



INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

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

THE INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

(USPS 262-480)

VOLUME 74 NO. 4

Organized and Trained for the Protection of Life and Property

NOVEMBER 2025

From The President

Ross Emery



Greetings

Fall is here, the leaves are starting to turn and temperatures are cooler. Soon we will be gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with our friends and family. Let's take the time to enjoy these special moments and create new memories.

Now is the time to start considering nominations for the several state association awards, which will be presented at the State Convention in June. Take a moment to nominate a deserving individual for one of these awards. Visit IVFA.org to make your nomination. This includes the MacQueen Excellence Award presented in each IVFA District. Nominations for this award are to be made to the District Chairman.

The 2026 State Convention will be hosted at the Wyndham Indianapolis West in June. The convention committee is diligently working on preparations for this event. We hope to see you there in 2026. IF YOU HAVE JR. FIREFIGHTERS OR CADETS,

we are looking for participants for our JR. FIREFIGHTER CONTEST.

During the Indiana Fallen Firefighters Annual Remembrance in September, we added seven names to the Indiana Law Enforcement and Firefighter Memorial in Indianapolis. These brave individuals made the ultimate sacrifice for their departments and communities:

- Jacob T. McClanahan, Ramsey Fire Department
- Steven Wayne Dillam, Indianapolis Fire Department
- James M. Hathaway, Munice Fire Department
- Michael P. Finnigan, Indianapolis Fire Department
- Rodrick Shane Lambert, Wayne Township Fire Department

- Ralph F Meyer, Napoleon Volunteer Fire Department
- Rick Sanders, Winchester Fire Department

Unfortunately, while I am on the subject of Line of duty deaths, my condolences go out to the family of Lucas Gehlhausen and the Celestine Volunteer Fire Department. Lucas lost his life in the line of duty while responding to an incident on September 7th. I would like to thank all the local departments that were there to support Celestine Fire Department in their time of need.

Over the past few months I am sure you have heard or you should have heard someone mention that the IVFA is in the process of starting a PAC (political action committee) to help in our legislative efforts. I won't go into great detail about them; I don't want to steal our Vice President/Lobbyists thunder on this. I will just say for it to be successful we have

President continued on pg 3

IVFA Membership

Active: An active member is a member in good standing of a volunteer fire company, volunteer EMS service, or volunteer hazardous materials team or is a member in good standing with a fire company within the state of Indiana primarily serving an institution of higher education, or an industrial or commercial facility.

Associate Member: Any person or firm who shares a concern for the purposes of the Association.

Honorary: Conferred to any person the board deems deserving upon conditions as it may from time to time determine.

Armed Services Members: Any active member of the Association who is absent from active participation while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Gold Card Member: (50 Year Member) - A member with 50 years or more of service in the Emergencies Services shall be an Active Member for Life.

Past Presidents: A Past President will be an Active member for life.

Individual Member: Members who have been Active Members of this Association who are no longer affiliated with Emergency Services.



Member Benefits



Association Newspaper

As a member of the Association, you'll receive the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter newspaper delivered to your home quarterly. This publication is packed with articles and photos showcasing events and activities from across the state, along with Association updates, district news, and Indiana EMS features. The newspaper also includes advertisements from vendors and suppliers who support the Association through advertising and participation in our Annual Convention.

Memorial Benefits

As a valued IVFA member in good standing, you receive several meaningful benefits as a token of our appreciation for your dedication. These include a memorial service conducted by the IVFA State Chaplain, the presentation of a Bible, and a commemorative grave marker. In the event of a line-of-duty death, your beneficiary is also eligible for a \$3,000 death benefit provided by the Bridgeport Fund. For more information about this benefit, please contact your District Chairman.

Legislative Representation

The IVFA actively sponsors legislation to support volunteer firefighters and works to oppose bills that could negatively impact volunteers. As part of the largest legislative caucus in the state, the Association keeps legislators informed and provides expert advice on fire-related legislation. All legislative updates and efforts are regularly posted on our website (www.ivfa.org) for members to access, especially during legislative sessions.

See more benefits on page 19

2026 CONVENTION : WYHDHAM INDIANAPOLIS WEST, MADISON, IN - JUNE 17-19, 2026

Determined to Serve, Determined to Protect

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



FEBRUARY 2026 DEADLINE IS JANUARY 1, 2026

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

The role of Firefighter PACs funded by voluntary contributions, with their purpose to support campaigns and candidates who advocate for the priorities of volunteer firefighters and EMT's. These priorities often include:

- **Secure funding:** Ensuring departments have proper funding for adequate staffing, training, and equipment.
- **Secure benefits:** Supporting possible retirement security and healthcare benefits for our members.
- **Improve safety:** Advocating for safer working conditions, more advanced personal protective equipment, and legislation addressing health hazards like PFAS exposure.
- **Support legislation:** Influencing policy at all government levels, from local, county, state to congress and the White House.

The Dedicated men and women of the IVFA who volunteer for our departments are some of the most selfless individuals in our communities. They answer the call of duty with one mission, to put their lives on the line to save others. Whether they are responding to a house call or an automobile crash or a weather emergency, volunteer firefighters and Emts consistently prioritize, the safety of others above their own well-being. Yet despite their sacrifices, these heroic public servants are often overlooked in the political process, leaving voluntary for preference, underfunded,

understaffed, and undervalued. For too long, Fire Department have not received the attention and support. They deserve from our elected officials, resulting in significant changes within the firefighting profession. With the confined backing of caring individuals like you, we can work together to advocate for a stronger legislation that not only enhances community safety, but also provides better support to the brave men and women who reserve on the front lines.

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

The Dedicated men and women of the IVFA who are volunteering for our departments are some of the most selfless individuals in our communities. They answer the call of duty with one mission, to put their lives on the line to save others.

Whether they are responding to a house fire or an automobile crash, or looking for a lost child, volunteer firefighters in Indiana consistently prioritize, the safety of others above their own well-being.

Yet despite their sacrifices, the members of Indiana's volunteer fire services are often overlooked in the political process, leaving voluntary fire departments underfunded, understaffed, and undervalued.

For too long, Fire Department have not received the attention and support they deserve from our elected officials, resulting in significant changes within our

From the State House to the Fire House



by Larry Curl

volunteer firefighting profession. With the backing of caring individuals like you, we can work together to advocate for a stronger legislation that not only enhances community safety, but also provides better support to the brave men and women who volunteer to serve on the front lines.

The IVFA PAC is dedicated to enhancing the working conditions of our volunteers by fostering a positive public perception and supporting the election of political leaders who advocate for the interests of volunteer firefighters in Indiana.

All we are asking for is to have our elected officials STAND UP & SUPPORT OUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS and EMT's.

If you read the whole newspaper you will think what's going on here I just read that same stuff in the VP article and you would be right, however I think its so important to our association and members I wanted to share it twice. Please consider supporting the IVFA PAC.

So what's the future of the next legislative session. Well I'm not a fortune teller and most would say that's good, however it would be nice if we could see into the future.

First we don't even know if we are going into "special" session or not. Its been talked about so we are in a wait and see mode. Then when we do go into regular session whats the topics. Some are leaning heavily on are reshaping of Indiana's make

up, will we have Townships or not, will we all be under county Government or not, will we remain seperate fire departments as we know them, or will it all change maybe Territories and Districts, who knows.

My point is we (not just a few) but all of us need to get active, be involved, ask questions and talk with our legislative representatives. Remember we all have a vote and we all have a right to understand what is going to take place BEFORE it takes place.

So if you know your State Representative and State Senator now is a good time to ask for a meeting, see if they can share what is going on, or even suggest what you think should be going on. Remember you vote for them, so you should have a right to talk with them.

As an association we will be targeting select area's of the state ask the members of the general assembly that serve those areas to meet with us. When we do we will be asking the leadership of departments in those areas to join us as well. While no one can predict the future we should certainly be concerned about it.

By the reading of this article in the November issue of the IVFA Newspaper we will be underway with attempting to set our legislative agenda for those things we feel is important to you as members.

One thing that I hear most is Benefits, when are we going to get benefits and believe me we are listening and working in that direction.

Remember just a short 5 years

ago we were able to show a savings of \$4.5 billion in savings to our residence state wide.

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

I would suggest we are the only PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP in Indiana that can make such a claim, yet we are probably further behind than most if not all in recognition and support.

So I'll end with this. If we want to be a player in the game of political gain we have to engage in the process. Get involved, get active, get a meeting with your state representative and be involved in your local politics.

And as we ask you to do that we from an association must due the same. Let the elected officials know who we are and what we do and what we need to keep saving our taxpayers \$6.1 BILLION each and every year.

So after several meetings with our legislative committee and many of the IVFA officers we have decided to change our approach to legislation. First we are going to take a more offensive vs a defensive position. Second we have formed a Political Action Committee. Third we are hitting the highways attempting to meet with as some legislators to share / discuss our future as a Volunteer Fire Service.

Be safe and thank you for your services

Happy Holidays in Nov & Dec 2025

Larry Curl, IVFA Lobbyist

2026 INPAA TRAINING SCHEDULE

January 5 Shipshewana 5:30 p.m. EST	January 6 Plymouth 5:30 p.m. EST	January 7 Michigan City 12:00 p.m. CST	January 8 Merrillville 12:00 p.m. CST	January 12 Lafayette 5:30 p.m. EST	January 13 Logansport 5:30 p.m. EST	January 14 Fort Wayne 5:30 p.m. EST
January 15 Muncie 5:30 p.m. EST	January 20 Westfield 12:00 p.m. EST	January 21 Crawfordsville 5:30 p.m. EST	January 22 Danville 5:30 p.m. EST	January 23 Indianapolis 12:00 p.m. EST	January 26 Terre Haute 5:30 p.m. EST	
January 27 Bloomington 5:30 p.m. EST	January 28 Richmond 5:30 p.m. EST	January 29 Rising Sun 5:30 p.m. EST	February 2 Salem 5:30 p.m. EST	February 3 Odon 5:30 p.m. EST	February 4 Huntingburg 5:30 p.m. EST	February 5 Evansville 5:30 p.m. CST



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

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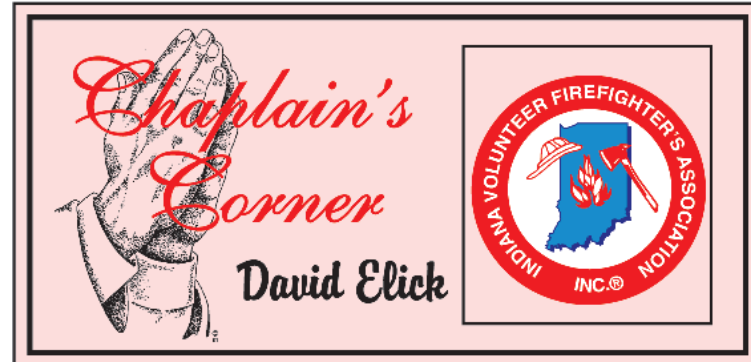
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Chaplain's Message for November 2025

Greetings all, and welcome to November! As I'm writing this, it is mid to upper 80's outside, the first partial week of October, and not feeling much like fall. Don't get me wrong, personally, warmth is better than what's on the horizon. I guess the older we get, our bodies somehow become less tolerant of cold, and the other things associated with winter.

This quarter has been a busy one for us (your Chaplain and Associate Chaplains), as we have seen an increase in the number of memorial services being requested. On a positive note, I was asked to officiate a wedding ceremony this quarter. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. McCaffry!

In Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, God tells us, "That there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven; A time to be born and a time to die,..." Yes, we are sad, mostly, when we lose a friend or loved one. We're also usually happy when we celebrate a new child, grandchild, new in-laws. This is all part of God's greater plan for each of us. We may not understand what's going on, or why things are happening at the time, it's all just part of God's plan.

When we feel overwhelmed, lost, troubled, confused, we pray for understanding. On our happy occasions, we pray thanksgiving for our many blessings. God also gave us people we trust to talk to, discuss, ask about the things we don't understand. Parents, grandparents, family, trusted friends to help us through our trials and tribulations. We, as firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement officers, dispatchers are blessed with two very tight knit families, our biological families, and our public safety families.

As we go through this quarter of celebrations, celebrating our blessings at Thanksgiving, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the beginning of a new year, we also adjust to new normal. Celebrating with new additions to our families, as well as mourning the first holiday season without a friend or loved one.

As we move forward into a new year, may God see each of us safely through whatever lies ahead in 2026! Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year form myself and your Associate Chaplains!

Stay Safe –
Dave Elick, IVFA Chaplain

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From the Historian's Desk



L.E. "Buz" Koehler
Historian

I wanted to make note of a few items .

1. Collecting past history has been challenging at times and rewarding.

2. Tracking our History is almost as challenging .

3. Researching items to help us understand our history and lead us to a greater future is the reward.

We have over 6200 pages collected, and preserved, and on our website.

All of this would not be possible without the members of this association, and the leadership throughout the years.

In our May Officers meeting, the Officers and directors voted to begin a Political Action Committee, another step forward for our Association.

In my last article I wrote about a young boy meeting the Living Statue, and that's where it all begins. Keep making history, and we will continue to collect it for those that will follow us.

Be safe out there,
Buz Koehler
Past President
Historian

From The Vice-President

Larry Curl



From the office of the Vice President

GREETINGS FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

The season is changing we hope everyone had a super summer and are ready for the fall/winter. As Emergency Responders we all need to prepare ourselves both physically and mentally for the next season. Physically to be prepared to endure those long cold / freezing nights, and mentally to prepare ourselves to address what the cold winter might bring us. Remember it is a little different dress for the next season, no more running out the door jacket less, its time to dress to assure our bodies can withstand the weather.

Second I am reminded almost weekly by our president my first responsibility as your VP is to address the awards offered by the IVFA. As we set around the firehouse, participate in emergency calls, gather and socialize with our fellow members be mindful that these are the folks that could, might be, should be deserving of one of our many annual IVFA Annual Awards including, Angel Award, Bridgeport Scholarship MacQueen Excellence Award, Ivan Nevil Fire Service Leadership Award, Legislator of the Year Award, Life Saving Award, Lois Boaz Award, Medal of Valor, Miriam A. Schaeckel Award, Mr. IVFA & Ollie Sandberg Award. There is someone in every department who is worthy and deserving of one of these awards and you can help that happen by placing their

name into nomination. Look around see who is working to support you, your department, and your community and go on line at the IVFA website at ivfa.org and make that nomination TODAY, and remember there is a deadline for submission most of the Awards, that being Feb. 1st. So don't delay nominate TODAY.

Also we should be looking for a Junior Firefighter and Miss Flame who would be interested in participating in our annual competition during our convention.

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

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

The role of Firefighter PACs are funded by voluntary contributions, and their purpose is to support campaigns and candidates who advocate for the priorities of firefighters. These priorities often include:

- Secure funding: Ensuring departments have proper funding for adequate staffing, training, and equipment.

- Secure benefits: Supporting possible retirement security and healthcare benefits for our members.

- Improve safety: Advocating for safer working conditions, more advanced personal protective equipment, and legislation addressing health hazards like PFAS exposure.

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

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

If you read the whole newspaper you will think what's going on here I just read that same stuff in the Lobbyist article and you would be right, however I think its so important to our association and members I wanted to share it twice

We have a website currently being built and hopefully on line by the time you are reading this Quarterly IVFA Newspaper dedicated to and for the sole purpose of joining and supporting the IVFA PAC.

Your IVFA is still (as of this writing) attempting to get some departments dues caught up. Please check with your department to insure your dues are paid as this will impact you current benefits such as scholarships, death benefit, and others. Just a quick check might make a big difference. If the department is unsure please reach out to the Central Office at 877-606-4832 and ask them to look it up for you. REMEMBER DUES ARE DUE BY JULY 31 or they are considered late and could impact some benefits.

Finally, its not too early to start your planning for the IVFA ANNUAL CONVENTION for 2026. Remember Conventions are what you make of them. A schedule will begin appearing soon. The 2026th IVFA State Convention we will be in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis Airport 2544 Executive Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46241 June17-19 2026 and reservations are currently being accepted for hotel rooms and registrations.

OK finally for real, Carol and I wish everyone the best during the upcoming holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We hope you will be able to spend time with them and celebrate as a family.

Stay Safe and enjoy life
Larry

REMEMBER NOVEMBER and May as well

Even though this November is a non-election year, we need to stay tuned to our surroundings.

Folks will be beginning to share their thoughts, concerns, and intent as we move into the first of the year. Candidates will begin surfacing both current office holders as well as those seeking an office. It is critical that we (the departments, the members, the members families, our friends and neighbors are informed and understand the impact our elected officials are to our service.

Everything we do, offer, and provide for the most part is impacted by elected office holders, from the local elections, to the election of our National office holders and every one in-between.

So you might say or at least think to yourself why are we seeing this in our November Issue of the IVFA Newspaper/ And the short answer is many potential office holders or those running for office is already working for the votes for next years. If we want to have a say so in the matter NOW is the time for us to get interested, get active, and educate yourself about those running for all offices. From the local elections to the national election we are impacted.

VOTING IN INDIANA ELECTIONS

One of the most direct ways to participate is by casting your ballot.

To do so, you must be registered to vote

Registration requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen and an Indiana resident.
- Be at least 18 years old by the next General Election.
- Have lived in your precinct for at least 30 days before the election.
- Not be currently incarcerated after a criminal conviction.

Registration options:

- Online: Use the website IndianaVoters.com if you have a valid Indiana driver's license or state-issued ID.
- By mail: Print a registration form from IndianaVoters.com or pick one up at a public library.
- In-person: Register at a Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) branch, county election office, or library.

Key 2026 deadline:

- In 2026, Indiana voters must register by April 6 for the Primary Election and by October 5 for the General Election
- Registration can be completed online, by mail, or in person

YOUR VOTE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND THE VOTE OF YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS WILL TOO...



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.*

President continued from pg 1

to have participation from our membership, and I just don't mean by becoming a member. We need to engage with our elected officials more regularly moving forward. Hopefully the PAC will help provide some opportunities for that.

As the end of 2025 is near, it has been an honor to serve as you President, I have to give a huge thanks to my wife Jenny I could not even begin to do this without her support and understanding. I would also like to give a huge shoutout to all

the IVFA officers for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I have traveled to some many places across this state this past year and want to thank each one of you for your Hoosier Hospitality. As we move into 2026 unfortunately, we will have to continue to fight, scratch, and claw for everything we can, but I assure the leadership of this association will be there every step of the way with you. I look forward to continuing to serve as your President in 2026.

God Bless, and be safe
Ross Emery, IVFA President

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORTS

PR Director North West

Jeremy Reef



IVFA PRNW Newspaper Article November 2025
Hello Northwest Indiana, I only made 3 of my 5 district meetings this time around. One I missed due to a scheduling conflict with another district. The other one I forgot to put on my calendar, which I greatly apologize to District 9A for missing the meeting.

I would like to congratulate the 3 district chairmen, who retained their positions; Marshall Neese Dist 1., Tom Fentress Dist. 2, Randy Denton Dist. 9B. I would also like to congratulate & introduce you to the new Dist. 3 chairman Jim Garner. Pascal Moon from Dist. 9A would like to pass the torch on to another member. The district 9A meeting will be tentatively on November 20th at Howard County EMA at 7pm. If you are from district 9A & interested in the position, please attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Pascal Moon or myself. I would like to thank Pascal Moon for all his time & dedicated years of service to district 9A as the chairman. Don't worry he is not retiring from the fire service, just ready to pass the district chairman position onto another. I have been to several department events/fundraisers over the last quarter. I look forward to making many more. It is always great to connect with each department for some fellowship & always amazing

food. If you are having an event & would like the information posted on the IVFA Facebook, please message the page & we will get it posted for you. Don't forget to post all meetings & events on the IVFA calendar on the website or the IVFA app. This greatly helps state officers, like me & other members in your area know when your meetings & events are. If there is a specific meeting or event you want me to attend, please contact me. Remember if you need help with anything please do not hesitate to contact me. Stay safe out there. Jeremy Reef IVFA PRNW

PR Director West Central

Don Fultz



Where has the summer gone? Fall is here already. Been a busy summer with a lot of meetings. I have been able to attend all my district meets. I have attended a lot of fundraisers and a couple memorial services. Convention is just around the corner. You need to start thinking about the awards and scholarships given by the IVFA and IVFAA. With winter coming soon, it is a good time to check your furnace and the chimney. Watch out for the farmers who are harvesting or doing Fall field work. See you at your next district meet. Be Safe PR for West Central Don Fultz

Happy Holidays!
Deadline for the February 2026 issue is January 1, 2026 please email your meeting notes, press releases, events, awards and photos to Sherri Chaney ivfd@hurdmedia.com

I.V.F.A District Reports

District 1 Report



Marshall Neese - Chairman
IVFA District 1
14 AUGUST 2025 / 1900hrs
Griffith Fire Station #3 /
6 Departments Present
Special Guests
Larry Curl - IVFA Vice President
Don Fultz - IVFA Northwest Central PRO

Notes
Marshall opened the meeting and welcomed all to Griffith Fire Department Chief Schoon of Griffith welcomed everyone and gave a brief history of the department. Marshall welcomed Larry Curl and gave him the floor for his presentation. Larry Curl talked about, 2025 IVFA Convention, Jr. Firefighter competition. There are 13,000 members of the IVFA. Larry talked about the yearly awards given at the convention, nominations for these are extremely low each year. Larry's challenge to everyone and every department is to nominate someone from their department for an award. These awards are listed on the IVFA website.

Larry asked what the IVFA could do to help better the service the departments provide. Larry spoke about the recent general assembly downstate and informed us about the poor budget. The 10 million dollars set for providing gear and PPE to departments has stopped at this time. Larry is working diligently to get this going again. Only 66 departments received items from this program. Larry talked about how much money volunteers save the state and told a story about when they were at the Governor's office with the 50yr members. Recruiting is most important for the volunteer departments.

Larry spoke on the 13,000 members to help donate towards the political action committee. Twelve dollars a year from each member would help make a difference. Marshall showed the IVFA 75 yearbook. Books are 60 dollars apiece. Forms are available. Don Fultz introduced himself and gave a brief narrative of what he does and what department he's part of. Marshall announced there has been 1 death in the area. Griffith Batt. Chief Scott DeLauro

The next meeting will be on November 20th, at Ogden Dunes FD. 7pm

Marshall opened the floor for comment. None given 50/50 was pulled 42 dollars went to the winner, a jacket was also raffled off from Donely Safety.

A 50-year member was recognized, Herbert Volkman from Munster FD. Herbert was given a 50-year pin and gold card.

Ticket number 172 for the money, Jacket ticket number 159.

Marshall brought Membership books to all who wanted them.

Marshall thanked Griffith FD for hosting the meeting and providing dinner. Condolences were given on behalf of the IVFA for the death in the department.

Action Items
Minutes from the last quarterly meeting. Motion made and passed to approve the minutes and suspend the reading.

Treasury report. \$137.89 Marshall brought up the election of officers for District 1.

Don Fultz led the election for Chairman of District 1. Marshall Neese was elected chairman. There was a motion and 2nd. Motion passed for Marshall Neese

Election for Steve Cope as District 1 secretary. Motion/2nd made and passed.

Marshall appointed Brian Denney as the District 1 Vice Chairman.

Elections are closed. Meeting Adjourned Motion made by Brian Denney, 2nd by Steve Stelk. Meeting adjourned at 20:03hrs

District 2 Report



Tom Fentress - Chairman
District 2 IVFA Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Date: August 21, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Lakes of the Four Seasons Fire Force

1. Call to Order
District 2 Chairman Tom Fentress called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Note: Due to insufficient department attendance, a quorum was not met. The meeting was conducted for informational purposes only and no official business or voting took place.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

3. Roll Call
Departments present were recorded. Attendance did not constitute a quorum.

4. State Officers' Introduction
State officers in attendance were recognized.

5. Acknowledgements
Lifetime Members were recognized, 10- and 25-Year Members were acknowledged. Departments interested in having Chairman Fentress present pins at their meetings were encouraged to reach out.

6. Reports and Updates IDHS Fire Marshal's Office
• Winter Fire School: January 31 – February 1, 2026
• Traffic Incident Management (TIM) classes available on Acadis
• HB 1367 grants fire investigators full arrest powers
• IDEM: IDHS has sanction and discipline authority for live burns and training centers

Dues: Departments reminded to submit dues or contact IVFA for assistance.

Awards: Members encouraged to submit nominations.

Convention: June 17–19, 2026, Wyndham. \$110 before June 1, \$130 after.

Lobbyist Report:
Roundtables planned with legislators; working to restore Ivy Tech funding.

75-Year Books: Distributed; contact IVFA for issues.

PAC: IVFA forming a Political Action Committee; contact Tom Fentress for issue submissions.

7. EMS Report
Mandatory PI Education Forums:

• August 29, 2025 – Lafayette
• October 3, 2025 – Corydon
• October 17, 2025 – Vincennes University

PI Recertification Recommendations:
• Adult Education: 12 hours per cycle
• Teaching EMS: 40 hours per cycle (reduced from 80)
• Attend one State EMS Education Update per cycle

NREMT Testing: State will cover the first two attempts for all levels.

8. State Officers Report
Discussion on statewide physical pricing.

Collaboration with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network for improved health programs.

Exploring IVFA website/app enhancements for meal and fitness programs.

Partnership discussions with Project86 and Mental Health of America for mental health initiatives.

9. Future Meetings
Next District 2 Meeting: November 13, 2025 – Lake Hills Volunteer Fire Department Dinner: 6:30 PM | Meeting: 7:00 PM

District 2 continued on pg 6

I.V.F.A District Reports

District 2 *continued from pg 2*

Departments interested in hosting 2026 meetings should contact Chairman Fentress.

10. Upcoming Events

- Indiana Fire Chiefs Association – Fire & EMS Leadership Conference: September 17–19, 2025 (Noblesville, IN)
- Indiana EMS Association Memorial Poker Run: September 6, 2025 (Evansville, IN)
- Indiana EMS Association Crossroads Conference: November 20–21, 2025 (French Lick, IN)

11. Good of the Order

General discussion held. No motions or formal actions were taken.

12. Adjournment

Meeting concluded at approximately 8:00 PM.

District 4 Report



Uriah Mast Jr - Chairman

District 4 greetings from our district. We have a lot of work that needs done and will give you two for one since we did not make the last paper. May 8 meeting was at Cleveland Township prior to the meeting at 25 year pin was presented to the family and a short memorial service was held for the family of a recently passed firefighter three departments and 17 present. Ideas were given on vehicle registration free hunting fishing license admission to the state parks 50-50 drawing was done 10 your pins were presented July 10 meeting was held at Walkerton Fire Dept information presented on cost study of how much volunteer fire service saves the state of Indiana every year Jerry Liston reported that all IFSTA books are available online to firefighterPins and awards were then given remote meetings were discussed September 11 meeting was held at Jefferson fire department electrical safety training was put on before the meeting with Brian Adams three departments were present. John schaffer gave changes and updates on training -- 50-50 drawing. Until we meet again, happy trails!

Uriah Mast Jr.

District 5 Report



Paul Campbell - Chairman

Welcome to the last quarter of 2025. I hope everyone has a had safe year.

As we go into the end of the year, I want to remind everyone to get their nominations into the awards committee. Please check the website for the list of awards available and their closing dates. We would like to see at least 2 names be submitted for each award this year. I am sure there are members that deserve to be nominated for an award. Again, please take note of the closing dates for the awards as we have to have names submitted by that date so the awards committees have time to make their selections and get the awards ordered on time.

The 2026 IVFA convention will be held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. Please get your reservations into the committee. All that information is on the website under the convention tab. This year and for the following 2 years the IVFA are trying something new. The convention will be held at the same location for 3 consecutive years. This gives the smaller districts, that may not have the location and resources, to hold a convention but still be able to host a convention whether it is on their own or by combining with other districts. Please come out and join us this year.

As we enter the holiday season, please take a moment to reflect on the past years' good and bad moments that have occurred in your area, throughout the state and this great nation. We have lost a lot of members of this great fire service family this year. Please keep those families in your thoughts and prayers this year as we celebrate the holiday season.

If your department is holding any awards programs for your department, please let me know as I may have some service award pins to hand out to your members. I can be reached at district15@IVFA.org. I would love to attend if possible.

Stay safe and I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a great 2026.

Paul Campbell

I.V.F.A. 5th District Meeting September 11, 2025

Mentone Fire Dept., Mentone IN

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

GUESTS

None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grolich at 1936 hrs. with the pledge of a allegiance to the flag following. The meeting was attended by 10 firefighters representing 4 departments. July meeting minutes were read and approved as submitted.

Starting next year the yearly IVFA convention will be held in Indianapolis at the Embassy Suite across the Interstate from the Crown Plaza Hotel.

The State Fire Marshall was at the Blue Gate Restaurant stated that a fire fighter is dying every two and half weeks in Indiana from cancer. We discussed firefighters cancer and PFAS.

John remarked on the 75 IVFA anniversary book. There are some copies available to purchase.

He reported on several training opportunities available.

Dr. David Griffin is speaking "I'LL STAND BY YOU" October 24, 6 to 9 PM and October 25, 10AM to 1PM @ NO COST @ Triton Junior-Senior School in Bourbon IN.

ICS300 class at Elkhart Health Department October 13,14,&15. A different class on October 29, 30,& 31.

Pancake and Sausage breakfast @ Mentone Fire Department September 20, 8 to 10 AM

Post cards were sent out to ALL departments in District 5 reference to meeting day change with very little input.

Our meeting night will change to the second Thursday starting next month October 9 at Lapaz Fire Territory Station.

Next meeting October 9, at Lapaz Fire Territory

Meeting was adjourned at 2047 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Martin

District 5 Secretary

IVFA 5TH DISTRICT MEETING October 9, 2025 Lapaz Fire Territory

GUESTS

Larry Curl IVFA Vice President

Carol Curl Past IVFAA President

PRNE Richard Sorg

The meeting was called to order by President Grolich after refreshments at 1930 hrs with the pledge to the flag following. There were 9 firefighters

representing 5 departments in attendance.

Chairman Richard Sorg introduced himself and discussed IVFA awards and remarked on the IVFA website.

Larry Curl remarked of the updating of the IVFA website. The IVFA convention will be held in Indianapolis the next three years and then discussed further. He discussed the IVFA dues and advised that the IVFA has set up a Political Action Committee account for the purpose of promoting our service to those in elected offices. Supported by the voluntary contributions from our membership to help us to support the mission and advocate for you the members.

The role of the Firefighter PACs are funded by voluntary contributions, and their purpose is to support campaigns and candidates who advocate for the priorities of firefighters. These priorities often include:

Secure funding: Ensuring departments have proper funding for adequate staffing, training, and equipment.

Secure benefits: Supporting possible retirement security and healthcare benefits for our members.

Improve safety: Advocating for safer working conditions, more advanced personal protective equipment, and legislation addressing health hazards like PFAS exposure.

Support Legislation

Influencing policy at all government levels, from local, county, state, and to congress and the White House.

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

Larry discussed the IVFA awards and eliminating Township Trustees.

John discussed politicians an local elections. He remarked on Dr. David Griffin speaking at Triton Jr\Hi School coming up October 24 and 25.

Winter Fire School Jan 30 and 31 and Feb 1 in Plainfield IN.

Next meeting Dec 11 at Pleasant Township (Laketon)

Meeting adjourned at 2024 Hrs

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Martin 5th District Secretary

District 6 Report



Mack Grobis - Chairman

Greetings from the northeast! Harvest season is in full swing—for those firefighters who are farmers, we hope for a safe and bountiful harvest of your crop. District 6 of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association has had a busy and productive few months, with meetings filled with great fellowship, informative speakers, and excellent food provided by our host department.

Our July meeting was held at the Albion Fire Department, where members enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the department. During the meeting, several members were recognized with service pins for their dedication and years of commitment to the fire service. District elections were also conducted, with all current officers retaining their positions for another term, thereby continuing the strong leadership that keeps District 6 moving forward.

We were also pleased to welcome Larry Curl, who shared updates on several key topics impacting the Indiana fire service. Larry also discussed the IVFA awards program, encouraging departments to nominate deserving members who exemplify outstanding service and dedication.

In September, District 6 held its meeting at the Columbia Township Fire Department in Columbia City. Once again, we were treated to a wonderful meal graciously provided by the host department. Our guest speaker for the evening was Edward Scott, Whitley County EMA Director, who gave an insightful presentation on how Emergency Management assists fire departments across the county and the importance of maintaining strong partnerships between agencies.

A few reminders as we enter the last quarter: first is that Districts 6, 7, and 8b are hosting the 2026 convention. Secondly, we need some help with door prizes; if you have the capacity to reach out to a business in your area and ask if they would like to donate an item or gift basket to the convention, we would be grateful. Lastly, I have convention challenge coins available still. I will be making my way around the district to sell



I.V.F.A District Reports

them.
 With 2026 approaching, I would like to encourage each department to send one or two members to attend the bi-monthly meeting. We love our regulars, but we always love to see new faces as well!
 As always, District 6 extends a sincere thanks to our host departments and all those who make these meetings possible. Your hospitality, participation, and commitment to the fire service continue to make our district strong.
 Chairman Mack Grobis
 District 6
 Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association

District 7 Report



Richard Sorg - Chairman

IVFA District 7 Meeting
 Call to order
 A meeting of District 7 was held at Andrews Volunteer Fire Dept. on 9/15/2025.
 Pledge
 Meeting was called to order by District Chairman Caleb Vanlandingham at 19:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance.
Roll Call
 Nine departments represented with 27 members present.
 Meeting Minutes
 Minutes from the previous meeting were read with one change IVFA state award nominations need to be submitted February 1, 2026.
 Caleb introduced himself as the new District Chairman. Information was available Savvik grant opportunity for \$1000.00. Savvik buying group is the online store for purchasing fire, EMS law enforcement, education and training. Station supplies may also be purchased from them as well. All items are at a discounted price.
 January 1, 2026 every fire department will be required to report under the new NERIS standard. National Emergency Response Information System. Modernize incident data collection. Alpine software is available to help make a smooth software change over. Paper was available with more information.
 The recent copy of the IVFA newspaper and the book with member benefit information were available.
 Your IVFA accidental death benefits card that you receive in the mail is only needed for any changes. American Income Life is not allowed to make repetitive

calls to you, if you to get these calls please let Richard S. or Caleb V. know. The company will handle those individual's that make repetitive calls. Your benefits also allow you to have a Will done for free.
 District 7 is up to date for dues.
 IVFA Convention in June of 2026. It would be nice to see more participation since Districts 6,7 and 8b are hosting. 80th year challenge coins are available for \$20.00 apiece.

Guest Reports

Richard Sorg North East PR was present. Richard gave more information on the Jr. firefighter challenge that takes place at the IVFA Convention. Need more participants ages 15 to 18, child of an IVFA member
 Convention early registration \$110.00 goes to \$135.00 in June. Caleb is working on trainings will be a classroom setting at the time of this meeting there is one EMS and one Fire. Looking to add more.
 Miss Flame contest District 7 needs to find a contestant. Contestants need to be 15 to 18 years old Contact Richard S. or Caleb V.
 Banquet, silent auction, live auction for the burn camp, product vendors and golf outing are some of the activities at the convention.
 Richard gave more information and expressed to use the Savvik buying group. The IVFA gets a profit from what is purchased.
 Need more nominations for awards, that are available from the IVFA. Especially the MacQueen award. This award can be for any individual in your community.
 IVFA app is available. Download and get notification of information instead of waiting to get the information at your district meeting. Calendar for all of your events, get your events submitted so they can be added to the calendar.
 Richard S. talked about the Political Action Committee, how it can help the Volunteer Firefighters and the IVFA. The PAC gives the IVFA a voice with politicians for bills and grants, the IVFA is currently working on there 504c.
 Hannah Armstrong and Mikey Armstrong District 8b Chairman were present. Hannah spoke to the group about the Miss Flame contest. She said it was fun and made her a better public speaker.
Special Announcements
 10 year pin awarded to Jordan Rhodes.
 Deaths in the district Curley Boxell from Warren and Jerry cowans from Decatur
 Events in the district
 October 18th Penville fall festival, Penville Fire department hog roast 4p-7p
 November 8th fish fry at Andrews 4p-7p

September 27th bingo at the Civic Center in Warren 1p-4p
 October 17th drive thru pork loin dinner at Poe Volunteer Fire Department 4p-7p
 Poe Volunteer Fire Department will be selling their peanut brittle this fall. Money from all of Poe VFD is used to support community functions and needs.
 Next meeting is at Berne Volunteer Fire Department November 17th at 7p.
 Submitted by Todd Krueckeberg

District 9A Report



Pascal Moon - Chairman

Well, It has been a busy year and gone by fast!
 District meetings, fundraisers, and retirements along with a few other meetings have been the things I have tried to do. But time is just going by and there just isn't enough time to get everything done!
 How is it we try to do so much yet feel like we go backwards?
 In July I decided to not run for District Chairman, but yet I am still the chairman, lack of attendance at district meetings and then a department last minute cancel for a meeting has left me here. I am still trying to do as much as I can, until someone takes over.
 I will say Thanks to all the departments.
 Well In this issue are a few pictures, Bill Schrock, Retirement and his Firetruck!
 Claire Ellis our District Miss Flame did great at Convention! Sorry I didn't go to convention!
 Jerry Liston and I spent some time at the NHRA US Nationals, signing Chris King, a Chicago Firefighter Funny Car and seeing some of the fastest cars in the world.
 And Just like that summer was over! Now on to fall! Football games, campfires, smore's and Chilli!

The next District meeting will be in November 20th and it will be at Howard County EMA.
 I hope we get good numbers to show up for the meeting.
 Thanks
 Pascal

District 10 Report

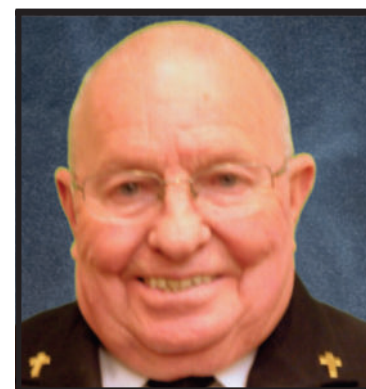


John Ray - Chairman

Greetings from District 10
 German Township hosted our August meeting. Good News! The 75year books have arrived. If you ordered and have not received yours, please contact your District Chairman. Or, if you didn't order and would like to have one, there are still some copies available. To get yours, please see your District Chairman. Matt Scheidler of Scheidler Web Solutions and Kyle Miller, of Citizens First Fire Training were the guest speakers for the evening program.
 The September District meeting was held at Fairland Volunteer Fire Dept. Ross Keasling Assistant Chief of Fire Investigations with the State Fire Marshal's office presented the program. Ross spoke of ways to help with fire investigations; things to do and not do at the scene to assist with investigations. Elections were also held at this meeting, with John Ray elected Chairman and Jim Davis Secretary. Gregg Adams was elected Vice Chairman.
 Upcoming District 10 Meetings will be on October 15, at Posey Twp. in Arlington, IN; November 19 will be at Greensburg to finish out the 2025 year. On January 21, 2026, our first meeting of the new year we will be at Columbus Twp., Columbus, IN and on February 18, 2026 we will travel to Trafalgar Vol. Fire Dept., in Trafalgar, IN.

Harvest is going "full throttle", so watch out for tractors, combines and semis on the road, going from field to field. Due to the dry weather and low moisture content crops; have that fire extinguisher handy for an emergency. May it be a safe and bountiful harvest and a beautiful colorful landscape this Fall season!
 John M. Ray
 District 10 IVFA Chairman

District 11A Report



Pete Taylor - Chairman

Greetings from District 11A.
 District 11A meeting was in Lewis TWP. In Aug. our guest speaker was Erik Youngblood from HIEBA System Solutions.
 In Sept. we had a joint picnic with 11B. Good time with everyone and lots of good food.
 FDIC is coming in April 20 - 25, 2026. Stop by and see us at the IVFA Booth.
 We need to push awards for next year. There are lots of deserving people. Just look around. We are proud to say one of our own Mr. IVFA this year Larry Tempel was chosen. Congratulations to Larry.
 Convention is June 17 - 19 at the Wyndham Hotel in Indianapolis Indiana. Registration will be \$110 till June 1 Than it goes up to \$135.
 Our next District Meeting will be at Posey TWP. In Staunton, Indiana. On Nov. 16, 2025 at 1:00 PM. Come and bring some one you will hear what goes on at the state level.
 Vol. firefighters are putting themselves out there everyday for their communities. They serve with honor and distinction and I could not be more proud to call them my brothers and sisters.
 Until next time Be safe
 District 11A Chairman
 Pete Taylor

Happy Holidays!
Deadline for the February 2026 issue is January 1, 2026 please email your meeting notes, press releases, events, awards and photos to Sherri Chaney
ivfd@hurdmedia.com



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I.V.F.A District Reports

District 11B Report



Scott Peebles - Chairman

All in attendance asked some very good questions and I hope they got the answers they were looking for.

Our next meeting will be on November 15th at Paragon and will be our annual awards dinner, Paragon always goes above and beyond to provide a great meal. For 2026 District 12 will have 4 members receiving their 50 year gold card!

Until next time, every one stay safe!

Steve Kershaw
Chairman, District 12

Greetings from District 11B.

Hope this finds everyone well and enjoying some wonderful fall weather. It's been quite a busy summer with several fundraisers. I have had the privilege since the last article. To present pins and attend many of these fundraisers.

I have presented several pins including a fifty-year gold card to Brian Helderman Marshall Vol. Fire Dept. Two twenty-five-year pins to Jason Games and Dale Fivecoat Bellmore Fire Dept. A ten-year pin to Jerry Mullis of Bellmore Fire Dept.

We have also had the privilege of having a joint picnic with District 11A. It was a nice day for such a event. Fun was had by all.

Our next District 11B meeting will be held Nov. 9 at Helt Fire and Rescue at Dana Station. This will also be our Miss Flame contest. If you know of any young ladies who would like to participate in the contest, please reach out.

It is the time of year to begin thinking of nominations for awards, all information can be found online.

Keep sending in reservations for the 2026 IVFA Convention.

District 13B Report



Jeff Biehl- Chairman

Greetings
I would like to thank the membership of 13B that voted to elect me as your chairman, I will be getting around to your departments for a visit & pass out Reminder that we need Miss Flame to represent our district at the state convention in June, I will be sending information on this.

If your department has a cadet program, we do have a Junior Firefighter competition at the convention in June.

Go to the web site ivfa.org and look at the awards and nominate someone for these awards. There are also Bridgeport scholarships, and they are due by March 1st.

I want to thank those that attended the meeting & grant class on September 20 at THL there was a lot of confusion on if the class was on or not some people had different opinions if it was and I apologize about that, please contact me if you have questions about any meeting.

Jeff Biehl
13B Chairman

District 16 Report



Nick Faulkenburg - Chairman

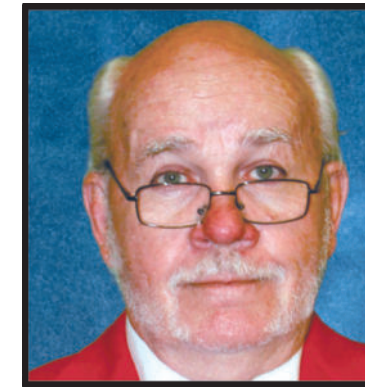
With great sorrow; we lose a great man in August from District 18 – English Vol. Fire Dept. Mike Benham. I know he not from District

16 but he develop the Fire Districts and help formed the Vol. Fire Departments in Crawford County. For better news the summer has let several department kickoff the fundraisers and parades. We had several department that visited pre-schools and elementary schools. Getting the younger generation involved and excited about us, should be very high priority.

Anyway, Leavenworth Fire Dept held an event to assist one Kyle Wiseman. They also add a wonderful tower apparatus to their fleet, they also made it available to all other departments in the county. It is the only ladder truck in Crawford County. Our brothers at Palmyra have been putting in some hard work with training every week and getting grant to assist them. Go check out their Facebook page. They have too many things to mention. Milltown Fire Department wants to applaud Zach Wellman, Haidyn Crecelius, Thomas Schad, and Dakotah Schad on passing Firefighter 1 & 2 exams. Ramsey Fire Department wants to thank their firefighters that have been dedicating a lot of time and effort into successfully passing their Fire Academy Class. The academy class includes Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations and Fire Fighter 1&2. Firefighters Spencer Purcell, Ashlee McFall, and Dustin Bary have successfully completed and passed all testing and skill requirements to earn these certifications.

Last but not least; I the District 16 Chairman Nick Faulkenburg presented Mike Whitfield with his Gold 50 yr card and a IVFA Lifetime Membership card. He is a member of Livonia Vol. Fire Department and was accompanied by our 2025 State Miss Flame Ava and 2025 District Miss Flame Ava. I can assure you our other departments have been working hard as well and I would like to thank everybody. Again, if any department member needs anything, please reach out via a phone call.

District 17A Report



Sam Emery - Chairman

Greetings Once Again
The July 16th meeting at Loogootee VFD. An election was held and all officers stayed the same.

On August 7th Taylor VFD meeting and upcoming events.

On August 8, 9 and 10 I attended the State Officers meeting.

September 17, I attended the Dist. 17A meeting at Steen Twp.. Pam Schroeder was present the McQueen Award.

Thanks to Linda for the great meal.

Sympathy to the Charlie Moore Fanning who just passed away. He was a 31 year member and Steen Chief. Celebration was discussed to be at a later date as the family wishes.

September 20 I attended the Madison fund raiser.

September 27at Sandborn VFD, I attended a festival & fund raider.

Next meeting will be on November 12 at Washington Twp. on Donaldson Rd. at 6:30pm.

Sam Emery
17A Chairman

District 18 Report



Joe DeKemper - Chairman

Greetings from District 18
New Boston VFD hosted the last district meeting held on Sept. 18th. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Joe DeKemper. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all members present. Brother Benjamin Brown gave opening prayer and remembrance of Mike Benham from English Fire Dept. and Lucas Gehlhausen from Celestine Fire Dept.. The business meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Chairman DeKemper and he welcomed everyone that had joined us tonight. Roll call was taken with 36 members from 12 fire departments.

Guests present were Ava Verkamp District 18 / State Miss Flame; Jack Kerney PRSW-state office; Steve Anderson past president and four members of the American Red Cross.

Ava Verkamp spoke about all

the places she has been since the IVFA convention. Ava has been on the road for the past 13 weekends and some weekdays to attend numerous events and district meetings representing the IVFA. Thank you Ava for the great support representing the IVFA.

Jack Kerney spoke on dues and awards stating that we need to nominate more people from our departments. Steve Anderson touched on awards. With the size of our membership we only get two or three names turned in for an award. We need more nominations. Steve also talked about training courses and instructor training.

Chairman DeKemper reminded everyone to pay their dues so no member or family member would miss out on the Bridgeport Scholarship Program. Touched on awards and Supporting Heroes services. He stated you could support them by joining or donating to them or attending their Gala. Supporting Heroes provide services to families of fallen members. Their presence at the line of duty death of Lucas Gehlhausen was done with great respect and pride.

Committee report: 18 District parade and selection of new Miss Flame will be held in Jasper hosted by the Jasper VFD.on October12th.

The Carter Fire District will host the 18 th D istrict Memorial Service. It will be at Carter Fire District at Dale, IN October 5th.

4 Members of the American Red Cross from Terre Haute put on a program explaining they are here to help and would like to be contacted in the event of a fire, tornado, flood, or anything that displaces a family from their home. They could provide a place to stay, clothing, spiritual care, and medication. They cover 27 counties. The 18th District voted to make a donation of \$ 500.00 to the American Red Cross. Their phone number is 1-833-583-3111.

Chairman DeKemper thanked the host department for the great meal and desserts.

Next meeting will be Nov. 20th at Luce Fire District.

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

Meeting adjourned 930 pm.
Joe DeKemper
District 18 Chairman



I.V.F.A District Reports

District 19 Report



Ben Sieverding - Chairman

District 19 Article

As the summer months come to an end it is a good time to reflect on the status of the volunteer fire service. All of us are struggling with both funding and staffing issues, but it is important for all of us to be thankful and remain positive. We all should work towards addressing the issues that are affecting the volunteer fire service. Each of our departments face unique situations but if we continue to work together and remember our mission there can be a light at the end of the tunnel.

This past July I had the honor and privilege of attending the Supporting Heroes Gala. This organization is amazing and their efforts in supporting the families of our fallen heroes is truly a blessing. We should all get involved in whatever way we can to support them and their mission.

Our last district meeting was held at the Bear Branch VFD fire station. During our meeting several members of the department were recognized for their years of service. It is always encouraging to see these volunteer firefighters that have spent 10 and 25 years serving their communities. With all the challenges we face in the volunteer fire service, we need to make sure to recognize the good that is being done in our communities by volunteer firefighters all over our state.

Our next meeting will be at the Moorefield Volunteer Fire Department, hope to see a big crowd in Switzerland County.

District 21 Report



Blaine Butler Jr. - Chairman

Michigan Township Volunteer Fire Department hosted the District 21 IVFA Quarterly meeting on August 25, 2025. A light meal was served. There were nine departments represented with 25 members and 10 guests. The meeting was called to order at 1930 hrs by Chairman Blaine Butler with the pledge of allegiance following. Minutes from the May meeting were read and approved. Blaine talked about the District 21 Miss Flame Contest applications due by Nov 1, 2025 to District 21 IVFA Chairman. Blaine talked about the next three years of State Convention and the dates and location. Larry Curl talked about bills that were heard at the State House this year. Larry also talked about Jr. Firefighter contest at State Level and working on getting cadets from districts to go out for it next year. Presented a 50 Year card to Dave Trees from Michigan Township Vol. Fire Dept. Presented the McQueen award to Jeff Rustin. We have had 2 deaths in District 21 in this quarter. We discussed what benefits the members want to see for being a member of the IVFA. Discussed new open burn rules that DNR put out that came for State meeting. Blaine Butler was elected District 21 Chairman

Our next meeting will be held at West Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department on November 24, 2025 at 7:30pm. A light meal will be served at 6:45 pm. The address is 207 N. High St. West Lebanon, IN 47991.

Thanks,
Blaine Butler District 21
Chairman

I.V.F.A. Secretary

Leighanne Ellis



INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING August 8 to 10, 2025 Crowne Plaza Hotel Indianapolis, IN

Meeting was called to order by President Ross Emery at 1330. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Larry Curl. The Invocation was given by Chaplain David Elick.

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

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

Guests:

1. Jr. Firefighter Winner, Isaac Lindsey, spoke on his experience with winning the Jr. FF Competition and the plan to go to the NVFC Skills competition. Also spoke on his desire to make the next year better.

2. John Shafer, finished up Fire Chiefs Academy. Winter Fire School is currently working on the schedule. Planning on doing a Winter Fire School/ NFA weekend in Indiana. There will be no funding for rooms during this weekend. TIM class available on Acadis and every fire department is required to submit that all members have access or have completed Mental Health class and reporting this. HB 1367 allows fire investigators to have full arrest powers, talked about IDEM Reporting for live burns and training centers. IDHS has authority for sanctions and discipline. Discussed the DNR Class for Burn manager for open burns. Paoli Training Center is being built and open house is August 17 at 8a-4p, then Seymour, Winchester, and Covington departments will be built. Jan 31-Feb.1 is Winter Fire School.

Old Business:

- 1. Washington DC Trip is March 16 through 19, 2026.
- 2. Copier in Central Office is repaired.

Treasurer's Report, Treasurer Luke Kluender. report was

emailed out. August is district secretary vouchers due. Please include the name and address for the check to be sent.

Central Office Report: Jack Kerney, trying to get caught up on dues.

Executive Committee Report: President Emery, discussed advertiser rates, online dues and the possibility of doing this, set up meeting with JL Systems to be able to complete this. Discussion on election time frame of when the elected officers take over either immediately or at the start of the new year. Paul Holcomb thinks doing it in January to allow for buffer time to learn before taking office and also finish their year and projects out. Luke brought up that officers are filed with the state in December so this may be the reason for the change. Going to leave issue where as is.

Committee Reports:

Awards- Vice President Larry Curl- set a charge to have every department nominate someone for an award.

Mr. IVFA, Pete Taylor- nothing to report. We are still looking for a tailor to make our jackets.

Angel Award, Diane Harrison- nothing to report.

Miss Flame Program: Leighanne Ellis,

Jr. Firefighter Program: Mack Grobis, discussed with past winner some things to work on. Work on the onboarding process. Made a video to share to promote video.

Bridgeport: Past President Richard Glant- nothing to report.

Budget: Treasurer Luke Kluender will have draft By-laws and S.O.G.'s: Chaplin Dave Elick, discussion on adding winner of Jr. Firefighter to receive money just as the Miss Flame does for the travels. S.O.G. Article 11 Section 13. Les Jensen District 3 is willing to sponsor the S.O.G. Also discussed increasing the allowance from \$500 to \$1000. Les Jensen made motion to add Jr. Firefighter to SOG Article 11 Section 13. Blain Butler District 21 gave a second. Motion passed. B. Koehler asking about the funding lines. Anthony Smith made a motion to change the amount of the Jr. Firefighter and Miss Flame from \$500 to \$1000. Brent Bush gave second. Motion passed unanimously. Will be sent to board action. Discussion on following the by-laws and who is not following them and needs to be addressed, for example District meetings of 6/year, district elections and the wording in the bylaws to following the rules. Discussed the Policy and Procedures book and it is going into effect January 1, 2026. Concerns brought up about the effect of the Policy book against the By-laws. This is covering policy for conduct and further on.

Clothing Claims: District 5 John Grolich, nothing to report.

Convention: David Israel- Presented the Convention Plaque to District 14 Rick Cannon.

2025- Madison, Rick Cannon- Convention report has been submitted.

2026- Steve Anderson- Districts 6,7, and 8B being held in Indianapolis. List of people responsible for positions to host the Convention. June 17-19, 2026, at Wyndam, \$110 preregistration then after June 1 goes to \$130.

2027-2028- no interest from Districts for hosting currently.

EMS: Tom Fentress, EMS PI updates are mandatory and being held around the state. New Acadis updates went into effect July 1,25. Effective January 26 you must complete every recertification cycle TIM training, and EMS Well-being three modules. EMS Recruitment tool is available. Departments can post job openings on state map, job seekers can filter by location, and postings reviewed by IDHS prior to being posted. Dr. Yazel updated on measles guidelines for EMS and what to do for transport precautions. Fire and EMS Leadership Conference Sept. 17 to 19, 25. IEMSA poker run Sept. 6, 25. IEMSA Conference Nov. 19 to 21, 25 in French Lick, IN.

Health and Wellness Committee, Tom Fentress, Currently working with BIO CARE USA, a traveling company to provide physicals to departments. Firefighter Cancer Support Network Time is exploring ways to work more closely with organization. Tom is working to become a representative for FCSN. ESOguard is company that focuses on esophageal cancer, we are going to work on getting more information to learn about their program. Considering developing a health and wellness section on the app and website in the next 4 months, the goal is to provide affordable or no cost meal plans and fitness programs to members. Mental Health initiatives increase promotion during Mental health awareness month in May, and Men's month in June. Use the website and app for regular awareness and resources.

Insurance: Luke Kluender, any new officers need to fill out insurance forms.

Legislation: Lobbyist Larry Curl and Past President Buz Koehler, spoke on last years outcomes of bills. Need to change out mode of process to an offensive playlist. Plan is to start a roundtable campaign in the areas to talk with legislators to get ahead of next session. Look at Ivy Tech funding return.

LODD: Paul Holcomb, Supporting Heros Gala had 16 representatives attend to show support to their program and providing services back to our members when needed.

Logo: District 18 Joe DeKemper, nothing to report.

Happy Holidays!
Deadline for the February 2026 issue is January 1, 2026 please email your meeting notes, press releases, events, awards and photos to Sherri Chaney ivfd@hurmedia.com

Newspaper: Past Pres. Buz Koehler, 13,290 Labels created. 19 vendors with 20 advertisers. Starting a new advertiser sponsor program to pay a one-time fee for the year with a tiered plan.

Public Relations and

Education: Jerry Liston and Don Cushman, Fire and EMS Leadership Conference and the IEMSA Conference will have booths at each event.

Social media and Website:

Paul Holcomb and Anthony Smith, 887 users on the app. Facebook- going to work on spotlight posts. 2025 Memorial Service and Convention will be update on YouTube.

Special Projects:

Past Pres. Buz Koehler, 75-year history books are in and being distributed. Each PR area is going to receive 5 books to sell within their districts \$60 for bound and \$80 for leatherbound books. We have more on hand to sell.

Training: Steve Anderson discussed grant funding issue, TIM Training, updated on Fire Chiefs' Academy.

Nominating Committee, Jack Zeeks, nothing to report.

Representative Reports

Board of Firefighter Standards and Education: Steve Anderson, will be getting the update in September meeting. Training session at Convention by Ben was very well intended. Variance discussed with rules rewrite. Next Meeting at Leadership Conference in September.

Fire Alliance Steve Anderson, Buz Koehler, and Larry Curl, discussion about FEMA and the loss of the department or reorganization being done within. Waiting to see how it is going to be done. John Witham with IDHS is looking at cancer coverage as well.

IDHS Senior Advisory Committee, Jack Zeeks, finalize grant notifications.

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

Officer's Reports:

President, Ross Emery, district meetings, 175-year anniversary in Madison, Fish Fry in Fairplay, Convention, Hoosier Burn Camp, 3000 miles. 2026 Committee Survey needs returned. Discussed PR Meetings during the quarterly meeting and why held.

Vice President, Larry Curl, 75-year station dedication, Supporting Heros Gala, department meetings

Secretary, Leighanne Ellis, district meetings for Miss Flame presentations.

Treasurer, Luke Kluender,

completed service project selling penny candy.

Chaplain, David Elick, 5 services since convention, getting updated lists, going to be completing wedding for District 17B Chairman.

Sergeant-At-Arms, Brent Bush, Checked on clock deliveries.

Historian, Buz Koehler, Updated hard drive for the president. Still looking for older newspapers and convention books.

Chairman of the Board, Jerry Liston, absent

PRNW, Jeremy Reef, district meetings, Supporting Hero's Gala, convention, burn camp

PRNE, Sam Bisel, absent

PRWC, Don Fultz, meetings, funerals, fundraisers, burn camp, 50-year gold card presentation.

PREC, David Israel, dept. meetings, district meetings

PRSW, Jack Kerney, absent, Ross Gave report district meetings, Supporting Hero's Gala, station dedication.

PRSE, Ed Scheele, district meetings, Utica Fire station dedication, Laurel dept. to return as members.

Asst. Treasurer, Bev Harker, absent

Asst. Secretary, Diane Harrison, absent

Webmaster, Josh Reisert and Paul Holcomb,

Past President's Reports:

Jerry Liston, absent
Steve Anderson, BFFPSE meetings, Fire Chief's Leadership Class graduation. Gold card list update from 6 different lists and has it down to 5 pages to identify who is still missing or unknown distribution status.

Richard Glant, Thanked District 14 for their convention.

Jack Zeeks, nothing to report.

Buz Koehler, nothing to report.

Jack Kerney, nothing to report.

David Israel, nothing to report.

Paul Holcomb, nothing to report

Larry Ketchem, absent

Meeting recessed at 1717 until Sunday Aug. 9, 2025, at 08:30am.

Meeting is reconvened at 08:30 am by President Emery.

Morning message given by chaplain Elick.

State Miss Flame Ava VerKamp came and spoke on where she has traveled throughout the state so far, and what she is going to be doing this next quarter.

District Reports:

District 1, Marshall Neese- District meeting, Service pins

presented, memorial service held.

District 2, Tom Fentress, IDHS EMS Commission meeting, Running with Shears 5k, Golden Siren Banquet, IVFA Convention, Supporting Heros Gala, Jasper County Instructors meeting, dept. meetings, service pins presentations, memorial service. MaQueen award presented

District 3, Les Jensen, meeting august 14 at pleasant twp., going to dept. for service pins, few memorial services,

District 4, Uriah Mast, Jr., 6 gold card presentations, district meeting, electrical safety and solar panel training coming up at the next meeting.

District 5, John Grolich, 1400 miles, service pins, Supporting Hero's Gala, 2 District meetings, Grain Bin training, October 24-25 training from Charleston 9 representative.

District 6, Mack Grobis, District meeting, convention, Hoosier Burn Camp and Golf Outing, dept. visits, service pins.

District 7, Caleb Vanlandingham, July meeting elections, Sam Bisel is doing better.

District 8A, Rex Maynard, absent- Ross reports they had a July meeting with elections and no change

District 8B, Mikey Armstrong, absent Ross reports had a July meeting and had elections and no change.

District 9A, Pascal Moon, absent- Jeremy reports July meeting held, no quorum, the district is going to be looking for a new chairman.

District 9B, Randy Denton, Absent- Jeremy Reports July meeting held, no Quorum, next meeting September 11, at Buffalo Fire.

District 10, John Ray, absent

District 11A, Pete Taylor, district meeting and officers elected. Fundraisers, memorial service, Sept. 14 Joint 11A-11B Picnic. Service pins passed out.

District 11B, Scott Peebles, Anthony Rohr-treasurer- reports no quorum for last meeting,

District 12 Steve Kershaw, district meeting with elections with no changes,

District 13A, Don Cushman, Absent

District 13B, Jeff Biehl, district mtg held. Next meeting will have a grant writing class at district mtg in September.

District 14, Rick Cannon, convention finished, station dedication, service pins, elections held and no changes.

District 15, Paul Campbell, Steve Anderson-V.C.- elections held with no changes, service

pins passed out, next meeting is on a Saturday, and they will be having a training on T.I.M. Course. November meeting will be a training meeting on EMS Skills and Scenarios.

District 16, Nick Faulkenberg, meeting held, no quorum, memorial service, spoke with past member dept. and rejoined.

District 17A, Sam Emery, meeting held, elections held.

District 17B, Tammy Wright, absent, Larry Curl reports meeting and elections held with no changes.

District 18, Joe DeKemper, 50-year presentation and funeral withing district.

District 19, Ben Sieverding, absent, Ed Scheele reports elections held, and new vice chairman was elected.

District 21, Blaine Butler, district meeting held but no elections were held. Passed out service pins, 3 fundraisers, Burn Camp golf outing, working on getting into nonpaid dept. rosters. 2 memorial services attended, will be presenting the MacQueen Award and handing out gold card at next meeting.

New Business:

1. Hoosier Burn Camp-cooking went well, rained during cooking session, will be doing cooking again next year. The camp sent a picture in a frame Leighanne Ellis, made a motion to place into the PR Trailer. Brent Bush gave second. Motion passed.

2. Web App annual renewal for \$1800. Will need to speak with Jerry to identify what this bill is for or from. Tabled at this time.

3. Meeting recorder needs to be updated. Buz Koehler made motion to send to board action, Mack Grobis gave second, motion carried.

4. Data sharing and roster sharing is not tolerated and will not be allowed.

5. Discussion on association coins and needing to order more and selling coins in bulk to a dept. John Grolich brought up discussion on if we are discounting for one dept. we will have to do it for other dept. Dave Elick made motion to sell 42 coins to Bremen Fire for \$750. Jack Zeeks second. Motion passed with 1 nay.

6. If we continue to do bulk pricing, it will be \$17.80 per coin to be discounted, but we will have to wait until we get the new price quote. Richard Glant motion that any dept. buying 25 or more coins gets them at \$18.00 a piece. Jack Zeeks gave a second. Discussion held about cost increase and Jack zeeks

rescinds second and Richard Glant rescinds motion. Richard Glant makes a motion that any dept. buying 25 or more coins gets them at a 10% discount. Jack Zeeks seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Rick Cannon makes motion to purchase 500 coins not to exceed \$2500. Buz Koehler gave second. Motion passed to go to board actions.

8. Political Action Committee- we are needing to find a chairman and treasurer. We have asked John Grolich to become chairman, and he would like find a treasurer and put a team together. Jack Zeeks makes a motion to loan \$10,000 to the PAC to get the startup going after the paperwork is filed to become into existence. Richard Cannon gave second. Motion to send to board action passed unanimously.

Richard Glant made Motion to Adjourn meeting, Sam Emery gave second. Meeting adjourned at 1002

INDIANA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING August 8 to 10, 2025

Crowne Plaza Hotel Indianapolis, IN

Board Action Business Meeting called to order by Past Chairman of the Board Paul Holcomb at 10:02 am.

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

Old Business:

none

Board Action- Business:

1. Jack Zeeks made a motion to order more coins for the association and allow for the departments to purchase coins as listed from earlier in the meeting. Brent Bush gave the second. Motion passed.

2. Mack Grobis made a motion to order a new recording system not to exceed \$1500. Blaine Butler seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Marshall Neese made a motion to increase and add \$1000 to Junior Firefighter. David Elick gave the second. Motion passed.

4. Richard Glant gave motion to loan \$10,000 to the Political Action Committee to get started and the Paperwork completed. Mack Grobis gave the second. Motion Passed.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jeremy Reef, Second by Brent Bush. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 am.



Miss Flame Ava Verkamp on the move



On July 28th I joined the IVFA President Ross Emery at the Utica Township Fire Dept. for their reopening.



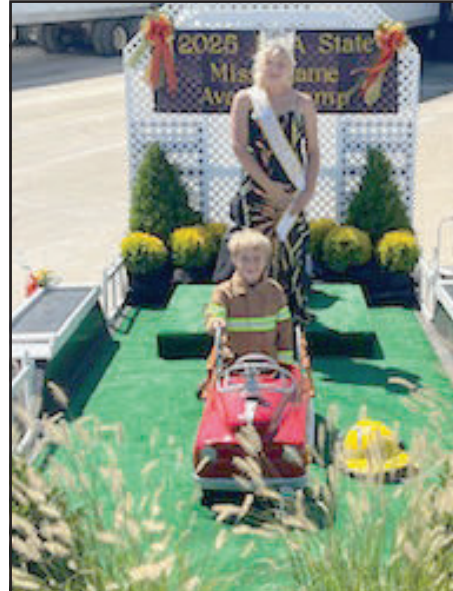
On August 23rd I made the trip to District 6 for the New Haven Emergency Response Festival where I was able to meet up with the Dist. 6 Miss Flame Madie



On July 27th I joined the Dist 3 Miss Flame Emily for the Bass lake parade.



On August 16th I was in my own district (18) for the St Anthony Firemen's Fest



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Mention this Ad for a **FREE TRIAL** for 2025

Good morning, this is Ava Verkamp, the IVFA State Miss Flame. For the newspaper this time I don't quite have an article, but I have some pictures from where I have been so far.

Most recently on September 28th participated in the Herbsfest parade in my own district.

September 20th I participated in the Winslow Night Light Parade.

September 6th I participated in the Dale Fall Fest Parade.

August 23rd I made the trip to District 6 for the New Haven Emergency Response Festival where I was able to meet up with the District 6 Miss Flame Madie.

August 16th I was in my own district (18) for the St Anthony Firemen's Fest.

August 10th I made a trip to Indianapolis for the IVFA quarterly meeting and then followed it up by spending the day the the Indiana State Fair.

August 3rd my First Runner Up, Miranda, from District 2 joined me in my district for the annual Strassenfest Parade.

July 28th I joined the IVFA President Ross Emery at the Utica Township Fire Dept. for their reopening.

July 27th I joined the District 3 Miss Flame Emily for the Bass lake parade.

Hello,

I always enjoy hearing from all of you. Remember to send along your photos with tag lines and Notes from your meetings by the first of January, April, July and October to ensure your items get published.

If you have to be later please feel free to call 574-870-5101 or email me ivfd@hurdmedia.com. I will always try to work with you to make sure we get things in. I usually start downloading emails around a week before the 1st of the month. I will always send a reply when I download copy and photos. Be sure to identify people in photos.

Wishing all of you Happy Holidays!

From Your Editor
Sherri Chaney

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

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT.....CAROL CURL
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Phone: (317) 557-2606 / E-mail: ivfaapastpresident@ivfaa.org

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25509 Gill Rd., Nabb, IN 47147 Cell (502) 380-7532
E-mail: ivfaadistrict14@ivfaa.org / jsmith19513@yahoo.com
DISTRICT #15.....VACANT
DISTRICT #16.....VACANT
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799 East Harvest Church Rd., Bloomfield, IN 47424 Home (812) 384-8748
/ Cell (812) 381-0107 - E-mail: ivfaadistrict17a@ivfaa.org
DISTRICT #17B.....VACANT
DISTRICT #18.....KATHY SMITH
109 Oak Street, Huntingburg, IN 47542 Home (812) 683-3697
/ Cell (812) 631-1501 / E-mail: ivfaadistrict18@ivfaa.org
DISTRICT #19.....VACANT
DISTRICT #21.....PATTI FULTZ
1007 Haan Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906 Home (765) 463-2970
/ Cell (765) 426-6615 / E-mail: ivfaadistrict21@ivfaa.org / dpbfultz@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENTS

DIANA GRAY.....2011-2013
799 Hippensteel Drive, Warren, IN 46792- (260) 224-0774 didagrav@yahoo.com
BETH CAUDILL.....2009-2011
15120 Lucas Rd., Brookville, IN 47012 - Cell (765) 309-2940
MARTHA THOMAS (Deceased).....2007-2009
JOANN HAYS.....2005-2007
4430 South 8th St., Terre Haute, IN 47802 - (812) 299-1574 / Cell (812) 230-5506
BARBARA KERNEY (Deceased).....2002-2005
MARY MACKIN (Deceased).....2000-2002
FAYE SALLEE (Deceased).....1998-2000
LOU BARTLOW (Deceased).....1996-1998
Box 12, Montezuma, IN 47862 - (765) 245-2125 / Cell (765) 593-2227
E-mail: larry_bartlow@att.net
PHYLLIS VARGO.....1994-1996
7756 Durbin Street, Schererville, IN 46375 - (219) 322-4286
/ E-mail pavargo1@yahoo.com
MAXINE DAVIES (Deceased).....1992-1994
NANCY NEAL.....1990-1992
749 Walnut Street, Hope, IN 47246 - (812) 764-1852
TONI SORG (Deceased).....1988-1990
LORETTA NULLINER.....1986-1988
10830 Cape Coral Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46229 - (317) 622-2863
MAXINE DAVIES (Deceased).....1992-1994
NICKIE SUNDAY (Deceased).....1984-1986
BARBARA PARKER (Deceased).....1982-1984
BARBARA SURBER.....1980-1982
2003 Flamingo Way, Franklin, IN 46131 - (317) 614-5669 - Cell (317) 519-4445
LUCY STOFER.....1978-1980
718 South Ingomar Street, Indianapolis, IN 46241 - (317) 241-1946
VICA MCGILL (Deceased).....1976-1978
MARY BOYD.....1975-1976
32933 Timberlake Dr., Mt. Dara, FL 32757 - Cell (407) 495-8249

PAST PRESIDENTS

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

IVFAA President

Christina Reef



Hello Everyone,
I hope you all 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! Don't forget it is also that time of the year to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.
We are doing a trial of having our quarterly meetings in person & also on a Zoom meeting via the internet. We are hoping this will help members who want to join the meetings but cannot always travel to them. If you are interested in attending our upcoming meeting, please contact me.

This leads me to my next topic, which is contact information for all our members. It is very important that we have everyone's updated address, phone, email & beneficiary information. In the very near future, we want to find more ways to communicate with our members. We of course would always love for you all to attend the district meetings & annual meetings, but we also understand that everyone's lives are busy & sometime people cannot travel. We would like to do a trial of emailing members the IVFAA information that is being passed on or needed at that time. To accomplish this, we need your updated information. Your district chairman has a list of all members information in the district. Please review this information at your district meeting. If you have a change in your information, we have a membership information form on the website that can be used to make the update. We have also had few issues with mailing items out in the US mail. To help avoid these issues & with the increasing cost of postage, an email address to communicate with would be greatly appreciated. If you are unable to attend your district meeting, please reach out to them or our Recording Secretary Dawn Harris.
It is time again to start getting your nominations turned in for the awards. In the past few years,

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we have seen extremely low nominations. I strongly encourage everyone to go to the website, review all the awards & nominate someone. You can even nominate the 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 or a state officer, we would be more than happy to help in any way possible. The deadline is February 1st.

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 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 COMMITTEES FOR 2025 / 2026

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

AUDIT

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

VICE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

BY LAWS & SOGS

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

BUDGET & FINANCE

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

CHINESE AUCTION

- Lori Baxter - Chair
Hunter Smith - Co-Chair
All district chairman, line offices & members need to sign up for a time slot.

MISS FLAME COMMUNITY SERIVE AWARD

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

NEW DISTRICT CHAIR TRAINING

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

JEWELRY

- Suzie Lewis - Chair
Diana Gray - Co-Chair

INSTALLATION

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

LOIS BOAZ AWARD

- Judy Wirth
Betty Schroder
Janet Matthews

MIRIAM SCHAEKEL AWARD

- Tammy Heishman
JoAnn Smith
Tammy Smith

HISTORIANS

- Phyllis Vargo
Buzz Kohler

SPECIAL PROJECTS

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

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION

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

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY

- Phyllis Vargo
Beth Caudill
Carol Curl
Diana Gray

CHAPLIN ASSISTANTS

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

NOMINATING

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

MEMORIAL THROW

- Carol Curl - Chair

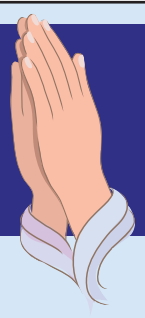
*Miss Flame Committee is to be determined by the IVFA.





IVFAA Chaplain

Judy Wirth



One of the devotions explains God's Mercy and Grace and Blessings to where I can understand it easier. I thought maybe you would like to see this version.

Grace is when God gives us good things that we don't deserve.

Mercy is when He spares us from bad things we Blessings are when He is generous with both.

Truly, we can never run out of reasons to thank HIM!

Hello to all! By the time you get to read this the Holidays will be upon us again with the celebration of Thanksgiving and for the birth of our Savior Jesus. What blessing we have from God our Heavenly Father! A very dear friend introduced me the the phone app - Proverbs 31 Ministries. It is a daily devotional for the "women" who are raising families, working, and try to do what is correct.

My prayer for each and everyone of my fire service family that you have calm in your spirit, happiness in your soul and peace in your heart.

Thank you Jesus.
Love to all, Judy
(Holler if you need anything!)

Recording Secretary

Janet Matthews



IVFAA Quarterly Meeting August 10, 2025

Crown Plaza, Indpls, IN

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

Recording Secretary Dawn Harris took roll call of those in attendance 17 officers 7 individuals present today, no guests. Members by department 177, Individuals 68, Life members 33 Total members 278. Dawn reported she has a lot of dues to process but that is the count as of today.

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Matthews was asked to read the minutes from the May quarterly meeting. Jodi Rohr made a motion to suspend the reading of the May minutes & accept them as they were sent out, Carol Curl seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. May minutes accepted as they were sent out.

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

- General Fund Amount \$30,034.98
- CD Amount #1 \$11,323.55
- CD Amount #2 \$20,833.22
- Miss Flame Community Service Award Amount \$2,213.37
- Miss Flame Amount \$3,716.44
- Gaming Amount \$9,916.24

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

Buz Koehler came to the room & brought newspapers & a copy of the 75-year IVFAA book that people can look at, informed all they are being sold for \$60.00 per book if anyone wants to buy one. Those that pre-ordered one, the book will be mailed to you. State Miss Flame Ava Verkamp came to the room & gave a report on the events that she has already attended & a list of those events that she will go to in August & September. Please let her know if

you would like her to appear at one of your events. She thanked everyone for their support & assistance.

Chaplain's Report Judy Wirth read a thank you card from the family of Lucy Stofer for the honor that was shown in her passing. There are cards going around the room for signatures as we still have many that need to know that we are thinking about them.

President Christina Reef emailed out new committee listings for the year & Suzie handed out paper copies to those that wanted one.

• Auditing- Carol Curl reports she is gathering all the expense items/records & will be taking them to her CPA for review. Please make sure that you get all the items to her.

• Budget & Finance- Tammy Smith reports her committee met yesterday & would like to see the financial report simplified, easier to follow & understand.

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

• Chinese Auction- Lori Baxter is not present today, but Hunter Smith reports that \$1,211 was made off the auction at convention. Thanked everyone for bringing baskets.

• Historian- Phyllis Vargo is not present today. Christina reminded everyone that Buz Kohler is still gathering history & that she would like everyone to think about the fire safe for historical items if it is still going

Matthews continued on pg 16



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Matthews *continued from pg 15*

to be needed after Buz gets all the history digitally saved & backed up on external hard drive.

- Installation- Leslie Spears reports they will be ready.
- Jewelry- Suzie Lewis reports that she has new flags, American & IVFAA with new flag holders for the chairmen so they can put in their cases for their meetings.
- Lois Boaz- Judy Wirth informed the group that Betty Schroeder is ill & that Suzie Lewis has agreed to fill in for her on this committee.
- Membership- Cindy Krueckeberg is not present today.
- Memorial Throw- Carol Curl reports a throw was made for Lucy Stofer.
- Miriam Schaeckel- Christina Reef said that Tammy Heishman agreed to be on committee.
- Miss Flame Community Service Award – Patti Fultz is now the chairman of this committee & Dawn Harris has removed herself since she has a daughter participating in the program.
- Miss Flame- Janet Matthews reported that the committee met today & some changes will be made to the paperwork that is sent to each girl before the convention.
- Nominating- Carolyn Zeeks had nothing to report.
- Parliamentarian- Beverly Vanlandingham all is ok
- President Advisory- Phyllis Vargo is not present today, Carol Curl reports all is going ok.
- Social Media Communication- Virginia Elick encouraged everyone to post events on Facebook & to put them on the organization calendar.
- SOG's & By Laws- Jodi Rohr reports that the committee met yesterday & wants to see if Lona Huffman can come to the November meeting for discussion of the proposed code of conduct that needs to be enforced.
- Vice President Project- Beverly Vanlandingham reports that the new ticket barrel that was made worked out well for the 50/50 tickets & that \$817 was profit from the sales.
- **Old Business:** President Christina Reef asked if anyone had any follow ups from old business? No one had anything to discuss regarding old business. Ten Minute break was taken.
- **New Business:** President Christina Reef informed the group that the membership records show that there will be 3 members getting recognized

for their 50 years this year. She asked each chairman to review their members list, so we don't miss anyone. Reminded chairman to try & update members information when at meetings in the district & if an email address is obtained, we can put the member on the email lists. District 6 has a new district chairman her name is Andrea Weaver, she could not be here today, so Virginia Elick is filling in for her. Christina discussed with the group about SOG's & Bylaws, she is aware that they are not currently uploaded on the website, but she is having that investigated. With the updated SOG's & Bylaws being done she wanted to discuss if the chairman wanted them printed out or emailed to them? Discussion was held & Beverly Vanlandingham made a motion that the state buys binders & put copies of the updated SOG's & Bylaws in them for each chairman/officer of the organization that way everyone will be referencing to the same ones & distribute them at the November meeting. Patty Fultz seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Each chairman/officer will be given a printed copy. Dawn Harris informed the group that she has been creating a new membership tracking spreadsheet. Dawn showed the new spreadsheet explained the purpose of creating a new one & that eventually each chairman will have access to view it. She will continue to hand out printed copies at each quarterly meeting but hopes that it will help the tracking of members. In November she hopes to have a computer session to review the spreadsheet & its use for everyone to be able to view it easily. She will email a link to the spreadsheet to each chairman. A group discussion was held on ways to help increase the attendance of members at district meetings. Also discussed that we need ideas for fundraising events, & special projects that we may be able to do as an organization. Any & all input is wanted & needed. Martha Biehl has been using her own accounting software to track the finances for the IVFAA since taking office in 2018 since the organization did not have any digital form of tracking them. Carol Curl made a motion that the IVFAA purchase their own financial software for the treasurer to use to track the organization's finances, Tammy Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, motion passed. Tammy Smith will get details about a subscription of Quick Books along with using our 501c (3)

to see if there are discounts available. Hunter Smith made a motion that we can pay the fees for the software out of the gaming account no matter what the cost may be, Jodi Rohr seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Steve Anderson came to the room with registration forms for next year's convention. It will be held on June 17-19th, 2026 & is being hosted by the state committee along with District 6,7 & 8B & will be at the Wyndam Hotel here in Indianapolis. The registration fee will be \$110 until June 1, 2026, then it goes up to \$135. There will be a walk through at Wyndam today from 11:30-12 for those that may be interested. Ross Emery also came to the room to see if accommodations for this weekend have been ok here at the hotel.

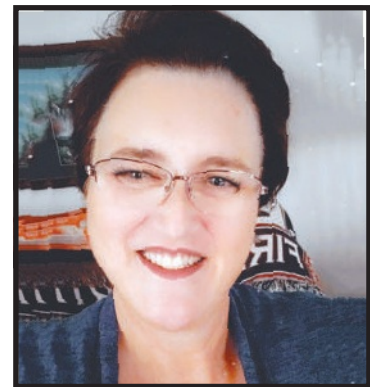
Christina asked how everyone thought the zoom meeting trial was going today. Participants at the zoom meeting said there were some difficulties in not being able to hear what all was being said, but it helped when microphones were added to the room. Tammy Smith volunteered to bring the needed supplies of camera, speakers, microphones to the next meeting to allow the zoom meeting trial to continue before the organization purchases what is needed for it. The topic was brought up about the Recording Secretary having the ability to deposit money that she gets sent to her for dues from the members. Currently in the SOG's it is not that way but many voiced understandings of why it would be easier for that position to have the ability to deposit money into the account. Chara Leaver from District 12 will complete an SOG form to add the Recording Secretary to the organization's checking account & get it to Jodi Rohr for the committee to review it.

Christina asked if anyone had anything good for the order? Judy Wirth announced that at the November quarterly meeting the Saturday social hour event will be the holiday "dirty Santa" gift exchange, bring a \$10 gift to play. Also wear your bib overalls & bring a dessert for snack sharing. Closing prayer given by Judy Wirth. Jodi Rohr made a motion meeting be adjourned Tammy Smith seconded the motion, all in favor, meeting adjourned 11:00 am. Next quarterly meeting will be November 2, 2026

Respectfully Submitted by:
Janet Matthews
IVFAA Corresponding Secretary

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

District 6 Report



Virginia Elick- Chairman

Sept. 23, 2025 7:00 p.m.
District 6 IVFAA Agenda
Columbia Twp. VFD

Roll Call Dept total 0

Individual total 7

Alyssa Adams, Andrea Weaver, Dave Elick, Deanna Armstrong, Deanna Weaver, Jeremy Weaver, Jeff Schwartz, Jerry Sprague, Mack Grobis, Vicki Harrison, Virginia Elick
East Central Fire & EMS

Cathy Mackin – Jenna Mackin
Thorncreek Township Fire

Guests total _____

Reading of previous meeting minutes - Last meeting held July 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. – Albion VFD

Entertain motion to suspend the reading of the minutes.

Motion by Dave Elick to suspend the reading of the minutes.

2nd by Jeremy Weaver

All in favor, all opposed, motion carried. Andrea has a copy if anyone wants to read them.

Treasurers Report (before 50/50)

Current balance \$ 304.50

Last call for anyone wanting 50/50 for tonight

Total 50/50 collected \$ 82

Winner \$ 41 Jeremy Weaver

New balance after 50/50 \$ 345.50

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

Death notifications – Please contact Andrea, Virginia, or the State Chaplain, Judy Wirth if an auxiliary member has passed away. An auxiliary memorial service may be performed for them. A Bible, candle and rose are given to the family. If the family chooses not to have a memorial service – that's ok too.

Awards – Lois Boaz, Miriam Schaeckel – Please start writing/submitting nominations for the 2026 convention. They must be received by February 1st. I'm sure there are some deserving people in District 6 – let's get

one recognized at next year's convention. The awards honor the member's involvement with the fire department, community and family.

Miss Flame, Madison Tigner – update on activities.....

Madison has been busy with multiple parades and many other events. She highlighted the Cromwell Days Parade, Ligonier Marshmallow Festival Parade, and the New Haven Fire Muster.

State Quarterly meeting highlights – Meeting held in Indianapolis on August 10, 2025.

Members – Ideas on how to increase membership are welcomed. Membership dues were being received.

75 year book – The books are being mailed to those who have ordered books. They are \$60 each

Committee reports –

• **Auditing** – An outside CPA is going to review the IVFAA's books to make sure everything is in compliance.

• **Budget & Finance** – Chairman, Tammy Smith, would like to see the financial report simplified, easier to follow, and understand.

• **Chinese Auction** - \$1,211 was made at the auction at convention. District 6 basket helped contribute.

• **SOG's & By Laws** – Chairman, Jodi Rohr reported they would like to see if Lona Huffman, from the insurance company, could come to the November meeting for a discussion on the proposed code of conduct policy.

• **Miss Flame** – Janet Matthews reported some changes will be made to the paperwork sent to each girl before convention.

• **Vice-President's Project** – Selling 50/50 tickets at convention is working out well. \$817 profit was made.

New Business –

• Andrea Weaver was recognized as the new District 6 Chairman but was unable to attend – I filled in for her.

• They are aware the website does not have an updated SOG's and By Laws on the website – Christina is having it investigated. Binders with the updated SOG's and By Laws will be distributed to all district chairman at the November meeting.

• New accounting software will be purchased for the Treasurer to use. Currently, she is using her own accounting software.

• The State Convention will be held June 17-19, 2026, at the Wyndam Hotel in Indianapolis. Registration is \$110 until June 1st, it will then increase to \$135. Districts 6, 7, and 8B are the hosts.

• A trial run was done for this



District 6 - Please let us know if there are any auxiliary members that have not received their 10- or 25-year pin and would like one. We want to make sure everyone is recognized for their dedication to the fire service.

Any other business???
Next meeting date: November 25, 2025, at 7:00 p.m @East Central Fire Department

District 7 Report



Cindy Krueckeberg - Chairman

Dist. 7 IVFAA Warren VFD July 21, 2025

District 7 IVFAA meeting was called to order by District Chairman Cindy Krueckeberg with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Roll call was answered by 6 members from 2 departments and 1 individual. No Treasures report. Secretary/Treasure not in attendance.

Minutes from the May meeting were read and approved. Chairman Cindy offered to read the minutes from the IVFAA convention and meeting but decided not to because everyone at the meeting tonight was at the convention. Chairman Cindy did mention again that Dorothy Reiter was presented her 50 year Gold Card at the Convention. Congratulations Dorothy.

Aubrie Krueckeberg, Dist. 7 Miss Flame, was voted Miss Congeniality again this year by her peers at the Convention. Aubrie took a couple of minutes to thank us for supporting her through the last few years as she represented our District.

Bev Vanlandingham gave a brief update on the baby box being installed at their station. No new business. Chairman Cindy read a

District 7 IVFAA Elections: Bev Vanlandingham nominated Aubrie Krueckeberg for Secretary/Treasure seconded by Chris Vanlandingham. No other nominations. Congratulations Aubrie. Diana Gray Made a motion that Cindy Krueckeberg remain District Chairman, Seconded by Aubrie Krueckeberg. No other nominations for District Chairman. Congratulations Cindy.

Bev Vanlandingham mentioned that we will need to be sure to get the signers/names changed at the bank for our account. Currently it Bev and Kaitlyn as signers. After discussion at the meeting the two signers will be Beverly Vanlandingham and Aubrie Krueckeberg. Kaitlyn Ritter-Butz will come off the account as a signer.

Upcoming events: Liberty Center will be having a golf outing on Aug. 16, 2025 Beverly Vanlandingham Fill in Secretary.

IVFA Auxiliary Minutes Call to order

A meeting of the IVFA District 7 Auxiliary was held at Andrews Volunteer Fire Department on September 15, 2025, by District 7 Auxiliary Chairman Cindy Krueckeberg.

Attendees
 Attendees included 6 members, 1 individual, and 1 guest.

Approval of Minutes and Reports

Minutes were read and approved from the past meeting in July.

The bank account was switched to Aubrie Krueckeberg and Bev Vanlandingham as signers on the account, since Aubrie is the new Treasurer. Treasurer's report stands read and approved for audit.

Old Business

On August 15, 2025, the Poe Volunteer Fire Department had the blessing of their Baby Box. Bev says the department is happy to say that it is up and operating, but they have yet to use it and pray they never do.

Cindy says that she is working hard at getting caught up so that everyone has the appropriate pin. She presented three to Andrews' chief since none of their women were present. Cindy hopes and plans to continue presenting more as she continues traveling throughout the district.

Cindy dismissed reading the minutes from the August state quarterly meeting since everyone present had already read them prior to the meeting. Bev gave an update on events that happened at the meeting. She said that they ran a trial Zoom meeting. She said it was successful overall,

but they have some minor adjustments to make. Bev also said that Dawn Harris (State Auxiliary Recording Secretary) is going to keep track of dues and memberships through a spreadsheet that she will share with the district chairmen for them to view only. They once again discussed the issue of members receiving state papers.

New Business

Aubrie is no longer eligible to represent District 7 as Miss Flame. We are searching for a new young lady. If you know anyone, reach out to Aubrie or Cindy. We hope to crown them at the November meeting.

The 2026 State Convention is going to be held in Indianapolis and hosted by districts 6, 7, and 8b. We have been working to make sure everything will be smooth. Bev has registration forms for the convention and room forms for the hotel. Cindy is taking payments, and Diana Gray was able to give her feedback on her experience. Caleb Vanlandingham (IVFA Dist. 7 Chairman) has challenge coins for \$20 apiece. Todd Krueckeberg (IVFA Dist. 7 Secretary/Treasurer) has been collecting donations. We are continuing to ask local companies to donate bags or a raffle. This year is the 80th Convention, so we will have specialty shirts available to buy at the convention (both embroidered and printed). Poe Auxiliary will be hosting/donating this year's Coffee Clutch. In the future, we need to discuss the Chinese Auction basket we would like to donate. There were multiple ideas, all of which were to be age-appropriate for the Miss Flames to participate in. Such as a taco basket, a baking basket, a family game night basket, or a spa basket. Cindy has already started gathering items for a child's one.

Announcements

Poe has a drive-through pork loin dinner on October 17th OR 24th (members were unsure and could not remember) from 4-7. Geneva has a fall parade and chili cook-off on October 25th. Markle has "Ride to Provide" shirts for sale till September 30th.

Poe will start making peanut brittle soon. They will be making it at a different location due to allergies, but they will still be selling it out of Poe.

Markle has a movie night on September 20th.

The next meeting for the IVFAA District 7 will be on November 17, 2025, at the Berne Volunteer Fire Department, starting at 7:00 pm. The present members decided not to do a Christmas gift exchange this year at the next meeting.

Diana Gray motioned for the meeting to end. Dorothy Reiter seconded her motion. Then

followed by them auditing the treasurer's books.
 Aubrie Krueckeberg
 IVFAA District 7 Secretary

District 17A



Beverly Taylor - Chairman

Hello to all from District 11A

Its fall and flowers are beautiful! Last meeting was a picnic at First Park in Brazil with 11B. A good time and good food was there.

We had about 30 people. No meeting that month.

It is time to be looking for recommendation letters for all awards. A complete list of those awards is located at IVFA.Org

These letters would be for 2026 IVFA convention.

Be thinking about Chinese Auction. What will we provide for District 11A?

A fun raiser was discussed about making a cook book. Look for some good recipes to be included.

Our next convention is June 17 the 19th 2026 at Wyndham Hotel in Indianapolis. Registration will be \$110 till June 1st than goes to \$135.

Our next meeting will be at Posey TWP. In Staunton In. On Nov. 16, 2025 at 1:00 PM . It would be nice to see a good crowd.

District 11A Chairman IVFAA Beverly Taylor

District 11B Report



Jodi Rohr - Chairman

Greetings from District 11-B! As I write this article, it sure does not feel like Fall in our little area of the state. Sorry, but I much prefer the 80's over the 20's any day.

Unfortunately, there is not much happening In District 11-B. The New Market Fire Department hosted our July meeting. They served us a wonderful, barbecued chicken dinner. We had just enough members present to hold election. Our officers remained

the same for the upcoming year: Jodi Rohr, Chairman and Michele Peebles, Secretary/Treasurer.

Each September, Districts 11-A and 11-B have a joint picnic for our meetings. District 11-A was the gracious host this year, at Forest Park in Brazil. As usual we had more than enough food to go around! A wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all. The problem is attendance.

Where are we going wrong? Do we need to meet on weeknights rather than Sunday afternoons? Do we need to go later Sunday afternoons? Please throw some suggestions our way.

Just a reminder, it's not too early to submit nominations letter for all of the awards. The list of awards can be found on the website: ivfa.org.

EVERYONE knows someone in their department or district who is worthy of receiving these awards. I challenge you to make the committees work hard when it comes to deciding on the winners!

By the time you are reading this article, we all will be thinking about Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years celebrations. May your turkey be plump and juicy, your Christmas be merry and your New Year be prosperous.

Here is a little something I ran across a couple of months ago. Before I am corrected, yes, I am completely aware that more and more ladies are joining the fire service. Please keep in mind, this was written in 1979.

Ladies Auxiliary Prayer

The ladies wait, while their men respond, united as one in a common bond.

The bond of serving, each in their own way, the needs that arise, be what they may.

The reheated meals, the unsipped drink, are a common occurrence, much more than you think.

It's mostly routine and without flair, the men return; their ladies are there.

But then comes the call, the tough one to fight, a working fire that may last through the night.

The ladies again wait, but this time they know, that sooner or later, they too will go.

As they wait for the signal, the time draws near, for the sooner or later to be suddenly here.

The men are all weary, some of them spent, the refreshments that arrive are like heaven sent.

The auxiliary, in fact, is more than a name, it's a dedicated arm of the volunteer game.

So God when we pray, for the firemen's care, include the ladies, who were also there.

R. Lewis 1979

Jodi Rohr
 Dist. 11-B Aux Chairman

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

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

District 17A



Patti Fultz- Chairman

IVFAA District 21 met at Michigantown V F Department on August 25, 2025.

There were 8 members and 3 guests.

If you are wanting to be a

Miss Flame candidate for the 2026 convention, an Application is needed by November 1, 2025 to the IVFA or IVFAA district chairman.

Christina Reef talked about what is going on in the auxiliary this year.

A reminder of the 2026 convention June 17-19, 2026 at the Wynham Hotel, by the old airport. Districts 6, 7, and 8B are hosting the convention. Registration is \$110.00 due by June 1, 2026, after June 1, 2026 \$135.00.

Our next meeting will be at West Lebanon V F Department November 24, 2025 at 7:30 pm. A light meal served at 6:45 pm.

Patti Fultz
District 21 Chairman



Annual Meeting and State Convention

The Association hosts its Annual Convention each year, typically during the first or second week of June. The convention city is chosen by the delegates two years in advance whenever possible. This highly anticipated event offers something for everyone, from engaging exhibits featuring emergency service vendors to

exciting activities, tours, informative seminars, and the ever-popular firefighter games. A heartfelt Memorial Service is also held during the convention to honor and remember those we have lost. Attendance at the annual business meeting is open to all and does not require registration for the convention. Department

delegates are encouraged to participate in this important meeting to cast their votes for the Association's officers, convention site, and association business.

Next year's meeting will be at Wyndham Indianapolis West, on June 17-19, 2026. We hope to see everybody there!

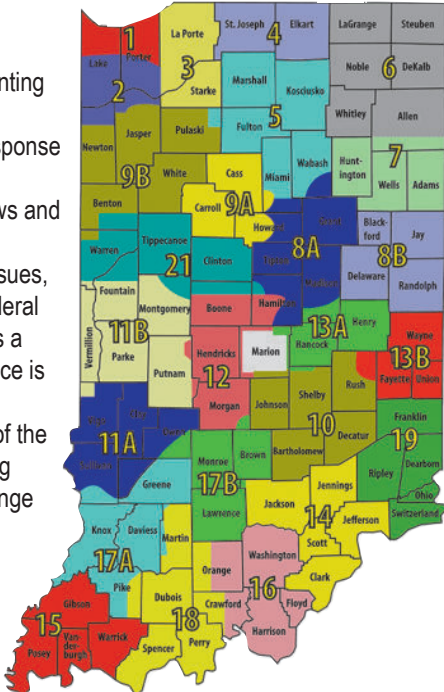
District Meetings

The Association has divided Indiana into 21 districts, each representing volunteer fire departments within a specific geographic area. District meetings serve as an important platform for engaging emergency response personnel between the annual convention meetings.

These local meetings often lead to resolutions for changes in bylaws and state laws affecting Volunteer Firefighters and EMS personnel.

District meetings are also key for addressing and resolving local issues, while providing opportunities to discuss and learn about state and federal legislation. The District Chairman, elected at the local level, serves as a member of the Board of Directors at the state level, ensuring your voice is heard.

These meetings also feature educational programs, a crucial part of the agenda, where firefighters share techniques and methods for handling specific types of fires or emergency scenes. This collaborative exchange helps improve practices and outcomes for all.



I.V.F.A. Convention 2026 Registration Form WYNDHAM INDIANAPOLIS WEST June 17 - 19

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

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Email Address: _____

Fire Department / Company: _____

Name of Spouse or Guest (if registering): _____

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IVFA History

In 1945, a group of volunteer fire departments from Lake and Porter Counties came together to form the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association (IVFA). Founding departments included Kouts, Dyer, Griffith, Cedar Lake, and several others.

The first officers were elected in August and September 1945, with Harold Brownell serving as President, Alvin Guske as Vice President, Roy Kittredge as Secretary, and C.O. Rattray as Treasurer.

The first By-Laws Committee was formed later that year, and after many meetings, the Association was officially incorporated on December 6, 1946.

In 1990, during the 44th annual convention in Fort Wayne, District 12 proposed changing the name of the organization from "Firemen's" to "Firefighters" to reflect the growing diversity of the membership, including more women. The motion was initially tabled due to complications with the organization's registration in Washington, DC, which would require the IVFA to disband and re-establish itself under the new name.

In 1999, at the annual convention in Columbus, the name change was discussed once again, and this time, the decision was made to officially begin the process of renaming the association to the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association. This marked the successful third attempt to adopt the new name.

Happy Holidays!
Deadline for the February 2026 issue is January 1, 2026
please email your meeting notes, press releases, events, awards and photos to
Sherri Chaney
ivfd@hurdmedia.com



Member Benefits

Co-Sponsor of Indiana Fire Schools

The Association offers a \$5.00 discount on each class attended at Association-sponsored schools. To qualify, members must be in good standing and present their IVFA member card.

Indiana Fire Service Alliance

The Alliance is a coalition of representatives from all emergency response associations across the state. This group plays an active role at both the state and federal levels, collaborating with legislators to advance a legislative agenda that supports and strengthens the volunteer fire service, as well as the fire service overall.



National Volunteer Fire Council

Our Association has a representative on the council who keeps us informed about changes and issues that impact volunteers. This representative also serves on several NVFC committees, ensuring our interests are well-represented.



Annual Awards

- Mr. IVFA Award:** The highest award given by the Association, selected through letters of nomination to the Mr. IVFA committee made up of previous recipients.
- Angel Award:** Given to a female recipient and selected by nomination letters to the awards committee.
- Ollie Sandburg Award:** Selected by nomination letters submitted to the awards committee.
- MacQueen Excellence District Award:** Presented to a person in the district that has been outstanding.
- Ivan Nevil Leadership Award:** Given to an outstanding person of dedication and service to the Service as a whole.
- President's Award:** selected by the President each year.
- Junior FireFighter Award:** Presented to a young firefighter, active in a Junior Firefighter program.

Special Recognition Awards

The IVFA honors its dedicated members with special service awards:

- 10 Years of Service: Members receive a Bronze Pin.
- 25 Years of Service: Members are awarded a Silver 25-Year Pin.
- 50 Years of Service: Members are presented with a Gold IVFA Pin, a Gold Card, and are granted lifetime membership in the Association.

Lifetime members with 50 years of service are also recognized during a special ceremony held annually at the Indiana Statehouse. These awards can be presented at a district meeting or at a time and place requested by the member's department.



Medal of Valor and Life-Saving Awards

The IVFA proudly recognizes extraordinary bravery and heroism through the Medal of Valor and Life-Saving Award. These honors are awarded after careful review by the Executive Committee of the details surrounding an act of valor performed by a volunteer firefighter in the line of duty.

To nominate a firefighter, submit a letter to the Association President detailing all relevant information. The Medal of Valor will be presented by the President or their designee, honoring the recipient's outstanding courage and dedication.

Station Dedication Clocks

A special clock is presented when a new station is built or additional floor space is added. These clocks are often given during the station's dedication ceremony, with the support of the Association Officers, upon request.

Association Logo Clothing

The Association offers a variety of apparel, including shirts, hats, jackets, and sweatshirts. Proceeds from these items support the Association's projects and initiatives throughout the year. Wear your support proudly!



Clothing Reimbursement Fund

If a request is submitted to the District Chairman within 60 days of a loss, the IVFA offers a fund to contribute up to \$100 toward damaged personal clothing (excluding PPE gear) sustained during fires or other emergency duties. The fund also provides a maximum contribution of \$75 for the loss of eyeglasses or contact lenses. In cases where a hearing aid is lost along with eyeglasses, the contribution may be up to \$150. All members in good standing (dues paid on time) are eligible for this assistance.

Special Recognition License Plate

IVFA members can proudly display their membership with special Association license plates available through the BMV. These red, white, and blue plates feature the Association's logo and help raise funds for the Bridgeport Fund, which supports line-of-duty death benefits and scholarships. Show your support while driving across the state!



Insurance Benefit

The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association in association with American Income Life Insurance Company offers a \$3500.00 AD&D policy for all members in good standing. Other insurance products are available thru this same provider.



Credit Union Benefit

As an IVFA member, you are eligible to join the Firefighter's Credit Union, which provides a wide range of financial products tailored for firefighters and their families. Additionally, membership in the Credit Union includes a \$1,000 accidental death benefit, offering extra peace of mind and support.

Bridgeport Scholarship Fund

Each year, the IVFA awards three \$1,500 scholarships to members in good standing (dues paid on time), their spouses, or their children. These scholarships can be used at the college of the recipient's choice. Applications are available through your District Chairman or can be downloaded from our website at www.ivfa.org.



Laws For Volunteers

The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association, Inc. was the driving force behind the Blue Light Law for Volunteer Fire Departments in Indiana. Over the years, we have championed numerous laws vital to volunteer firefighters, including volunteer employer protection response.

We remain committed to sponsoring, lobbying for, and supporting legislation that impacts volunteer firefighters and emergency services across Indiana.



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Indiana Open Burning 101

Did you know...

Burning activities not specifically exempt under state rules must receive prior approval from IDEM?

Local authorities, such as fire and police departments, county health boards, or town councils, **cannot** provide authorization for open burning under state requirements. Local authorities may have their own requirements in addition to state requirements. Burning without obtaining prior approval from IDEM can result in enforcement activities, including monetary penalties.

The following are examples of when IDEM approval for open burning is required:

- Recreational and ceremonial fires, such as campfires and bonfires, exceeding 1,000 cubic feet.
- Burning for the purpose of land clearing or changing land use
- Emergency burning of wood waste, vegetation, or deceased animals by local governments due to a natural disaster.
- Fire training activities involving structures, vehicles, or other props.
- Fire training activities conducted at locations not owned or controlled by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, local government, or a municipal or volunteer fire department.

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



For more information:
www.idem.IN.gov/openburning.



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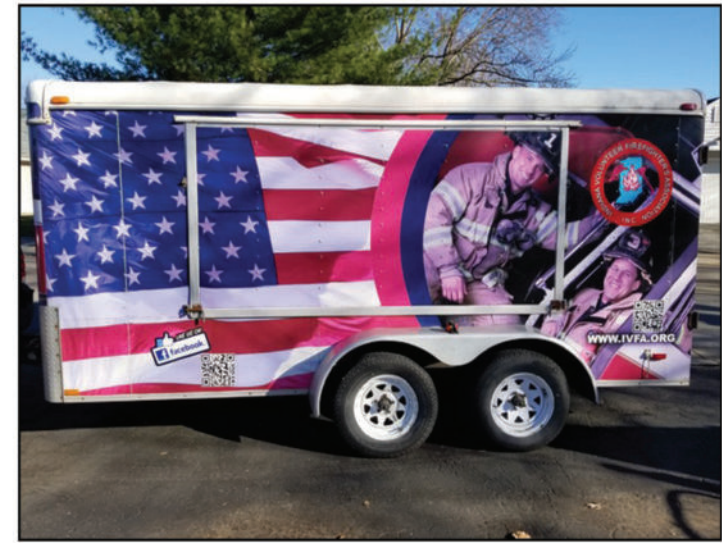
Marshall Neese,
District 1
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 1

Herbert Volkman received his 50 year Gold Card From the I.V.F.A



Larry Curl VP was there to present the Gold Card, with Marshall Neese Dist One Chairman at the Dist. Meeting held at Griffith F.D.



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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 6



Mack Grobis,
District 6
Chairman



10-year pin awarded, L to R Mack Grobis, Fire Chief Sean Harrel, Chet Castator
(These similar photos are from Corunna Fire Department)



Macqueen Excellence award winner, Mack Grobis (L) and Dennis Treesh (R)

District 6 Awards given out



10 year pin awarded, L to R Mack Grobis, Fire Chief Sean Harrel
and Katie Kennedy



10 year pin awarded, L to R Mack Grobis, Fire Chief Sean Harrel
and Deanna Armstrong

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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 6



Group photo of the Corunna Fire Department with Ret. Chief Dennis Treesh accepting his District Macqueen Excellence Award



Columbia Township FD, 10 year pin awarded, L to R Mack Grobis, Jeremy Conrad, Fire Chief Shane Caudill



Columbia Township FD, 10 year pin awarded, L to R Mack Grobis, Anna Kelley and Fire Chief Shane Caudill



Columbia Township FD, 25 year pin awarded, L to R, Mack Grobis, Ron Gatchell and Fire Chief Shane Caudill

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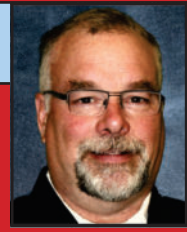
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Pascal Moon
District 9A
Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 9A

District 9A visits NHRA



Bill Schock and his Fire Truck



Chicago Firefighter and NHRA Driver Chris King, IVFA Past President Jerry Liston and Pascal Moon District 9A chairman. Chris King was also given an IVFA challenge coin.



Jerry Liston, and had the privilege to sign NHRA driver Chris King Funny car. We can now say our names have gone 300 mph.



District 9a Chairman, Bill Schock, and Jerry Liston. Bill Retired from Delphi Tri Township Fire.



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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 10



**John Ray,
District 10
Chairman**



Brad Sample, Firefighter of Clay Twp. Bartholomew County receives his 10 pin of fire service to the residents of Clay Twp. & surrounding areas, from IVFA District Chair, John Ray.



District 10 Chair presents Clay Twp. Chief, Devin Ballenger his IVFA pin for 10 years of fire service to the residents of Clay Twp. & surrounding areas.



Picture below, are brothers David & Kenneth Stone of Marion Twp. Fire Dept, Milhousen, IN, along with their families at the presentation of their Meritorious Service Awards for 50 years of dedicated fire service. The presentation was made by Marshal Jones, PR East Central Representative, David Israel; & District 10 Chair, John Ray.



A presentation made recently to Mike Miller of St. Paul Volunteer Fire Dept., as the District 10 2025 recipient of the MacQueen Award. Pictured at the presentation, are from left: Aaron Knowles, Sales Representative for MacQueen Emergency/Apparatus, Mike Miller, his wife Norvella, & District 10 IVFA Chairman, John Ray.



District 10 firefighter Gene Wever of East Columbus Volunteer Fire Dept. received the State Fire Marshal 's Meritorious Service Award for 50 years of dedicated fire service at the September Bartholomew County Chief's meeting. From left: State Fire Marshal, Steven Jones; Firefighter, Gene Wever; & District 10 IVFA Chairman, John Ray.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 11A



**Pete Taylor,
District 11A
Chairman**



Kellie Rehmel of Wright Twp got the MacQueen Excellence award this year at convention.



Three firefighters from Union Fire Protection Territory received there 10 year pins, Darrell Cunningham, Matthew Johnson and Juston Todd.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 11B



John "Scott" Peebles,
District 11B
Chairman



25 year pin presentation to Bellmore Fire Department Chief Jason Games



left to right PR West Central Don Fultz, 50 yr Gold Card recipient Brian Helderman and Chairman Scott Peebles



25 year pin presentation Bellmore Fire Department Dale Fivecoat



10 yr pin presentation Bellmore Fire Department Jerry Mullins

District 11-A and 11-B joint picnic Sunday, September 14, at Forest Park in Brazil, IN



Larry Southard was presented with a white helmet to commemorate 50 years of service to the Hillsdale Community Fire Department. Southard served as Chief for many years. He is pictured with a few of the firefighter who worked alongside him from various departments in Parke and Vermillion Counties.
Submitted by Jodi Rohr



Picnic photos Submitted by Jodi Rohr



Jeff Biehl, District 13B Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 13B



Sarah Andrews & James Stewart of Raleigh Fire Dept. rec their 10 yr. service pin



Verlin Custer of Raleigh Fire Dept. receiving his 50 yr. coin



Rick Cannon, District 14 Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 14

Fair Play Fire Company #1

184 Years of "Helping One Another"

Submitted by Rick Cannon

The City of Madison Indiana was founded in 1809 and quickly developed into a busy steam boat port on the Ohio River. With the addition of the Madison, Indianapolis & Lafayette Railroad, Indiana's first railroad, the population of the city swelled. This boom brought with it more shipping / transportation, construction and other business to the area. The growing community needed other city services and as such, Fair Play Fire Company No. 1 was organized on September 15, 1841.

The town had made attempts in the past to provide fire protection for the residents. In 1824, the town records show that the citizens organized a "Bucket Brigade". Late the next year, the Madison Town Trustees passed a resolution to supply the volunteers with ladders and three fire hooks. The citizens became more organized and in the summer of 1830 they formed the first fire company in Madison and it was named, "United Volunteer Fire Company".

As time passed, the organization of the fire company continued to change to the point where a chief was appointed. The town board voted in 1835 for a paid fire department. C. B. McCullough was given a contract to get 12 able-bodied men to take over the equipment for fire protection. The dozen firemen would be paid \$6.00 per year. Severe penalties were imposed on a fireman who didn't have a valid excuse for missing a fire. The cost to the fireman was 75 cents for each dereliction. The contract with C. B. McCullough was cancelled after around 10 months and the fire equipment was turned over to

United Volunteer Fire Company.

As the popularity of United Volunteer Fire Company increased, a more formal organization was needed and thus on September 15th, 1841, Fair Play Fire Co. No. 1 was formed with a role of some 80 individuals. They began the task of formulating a suitable constitution and by-laws, which took some time to complete. They also adopted the motto, "Help One Another". They continued to meet at the fire hall that was initially used by United Volunteer Fire Company, but moved to a new fire house, built by the city, just a few blocks away in 1848.

Prior to the organization of Fair Play Fire Co. #1, the town purchased a hand pumper, built in Philadelphia, PA and it was called "Little Red". A few years later, a second, but larger version was built by a local wagon maker, Fleming Durham and it was named "Alpha" as it was the first to be made in Madison. In 1845, the city received a larger hand pumper named "Hoosier" from Paddock and Campbell of Cincinnati and it was capable to throw water 175 feet. A few years later in 1847, the fire company was allowed to sell the smallest engine and purchase a new one that was also built by Fleming Durham and this one was named "Madison". In 1851, "NEPTUNE", a hand drawn hose reel built by Ez. Green (of Green and Myers, Madison Indiana) and painted by William Peddie was received by Fair Play Fire Co. #1. The total cost was \$450. This apparatus is still in possession of the fire company and is on display in their engine bay.

After the Civil War in 1870, the fire company purchased their

first horse drawn steam engine from Ahrens and McGrew of Cincinnati, OH, and was the first ever manufactured by veteran Chis Ahrens. The cost to the fire company was \$4,700 and this engine could pump 400 gpm. The engine had been exhibited all over the country and had beaten every other make of engine in every test. This engine was in service for almost 50 years when it was replaced by a 1920 Ahrens-Fox Model J-M-2.

The current location of Fair Play Fire Company No. 1 was originally constructed as a Trolley Barn on land purchased from John Kirk, the first president of the fire company. In 1888, the fire company purchased the building and erected a 55 foot high bell tower on the southwest corner of the building. The following year, Little Jimmy, a weather vane made out of tin, was installed on top of the tower for the price of \$28.85. Little Jimmy was made by Peter Hoffman, a member of the fire company and employed at John Adams Repairing. The original Little Jimmy was retired in 1997 when a new weather vane, made out of copper by Don Felix of Seabrook, NH was commissioned.

The city of Madison has always been proud and thus supporting of all their fire fighters, especially in September of 1886 when the firemen from Fair Play Fire Company went to a tournament being held in Cincinnati. The tournament was attended by fire companies throughout the Midwest and South. The fire fighters of the fire company almost didn't reach Cincinnati. They were traveling on a river steamer which hit a snag and began to sink. Jumping to

action, the fire fighters stoked their Ahren's steamer, built up pressure and pumped the boat dry. Because of the accident, the fire fighters from the fire company arrived late in Cincinnati and missed the parade. However, they went on to win all the other events including water throwing contest which paid \$400 to the winner and the mayor of Cincinnati presented the 1's with a broom to signify a "clean sweep".

A 1920 Ahrens-Fox replaced the Ahren's steamer and it served the fire company until a Mack was purchased in 1947. This turned out to be the first of two Macks that were purchased by the fire company with the second one purchased in 1969. This second one was yellow and turned out to be the first yellow apparatus put in service in Indiana. The fire company continued with that color theme in 1994 when they purchased an E-One also painted yellow and it continues to be in service.


Although some things have changed over the years, the motto of the fire company continues to be "Help One Another". It is emblazoned on front of the engine house with a metal arch installed over the engine bay door in 1969.

Fair Play Fire Company proudly serves with many other fire companies located in Jefferson County Indiana, of which a total of six serve the City of Madison. Three others serving the city have been around for a very long time also. They are Washington Fire Company #2 (founded on January 20, 1846); Western Fire Company #3 (founded May 23, 1850); and Walnut Street Fire Company #4 (founded March 17, 1873).



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 14

District 14 Miss Flame Randi Palmer Sipes at the Madison IVFA convention

THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS

Deadline for the February 2026 issue is January 1, 2026 please email your meeting notes, press releases, events, awards and photos to Sherri Chaney ivfd@hurdmedia.com

District 14 Ivfa president Ross Emery and Ivfa State Miss Flame Ava Verkamp presented A station Clock to the New Utica Fire and Rescue Fire Chief Joe Jarles

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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 15

District 15 Miss Flame Morgan Davis at the Convention



Paul Campbell,
District 15
Chairman



District #15 Miss Flame Morgan Davis being escorted by her Dad FF Kyle Davis



Morgan Davis District #15 Miss Flame & the Living Statue



Morgan Davis District #15 Miss Flame at the Memorial Service

Jr. Firefighter Challenge Winner



Isaac Lindsey
Chandler Volunteer Fire
Department



District #15 Miss Flame Moran Davis with parents. FF Kyle Davis & FF Jaimmie Davis



Morgan Davis Miss Flame Interview



District #15 Miss Flame & Steve Anderson with thier famous pose.

District #15 was well represented at convention



Isaac Lindsey with his award



Lily Sabo , Newburgh Fire Dept and Isaac Lindsey Chandler Fire Dept at the Jr. Firefighter Competition



Isaac Lindsey with the Living Statue



Jr Firefighter Competition



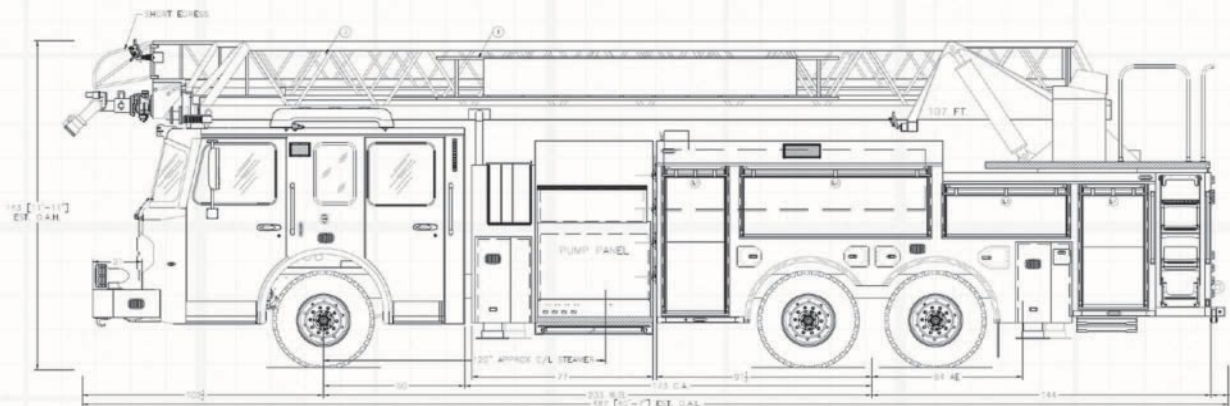
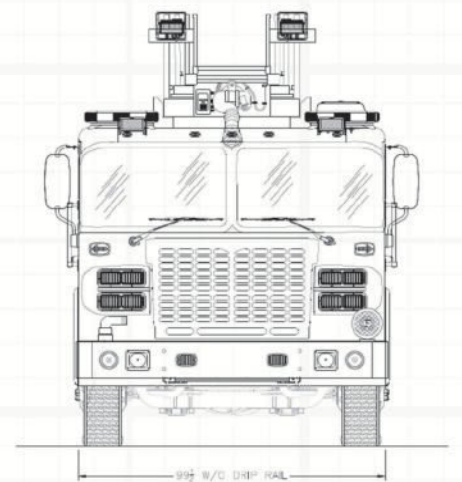
Jr. Firefighters Isaac Lindsey and Lily Sabo with District 15 Miss Flame Morgan Davis

District 15 photos submitted by Misty Wallace

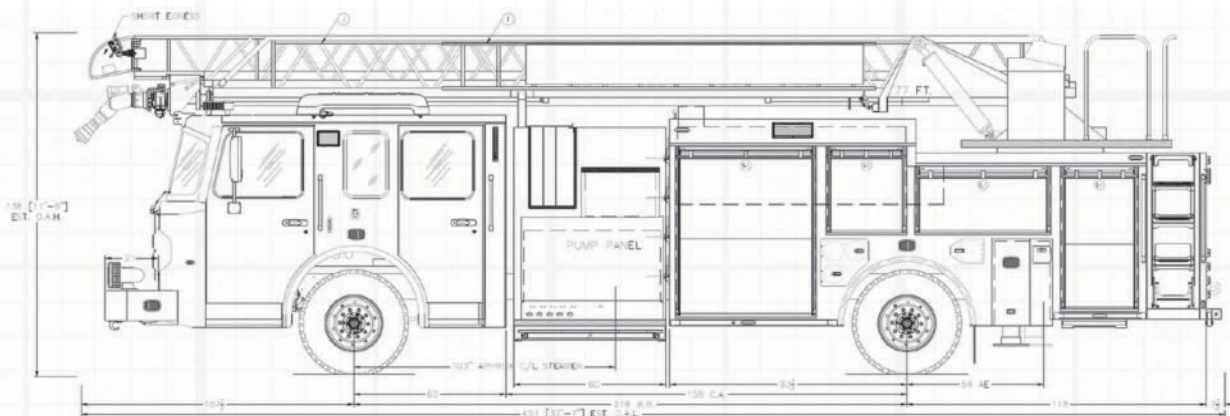
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NEWS FROM DISTRICT 16



Nick Faulkenburg,
District 16
Chairman



Mike Whitfield, 2025 State Miss Flame Ava (right), 2025 District Miss Flame Ava(left) and Nick Faulkenburg



Palymra Fire Depart @ PAL WOW Family Fun Festival event

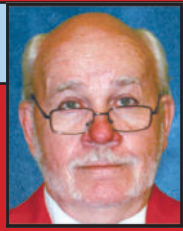


Mike Benham from District 18 – English Vol. Fire Dept.



Leavenworth Fire Department

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 17A



Sam Emery,
District 17A
Chairman

McQueen Award



IVFA President Ross Emery, Tim Yochum Chief Steen Twp., Award Winner Pam Schroeder and Sam Emery Dist. 17A CH.

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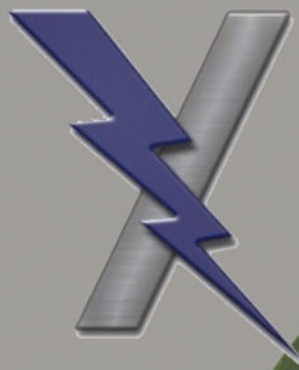
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Joe DeKemper, District 18 Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 18

McQueen Excellence Award



McQueen Excellence award was presented to the Carter fire district ladies auxiliary by Joe DeKemper 18th district chairman

District 18 Parade and Miss Flame Contest



Dist. 18 Miss Flame Contestants

Dist. 18 Miss Flame Court

Clear skies and beautiful weather brought people out lining the streets of Jasper as the Jasper Fire Dept. and Auxiliary hosted the IVFA District 18 Parade and Miss Flame contest on Sunday, 12 October. District 18 fire departments, along with local businesses and civic organizations, paraded the streets of Jasper as part of this year's celebration.

Following the parade, State Miss Flame Ava Verkamp, gave her farewell address as Dist. 18 Miss Flame. Ava then aided with the crowning of the new District 18 Miss Flame. The 9 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 2026 is Jazmyne Little (second on left), Jazmine

is the daughter of Jason and Toni Little. She is a senior at Heritage Hills High School and represented the Carter Fire District. The First Runner-Up title went to Callie Hopf (second on right), Callie is the daughter of Wes and Shauna Gutsell and James Hopf. She is a junior at Forest Park High School and represented the Schnellville Volunteer Fire Department. Cali Rasche (far right) was chosen by the

other contestants as Miss Congeniality. Cali is the daughter of Eric and Jayme Rasche. She is a junior at Jasper High School and represented the Jasper Fire Department. Article and photos submitted by Dist. 18 IVFA
Submitted by John Smith



Ben Sieverding, District 19 Chairman

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 19

Bear Branch VFD Firefighters Receive Years of Service Pins



Bear Branch VFD Firefighters Receive Years of Service, Pins 10 Year Pins: Bruce Herbstreit, 25 Year Pins: Shane Curry, Aaron Cutter, Jeremie Cutter, Travis Richards

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Exterior decorating safety tips

Decorating the exterior of a home for the holiday season is a beloved tradition in countless households. In the movie “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation,” Clark Griswold had “250 strands of imported Italian twinkle lights,” each with 100 bulbs per strand. His grand total of 25,000 lights caused a temporary blackout. While driving around to take in holiday lighting displays, many people may see some that emulate Clark Griswold’s vision and be inspired to create their own designs. Lights are just one type of home decoration. Wreaths, inflatables, metal or wooden structures, and much more are part of holiday displays as well. While decorating can be fun and festive, it’s also important to ensure that it is done safely. The following tips, courtesy of Travelers Risk Consultants and Meyer Landscaping & Design, can keep family and friends safe during this wonderful time of year.

- Plan ahead. Determine how many electrical outlets you have and plan the display around the accessibility of those outlets. Be sure to calculate the maximum amount of wattage allowed so you do not overload the electrical system. Never exceed the maximum number of strings or devices that may be linked together. Lighting packaging should provide such information. Also, plug all outdoor lights and decorations into ground-fault circuit interrupters to reduce the risk of electric shock.
- Test the lights. Only purchase lights that have been tested for safety. Look for a certification mark from UL, ETL, CSA, or another nationally recognized laboratory.
- Go with LED. Light emitting diode string lights run cooler, last longer and use less energy than incandescent lights.
- Inspect decorations. Make sure all the lights, electrical cords, lighted holiday decor, and inflatables are in good condition before use. Dispose of anything

that has frayed wiring or is broken.

- Use only outdoor-rated products. Be sure the extension cords and any other products are rated for the outdoors. Electrical connections should be kept clean and dry before plugging things in, and an extra step of wrapping plug connections with electrical tape can further reduce moisture.

- Practice ladder safety. Ladders are often utilized when adding lights or other decor to homes. Always be safe on and around ladders. It’s essential to maintain three points of contact while on the ladder. Don’t risk leaning too hard to one side while on the ladder, and always have a spotter. Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when stringing electrical decor and lights, as metal ladders conduct electricity.

- Identify where power lines are located. Be mindful of power lines when decorating outdoors. Keep oneself and decorations at least 10 feet away from power lines.

- Skip staples and nails. Nails and staples should not be used when decorating. Nails and staples can puncture the protective layers of a home, allowing moisture to get in and break down the structure of the home. A nail or staple also may accidentally puncture an electrical cord, increasing the risk of electrocution. Use hooks and other attachment devices specially designed for holiday decor.

- Avoid items that can contribute to roof damage. Heavy items on the roof can cause unnecessary stress to shingles and result in damage. Only use lightweight and appropriately anchored items on the roof.

- Dress appropriately. Before hanging holiday decorations and lights, assess the conditions and wear the proper clothing for the weather. If the weather is especially rough, skip decorating for a safer day.

Decorating safety is of the utmost importance and should be a priority this holiday season.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 21



Blaine B. Butler,
District 21
Chairman



Darlington Vol Fire Dept Breakfast



Otterbein Area Vol Fire Dept Fish Fry



Presented the McQueen award to Jeff Rustin



Chief Jeff Cline and Dave Trees Michigan Twp Vol Fire Dept. Congratulations cake for Dave.



Presented a 50 Year card to Dave Trees from Michigan Township Vol. Fire Dept.

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I usually start downloading content a week before deadline. I will send a thank you email then. That's how you will know I got your email. Any questions please call me at 574-870-5101, if I don't answer please leave a voicemail and i'll call you back. Thanks Sherri



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



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



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

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Effective August 1, 2025

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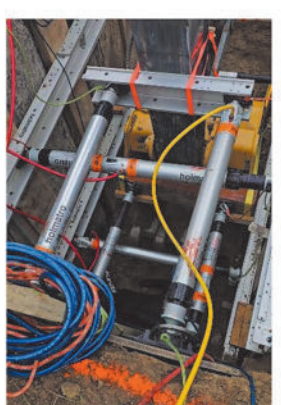
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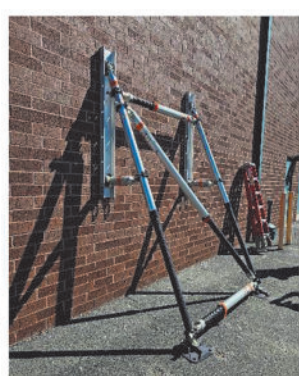
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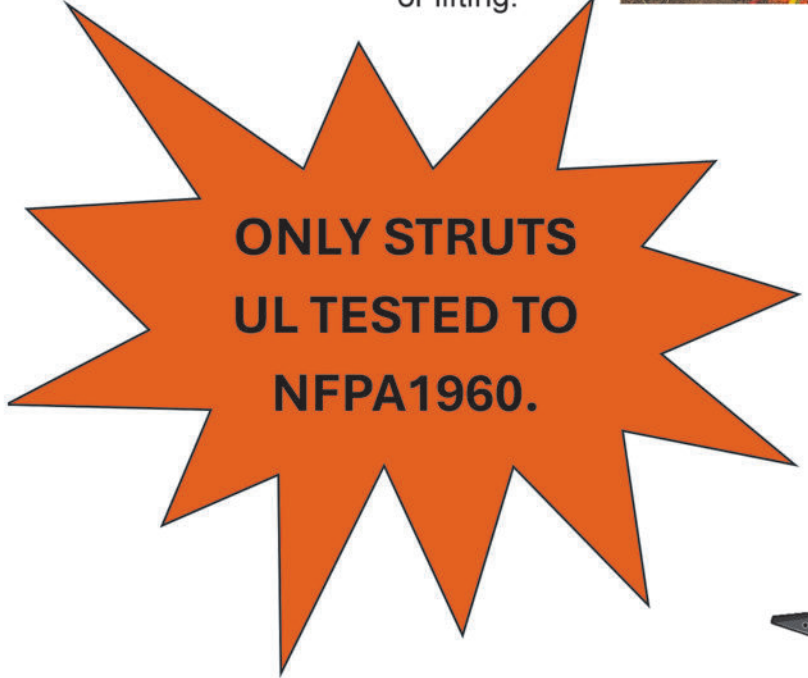
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