

Section I



Background,
Membership,
and
Activities

Association Background

The Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc. (IFA) was founded on January 8, 1889. A small group of firemen wanted to foster brotherhood among and between the firefighters and their respective fire departments operating within the State of Illinois.

In its 127th year, the IFA serves over 20,000 firefighters located throughout Illinois and affiliated with fire departments, fire protection districts, and industrial fire departments. In turn, these entities serve over 500 cities, town, villages, and communities.

IFA membership includes representatives from each of the entities named above, as well as associate members. It also includes representatives or delegates of more than 60 fire service, fire technology, and emergency medical service businesses; educational institutions; organizations; and government agencies.

IFA Membership & Activities

Membership Classifications

Regular - Fire departments, fire protection districts, industrial fire departments and regional fire associations; also, individual firefighters affiliated with any fire service entity listed above.

Associate - Past IFA officers and directors in good standing.

Associate w/Display Privileges - Fire service related trade/industry associations, professional societies and organizations, product manufacturers and distributors; research facilities; consultants; service firms; trade publishers; educational institutions, etc.

Membership Privileges:

Regular - Possesses voting rights; can serve as officer and/or board member, can serve on committees, can represent the IFA as a member of other fire service-related organizations, task forces, councils, commissions, committees, etc. (See board member about special benefits - eg. indemnity fund, training programs, scholarships.)

Associate - Possesses free individual IFA membership, possible reduced rates for annual conference. (See a board member for details.)

Associate Member/Display Privileges - May exhibit at/co-sponsor Annual IFA Conference; advertise in The Bulletin and the Conference Number "The Redbook"; co-sponsor special programs (e.g. Children's Burn Camp, IFA training programs/workshops, IFA Foundation); co-sponsor events.

Membership Special Benefits:

Each member receives the following publications based on their respective printing and circulation schedules:

The Bulletin - official IFA newsletter
Conference Number "The Redbook" - annual report

Legislative reports - related to IFA, fire service, etc.

Brochures, booklets, and folders - published by the IFA or made available to its members free of charge.

Each member may attend all IFA events and activities, participate in any event co-sponsored by the IFA, and assist with programs or projects in which the IFA plays a role. (Please see "Membership/IFA Events & Activities.")

Membership Committees & Subcommittees

Executive Committee

The Executive committee is comprised of the officers and directors of the IFA, each elected by a majority of votes of the general membership during the election held at the annual conference. The committee is responsible for the administration, management, operations, and maintenance of the Association - as well as the supervision of all committees/subcommittees, volunteers, personnel, consultants, etc. engaged in activities pertinent to the Association.

Standing Committees

An IFA member can serve on one or more of the Standing Committees, each chaired by a board member or officer. A list and description of each committee's functions follows.

Historical. Create inventory of items with historical value that are in the possession of IFA . Write preservation plan for items. Create historical displays for IFA Conferences. Prepare a budget for historical preservation and display. Committee meetings as needed- minimum once a year.

Bulletin and Redbook. Solicit articles and advertisements for the Bulletin. Ensure Bulletin is prepared and distributed in a timely manner. Ensure Red Book is prepared and distributed in a timely manner. Meetings as needed- Minimum two per year.

Benefits. Investigate benefits & discounts to membership. Solicit benefits from prospective vendors. Maintain a list of benefits available to the members and promote the benefits to our membership. Review benefits annually. Meetings as needed- minimum quarterly

Budget/Finance. Prepare annual budget utilizing committee info. Ensure compliance with income/ expenses. Meetings as needed- minimum quarterly

Legislation. Coordinate activities and give direction to IFA lobbyist. Testify at legislative hearings as necessary. Attend IFSA legislative summit as a representative of IFA Meeting as necessary

By-Laws. Review by-laws of association, foundation, accident indemnity fund, & PAC fund and suggest changes to proper authority. Present proposed association by-laws changes at the annual conference. Present approved by-laws changes to the membership. Meetings as needed- minimum two per year.

Social Media. Maintain IFA Facebook page and other social media accounts of the IFA. Make postings in a timely manner. Forward questions/ information to proper board member as necessary.

Fundraising. Explore fundraising opportunities including grants, partnerships and other fundraising activities available to the IFA. Prepare applications and apply for grants and other monetary awards available to the IFA . Meetings as needed- minimum two per year.

State Fair. Coordinate & solicit help for IFA day at State Fair. Attend IFSA & State Fair meetings as needed. Committee meetings as needed- report at board meeting following fair.

Membership Committee. Attend conference, training events, regional and local meetings to promote IFA membership. Create budget for promotional literature and other promotional materials & expenses. Maintain up-to-date membership list including contact information. Meetings as needed- minimum two per year..

Education & Training. Research training needs throughout state. Create budget for conference training, regional training, & other training needs. Write specifications for training related funding (IFA funded grants & scholarships). Quarterly meetings, reports in June & October.

Conference. Create budget for conference related items excluding training. Manage logistics of conference ie: Location, rooms, transportation, registration, conference brochure, literature, & food. Solicit vendors for conference. Coordinate conference, training, vendors, and Memorial Service. Quarterly meetings (minimum)

***Credentials/Elections.** Disseminate credential forms to member departments. Collect credential forms at the annual conference and check for department compliance and eligibility to vote. Conduct elections and votes at annual conference. Prepare scholarship applications and update as needed. Prepare rules and eligibility requirements for scholarship recipients. Review scholarship applications received for compliance with rules. Prepare list of eligible applicants. Meetings as needed- Minimum one at annual conference.

***Memorial.** Plan & execute Memorial Service at Annual Conference. Create budget for purchase & upkeep of Memorial items. Write memorial ceremony protocols & update annually. Committee Meeting as needed- minimum two per year.

***Registration.** Collect registration applications and prepare registration list of attendees. Coordinate the registration at the annual conference including processing "walk-in" registrations. Meetings as needed .

***Resolutions.** Create resolutions and present them at the annual conference. Solicit resolution ideas. Meetings as needed- minimum once per year

(*Indicates sub-committee of the conference committee)

Advisory Boards

The IFA has representation on several boards and commissions.

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). The Committee represents the IFA's interests and concerns to the NVFC by (a) serving as a liaison between the NVFC and the IFA; (b) appointing IFA representatives to serve on the Council each term; (c) reporting on NVFC goals, objectives, and activities to the IFA's Executive Committee and general membership; and, (d) regularly submitting/publishing NVFC-related information in IFA publications and via electronic media.

Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF). The IFA appoints a representative to the ITTF to represent the IFA interests and concerns.

Illinois Fire Services Association (IFSA). The IFA is represented on the IFSA board.

IFSI Advisory Commission. The IFA is represented on the IFSI advisory commission to assist IFSI.

OSFM Advisory Commission. The IFA is represented on the OSFM advisory commission to assist and advise the OSFM.

NFPA Review Committee. The Committee reviews any requested NFPA updates and will give their opinion on such matters.

Membership Events & Activities **

The IFA and its membership serves the fire service community, the fire technology industry, and the general public in the following ways:

1. participates in Illinois Fire Service Institute curricular development and firefighter training programs,
2. serves on the IFSI Advisory Board, etc.;
3. hosts the annual state conference;
4. participates in the National Volunteer Fire Council;

5. conducts regional education/certification programs;
6. participates in the Illinois State Fair;
7. works closely with the State Fire Marshal;
8. collaborates with/supports sponsorship of Illinois Children's Burn Camp;
9. sponsors/co-sponsors firefighter scholarship programs;
10. sponsors/operates the IFA Foundation; and,
11. maintains affiliation with numerous professional, trade/industry, business, civic, and charitable organizations.

** Important Note: Individuals and associate members also participate in fire service activities related to (1) research, development and manufacturing; (2) safety standardization; (3) legislation; (4) community education; (5) management/administration; (6) technology; (7) communications; and, (8) other specialties.

About the Annual IFA Conference

This year, the IFA conference is celebrating its 128th annual conference. For many years, the conference traveled around the state, hosted by different departments and fire associations. In 2001 and 2002, the IFA partnered with the Illinois Fire Chiefs and Illinois Fire Instructors to host a combined conference. After the 2002 conference, it was decided not to continue that partnership.

The IFA needed to move forward with planning a 2003 conference. During conversation between President Berk and Illinois Fire Service Institute Director Jaehne, Berk mentioned that the IFA's conference was in limbo. After details were relayed, without hesitation Director Jaehne indicated that if the IFA's conference was held in Champaign, something could be worked out between the IFA and the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI).

The Conference Committee met with IFSI staff in March to discuss details and decided to focus workshops around the "Down and Dirty Firefighting Skills" CDs that were debuted in October 2002. This choice of hand-on and classroom workshops with IFSI will allow the IFA to return to its roots and offer hands on firefighter training sessions throughout the weekend. The Annual Conference will be a

“Down and Dirty” Firefighting Weekend. It was an excellent learning experience.

As previously, the conference begins with opening ceremonies and closes with the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service and ROLL CALL held Sunday to honor Illinois firefighters who lost their lives during the previous year.

The yearly conference also features the following activities and special events - designed to support its members in their professional duties, careers, and lives:

- * Educational workshops/seminars - Friday and Saturday;
- * Indoor Exhibits from vendors;
- * “Lunch with the Vendors”;
- * Hospitality Suites - Friday and Saturday
- * Annual Business Meeting/Election
- * IFA Open Forum
- * Raffles after Sessions - Great prizes, great fun!
- * Saturday Entertainment;
- * Annual IFA Auction - Saturday Night during entertainment (a great fun event!);
- * Networking - A great place to exchange ideas, info, etc.

Join the IFA! Attend the annual conference. Expand your horizons. Listen. Learn. Share. Make new friends. Visit with friends from other parts of the state and beyond.

Dress: Casual. Dress for the Memorial Service is more formal. Many fire service/EMS personnel wear their dress uniforms to the Memorial Service. Special Note: Spouses are encouraged to attend the conference. Families are welcome.

**Don't miss the 2017 conference...
October 18-21, 2018
in Urbana at the Wyndham Hotel
Back to our roots with hands-on and
classroom workshops.**

Illinois Firefighter's Association Web Site Overview

www.illinoisfirefighters.org

Communication and cooperation serve as the cornerstone of the success of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc. (IFA). In the fall of Year 2000, the IFA established its own website.

Purposes: To enhance flow of communication and dissemination of information about the IFA and related topics.

Goals: 1. To share information
2. To encourage exchange of information
3. To motivate feedback and input

Who visits: IFA members - all classifications
Potential members
Reps of other linked entities
Fire service people elsewhere
Fire technology professionals
Supporters of fire service/ems
Government officials

Find Data: Organizational background/focus
Membership qualifications
Services and publications
Professional training programs
Scholarship programs
Activities and events
Annual conference
Association web links
Fundraising/corporate support

Site Management: IFA Executive Committee

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