



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 71 NO. 4

Organized and Trained for the Protection of Life and Property

NOVEMBER 2022

From The President

David Israel



I would like to start off by saying THANK YOU to all of our members and the Departments that belong to the IVFA. "Thank You" for all that you do for your communities helping and supporting those that are in need. Peggy and I would like to say "Thank You" for all your kindness and support you have shared with us over the years. I will still be around as Chairman of the Board for a year or two and will still make district meetings. I have to say "Thanks" to our kids Jennifer and Juston and their families for taking care of what needed to be done at the times we were away. I hope we have made the right decisions in the direction of the IVFA. Jerry and Ross will take us to the next level in 2023, good luck, as they will soon find out there is more to running the IVFA than you think.

Hope you have had the opportunity to meet our new Fire Marshal Stephen Jones and DHS Director Joel Thacker and EMS Chief Medical Director Eric Yazel.

The A fff foam pickup is well on its way.

Keep in mind we are asking you to share your fire department story as to how it was formed. The form can be found on the IVFA website or from your District Chairman and we will put your department on the front page. We are also working on putting our 75th History book together.

I am going to close with thanking a few people, my Fire Chief Frank Hoban when I joined the FD; it was an honor to be able to present him with his 50 year Gold card; Bruce, thanks for the guidance when I became District 10 Chairman. One of my many mentors Jim Parker pushing me to run for VP (miss you buddy, thanks for everything you taught me). And the Past Presidents that helped me along the way and when I would call Zeeks and ask, "Hey what are doing?" He would say, "Now what you want?" (thank you, Jack). I can't forget Larry Curl, "Thank You" for

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New information for all IVFA and IVFAA members and advertisers for 2023

Due to a new editor for the *Indiana Volunteer Firefighter* newspaper, new contact information is as follows for all IVFA and IVFAA members and advertisers beginning with the February 2023 issue.

Please send all correspondence, (i.e.) news articles, photos and ads to the following **(NO faxes accepted)**:

The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter
c/o Sherri Chaney
573 S. Western Heights Loop
Monticello, IN 47960
Phone: (574) 870-5101
E-mail: IVFD@hurdmedia.com

Printco of Rensselaer, IN to step down as Editor

After 22 years as Editors of "The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter" Pam and Morris Barlow have decided to step down as Editor of the Association newspaper.

It is with great pride, as President of The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association, to present them with the 2022 *President's Award* for their service to the Association and to the Volunteer Firefighters throughout the great State of Indiana.

Many changes have taken place since their beginning as editor in 2000.

We have seen the paper go from black and red to some color and then to full color on every page. Other changes included headings for each district in the Association for their articles; working with two different people who were appointed as Editor's assistant, and getting the paper out on time.

We can never repay them for their hard work, dedication and love of volunteer firefighters but we certainly want to thank them and wish them well as they take the next step and enjoy each other and their family.

IVFA President - David Israel



The "President's Award" was presented to the Barlows of Rensselaer Printco on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at the Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured are Morris Barlow, Pamela Barlow and LeMoyne 'Buz' Koehler, past president of the IVFA and the editor's assistant. (Photo courtesy of Don Fultz, District 21 IVFA chairman).



Determined to Serve, Determined to Protect

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



FEBRUARY 2023 DEADLINE IS JANUARY 1, 2023

From the State House to the Fire House





by Larry Curl

Some "Political" talk and more
By Larry Curl,
IVFA Member and Lobbyist

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

Here we are, putting the Lobbyist's newspaper article together to share with everyone in the November edition of the IVFA paper.

First let me say our bitter sweet goodbye to our friends at Printco (the folks that have produced our newspaper for more years than I can count) as they have decided enough is enough and are going to "slow down a bit" with retirement in their future. It's with sadness and joy that we say goodbye and thanks for your many years of service to the IVFA, **happy retirement.**

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

We recently embarked upon an opportunity to take our Cost Savings Study on the road. You might remember reading about this in the last newspaper. What a road trip it has been. First we chose to deliver our message in every IVFA PR Area, which is six and after the first one realized we needed to rethink the areas and we chose to break each PR Area into half, meaning we would eventually end up presenting in 11 locations.

We attempted (and hope we did) reach out to every Volunteer Fire Department in the State as well as every township trustee and all 150 members of the Indiana General Assembly. Our goal was to bring

together as many of those folks as we could to share and discuss three major topics that drive the effectiveness of our volunteer fire systems, Staffing, Funding, and Training.

At the end of those conversations we introduced or shared the "Cost Savings Study" of which every member department should have a printed copy of (it is also on-line now on our website). Our goal is to share with everyone the "tax avoidance" we create for the taxpayers in Indiana. We want to share with every taxpayer in the State of Indiana that because you're your service they are saving \$4.5 BILLION in tax dollars annually.

By the reading of this article we hope to have completed all 11 meeting locations and be well into putting together our findings to once again share with our members and our elected officials. **STANDBY.**

So what's next? Glad you ask. We believe providing a volunteer service is the duty and responsibility of every member of our association, every elected official in our state, and lastly every taxpayer.

As I shared with you in our last article we've talked about what it takes to provide a quality service, the need for staffing and funding. The many opportunities we have and the opportunities we need to build a stronger, better staffed, well funded Volunteer Fire Service in Indiana, and that dream is still alive at least in my eyes.

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

Our next adventure is with Dr. Carolyn Muegge, a Research Scientist with the National Institute for Public Safety Health who is working with the IVFA to present an opportunity for many of our members to participate in a cancer study. We have appointed a review committee to look over the survey and determine if more or less should be included. Once the review committee finalizes their part Dr. Muegge will then put the final study in electronic version and we will do a random selection of our members to participate in this desperately needed, ever so valuable study to help us (the volunteers) determine how we are effected by the causes of so many types of cancers.

Or ask; once again is if you are selected in this random selection; please, please complete the survey if not for you maybe for your family or another member of our service. We need your help in getting a survey done about **Cancer in the Volunteer Fire Service.**

Remember the Purdue Global offer of a reduced cost on tuition for a Bachelor Degree as well as a FREE associate degree from IVY Tech is also still on the table. Please take full advantage of either or both. They are two very good benefits for being or becoming a volunteer firefighter and serving your community. Both can be found on our website or contact any officer of the IVFA for more information.

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

Visit the IVFA website often to stay in touch, in tune and informed and up- to-date about the IVFA and

legislation for 2022. **Being informed is an IVFA Member responsibility.**

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

Remember I am but a phone call, email, text away should you have a question or concern about anything I have shared with you, or fire service related concerns you might have.

Welcome to winter 2022!!!

Larry

From the Editors

Dear IVFA members and IVFAA members,

This is such a bittersweet time for us!

We have decided it is time to "slow down a little bit". Twenty-two years has been a long time for us as editors.

The November 2022 IVFA paper will be our last issue.

We don't quite know where all of those years went but they have passed quickly, it seems!

At first when we were approached by some of the IVFA members to take over the paper, I (Pam) was uncertain if I could do it and by golly, here it is 22 years later!

In the beginning, we worked with Mitch Parish and Jim Bradford, two great gentlemen, as editor's assistants.

After their passing, I have had the pleasure of working with Buz Koehler, as editor's assistant and who has been a long time friend, as well.

We are going to miss you so much Buz!!

We both worked at the Rensselaer Republican previously, Morris for 35 years and Pam for 25 years, so we knew a "little something" about newspapers and the layout and composition of a paper.

I have so enjoyed creating the paper each quarter and tried to come up with new ideas each year as to how I could improve upon the layout and make it look especially nice for you, the members.

In the beginning, the paper was red and black and there were

only so many pages that color could be placed on because of the printing press. Then it got to the point where full color could be printed, but then again, so many pages could have full color; then it came about that the entire paper could have full color on each and every page - due to a new press at the *The Paper*. I was so "overjoyed" hearing that news -- I could finally do more with the look of the paper and have "more freedom, so to speak". I then decided to start adding more artwork throughout the paper to "kinda spruce it up a bit"!

Also in the beginning the paper was (I believe) 20+ pages and has since grown to 40 pages with 2 sections.

I hope the changes that I have made throughout these 22 years have been good ones.

All of the volunteer firefighters -- men and women -- have been so kind to us throughout this time with all of your compliments and kind words and thanking us for "all that we do for you" and telling us what a "great job we do."

We have met some of you throughout the years, have spoken on the phone and through e-mails. We wish we could have been able to meet more people.

I would like to especially take this time to thank Ski and Pam Gerdowsky for your kindness throughout the years with all of the cards that you sent to me. I loved every one of them and thought that it was so kind and thoughtful that you took the time

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WHEN SECONDS COUNT, THESE 2 HOURS MATTER.

2023 INPAA TRAINING SCHEDULE

January 9 Shipshewana 5:30 p.m. EST	January 10 Plymouth 5:30 p.m. EST	January 11 Michigan City 12:00 p.m. CST	January 12 Merrillville 12:00 p.m. CST	January 17 Lafayette 5:30 p.m. EST	January 18 Kokomo 12:00 p.m. EST	January 19 Wabash 5:30 p.m. EST	January 23 Fort Wayne 5:30 p.m. EST	January 24 Muncie 5:30 p.m. EST	January 25 Indianapolis 12:00 p.m. EST
January 26 Danville 5:30 p.m. EST	January 31 Covington 5:30 p.m. EST	February 1 Terre Haute 5:30 p.m. EST	February 2 Bloomington 5:30 p.m. EST	February 7 Richmond 5:30 p.m. EST	February 8 Lawrenceburg 5:30 p.m. EST	February 9 Starlight 5:30 p.m. EST	February 14 Odon 5:30 p.m. EST	February 15 Huntingburg 5:30 p.m. EST	February 16 Evansville 5:30 p.m. CST

To learn more about INPAA's Emergency Official Meetings visit INPAA.org/emergency-officials.

'editor'

(continued from page 2)

to send them to me for your appreciation as to what I did for the paper.

We are going to miss all of you!

We would like to take this time to tell all of you how honored, proud and blessed we are that we were chosen to be a part of the "IVFA family!"

The *President's Award* is such a great honor for us. Thank you, David!!

In closing, we would like to once again thank each of you for your kindness to us through 22 years.

We wish everyone a "Happy Thanksgiving", "Merry Christmas" and a very blessed and prosperous "New Year" and ask God to bless you and your families!

The volunteer firefighters are the GREATEST people ever!!

All of our love to each and every one,

Pamela and Morris Barlow
Rensselaer Printco

'chaplain'

(continued from page 3)

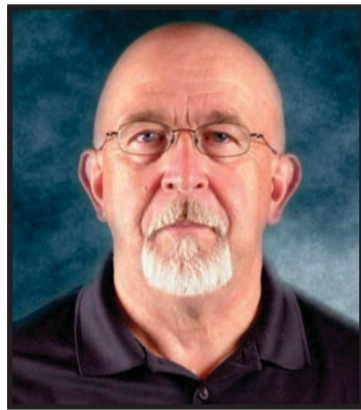
means we are weak or unfit to do the job. It is often assumed that because first responders signed up for the job that we knew what came with it and were prepared to handle the trauma. However, we have a responsibility to each other to watch out for each other, be there for each other because we never want to leave someone behind. That is the great thing about being first responder we have been

trained to save others and that includes ourselves.

As we venture to the end of this year and continue to answer the tones as they drop; my hope and prayer is that this somber article helps reach someone, opens hearts and minds, breaks stigmas, and makes sure that we all make it home to our loved ones; whole and not overwhelmed, and in control to celebrate the change of seasons, holidays, and to usher in a new year of 2023. Together we can make a difference, and it all starts with you. Take care and may God bless you and your family. Thank you for answering the call to serve others; just don't forget yourself in the process.

From The Vice-President

Jerry Liston



Greetings IVFA Members!

Wow, November already. I hope everyone had a good summer and was able to spend

quality time, whether it was with family or friends. The Liston family was able to spend some quality time in beautiful northern Minnesota, or as my wife, Maureen, fondly calls it, God's Country, back in June right after our State Convention. I am always thankful our daughters, Emilee and Brenna want to go on a vacation with their old, and getting older parents, and to continue a tradition that my wife's family started back in the 1970s. Enough with the sappy stuff.

Good news, we are getting closer to pushing out an electronic cancer survey to our members. The IVFA has been working with Dr. Carolyn Muegge and her team at the National Institute of Public Safety Health. A committee made up of IVFA members and individuals from outside the IVFA has reviewed the survey, made comments, and even suggested revisions. The next step is for Dr. Muegge and her team to finalize the survey, put it in the final necessary format, and complete other necessary requirements on their end to be able to push out the electronic survey to those randomly selected members. Yes, I said randomly selected members, and not to all members. If we would survey all 14,000 members, it would take a response of 70 percent back from the membership. Let's face it, we all know that will not happen; therefore, that is why we are randomly selecting members to participate in this groundbreaking survey for our association.

Doing a random selection allows the response percentage number to be much lower and still allows Dr. Muegge and her team to obtain the required information to finish and publish the results of the survey. If you or someone on your department is selected to participate in the survey it is extremely important that you complete the survey in a timely manner when directed to the link.

I have been reading articles on strategic planning. I know that sounds boring doesn't it and to be truthful on the matter it is. Though, the more I investigate this subject, the more I am becoming a firm believer that volunteer departments should have some form of a strategic plan in place for their departments, members, and citizens.

Does your department have a strategic plan? If not, your department, no matter the size, needs one. If your department has a plan, the plan should include a goal of fostering community partnerships. These partnerships provide opportunities for department growth by creating allies in problem solving, innovation, expanded resources, funding, increased community trust and even help with recruitment and retention efforts for your department. Partnerships

between departments and the community may allow the fire and medical services to draw on community assets as a cost-effective way to meet operational needs. An example would be establishing a partnership with a local farm or construction company in your area that may lead to the use of heavy equipment during an emergency. Another example is putting apparatus or equipment replacement into the plan or providing other information, such as, new capital building projects timelines or where the department's leadership wants to be in 3 to 5 years, or even 10 years? Plans can be simple, or they can be complex, regardless your department needs to have one in place to provide guidance and oversight.

Since July, the IVFA leadership and IVFA Lobbyist, Larry Curl, has been conducting a series of meetings in the six IVFA Public Relation areas of the state. Invitations were sent out to all departments, trustees and local and state elected officials in each PR area.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this in early November we will have completed all eleven required meetings. Why eleven meetings, the first meeting was held in PRNE. We learned from that one meeting of the need to hold two or more meetings in the other PR areas.

The purpose of the meetings has been to discuss the Cost Savings Study commissioned and completed by the IVFA back in 2020 by the American Economics Group out of Alexandria, Virginia. The primary discussion topic has been how the Volunteer Fire Service in the State of Indiana saves Indiana taxpayers 4.5 billion dollars annually by providing the service they do across the state. The meetings were held to gather information about the critical needs of the volunteer fire service pertaining to staffing, funding and training. After the completion of the meetings an After Action Report will be completed and shared with the members and elected officials.

It is time to start thinking about nominating a deserving individual for one of the several IVFA awards. More information about the awards can be found at www.ivfa.org. The award nominations are due by February 1, 2023. Nominations for the four Bridgeport scholarships are due March 1, 2023.

The IVFA has identified two individuals with seventy-five years of membership. Considering our association has been around seventy-seven years I find this to be remarkable and just downright cool. The IVFA is in the process of recognizing these two individuals in Districts 3 and 9A. More information will be forthcoming on these two individuals.

The State is still collecting PFAS foam across the State of Indiana through their PFAS Foam Collection Initiative. PFAS is classified as a forever chemical. PFAS is a nasty chemical that has been proven to cause cancer in firefighters. If your department has this type of

foam, go to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security website, and fill out the form on the website. The State has a contractor that will come pick up the foam at no cost to the department and dispose of it properly. PFAS foam can no longer be used on fire suppression or used in training scenarios. Approximately 14,000 gallons of the 30,000 gallons registered on the State's website has been collected from departments.

In closing, an era is ending for our Association. Back in the Spring the IVFA leadership was told the business that prints this paper, *Rensselaer Printco*, would be "slowing down a bit" with retirement in their future. This will be the last paper to be edited and printed at *Printco*. On behalf of the IVFA leadership and members, I thank Morris and Pamela Barlow for their many years of dedicated and faithful service printing the IVFA newspaper for our members. Enjoy the next chapter in your lives.

Stay safe!

Jerry L. Liston
Vice President

Public Relations Director East Central

Jeff Biehl



Greetings,

I would like to thank Larry Curl & Steve Anderson for the town hall type meeting to discuss the cost savings book the IVFA had done. All the other topics that were discussed also. We had a good turnout for the morning session, a couple legislators, several trustees, and a great turnout of firefighters

The afternoon session was less attended but still had a lot of good discussion.

Hope to see everybody next year in Muncie for the 77th convention hosted by 13B registration & hotel information is on the website ivfa.org

Please continue to put your fund-raising events & meetings on the IVFA calendar and your Facebook pages; that's how I hear about these activities and try to attend them.

If you need help don't hesitate, call your District Chairman, Public Relations Officer or any other State Officer, we will be glad to help you.

Jeff Biehl
Public Relations East Central

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORTS

Public Relations Director Southwest
Steve Nolan



Greetings,
I hope this finds everyone well at this time, with the COVID raising its ugly head again.
I have attended 2 district meetings and visited 1 fire department, attended a 50 year service award, a MacQueen Award, a fire truck dedication, and 2 Memorials.
I have scheduled October the 29th for meetings on preserving and improving our Volunteer Fire Service. One at 9 a.m. at Martin County Civil Defense Building and one at 2 p.m. at Oakland City Fire Department.
Remember, only you can protect yourself from CANCER and the COVID. Please clean your gear and trucks after every run and get your COVID vaccine shots.

Steve Nolan,
Southwest Public Relations Director

Public Relations Director Northwest
Jeremy Reef



Hello Everyone,
I missed the last newspaper; so, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be the Public Relations officer for the Northwest again this year. I enjoy seeing everyone and seeing the different fire departments at all the district meetings.
I have been to several department's fundraisers and look forward to making many more. It is always great to connect with each department for some fellowship &

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

I would like to thank everyone who attended the PRNW cost survey round table meeting event. I would like to especially thank LaCrosse Fire Dept & Rensselaer Fire Dept. for hosting the events. An additional thank you to our Lobbyist Larry Curl and President-Elect Jerry Liston for running the events.

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

Happy Holidays from my family to yours!
Stay safe out there.

Jeremy Reef
IVFA PRNW

Public Relations Director Northeast
Jean Smith



I attended the Ultimate First Responder Event at New Haven. A great event on a beautiful day! The First Responder Event was a big success. Over 130 units participated in the parade. The event included 5K Run, Bagpipers, Honor Guard, Trade Center Beam, New and Antique Apparatus, Demonstrations, Displays, Live Props, Competitions, Kid's Activities, Flea Market and many more events. A great opportunity to meet and greet with fellow firefighters that I haven't seen in awhile.

Once again, we start Fire Prevention Week October 9th-15th. This year's theme is "Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape". This is the perfect time to educate and talk with your community about fire safety including testing alarms, changing the batteries or upgrading

to 10-year sealed battery alarms, knowing how to use a fire extinguisher and escape plan routing. We need to do fire prevention the year round; not only in Fire Prevention Week.

Governor Holcomb has announced Stephen Jones as new state Fire Marshal. His position started August 29th. Joel Thacker is now the executive director of Homeland Security.

I am looking forward to meeting you at your district meetings and working with you. If you need any assistance, please contact me, your Public Relations Representative or your District Chairman.

Jean Smith
Public Relations Northeast

I.V.F.A. DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT 1 & 2 REPORT



Marshall Neese - Chairman

Meeting of Districts 1 & 2 was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by District Chairman Marshall Neese.

Pledge to the flag of the United States of America was given by all in attendance.

Roll call was held. District 1 had 17 members, District 2 had 3 members, 6 guests also.

Introduction of Guests: V.P. Jerry Liston, State Legislator Larry Curl, President of IVFAA, Phyllis Vargo of Districts 1 & 2 and Miss Flame Mia Cheseman and Mrs. Curl from the IVFAA Ladies' Auxiliary and Micah Bell from Porter Co. Search and Rescue and Porter Co. Arson Investigator Douglas Murfitt, Fire Chief Eric Kurtz of the hosting department gave a brief history of the department and welcome to his department and thanked the IVFA for support.

Minutes of the last meeting were not available.

Communications:

Fundraiser for Griffith F.D. at 912 Avenue 202 West Ridge Rd. in Griffith, IN. from 12 noon til 3:00 p.m. a Chili cook-off, November 5, 2022.

Pancake Breakfast at Lakes of Four Season F.D. on Oct. 16, 2022 from 7 a.m. to Noon.

Larry Curl spoke on what was happening at the State Level in the Statehouse.

Jerry Liston, V.P. spoke on what's going on in the IVFA.

Phyllis Vargo spoke about Miss Flame info.

Deaths in the District:

Fred Martin from Kouts F.D. and Chief Raymond Wesley from Porter F.D.

Meeting adjournment of meeting 8:30p.m.

**February 2023
Deadline is
January 1, 2023**



Fire Marshal Flashpoint

by Steve Jones
State Fire Marshal



In April 2022, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS)/Indiana State Fire Marshal launched a life-safety initiative to collect and properly dispose of firefighting foam containing Per and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS), a known carcinogen linked to four of the top eight cancers most prevalent in firefighters.

Through a partnership with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, more than 17,000 gallons of PFAS foam since have been collected and set for safe disposal. The effort continues to be successful, yet [the program has the capacity](#) to help even more departments dispose of this material and keep their firefighters safe from proven health risks.

Before science began to link this foam to health risks in firefighters, some departments stockpiled these chemicals to be ready when a Class B fire (hazardous chemicals) ignited in their community. A significant challenge now; however, is that these types of fires (that require the use of foam) rarely occur in most of our state. Now, many departments that once rushed to purchase the latest and greatest PFAS foam now are faced with storage issues of decaying containers of foam or trucks packed full of PFAS material and no place to put it. In 2020, Indiana banned the use of PFAS foam for any training purposes, putting departments that continue to use this chemical at risk of a lawsuit for groundwater contamination caused by the runoff of foam deployment.

The foam is expensive to dispose of properly, a primary reason Indiana entered a contract with US Ecology to dispose of the foam according to the latest environmental standards. The beauty of this Class B Foam Collection Initiative is fire departments have an opportunity to get this service [for free](#) simply by [completing and survey](#) and helping to arrange a convenient time for pickup. No questions asked. This is completely free of charge.

No, the state currently does not have funding to replace the foam you have in inventory. However, funding dedicated to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) can be used to collectively purchase PFAS-free, replacement foam. Like mutual aid agreements, adjacent departments can combine funds to purchase foam that can be on standby for several area departments when needed.

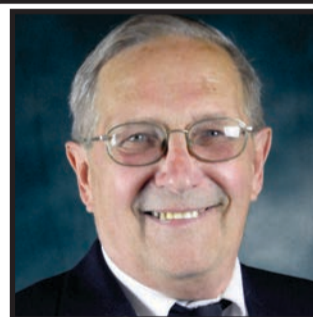
The health risks associated with PFAS foam require us to think out of the box when it comes to Class B fire protection and begin to prioritize the safety of men and women who answer the call each day. Indiana's foam collection initiative is one way to help slow the rising trend of fallen firefighters diagnosed with cancer because of the sacrifices they made to public safety.

All departments with PFAS foam are encouraged to [complete the collection survey](#) and begin the process of ridding Indiana of this dangerous product. The annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service on Sept. 29 serves as stark reminder of this harsh reality as we add additional names to the fallen due to the health risks of this profession.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal is absolutely committed to helping Indiana firefighters stay healthy, and this program is one of the ways to fulfill that commitment to you."

Steve Jones
Indiana State Fire Marshal

DISTRICT 3 REPORT



Bob Uryga Sr. - Chairman

IVFADISTRICT 3
September 22, 2022

Called to order at 7:15 by Chairman Bob Uryga at Kankakee Twp. Vol. Fire Department.

Kankakee Chief Eldon Winters led the pledge to the flag.

Roll was called showing 17 members present representing 6 departments.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was made and approved.

Chairman Uryga spoke about the aging of volunteers and what might be done to attract more and younger volunteers.

There will be a meeting open to all and all are invited to attend at LaCrosse VFD on Saturday, October 1 at 9:00 A.M. Our lobbyist Larry Curl, Township Trustees and State Representatives will be there.

There was a discussion about the minimum time that is required for new applicants that could be one reason it is difficult to get new recruits.

Chairman Uryga gave out 10 year pins to 8 Kankakee firefighters:

Present were: Eldon Winters, Daniel Holmquest, Tom Newby, Steven Volel.

Not present were: Cody Houseknecht, David Kazmierzak, Michael Levendowski, Tody Tarnow.

Steve Marvel, Springfield Twp. Chief was presented with

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I.V.F.A. DISTRICT MEETINGS

- district 3'

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the MacQueen Award.

Next meeting will be November 17 at Lincoln Twp.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00. 50/50 was \$32.00.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Bradford – Secretary

DISTRICT 6 REPORT



Jerry Sprague - Chairman

Greetings from District 6, Greetings everyone. Hello to all from up here in the northeast. It has cooled off considerably up here in the northeast! Hope everyone has had a safe Summer.

Need to thank the Ligonier VFD for hosting the District 6 meeting in July and the Cleveland Twp. VFD for hosting the District 6 meeting in September. Your hospitality was greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to Terry Bradner of 1-800 Board-up for attending and supplying a lunch for us at both of these meetings. Congratulations go out to our 2022 District 6 Miss Flame, Kaylee Knight from Noble Township Volunteer Fire Department. She has done a wonderful job representing District 6 at this summer's events. Kudos Katie! Please let her know about department events so she can attend. She is on Facebook!

The next meeting for District 6 will be on November 22nd, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. It will be tentatively held at the Washington Twp. Fire Department in Allen County. Flyers should go out the first week of November. It will also be on the IVFA website on the calendar. (ivfa.org) We will be having our Miss Flame judging at this meeting. Please bring your candidates to the meeting.

There will be an open house/station dedication at the Ligonier Fire Department on November 5th from 10:00 A.M. till 4:00 P.M. Come and help celebrate our new station. Dedication will be at 10:30 A.M. Your attendance will be welcomed and appreciated.

Again, it would be great to see better attendance at our District 6 meetings. Come on guys and gals. It is only one night every other month! There may be a few departments that are not receiving the meeting fliers. Please take the time to send your department's email address to spiralawn@ligtel.com. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22nd, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. All District 6 departments should have received a flyer on the meetings. If any of the departments or individual firefighters in District 6 have problems or concerns, please call or e-mail me. I will do my level best to help you out. Better yet, bring them to our next meeting on November 22nd. Please visit the IVFA website (ivfa.org) as I am hoping the meetings for District 6 will be posted. STAY SAFE!!

E.G.H.

Jerry Sprague (Spook),
District 6 Chairman

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWS, PHOTOS, ADS BEGINNING WITH FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE OF THE IVFA PAPER IS IVFD@hurdmedia.com

DISTRICT 7 REPORT



Sam Bisel - Chairman

Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association
District #7
May 16, 2022
Bluffton Volunteer Fire Department

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bisel at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Bisel led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

First roll was called with 13 members present representing 9 departments.

March minutes were read and approved by the members.

Guests: Jean Smith PRNE and Larry Curl, lobbyist for the IVFA.

Chairman Bisel thanked the Bluffton Department for hosting and providing a great lasagna meal that those present enjoyed.

Sam attended the Poe breakfast and gave out (3) 50 year cards.

Attended quarterly meeting two weeks ago. He wants to stress everyone have their correct address and email at the IVFA. There are now 14,300 members in the IVFA and 700 life members.

Discussed the SAVVIK group. They reach out to many suppliers of emergency equipment and negotiate a reduced price for a quantity and then they pass the savings on to departments if they are in need of such equipment.

Reminded everyone that the convention is next month in Evansville, he also announced that next year's convention will be in Muncie, much closer to all of District 7.

When submitting claims for damaged clothing he needs all information, run sheets and any other pertinent information available.

A member inquired about when the Bridgeport Scholarships would be awarded. Sam stated that all those who submitted applications should have already been notified.

Jean Smith, PRNE, provided a couple handouts in reference to electric and hybrid vehicle fires.

They cover the dangers of these vehicles, how to attack them, and safety measures.

He also brought a few books put out by the National Volunteer Fire Council. It's called the Lavender Ribbon Report. It contains a great amount of information on preventing firefighter cancer.

Larry Curl, IVFA lobbyist, provided handout in reference to the public safety bills that were passed in the legislature this year. There were 30 public safety bills proposed this year with 9 being passed that may impact our services. He went over a few specific points in some of those bills.

Discussion of how volunteerism is down statewide. Bluffton chief commented on issues he is having

in getting and keeping volunteers on his department. Larry stated going to start an aggressive promotion to understand the value of the volunteers. Hopefully in the next legislative session they want to present a comparison of the National Guard to the volunteer departments. The NG has significant benefits doing basically the same type of work.

Stated there isn't a whole lot of interest in township consolidation at this time.

Chairman Bisel made mention that in the IVFA paper there is a section where it features a department.

He would like to see District 7 represented sometime. He has the applications needed to use if any department is interested.

District 7 needs a Miss Flame; however it is too late this year. There was a young lady present that is interested in Miss Flame next year, her name is Katelyn Lothridge, age 16. Her parents are Patty and Tony Lothridge. She would represent Geneva Fire Department. She is a student at South Adams.

Sam will use sign-up sheet to register for the gas card. The last one was given to District 6.

Next district meeting will be July 18th at Chester Township.

General Information - Poe pork loin on Friday, May 20;

Chicken drive-thru at Hoagland and an auction on the 17th or 18th.

Second roll call answered by 13 members representing 9 departments.

Meeting adjourned.

Wendell Brown
Acting District 7 Secretary

Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association
District 7
July 18, 2022
Chester Township Volunteer Fire Department

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bisel at 7:42 p.m. Chairman Bisel led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

First roll call was answered by 17 members representing 9 departments.

May Minutes R/A.

GUEST: Jean Smith – PRNE.

Chairman Bisel – Thanks to Chester Township and Chief Jody Nuesbaumer for hosting the meeting.

There were no deaths in the district since the last meeting.

Read 2023 state officers and award winners from convention.

There will be a survey coming out soon concerning cancer in volunteer firefighters. If you get the survey, please take a moment and fill it out. It is important to gather this information so we can move forward and justify presumptive cancer legislation.

The IVFA has signed a contract with the SAVVIK Group. It is a volume buying group that can save you money on equipment and supply purchases as well as giving the IVFA a small reward.

Attended Cost Savings Seminar on July 9th. It was fairly

well attended with representation across area.

Jean Smith, PRNE – Cost Savings Seminar had a diverse attendance. 22 departments were represented. A few take aways from the seminar were: (1) it is very important to have open communication between the fire departments and their township trustee and board. (2) Looking at possibly hosting FF I&II classroom locally and then travel to a central test site for skills. And (3) make use of the 30-hour class as a way to get people involved in your department in other ways than strictly fire suppression.

Past President Steve Anderson is wanting to compile base cost of fire department's budgets. If you get asked, please provide the information. It is going to be used to compile information for budgetary concerns to be addressed with the state. May look at ways to fund FF I&II classes in each county as a way to get the classes offered locally to prevent travel concerns.

Attendees at the seminar had various ideas and suggestions that they shared as to what has worked and has not worked for them in their areas.

Chairman Bisel – The state foam pick up program is beginning in our area.

Something that Sam picked up from the seminar is how departments in a county went together under one insurance policy. It was able to save money for all departments.

Chris Broderick is the new Indiana State Fire Investigator in our area.

Fire Marshal Joel Thacker got a promotion and is now IDHS Director Thacker.

Marshal Thacker is very open to getting out and attending your meetings so as to make open communications.

Convention next year will be in Muncie and Indianapolis in 2024.

If you have a young lady in your department interested in running for district Miss Flame, let Sam know.

At the convention Memorial Service there is Rose Ceremony honoring the fallen of our Association. Sam has the roses for Chester Twp. and will get the roses to the rest of the departments.

Curious how much money your township has left in the budget for firefighting? GOOGLE Indiana Gateway and look up your township. It has public budget information available.

If you have a clothing claim, get in touch with Sam and he can help you get it filed.

Department membership dues packets are due in by the end of the month. Please double check addresses and beneficiaries of memberships.

LODD statistics (1) is heart disease, (2) suicide and (3) is cancer.

Wells Co. is starting a peer support group for responders who may be struggling. Please keep an eye on not only your members but members of other

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DISTRICT 5 REPORT



John Grolsch - Chairman

I.V.F.A. 5th District Meeting
September 8, 2022
Atwood Fire Dept.
Atwood, IN

Refreshments were served by the host department prior to the meeting.

GUESTS:

Kay Shumaker, IVFAA District 5 Chairwoman,

E.J. Smith, Vice President IVFAA.

The meeting was called to order by PRNE Jean Smith at 1935 hours with the pledge of allegiance to the flag following. The meeting was attended by 6 firefighters representing 3 departments. July minutes were read and approved as submitted.

Jean advised us that the new Indiana State Fire Marshal is Steven Jones from Brownsburg Fire Territory and Marshal Thacker now is the Executive Director of Indiana Homeland Security.

Jean discussed railroad accidents and that ALL railroad crossings should have a blue I.D. sign with the crossing number and emergency phone number on it.

Remarked that the old firefighting foam is being scheduled to be picked up.

We discussed the charging and fire fighting of electric vehicles. 5,000 to 8,000 gallons of water minimum is needed to fight an electric vehicle fire.

Kosciusko Cty Fish Fry at fairgrounds Sept. 15.

Fish Fry Sept. 24 sponsored by Etna Green F.D. at Hawthorn Park.

Next meeting November 10, 2022 @ Argos FD with Miss Flame judging.

Meeting was adjourned at 2025 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Martin, Secretary



I.V.F.A. DISTRICT MEETINGS

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departments as well as medics and law enforcement. We are all in this together.

988 is the new National Suicide Assistance number.

Chairman Bisel turned the meeting over to Jean Smith, PRNE to conduct elections.

Jean opened elections for chairman. Sam Bisel and Richard Sorg were nominated.

Sam Bisel elected District 7 Chairman.

For Vice-Chairman Len Smith was nominated. No further nominations, Len Smith, District 7 Vice-Chairman.

For Secretary Richard Sorg nominated. No further nominations Richard Sorg District 7 Secretary.

Next district meeting will be at Decatur September 19.

Berne has a breakfast during Swiss Days July 30.

Second roll call answered by 20 members representing 9 departments.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Richard Sorg
District 7 Secretary

Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's
Association
District 7
September 19, 2022
Decatur Fire Department

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bisel at 7:36 p.m. Chairman Bisel led the body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

First roll call was answered by 36 members representing 8 departments.

July Minutes R/A.

GUESTS: Jeremy Reef - PRNW, TR Haggerty - District 3 Program Director and Christina Reef, IVFAA President.

Chairman Bisel thanked Decatur FD for hosting the meeting tonight and preparing the meal.

Introduced our guests.

Christina Reef, IVFAA President - The IVFAA is available to all departments in the state. Please reach out to myself or Kristy Bisel, Dist. 7 Chairman if your department has an auxiliary or is interested in forming one.

Everyone is eligible to become an individual member of the IVFAA. It offers some of the same benefits that the IVFA offers as well as other rewards.

TR Haggerty, District 3 Program Director; newly appointed to this position. Please contact me with questions and/or concerns. I will try to help you with them or we will get directed to the person that can help us.

The state is working on rewriting the Driver Operator's course.

Make use of the 20 hour course that is available to get new people involved. This will include persons that just want to help be a part of the department.

Foam collection program is still underway in the state, contact them for a pick-up. A question was asked and yes they can help with removing the foam from the tanks on your rigs.

Contact us if you need help with

Image Trend or ACADIS. Would encourage departments to get reporting into the state and make use of the benefits that ACADIS offers.

Steve Jones is the newly-appointed Indiana State Fire Marshal. He is looking forward to getting out and about in the state and meeting people and departments.

Next week is the next offering of the Fire Chief's Academy at Plainfield.

Jeremy Reef, PRNW - This year the convention was held in Evansville, a good time was had. Next year's convention will be in Muncie. It is the first time in several years that it will be further north in the state. I would like to encourage your department to send delegates to convention. Each department is allowed up to three delegates. A delegate does not need to register or attend other convention offerings; they only need to be present at the annual business meeting. Please reach out with any suggestions that you may have that would help encourage attendance.

Your district is eligible to send a Miss Flame candidate to convention. Encourage departments in your district to promote this and get a young lady to represent your district next year.

The special projects committee is working on putting together a 75th Anniversary History Book of the IVFA. Please reach out if you have anything you would like to have submitted for the book and also if you are interested in purchasing a book.

Chairman Bisel - There were no deaths reported in the district since the last meeting.

Suicide is on the increase in the fire service. There are local, regional, state as well as national programs that are available to help. Please keep an eye out not only within your own department's members but other members as well. This is an issue with all first responders everywhere.

TR Haggerty shared his personal experience and stressed that help is available and that we usually need help long before we can acknowledge it to ourselves that we need assistance.

A cancer survey will be coming out from the IVFA. We are trying to better track cancer within our volunteer firefighters. If you receive the survey it is important that you complete it and return it to the IVFA so that information can be compiled. This is an attempt to put justification together to encourage the state to provide cancer benefits to our volunteer firefighters similar to what is already afforded to career firefighters.

SAVVIK Group is a purchasing group that is available to you through the IVFA. It is a volume purchasing group that can offer savings on department purchases. This is a free benefit to your department through the IVFA.

If you have any suggestions or concerns that you feel would help improve OUR organization, please contact Sam or any of the state officers. They are listed on our website IVFA.org

Sam Bisel presented 50 year

Gold Card and Proclamation to Wilbur "Willie" Dersch of Decatur FD. And also Gary Teeple is to receive his awards later this evening.

25 year members of Decatur FD awarded were Mitch Baumann and Jeremy Gilbert present, and Tim Geimer not present.

10 year members of Decatur FD awarded were Taylor Gage and Heath Fullenkamp present, and Darrell Drake and Bryan Braun not present.

Next district meeting will be at Geneva VFD November 21. It will be the district Miss Flame competition. Please reach out to Sam if you have a young lady within your department that is interested in running for Miss Flame.

Second roll call answered by 36 members representing 8 departments.

Hoagland has a First Responders Day coming up in September and Bingo Blitz also coming up. Their Christmas tree supplier is no longer supplying trees, so unsure of Christmas tree sales.

Poe Peanut Brittle will be available soon when weather permits.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Richard Sorg
District 7 Secretary

DISTRICT 8A REPORT



Rex Maynard - Chairman

Greetings from District 8A,

Our last district meeting was at Fairmount Volunteer Fire Department September 28, 2022.

Governor Eric Holcomb has named Brownsburg Fire Territory Fire Marshal Stephen Jones as the new Indiana State Fire Marshal.

The MacQueen Award was presented to Chuckwagon Pizza, Swayzee, Indiana. I presented six Life-Saving Awards to Lapel Stoney Creek Fire Territory.

We are looking for a Miss Flame candidate for 2023. I need all MacQueen Award nominations by January meeting.

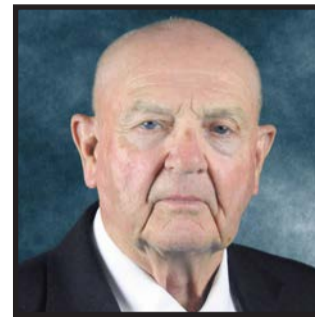
The 2023 Convention is at the Courtyard Marriott Muncie at the Horizon Convention Center June 13-17, 2023.

Hope to see lots of District 8A people there since it's out our back door. The next District 8A meeting is at Duck Creek VFD, Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

Rex Maynard
District 8A Chairman



DISTRICT 10 REPORT



John Ray - Chairman

Greetings from District 10,

Congratulations to Firefighter Nick Boling who was presented the MacQueen Award for District 10. He was the recipient in recognition of his rescue efforts of kayakers as they were being swept away in swift river current.

Five fallen fighter families were honored with roses from the 2022 Convention Memorial Service. Those honored were: Claude McCorkle, Anderson Twp.; James Parker, Franklin Twp.; Donald Creech, Waldron Fire Dept.; Joe Stucker, Fairland Fire Dept.; and Donald Wilmer, Marion Twp.

August District meeting was at Adams Fire Dept. Elections were held and Jim Davis was re-elected Secretary and John Ray re-elected Chairman. Chuck Gunter, Field Program Manager for the Fire Marshal's office gave information on programs being offered by the Marshal's office and DHS.

I attended the resource meeting at Posey Twp. with Larry Curl about the future of Volunteer Fire Service. There were 55 firefighters, Trustees and Legislators in attendance. Thoughts were shared regarding what the Trustees wanted from fire departments in order to better fund them. They emphasized that departments need to come and ask for help and show why that assistance is needed. Discussion was also held on recruitment and retention, as well as training needed. Also noted that it might be more feasible to do training locally.

September District meeting was at Greensburg Fire Dept. Discussion on the tax saving meeting was led by East Central PR Jeff Biehl. Greensburg Asst. Chief Brian Wenning spoke about the pink engine they have to bring attention to the fight for breast cancer. He noted the wife of one of their own members has breast cancer. Asst. Chief Wenning also spoke about the other new engines and equipment they have.

Please think about members for the Awards that the IVFA has. Those nominees need to be in by February 1, 2023. Does your department have a young lady between 14 and 18 years old who might like to become MISS FLAME for District 10? You can go to the IVFA website at: ivfa.org, for Miss Flame competition forms, awards, dates of meeting and other pertinent information.

The next District 10 meeting will be on November 16 at Amity Fire & Rescue, located at 3274 S. 550 E. on St. Rd. 31 at

Amity, IN.

The first meeting for year 2023 will be January 18 at Rushville Twp.

As the autumn leaves begin to fall, and we are in the midst of harvest season, please be alert for large equipment on the roads and have a safe, fire free harvest.

John M. Ray
District 10 IVFA Chairman

DISTRICT 11A REPORT



Pete Taylor - Chairman

Greetings from District 11A,

Our last district meeting was a joint picnic with 11A and 11B. We met at Montezuma Park and had a great day. It rained at first on the way there but before we were done the sun came out and it was beautiful.

We have attended several fundraisers and meetings. I have conducted four memorial services and presented 10 and 25 year pins.

FDIC will be April 24 - 29 in Indianapolis.

If you haven't paid your dues, they are due.

It's never too early to nominate awards for people. February 1st is the deadline but never hurts to have your name submitted. Every department has members worthy of awards. Information is on the IVFA website.

We held a PR round table meeting at Van Buren Fire Dept. on August 20th. It was very productive. We had Senators and Trustees present along with news media.

Stephen Jones has been selected as the new State Fire Marshal. Joel Thacker was appointed as the Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Home Security.

Our next meeting is November 20, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at Posey Twp.

Hope to see you there!
Till next time Stay Safe!

Pete Taylor
District 11A chairman

DISTRICT 11B REPORT



Jason Ryan - Chairman

Well, as we wrap up the summer of 2022, I hope everyone has had a safe year so far. Things are going strong for the IVFA and hopefully looking up and moving forward with the

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work going on in the organization.

We held the July meeting on Sunday, July 10th at the Newport Lions Club, with Newport Volunteer Fire hosting us. Would like to thank them for the excellent meal they offered, the chicken they had was so good I had to track down the recipe, thanks Taylor!!

Roll call was 3 departments and 7 members. State officers present were State Lobbyist Larry Curl, State Sgt. Of Arms Brent Bush, Vice President / President-elect Jerry Liston and Vice President-elect Ross Emery.

Minutes were read and approved from the last meeting, Larry Bartlow gave the treasurer's report, the account has \$5393.13 in it after the Coatesville account was closed. Upcoming fundraisers were discussed.

Larry discussed past legislation, benefit packages and Joel Thacker moving up to the Executive Director of IDHS. Also discussed about the upcoming PRWC meetings on August 6th.

Ross introduced himself and talked about getting membership to fill out for awards for the convention, all forms are online.

Jerry spoke about the cancer survey that the organization is working on, brought up that the organization is working with the Savvik buying group, wanting to know about any issues with the 30-hour training, and brought up dues that needed to be postmarked by July 31st.

After brief discussions and the completion of the Auxiliary meeting the 50/50 drawing was done with the winner getting \$28.

The next meeting will be Sunday, September 11 at Montezuma Ballpark which will be a combined picnic with District 11A.

Well, the weather wasn't the best for the picnic, it was a tad rainy but we want to thank everyone that did make it out for some conversation and excellent food. I would like to also give a great big thank you to Angie Ryan, Manager of Rockville Casey's General Store for the donation of 2 gift cards for the drawing along with some nice key chains from Joann Hayes of District 11A. I want to thank 11B Miss Flame Jordan Peebles and 11A Miss Flame Mollie Vanlannen for selling 50/50 tickets. Would like to thank Vice President Jerry Liston, Vice President-elect Ross Emery, IVFAA President Christina Reef, PRNW Jeremy Reef and District 21 Chairman Don Fultz for making the trip up and down to join us.

The next meeting for District 11B will be Sunday, November 6th at 1:00 p.m. at Reelsville VFD, this will also be the district Miss Flame contest.

Thank you, everyone for all you do!!

Jason Ryan
Chairman 11B

**FEBRUARY 2023
DEADLINE IS:
JANUARY 1, 2023**

DISTRICT 12 REPORT



Larry Curl - Chairman

"Hello!" and Greetings from District 12,

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

First let me say here is wishing you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas from District 12. Hope you don't overstuff anything but the turkey (the one you place in the oven and then on the table) and everyone is still on the "nice" list as opposed to the other list, (naughty) is not where you want to be during this holiday season.

Second, I ask that we all remember the "reason for the season", it's not just the gifts but also the glory and praise for something much bigger than life itself. Take a minute this holiday season to be thankful, reach out to family and friends and make their holidays just a little bigger and brighter as it will also make you feel good as well.

We've have had a very busy few months in District 12 beginning with District 12 meeting on July 11, 6:30 p.m. hosted by Gregg Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept., 3210 W. Gregg Fire Dr. Thank you to the Chief and the crew of Gregg Twp. Volunteer Fire Department for hosting and to MES Fire for feeding us for the IVFA District meeting. We had a very well attended meeting with 26 present. Also in attendance were IVFA President David Israel, IVFA Vice President (elect) Ross Emery and our State Sgt-of-Arms Brent Bush.

District elections were held and all the district officers remained the same. Congratulations to all of you (us).

Then on September 8 we held a second District 12 meeting hosted by Eel River Twp. Fire Dept., 670 West Pearl St., North Salem. Thank you to Chief Kevin Basham and your membership for hosting and providing our meal of the evening.

During both meetings we were honored to have our Public Relations Director Larry Bartlow and some visiting District Chairmen from other Districts and members of the IVFAA join us; thanks to all who attended.

During our September meeting we were greeted by two guests from the state; Joel Thacker, former State Fire Marshal. In June Gov. Holcomb appointed Joel Thacker as the executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Stephen Jones is the newly appointed State Fire Marshal responsible for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Fire and Building Safety, which investigates suspicious fires,

promotes fire prevention and enforces fire and building safety codes. Fire Marshal Jones brings 38 years of experience to the State of Indiana.

Both gentlemen shared some very enlightening information about the current and future state of public safety in the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Division of Fire and Building Safety.

Welcome to the both of you from the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association District 12.

We also want to thank our vendors who attend our district meetings and share with our membership their products or services, too.

So what's new for District 12 - glad you ask. We have decided to take on yet another opportunity to show and share our thanks to the members of District 12 by hosting our first (hopefully annual) awards/holiday dinner. On Saturday November 19th the Paragon Volunteer Fire Department has graciously agreed to partner with District 12 in hosting a member's (and family) gathering that will include the recognition and presentation of longevity pins for all members who have reached the milestones of 10 - 25 - 50 years of service to their department, their community and to the IVFA. If you believe you are due either of these pins and have not yet received it, please reach out to us. We do have a list but we want to assure that we properly recognize all who deserve a 10, 25, 50 year pin for your years of service.

Every member of District 12 and a guest (spouse, significant other, or your plus one) is invited to join us at the Paragon Vol. Fire, 101 E. Union St., Paragon, IN 46166. Doors open at 4:30 with some refreshments and a meet and greet followed by a holiday dinner @ 5:00 P.M. Following dinner we will do the awards presentation to all those members in attendance who have achieved the 10 - 25 - 50 year milestone of service who have not already been recognized. As a recipient of a longevity pin you will or should have received an invitation letter but please if you have not gotten a letter and you have 10 - 25 - 50 years of service contact either me, **Larry Curl** at 317-605-6669 or our District Secretary, **Chara Leaver**, Cell: (317) 445-6358. We want to assure we have made every opportunity available to recognize you for your years of service.

Also in order to assure we have enough food we are asking that you **RSVP** by Nov. 9th to either me, **Larry Curl** at 317-605-6669 or our District Secretary, **Chara Leaver** - Cell: (317) 445-6358, letting us know your name as well as the name of your plus one. We ask that we make this a casual dress event, but please no tee shirts or shorts, pictures will be taken for the paper.

REMEMER THIS IS YOUR EVENT. if you're a member of IVFA District 12 you are welcomed and encouraged to join us and help celebrate the holidays and honor your fellow members with significant years of service.

Thanks to Chief Davis and his

members for hosting our holiday / awards dinner at their department.

During these last two quarters we were pleased to be able to present two awards; one to Mr. Charles Baker who is no stranger to the Indiana Fire Service having spent his entire fire service career with Wayne Township Volunteer Fire Department and traveled the state with his wife, Linda representing formerly Midwest Fire & Safety which is now MacQueen Emergency.

Charlie was the 2022 recipient of the MacQueen Excellence Award given out to someone in our district that has made a difference in their State, their Community and their Fire Department to help promote the betterment of the Fire Service. Congratulations, Charlie.

We were also able to surprise another member of our district, again no stranger to the fire service (especially around Morgan, Hendricks, and Boone counties) our district chaplain Mr. Rick Rusie. Rick has been very active for many years serving in several fire departments at various levels and it was our pleasure to present to him the Ollie Sandberg Award. The Ollie Sandberg award is given to only one person each year in the state who has worked a little harder than the others on their department or district to improve the fire service, their community and to promote the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association. Congratulations, Rick.

Your District 12 Leadership Team

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

Welcome to Winter 2022!!!

Thank you, happy holidays and God bless you...

Larry, Jim, Chara,
Rick and Edward,
Your District 12
Leadership Team.

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

DISTRICT 13B REPORT



Anthony Smith - Chairman

Hello from District 13B!

I hope you all have had a great summer season with your friends and families!

As the colder weather sets in, now is the time to remind everybody to check their smoke detectors and change the batteries.

I want to thank everyone for the help they provided during Richmond Police Officer Seara Burton's funeral procession. Richmond, Wayne County, and the state of Indiana lost a police officer way too soon. Seara was shot in the head during a traffic stop. She and her K9 partner - Brev, were conducting an air sniff on a scooter that was involved in an ongoing investigation. While doing her job, tragedy struck. It is very important that we keep our law enforcement officers in our thoughts and prayers. The "small town USA" is no longer a thing and evil is lurking around every corner, waiting to make its move.

I want to introduce Brett Leland as the newly elected District 13B Secretary/Treasurer. Brett is the Assistant Chief of Perry Twp.-Economy Fire Department, a husband to his wife - Heather, who is also a firefighter. He works for Autocar Trucks in Hagerstown and is a sales rep. for Dinges Fire Company. Dave Reeder of West College Corner Fire Department is still serving as my Vice Chairman. If there is anything either of the 3 of us can do for you, please reach out to us.

Our district is looking for a Miss Flame candidate to represent and compete for the state Miss Flame title at the annual convention. If you have a young lady interested in this, please reach out to me ASAP. The deadline for the district is December 31st. Here is a brief list of requirements to be eligible: Father, brother, mother, sister, step-parent, legal guardian or self must be a member of the I.V.F.A. or I.V.F.A.A. and an active member of a fire department or auxiliary - There may be only one entry from each department in the district contest - Entrant must be 15 years old and not more than 18 years old at the time of the I.V.F.A. State Convention - Judging will be based on fire department and community involvement, appearance, personality, poise, conversational ability, and ability to express ideas. ** It is very important to remember that this is NOT a beauty contest**. District 13B has the privilege and honor to have Madi Reeder of the West College Corner Fire Department as the current 1st runner-up for the state.

Convention forms and information is on the IVFA website. Please take advantage of the low cost of the 2023 convention, WE WANT YOU THERE! The hotel cost is \$96 a night. The last day to book your room is May 14th. Don't miss out! The registration cost is \$90/person until June 1st then will be \$100/person after that date. We plan on having a great time. We will have live entertainment, DJ services with karioke and a photo booth and a golf outing! We also have a lot of training opportunities, including

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'district 13B'

(continued from page 8)

but not limited to, live vehicle extrication, search and rescue, LP trainer and so much more! We have challenge coins available for purchase for \$20, Henry Golden Boy raffle tickets are now available for purchase for \$20. We will have no more than 1,000 tickets for the chance to draw 4 winners. The winners will have the choice of either a Firefighter, EMS, Law Enforcement edition .22LR or \$500. If you have never been to a convention, we would love for you to make the 2023 convention your first!

District 13B departments, YOU have been challenged! Everton Fire Department has set the bar, let me tell you!! I have given all 23 departments in our district the challenge of raising money to be added to the Hoosier Burn Camp Auction. Each department is challenged to raise \$500 or more. I have a \$10,000 goal to reach, and I cannot do it without YOUR help. Everton took it a little higher and gave \$1,000!! The next donation of \$500 came from a private ambulance service, Red Line EMS. I want to thank them for setting the bar and accepting the challenge, will you be next?!?!?

I am seeking answers from our members. My question is - "What do you want the IVFA to offer you as a member?" "Where do you expect our organization to be in 5 years?" "What changes do you feel needs to be attempted to make our organization better?" I would look forward to hearing your feedback.

To better our own district, I would highly encourage all of you to attend the district level meetings. After making some visits to our departments in 13B, I am hearing that our members are not told when meetings are by their Chiefs, or they are told that you must be an officer of a department to attend the meetings. Please know that is NOT true and our meetings are open to all. The more eyes and ears that come to the meetings is what helps get valuable information out to the departments.

Our next district meeting is November 17th at 7 p.m., hosted by Mooreland Fire Department, 105 S. Cory St., Mooreland, IN 47360.

!!CHANGES COMING TO THE DISTRICT!! - We will be changing the times of our meetings and rotating the days we meet. I am hopeful that this will allow more departments to attend. I noticed that there are departments that have a monthly meeting the same days we had our district meeting. We will start with a 6:30 p.m. meal and call the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Additionally, we will have a training day added for the entire district. Please see the schedule for the 2023 meeting dates and locations. I look forward to hearing your feedback. Please be safe and as always - text, call or email me with any questions or concerns. Anthony Smith, 765-439-0911, District13b@ivfa.org

special times

***January 8th - Centerville Fire/Rescue 12:30 lunch, meeting at 1 p.m. District Miss Flame contest at 2 p.m.**

March 9th - Webster Fire Department. Meal 6:30 p.m.,

meeting 7 p.m.
***April 8th DISTRICT TRAINING - grant writing class. Everton Fire Department 8a-4p, LUNCH PROVIDED.**

May 10th Raleigh Fire Department, Meal 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.

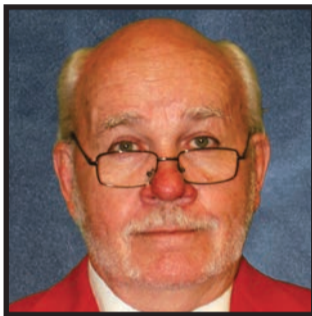
June 14th, 15th and 16th CONVENTION, Muncie at the Courtyard Marriott, and Horizon Convention Center.

July 6th Fountain City Fire Department - New Garden Twp., meal 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.

September 14th West College Corner Fire Department, meal 6:30 meeting, 7 p.m.

November 30th New Lisbon Fire Department, meal 6:30 meeting, 7 p.m.

DISTRICT 17A REPORT



Sam Emery - Chairman

July 17A district meeting was hosted by the Loogootee VFD; elections were held. I was elected as 17A chairman, Ty Byers as vice chairman and Courtney Byers as secretary-treasurer and Lee Baker as Sgt.-at-Arms. Thanks to the department for hosting the meeting and the great meal provided.

August 4th I attended Taylor VFD meeting.

August 29th traveled to District 21 meeting for Don Fultz with vice president-elect Ross Emery.

August 30th held a memorial service for Lyons VFD member.

August 31st held a memorial service for Edwardsport VFD member at Westhalia.

September 1st I attended Taylor VFD meeting.

September 6th Memorial Service for Taylor VFD member.

Condolences to all that have lost loved ones.

September 17th Scotland Festival -- I worked at the breakfast and had a fundraiser. Thanks to all that came.

September 22nd traveled to District 9A meeting for Pascal Moon with vice president-elect Ross Emery.

I will be at the Apple Festival in Bloomfield October 7, 8, 9 for fundraiser.

Our next District 17A meeting will be November 9th at Martin Co. CD Fire & Rescue. Hope to see you there.

Enjoy the holidays coming up and be safe.

Sam Emery
 IVFA 17A chairman

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 2023:
THE INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, c/o SHERRI CHANEY, 573 S. WESTERN HEIGHTS LOOP, MONTICELLO, IN 47960, PHONE: 574-870-5101 - E-MAIL : IVFD@hurdmedia.com

DISTRICT 21 REPORT



Don Fultz - Chairman

District 21 meeting was held at Pine Village Vol. Fire Department on August 29, 2022. There were 8 Departments, 7 guests and 11 members present.

An election was held with Don Fultz elected as District Chairman and George Buck elected as Secretary and Treasurer and Ed Watson as Vice Chairman.

Next meeting will be November 28, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at Williamsport Vol. Fire Department, 21 Front Street, Williamsport, IN 47993. A light meal will be served around 6:45 p.m.

Don Fultz
 District 21 Chairman

From The Secretary

Leighanne Ellis



INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING July 29-31, 2022 Crowne Plaza Hotel INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Meeting called to order by President-elect Jerry Liston at 1:58 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President David Israel. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Rachel Bussey.

Roll Call was taken with 19 District Chairmen present and 6 absent, 4 Public Relations Officers and 2 absent, 5 past presidents, the Lobbyist, Webmaster, and Executive Council.

Reading of the minutes from the last meeting, Dave Elick made a motion to accept minutes as printed. Sam Bisel seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Luke Kluender. Balance sheet and expense and transactions from January to June 2022. Discussion held on emailing reports out instead of printing reports. Webmaster going to explore option for portal with board members giving the ability to obtain treasurer information at any time from the website.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented given by Sam

Bisel. Second made by Bob Uryga. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Mileage is still \$0.50.

Convention vouchers are due on a separate sheet for convention. You will get \$75.00 for 2 nights and \$25.00 with receipts for food for 2 days.

District secretary vouchers are due this meeting. \$100.00 for those vouchers.

72 names read for memorial at Supporting Hero's Gala in July 2022. Anthony Smith spoke on his experience at the Gala. We sponsored 5 tables at the Gala. Discussion held on protocol for notifying family members to attend Gala and finding out who will be in attendance to assist with support.

Central Office Report: Jack Kerney, Reports are going to be processed and emailed out as requested due to getting dues packets sent out. June received dues packets are being entered. If there is a specific report needed contact office. 19 deceased members to date. Name Badges are still on hold. Website lists will be updated Jan. 1; 13,525 addresses prepared for newspaper; 367 addresses on hold for newspaper mailing, reports mailed out to district chair. 13,007 Active members, 41 service members, 107 associate, 2 honorary, 72 individual. 651 Gold members, 20 past presidents, total of 13,900 members of association. 1,273 new members added to dues cycle. Dr. Maggye wants purged roster list for research project to send out a sample survey. 1 AIL Claim, declined due to natural causes. \$207,736 paid out to date from AIL. 3,155 license plates sold Jan.-June 2022.

Executive Committee Report:

Medal of Valor forms updated, verbiage changed and will be uploaded and posted to the website.

Committee Reports:

Awards - Vice President Jerry Liston - nothing to report.

Angel Award, Diane Harrison - nothing to report.

Jr. Firefighter Award, Jack Kerney - nothing to report.

Mr. IVFA - Ed Gerdowsky - nothing to report.

Bridgeport: Past President Richard Glant, thank you notes received from scholarship winners, Ramsey Fire Dept. LODD check, and FF Throw blanket presented.

Budget: Treasurer Luke Kluender. Budget will be presented at November meeting

By-laws and S.O.G.'s: PRWC Larry Bartlow, researching a change in S.O.G., and change to chaplain verbiage. Will have a change request in November 2022. Plan to print new in November.

Clothing Claims: District 5 John Grolich - no claims this quarter.

Convention: President David Israel, Feb. 1 need letter of intent for the 2025 Convention.

2022 Evansville - Jack Kerney, Ross Emery - nothing to report.

2023 Jeff Biehl - taking registrations and coins available

for sale, June 14-17, 2023.

2024 - Larry Curl - planning stages of their convention.

EMS: Tammy Wright, effective July 15, EMT can administer Covid Vaccines. EMS District and Leadership courses are available. First Responder grant available for Naloxone.

Insurance: Luke Kleunder, nothing to report.

Legislation: Lobbyist Larry Curl and Past President Buz Koehler, Thank You note from Ivan Nevil winner read. IN. Memorial Service is Sept. 29, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Conference call with Dr. Maggye to complete survey in preparation for release to public for results. Wants a committee of 5-7 to review survey. PR Roundtable meeting, one held in PRNE, 140 invitations sent out to trustees, 150 invitations to state officials and every dept. in area. 1 state senator in attendance, 7 trustees in attendance, 22 departments in attendance, approx. 56 in attendance. Need dates for the rest of the PR Areas with a target completion date of Oct. 2022. August 17, 2022 Rural Caucus meeting at State Fair; we will be in attendance going to try and present cost-savings report. Should reach out to graduates of Ivy Tech Program and have response to cause statement from member. Going to attempt another pass at legislative funding. Consider speaking to fire marshal about increasing fire funding and reimbursement.

Visit from Christina Reef and Janet Matthews about the Miss Flame Program and where the funds come from and where they go. Discussed sponsorships for awards and lack of funding for girls to enter and participate. Any issues with program come to Liaison Leighanne Ellis to present back to Miss Flame Committee. Discussed proposed change to judges for convention with past Miss Flame candidates and being a judge.

LODD: Jack Zeeks, nothing to report.

Logo: District 18 John Smith, met and approved for use with Stryker, Savvik Group, and Dist. 9A and 13B.

Membership and Marketing: District 7 Sam Bisel, Savikk Group Contract signed, changes made to not selling information and no charge of fee to IVFA after 2 years. Discussion held on what the benefit to the association and our membership if we become members. We would be paid out quarterly and members save money on purchases through 12,000 vendors available. Information of what we need to send to Savikk to have partnership finalized is to give membership agency name, address, phone number, contact name and email address. Jack Kerney spoke on what we give to California Casualty and AIL. Jeremy Reef made a motion to issue name, address, and email address of members to Savikk Group for partnership. Jerry Sprague made a second. Motion passed with one nay vote in concern of information released. Motion and second were rescinded and passed due to concern with what information we are sharing with vendor.

> see 'ivfa secretary' - page 15



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- Newton Rear Swivel Dump Chute



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DISTRICT #14	JoANN SMITH	25509 Gill Rd., Nabb, IN 47147 E-mail: ivfaadistrict14@ivfaa.org / jsmith19513@yahoo.com	Cell (502) 380-7532
DISTRICT #15	JERRI JOHNSON	1743 IU Dr., Evansville, IN 47720 E-mail: ivfaadistrict15@ivfaa.org	Home (812) 456-6311
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DISTRICT #18	KATHY SMITH	109 Oak Street, Huntingburg, IN 47542 / Cell (812) 631-1501 / E-mail: ivfaadistrict18@ivfaa.org	Home (812) 683-3697
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PAST PRESIDENTS

DIANA GRAY.....	2011-2013	799 Hippensteel Drive, Warren, IN 46792 - (260) 224-0774 didagrays@yahoo.com
BETH CAUDILL.....	2009-2011	15120 Lucas Rd., Brookville, IN 47012 - Cell (765) 309-2940
MARTHA THOMAS (Deceased).....	2007-2009	
JOANN HAYS.....	2005-2007	4430 South 8th St., Terre Haute, IN 47802 - (812) 299-1574 / Cell (812) 230-5506
BARBARA KERNEY (Deceased).....	2002-2005	
MARY MACKIN (Deceased).....	2000-2002	
FAYE SALLEE (Deceased).....	1998-2000	
LOU BARTLOW.....	1996-1998	Box 12, Montezuma, IN 47862 - (765) 245-2125 / Cell (765) 593-2227 E-mail: larry_bartlow@att.net
PHYLLIS VARGO.....	1994-1996	7756 Durbin Street, Schererville, IN 46375 - (219) 322-4286 / E-mail pavargo1@yahoo.com
MAXINE DAVIES (Deceased).....	1992-1994	
NANCY NEAL.....	1990-1992	749 Walnut Street, Hope, IN 47246 - (812) 764-1852
TONI SORG (Deceased).....	1988-1990	
LORETTA NULLINER.....	1986-1988	10830 Cape Coral Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46229 - (317) 622-2863
MAXINE DAVIES (Deceased).....	1992-1994	
NICKIE SUNDAY (Deceased).....	1984-1986	
BARBARA PARKER (Deceased).....	1982-1984	
BARBARA SURBER.....	1980-1982	2003 Flamingo Way, Franklin, IN 46131 - (317) 614-5669 - Cell (317) 519-4445
LUCY STOFER.....	1978-1980	718 South Ingomar Street, Indianapolis, IN 46241 - (317) 241-1946
VICA MCGILL (Deceased).....	1976-1978	
MARY BOYD.....	1975-1976	92 Golfview Circle, Umatilla, FL 32784 - (352) 669-2062 - Cell (407) 495-8249

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JOAN KELLER (Deceased).....	1973-1975
CAROLYN McCARTY (Deceased).....	1971-1973
ROSELLA BOUSMAN (Deceased).....	1969-1971
MARY STAFFORD (Deceased).....	1967-1969
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I.V.F.A.A. DISTRICT CHAIRMEN REPORTS

**Corresponding
Secretary
Janet Matthews**



Sunday, July 31, 2022
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Indianapolis, IN

President Christina Reef called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Chaplain Judy Wirth was not present at the meeting today. Connie Ray opened the meeting with prayer in her absence.

Sergeant-at-Arms Suzie Lewis led the group in the Pledge to the Flag. IVFA Chaplain David Elick came to the meeting & delivered an inspirational morning message to the group. Buz Koehler informed the group that the 75th history book

of IVFA was approved & will be created. The book will cost \$59.95 & will be available to purchase online in 2023. Each department will be able to submit a Bio to have published in the book.

Recording Secretary Beverly Vanlandingham took roll call answered by 3 IVFAA members, 18 Officers for a total.

Corresponding Secretary Janet Matthews was asked to read minutes from May 2022 quarterly meeting to the group. Tammy Smith made motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Kimberly Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, minutes approved as submitted. Janet read a Thank You note from "It takes a village, animal shelter" thanking the organization for the donation as well as the support that was provided by the Miss Flames.

Treasurer's report given by Martha Biehl. No corrections or additions, is subject to audit. Beverly Vanlandingham informed the group that the treasurer does not have a printer that is the organizations, that she has been using her own to print the forms she brings. Lou Bartlow made a motion a printer be purchased by the organization for the position that will print dual sided, up to \$500. If the cost

exceeds \$500 that she will not purchase it & come to November meeting to inform all the expected cost, E.J Smith seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Martha will look to purchase a printer. Tammy Smith made a motion for the treasurer position to receive a \$200 yearly stipend for expenses that she has, Beth Moon seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Treasurer stipend will be added to the budget effectively immediately.

Christina Reef announced that there are 3 "Get Well / Thinking of You" cards going around the room for everyone to sign. JoAnn Hays has fallen; Sharon & Lloyd Wright were involved in a car accident resulting in Sharon breaking an ankle. Diane Gray is still needing our support as well.

District 3 had a death of a member Lucille Cowen in June; Leona Uryga will take an angel to the family.

President Christina Reef called for committee reports.

Auditing: Carol Curl reports audit conducted today & was not able to complete treasurer's audit.

Committee will meet @ 9:30 a.m. on Saturday of November meeting to complete this.

>see 'corresponding secretary - page 14

IVFAA COMMITTEES FOR 2022 / 2023

AUDIT Carol Curl - Chair Suzie Lewis - Co-Chair Kathy Smith Patti Fultz Tammy Smith Connie Ray Kimberly Smith	JEWELRY Suzie Lewis - Chair EJ Smith - Co-Chair	Beth Caudill
CHINESE AUCTION Lori Baxter - Chair Leona Uryga - Co-Chair Bev Vanlandingham Kristi Bisel Sharon Wright JoAnn Hays Phyllis Vargo Diane Stapleton Betsy Howe	MARY MACKIN SCHOLARSHIP Kimberly Smith - Chair Beth Moon - Co-Chair Connie Ray Chara Leaver Suzie Lewis EJ Smith - Family Advisor	BYLAWS & SOGS Christina Reef - Chair Tammy Smith - Co-Chair Janet Matthews Lou Bartlow Carol Curl Joyce Nevil Kristi Bisel Beth Moon Diane Stapleton Bev Vanlandingham EJ Smith
MIRIAM SCHAEKEL AWARD Phyllis Vargo Eula Bush Pam Gerdowsky	BUDGET & FINANCE Kathy Smith - Chair Carol Curl - Co-Chair Martha Biehl Bev Vanlandingham Kristi Bisel Dawn Harris Patti Fultz Virginia Elick	SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION Brenna Liston - Chair Sydney Moon - Co-Chair Judy Wirth Tammy Smith Virginia Elick
LOIS BOAZ AWARD Beth Caudill Bev Taylor Suzie Lewis	PARLIAMENTARIAN Lou Bartlow - Chair Phyllis Vargo - Co-Chair	MEMORIAL THROW Carol Curl - Chair
HISTORIANS Phyllis Vargo - Chair JoAnn Hays - Co-Chair	VICE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT EJ Smith - Chair Judy Wirth - Co-Chair JoAnn Smith Patti Fultz	CHAPLAIN'S ASSISTANTS Judy Wirth - State Chaplain Phyllis Vargo - Northwest Suzie Lewis - Northeast Janet Matthews - East Central JoAnn Hays - West Central Kathy Smith - Southwest Pam Gerdowsky - Southeast
MEMBERSHIP Sydney Moon - Chair Brenna Liston - Co-Chair Judy Wirth JoAnn Smith Leona Uryga Kathy Smith	NOMINATING Carolyn Zeeks - Chair Dawn Harris - Co-Chair Marie Emery Sue Glant Chara Leaver Diane Stapleton	CHAPLAIN EMERITUS & COMMUNICATIONS JoAnn Hays
MISS FLAME Janet Matthews - Chair EJ Smith - Co-Chair Tammy Smith Sydney Moon Leighanne Ellis - IVFA Rep.	INSTALLATION Lou Bartlow - Chair Beth Moon - Co-Chair Bev Vanlandingham Phyllis Vargo	NEW DISTRICT CHAIR TRAINING Phyllis Vargo - Chair Joyce Nevil Lou Bartlow Kathy Smith Leona Uryga EJ Smith JoAnn Hays
	PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY Lou Bartlow Phyllis Vargo Carol Curl	<i>* Committee meetings will follow the I.V.F.A.A. By Laws & Robert's Rule of Order</i>

'corresponding secretary'

(continued from page 13)

Budget & Finance: Kathy Smith reports met yesterday & had good discussion about the paying out of the Miss Flame winners. Janet Matthews is working on a true budget of the items the committee purchases along with the item that are donated so we all will know the true costs of the program. Discussions were held by the group of the program & financial aspects of it. Carol Curl made a motion that the IVFAA will pay for the winners of Miss Flame \$200, Runner-up \$100, Miss Congeniality \$100 if the Miss Flame Committee cannot get sponsors for these expenses & that the Mary Mackin will no longer be responsible to pay these fees. Tammy Smith seconded the motion. More discussion happened, all in favor, motion carried. Miss Flame winnings will no longer be paid by Mary Mackin.

Chaplain Assistants: Judy Wirth not here today.

Chaplain Emeritus & Communications: JoAnn Hays not here today.

Chinese Auction: Lori Baxter reports that profit was \$1,261 at convention. Informed the group of wanting to brainstorm, discuss new ideas to help bring new interest.

Historian: Phyllis Vargo not here today.

Installation: Lou Bartlow nothing to report.

Jewelry: Suzie Lewis reports has supply if anyone needs anything. Asked that if anyone needs Gold cards to please let her know in advance so she can get it ordered.

Lois Boaz Award: Group reminded that February 1st is the cut off for next year's nominations & participation encouraged. Christina informed the group that emails will be set up for members of this group & when an email nomination is submitted it will be forwarded to the committee automatically.

Mary Mackin: Kimberly Smith said the committee will meet in November on Saturday @ 3:30 p.m.

Membership: Christina reports new members are on this committee this year. They are working on a flyer as well as ideas of retention.

Memorial Throw: Carol Curl says all is okay.

Miriam Schaekel Award: Group reminded that February 1st is the cut off for next year's nominations & participation encouraged. Christina informed the group that emails will be set up for members of this group & when an email nomination is submitted it will be forwarded to the committee automatically.

Miss Flame: Janet Matthews reports committee met yesterday & the community project for convention 2023 will be collecting items for the ARC of Indiana & The Shelter Inc. Title of project will be "Providing good to the less fortunate". We will be collecting cleaning products & personal hygiene products for non-for profits that assist in helping those in need. Will also be putting in the letter that the Miss Flames receive to be asking each district Flame to bring a game, board game, card game, games for all ages to donate

to the ARC of Indiana. Janet & Christina went to the men's meeting yesterday & had open conversation with the men regarding the expenses that the Miss Flame competition costs the organization. We were very transparent with the men & the financial obligation that it takes to put on the competition yearly. Folders were passed out to each person in the room that has all the new updated Miss Flame forms. All old forms for this program are now obsolete & only use the updated ones moving forward.

Nominating: Carolyn Zeeks not here today.

Parliamentarian: Lou Bartlow reports all is okay.

President's Advisory: Lou Bartlow reports all is going well.

Social Media Communication: Christina Reef reports this is now maintained by Brenna Liston & Sydney Moon.

SOGs & By Laws: Christina Reef reports committee met yesterday & reviewed all corrections for a final time. Hope to have them out at the November quarterly meeting for each district to take back to your district so they can vote on them to bring back for voting on them in May 2023.

V.P Project: E.J Smith reports that 50/50 raffle at convention made \$845 profit as total collected was \$1,690. Committee will meet

New Business: President Christina Reef brought up to discuss if the organization would benefit from having a debit card attached to the checking account. Group discussion held with examples of how it could be helpful. When we must pay for gaming license to gaming commission, they do not accept checks. Tammy Smith made a motion for the organization to have (1) debit card linked to the account that will be held by the treasurer, Beth Moon seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Martha will request & keep the organization's (1) debit card for the account. Christina reminded every district chairman that when a meeting is conducted at your district level that a copy of the minutes needs to be turned in to corresponding secretary each quarter. Discussion held about the organization minutes being posted on the website so everyone can have sight of them, no account balances will be mentioned in the minutes that get posted. Members can view them when they want & would be available to everyone/anyone at any time. This should help decrease the money for postage, we will only have to have room added to the site for this function. Christina will discuss with the webmaster to also have room added for this function. Christina brought up about membership cards versus yearly stickers. Recording secretary Beverly Vanlandingham explains that the membership card template that she uses makes 8 cards per time, if she only needs to make 1 or 2 cards then the other cards are wasted. When someone joins, she has been trying to wait until she has enough new members to make the template of 8 but many times that could be months before she has enough to run them. Discussion had amongst the group. Tammy Smith made a motion for new cards be made every year & no longer purchase

the stickers, so we are decreasing waste when new members join or if someone needs a card made Kimberly Smith seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Beverly will be making new cards each time a member pays their dues to her. November fellowship will be a gift exchange, anyone that wants to participate please bring a wrapped gift, costing no more than \$10. Please consider bringing sweet treats & cookies as we will be sharing a break with IVFA in November quarterly meeting to spread Holiday cheer. Christina offered to put on a computer/technology class to members that want/wish to learn more about them, just let her know if there is an interest for this. District chair training is a new committee that was created this year to help train & be available to chairmen when/if they have questions. Committee assignments is the only task that the president does get to choose. If you happen to be on a committee, just know you were placed there to either learn a new task or to help teach someone else the task you already know. Trying to get the newer members to learn from the senior members to help the organization. Mary Mackin committee a family advisor position added that is a non-voting member of that committee & will be a family of Mary Mackin. Each committee no matter how big or how small is for the betterment of the organization & it's function.

President Christina Reef asked if anyone had anything for the good of the order? Martha Biehl gave information about 2023 convention held in Muncie, June 14, 15, 16, 2023. Registration forms are available as well as challenge coins. Room rates are \$96.00 per night, there will be 2 blocks of rooms & convention center is attached to the hotel. Christina Reef asked each district chairperson to please bring a game to convention to donate to The ARC of Indiana. Can be a board game, family game, card game, the hotel uses them for the staff to play them in their downtime when not working. Christina asked Connie Ray to give our closing prayer, prayer given. Kimberly Smith made motion for meeting be adjourned, seconded by Chara Leaver. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m. by President Christina Reef.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Matthews
Corresponding Secretary

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the advertisers!!**



IVFAA President

Christina Reef



Hello Everyone,

I hope you all have had a great fall. It is my favorite time of the year, bonfires, apple cider, the leaves changing colors, little kids in costumes at Halloween & all the mosquitos are gone!

As I have been attending meetings, a lot of you have heard myself & IVFA Vice President Jerry Liston talk about awards. In the past few years, the number of nominations both sides, the IVFA & IVFAA have received for the awards, has been in very low numbers. A lot of years, less than 5 people nominated for each award, which makes me sad. I truly believe that there is a person very deserving of each of these awards in every district, maybe in each department/auxiliary. The fact that we are receiving less than 1% of nominations based upon our total membership, is disheartening. So, I would like to challenge each district to nominate someone for each of the awards.

All the awards are listed on the website www.IVFA.org. You can even nominate a person on the website, or you can mail or email a nomination letter. If you have any questions or trouble nominating someone, please reach out to your district chairman, a state officer, or contact me directly. I would be more than happy to help in any way possible.

I mentioned before the SOG & By Law committee has worked extremely hard reviewing all our SOGs & By Laws. In the next few months, we will be sending out the proposed updates/changes. Your district chairman will be reviewing these with you at your district meetings. The plan is to vote on the proposed SOG & By Law updates/changes at the state May quarterly meeting next year. This should give everyone a few meetings & time to review the proposed updates/changes.

Any young lady between the ages of 15 to 18 years old, interested in running for Miss Flame for the upcoming year, should contact their IVFA &/or IVFAA district chair. The application & information about the program is on the website.

Please continue to post your meeting date, time, and location on the website calendar & on the IVFAA Community Facebook page. Please also post any events happening in your district. This will help not only myself but other state officers & members in your surrounding areas know

when your meetings & events are. If you have a meeting or event that you would like for me to attend, please contact me & I will do my best to attend.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Christina Reef
IVFAAPresident@IVFAA.org

IVFAA Vice President

EJ Smith



Hello Everyone:

I hope that everyone is doing well. Fall is in the air, cooler weather and beautiful fall colors are upon us.

Please remember as the weather changes to cooler weather, we may use other heating sources and burning candles. Please be careful.

I'm looking forward to working with our line officers and District Chairmen and membership. I have attended some district and department functions. In the last three months I attended 14 District meetings, 5 Department functions.

2023 IVFA Convention will be held in Muncie June 14-16.

Awards - We have two Auxiliary awards. We have many deserving women for these awards.

Lois Boaz Award was started in memory of Lois Boaz from Floyds Knobs. She was a founding member of the Greenville Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, and was also instrumental in getting an auxiliary started in District 16. She was their first Chairperson. When she passed away, her husband and family wanted to recognize her efforts within the District 16 Auxiliary, and community. Thus the Lois Boaz Award began at the annual convention. Nominations for this award are handled through a letter writing campaign. The letters should describe in detail the lady's involvement in her fire department auxiliary, her community, and her family. Letter of nomination postmarked no later than the first day of February, to the last three recipients of the award - Beth Caudill, Beverly Taylor and Suzie Lewis.

Miriam A. Schaekel Award is awarded to a member of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association Ladies Auxiliary for having set him or herself apart from his/her comrades by outstanding achievement or service to the Association. It is

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'ivfa secretary'

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Discussion held on what phone numbers will be released. Leighanne Ellis makes a motion to release information as released with other vendors and provide mailing addresses only. Second given by Bob Uryga. Motion passed.

Newspaper: Past Pres. Buz Koehler, given with past president report.

Public Relations and Education: PRSW Steve Nolan, Brent Bush sat in for Nolan, IERC is held Sept. 21-24, 2022 at Marriott East on 21st St.

Social Media and Website: Webmaster Josh Reiser, new awards are being added to the website.

Special Projects: Past Pres. Buz Koehler, read publishing proposal from Acclaim Press for anniversary book. Recommend to move forward with 75 year book to print, they will eventually ask for mailing list for book and use of logo. Our book will be \$59.95 with the company doing the mailers, forms and dept. information gathering. We have to provide the dept. addresses. The book will be archived into the Congressional Library. Target timeline is to be in production and completed in the next year. Number of pages goes up the more books we sell but cost stays the same. Asked for a copy of a NDA form for companies to sign when working with them. Unsure if we have a form for that. The attorney will be contacted for a form. Marshall Neese makes a motion to move forward with the proposal from Acclaim Press to complete the book, John Grolich gave second. Motion passed. Buz will be point of contact for this.

Training: Past President Steve Anderson, Ben Severding sat in for chairman, Fire Marshal interchange being held in Fort Branch, can register on Acadis for this. PR Training needed for Instructor In-services, we should work to have this throughout public relations areas. EMS Commission for EMR course, discussion was held on having to have it hosted at a licensed institution. We need to voice this concern to the commission.

Younger Membership: District 6 Jerry Sprague discussed the Youth Fire Camp. Will speak to Lona about insurance requirements and start to plan out activities we would like to hold during camp within the limitations of the insurance. Start to make contact and set up funding resources for camp and sites. Tentatively set up for 2024 and plan to start with 30 opening. Also need to promote district pages on Facebook for promoting information within the districts.

Representative Reports:

Board of Firefighter Standards and Education: name submitted to governor of Steve Anderson, then plan to submit Anthony Smith for position.

Fire Alliance Steve Anderson, Buz Koehler, Larry Curl, fireworks income, \$5.6 million sale, training received 2 million. Rest to be split. Covid reimbursement has been reduced to 90%. Foam collection is in the process. Sept. 17-18 is state weekend at National Fire Academy state weekend. Tom Hanafy has been hired as lobbyist. Tony

Murray has replaced Hanafy.

Hero's Competition, Jason Ryan, no information has been passed along since start of Covid.

IN-Time, Jack Zeeks, nothing to report

National Volunteer Fire Council, Jack Kerney and Jean Smith. Meeting will be Oct. 26-28 in North Carolina.

Red Cross Workgroup, Don Cushman, absent.

Officer's Reports:

President, David Israel,

Vice President, Jerry Liston,

Chaplain, Rachel Bussey, need to bring to vote wooden boxes for LODD with service.

Secretary, Leighanne Ellis, pass.

Treasurer, Luke Kluender, pass.

Sergeant-At-Arms, Brent Bush, memorial cross needs upgrades with bulbs and increase cost with roses and possible shortage of flowers.

Historian, Paul Smith / Buz Koehler, nothing to report.

Chairman of the Board, Paul Holcomb, absent.

Webmaster, Josh Reiser, pass.

PRNW, Jeremy Reef, 3 district meetings, 6 dept. visits, Gala attendance.

PRNE, Jean Smith, 10 meetings, 3 dept. visits attended. Roundtable meeting.

PRWC, Larry Bartlow, August 20, PR Round Table 2 locations.

PREC, Jeff Beihl, 9 meetings, 6 dept. visits.

PRSW, Steve Nolan, absent.

PRSE, Ed Scheele, absent, 5 meetings attended, 1 memorial service.

Asst. Treasurer, Bev Harker, absent.

Asst. Secretary, Diane Harrison, absent.

Past President's Reports:

Richard Glant, pass.

Jack Zeeks, pleased with Gala turnout, good convention response.

Buz Koehler, Newspaper 13,745 printed copies. Working with The Paper of Wabash to do the newspaper printing and will deliver to Harmony Marketing.

Jack Kerney, pass.

Larry Ketchem, absent.

David Israel, pass.

Steve Anderson, absent.

Paul Holcomb, absent.

District Reports:

District 1, Marshall Neese, meeting at Griffith Fire Dept.; 4 dept. and 28 members present. 2 memorial services. Program from fire chief and IVFA Reps. meeting at Lincoln Twp. Fire Dept. (5)dept. and 32 members present. IVFA Reps gave program.

District 2, Chris Gamblin, absent, will be resigning and looking for a new chair. Meeting at Lincoln Twp. Fire Dept. 3 dept. and 15 members present. Program given by Lake Co. Hazmat.

District 3, Bob Uryga, meeting at San Pierre, 2 dept. 5 members present, program on roundtable. Meeting at Cass Clinton Fire Dept. 5 dept. and 17 members present. Program on Laporte Co. Hazmat about Lithium Batteries.

District 4, Elton Schafer, meeting at Foraker Fire, 6 dept. and 23 members present.

District 5, John Grolich, meeting at Kewanna Fire, 5 dept. and 14 members present. 1

memorial service.

District 6, Jerry Sprague, meeting at Stueben Twp. FD, 7 dept. and 18 members present. Program on 50-year member and proclamation presentation, and 25 year pins. 1 LODD memorial service. Meeting at Ligonier FD; Program of convention memorial service with 10 families in attendance held in district, election of officers.

District 7, Sam Bisel, 2 district meetings, 1 memorial service. Elections held, assisted with 8B memorial service.

District 8A, Rex Maynard, absent.

District 8B, Lloyd Wright, Tony Dalrymple set in, meeting held at Salamon Fire, 4 dept. and 15 members present, program was MacQueen Award presentation. Meeting held at Ridgeville, 4 dept. and 12 members present, 1 memorial service.

District 9A, Pascal Moon, meeting held at Royal Center 11 dept. and 17 members present, program was elections.

District 9B, Randy Denton, absent.

District 10, John Ray, 2 county meetings, fundraisers, memorial service, and convention memorial flower sent out, 50-year resolution presented.

District 11A, Pete Taylor, meeting at Jasonville, 8 dept. and 32 members present, program was elections. Meeting at Hymera/Jackson Twp. 6 dept. and 11 members present, Lucas Device presentation.

District 11B, Jason Ryan, meeting at Newport with 4 dept. and 9 members present, general information covered.

District 12, Larry Curl, meetings at Advance VFD and Gregg Twp. VFD. Presented two station clocks to Gregg Twp. and Brooklyn VFD. Presented MacQueen Award to Charlie Baker, waiting to present Ollie Sandburg Award. Called upon to assist with 5- and 10-year plan for Advance Fire Dept. due to community population growth. 1 memorial service, and election of officers. District award dinner TBD.

District 13A, Don Cushman, absent.

District 13B, Anthony Smith, 2 district meetings, elections, MacQueen award, convention meetings, 2 Gold cards presented. Gala attendance, IFSAC meeting, 2 memorial services.

District 14, Rick Cannon, meeting at Tri-Twp. Fire, 23 members present, presentation of state info., and campaign candidates present to discuss info. T-Mobile presentation. Meeting at Dupont, 8 dept. and 25 members present, Program on MacQueen Award, 30 hour class, state info., station dedication clock presented, Gala attended, elections held, 2 Gold card presented and 5 proclamations presented.

District 15, Ross Emery, absent; Jack Kerney presented; district meeting and convention held. No quorum for elections, Steve Anderson will sit in as interim until elections in November.

District 16, Ashley Armstrong, absent.

District 17A, Sam Emery, meeting held at Loogootee VFD, 5 dept. and 43 members present, 2 memorial services, 50-year Gold

card and pins passed out. Election held. January 21, 2023 Vincennes Sausage Supper will return.

District 17B, Tammy Wright, 2 district meetings, 3 dept. meetings, 4 fundraisers, pins passed out.

District 18, Nick Waninger, John Smith set in on meeting at Otwell Jefferson Twp. Fire, 14 dept. and 38 members present. Program was state officer's reports and election of officers and presentation of service pins. Dist. Miss Flame Parade and Contest will be Oct. 16 in Tell City. 1 memorial service.

District 19, Ben Sieverding, meeting at Friendship VFD, 11 depts. and 46 members present. Program of Laughery Valley Cop with LP Gas Delivery Truck Response. One memorial service.

District 21, Don Fultz, 3 district meetings, 4 fundraisers, pins passed out, Gala and Convention attendance. Burn Camp cooking. Meeting at Kirklintown with 9 depts. and 31 members present.

New Business:

1. 2023 Budget will be brought in November.

2. 2023 Mileage will be brought in November.

3. District Sec. Allowance Vouchers are due this meeting.

4. FDIC Workers for 2023 need to get names into Steve Nolan.

5. DC Trip for 2023 need to start collection names.

6. Benefit Summit planned for Sept. 11-14, 2022 in Ohio.

7. Locations for 2023 to be planned and will decide on location of next meeting.

Dave Elick made a motion to recess the meeting, Bob Uryga seconded. Recessed at 1647.

Sunday July 31, 2022 Business meeting continued

Meeting reconvened at 0832 by President-elect Jerry Liston.

Chaplain Bussey gave morning message.

Larry Curl needs dates from PR for Round Table dates. PRNW Sept. 17, PREC Aug. 27. Will work on PRSW and PRSE. Spoke on the future of the IVFA and where we are going. Discussion on what benefits to provide to our members for now. Thoughts from districts are needed, possible service pin between from 25- and 50-year pin, Ivy Tech program. Challenge given to district chairmen to bring back what membership wants as benefits. Jerry Liston has been collecting information and made a list over the year and has a progression plan for (1) - (5)-year plan on where we as an association would like to be.

Sam Bisel brought up conversation about process of making projects work and taking a length of time to happen. Read part of Savvik contract that was under question. Question was brought up on vote and concern for what is supposed to be shared. Conversation was also held on how the membership is being contacted these days. Our processes are broken and need to be changed and there is no progression and it needs

changed. Motion from yesterday stays as voted on from the previous motion for information shared.

Convention 2023 will be listed on the website after this meeting and credit cards will be processed in May.

Conversation again brought up about information that is shared, once it is found out from Savvik and there will be an Emergency Executive Board meeting if necessary.

Drawing for gas card District 4 Madison Twp. Scott Maurer.

Richard Glant motion to adjourn, second from Buz Koehler. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 1004.

INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING July 29-31, 2022 Crowne Plaza Hotel INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Board Action Business Meeting called to order by Past President Jack Zeeks at 1005.

Reading of the minutes, Richard Glant made a motion to accept them as printed, John Smith gave second, motion passed.

Board Action-Business:

1. Larry Bartlow made a motion for Dave Elick to have wooden boxes made and purchased for the Bibles. Second given by Buz Koehler. Discussion called for cost of a max of \$50.00 or less. Motion and second rescinded. Buz Koehler made a motion to allow Dave Elick to have the boxes made with the maximum cost of \$50.00 per box. Larry Bartlow second, motion passed.

2. Dave Elick made a motion for the purchase of LED Bulbs for the cross at under \$50.00 per box, Larry Bartlow gave second, motion passed.

3. Larry Curl made a motion to purchase 75-year award for those members. Anthony Smith gave a second, motion passed.

Chaplain gave benediction.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dave Elick, seconded by John Ray. Meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

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named in honor of Miriam A. Schaeckel, who served as the Auxiliary's Sergeant-of-Arms for over 30 years. Her dedication to the betterment of the Ladies Auxiliary Association was unwavering. She performed her duties most honorably and efficiently with a smile and the good of the Association always in the forefront. Members may complete the nomination form online or submit an original handwritten letter of nomination (no copies please) postmarked no later than the first day of February, to the last three recipients of the award - Phyllis Vargo, Eula Bush and Pam Gerdowsky.

Both awards can also be

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submitted online on ivfa.org web page. Click on "For Members, Forms" and then pick the award you want to nominate.

Please post on our IVFAA Community Facebook page meetings or functions you are having.

If you would like me to attend your district meetings and department functions please contact me.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at:

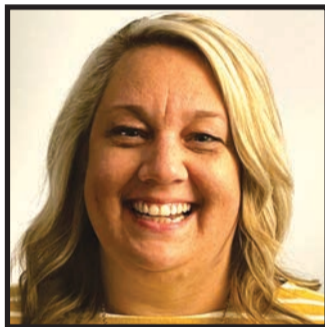
Cell 260-413-3040, or e-mail me at

ivfaavicepresident@ivfaa.org

Stay Safe and God Bless!

E.J. Smith,
Vice President IVFAA

DISTRICT 6 REPORT



Kimberly Smith - Chairman

Hello!

I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler fall weather. This year is wrapping up quickly.

I attended Emergency! The Ultimate First Responder event in New Haven in August. If you have never attended this event before, I

highly recommend it. Just watching the parade and seeing fire equipment from all over the United States is intriguing. I had a wonderful time assisting with the kid's firefighter challenge. It was a great time watching the little kids navigate their way through the course in hopes that some will become firefighters or auxiliary members. Thank you to the East Central Fire Ladies Auxiliary for allowing me to participate in this event.

The IVFAA honors two deserving auxiliary members annually at the IVFA Convention in June. The Lois Boaz award celebrates the lady's involvement in her fire department auxiliary, her community, and her family. The Miriam Schaeckel Award is a meritorious service award that is awarded to a member of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association Ladies Auxiliary, for having set him or herself apart from his/her comrades by outstanding achievement or service to the Association. Nominations are handled through a letter writing campaign and are due by February 1st. Please continue to submit nominations for these awards. There are many deserving ladies in District 6 or your own fire department and auxiliary that should be recognized for their hard work and volunteerism. More information on these awards can be found at <https://ivfa.org/ivfaa/lois-boaz-award/> and <https://ivfa.org/ivfaa/miriam-schaeckel-award/>

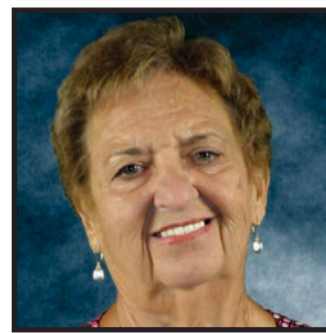
Our district Miss Flame judging will be held at our November district meeting. Applicants ages 15-18 with a father, brother, mother, sister, step-parent, legal guardian, or self must be a member of the IVFA or IVFAA and an active member of a fire department or auxiliary are eligible to participate. Please go to <https://ivfa.org/ivfaa/miss-flame/> for a complete set of qualifications, rules, and the application. A completed application (MFC101) and consent form (MFC108) must be submitted on the evening of district judging. The district Miss Flame serves as a representative of District 6. She must make a good faith effort to attend as many IVFA/IVFAA meetings in her district as possible. She will also attend fire department functions within her district such as parades, dinners, festivals, etc. This young lady will also represent District 6 as she competes for the State Miss Flame title at the IVFA Convention in June. For further questions or a copy of the application please contact me or Jerry Sprague.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 260-413-6444 or ivfaadistrict6@ivfaa.org.

Thank you,
Kimberly Smith
IVFAA District 6 Chairman



DISTRICT 11-A REPORT



Beverly Taylor - Chairman

Hello Everyone,

Well, fall is here so I guess we will have to get ready for what's next. I do look forward to the holidays with family, just not the cold weather. (Lol)!

I hope everybody stays well and happy.

We had a picnic with 11B for our last district meeting. It was fun and we got to see a lot of people we knew.

If you have a young lady between the age of 15 - 18 years old interested in running for Miss Flame for the upcoming year, she should contact their IVFA or IVFAA district chair. The application and information about the program is on the website.

It is time again to make sure your dues are paid. They are \$10.00 per year.

Next year's convention will be in Muncie, Indiana June 14-17, 2023. If you have never been to a convention you need to go. It's fun and you meet some awesome people.

Please continue to submit nominations for awards. There are many deserving people in the fire service that should be recognized for their hard work and volunteerism.

Our next District 11A meeting will be at Posey Twp. November 20, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Please try to come and join a fun group of lovely ladies!

Beverly Taylor
11A chairman

DISTRICT 14 REPORT



JoAnn Smith - Chairman

Hello everyone,

Hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall that we are having.

I would like to remind everyone that if you have a young lady between the age of 15 and 18 they are eligible to run for District 14 Miss Flame. Contact myself or any of District 14 officers for more information.

The next district meeting will be on November 16 at the Reddington Fire Company. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

If anyone has questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Have a great and fun fall.

JoAnn Smith
District 14 chairman
(502) 380-7532 or
Email:
jsmith19513@yahoo.com

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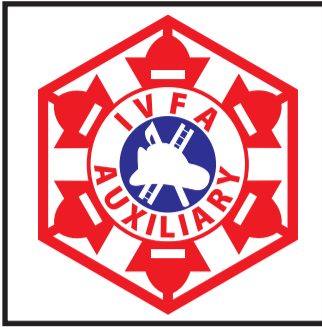
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DISTRICT 21 REPORT



Patti Fultz - Chairman

The monthly meeting of the District 21 IVFAA was held on August 29 at 1930 hours with Patty Fultz presiding.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted.

New Business

• Thank you Pine Village for providing the meal for us tonight.

• A thank you to Larissa Butler for representing District 21 at convention and receiving the Miss Congeniality Award.

• There is going to be a 75th yearbook about the IVFA. The cost will be \$59.95.

The book will be out in the new year.

• The committee on SOGs and bylaws is still finishing up. When the SOGs and bylaws are finished, they will be brought to the district meetings in November for a vote. The district chairmen will bring them back to the May state quarterly meeting to vote on them, if passed each member will receive a copy.

• It was voted at the quarterly meeting that membership cards will be made each year a member pays their dues. No more date stickers for cards.

• President Christina Reef asked that every district try to submit a person's name for an award given out at convention. These awards consist of the Miriam Schaeckel Award, Angel Award, and Lois Boaz Award. You can find the information on the IVFAA website.

• Convention next year is at Muncie, June 14-17 at the Marriott Hotel. The room rate is \$96.00 a day.

• Our next meeting will be November 28, 2022 at Williamsport Vol. Fire Department at 7:30 p.m. We will eat at 6:45 p.m.

• If your fire department has any

functions coming up, please post them to the website or the Group on Facebook, The IVFAA community or District 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 2002 hours.

IVFAA Chaplain

Judy Wirth



Hello to all!

Hope your summer was enjoyable and full of fun and family and love!!

Fall is upon us which means winter isn't too far away. I hope the up and coming Holidays will be just as blessed as your summer!

Safety and team work is needed for all our firefighters and first responders with cold weather approaching! Help us care for all of them as they care for all of us.

If you need me I'm only a phone call away!

Blessings to all!!

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION FOR 2023

E-mail or send news articles and ads to:

The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter c/o Sherri Chaney 573 S. Western Heights Loop Monticello, Indiana 47960

Phone: 574-870-5101

E-mail address: IVFD@hurdmedia.com

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 1

- submitted by Marshall Neese District Chairman



Fifty year resolutions presented



Pictured are: Larry Curl, Chief Andrew Himan from Beverly Shores receiving his 50 year resolution and Marshall Neese.



Pictured are Larry Curl, (center), Joseph Wray, (left), of the Ogden Dunes FD, receiving a 50 Year Resolution, and Marshall Neese, (right), District 1 chairman.

Advertisement for Renewed Performance Company, Inc. featuring fire trucks and services offered.



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 3

- submitted by Robert Uryga, district chairman



Cost saving book discussed



Meeting with state representatives, trustees and firefighters held at LaCrosse Vol. Fire Dept. on October 1. Cost saving book and training were some of the subjects discussed. Lobbyist Larry Curl conducted the meeting. Vice President Jerry Liston, PR Director N.W. Jeremy Reef, also District 1, District 2, District 3 and District 3 IVFAA Chairman were present.

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION for the *Indiana Volunteer Firefighter* newspaper, is as follows for all IVFA and IVFAA members and advertisers beginning with the February 2023 issue.

Please send all correspondence, (i.e.) news articles, photos and ads to the following **(NO faxes accepted)**:

The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter
c/o Sherri Chaney
573 S. Western Heights Loop
Monticello, IN 47960
Phone: (574) 870-5101
E-mail: IVFD@hurdmedia.com

Honored with ten year pins



Chairman Uryga gave out 10 year pins to: Tom Newby, Daniel Holmquest, Eldon Winters and Steven Vogel from Kankakee VFD. Those not present were: Cody Houseknecht, David Kaznierzak, Michael Levendowski and Tom Newby.



MacQueen Award recipient

Chief Steve Marvel from Springfield Twp. VFD was presented the MacQueen Award.



District 3 auxiliary officers

(Pictured left to right): New officers for District 3 Auxiliary Chairman Leona Uryga, Sec.-Treas. Rebecca Ulrich, Chaplain Diane Stapleton.

Merry Christmas to one and all!

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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 4

- submitted by Jean Smith, PRNE / Elton Schafer, district chairman



MacQueen Award recipient

Steven Kuhns, Millersburg-Clinton Fire Territory receives MacQueen Excellence award. (L-R) Jean Smith - PRNE, District 4 Miss Flame Cheyanne Rolston, Fire Chief Moses Yoder, Steven Kuhns, District 4 Chairman Elton Schafer.

Twenty-five year pins awarded

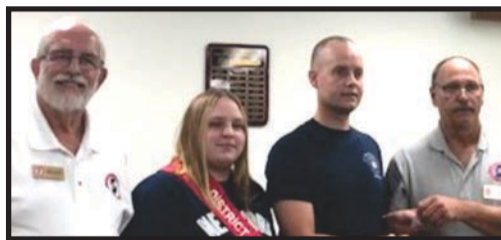


Ferman Yutzy, Millersburg-Clinton Fire Territory receives 25 year IVFA service pin. (L-R) Jean Smith - PRNE, District 4 Miss Flame Cheyanne Rolston, Ferman Yutzy, District 4 Chairman Elton Schafer.



Lester Miller, Millersburg-Clinton Fire Territory receives 25 year IVFA service pin. (L-R) Jean Smith - PRNE, District 4 Miss Flame Cheyanne Rolston, Lester Miller, District 4 Chairman Elton Schafer.

Ten year pins awarded



Jason Yoder, Millersburg-Clinton Fire Territory receives 10 year IVFA service pin. (L-R) Jean Smith - PRNE, District 4 Miss Flame Cheyanne Rolston, Jason Yoder, District 4 Chairman Elton Schafer.



Moses Yoder, Millersburg-Clinton Fire Territory receives 10 year IVFA service pin. (L-R) Jean Smith - PRNE, District 4 Miss Flame Cheyanne Rolston, Moses Yoder, District 4 Chairman Elton Schafer.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 6

- submitted by Jean Smith, PRNE / Gerald Sprague, district chairman



Receives many awards

Public Relations Northeast Jean Smith presented Keith Balliet, Washington Township Fire Department his 50 Years of Service IVFA Service Pin, IVFA Gold Card and State of Indiana House Concurrent Resolution for 50 Years of Service.

Fifty-year members



50 Year Gold Card Recipients Washington Township Fire Department.

Craig Balliet, Rex Bowlin, Keith Balliet, Gail Balliet, William Daniels, Robert Arnold, Philip Chamness.

'ivfa president'

(continued from page 1)

keeping me politically correct and helping me on projects. Thanks, Paul Holcomb. My goal was to take what my grandpa started in the IVFA and take it to the President's level.

And "Thank You" Peggy for supporting me in this endeavor as IVFA President and she said if you take a third term we're done. So I am done.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.

See you at the next district meeting.

IVFA President
David Israel

IVFA hosts meeting for area volunteer firefighters

Permission to print granted by Caitlynn Shipe, The Herald Republic/KPC Media

By Caitlynn Shipe hrintern@kpcmedia.com
July 14, 2022

HUDSON - A lack of funding, staffing and training options have been leading factors to the steady decline of area volunteer fire departments.

Frustrations of volunteer firefighters run high.

A recent gathering on Saturday, hosted by the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association, brought together area fire departments. During the meeting, IVFA representatives shared statewide statistics of volunteer fire departments, provided potential solutions to issues and listened to other problems volunteers are facing.

The meeting at Salem Center Fire Department invited fire and emergency medical leadership and elected officials. Ashley-Hudson, Poe Township, Orland, Metz, St. Joe, Stroh, Salem Center, Avilla, LaGrange, Plymouth, Mongo and Whitley County were among the departments in attendance.

Indiana State Senator Sue Glick, R-LaGrange, was in attendance as well.

Steuben County houses eight volunteer fire departments. Helmer Volunteer Fire Department was one of the first in the northeast Indiana area to shut down its location due to a lack of volunteers and funding.

Funding

The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association showed a 50-page cost savings report, using 2019 data, at the meeting.

The report revealed that volunteer fire services in Indiana save Hoosier taxpayers \$4.5 billion annually.

"Indiana taxpayers realize significant savings because volunteer firefighters are not paid wages and benefits and because fundraising by volunteer organizations reduces tax levies for fire equipment and operations," states the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association's report.

Though tax costs are lower for volunteer fire departments, funding allocations and monetary donations are still slim.

"Every fire department I've been to is struggling with funding," said Larry Curl, lobbyist for the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association.

Curl has traveled around the state and plans to visit several locations in Indiana through this series of six meetings. Curl noted a possible explanation for poor funding comes from a stagnant relationship between elected officials and volunteer firefighters.

Elected trustees present at the meeting also stated a lack of communication hinders their ability to fully help the departments.

"Why not be on an open line of communication with our local elected officials and meet with them on a semi-regular basis," Curl said. "You've got to show a cause, you have to show a project you're working on, you have to have a plan and a budget."

Glick assured the volunteers that roughly half of the state's legislature has a desire to allocate funding for lasting, effective services. "This idea of a onetime check doesn't appeal to at least half of the legislature I can tell you that. The one time money is a great thing, but your elected officials are looking at long term investments. At something that has an impact in the community and that can be sustaining," Glick said.

One of the current funding methods for training specifically was pointed to for its contradicting nature:

> see 'ivfa hosts' page 20



Dubois Volunteer Fire Department

Story by: Myron Joe DeKemper

I joined the Dubois Volunteer Fire Department in 1977. My father served on the department as Assistant Fire Chief, so my two brothers and I were often drafted when we were teenagers to carry backpacks and fire rakes to field fires. This is what started my interest in becoming a firefighter.

I've held a lot of positions over the years, from serving as a training officer, first responder, safety officer, hazmat technician, Dubois Fire Chief and 18th District Chairman. I was the Dubois Fire Department's representative when Dubois County started the Fire Trainers Association and co-chaired two State Fire Conventions, both in French Lick. My daughter, Jillian, was our Miss Flame and represented the 18th District, making me a proud dad!

Looking back over the last fifty years, we have come a long way. From an open cab fire truck to a six man custom cab fire truck.

The memories of all the firefighters that have joined our department, old as well as new, are something I will always cherish.

History of the Dubois Volunteer Fire Department:

The department was started in the early 1950's when a group of men decided they needed to form a fire department. In 1956 they became incorporated and elected Floyd DeKemper as the first Fire Chief.

The members of the department went to Paoli, IN to bid on a fire truck. They decided to put in a few extra dollars making their bid \$357.25. They came home with a 1927 Seagrave.

Being called out in the 1960's was done by a steam whistle coming from Indiana Cabinet Co. Fires in town would get a half minute blast, followed by five short blasts of the factory whistle. If a fire was out of town, there would be three, fifteen second blasts of the factory whistle. In the early 1970's until 1980 every firefighter's phone would have continuous ringing to alert them of a fire. The first guy to the station would write down the address on a chalk board so the others could see the location of the fire. In 1980 we purchased 14 pagers, but there were 24 firemen. Our spouses would call the firemen who didn't have pagers to let them know there was a fire.

In 1983, 12 firemen became EMS first responders and 4 became EMT's. It took 30 minutes for an ambulance to get to the town of Dubois. Assistant Chief Ray Brinkman spearheaded getting a Dubois County ambulance placed at our station.

Our fire department hosted many fund raisers to pay the bills and make purchases. In 1992, our department President Tom Foster wanted to form a Fire Protection Taxing District. Two years later it was a reality and it covers four townships.

We are in the process of building a new 5 bay firehouse that we hope to be in next year.

Stay safe and remember to clean your fire gear to help prevent cancer in the fire service.

Myron Joe DeKemper



'ivfa hosts'

(continued from page 19)

the Fireworks Public Safety Fee. A fee is collected when fireworks are purchased in Indiana and that money returns to cover the cost of having classes and instructors. Volunteers felt the funding collected from the fire hazardous item would still create busy workloads and elevated levels of danger during heightened times of firework usage.

Along with Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association's cost savings report, recipients received a worksheet to explain the report. They are highly encouraged to share the findings with their fire department members and state and local officials.

Staffing

Volunteer fire departments are feeling the negative impact from a lack of manpower as well. The number of willing volunteers has been on a steady decline despite some creative ways to bridge the generational gap.

An initial solution was to offer classes at area high schools to attract teenagers to the field. However, the efforts helped to gain some, with little to no retention.

"I think we are in serious trouble with funding, I think we're in even more serious trouble with staffing," Curl said. "If we want to continue to provide volunteer fire services, we have to get creative in our communities and creative in our way of running our business."

The common consensus was that simply hanging a "help wanted" sign failed to bring in enough, if any new volunteers. The approach to gaining new members and interest in the service needs to change with the age demographic.

"Volunteers used to be family, farmers, factory workers and friends. They're not there anymore because we relied on them coming to us and now you have to go out and find them because every time there's a generation change, there's more options out there than firefighting," said an audience member.

Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association also considered the issue to be retention and recruitment, in that specific order. Although recruitment has been a challenge, maintaining the same people from the start is an even bigger problem.

Training

The first step in a new volunteer actively participating in a fire department is to go through training. Lackluster offerings of training have contributed to some retention issues as well.

"We have people that need the fire one and fire two classes that are waiting and the next one on the schedule isn't until next year. So we have members sitting here that won't be able to do anything for another year," said an audience member.

Although some stations offer more frequently scheduled classes, the distance from the volunteer fire department and the location the session is available have posed problems for some departments.

"My department is very good about putting on a class every year, but we're getting to the point where people don't even want to help anymore," said another audience member.

In an effort to support Indiana's volunteer firefighters, Curl and other Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association members look to provide support for a base cost funding for volunteer fire department townships and help to fund at least one training class in every county.

More information about Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association and the full cost savings report can be found on their website at ivfa.org.

(Submitted by PRNE Jean Smith for District 6)



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at
ivfa.org

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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 7

- submitted by Richard Sorg / Sam Bisel, district chairman



Recognition given for years of service

Members of the Poe Vol. Fire Dept. recognized for their years of service.

(Pictured left to right): Sam Bisel, District 7 Chairman; Lori DeKoninck, 25 year recipient; Steven Bradtmueller, Leonard Bultemeier and Sam Wilson, 50 year recipients; Todd Kruckeberg, President and Scott Schroeder, Chief Poe Vol. Fire Dept. - Picture by Bev Vanlandingham.

Ten year pins awarded



District 7 Chairman Sam Bisel presents Decatur FD members with 10 year pins. (Pictured left to right) Taylor Gage, Heath Fullenkamp and Sam Bisel. - Picture by Jeff Sheets.

Holiday Greetings



50 year Gold card

District 7 Chairman presents Wilbur "Willie" Dersch of Decatur FD with his 50 year Gold Card and Proclamation. - Picture by Jeff Sheets.



MacQueen Award

District 7 Chairman presents Mark Evans of Berne FD with the MacQueen Award at convention. - Picture by Bev Vanlandingham.



50 year Gold card

Richard Sorg, District 7 Secretary presents Gary Teeple of Decatur FD with his 50 year Gold Card and Proclamation.

Gary taught my very first Second Class Firefighter classes 35 years ago! - Picture Jeff Sheets.

25 year service pins



District 7 Chairman presents 25 year pins to Decatur FD members.

(Pictured left to right) Mitch Baumann, Jeremy Gilbert and Sam Bisel. - Picture by Jeff Sheets.



The Volunteer Firefighter Alliance

is a national non-profit organization dedicated to assisting

Volunteer Fire Departments and Volunteer Firefighters.

We would like to assist you through:

Free Fire Prevention Materials: Your department can request free fire prevention activity books at www.freefireprevention.com

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Free recruitment public service announcement: Your department can sign up at www.nvffc.org

Free firefighter cancer prevention resources: www.firefightercanceralliance.org

For more ways that the Volunteer Firefighter Alliance can assist your department please visit us at www.supportvfa.org

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 7

- submitted by Jon Gray, Fire Chief, Markle Volunteer Fire Department / Sam Bisel, district chairman



Ten-year and twenty-five year awards



Markle Fire Department members are shown receiving 10 year and 25 year awards for service to their community. (Right photo - 25 year members) – pictured (left to right): District Chairman Sam Bisel, Bob Rzasa, Jason Schindler. (Left photo - 10 year members) - pictured (left to right): District Chairman Sam Bisel, Fire Chief Jon Gray, Charles Douglass II.

Fifty-year members honored



Decatur Fire Dept. members honored for 50 years of service. Pictured (left to right) Jeff Sheets, Chief Decatur FD, Wilbur "Willie" Dersch and Gary Teeple, 50 year members and Sam Bisel, District 7 Chairman.

- NOTICE -

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION for the *Indiana Volunteer Firefighter* newspaper, is as follows for all IVFA and IVFAA members and advertisers beginning with the February 2023 issue.

Please send all correspondence, (i.e.) news articles, photos and ads to the following (**NO faxes accepted**):

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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 8B

- submitted by Tony Dalrymple

Dunkirk Fire awards ceremony

Terry Blumenhorst, Matt Sisco, Brook Willoughby, Branden Willoughby, Dylan Lambert



*(In the photos below)
Picnic, Sausage
& Pancakes,
Ham & Beans,
Fish & Chicken Fry
held throughout
District 8B*

Happy Thanksgiving to each and every one!

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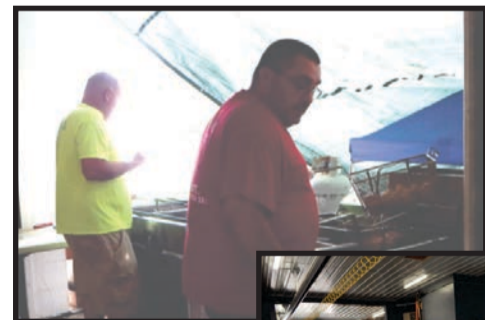
(Pictured below) : White River Township fireman's picnic and retiree Brandon Barndollar serving.



(Pictured below) : Ridgeville Fire all-you-can-eat sausage and pancake breakfast!!!!



(Pictured below) : Farmland Fire Fish and Chicken fry!!!!



(Pictured below) : Pennville Fire Ham and Beans!!!! and 30 year pin to Chief Lonnie Bell.



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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 10

– Submitted by John Ray, district chairman



MacQueen Excellence Award given



Nick Boling receiving the MacQueen Excellence Award from Gary Davis with MacQueen Fire Equipment.





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'weather'

(continued from page 37)

construction or design, or are improperly fueled; space-heating devices require special care to be used safely. These safety measures are recommended:

- When buying a new unit, make sure it carries the mark of a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. Be sure that a qualified technician installs the unit or checks that the unit has been installed properly.
- If you use a wood or coal stove or a fireplace, have a professional inspect your chimney, chimney connector and other related equipment every year, and have it cleaned as often as the inspections indicate.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet (or one meter) from anything that can burn.
- Fuel portable kerosene heaters in a well-ventilated area away from flames or other heat sources, and only when the device has cooled completely. Use only the type of kerosene specified by the manufacturer, and never use gasoline. Use only if such heaters are legal in your community.
- When turning a heating device on or off, follow the manufacturer's instructions. When buying heaters, choose devices with automatic shutoff features.
- Make sure any gas-fueled heating device is adequately ventilated. Unventilated gas space heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms must be small and well-mounted. Never use liquefied-petroleum gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies in the home.

(Even though Fire Prevention Week is over for 2022, hopefully the information found on this page will be of much help and knowledge to families in order to stay safe this winter!!)

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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 11-A

- Submitted by Pete Taylor, district chairman



Ten and twenty-five pins presented to members



Randall Moon, Turman Twp., 10 year pin. Pete Taylor, Chairman District 11A.



Brian Ketterer, Turman Twp., 25 year pin. Pete Taylor, Chairman District 11A.



Michael Pruitt, Linton Twp., 25 year pin. Pete Taylor, District 11A chairman.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 11-B

- Submitted by Jason Lewis - Fire Chief, MTVFD, Jason Ryan, district chairman



Golf scramble and silent auction fundraiser held in district

Marshall Township VFD (Bedford) held its second annual golf scramble and silent auction fundraiser at Stonecrest Golf Course in rural Lawrence County on August 20th. Thanks to our outstanding supporters the event was another success with 24 teams. Judah's Catering provided another awesome lunch for all participants. We are on the calendar to host our third annual scramble on August 19th of 2023 so please come join us for this event.

Pictured at right : Paw Patrols Marshall made an appearance to greet participants and help kick off MTVFD's 2nd annual event.

Pictured below left : Members of MTVFD working to ensure the event went off without a hitch.

Pictured center : Participants ready to tee off at the 2nd annual MTVFD golf scramble.

Pictured below right : Primary bender sponsors who helped sponsor the event. We appreciate our continued support that helps us be able to continue to meet the needs of Marshall Township.



When Submitting Photos and Articles for Publication, Please state the District for the Article or Photo! - Thank you!!

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 12

– Submitted by Larry Curl, district chairman



2022 Ollie Sandberg Award



District 12 Chairman Larry Curl presents to Rick Rusie, IVFA District 12, the 2022 Ollie Sandberg Award. The award is given to honor those people who work a little harder than the others on their department to improve the fire service, their community and to promote the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association.

Thanks, Rick!

(Pictured with Rick is his son, who is also a firefighter).



Speakers at North Salem



New Courses Now Available in the NVFC Virtual Classroom

Looking for free and low-cost fire service training? The National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) Virtual Classroom has dozens of courses and webinars on a variety of topics, from leadership to health and safety to recruitment and retention and much more.

Select courses are offered free for a limited time to all members of the fire and emergency services. The full catalog of courses is always free to NVFC members – join for just \$21 at www.nvfc.org/join to have unlimited access to the Virtual Classroom.

Courses recently added to the Virtual Classroom include the following:

Grant Writing for the Fire and Emergency Services – This course details how to write a successful grant narrative in an effort to secure funding for a local fire/EMS department, as well as highlights funding opportunities that are available.

First Responder Resilience: How to Bounce Back – This course teaches responders skills to enable them to “bounce back” from traumatic calls and the daily grind, as well as prepares fire service leaders to better support resiliency in their department.

Pipeline Response PREP: Achieving Organizational Readiness for Pipeline Emergencies – This course educates responders about the types of pipelines and best practices for safe and effective response.

Electric Vehicle Safety: An Awareness Level Training – This course equips first responders with the knowledge and tools to respond more safely when a hybrid or electric vehicle is involved in an incident.

Decreasing the Risks Involved with Emergency Response – This course provides knowledge, guidance, and practical applications that can help decrease the risks of emergency response faced by fire departments and EMS agencies.


Find all of these courses and many more in the Virtual Classroom at <https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/>.



A place to be
“Just One of the Kids”
TM

Support Hoosier Burn Camp

DSFLPFS200



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	APO	AE
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 Syephen	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

Challenge coins now available



District 13B and the 2023 Convention committee are selling challenge coins. \$20 each. All proceeds go to assist with funding the convention. Get with District 13B Chairman/Convention Chairman Anthony Smith or the committee to get your coin while supplies last!

I would like to give a special thank you to Matt Bartlett from Interstate Towing. Matt sponsored our challenge coins as soon as he heard of the opportunity. Matt is also a firefighter with Cambridge City Fire Department. On behalf of the convention committee and District 13B, thank you!

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 13-B

– Submitted by Anthony Smith, district chairman



Boston Fire Department serves up Italian sausage



Boston Fire Department serving Italian sausage for the annual Community Days.

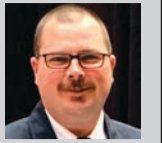
Mock accident held

Centerville Fire/Rescue conducted a mock accident during the annual town festival. Williamsburg Fire Department, Centerville Police Department, Reid Health EMS and Careflight assisted with this demonstration.



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 13-B

– Submitted by Anthony Smith, district chairman



Fire departments join together to host festival



West College Corner Fire Department and Liberty Fire Department joining together to host the annual firefighter festival.
*Drone photo credit goes to Richard Pruitt

Wishing each and every one a blessed New Year!

Milton Fire Department serves breakfast to community



Gold club members receive awards



MacQueen Excellence Award



Congratulations to Larry Barrett and Jeff Crone on reaching the milestone of the Gold Card club! Larry and Jeff have given over 50 years of their life to the fire service!!



Congrats to Brett Leland on being nominated for the MacQueen Excellence Award!

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR 2023 - IVFD@hurdmedia.com

District 13B news



Two members awarded Life Saving certificates

Mr. Tim Fluty & Mr. Bill Sergent are shown holding Life Savings Certificates presented by the IVFA & plaques presented by the Everton Fire Dept. of District 13B. (Pictured from left to right) : Chief Chad Gronning, Tim Fluty, Bill Sergent, PREC Jeff Biehl.

(photo submitted by Jeff Biehl, East Central Public Relations Officer)

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 14

- Submitted by Rick Cannon, district chairman



Members receive state proclamations

Dupont Landcaster fire members Delbert Reed and Charles Schultz receive their state proclamations from IVFA lobbyist Larry Curl and chairman Rick Cannon.

MacQueen Award recipient

Tim Leanord from MacQueen Emergency is shown presenting the 2022 MacQueen award to Delbert Reed, Dupont Fire Department with Chairman Rick Cannon.



Fifty year Gold card members

Five District 14 50 year Gold card members at our meeting in Dupont Fire with District 14 Miss Flame Reese Cannon.



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 14

- Submitted by Rick Cannon, district chairman



Recipients of 50 year Gold card and resolution



50 year Gold card and resolution was presented to Duane Miller from Hanover Twp. Fire Department by Rick Cannon, District 14 chairman.



Pete Backus of Western Fire Co 3 receiving his State of Indiana 50 year resolution from IVFA members District Chairman Rick Cannon and Lobbyist Larry Curl; also with city of Madison Mayor Bob Courtney.

When Submitting Photos and Articles for Publication, Please state the District for the Article or Photo! - Thank you!!

Happy Holidays!

RATE SCHEDULE FOR INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2016

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 Sherri Chaney or Buz Koehler **BY THE 5TH OF THE MONTH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH OF PUBLICATION.**

ALL AD SIZES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

QUARTER PAGE SIZE - 4" WIDE x 7" TALL:

BLACK AND WHITE	\$210.00
2 COLOR (RED AND BLACK).....	\$235.00
FULL COLOR	\$370.00

HALF PAGE SIZE - 10" WIDE x 7" TALL:

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FULL COLOR	\$485.00

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INFORMATION:

75 COLUMN INCHES PER PAGE ... A FULL PAGE AD IS 10" WIDE x 15" DEEP.

Ads are to be in one of the following formats:

- pdf
- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Publisher
- Corel Draw X18

ALL ADS MUST BE PAID IN FULL - NET 30 DAYS

ALL CHECKS ARE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO: "INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION" AND SENT TO:

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Phone 219-866-1128 or e-mail: lkoehler@ivfa.org

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Black and white ads: Grayscale - 300 dpi
Red and black ads: Black and PMS - 100% Red - 300 dpi

Fire chief receives award



Vienna Twp. Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Wayne Williams receiving his award from his department.



Vienna Twp./ volunteer firefighters at the firehouse open house.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 14

- Submitted by Rick Cannon, district chairman



Madison Waterball



Redding Fire Department ten and twenty-five year pins awarded



- NOTICE -

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION for the *Indiana Volunteer Firefighter* newspaper, is as follows for all IVFA and IVFAA members and advertisers beginning with the February 2023 issue.

Please send all correspondence, (i.e.) news articles, photos and ads to the following **(NO faxes accepted):**

The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter
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573 S. Western Heights Loop
Monticello, IN 47960
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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 17A

- submitted by Sam Emery, district chairman



Pins and Resolutions awarded to members



(Pictured left) : Beech Creek VFD - Amanda Eades (10 years) and Brandon Eads (25 years) were presented their pins.



(Pictured right) : Tracey Pfaff of Beech Creek VFD was presented her 25 year pin.

Please support the advertisers who help to make this publication possible!



Gene Shafer of the Plainville VFD is presented his 50 year resolution by Sam Emery, District 17A chairman.



**Attention All Departments!!
The IVFA Public Relations/Public Education Trailer
Is Available To You!!!**

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- Promotion and recruitment for the IVFA.
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48 HOURS NOTICE IS REQUIRED BEFORE WANTING TO USE THE TRAILER

**Contact your District Chairman
or ...
Mike Dzuba, District 13A and
Don Cushman II - PREC**

Larry Waggoner, Chief of Lyons VFD is presented his 50 year resolution by Sam Emery, District 17A chairman.



Please stay safe and healthy!

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 18

– submitted by John Smith / Nicholas Waninger, district chairman



District 18 parade and Miss Flame contest



Sunny skies and perfect weather brought people out to line the streets of Rockport as the Ohio Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. hosted the IVFA District 18 Parade and Miss Flame contest on Sunday, 16 October. Over 50 entries representing District 18 fire departments, along with local businesses and civic organizations, paraded the streets of Rockport as part of this year's celebration.

Following the parade, District 18 Miss Flame 2022 Aubrey Luebbehusen, gave her farewell address and with the aid of state Miss Flame Mackenzie Elliott aided with the crowning of the new Miss Flame.

The five lovely ladies must have given the judges a "lot of work" trying to choose the finalists in the competition. The District 18 Miss Flame for 2023 is Katlyn Betz (*center*), she is the daughter of Nathan and Rachel Betz, and is a junior at Forest Park High School. She represented the Schnellville Volunteer Fire Department. The first runner-up title went to Molly Goffinet (*far left*), Molly is the daughter of Glenn and Tabitha Goffinet. She is a sophomore at Perry Central High School and represented the Anderson Twp. Volunteer Fire Department. Sydney Meadors (*far right*) was chosen Miss Congeniality by the other contestants. Sydney is a sophomore at Heritage Hills High School, and is the daughter of Scott and Cassandra Meadors. She represented the Carter Fire District.

(Article and photos submitted by District 18 IVFA and IVFAA).

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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 18

– submitted by John Smith / Nicholas Waninger, district chairman



Ten and fifty-year pins awarded to District 18 members



At the IVFA District 18 meeting on 15 September, two members were presented with years of service pins.

Justin Grose of the Grandview VFD is pictured receiving his 10 year service pin from District 18 Vice-Chairman John “Bull” Smith.

Mr. Robert E. Grundhoefer is pictured receiving his 50 year pin and Lifetime Gold Card from PRSW Representative Steve Nolan and Vice-Chairman Smith.

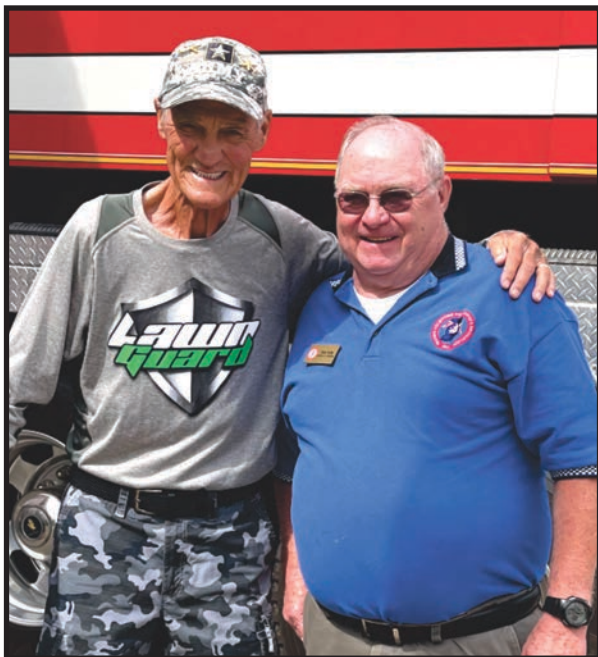
(Article and photos submitted by District 18 with thanks to Steve Anderson.)



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 21

– submitted by Don Fultz, district chairman

Darlington VFD awards given in District 21



District 21 presented pins to members of the Darlington Volunteer Fire Department.

District 21 presented a pin to member of the Darlington Volunteer Fire Department.

A Gold card was presented to William Cain, Darlington Fire Department by Don Fultz, District 21 chairman.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Ten year pins awarded to members of Forest VFD



Presented 10 year pins to the members of Forest Volunteer Fire Department.

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Merry Christmas to each and every one!

*from Pamela and Morris Barlow
Rensselaer Printco*

As the weather turns colder throughout much of the country, consumers are urged to have a professional inspection of all fuel-burning appliances -- including furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, clothes dryers, water heaters and space heaters -- to detect deadly carbon monoxide (CO) leaks.

These appliances burn fuels -- typically gas, both natural and liquified petroleum; kerosene, oil, coal and wood. Under certain conditions, these appliances can produce deadly CO. However, with proper installation and

maintenance, they are safe to use. An annual inspection and service is the first line of defense against this silent killer.

CO is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning any fuel. The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu, and include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness. Exposure to high levels of CO can cause death.

Each year, CO poisoning associated with fuel-burning appliances kills about 200 people. Having this inspection performed

could prevent a terrible tragedy.

It is recommended that the yearly professional inspection include checking chimneys, flues, and vents for leakage and blockage by debris. Birds, insects and other animals sometimes nest in vents and block exhaust gases, causing the gases to enter the home. Leakage through cracks or holes could cause black stains on the outside of the chimney or flue. These stains and strange smells can mean that pollutants are leaking into the house. In addition, have all vents to furnaces, water heaters, boilers and other fuel-burning appliances checked to make sure they are not loose or disconnected.

Have your appliances inspected for gas leaks and adequate ventilation. A supply of fresh air is important to help carry pollutants up the chimney, stovepipe, or flue, and is necessary for the complete combustion of any fuel. Never block ventilation air openings. Also make sure the appliance is operating on the fuel that it is designed to use. An appliance must be modified by a professional to burn propane.

It is also recommended that every home should have at least one CO alarm that meets the requirements of the most recent Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 2034 standard or International Approval Services 6-96 standard.

Consumers should also have the vent pipes on their heating systems inspected.

Space heaters are the leading cause of home fires during December, January and February - but such disasters can be prevented with a few simple precautions.

Two out of every three home fires associated with heating equipment involve devices other than central furnaces or water heaters, according to the latest statistics from the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). When used improperly, space heaters-gas-fueled, kerosene-fueled or electric, fixed or portable, wood stoves and

fireplaces can all lead to fires.

Portable kerosene heaters, which are illegal in some states, have the highest rate of fire deaths per household. Room gas heaters pose a similar risk of death from unvented carbon monoxide.

Typically fires occur because the devices aren't cleaned regularly, are placed or installed too close to combustible materials, have basic flaws in

> 'see weather' page 25



There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.

FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

100 YEARS 1922-2022
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Visit Sparky.org for more activities!

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to dial 911 or your local emergency number.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid

Sample Escape Plan

Memorize your fire department's emergency phone number and write it below:

How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

100 YEARS 1922-2022
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Visit Sparky.org for more activities!

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home. Show all **doors and windows**.
- Mark **two ways out** of each room.
- Mark all of the **smoke alarms** with (SA). Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Pick a family **meeting place** outside where everyone can meet.
- Remember, **practice** your plan at least **twice a year!**

Grow-ups: Children don't always wake up when the smoke alarm sounds. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs. Get more information on smoke alarms and escape planning at www.nfpa.org/factsheets. Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA. ©NFPA 2022

INDIANA FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY



Public Safety Leadership Development – Greensburg Fire Department PSLD1-220013 & PSLD2-220020

Description

This leadership course is an all-discipline inclusive training that strives to foster and advance Indiana's public safety leadership. This course will help students develop comprehension tools, methodology, and leadership skills that are necessary to lead today's emergency services. Students will develop a better understanding of different leadership styles, the differences between management and leadership, advanced communication techniques, and many other professional skills. These skills will not only improve the student's work environment but also the quality of service provided to their customers (i.e., the community).

Course Cost:

\$0.00, there will be no cost to attend this course.

Course Prerequisites:

Students must have a State Issued PSID number. Registration for course is in the ACADIS portal, search for the keywords "Public Safety Leadership Development".

Point of Contact/ Lead Instructor:

Program Development Curriculum Director, Zach Mathews
- zmathews1@dhs.in.gov
- 317-518-4169

Dates:

Block 100 January 13-15
Block 200 February 3-5

Location:

Greensburg City Hall
314 W. Washington St.
Greensburg, IN 47240

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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Being a firefighter or EMT brings emotional challenges.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
Call the Fire/EMS Helpline:
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photo courtesy of Lauradee Veitch

Emergency! The Ultimate First Responder Event held August 27, 2022 in New Haven, IN

- submitted by Kimberly Smith, IVFAA District 6 chairman



IVFAA District 6 Chairman and IVFAA Vice President E.J. Smith



IVFA Auxiliary Vice President E.J. Smith helping with the kid's firefighter's challenge obstacle course.



District 6 Miss Flame Kaylee Knight in the parade.



- NOTICE -

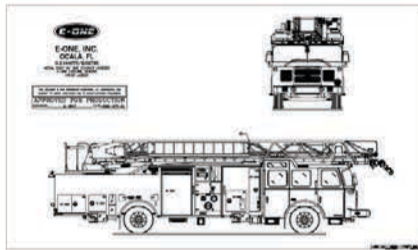
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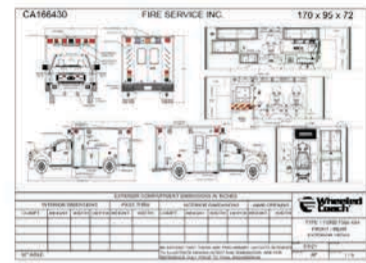
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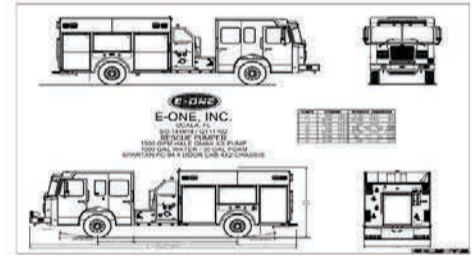
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|---|--|--|--|---|

'Fight the pain': A personal story of chronic pain, depression and, finally, relief

Debilitating physical pain can have a similarly devastating mental impact

By John M. Buckman III

Reprinted with permission of FireRescue1.com ©2022

Editor's note:

Suicide is always preventable. If you are having thoughts of suicide or feeling suicidal, please immediately call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800-273-8255. Counselors are also available to chat at

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Remember: You deserve support, and it is never too late to seek help. Speak with someone today.

I recently had back surgery. This was neurosurgery, not orthopedic surgery. The neurosurgeon successfully relieved the tension on the nerves at the L1/L2 and L4/L5 level.

The shooting pain I had in my legs before surgery was gone when I woke up. I was up walking within about three hours of surgery. This was relief unlike any other.

I realize that I am not the first person to have back pain. My point in sharing my experience here, with you, is to highlight the mental impact of chronic pain and steps to overcome it.

'They would not listen'

I have been in the fire service for more than 50 years. The decades of firefighting took a toll on my body, and I began struggling with severe back pain approximately three years ago.

My pain originated in the spinal cord. I had two orthopedic surgeries that I classified as successful, but the pain came back very quickly. The orthopedic surgeon who performed the two surgeries insisted that the hardware was still in place and solid. He would not listen to my description of the pain and the location.

I went to physical therapy, and they would not listen to me about the pain they were causing during the sessions. One session was so bad that the pain became worse every day thereafter.

I was mentally paralyzed by the pain. I had to force myself to get up in the morning because I knew when I moved, the pain would be excruciating. Walking was painful. Standing was painful. Sitting was painless at first but became painful as time went by. I was becoming more and more depressed each and every day because I knew that the pain might never go away.

'I thought about suicide'

Chronic pain is pain that lasts longer than six months. In addition to the physical pain, many people with chronic pain also experience depression, and depression impacts many of our behaviors. The degree to which this occurs depends on many factors, including social interaction and support from family and friends. I did not realize how low I had

become mentally before the surgery until I asked myself the question: Do I want to live the rest of my life if this pain does not go away?

I thought about suicide. I thought about it over a significant period. I thought about it every night when I was by myself. It is the darkness that brought the most despair thinking to me. I did not tell anyone. I did not know who to tell. I did not know what to say. I was better during the day when my mind was occupied.

'Depression can be debilitating'

The depression can be debilitating. Many people refuse to accept their own sadness. But ignorance and denial are not cures. If you can't accept that you are depressed, it will progressively get worse, kicking you around a lot harder than when the depression first started affecting you.

What are some signs you might be experiencing depression? While certainly not an all-encompassing list, these are some of the symptoms that most impacted me:

1. Conflicts with family and friends become fights where someone gets hurt, most often emotionally, not physically. But the conflicts can become physical.

2. Feelings of numbness, like when you see someone who is hurt or joyful for whatever reason, and you feel nothing.

3. Inability to concentrate. This was a big one for me. My mind was wandering all the time.

4. Work changes. For example, you work less and are unable to complete work projects on time or at all. I did very little actual work. I had projects that went undone because I simply did not want to do them. I knew I was letting down friends and business partners. I would only do things that had hard deadlines set by someone else. If I set the deadline, I could keep putting it off.

It was during this time of chronic pain and depression that I determined that I also had post-traumatic stress following a couple firefighter active-duty deaths. Such crises take a toll on both mental and physical health.

'Don't give up'

It was a combination of factors that helped me break out of the depression. It was my desire to live and contribute. It was acknowledging that I am human who gets hurt – but not letting that hurt go. It was counseling.

The counseling was remote, as this was during the time of COVID in-person restrictions. The counselor helped me both process recent events and recognize that there are multiple events from a long time ago that are still impacting my mental health. I now have a better understanding of how the mental pain of these events affected me and how to lessen that impact.

I also thought about my wife, Leslie. I did not want her to have to take care of me. I did not want the grandkids to see grandpa unable to get up or move around.

One night a memory popped into my head from a years-ago encounter with a person at a Denny's around 3 a.m. after a fire. As I walked out, this guy following me says, "Are you John Buckman?" When I responded

yes, he shared his name. This man and I grew up on the same street for the first 10 years of our lives.

My first thought was that his father died by suicide. That was my first thought some 55 years later. As we walked back into Denny's to catch up on our lives, I knew that I would not leave my youngest granddaughter at 9 years old the lasting memory that grandpa died by suicide.

It was the love of my family that guided me: Don't give up. Fight the pain. Fight the depression. Hang out with friends. Fill your brain with positive thoughts. Raise hell with the doctors until you find someone that will listen.

'A totally new outlook on life'

I found that doctor – a neurosurgeon who on my first visit to his office came into the observation room and told me where my pain was. He did not ask me, he told me. He looked at my MRI and could see the root of the problem. "I can fix that," he said. I was elated. I walked out of that

The other thing I learned is that the pain is constructed entirely in the brain. This doesn't mean pain is any less real, but in cases of chronic pain, your brain helps perpetuate the problem. The brain begins to anticipate pain when you do certain things. For me, even after surgery, my brain anticipated pain. I am having to retrain my brain to not anticipate pain when I move. Just like any other habit, it takes time to create positive thoughts, and I continue to work on it today. Old habits are hard to break. Creating new habits take time and persistence – it may take months before a new habit becomes automatic.

Additionally, positive emotions can significantly lessen pain. C.W. Metcalf, author of the book "Lighten Up," first made me aware of the power of positivity and the impact of endorphins when he presented at Fire-Rescue International in the 1990s. Our bodies release endorphins, often called "feel good chemicals," to cope with pain or stress." Further, Denis Waitley, author of "The Psychology of Winning," writes extensively about the power of positivity. I met both Metcalf and Waitley many years ago, and they have had a very strong impact on my life as I adopted their approaches to positivity to help me through my back pain and depression.

'Fight the pain'

Managing pain is an all-encompassing activity. If you know someone who is experiencing significant pain, offer help. Don't ignore their pain. The pain is real. As if you're in pain, recognize that the pain will impact the quality of your life and those who love you. Fight the pain.

Tips to prevent home fires caused by space heaters

As fire departments across the country battle winter home fires, consumers should demonstrate care when purchasing and using space heaters.

It is estimated that space heaters, including both fixed and portable heaters, are associated with about 21,800 residential fires every year.

About 300 people die each year in fires by these heaters. Fuel-burning space heaters also can cause carbon monoxide poisoning and indoor air pollution, because of improper venting or incomplete combustion. Consumers must exercise care in their purchase and use.

Consumers should be aware that older space heaters might not meet the newer safety standards. An automatic cut-off device is now required, which turns off electric or kerosene heaters if they tip over. More guarding around the heating coils of electric heaters and the burner of kerosene heaters also is required to prevent fires. CPSC worked to upgrade the industry standard on unvented gas heaters, as well, to provide an oxygen depletion sensor to shut off the heater if the oxygen level drops too low.

Here are some CPSC safety tips for buying and using space heaters:

1. Select a space heater with a guard around the flame area or heating element. Place the heater on a level, hard and nonflammable surface, not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep the heater at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture, or other flammable materials.
2. Choose a space heater that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. These heaters meet specific safety standards.
3. Keep doors open to the rest of the house if you are using an unvented fuel-burning space heater. This helps prevent pollutant build-up and promotes proper combustion. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to provide sufficient combustion air to prevent CO production.
4. Never leave a space heater on when you go to sleep. Never place a space heater close to any sleeping person.
5. Turn the space heater off if you leave the area. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
6. Have a smoke detector with fresh batteries on each level of the house and a carbon monoxide detector outside your sleeping area.
7. Be aware that mobile homes require specially designed heating equipment. Only electric or vented fuel-fired heaters should be used.
8. Have gas and kerosene space heaters inspected annually.

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