 6 peds) 50% can be simulations, now currently 10. EMT Skills Exams looking to move from indiv. Skills stations to 1 med and 1 trauma mega codes. Discussed Gold Siren Awards and Running with Shears 5K.

### Health and Wellness

**Committee,** Tom Fentress, EMS Summit was attended. Covered the survey sent to fire chiefs about cancer prevention questions. Discussed funding or discounted rate for physicals, looking at FQHC locations. Discussed physical fitness programs. 10-33 Foundation. Goals are to look into funding firehouse washers for cancer prevention, website use for wellness, and license plate funding use or reallocation.

**Insurance:** Luke Kluender, nothing to report.

**Legislation:** Lobbyist Larry Curl and Past President Buz Koehler, 50-year celebration is unable to be held this year due to shortened time at state house. Plan is for April 4, 2026 to also be in conjunction with FDIC. HB 1003, boards and commissions, the fire and ems combination should be out and not consolidated. HB1048 Volunteer fire clothing and vehicle allowance is at \$250, now going to \$500 written to members- \$250 to clothing and \$250 to vehicle. HB1315 population bill in township and consolidation. 6700-member population. SB 270 performance levels for townships. Watching SB 270 for the reorganization of townships contact state senator for input.

**LODD:** Paul Holcomb, nothing to report.

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

### Membership and Marketing:

Mikey Armstrong, Look at potential discounts at organizations and create an online posting for membership. Inactive members pin list to take to meetings to assist with getting members to return to organization. Savvik boards, where are they? Getting dues online for dept. and members to be able to pay.

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

**Secretary** *continued from pg 9*

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, memorial services, Sausage supper, state house visit, American income life meeting, AMBA agreement. District meetings

**Vice President,** Larry Curl, state house, memorial services, sausage supper.

**Secretary,** Leighanne Ellis, nothing to report.

**Treasurer,** Luke Kluender, sausage supper, state house, district meetings. Legislation discussion. Discussion on vouchers.

**Chaplain,** David Elick, make sure to turn funeral vouchers in in a timely manner.

**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,** Richard Sorg, district meetings, updated on Sam Bisel.

**PRWC,** Don Fultz, district meetings, 2 memorial services, clock presentation, sausage supper.

**PREC,** David Israel, district meetings.

**PRSW,** Jack Kerney, 6 district meetings, 2 memorials services.

**PRSE,** Ed Scheele, district meetings.

**Asst. Treasurer,** Bev Harker, absent

**Asst. Secretary,** Diane Harrison, absent

**Webmaster,** Anthony Smith, discussed needing information in the narrative box when submitting calendar events. 2025 convention pictures going to be placed onto website. Memorial service, looking into fillable form for SOG/Bylaw change requests. Looking at more electronic form submissions.

**Past President's Reports:**

Jerry Liston, nothing to report.

Steve Anderson, 11 names left on gold card list project for unknowns. Convention schedules passed out.

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

**District Reports:**

**District 1,** Marshall Neese- District meeting at Ogden Dunes, presentation of history of the dept. 5 dept. and 14 members present. 2 memorial service, service pin presentation, dept. meetings

**District 2,** Tom Fentress, district meeting, 4 memorial services, regions fool's meetings.

**District 3,** Jim Garner, District meeting at Hamlet Fire Dept., 7 dept. and 23 members present. Program over IVFA updates and fire marshal updates.

**District 4,** Uriah Mast, Jr., district meeting at Benton Twp. Fire Dept., 4 dept. and 8 members present. Presentation from John Shafer with IDHS, service pins presentation.

**District 5,** John Grolich, travelled 1600 miles, and attended 2 appreciation dinners, Twp. Trustee Public Safety Day, Sausage Supper. PAC work. 2 memorial services.

**District 6,** Mack Grobis, district meeting at Shipshewana.

**District 7,** Caleb Vanlandingham, District meeting at Berne Vol. Fire Dept., Presentation by Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Assoc. and John Shafer, IDHS. 10 Dept. and 35 members present. 3 memorial services.

**District 8A,** Rex Maynard, District meeting at Center Twp.

Vol. Fire Dept., 5 dept. and 11 members present.

**District 8B,** Mikey

Armstrong, district meeting at Saratoga Ward Vol. Fire Territory, 6 dept. and 14 members present. Reminder to check dues packets. 1 memorial service. District meeting at White River Twp. Vol. Inc. 5 dept. and 8 members present. Program on convention and miss flame community service project. 2 memorial services. Make sure dept. have updated emails on website.

**District 9A,** Pascal Moon, District meeting at Harrison Twp.-Alto, 7 dept. and 16 members present. District meeting at Harrison Twp.-Lucerne, 4 dept. and 8 members present., district meeting at Burrows-Liberty Twp. 7 dept. and 21 members present, presentation from Keystone Co-op.

**District 9B,** Randy Denton, nothing to report.

**District 10,** John Ray, 2 district meetings, 2 county meetings, 2 dept. meetings, breakfast with santa, 3 memorial services, 2 50 year pin presentations. Meeting at Greensburg Fire Dept. 14 dept. and 43 members present. Presentation from Clayton Kinder, chief investigator with fire marshal office, and matt Scheidler with web solutions. District meeting at Columbus Twp., 8 dept. and 19 members present. Presentation on NERIS. District meeting at Trafalgar VFD, 7 dept. and 15 members present.

**District 11A,** Pete Taylor, District meeting at Van Buren Twp. 8 dept. and 23 members present. Program was Miss Flame Contest. 1 memorial service. Sausage supper, pin presentation.

**District 11B,** Scott Peebles, district meeting, MacQueen award, 2 memorial services. Dept. visits.

**District 12** Steve Kershaw, District meetings, pin presentations.

**District 13A,** Don Cushman, nothing to report.

**District 13B,** Jeff Biehl, District meeting at Centerville FD, 6 dept. and 14 members present. Miss Flame program held. 2 memorial services.

**District 14,** Rick Cannon, District meeting at Kent Fire Dept., 8 dept. and 32 members present. Program from Air Methods Landing Zone Class. District meeting at Vienna Fire, 6 dept. and 30 members present, program, was Miss Flame and IVFA Updates.

**District 15,** Paul Campbell, District meeting at Chandler Fire Dept. with 7 dept. and 35 members present. Program was Miss Flame Crowning.

**District 16,** Nick Faulkenberg, District meeting at Marengo-Liberty Twp. Vol. Fire Dept. 3 dept. and 12 members present. Program over IN Fire and Public

Safety, Legislation, and Silent Auction.

**District 17A,** Sam Emery, District meeting at Vincennes for Sausage Supper. 399 members signed in. Program was IVFA Officers and State Miss Flame. 2 memorial services.

**District 17B,** Tammy McCaffry, nothing to report.

**District 18,** Joe DeKemper, District meeting at St. Anthony VFD, 14 dept. and 79 members present. 6 memorial services.

**District 19,** Ben Sieverding, District meeting at Blooming Grove VFD, 8 Dept. and 34 members present. Program on Legislation, and 50 year presentation. 1 memorial services.

**District 21,** Blaine Butler, Dist. Meeting at West Lebanon Vol. Fire Dept. 8 dept. and 18 members present. Miss Flame Program held.

**New Business:**

1. Supporting Hero's Gala July 11, 2026, get names to Paul Holcomb.
2. Hoosier Burn Camp Visitor Day in May.
3. FDIC in April.
4. 50-year member celebration will be held at a April 24, 2026.

Jack Zeeks made Motion to Adjourn meeting, Mikey Armstrong gave second. Meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.

Board Action Business Meeting called to order by Past Chairman of the Board Jerry Liston at 1026 am..

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

**Old Business:****Board Action- Business:**

1. Hose Cart Donation to Fire Museum in Jeffersonville with a plaque made. Motion made by Jim Garner, Jeremy Reef gave second, motion passed unanimously.

2. CD Renewal- Brent Bush made a motion to allow treasurer to make the changes as he has in the past. Rex Maynard gave the second, motion passed with 1 nay.

3. Attorney Retainer- \$3000 to retain attorney for needs, Rex Maynard gave the motion, Steve Kershaw gave second, motion passed unanimously.

4. Social Media Computer to be purchased not to exceed \$1000, Marshall Neece made the motion, Blain Butler gave the second, motion passed with 3 nays.

5. Home Page Edits not to exceed \$500, Jeremy Reef gave the motion, Mack Grobis seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jack Zeeks, Second by John Ray. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

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

**ALL CONTENT FOR THE THE AUGUST 2026 ISSUE IS DUE BY JULY 1ST**



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- 2.5" Discharges Officer's Side, 2.5" Aux Intake, 6" Master Intake
- (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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# Letter to the Editor

## Short article from a Township Trustee’s Point of View

**Bill Jones, Tippecanoe Township Trustee**

What’s Township Government Merger all about? Greetings, I’m the Tippecanoe Township Trustee, Tippecanoe County. I have been involved with Indiana Local Government for over 50 years. In the 80’s, I was appointed Assistant to the Chairman of the State Tax Board (now Department of Local Government Finance). During my 10 years as an employee and another 10 years as a consultant, I developed several projects for the department. In 2018, I received the Circle of Corydon award from the Governor for outstanding local government support. Currently, I’m working with several VFDs about finances and getting lots of questions about the township changes.

SB 270 is all about reducing the number of townships in Indiana government. The bill was written by a senator who was a trustee and the Indiana Township Association. The ITA basically decided that some elimination of townships was going to happen so they partnered with legislation that best fits the members of their organization. A set of criteria was established in a point system, and if a township scored four or more points that township has to merge with a township that scored less than four points. Bottom line will be a reduction of townships, mostly rural townships. A couple of the criteria hit rural townships much harder.

If a township scores four or more points, they must be merged with a lower-scoring contiguous township, receiving township.

1) Two points if that any township has not provided any township assistance in the calendar years 2023-2024.

2) One point for any township which does not actively manage a volunteer or full-time fire department, or is not a provider unit in a fire protection territory, as of January 1, 2025; or did not have a contract for fire protection services within the township in 2025.

3) One point per year for any township which fails to timely file an annual finance report with the State Board of Accounts in 2023 or 2024;

4) One point for each year any township which has not filed all required monthly upload reports as required by the SBOA within the previous two years immediately preceding the current year;

5) One point if the township’s annual appropriations and annual tax levy for 2023 were continued for 2024.

6) One point if the township’s annual appropriations and annual tax levy for 2024 were continued for 2025 if they failed to successfully completed the proper budget process

7) One point for any township which has received twenty-four or less township assistance application in total in 2023 and 2024;

8) One point for any township which has an adopted budget of less than \$100,000 for calendar year 2025;

9) One point for any township which has not had a candidate on the election ballot for the position of township trustee or all township board member position in the previous general election where the township trustee and township board member were election, or actively have vacancies on the board;

For rural townships the areas of concern are 1,2,4, and 7. These criteria are difficult for rural townships.

Timing: The point system must be evaluated by December 31, 2026 by the Department of Local Government Finance. An appeal for review must be filed before March 31, 2027. Final determination will be reviewed and finalized by June 30. By October 1, 2027 the county executive shall complete the merger process. The implementation will be effective for 2029 budgets.

What does this mean to VFDs? By statute, a township must secure fire protection. That requirement doesn’t go away. Even if there are three or four townships that have to merge, the “new” township still has to contract with a fire department to cover all the new area. The

requirement of the “new” township doesn’t change. In fact, it will be to the benefit of the “new” township to maintain a solid relationship with the VFD that respond to the original township. In no way, does this legislation force VFDs to merge together.

As the process is identified thru 2027, departments will have to communicate with the trustee and board of the main township. Although, the township that was merged will have one board member on the “new” township administration, it will be vital to the fire department to communicate the area they serve. At that time multiple departments might be required to work together to assign service areas and plan budgets. The “new” township board will have serious budget decisions to manage and fire departments working together will make that process easier.

My opinion: Although the legislature created this process, I feel the time line is too short. I developed the software used in the budget process and the dependency on individual units is the foundation of the process. Attempting to now redesign over 40 years of software development by merging units will be an extremely difficult process. I think the dates will have to be extended.

What should your department do? There will always be a requirement for the services your department provides. Working with adjacent departments service areas is something you do all the time. Just have faith that the process will continue. In rural areas it will be accomplished. Your departments know who to function regardless of finances, you will always be required and you will get the job completed.

Fire Territory: The next few years will be an option to create a fire territory which requires two or more taxing units and permits a total redefine of the financial aspects of your department. A territory may or may not potentially bring multiple departments together. Learn about the concept and see if it might fit your department.



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IVFA AUXILIARY OFFICERS - 2025 - 2026

Table listing IVFA Auxiliary Officers for 2025-2026, including President Christina Reef, Vice President Beverly VanLandingham, Recording Secretary Dawn Harris, Treasurer Martha Biehl, and Chaplain Judy Wirth.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2025 - 2026

Table listing the Board of Directors for 2025-2026, organized by district from #1 to #19, with names and contact information.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Table listing Past Presidents from Diana Gray (2011-2013) to Mary Boyd (1975-1976).

PAST PRESIDENTS

Table listing Past Presidents from Joan Keller (1973-1975) to Barbara Kerney (2013-2016).

IVFAA President Christina Reef



Hello Everyone, I hope you all had a wonderful spring. I love all the rain in springtime because it helps bring all the beautiful flowers for summertime.

lifetime friends all due to being part of this organization. With all that being said, it is time to pass the President's gavel to another.

I hope everyone is looking forward to the convention this year. It is June 17th through 19th at Wyndham Hotel Indianapolis West.

The IVFAA annual meeting at convention will be on June 19th at 9:30 am. This annual meeting is where we discuss the past year events & upcoming topics.

There are 19 district Miss Flame contestants this year. The Miss Flame committee &

Please support the advertisers!!

Convention committee have been working hard to make sure all the contestants have a fun & exciting time.

Lastly, a quick reminder that your annual membership dues will be coming up soon.

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

Please let me know if you need anything or have any questions. I'm always happy to help.

Sincerely, Christina Reef

IVFAA COMMITTEES FOR 2025 / 2026

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

Table listing various committees for 2025/2026, including Audit, Vice President's Project, Membership, Budget & Finance, Chinese Auction, Miss Flame Community Service Award, Social Media Communication, New District Chair Training, President's Advisory, Jewelery, Installation, Lois Boaz Award, Miriam Schaeckel Award, Historians, and Special Projects.



# Recording Secretary

Janet Matthews



## IVFAA Quarterly Meeting February 22, 2026

Crown Plaza, Indpls, IN

President Christina Reef called the meeting to order @ 8:33am. Chaplin Judy Wirth gave the opening prayer & Sergeant at Arms Suzie Lewis led the group in Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Christina informed the group that the meeting is also via zoom today, but there are no participants signed in via zoom. She will keep the zoom meeting up to see if anyone joins by 9am, if not she will sign out.

**Recording Secretary** Dawn Harris took roll call of those in attendance 17 officers 9 individuals present today, no guests. Members by department 498, Individuals 154, Life members 34 Total members 683.

**Corresponding Secretary** Janet Matthews was asked to read the minutes from the November quarterly meeting. Tammy Smith made a motion to suspend the reading of the November minutes & accept them as they were sent out, Jodi Rohr seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. November 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 \$34,945.78
- CD Amount #1 \$11,598.17
- CD Amount #2 \$21,320.57
- Miss Flame Amount \$3,716.44
- Gaming Amount \$8,972.00

All accounts/books are available & are subject to audit.

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. Deadline is April 1st for convention memorial service, please make sure all members' deaths are reported to her.

President Christina Reef asked for committee reports

- Auditing- Carol Curl nothing to report.

- Budget & Finance- Tammy Smith reports her committee met yesterday & will meet for a longer meeting on Saturday of Mays quarterly meeting, to continue to work on it.

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

- Chinese Auction- Lori Baxter not here today, Hunter Smith reminded everyone to bring their baskets to the May meeting & to ensure the cost of them is included.

- Historian- Phyllis Vargo is not present today. Christina will get the items to Dawn that need to be stored that were in the big filing cabinet.

- 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.

- Lois Boaz- Judy Wirth reports committee is ready.

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

- Memorial Throw- Carol Curl nothing to report.

- Miriam Schaeckel- Joann Smith reports they are ready

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

- Miss Flame- Janet Matthews reported that the committee met today there are questionnaires for each member to answer to help compile the results for the Family Feud game that will be played at convention. Please complete them & give them to Tammy before you leave today. The flame mixer will be held on Sunday May 3rd.

- Nominating- Carolyn Zeeks encouraged everyone to let them know who is interested in running for office next year.

- 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

- Vice President Project- Beverly Vanlandingham reports that the 50/50 drawing will be an event at the convention. Application has been filed for gaming license with the state.

**Old Business:** President Christina Reef reports that she could not find an organization that wanted the large fireproof safe that she checked with, but Bev Vanlandingham is willing to take it. They will arrange to get it

to them.

Christina reports Bev held the new chairman training yesterday; there was a few new & seasoned chairs that participated. Dawn Harris went over the new membership form that she created & will send out a link & explained how it is a view only where they can see member counts in their districts. Please let Dawn or Christina know if you have questions about this after you receive the link.

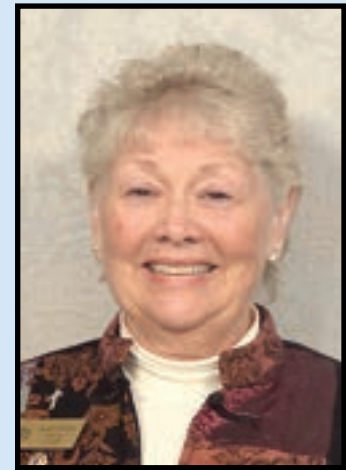
Fifteen Minute break was taken.

Buz Koehler brought newspapers to the room, reports that the current issue was done by the new printer & with the old editor. The IVFA has contracted the previous editor to continue to work on the paper. Reminder that the email address has changed that items are to be sent to for the paper editor@ivfa.org is the one to use. Buz reminded the room that there are still 75-year books available to purchase. 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. Challenge coins & T-shirts are here & are available for purchase from the convention committee. There will be raffle tickets sent out to each fire department for the convention raffle. Richard Sorg came to the meeting selling bracelets for \$5 each. Bracelets show support for Sam Bisel & the funds go to Sam as his cancer has sadly returned & he is in treatment.

**New Business:** President Christina Reef informed the group that the Code of Conduct has been passed out to the line officers, committee chairs, district chairs. It is already in a binder & page sleeves have been provided for you to be able to put SOG's & By Laws into them as well. Everyone needs to review & sign the signature page, turn it into Dawn Harris. Martha Biehl made a motion that the code of conduct will be reviewed & signed yearly in August, seconded by Virginia Elick, discussion held, all in favor, motion carried. Dawn will track the signature pages from year to year. Christina informed the group that she believes the organization needs an IT committee to handle computer issues & maintenance. Anthony Smith & David Comiso would be on the committee along with a few others that are technically gifted. Tammy Smith made a motion to add an IT committee for the organization to maintain the organizations computers & maintenance of subscriptions that are needed on them, Jodi Rohr seconded the motion, discussion was held, all in favor, motion carried, President Christina Reef will create this committee & speak to those that will be on it of its purpose & duties. The corresponding secretary laptop is dead, David Comiso has it



IVFAA  
Chaplain  
Judy Wirth



I have a picture on the notebook that I carry to do Memorial Services that says-  
**Volunteers Do Not Have The Time**  
**They Just Have The Heart**  
As I travel the state, I am

finding out that this is so true. They don't have the time for "book" training, hands on training, travel to classes and take those classes, clean equipment, do upkeep on equipment, clean the firehouse, or help work at fundraisers! But they do it anyway because they have heart. Heart to help family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers who are in need. They walk into a situation that normal people run from. Thank You Lord Jesus for these volunteers!

*John 15:13*  
*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

& has tried to work on it to get files to come up but it is not working. He was able to save the files off it onto a thumb drive. Carolyn Zeeks made a motion to purchase a new laptop for the corresponding secretary, Judy Wirth seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Christina will speak to the IT team & have this be their first item of business to take care of. Please make the president & vice president aware of your district meeting dates & try to post them on the IVFAA Facebook page & on the IVFA website calendar. Marth Biehl gave an update on the QuickBooks accounting software, she contacted Tech Soup & got a subscription, paid \$80 & the general account information is downloaded onto it. The subscription was to be for multiple accounts, but it will not allow her to download more than one account to it. Discussion was held to see if maybe the IT committee could assist in this research so that all accounts can be put on the same subscription. Christina will contact members of IT committee to discuss this with them. The IVFAA pays for the Miss Flame winners & it is a line item in the IVFAA budget, Carol Curl made a motion to close the Miss Flame account & put the funds into the main account since there is a line item for it in the budget, Judy Wirth seconded the motion. Discussion was held to decrease the number of accounts that the organization has & each expense is lined up in our budget. This would help decrease the number of accounts the organization has & the accounts the treasure must

balance. All in favor, motion carried, Martha Biehl will take care of closing the Miss Flame account & putting the funds into the main account. Christina discussed the IVFAA service pin list, wanting to make sure that chairmen are reviewing their district membership lists to ensure that when someone is due for a pin that one is presented to them for their membership. Dawn is tracking of when pins are being presented. Please let Suzie know when you need pins & if someone says that they never received their pin it's ok to give them another one as we do not want to lose members of the year of service pin.

Christina asked if anyone had anything for the good of the organization to discuss or mention? Tammy Smith is asking people to think about what the organization does & wants ideas about what special projects can be done. The special projects committee is willing to help if we can get some suggestions of projects to promote. Christina asks all to think about this. May 27th is Hoosier Burn Camp visitors' day if anyone is interested in going. Judy Wirth closed meeting with prayer. Hunter Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tammy Smith. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am. Saturday May 2nd social hour will be at 4pm, it will be the "Derby Party" wear your derby hats, bring a lot of quarters as we are going to have a derby that day!

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Janet Matthews  
IVFAA Corresponding Secretary



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

## District 7 Report



**Cindy Krueckeberg - Chairman**

### IVFAA District 7 Minutes Call to Order

A meeting of the IVFA District 7 Auxiliary was held at Bippus East on March 16, 2026 by District 7 Auxiliary Chairman Cindy Krueckeberg.

#### Attendees

Attendees included 9 members and 4 guests.

#### Approval of Minutes and Reports

The minutes from the past meeting in November were read and approved.

The Treasure's report stands read and approved.

#### Old and New Business

The January meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

Calab Vanlandingham (D7 IVFA Chairman) has recommended and proposed that we cancel the January meeting and continue forward, as we have not had the January meeting for years due to the weather. Bev Vanlandingham made the motion to keep the IVFAA meeting schedule the same as the IVFA schedule, meaning that if the IVFA cancels, the IVFAA will also cancel. This motion was seconded by Chris Bultemeier and carried by the attending members.

Logan Lockwood gave an update on the baskets for the Chinese auction during the state convention. She shared that school supplies for the "back to school" basket have been collected and that she will be getting more, and that the "baking" basket is still in the works.

Nominations for awards at the state convention are now closed. They had to be turned in by February.

Cindy has passed out more pins. If you and others in your department have not yet received pins, please reach out.

The State Convention is June 17th-19th in Indianapolis. Bev Vanlandingham still has the registration forms, and you can still call to get a room at the hotel. However, prices will increase by the first of June. You can still purchase a challenge coin, and departments should have received raffle tickets in the mail. Purchased tickets are already being mailed back, and departments are asking for more. Reach out to Todd Krueckeberg (D7 IVFA Secretary/Treasurer) if you and your department are

interested in more.

Taylor Brown (D7 Miss Flame) has service project flyers and is receiving donations for the Ronald McDonald House. She has been to several events, including Monroe, Preble, and Geneva's breakfasts. She has more on her schedule that she plans on attending in the upcoming weeks.

Cindy attended the state quarterly meeting in February and gave a report. Judy Worth (IVFAA State Chaplain) asks that if there has been a death in the department, get a hold of an officer so a proper memorial service can take place, and if the family wants their loved ones in the state memorial service, get the information to Judy by April 1st. There is no official number of Miss Flames, and the mixer is on Sunday, May 3rd, during the state quarterly meeting. Cindy also shared that she has received an updated SOG, bylaws, and code of conduct. If you would like to look at those, please reach out. The new email and address for IVFA have been shared; they are in the previous papers.

The meeting was adjourned by Cindy, and then followed by the Bake Sale.

#### Announcements

- Poe Breakfast and Hoagland Easter parade- March 29th
- Berne Breakfast- April 18th
- Ossian Breakfast and Geneva Breakfast- April 11th
- Monroe Breakfast- April 4th
- Aubrie Krueckeberg IVFAA District 7 Secretary

## District 11B Report



**Jodi Rohr - Chairman**

Things have been a little quiet in District 11-B. The January meeting was hosted by the Cayuga Fire Department. Those folks can make chili! Due to illness, we were unable to crown our Miss Flame, Allie Flater. We plan to do that at our March meeting.

Please, please, please provide updated email addresses to the district chairman. This hopefully will help save on postage. This will enable us to remind you about meetings, send out SOG or bylaw updates and provide you with any other information.

It is not too early to nominate someone for the multiple awards. They can be found at IVFA.org. If you have men on your auxiliary, they are also eligible for the awards given by the auxiliary.

The Miss Flame project for this year is collecting items for the Ronald McDonald House. Soups, puddings, packages of crackers, laundry soap, etc. The items that we take for granted in our own households are the things that families housed there need. If your auxiliary collects any of these items, please let me know. I will make sure they are taken to Convention.

Veedersburg Van Buren Township Fire Department hosted our March meeting. Our Miss Flame, Allie Flater was unable to attend. State Miss Flame, Ava Verklamp gave us an update on her many travels throughout the state. Let's just say she is a remarkably busy young lady!! Thank you Ava for making the trip.

The district needs ideas for the Chinese Auction for Convention. Send me your suggestions, please.

As I write this, we are at the beginning of Holy Week. I ask a special blessing for each of you.

**Jodi Rohr  
District 11-B Chairman**

## District 17A



**Patti Fultz- Chairman**

IVFAA District 21 meeting was at Madison Township Vol Fire Department, Mulberry, IN on February 23,2026.

We had 5 members and 2 guests.

Denise Routzahn was presented her 10 year pin.

As a reminder, the 2026 convention is at Wyndham Hotel Indy June 17-19,2026. Registration is due by June 1, 2026.

The Miss Flame project for this convention is the Ronald McDonald House.

They are collecting supplies. You can go on line to Wish List @<https://www.rmhc.in.org/give/wish-list/> to see the list of items needed.

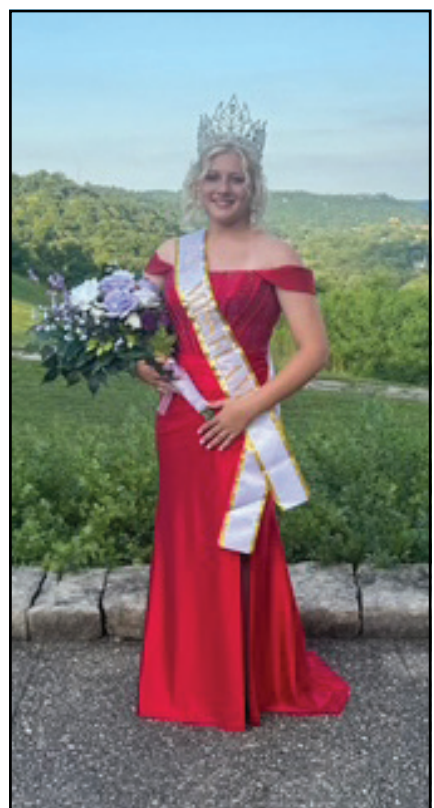
Let your Miss Flame, Leila Hosfield know if you have items and she will pick them up.

Our next meeting will be at Otterbein Vol. Fire Department on May 18, 2026. We eat at 6:30 pm and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

**Hope to see you there.  
Patti Fultz  
District 21 Chairman**

# A word from Miss Flame Ava Verklamp

With strong examples from the past efforts, I am proud to say that the spirit of generosity remains alive within the IVFA as we unite for an important cause: supporting the Ronald McDonald House. This vital organization provides a "home away from home" for families with children undergoing medical treatment at nearby hospitals, offering comfort, stability, and a place to rest during incredibly challenging times. The Ronald McDonald House serves as a sanctuary, helping ease both the financial and emotional burdens families face when a child is hospitalized. By providing accommodations, it allows families to remain close to one another, fostering a sense of normalcy, strength, and support during periods of uncertainty. My family was once among who benefited from staying at the Ronald McDonald House, which makes this cause especially meaningful to me. For this reason, this year's Miss Flame Fundraiser is dedicated to supporting this incredible organization. Their commitment to giving back to families in need is truly remarkable, and they deserve our support in return. Please find the attached flyer, which includes a list of requested donations, as well as a link to additional items currently need by the Ronald McDonald House.



2025 State Miss Flame  
Ava Verklamp

## 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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FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

**Ronald  
McDonald  
House**<sup>®</sup>

**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!**



# 2026 IVFA MISS

*Miss Flame District 1*



*Gracey Wilson*

*Miss Flame District 3*



*Skilynn Scalf*

*Miss Flame District 4*



*Isabelle Dunlap*

*Miss Flame District 5*



*Ella Dean*

*Miss Flame District 10*



*Mackenzie Schneider*

*Miss Flame District 11A*



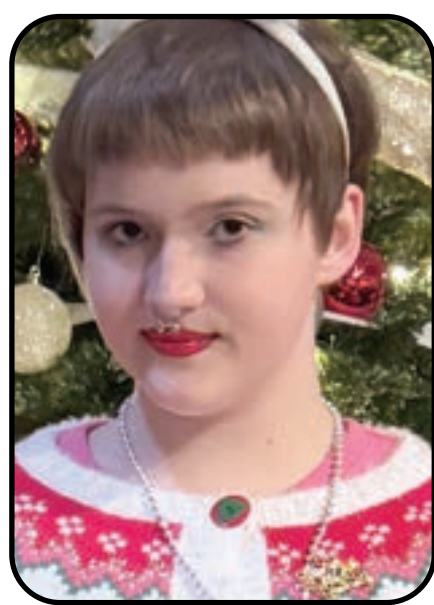
*Sariah Brewer*

*Miss Flame District 11B*



*Jana "Allie" Flater*

*Miss Flame District 12*



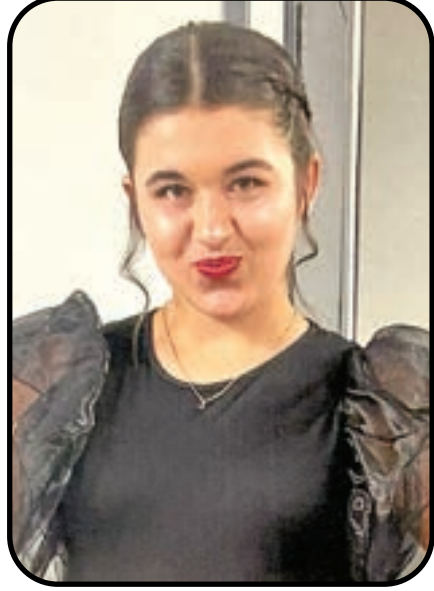
*Caleigh Welch*

*Miss Flame District 15*



*Morgan Davis*

*Miss Flame District 17A*



*Natalee Rickard*

*Miss Flame District 17B*



*Emmalynn Harris*

*Miss Flame District 18*



*Jazmyne Little*



# Flame Candidates

*Miss Flame District 6*



*Ruby Weldy*

*Miss Flame District 7*



*Taylor Brown*

*Miss Flame District 8B*



*Mallory Hudson*

*Miss Flame District 9A*



*Claire Ellis*

*Miss Flame District 13B*



*Khloe Conner*

*Miss Flame District 14*



*Randi Palmer-Sipe*



*2025 State Miss Flame Ava Verkamp*

*Miss Flame District 21*



*Leila Hosfield*

**Come to the convention to see who will be Miss Flame 2026,**

**Good Luck Girls!**





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Marshall Neese,  
District 1  
Chairman

# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 1



left to right is Burnadette Cope from Griffith F.D. Miss Flame Grace Wilson from Griffith F.D. and Dist. Chairman Marshall Neese.



Dist. Chair Marshall Neese giving a 10 year pin to Steven Paprocki from Griffith F.D. at their Monthly Meeting March 9, 2026

Please email all news, meeting notes, stories and photos to Sherri Chaney at the new email address: [editor@ivfa.org](mailto:editor@ivfa.org)  
**ALL CONTENT FOR THE THE AUGUST 2026 ISSUE IS DUE BY JULY 1ST**

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# 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	_____	_____	Title _____
Auxiliary Officer	_____	_____	Title _____
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	Southern Dunes GC
Noon-5:00 PM	Registration & Chinese Auction	Intl Boardroom
2:00 PM-4:00 PM	Hospitality Room open	Room ###
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
6:45 PM-8:45 PM	Hoosier Burn Camp Auction	Golden Ballroom
9:00 PM-close	Hospitality Room open	Room ###

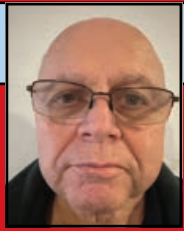
#### THURSDAY JUNE 18, 2026

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
9:00 AM-Noon	Jr. Firefighter Contest	Rear Parking Lot
10:00 AM-10:45 AM	Seminar #1	Fortune Square B
11:00 AM-11:45 AM	Seminar #2	Fortune Square B
Noon-1:00 PM	Miss Flame Luncheon	Fortune Square A
Noon-2:30 PM	Hospitality Room open	Room ###
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 (feat. flames)	Golden Ballroom
9:30 PM-close	Hospitality Room open	Room ###

#### 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
12:30 PM-3:00 PM	Miss Flame Outing	offsite
1:00 PM-4:00 PM	Hospitality Room open	Room ###
1:30 PM-3:30 PM	Koorsen Fire Museum Tour (also Jr. FF 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 (feat flames & Jr. FF)	Golden Ballroom
10:00 PM-close	Hospitality Room open	Room ###

# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 4



Uriah Mast Jr.,  
District 4  
Chairman



District 4 recipient Paul Grove receives his 10 year pin from Uriah Mast, Jr. District 4 Chairman.  
*Submitted by Marvin Stalter*

## Michael McKibbin, Battalion Chief retires

Michael McKibbin, Battalion Chief retired on March 21, 2026. He served 13 years as a volunteer and 26 years as full-time for 39 years total at the Cleveland Township Fire Department in Elkhart Indiana, the department has been running since 1957.



*Submitted by Carolyn McKibbin*



### INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

# Indiana Open Burning 101

## Did you know...

- Fire training that involves the burning of structures, such as houses, barns, and garages, must comply with Indiana's open burning rule (326 IAC 4-1).
- Volunteer fire departments are required to obtain IDEM approval prior to burning an acquired structure.
- To be considered for live fire training, a structure must be structurally sound and capable of being prepared for fire training activities (e.g. roof in good condition, no pre-existing fire damage, etc.). This is for the safety of all involved.
- All structures must be inspected for asbestos by an Indiana-licensed asbestos inspector and all asbestos-containing materials must be removed using a licensed asbestos contractor.
- Prior to issuing an approval, IDEM personnel will conduct an inspection of the structure to confirm the appropriateness of the structure and to provide guidance regarding future fire training.
- If issued, the approval letter from IDEM will provide an effective date. No burning is permitted prior to the effective date.
- Twenty-four hours prior to burning, notification should be sent to the entities listed on the approval letter. This includes the county health and sheriff's departments and the IDHS Fire Academy.
- Burning must comply with all conditions of the approval letter. Common conditions include the following:
  - Burning should not be conducted during unfavorable meteorological conditions, such as high winds or Air Quality Action Days.
  - Mercury-containing equipment and fluorescent bulbs must be removed from the structure and properly recycled or disposed.
  - Burning shall be conducted during daylight hours only and all fires shall be extinguished prior to sunset.

To receive confirmation if your open burning is exempt, IDEM's Open Burning Section can be reached at (317) 233-5627 or info@idem.IN.gov.



For more information:  
[www.idem.IN.gov/openburning](http://www.idem.IN.gov/openburning)





Mikey Armstrong, District 8B Chairman

# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 8B



District 8B Miss Flame Mallory Hudson passing out treats at the Portland Fire Dept Chili Lunch.



Mallory visited Bryant Vol Fire Department and received a donation for the Miss Flame Community Project



Mallory visited Ridgeville Vol Fire Dept and received a donation for the Miss Flame Community Project



District 8B Chairman Mikey Armstrong presented Josh Miller of the Pennville Volunteer Fire Dept with his 10 year pin.



Mallory visited Lynn Vol Fire Dept and received a donation for the Miss Flame Community Project.



District 8B Chairman Mikey Armstrong visited Montpelier Harrison Twp. Vol. Fire Dept and presented 10-year and 25 year pins to multiple members.



Mallory visited Pennville Volunteer Fire Department monthly meeting and visited Springers Restaurant. New restaurant owned by the Springer Family who has 2 members on PVFD.

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 AUGUST 2026 ISSUE IS DUE BY JULY 1ST**



John Ray,  
District 10  
Chairman

# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 10



Adams Firefighters Lee Dugle & Steven Schott receive their 25 yr pins from District 10 Chairman John Ray, as PREC, David Israel looks on.



District 10 Chairman, John Ray presents Adams Vol. Fire Chief Levi Weakly, a Station clock from the IVFA.

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

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# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 11B



Scott Peebles,  
District 11B  
Chairman



District 11B Chairman Scott Peebles presents a 10 year pin presentation to Danny Barnes.



District 11B Chairman Scott Peebles presents a 10 year pin presentation to Tanner Seibold.



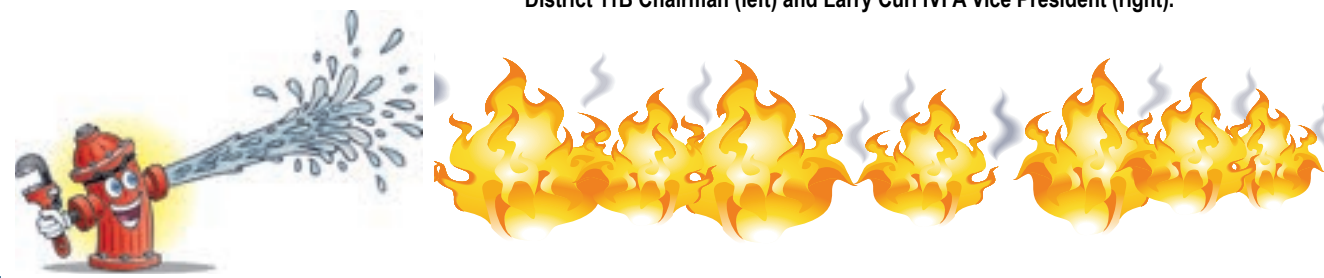
Scott Peebles District 11B Chairman presents a 10 year pin presentation to Andrew Weber.



Maureen Award presented to Cayuga Fire Chief Tim Wilson along with a plaque from his department for 47 years of service to the department (center) Scott Peebles District 11B Chairman (left) and Larry Curl IVFA Vice President (right).



## The Easter Bunny visits Reelsville



The Easter Bunny (aka 11B very own Vice-Chair Jack Giles) visited Reelsville during their Annual Easter Egg Hunt

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Jeff Biehl,  
District 13B  
Chairman

# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 13B



Cambridge City Firefighter Dennis Moore receiving his 50 yr. coin



Cambridge City Firefighter Zach Hawk receiving his 25 yr. pin



West College Corner Firefighter Daniel Chaney receiving his 25 yr pin

## Glenwood Fire Department members receiving awards



Zane Badore and Bruce Ritter Jr. receiving 10 year pins, Paul Sembach receiving his 50 yr. coin



Milton Fire Department member Donald Onstott receiving his 50 yr. card



Larry Barrett of Milton Fire Department receiving his 50 yr. coin



# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 13B

## Clay Township / GreensFork fire department members



Jeffrey Wheeler receiving his 25 yr. pin



Terry Brown Jr. receiving his 10 yr. pin



Dublin Fire Department member Cecil Penland receiving a 10 yr. pin



Jerry Myers receiving his 50 yr. coin



Liberty Fire Department member Carl Sharp receiving his 25 yr. pin



Liberty Fire Department member John Bertch receiving his 50 yr. coin



Steven Kaiser of Abington Township Fire Department receiving his 10 yr. pin





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- Cribbing
- Chains





Rick Cannon,  
District 14  
Chairman

# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 14

## Celebrating our Spencer Township Volunteers



We held our Banquet February 28th, 2026 and congratulating a few of our devoted and dedicated members! This group photo is a few of our members receiving their year's of service with The Spencer Township Volunteer Fire Department presented by Rick Cannon our District Representative.

- Megan Sherrill - 10 years
- Ryan Richart - 25 years
- Matt Davis - 25 years
- District Rep - Rick Cannon
- Chief - Danny Simmons

## Marion Montgomery Vol. Fire Department new fire truck purchase



Marion Montgomery vol fire departments new fire truck.  
Photo provided

Please email all news, meeting notes, stories and photos to Sherri Chaney at the new email address: [editor@ivfa.org](mailto:editor@ivfa.org)  
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# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 15



Paul Campbell,  
District 15  
Chairman



Yankeetown Vol Fire Dept would like to Congratulate Morgan Davis on winning the 2026 IVFA District #15 Miss Flame. Morgan represented Yankeetown Vol. Fire Dept. In the District #15 Miss Flame Pageant held @ Chandler Fire Dept during the District IVFA meeting on January 20th. Morgan will now go on to the 2026 State IVFA Miss Flame Pageant held in June at the Annual IVFA State Convention Representing IVFA District #15 and Yankeetown Fire Department. Morgan is the daughter of FF Kyle Davis and FF Jaimmie Davis of Yankeetown Vol Fire Dept. Congratulations Morgan!! We are very proud of you!!



Morgan Davis and Katherine Cartwright.

## Yankeetown Vol. Fire Dept. makes donation



Yankeetown Volunteer Fire Department during our recent snow storm and frigid temperatures. Yankeetown Vol Fire Dept open thier doors to the community as a warming shelter during the storm and offered assistance if was needed.



Ben Wallace FF/ EMT and Fire Chief Dave Wallace

Yankeetown Vol Fire Dept Donated to the Dolly Parton "For the Love of Books" Fundraiser hosted by Warrick Literacy and Educational Connections (WLEC)



All Submitted by Misty Wallace

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# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 18



Joe DeKemper,  
District 18  
Chairman



Tim Danhafer 25 year pin presented by Joe DeKemper District 18 Chairman Dubois VFD



Thomas, Lueken 50yr Gold card presented by Joe DeKemper District 18 Chairman, Ferdinand VFD



Greg Mehling Dubois VFD 25 year pin presented by Joe DeKemper District 18 Chairman



Steven DeKemper 10 yr pin Ferdinand vfd presented by Joe DeKemper



Nicholas Roundtree 10 yr presentation by Joe DeKemper district 18

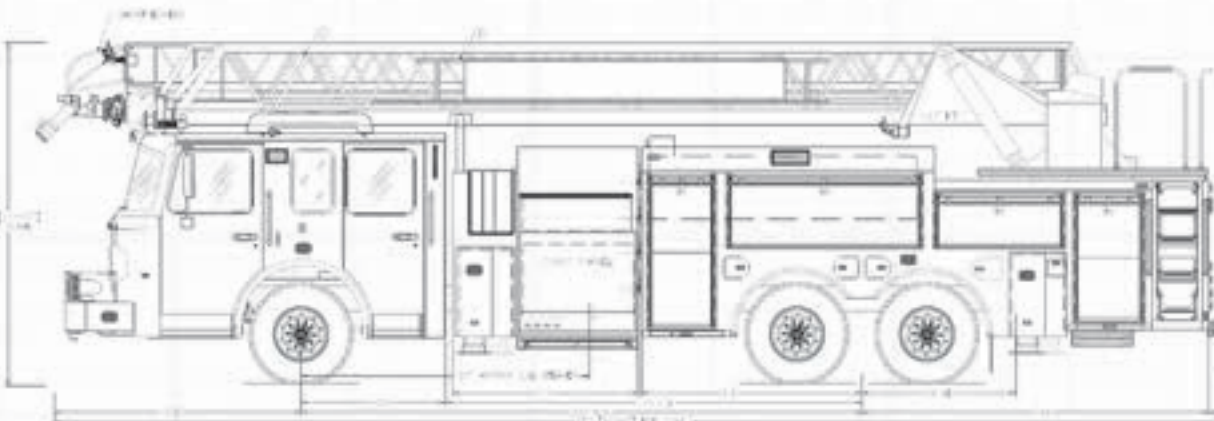
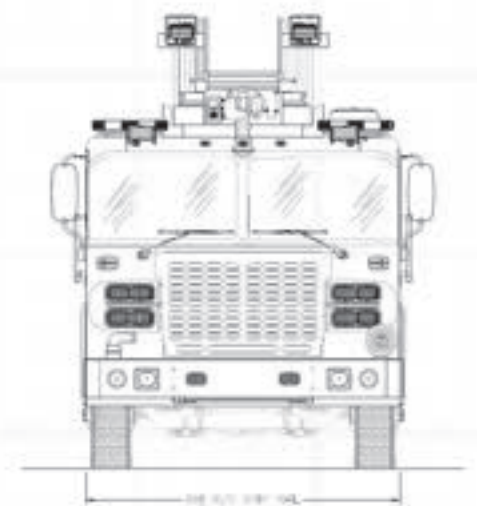


At the meeting of 19 March of the District 18, Logan Kloeck of the St. Meinrad VFD received his 10 Year Service Pin from Dist. 18 Chairman Joe DeKemper.

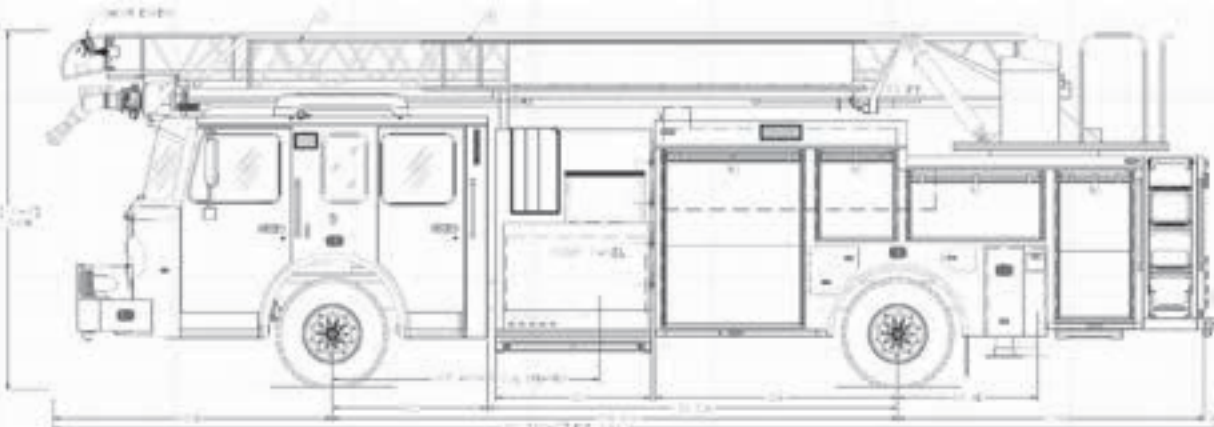
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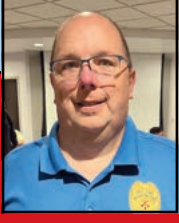


**Ben Sieverding,  
District 19  
Chairman**

# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 19



Bright VFD Firefighters recognized for 10 & 25 Years of Service



**Blaine Butler,  
District 21  
Chairman**

# NEWS FROM DISTRICT 21



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler presenting 25 year pin to Jack Walker. Madison Twp Vol Fire Dept.



District 21 Chairman Blaine Butler presenting 10 year pin to Alex Jackson. Madison Twp Vol Fire Dept.

### Benefits *continued from pg 1*

2. the cancer caused the first responder to become permanently and totally disabled. (Please note that “permanent and total disability” is a very high standard.)

Therefore, if you are aware of a first responder who has become permanently and totally disabled due to cancer — or of one who has died from cancer — please encourage someone from the family to contact us for more information.

It is also important to note that the law is retroactive to January 1, 2020. Families of first responders who died from cancer after that date should reach out to determine whether they may be eligible for benefits. On a broader level, first

responders who serve government or nonprofit entities should know that they are covered by the federal government’s Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) Program. Should one die or become permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of their service, significant benefits are available. Currently, this includes a \$461,656 cash benefit as well as college benefits for the spouse and any dependent children.

For more information, visit our website at [www.SupportingHeroes.org](http://www.SupportingHeroes.org) and click on FEDERAL BENEFITS. Questions? Write me at [EricJohnson@SupportingHeroes.org](mailto:EricJohnson@SupportingHeroes.org).

Please also note that Supporting Heroes does not receive any portion of the federal



**Eric Johnson, Executive Director,  
Supporting Heroes**

benefits we help families access. We are a nonprofit organization and rely entirely on donations to carry out our mission. It is the generosity of our donors that allows us to guide families through these processes and provide the support they need during the most difficult times.

**Please email all news, meeting notes, stories and photos to Sherri Chaney at the new email address: [editor@ivfa.org](mailto:editor@ivfa.org)**

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2025 Horton - F550 4x4 Diesel Chassis with 173" Module  
Photo Courtesy of Manchester Township Fire and Rescue - Aurora, IN

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# Basic Firefighter Training

Every Fire Department struggles to have a quality training program that develops firefighters who can perform the basic skills on the fireground. Training takes time. Time is limited for volunteers. Work - Life balance is something our younger members have conflicts internally and externally. Priorities in a work-life balance include the 5 F's. Faith - Family - Friends - Finance - Fire Department. These priorities are not established in numerical order. Work-Life balance priorities change based upon time and circumstances.

These training tips are designed based upon basic performance expectations. The expectations are that the firefighter is great at the following tasks. Get dressed - handline to the door - enter the building - perform primary search and rescue - apply water to the fire.

John M. Buckman III  
State Fire Academy Director (Retired)  
Fire Chief (Retired)

## Basic Training Program Session 1

### PPE

- Able to rapidly dress in 2 minutes including SCBA on air.
- Able to perform a monthly inspection of PPE.
- Able to perform a weekly inspection of SCBA including the facepiece.
- Demonstrate the operation of the emergency by-pass valve.
- Demonstrate the skip breathing or other air rationing technique.
- Replace an SCBA air cylinder with their eyes closed.
- Demonstrate cleaning and sanitizing SCBA.
- Demonstrate gross deconing of turnout gear.
- Demonstrate buddy breathing.
- Demonstrate operation of a PDD device.
- Return SCBA / PPE in service.
- 60 minutes total time



## Basic Training Program Session 2

### Search and Rescue

Before a search can be conducted, priorities must be established.

Determine order of search areas, the areas most severely threatened by fire and the potential locations for large victim numbers are considerations for establishing and prioritizing search operations.

Immediate fire area and fire floor are the primary search areas. Next is the one floor directly above the fire spread.

Two main objectives in conducting a structural search: searching for life and assessing fire conditions.

Control the door and the flow path of air into and out of the structure.

Check door temperatures, watch for fire spread and have an exit strategy.

If it's hot get down / if it's not stay up.

Stay in contact with a wall.

Rapidly move through room making sure you are searching the entire room / under furniture - behind furniture.

Monitor smoke-heat-fire conditions.

Remain oriented to the structure (count doorways - look for windows).

Carry and use a TIC.

Have a fully charged and operable hand lights.

Carry some kind of tool to widen your search pattern.

Communications with other search team members and command is essential to search safety.

Search teams consist of two with visual, voice or physical contact, utilizing the recognized techniques of wall contact and directional turns. A search pattern for a room is conducted in either a clockwise or counterclockwise direction, keeping consistent throughout the search and rescue operation.

If a victim is located notify command of location.

Request additional resources to facilitate removal.

120 minutes total time



## Basic Training Program Session 3

### Water Application - Fire Control

Demonstrate properly deploying a pre-connect to a front door of a structure.

Demonstrate properly loading a pre-connect on the apparatus.

Demonstrate making a forward lay of supply line from a hydrant.

Demonstrate properly turning on/off a hydrant.

Demonstrate the proper deployment of a skid load allowing for the maximum reach and smooth advancement of hand lines

Demonstrate and explain when to use a direct attack.

Demonstrate and explain when to use a combination attack.

Demonstrate and explain when to use an indirect attack.

Demonstrate and explain the use of a transitional attack.

Demonstrate the assembling and operation of a portable monitor off the apparatus.

Demonstrate the use of a portable monitor on the apparatus.

Demonstrate and explain the use of a portable monitor flowing 400 gpm.

180 minutes



*See page 40 for Basic Training Session 4*



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and

## Your Fire Department

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and your Fire Department Members

**PRIMARY ELECTIONS WILL BE ON TUESDAY MAY 5, 2026**  
**GENERAL ELECTIONS WILL BE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

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# Honoring our military

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

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



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



**MARINES**  
THE FEW. THE PROUD.

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

Basic Training Continued from page 37

# RATE SCHEDULE FOR INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

**Effective August 1, 2025**

The paper is tabloid size, published quarterly. Quarterly issues are printed for February, May, August and November. **ALL COPY MUST BE** in the hands of "The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter", c/o Buzz Koehler **BY THE 5TH OF THE MONTH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH OF PUBLICATION.**

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  - Color ads must be CMYK
  - Black & White ads must be Grayscale
  - All ads should be 300 dpi



## Basic Training Program Session 4 Engine Operations

- Properly position apparatus near hydrant and/or properly position fold-a-tank for drafting purposes.
  - Make a hydrant connection using LDH.
  - Perform all in-cab procedures to engage pump.
  - Exit the cab and deploy wheel chocks.
  - Pump correct pressures to 1 3/4" - 200' preconnects in length with a fog nozzle using tank water.
  - Pump correct pressures to 2 1/2" - 200' preconnects in length with a fog nozzle using tank water.
  - Switch from tank to hydrant for supplying water.
  - Switch from tank to drafting from fold-a-tank for supplying water.
  - Pump 3 - 2 1/2" handlines with a fog nozzle at the same nozzle pressure.
  - Lay lines and make connections for supplying another apparatus.
  - Demonstrate proper driving techniques on a road course a minimum of 5 miles long.
  - Perform preventive maintenance on apparatus using department checklist.
- 120 minutes



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