

**BADGES
OF
COURAGE**



**A
130-Year History
of the
Illinois Firefighter's
Association, Inc.**

1889-2019

Fireman's Prayer

*When I am called to duty, God
Wherever Flames may rage,
Give me strength to save some life
Whatever Be its age.*

*Help me embrace a little child
Before it is too late,
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate.*

*Enable me to be alert and
Hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out.*

*I want to fill my calling
And give the best in me,
To guard my every neighbor
And protect their property.*

*And if according to your will
I should lose my life,
Please bless with your protecting hand
My children and my wife.*

-Author Unknown

This book is dedicated to the firefighters of Illinois, past and present. May their commitment and contributions to the communities they serve, to the United States of America, and to the fire service profession be honored and appreciated by us all.

Published by Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

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Preface and Acknowledgments

*Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime;
And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time.*

Henry W. Longfellow

One hundred years in the life of an organization - its members, its mission, its activities, and its concerns - should never be allowed to pass unrecognized. For in its birth and during its development many lives have been touched, many lessons taught, and many contributions made.

And much sacrifice was required on the part of those visionaries who *dared to dream* and *chose to act*: sacrifices of life, energy, time, talent, personal finance, and much more.

Thus, it would be remiss for us, the latest generation of fire service professionals - and association members - to treat lightly the dedication of life and limb of our fellow firefighters who have served years on end, during good times and bad, and through peace and war.

Therefore, this volume includes much more than historical information about the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc. (IFA) as an association. It describes the involvement of its individual, departmental, and associate members in the advancement of a shared mission, namely: *fire protection, suppression, prevention, and control as a science and a profession*.

It also indicates the level of participation and support of other entities engaged in activities that related, directly or indirectly, to this mission in Illinois and beyond.

The cooperation, enthusiasm, and expertise of many fine people have been enlisted to publish this document. Foremost are the individual members of the IFA that contributed by being a part of the "evolution of events" that forms the substance of this account.

Special credit should be given to the IFA Executive Board members who accepted the challenge to produce for dissemination such a piece: Ralph Schauer, Jr. (Lansing), Douglas Chappell (Hazel Crest), and Gregory Berk (Flossmoor). Truly, they are men of courage and conviction.

O. E. "Obbie" Hirst (Galena), the mainstay of this organization for many years, deserves praise for his assistance in locating and supplying old records and publicizing this project in *The Bulletin*, the association's bi-monthly newsletter.

A big "thank you" should be extended to Sandra DeCristofano (Lansing), administrative assistant to our current association president. Her superior and prompt handling of the project team's communication needs kept things moving on schedule and at a smooth pace.

Gerald E. Monigold, Director, Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Illinois Firefighter's Association (LAIFA) - particularly, Sue Heusing, Past President, and Kathy Rogge, Historian - deserve special thanks for contributing information and materials available only through their resources. They filled some noticeable gaps in the chain of events leading to this memorable point in time.

Acknowledgment must also be given to Crestline Publishing Company, Inc. Sarasota, Florida, for granting permission for incidental use of photographs printed in *American Fire Engines Since 1900* (published 1976) written by Walter McCall. Though the decision was later made not to include such photographs, we still wish to recognize the generosity of Crestline. And we want to call your attention to *American Fire Engine's* author, McCall (Windsor, Canada), who is considered a leading authority in the area of fire apparatus, equipment, and tools.

Last but not least, the Illinois Firefighter's Association would like to thank the persons who took our request to "put something together" as a challenge to do much more - namely, writer and consultant, Sandra K. Stapler and also IFA Board member and editor, Rosemarie Arvia, whose unending commitment to the Illinois Firefighter's Association put valuable time and effort into continuing the legacy of the IFA with the creation of the Second Edition.

Other contributions and resources are identified within various parts of the text.

In the Tradition of Firefighting Emblems and Symbols



Badges and emblems exert special power upon their wearers. They paint a picture of tradition, heroic deeds and acts, and a background in the fire service.

The Maltese Cross represents the Fire Service of America: its traditions and ideals and its primary mission: *to save lives and extinguish fires*. Its outstretched arms of equal length widen as they stretch outward, symbolizing the protecting power of members of the fire service. The shield implies *defender*. The unbroken rope or cord signifies *loyalty*. Crossed arms, axes, ladders, nozzles, etc. represent rewards for *bravery* and are used, respectively, to indicate a firefighter's company. Trumpets show rank. Colors indicate important traits: blue (uniform) for sincerity or purpose, loyalty, truth; white/silver (cross), protective, comradeship, peace; gold/yellow, generosity, elevation of the mind; red, honor, nobility; black, grief.

The phoenix bird used on hats, badges, flags, and department seals symbolizes friendship and fire service. The eagle stands for king, majesty, courage, admiration, authority.

1

In the Beginning: 1889 - 1899

Our constitution is in actual operation; everything appears to promise that it will last; but in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes.

Benjamin Franklin

We can only speculate as to our predecessor's reasons for founding a state wide association for firemen in January of 1889. Perhaps they wanted to formalize their periodic get-togethers. Or they may have felt the need to extend their circle of fellowship and to affiliate with other firemen scattered about the State of Illinois. Quite possibly they saw the economic and political benefits enjoyed by other organized groups; and they wanted to reap similar rewards. But also, they might have wanted to correct the public's false impression of firemen as men who knew only how to hook up the hose, hold onto the nozzle, and pour plenty of water on the fire.

Whatever their motives, however, we are inclined to appreciate the determination with which these valiant men, who risked their own lives to save the lives and properties of their friends and neighbors, set out to form a brotherhood for all firemen within the state.

Starting such an organization could not have been an easy task. Times were difficult for everyone during the 1880s. For firemen, it must have been particularly so. Their job was a thankless one by most standards: little or no compensation, no uniforms, no respect from the very public they served, and little support—financial or otherwise—from their own municipal officials.

Belonging to the "Bucket Brigade" (as a group of firefighters was called) brought with it much pain and hardship. On the most part, the firefighting equipment was cumbersome, antiquated, and worn out. Lacking the proper apparatus, firemen had to rely on hand-drawn hose carts, horse-drawn water wagons, and whatever tools they could find: axes, ropes, ladders, lanterns, picks, shovels, heavy pieces of cloth.

It took a special type of man to fill the boots of the fireman near the turn of the century. It required, foremost, a strong man physically—a man who otherwise labored at tasks or duties demanding muscular strength, stamina, and great perseverance. Men like construction workers, machinists, farmers, ditch or cemetery plot diggers. Men who could endure the physical strain associated with the normal functions of firefighting.

Firemen also had to be men of inner strength and character. They needed to be brave and loyal. They needed to be generous and sincere. They needed to be kind and noble. And whether volunteer or full-time paid members of fire departments, or paid-on-call or response firemen, they had to possess the courage to rush to the scene, defying the elements and the odds, and to challenge the face of death hidden somewhere amidst the raging flames and the choking smoke.

Similarly, they must have shared common problems such as the lack of self-respect, recognition, and personal security. And no doubt they shared common concerns about the risk involved, the loss of lives in the past due to over-exposure, accidents, and related diseases; and the internal fights between themselves and the fellow firemen.

They yearned for outside friendship and support. They wanted to get out of a treadmill once in a while. They needed to renew their spirit — and their bodies. Thus the formation of a peer group offered some opportunities that appealed to a representative number of firemen right away.

But let's take a peak backward at that special day in 1889.

The place is Clinton, a small town located in the center of the state. The date is January 8, 1889.

Thirteen delegates are sitting around a small table situated in the middle of tiny room. The men are deep in conversation, trying their best to lay a foundation upon which later generations can build. They believe that if the association is founded upon principles over which they have fought and quarreled; the new organization should be successful.

They formulate a simple constitution and set of by-laws. They adopt them the official document of the newly formed Illinois Firemen's Association (IFA). The constitution calls for the cultivation of fraternal fellowship between the several departments of the state and provides for the conducting of tournaments (athletic drills) as determined, and similar to the one held in Lincoln on September 27, 188E It also provides for a roster of officers and for annual meetings to be conducted n the second Tuesday of each January.

An election is held immediately and the organization's first officers are named President - J. H. Henshaw (Peru); Secretary - T. L. Blackburn (Lincoln); Treasure C. W. Few (Delevan); Vice Presidents - Henry Vogt (Effingham), J. H. Hopkins (M Pulaski), F. C. Powells (Canton), C. W. Few (Delevan), Sam Harrison (Evanston) George Redfern (Mattoon), Walter E. Price (Champaign), S. M. Koentz (Trenton) and E. W. Barkman (Polo). The host, J. E. Moffett (Clinton), and an unidentified party are the only delegates not named to any office. At last a professional association for the firemen of Illinois is born.

The attraction of delegates from only thirteen fire departments may not hay seemed like much to some people. To the men there, it represented a beginning

On January 10, the three-day meeting drew to a close. We can well imagine that the men left, full of ideas and hope for the future, warmed by the fellowship they had just shared with others of similar conviction. And if we could have walked with them as they returned home to their loved ones and their local fellow firemen, we could have probably heard in their voices the ring of excitement as they recounted events of the past three days and described plans for future meetings of the new association.

The momentum from the first meeting must have carried into the ensuing years as the twentieth century approached. Delegates from other fire departments joined the group, as evidenced by the first appearance of community names in the historical data of the association. Below are listed (a) the dates and sites of other association meetings held during the 1890s and (b) the names of fire departments/communities, reportedly participating for the first time.

- January 14, 1890/LincolnCharleston, Pittsfield, Collinsville.
- January 13, 1891/Edwardsville Geneseo, Ottawa, Bushnell, Mendota.
- January 12, 1892/Pittsfield Princeton, Freeport.
- January 10, 1893/CollinsvilleSavanna, Sterling, Jacksonville.
- January 9, 1894/Effingham.....Dixon, Monmouth, Blue Island
- January 8, 1895/SterlingDecatur, Litchfield.
- January 14, 1896/Peru Peoria, Naperville, Moline, East St. Louis.
- January 12, 1897/East St. Louis.....None reported.
- January 11, 1898/Champaign.....None reported.
- January 10, 1899/Clinton.....Farmington, Harvey.

It should be noted that records show that new or additional delegates were sent by some fire departments to meetings as early as 1891. It should also be mentioned that the office of "Historian" was added at the 1891 meeting and B. F. Staymates (Clinton) was elected to serve in that capacity. He held the post until January 1909.

On July 1, 1895, the new 2 percent tax law went into effect. Among other things it provided the funding needed by local fire departments to maintain their apparatus, tools and stations. However, one big problem plagued the intended benefactors of the law: collecting the money allocated to them. It would take almost ten years to finally resolve the dilemma.

In 1896, the National Fire Protection Association was founded in Quincy, Massachusetts. Though not directly affiliated with the Illinois Firemen's Association, it served immediately as a reliable source of information, particularly in the areas of regional fire service data, innovations in both apparatus and techniques, and fire protection problems and needs throughout the country.

About 1898, large communities in Illinois recognized the need for paid fire departments to provide trained firefighters twenty-four hours a day. Citizens, still haunted by memories of the "Great Chicago Fire" and the devastating Peshtigo, Wisconsin, forest fire (both in 1871), pushed for trained people that could use the new apparatus and tools being purchased to protect them and their property. Individual fire department chiefs took it upon themselves to provide the training for both their regular members and their new recruits.

A new seed planted itself in the minds of association members scattered throughout the state: *professional training*.

But at the 1899 meeting held in Clinton, something else absorbed the attention of the delegates. According to some old records, the conventioners developed specific directions and a liturgy for conducting firefighter funerals and burials. The material was adopted and authorized at the same convention, then printed later into an 8-page pamphlet, *Funeral Ritual*. The publication was distributed to each member department.

Something was obvious: death was on their minds. And while the saving of lives and property remained their primary mission, or duty, honoring their fallen comrades became a vital part of each association member's life — at home and at every annual meeting that followed.

From the *Funeral Ritual*:

".. Let these sad honors to our dead brother, tell in depth of sincerity, to the world and to our brother firemen, our devotion and constancy to one another in the self-sacrificing work of our calling!"

When the executive committee met on April 20, 1899, at Litchfield, the "Accident Indemnity Plan" was adopted. The Plan provided two things: (1) in cities and villages with less than 30,000 population a five-cent assessment for each member of the fire department and (2) a personal benefit of one dollar per day for injuries received "while going to, at, or returning from a fire", causing at least seven days disability. However, departments retained the option to be placed on the protected list.

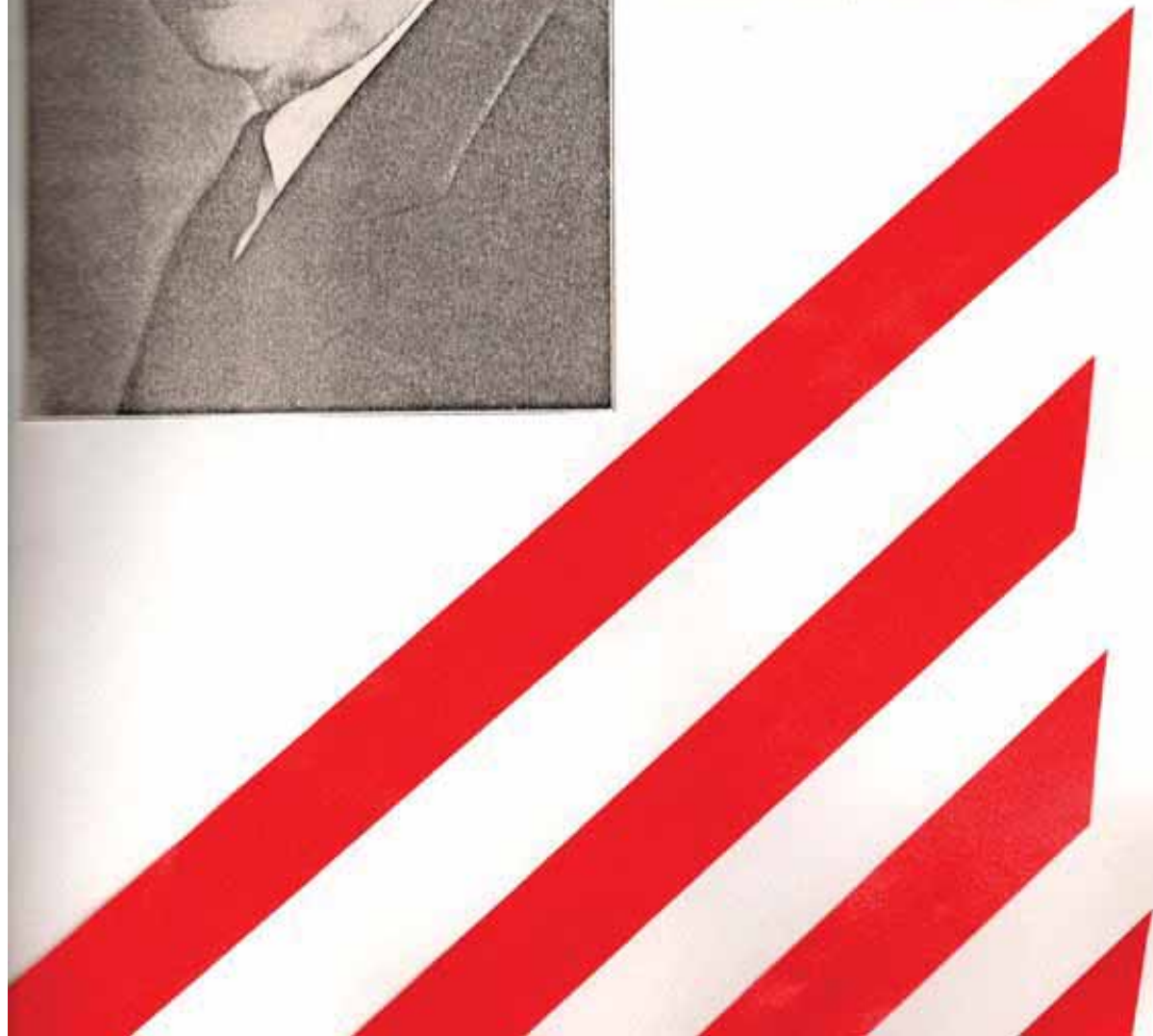
J. P. GIBBS, Veteran Fireman.
An Active Fireman at the age of 76.

The above is a likeness of the oldest fireman in Illinois who is in active service. J. P. Gibbs is now acting chief of Galva, Ill., he was born in 1833, he joined the Galva Fire Department in 1883, and was appointed chief in 1885, and has held that position ever since, excepting five years of the time, making him chief of the department for twenty years. His experience fits him for the position, and he is held in the greatest esteem among both the membership of the Illinois and National Associations. His department joined the Illinois in 1891, and the National in 1898.





M.J. MYERS - MT. PULASKI
President 8th & 9th Annual
Meetings
Peru, January 14, 1896
East St. Louis, Jan. 12, 1897





O. D. WILCOX - Monmouth
10th Champaign - January 11, 1898
11th Clinton - January 10, 1899

O. D. WILCOX

"Dad," in this case a word of most deep reverence was the name that O. D. "Dad" Wilcox, of Monmouth, was known to every fireman in the state. An active member of his local department from 1868 until his death was his record as a fireman. He was a member of the Illinois Firemen's Association for twenty-two years and served as President of the Association for two years. He was a firm believer in the tournament as a means of promoting interest in the association, and his department was represented at the annual meets with contesting teams. He served for several years as chief of his local department and was treasurer of his department for over twenty years. Up to date apparatus and horses with a paid membership came to Monmouth through the efforts of "Dad" Wilcox. He served his city well for many years as its Superintendent of Streets and was a substantial man in his community. His death was the first of an ex-president of the Illinois Firemen's Association since the founding of that body.

The name of O. D. "Dad" Wilcox will appear in the future histories of the Illinois Association as one of its most loyal sons and able leaders.

FIRST ANNUAL TOURNAMENT
ILLINOIS
Firemen's Association



CLINTON, ILL.,
September 24, 25, & 26,
1889.



"The Great Chicago Fire of 1871: Why It May Have Occurred"

Years ago, local fire departments like many other organizations were unable to adequately prepare for major disasters. Given certain conditions, a fire of incomprehensible destructive potential became very possible, even probable.

The Chicago Fire of 1871 had many things on its side, not to mention environmental contributing factors such as high wind, the dark of night, and the threatening cold of late fall. And area fire departments, though blessed with strong and eager firefighters and an enviable supply of apparatus, gear, and tools, could not compensate for the long list of *inadequacies* as far as community safety was concerned:

- Dangerous limits on fire protection and fire control existed.
- A large number of buildings were constructed of wood and were old and in great disrepair.
- Space between buildings was not regulated.
- Property zoning laws were practically non-existent.
- Poor community communication existed.
- Water supply diminished very quickly.
- No organized fire prevention programs were in use anywhere within the state.
- Fire departments were very slow to be notified of emergencies.
- The number of fire hydrants was very inadequate.

Against such odds, was it any wonder that the large group of trained and dedicated firefighters initially lost the battle to save the city of Chicago from such devastating losses-1800 buildings and 200 lives? Perhaps the courageous fight to protect lives and property made firefighters throughout the State of Illinois ever mindful of the need for everyone in the fire service to stick together and fight whatever fires came their way—together.

Early Tournaments Illinois Firemen's Association

Note: In the early days, athletic tournaments between various fire departments served as a friendly form of rivalry. It was just such a tournament held in 1888 that motivated fire chiefs of departments represented to pursue the subject of forming a statewide professional association for firemen.

Tournament	Year	Date	Location
1st	1889	Sep. 24	Clinton
2nd	1890	Jul. 15	Mendota
3rd	1891	Aug. 4	Lincoln
4th	1892	Aug. 30	Ottawa
5th	1893		Canton
6th	1894	Jul. 28	Edwardsville
7th	1895	Jul. 22	Decatur
8th	1896	Jul. 27	Naperville
9th	1897	Jul. 27	Monmouth
10th	1898	Jul. 19	Decatur
11th	1899	Aug. 1	Pekin
12th	1900	Jul. 23	LaSalle
13th	1901	Aug. 12	Dixon
14th	1902	Aug. 5	Blue Island
15th	1903	Jul. 28	Champaign
**	1904	NO TOURNAMENT HELD	
16th	1905	Aug. 8	Peoria
17th	1906	Aug. 7	Urbana
18th	1907	Aug. 16	Kewanee
19th	1908	Jul. 28	Lincoln

2

Fighting for our Own Lives 1900 - 1909

Bravery never goes out of fashion.

William M. Thackery

By 1900, steam-driven pumping engines were used widely by the larger fire departments located within the State of Illinois. Apparatus painted in white, versus the ever-popular red, could be seen in a growing number of communities. The reason, however, may have been more social than professional. For white could be seen everywhere: in fine costumes of the era, home furnishings, structural interiors and exteriors, fencing, and much more.

Nevertheless, it should be emphasized that red paint was always in such demand that a shortage may have existed necessitating the use of other colors on large pieces of equipment.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Illinois Firemen's Association (IFA) was held in Princeton on January 9, 1900. Delegates elected their new officers, probably visited awhile with each other, then returned home.

Something interesting happened during the same year; and it is unclear if it took place at the convention or later. The newly elected treasurer, A. H. Scott (Clinton), never qualified and M. T. Quirk (Arcola) was appointed "to fill the vacancy March 28, 1900." (It is likely that the appointment was made by the association president with executive committee approval in accordance with the constitution of the organization.)

According to some reports, the 1902 Annual Meeting held at Edwardsville was an unusually pleasant event. The weather was remarkably mild for the fourteenth of January: clear skies, sunshine, and a very "bright" day with "not a sign of snow."

The spring-like weather conditions seemed to provide a perfect backdrop for the association's fourteenth state convention.

We know only bits and pieces about the association's activities during the very early 1900s. Even so, we can well imagine that its members had their hands full extinguishing fires in their respective "cities, towns, villages, and rural" communities.

About this time, more fire departments had attained greater access to a revolutionary system: a chemical engine that hauled tanks filled with a soda-acid solution used to extinguish fires. Firefighters raved about the system at first. In fact, when the Fire Extinguishing Manufacturing Company (Chicago, but later sold to American LaFrance) surveyed fire chiefs about their opinions of the Champion and Babcock models of the system, most respondents said they would not have thought of getting along without the soda-acid tank system. Among the fire chiefs that sent letters to the company were those from Braidwood, Elgin, Galva, and Princeton, Illinois.

Firemen in the mining belt of the state were particularly impressed with the system. It served as a life-saving solution for miners and themselves alike. The tank-contained solution could be pulled on hand-carts right into the mine shafts and used to extinguish flames that miners ordinarily attempted to beat out with their coats and caps. By the late 1920s - early 1930s, however, the views of many department chiefs were to change drastically.

On December 30, 1903, another type of firefighter nightmare occurred. Chicago's Iroquois Theatre caught fire, trapping and killing many people. The catastrophic incident raised serious controversy about the flammability of materials installed in theatres and other buildings used by large groups. The seats, scenery, and furnishings in general were viewed as serious fire hazards.

The disaster also stirred up old questions and doubts about the capabilities of firemen in Illinois and across the country. As often happened in those days, the valiant men in blue received the blame for the actions of others and the disturbances over which they had little or no control. This practice of "laying the blame" would continue regardless of activities on the part of fire service professionals to professionalize and standardize strategies and techniques.

On the local level - within individual communities, the problem had to be dealt with on a regular basis. Firemen needed to soften anticipated political pressures, particularly after the Iroquois fire occurred, and took steps to look closely at the firefighting incident. They probably asked many questions. How does a fire department extinguish a fire in such a complicated structure while also trying desperately to get panic-stricken occupants out to safety? What tools are needed to combat such a fire on the *inside* where so many confined areas exist? Such a blaze could readily jeopardize the security of an entire fire department. How do you handle something like that? And what happens to the community if most of its department is lost in one night? These and other poignant questions would continue to trouble firemen for many, many years to come.

At the 1905 Annual Meeting (January 10, Waukegan), delegates ordered that each retiring president and all past presidents of the IFA be given a "Past President's Medal. " Clearly they saw the need for positive recognition for the contributions of loyal members and dedicated firemen. This practice became a tradition that continues to this day. The medal is presented during the program at the annual convention.

Other things took place in 1905. At the national firemen's convention held in Kansas City, delegates voted to oppose the Morriss Bill. This bill would have invalidated the 2 percent foreign insurance tax..

Fire departments continued to struggle to stay operational. Many of them were not receiving their allocations from the insurance tax because their municipalities were experiencing difficulties collecting the revenue from the insurance companies. Sad to say, the amendment (Section I) passed in May 1905, seemed to help very little in rectifying the problem. In fact, another amendment (Section 2) had to be passed in June of 1909 to make any violator of the 1895 Tax Law subject to indictment for non-payment or abuse of the law.

The year 1909 stands out for another reason: the creation of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Its primary functions were to investigate, report, and stop arson or incendiary incidents in the State of Illinois. The formation of the office sent a clear message to everyone that the state government realized the need for greater involvement in fire protection, control, and prevention. To help mobilize the office, a cooperative alliance was formed between the Fire Marshal's Office and the Illinois Firemen's Association. This relationship would grow into a strong, mutually supportive investigative and reporting system between fire service professionals and government regulators.

While these events took place, the IFA continued to add new departments to its membership. We have no accurate count but estimate the total at 155.

Some Early IFA "Characters"

O.D. 'Dad' Wilcox (Monmouth)

Wilcox was a light-haired fellow that sported a beard. He belonged to the IFA for more than twenty-two years. The first ex-president of the association to die, he served as chief and treasurer of his fire department for twenty years (starting in 1868). He had also served as the city's superintendent of streets.

J. P. Gibbs (Galva)

Often photographed in his coat and hat and with a bugle held close to his chest, Gibbs was still active in the fire service at the ripe age of seventy-six. Born in 1833, he joined the fire department in 1883 and served as acting chief from 1885 to 1890.

C. "Charles" C Chain (Bushnell)

Chain served the organization well, according to written accounts about him, both as an officer (president and vice-president) and as a printer with quite a bit of clout. Each year he printed the "Grey Book," the account of the annual meeting of the association; he probably printed other materials used by the delegates and the members. His fire department was located next to City Hall in Bushnell and boasted a bell tower. (Another Chain, George L. Chain, also from Bushnell, served the organization as its historian between 1936 and 1952. Though records do not indicate the relationship between the two Chains, there is every reason to believe they were members of the same family.)

Sol Rhodes (Lincoln)

Fire chief of his community, Rhodes served on the Auditing Committee of the IFA and represented his fire department at the 1910 state convention. In July of the same year, he burned his elbow and back in a fire.

Peter Kipley (Riverdale)

Kipley, originally with the Chicago Fire Department in the 1870s, was known as an organizer and leader. He was athletic and good with horses and in 1878 won State, U.S. and Canadian championships. He entered the lumber business in 1884, later moving to Riverdale where he became the fire chief. Using his own money, he bought apparatus. Active in both the IFA and the somewhat defunct National Firemen's Association, he possessed a hearty laugh and a bubbly good nature.

J. H. Lohmann (Aurora)

This fire chief was known most for his bright red chief's car, although he served as an IFA vice-president for several years.

Leonard May (Steger)

This man organized his fire department in 1897. Considered a "soldier of peace" he reportedly did not know what danger was. He simply did his duty as he saw it.

Frank L. Paine (Xenia)

Paine joined the IFA in November 1895. He was a postmaster and the first assistant fire chief of his department. Having a powerful physique, he was considered fearless, yet possessing of a convivial (jovial) nature.

Walter E. Price (Champaign)

Price served as a longstanding member of the IFA from 1898 as an officer (secretary, vice-president, and president). He also donated the 1910 "Grey Book" printed by Chain of Bushnell.

Simon Kellermann, Jr. (Edwardsville)

Kellermann proved to be a leading force in the IFA during its early years. A statistician, he held every office gaining much recognition for his service (1909-1921) as the organization's historian and as the founder and first editor of *The Bulletin*, the Association's Newsletter. (See Chapter 8: 1960 - 1969 for more information.)

B. F. Staymates (Clinton)

We don't know too much about the man who served as the organization's first historian, from 1891 to 1909.

C. C. CHAIN - Bushnell
12th Princeton - January 9, 1900
13th Pana - January 8, 1901
14th Edwardsville - January 14, 1902



BUSHNELL CITY HALL AND FIRE STATION

*C. C. Chain
Bushnell
190. 02*

PETER KIPLEY - Riverdale
19th East St Louis - January 8, 1907
20th Morris - January 14, 1908



PETER KIPLEY

When the angel of death placed its cold hand on the brow of Peter Kipley there was called to eternal rest a fireman whose remarkable ability as an organizer and leader of men placed him in the front rank of National fire fighters.

Peter Kipley was born in Patterson, N. J., November 6, 1852. He came to Chicago with his parents in the spring of 1860. In his youth he followed the trade of cabinet maker until 1872 when he joined the Chicago Fire Department. At that time Chief Mat Benner was in charge of the Chicago Department and there was cemented a friendship between Chief Benner and Peter Kipley that lasted a life time. Mr. Kipley was not only a genius for organization but he took an active part in the athletic features of the department and became proficient in the hitching and handling of fire horses. On September 5th, 1878, he won the championship of the United States and Canada for quick hitching, and also won several state championships for his skill in this sport of firemen.

In 1884 he retired from active service in the Chicago Department and went into the Lumber business in Chicago. Some few years later he moved to Riverdale and located his Lumber and Coal business there on the Calumet river. He was appointed Chief of the Riverdale Department by Chief Dennis J. Swenie and served as chief until his death. He purchased apparatus from his own funds and nothing pleased him better than when his apparatus was at a fire in advance of the Chicago department.

For many years Mr. Kipley served as an executive officer of the Illinois Firemen's Association and at the 1907 convention of the Association, held at East St. Louis, he was elected as the President of the state body. He was re-elected at the convention held at

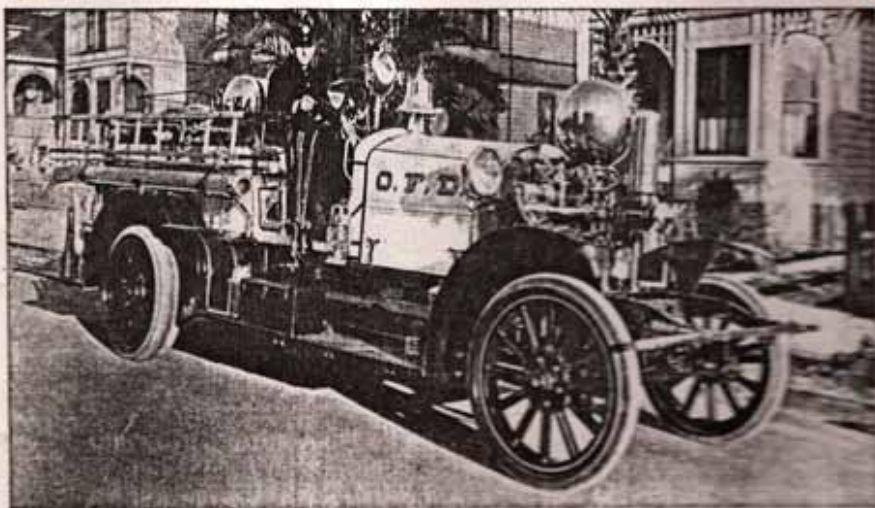
Morris in 1908 and during his term of office the association prospered and the membership increased. In the National Firemen's Association he was also an active worker and was regular in his attendance at the National conventions.

Peter Kipley was a chief feature of the life at the annual Illinois conventions. His hearty laugh and bubbling good nature endeared him to every delegate in attendance.

With the death of Peter Kipley this organization, as well as every organization that he affiliated with, lost a member whose place will be hard to fill and whose work for the betterment of his fellowmen was a shining example for his brothers to follow. May he Rest in Peace.



N. T. PIERCE - Xenia
21st Clinton - January 12, 1909
22nd Granite City - January 11, 1910



Foretell the dearly bought experience of other Fire Departments and profit by the wisdom of those who have chosen the more rugged AHRENS-FOX.

AHRENS-FOX MOTOR FIRE ENGINE AT OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.
Let us send you a Catalog and Proofs of Merit from Men who Know.
AHRENS-FOX FIRE ENGINE CO., CINCINNATI, OHIO.

...the First Day! — Good for Years to Come!

**Fire Trivia:
1900-1909**

1. In 1908-1909, more than 97 coal mines sunk in Illinois. Of 922 coal mines in the state, only 100 had steel shafts.
2. The approximate cost of a five-box alarm system was \$1200.
3. FARMER CITY (1909) - According to a reliable report, during one "wet and dismal" fall night the firemen's "rubber coats ... walked out of headquarters. " A plea was sent out that the fire department "wants information if they turn up at a foreign fire station. "

Apparatus/Equipment Names You May Recognize

Engines—Libby, Rex, Howe, Waterous, Champion, Seagrave
Pumps—Howe, Alberger Harnesses—Barry
Extinguishers—Babcock Fire Alarms—Gamewell
Nozzles
Callahan
Hose—Keystone
Plugs—Cyprey
Hose jackets—Cooper
Alarm whistles—Luekenheiser Relief valve—Larkin
"Turn out suits"—Globe

From "Constitution and By-Laws"
Illinois Firemen's Association Year Book: 1910

Article II. - Objects

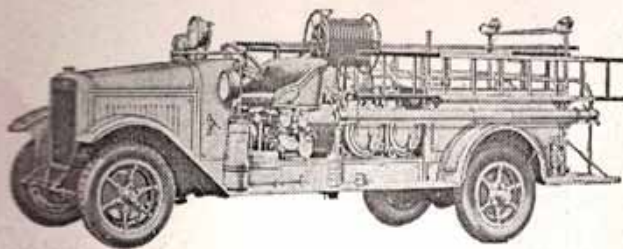
Section I: The objects of this Association shall be to form a more perfect organization, establish harmony of action, insure prosperity and success, provide pecuniary support, secure protection and promote the best interests of the firemen of the State of Illinois; and complete statistics of information concerning the practical workings of various apparatus in use for extinguishing fires; also the cultivation of fraternal fellowship between the several fire departments of the state; and to provide for and conduct such tournaments as the organization may determine.*

* P. 178, Year Book, 1910.



1902 TOURNAMENT PARADE

BOYER



FIRE APPARATUS

Over 400 installations in every section of ILLINOIS are proving daily the superiority of Boyer Apparatus. Our facilities allow us to produce custom-built equipment (to fit your exact requirements) at reasonable prices.

Ask about our special plan for installing and financing community apparatus.

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Murphysboro, Illinois.

Central—

Mr. A. V. Rothwell,
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Mr. I. M. Hobaugh,
Monticello, Indiana

We specialize in apparatus for rural fire protection

Boyer Fire Apparatus Co.

LOGANSPORT, INDIANA

3

Spanning the State: 1910 - 1919

*. . . With Malice toward none: with charity for all . . . let us strive
on to finish the work we are in . . .*

Abraham Lincoln

By 1910, one hundred sixty-two fire departments held membership in the Illinois Firemen's Association. Considered the impetus behind the founding of another fire service organization, the National Firemen's Association (a loosely-formed group that failed to endure), the IFA enjoyed international recognition for its pioneering efforts in fostering the advancement of the fire service.

Of particular significance, was the organization's method of keeping fire statistics. Best known was the "Table of Statistics" compiled and published each year in English, as well as four foreign languages. The "Table" listed forty-eight fire causes, the number of incidences for each cause, and the total number of fire causes for each community during the year.

Another table showed by community (a) the dollar insurance loss, (b) amount of expense incurred by the fire department, (c) amount of two-percent insurance tax collected, (d) number of on-duty accidents within the department, and, (e) the number of deaths due to fire for the year being reported.

A written report was also developed to summarize data from the tables. In addition, it provided explanations about strange and unusual fires (See "Strange and Unusual Fires" that follows), false fire alarms, and cities reporting no fires. It also listed the names of fire departments that competed in the year's athletic tournament.

The statistical reports compiled and distributed since the late 1890s demonstrated the association's *commitment* to the fire service field. It also helped to improve the image of firemen as men who accepted a "calling that deserves great credit." Even volunteer firefighters were considered incomparable in discharging their duties.

To upgrade their status even more, Illinois fire chiefs, at the encouragement of IFA members such as B.F. Staymate (Clinton), established stricter guidelines for the hiring candidates for firefighting positions. More emphasis was placed on "fire engineering: - being knowledgeable in the following areas: "mechanical engineering, machinery, electricity, hydraulic engineering and water pressure."

The need for such expertise and capabilities was reinforced by reports and talks given during the Twenty-second Annual Meeting held on January 11, 1910, at Granite City. Greeted by the twenty-two-member fire department of this prosperous manufacturing city, each delegate set about the business of learning more about issues concerning them.

Among other things, they got a clearer understanding of the need for change in fire safety programs within the schools: (1) building improvements - fireproof materials, doors that swung out, sufficient fire escapes, and stand pipes; (2) "not conscientious" teachers capable of drilling students at a slower pace and on a regular basis, and, (3) school janitors that "didn't hide in the basements" during school hour: Too many fires were starting in school buildings; too many lives had been lost and too much property destroyed. Something had to be done.

Firemen were also advised to take a more active role in the regulation of safety conditions in coal mines. Mayor Fred Schoonover (Glen Carbon, the name listed in old documents) was a former member of the Board of Mines and, during the 1910 IFA meeting, urged members to push for changes in mine safety. Among those suggestions were steel shafts and escape hatches, double fan systems, and sufficient water sources nearby. He noted that mule stables had no place inside the mines and strongly advised that accommodations for the animals be removed.

About this time, officers of the association realized the need for active involvement in legislative matters. According to one delegate, Charles L. Chain (Bushnell), the time had come for the Illinois Firemen's Association to show their clout by putting men in the legislature that would do what they wanted them to do for the firemen of Illinois and for the fire service field, as a whole.

During the business session of the same meeting, delegates decided to initial a more aggressive plan for recruiting members to increase their numbers - especially for legislative purposes. They decided it would be better to have delegates visit potential members located within their own counties versus expecting one or a handful of IFA Membership Committee people to cover the entire state. Such an alternative would save the organization money and, hopefully, speed the recruitment process.

At the same annual meeting, it was recommended that the population ceiling for the indemnity fund be raised to 50,000 population. However, during the executive committee held on May 10, the following list of rules was drawn for the plan:

1. Every municipality with 30,000 population or less had to pay ten cents per person
2. For every 5,000 additional, ten cents plus five cents were due.
3. Each department had to pay a \$1.50 minimum assessment.
4. Claims would be paid at the rate of \$2.00 daily.
5. The association's secretary shall settle disability claims attested by a recognized authority.

Clearly, members of the association realized that disability benefits were an essential part of the fireman's role and the commitment made to the profession.

The Twenty-third Annual Meeting at Peru on January 10, 1911, marked the beginning of a special tradition in the life of the Illinois Firemen's Association. The first memorial service was held in honor of those Illinois firefighters who had lost their lives during the last fiscal year. One of the most emotional parts of the service came when individual members stood and offered a few words about the men being honored.

Death in the line of duty was a possibility that all firemen lived with each time they responded to an alarm. Yet, they could not let such fear prevent them from doing their job. They were committed to keeping the loss of both life and property to a minimum. With people loss at 9 per 100,000 and lost of the national wealth at four-tenths to five-tenths of 1 percent in 1913, firemen pushed for improved apparatus and tools, as well as better pay and benefits.

By 1915, IFA members were ready for another tournament. They gathered in Blue Island for three days: July 27, 28, and 29. Twenty-seven official rules were stated for the firemen competing in the thirty-two events. We do not know what events were held or who won. But the Kankakee tournament held on July 25, 1916—the year following—proved to be that last tournament until 1919-1920.

During the same decade, Sol Rhodes (Lincoln) was involved with the training of horse hose teams for the tournaments. To ensure the quality of competition, he offered fire departments wanting to compete some stern tips:

1. After a run, sponge the horse's nostrils and mouth. Also, sponge the legs, apply leg wash and bandages, and blanket and walk for one hour. Let them have only swallows of water.
2. Put hoof ointment on the feet inside and out three times a week to keep them soft and growing.
3. Feed at regular hours and the same quantity ... a little stock food in the grain hay; a little AM, none at noon, a good feed at night . . . bran mash once a week. Keep stomach empty daytime . . . allows lung space for free breathing.
4. Use a clean bucket for watering.
5. Build bigger stalls - 13 feet long by 7 feet wide . . . straw knee deep . . . horses loose with bridles to allow for free movement.
6. Our duty to make old horses as comfortable as possible.

No doubt, such advice helped fire departments new to tournament competition prepare both themselves and their horses.

Reportedly, both the IFA and its individual fire departments felt the pinch created by the passage of the Selective Service Act of 1917. With almost 3 million men inducted nationwide into the military service, fire departments in Illinois, like in other states, suffered from the lack of fit manpower to fight local fires.

But the communities in which fire departments operated must have also felt the effects of the raised taxation on income, company profits, and certain personal "luxuries." Similarly, most resources were scarce; financial help was severely limited because of the direct loan of more than 21 billion dollars by the American people to the war effort. Material resources were stretched to the limit because of the country's unpreparedness for the war. Railroad services to passengers were curtailed; freight rates were increased. Yet, in spite of so many problems, the IFA continued to hold meetings each year.

In 1918 the mission of IFA and firefighters everywhere was further enhanced by the formation of the International Association of Firefighters. The appearance of this unified group could not have come at a better time. The U.S. needed any mechanism available to improve its strained and tenuous relations with foreign countries, although the actual fighting in World War I ended November of 1918. An organization of such universality developed and encouraged continuing communications among people in the same profession, located within their respective communities, separated by a few or many miles of land and ocean. Furthermore, it drew the communities of these firefighters closer together, unified by a mutual concern about the loss of lives and property due to fire. Firemen around the world must have recognized the impact such an organization could have on the advancement of the fire service.

On December 3, 1918, the State of Illinois celebrated a special day in its history: the one-hundredth anniversary of its admission into the Union.

Strange and Unusual Fires 1910 and 1919

While the American system of fighting fires was considered the most perfect in the world, the new labor and time-saving devices invented for the public and housewives caused worry and grey hair for firefighters.

In Illinois, wooden structures were more vulnerable. Climatic conditions favored "fire fiends." And sudden overheating often resulted in fire. Worse, people were careless; they didn't think. Note the following examples:

- boiling clothes in gasoline in a wash boiler
- cleaning white shoes with gasoline while near a fire
- lighting and using a match in a clothes closet
- hanging "glad rags" near the stove
- boiling tar on a red-hot stove
- throwing ashes into an alley
- putting a lit pipe into a pants pocket
- drying wood inside an oven
- brightening a hot stove with a chemical and wool cloth
- letting a tar kettle boil over
- driving a mail car on fire into the town square
- smoking meat

Can you imagine how people could be so careless?

Fire Department Trivia: 1910 - 1920

1. Armour Co./E. St. Louis—Capt. A. C. Seeger is credited with inventing firefighting apparatus.
2. Batavia—The community had a water plant valued at \$86,592.
3. Carlinville—Firemen were paid \$3.00 per fire, if the hose was unreeled and the chemical apparatus put in use; \$2.00 if no chemical used.
4. Charleston—It was the only departmental member (of IFA) that actually listed all of its "property, " for the statistical report (e.g. "brass pole ... furniture . . . turn out suits . . . horse feed").
5. Collinsville—Home of the "Little Giants" racing carts.
6. Decatur—Twenty horses were valued at \$3700 at that time.
7. DeKalb—The community had one of the smallest fire departments in the state.
8. Edwardsville—Fred Stolze was a world champion ladder climber and also belonged to a prize-winning hook and ladder athletic team.
9. Ladd—It was the first fire department to arrive at the Cherry, Illinois, coal mine fire, staying to fight the fire for eight days. The mine shaft was saved.
10. Lewistown—The fire department had to pump water from a bed of quicksand to fight a fire located 3½ miles out of town.
11. Naperville—Its fire department was the winner of many state and national tournaments. In 1910, William Willis won the world hose championship at St. Louis World Fair.
12. Peru—In 1910 A. Hasse, IFA member, invented the Pan hose cart.
13. Taylorsville—During 1910 and for some years thereafter, the fire department had to house its apparatus in a shed located half way between the city limits and the engine house. Bad roads in the area sometimes made deployment extremely difficult.
14. 1916 - 1920—According to a report by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 9,817 claims were turned in for school property fire losses, valued at a total of \$26,302,479.

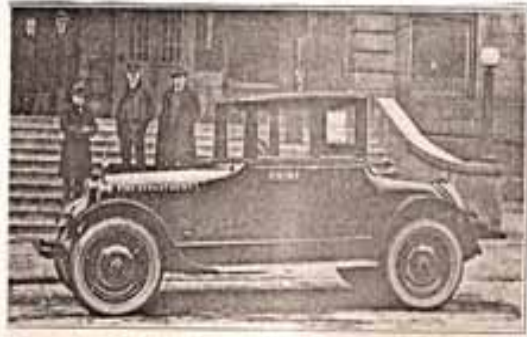


Paul Indorf Photography

A photograph of the badge worn by A. W. Thode, mayor of Galena and past president of IFA, to the 1925 Annual Meeting in Joliet. O. E. "Obbie" Hirst, current owner of the memento, drove himself and four other firemen to the meeting in a Willys Knight car owned by his father



J.H. LOHMANN - AURORA
Pres. 23rd & 24th Annual Meetings
Peru, January 10, 1911
Edwardsville, January 9, 1912



Chief Lohmann's Red Car

J. J. DAUGHERTY - Ottawa
25th Ottawa - January 14, 1913
26th Canton - January 13, 1914





LACLEDE HOTEL

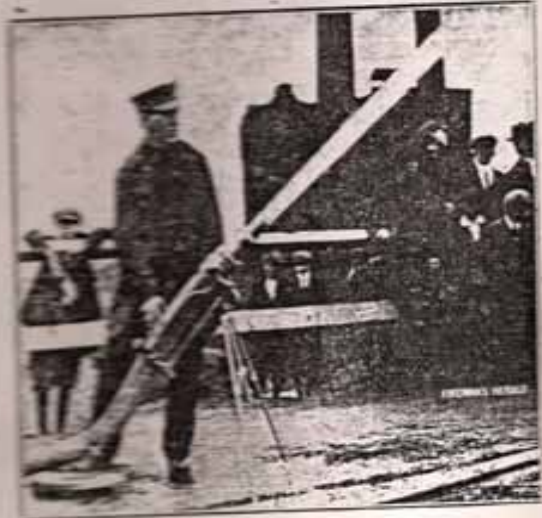


OTTO SORGENFREI - Blue Island
27th Mattoon - January 12, 1915
28th Murphysboro - January 11, 1916
29th Bushnell - January 9, 1917



Eastman
Perfection Holders, Nozzles
and Deluge Sets

Produce Streams Unexcelled for
Solidity, Distance, Effectiveness



A 2-inch stream from auto pumping engine at Chelsea, Mass.

Especially adapted for Motor Apparatus
Outfits sent on trial and approval

Samuel Eastman Co.

Sole Manufacturers

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

*J. J. Burghardt
agent
1917-1918*

Mrs. Stangenkel
Mar Island
1915-17



CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS, THE NEW ALEXANDER HOTEL.
BUSHNELL

4

Getting Things Under Control: 1920 - 1929

If you do not think about the future, you cannot have one.

John Galsworthy

Illinois fire departments faced some potentially serious problems at the start of the era. Communities wanted to return to a peacetime economy; yet municipal money was still tight and allocations for fire department use way down on the list of priorities.

The demand for civilian goods and services was great. So, jobs for civilians and returned veterans were plentiful. Initially, this must have created a manpower shortage because (a) able-bodied men chose higher paying jobs and (b) the expansion of business and industry to satisfy these demands placed an even greater pressure on each fire department's existing capabilities.

But, soon, the need for adequate fire service would become a priority as consumers quickly assuming a lavish lifestyle demanded proper protection for their accumulations.

At the Thirty-second Annual Meeting, Murphysboro, on January 13, 1920, Walter E. Price, secretary of the association since 1899, was elected to the office of president. He served for one year, being credited with coordinating the 1920 Athletic Tour-nament, called one of the "most enjoyable" that the Illinois Firemen's Association had ever held.

The event took place August 19 - 21 at the Illinois State Fair event. All apparatus for the competitive events were transported free to and from the site. Teams could camp on the eighty acres made available. Fair admission the first day was free. Was it any wonder that the competing teams and their respective fans had such a good time?

Interestingly, a slight "changing of the guard" seemed to have taken place at the Jacksonville annual meeting on the twenty-first of January in 1921. In fact, it may have led to the "retirement" of one of the association's most dedicated members and officers. Walter E. Price (Champaign) served his last term between January 11, 1921, and January 10, 1922.

By the next year, 1923, things were really humming for the association. Total membership had climbed to 347: 290 fire departments, 49 past officers, and 18 associate members.

According to some statements recorded in the "grey book" that came out later that year, the January 9 "convention" (a term being used increasingly by that time) must have been another of those rowdy occasions. Before the visitors to Dixon, Ed Barkman (Decatur), a founding member of IFA, recalled the time a delegate's socks were removed and sold (or relinquished) to help raise money for the organization.

M. J. Myers (Mt. Pulaski), also a member like Barkman for over thirty-two years, excited the crowd with his stories about the competitive prowess of Dixon's athletic (usually big and tall) firefighters. But he also noted that it was because of such strong-willed men that the association had grown to its current level of strength.

No one that day seemed to dispute the rising stature of firefighters as a "brave band of men" . . . who "worked like beavers," dedicating their "hearts and souls in the cause." But, as the Honorable John H. Byers (Dixon) pointed out in his rousing pep talk to delegates, more had to be done by firemen themselves to improve the quality of the profession and the impact of the fire service.

"Firemen have always been a modest group that hints for what they want, rather than asking. You need to *ask*. You must not be afraid to appear before the commissioners to ask for the money needed. . . . Little support is given to the fire department on a regular basis, only after a fire.

"You need to lobby actively in person. You need to write congressmen and tell them what is wanted and needed. Ask for pension coverage. You are a part of that community, a part of the political machine. You need to defend what is good and can improve life."

But he also reminded delegates that they were firemen and part of the government of Illinois. As such, he said, they were "very capable of filling political jobs." And he encouraged them to do so.

It was the first time, according to available association records, that the members of IFA had been urged to take an active role in the political scene. It was a message few would forget. In years to come, firefighters from different arms of fire suppression, protection, control, and prevention would campaign long and hard to get their own men into the State House and down to Washington, D.C.

And from every indication, the Dixon meeting helped to set the stage for firemen belonging to the IFA to take advantage of the expertise available to them through the organization. Clearly, the "Topical Program" Committee in charge of that year's event programs intended for delegates to go home with information and ideas they could use to improve their own situations.

The "two-platoon system" was one of those new ideas. It was described as a good solution for solving the problems of absenteeism, too many work hours with no off-duty days, and lack of money. The system of splitting the same number of men into two shifts provided the solutions for the accomplishment of some important objectives, including:

1. strengthening of the department,
2. enhancing of the men's morale,
3. saving of money,
4. securing of departmental operations around the clock,
5. increasing of efficiency, and,
6. improving of services.

As Theodore Simmons, Fire Chief of Danville, emphasized, the new system helped firemen cultivate relationships with their families and people in the community, while regaining their strength to do a better job at work.

Improving and maintaining the quality of fire service loomed as a high priority for every IFA member. Education was considered essential and familiarity with related areas important for the advancement of the profession.

Thus, the 1923 annual meeting program included the presentation of papers on the following subjects of concern:

1. fire inspection of railroad company properties - exercising of caution around the many types of depots, houses, shops, plants, mills, and storage facilities because of dangerous and often unlabeled/mislabeled and poorly packed items, materials, elements, etc.
2. inflammable motion picture films - the use of highly combustible nitro-cellulose.
3. installing and using automatic sprinkler systems to control and extinguish fires in schools, churches, public buildings, and other large structures.
4. organizing and equipping a small city fire department - using money wisely, buying the best apparatus affordable, generating community support.
5. fire alarm system boxes - their location closer to fire-prone areas to minimize delays between the time alarm was sent and received (box: 20 seconds; telephone: 2-20 minutes).
6. inspection of suspicious fires by local (fire chief) authorities - the prioritizing of fire marshal inspector time by prompt, careful checking of the cause, origin, and circumstances of each fire (particularly those of arson/incendiary nature).

Each report included recommendations for firefighters and fire departments faced with the problem discussed.

Special mention should be made of the memorial service held the evening of January 9 at a nearby church. The service opened with organ music and a tenor solo. Then fellow firemen of fallen brothers stood and gave short invocations. Some of the men commemorated were early builders of IFA and were said to be loyal (Campion), to possess a merry laugh (Kipley), and to be a leading voice for the Indemnity Fund and better laws (Staymates).

During the business session, delegates had to be reminded to stand and give their names and towns to the reporter when wanting to address the group. A motion was carried to buy a typewriter for the secretary because rental during the previous two years, in the amount of \$110, would have paid for one. An Evanston delegate donated a typewriter; but upon shipment paid by the association, the machine was determined "worn out, too old" and a typewriter still had to be purchased.

It was at this annual meeting, on the afternoon of the second day (Wednesday), that Simon Kellermann, Jr. (Edwardsville), president of the organization, recommended that "a regular little paper be published regularly between conventions to keep members of the association informed of activities with various departments." The printed account of the meeting fails to mention if the recommendation was made into a motion and passed or denied, discussed, or what.

But we know that shortly thereafter, Kellermann began to publish the first issues of *The Bulletin*, becoming its first editor and keeping that position until shortly before his death on May 1, 1960.

Delegates to the Twenty-fourth Convention of the National Firemen's Association (July 18-20, 1922, Ludington, Michigan) announced that Illinois and the IFA had come out on top during the election of officers: John Gambler, Illinois State Fire Marshal, was named President; J. E. Mersch (Evanston), Secretary; and Kellermann, Statistician. One can only imagine the pride felt by association members upon hearing the news.

After some discussion of the procedure (according to the constitution and by-laws) for making and voting upon a resolution, a resolution to raise member department dues from two dollars to four dollars and those for past officers from one to two dollars was made and passed, then tabled because a two-thirds majority vote by roll call was required and the Credentials Committee needed to check on the eligibility of the voters. The whole thing appears to have been very confusing for everyone in attendance.

Resolutions related to legislation were made. One involved the employment of one paid fireman per one thousand inhabitants in cities. The other required that retired firemen contribute to their city's pension fund. It was also recommended that a committee be appointed to "cooperate with the Underwriter's Association in putting together a report about the standardization of threads for fire hose couplings and fittings."

The excitement of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the Illinois Firemen's Association must have been reinforced when the 1923 "grey book" came out some months later. It totaled 288 pages with 381 advertisements. Dixon area businesses, organizations, and leaders demonstrated support for their fire department and its involvement in the IFA by placing up to full-page ads, fully illustrated. Aurora also advertised heavily as the city geared up for the Central States Expo, scheduled for August 15-23, 1924.

By 1925, radio broadcasting was a reality in America. For the first time, people could hear firsthand the voices of men and women instrumental in the shaping of their future - great leaders of their time. They could enjoy the many pleasures derived from having news and entertainment brought right into their own living rooms. Television was yet but a laboratory toy with a silhouette picture measuring only one and a half inches square. (Imagine that!)

Yet many fine comforts were there for the using. Automobiles were commonplace - even in small communities. Fire departments saw the introduction of automatic machinery to replace the horse-drawn or hand-pulled apparatus. On the scene were internal combustion engines used to propel firefighting equipment to fires and to operate the pumps.

June 16, 1925, marked the birth of the Illinois Fire College. This fire college, reportedly the first in America, was located at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Its primary sponsoring organization was the Illinois Firemen's Association. Named as director of the first teaching program was Professor L. H. Provine, Dean, School of Architecture, University of Illinois.

The format for the curricular program was one of activity versus only classroom work. This structure was set forth by the College's planning committee, comprised of representatives of state and federal agencies, boards, and bureaus. The four-day school included pictures, lectures, discussions, and demonstrations.

The course was on "Fire Prevention, Control and Extinguishment." Subjects covered were construction, building contents, safe exits for inhabitants, protection of adjoining property, forcible entry, and other basic problems. Speakers were provided by various boards and bureaus, as none of the invited firemen accepted an assignment to teach during that first program.

Enrollment the first year totaled two hundred and ten firemen. The Illinois Fire College provided the only statewide fire training program. A period of twenty-seven or twenty-eight years would pass before other fire schools would open their doors.

Clearly, the long-standing need for professional firemanship training in the State of Illinois was well on its way to being filled. Ironically, more than fifty-two years before the College was founded, a fire chief in the United States was told in a letter, dated July, 1873, from a London Metropolitan Fire Brigade member, Captain Shaw, that. . .

". . . being a fireman is a 'regular profession' that requires 'previous study and training' . . . and that where they are omitted and men are 'pitchforked in the practical work without preparation,' the department can't deal capably with great emergencies . . . !'

The message was one that Illinois firemen during the 1920s understood. Too many times, they had faced potential life-threatening situations that could have been minimized had they possessed the sufficient "study and training" to back them up. But, hopefully, the availability of professional-level programs through the Illinois Fire College would work to help firemen perform their duties more safely and effectively than in the past.

Starting with the Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting of the IFA, the yearly convention was extended to three days. The 1925 meeting was held January 13, 14, and 15. As in previous years, an important part of business was the selection of delegates to the National Firemen's Convention.

By June of 1926, word of the new Fire College started to spread. Three active firefighters volunteered to speak. The only one from Illinois, however, was Fire Chief M. S. Phillips (Chicago Heights), who gave the presentation, "Fire Protection in Smaller Cities." (The other two firemen came from Philadelphia and New York.) Phillips's topic was an appropriate one as apparatus and manufacturers were paying more attention to the needs of smaller communities.

In fact, during 1926 and 1927, Seagrave came out with its "Suburbanite" model. A small community version, complete and custom built with a 500-GPM capacity, it was delivered to Arlington Heights in 1927. A combination hook and ladder truck with a booster system would be delivered to Riverside a few years later, in 1930.

In 1927, the IFA held two annual meetings: one in January and the other in September. Evidently, two things may have occurred at the Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting that convened in Quincy from January 11 to 13. One, the membership may have voted to change its fiscal year from a calendar (January-December) arrangement to a September through August system. Two, to put required and important activities in proper sequence, annual meetings had to be held during the month of September. The second annual meeting of the year - the Fortieth - was held September 13-15 in Jacksonville.

The latter 1927 Annual Meeting led to the transfer of a ten thousand dollar IFA appropriation to the Illinois Fire College. The funds were used to build the school's first permanent training tower and smoke house. The site was located at 6th and Healy Streets in Champaign.

Members of the Illinois Firemen's Association could look back upon the 1920s with great pride and confidence. They had crossed an important milestone in the advancement of the firefighting profession in the State of Illinois, as well as in the United States and countries overseas.

But trouble and hardship lay ahead.

Did You Know . . .

. . . that in 1923 George A. Dietrick (S. Chicago) was one of the oldest IFA members and that the list of associate members included American LaFrance, Conservation & Fire Prevention Association, and Stoughton Wagon Company?

. . . that firefighter uniforms were often made of wool . . . that jackets were double breasted with as many as 12 buttons ... shirts heavily starched with high tab-buttoned collars . . . paisley bow ties . . . flat caps with hard squared or slightly rounded brims?

. . . that the IFA was large enough to need nine committees to operate it: legislative, judiciary, auditing, program, necrology, membership, promoting, tournament, special committee?

. . . that Madison already had a fire building with a theatre on the first floor and a lodge room, measuring 60 ft. x 80 ft., on the second floor?

. . . that Springfield boasted seven engine rooms; Venice three club houses; Charleston a lounging room and a reading room?

. . . that Maryville had nine cisterns, 18 ft. x 18 ft.?

. . . that during the early 1920s the fire tax on businesses totaled \$3 billion in two years* . . . that a fire broke out in a hotel every 13 hours and 30 minutes and one person died every 20 hours in a month's time?*

. . . that during a six-year period one fire per week occurred in a hospital, asylum, or other "Good Samaritan" facility?*

. . . that each year five fires broke out in schools each day, at an annual property loss total of \$5 million* ... that 90 percent of the school buildings were considered "fire traps"?**

. . . that in churches five fires broke out each day, costing an estimated yearly loss of \$3 million?*

. . . that, according to the National Automatic Sprinkler Association, during a forty-year period, an economic savings of \$3 billion was realized in relation to 40,000 fires in buildings equipped with automatic sprinkling systems?

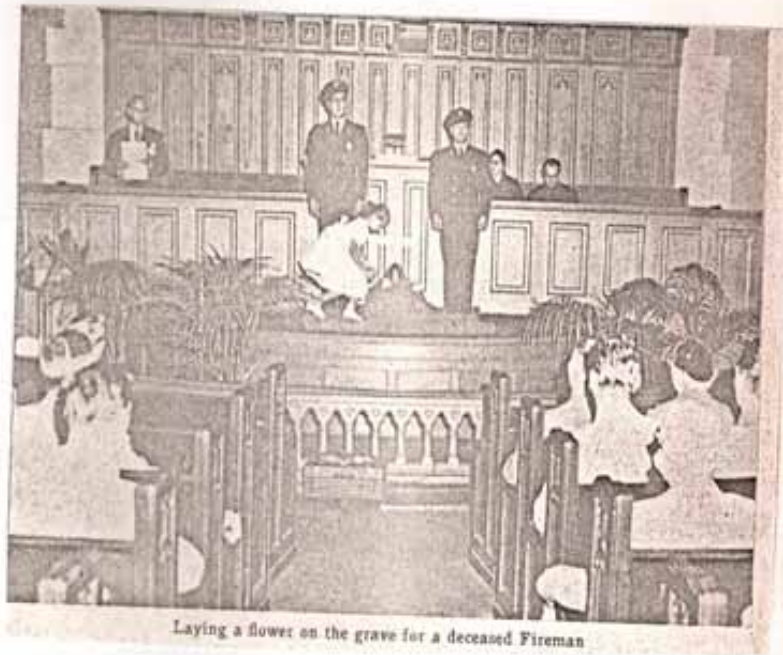
* National Automatic Sprinkler Association

** Committee on Safety to Life, National Fire Protection Association.

Funeral Ritual
ILLINOIS FIREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
INC.



**Adopted and Authorized at the
Annual Convention of the
Illinois Firemen's Association
At Clinton, 1899**



Laying a flower on the grave for a deceased Fireman

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

The Thirty-fourth
Annual Convention

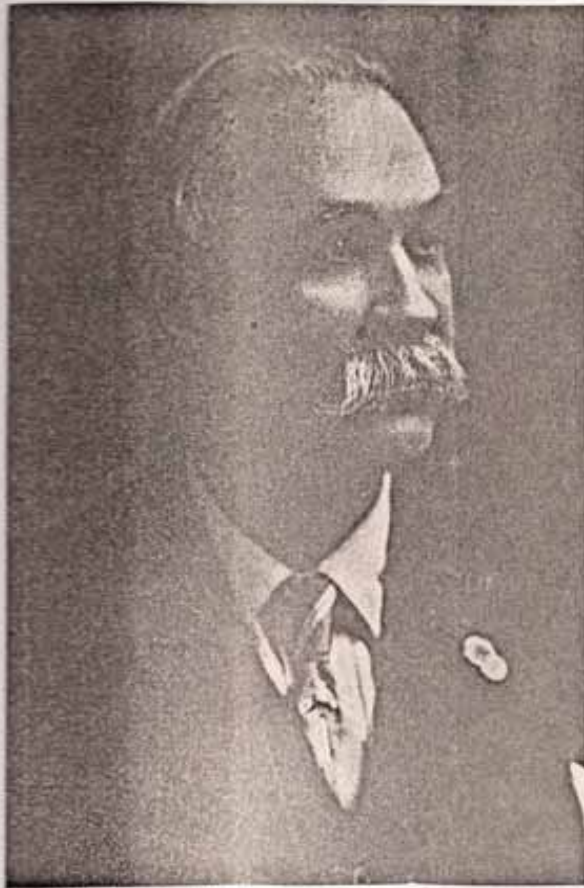
of the

ILLINOIS
FIREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

Will be held at

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

*January 10, 11 and 12
1922*



WALTER E. PRICE - CHAMPAIGN
President 32nd Annual Meeting
Marphysboro, January 13, 1920



SIMON KELLERMAN, JR.-EDWARDSVILLE
Pres. 33rd & 34th Annual Meetings
Jacksonville, January 11, 1921
Rockford, January 10, 1922





A. W. THODE - GALENA
Pres. 35th & 36th Annual Meetings
Dixon, January 9, 1923
Aurora, January 8, 1924



PEARL SMITH - MADISON
Pres. 37th & 38th Annual Meetings
January 13, 14 & 15, 1925
January 12, 13 & 14, 1926



THOMAS J. RUDDY - JOLIET
Pres. 39th & 40th Annual Meetings
Quincy, 1-11, 12 & 13, 1927
Jacksonville, 9-13, 14 & 15, 1927





ALBERT HASSE - PERU
Pres. 41st & 42nd Annual Meetings
La Salle, 9-11, 12 & 13, 1928
Joliet, 9-10, 11 & 12, 1929

5

Picking Up the Pieces: 1930 - 1939

*Labour to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial
fire-conscience.*

George Washington

The stock market "Crash of 1929" (October) threw the country into a tailspin and a perilous and paralyzing *Depression*. Thousands of fortunes were wiped out overnight. Many thousands of businesses had to close their doors. People had no money, their life savings lost when banks emptied their vaults. Jobs were unavailable. Communities - and the men, women, and children in them - scraped to stay alive. It was not a good time.

For the Illinois Firemen's Association, the early 1930s meant problems in sustaining membership, convention attendance, and participation in its activities.

Even before the depression hit, many fire departments struggled to pay their bills and their men. Some departments still had not been able to outfit their firemen with proper uniforms and protective gear. They could not ask for money to buy apparatus and equipment. How could they ask their municipalities for funds to join an organization, even if it was a professional one? How could they budget to attend an upcoming IFA annual meeting when they had no money to budget? And most firemen had no money to spare; every dollar they made had to go for food for the family and for fuel oil.

Thus, although accurate records are not available, we know that IFA membership dropped and that the yearly convention was poorly attended for several years.

Nevertheless, the association carried on its activities the best that it could. The members least hurt by the chain of events since October 1929 put forth efforts to sustain the welfare of their prized organization. And they saw that the IFA proceeded with its plans to improve the personal and public status of firefighters throughout the state of Illinois.

With money tight, fire departments were more careful in their selection of and requests for new apparatus. Likewise, fire chiefs showed more preference for apparatus and equipment that operated more efficiently and cost-effectively.

By 1932, as reported in *Fire Engineering*, a growing number of fire chiefs favored the Booster System over the chemical engine. Invented in 1913 by Charles H. Fox of Ahrens-Fox (Cincinnati), the Booster System featured a small centrifugal pump mounted in front of the radiator. It was easier and less expensive to use than the soda-acid system.

Moreover, the relatively new system was free of problems incurred by an increasing number of fire departments still using the soda-acid solution. Among other things, fire chiefs reported difficulty in uniformly mixing the solution, corrosion of the hose fittings by acid in the initial stream, rotted hose, and damaged firemen's clothing. Considered a "messy system," the once-popular soda-bicarbonate (acid) solution tended to make holes in objects to which its stream was applied (e.g. fabric, furniture, beds). Thus, the centrifugal-operated system provided fire departments with a reliable means for putting out fires at minimal cost, comparatively.

In spite of the depression, the Fire College in Champaign-Urbana enjoyed a healthy enrollment. In 1933, a total of 341 firemen attended the school.

It was that same year that the annual meetings were called "conventions" and were scheduled during the month of October, rather than September. The Forty-sixth Annual Convention took place at Rockford from October 17-19.

By this time a new trend was taking shape: professional interchange and communication between firemen and fire apparatus, tool, and gear manufacturers. Though the fire apparatus industry had been hurt by the "Crash", the continuing depression, and the inability of most municipalities to buy new equipment, manufacturers continued to do research and to develop and produce new and better products. One of the innovations was an engine with an enclosed cab. Only a few fire departments could afford one. However, the same committed manufacturers set out to develop similar systems for covering and enclosing needed equipment and tools.

Boyer Fire Apparatus specialized in designing and manufacturing apparatus for rural fire protection. They built chassis, frames, beds, wheel bases, etc. that could withstand the wear and tear from driving over rough, unpaved country roads and hole-filled lanes and driveways. Too, tanks with greater storage water capacity were offered to enable firefighters to haul larger supplies of water with them when ready sources were unavailable or hard to reach.

The year of 1935 saw the appearance of the first domestically-preferred 100-foot, all powered, aerial ladder. Developed and manufactured by Peter Pirsch & Sons Com-pany (Kenosha, Wisconsin), the hydraulic-operated ladder had three sections - all metal - with handrails on each. The first sedan-cab pumper built was also introduced in 1935 by Mack Company.

At the Forty-eighth Annual Convention, October 15, 1935, this memorable message was delivered before memorial service attendees. Association President Frank Rutkowski, well known for his "preacher"-like delivery, mannerisms, and reverence offered the following words:

"Brother firemen and friends. The most beautiful and impressive part of the Illinois Firemen's Association conventions is the memorial service. We are assembled here in memory of those who have gone to that far beyond Our Great Chief, our Master, our Lord, has called them, knowing that their work here on earth was well done. Some of them were with us a year ago but, are not here with us today. Some of those brothers that passed away were men whom you have fought shoulder to shoulder with and battled that little enemy of ours - fire. They were willing at all times to give their life for the love of others. We do not know who our Great Chief is going to call within the next year, but let us all be prepared when that time comes we can say our work here on earth was well done for humanity."

In 1936, a man named George L. Chain (Bushnell) was elected to the office of historian of the IFA. We do not know for certain; but he may have been a relative of Charles L. Chain, one of the association's early pioneers and also from Bushnell. A small-framed man of distinguished appearance, George Chain served as historian from 1936 to 1951.

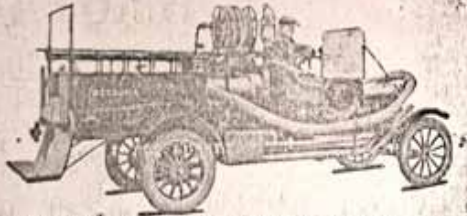
A frequent activity about this time was the transferal of fire apparatus from one fire department to another. Generally, here is what would happen: a large apparatus would be purchased by one fire department, than sold within a year or two to another department. The reason for the rather quick changeover varied. Perhaps, once the equipment had been delivered and put into operation, it failed to meet the needs or expectations of the original purchaser. Often the actual cost of operation exceeded the fire department's budgetary estimates at the time of placing the order. Tight municipal funds also became a factor and fire departments found it necessary to cut back by decreasing the number of larger apparatus assigned to the department. The sale of such equipment may have also been due to a sudden increased demand for bigger and better equipment by citizens and taxpayers within the community. This last reason for selling seemed to be the most conducive to a prompt sale - and under agreeable terms for the purchaser or second buyer.

In 1939 the first diesel-powered fire engine was introduced in the United States by Stutz Fire Engine Company (Hartford, Indiana). That same year, General Fire Truck Corporation (Detroit) delivered a custom chassis, deluxe "safety" sedan to the Decatur, Illinois Fire Department. With a 1000 gallon-per minute capacity, the pumper set on a 206-inch wheel base. It sported full rear fender skirts and bullet headlights.

The addition of improved apparatus was important to the safety and welfare of communities in Illinois. And it was necessary for firefighters that had to fight fires and similar disasters of increasingly dangerous and suspicious nature.

Modern Fire Apparatus for Small Cities and Towns

The Howe-Ford and Howe-Dodge Fire Fighters



Howe-Ford Triple Combination, Model H. T. S.

Lowest priced high grade auto pumpers

Most effective high pressure chemical

Built on standard Ford or Dodge-Graham truck chassis

Write for specifications and terms

HOWE FIRE APPARATUS SALES COMPANY
ANDERSON, INDIANA

BOYER
— FIRE —
APPARATUS

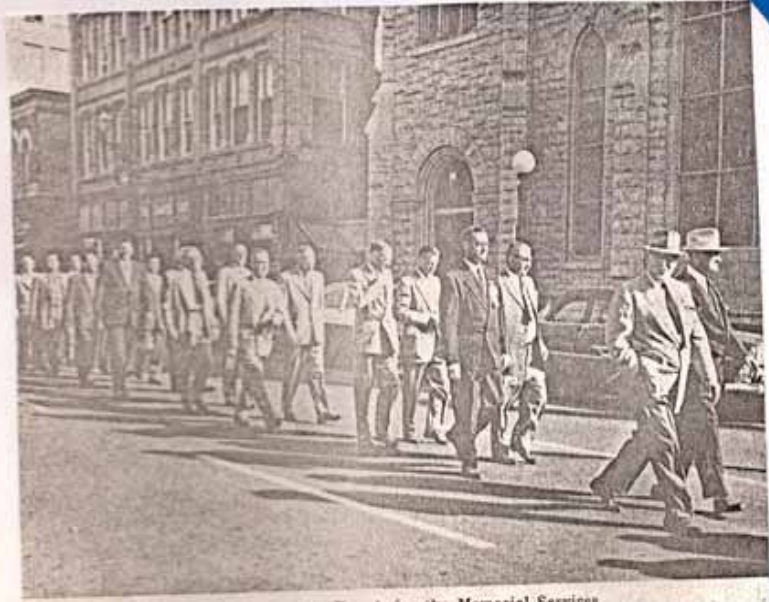
Built for any automobile or truck chassis that is made. We are also manufacturers of Hand Pulled Chemical Engines and Hand Pulled Hook and Ladder Trucks

THE OBERCHAIN-BOYER CO.

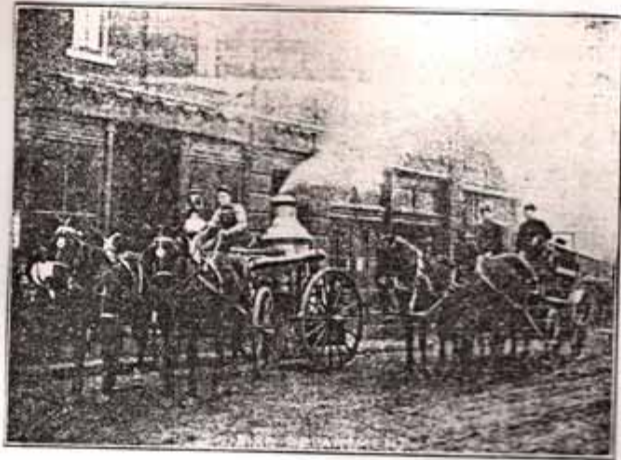
LOGANSPOUT, INDIANA

Write for specifications and prices





Marching to the Church for the Memorial Services





FRED P. HADERLEIN - CARLYLE
Pres. 43rd & 44th Annual Meetings
Peoria, 9-9, 10 & 11, 1930
Murphysboro, 9-8, 9 & 10, 1931



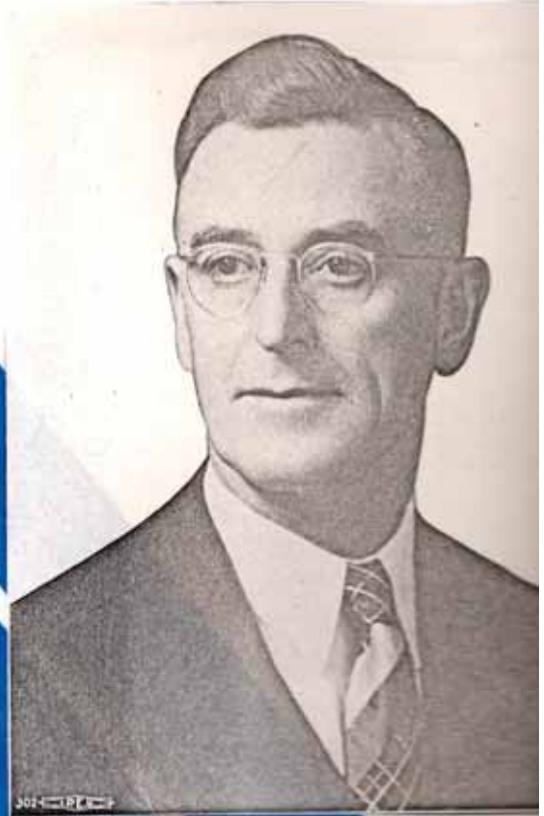
JOE VALENTINE - ROCK ISLAND
Pres. 45th & 46th Annual Meetings
Decatur, 9-13, 14 & 15, 1932
Rockford, 10-17, 18 & 19, 1933



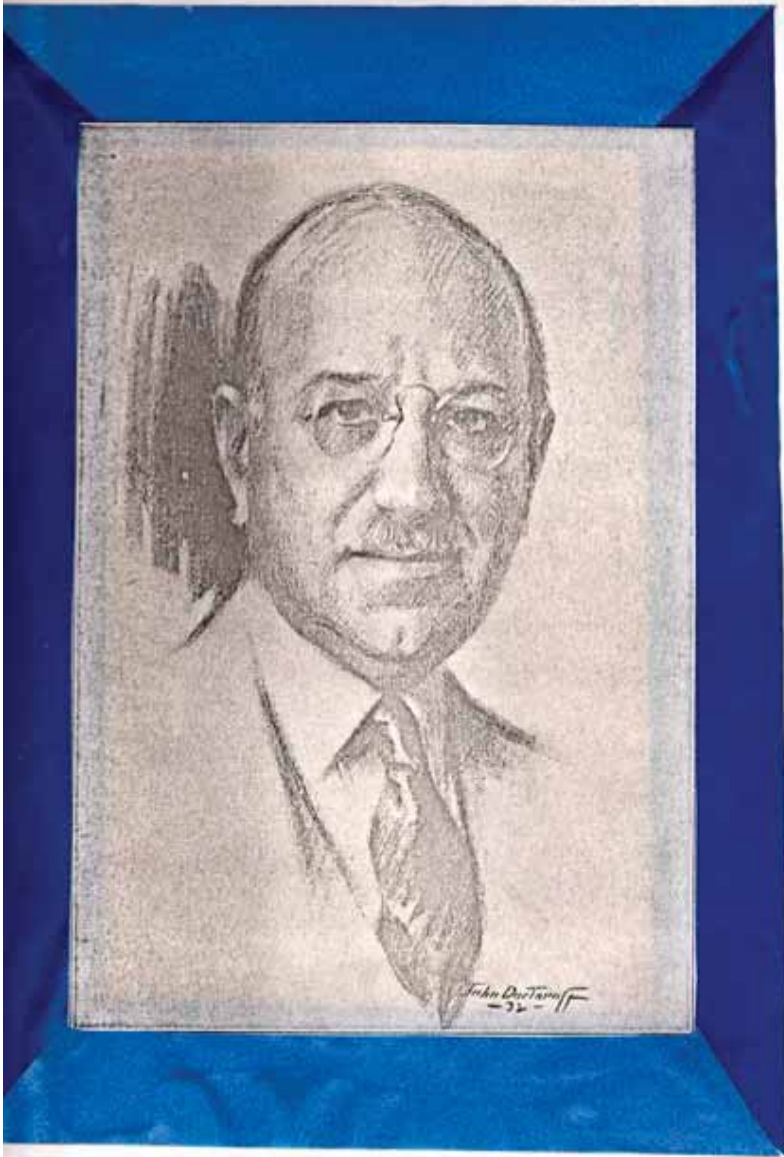
FRANK J. RUTKOWSKI - STEGER
Pres. 47th & 48th Annual Meetings
Granite City 10-16, 17 & 18, 1934
Waukegan, 10-15, 16 & 17, 1935



GEORGE KNOL - CICERO
Pres. 49th & 50th Annual Meetings
Pekin, 10-13, 14 & 15, 1936
Danville, 10-12, 13 & 14, 1937



ELMER W. WEIDLER - MT. OLIVE
Pres. 51st & 52nd Annual Meetings
Peoria, 10-18, 19 & 20, 1938
Kankakee, 10-17, 18 & 19, 1939

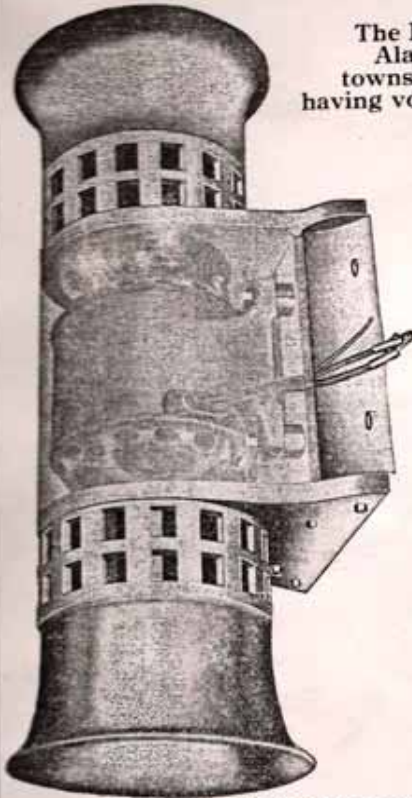


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GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS 1938

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Federal Siren

An Electric Fire Whistle

The Best General
Alarm for small
towns and villages
having volunteer Fire
Department



The most powerful Electric Whistle made. Can be blown from the Telephone Office, Water Station or any number of locations about town.

The sound is distinct from the common sounding Locomotive Whistle or Church Bells. The first cost is the only cost.

Write
for full details.

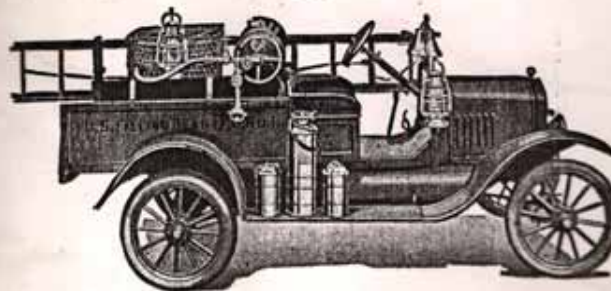
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on

Ford
Chassis



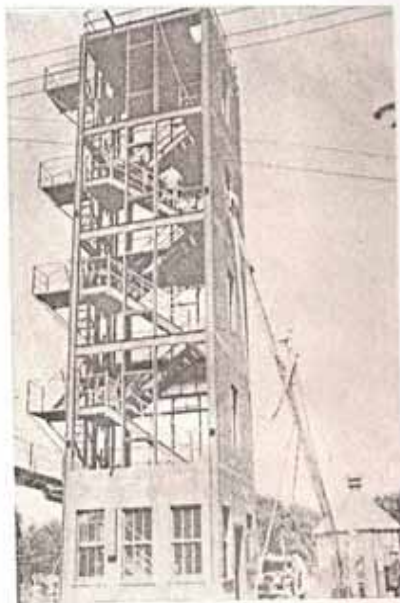
As
Furnished
the U. S.
Government

Fire College Enrollment By Days

Year	Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Total
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	
1934	160	19	58	6	30	8			288
	179		64		38		7		
			243		281		288		
1935	202	13	89	9	84	4	11		412
	215		98		88				
			313		401				
1936	226	21	74	12	78	21	21	0	453
	247		86		99		21		
			333		432				
1937	244	13	101	8	53	28	6	0	483
	257		109		81		6		
			366		477				

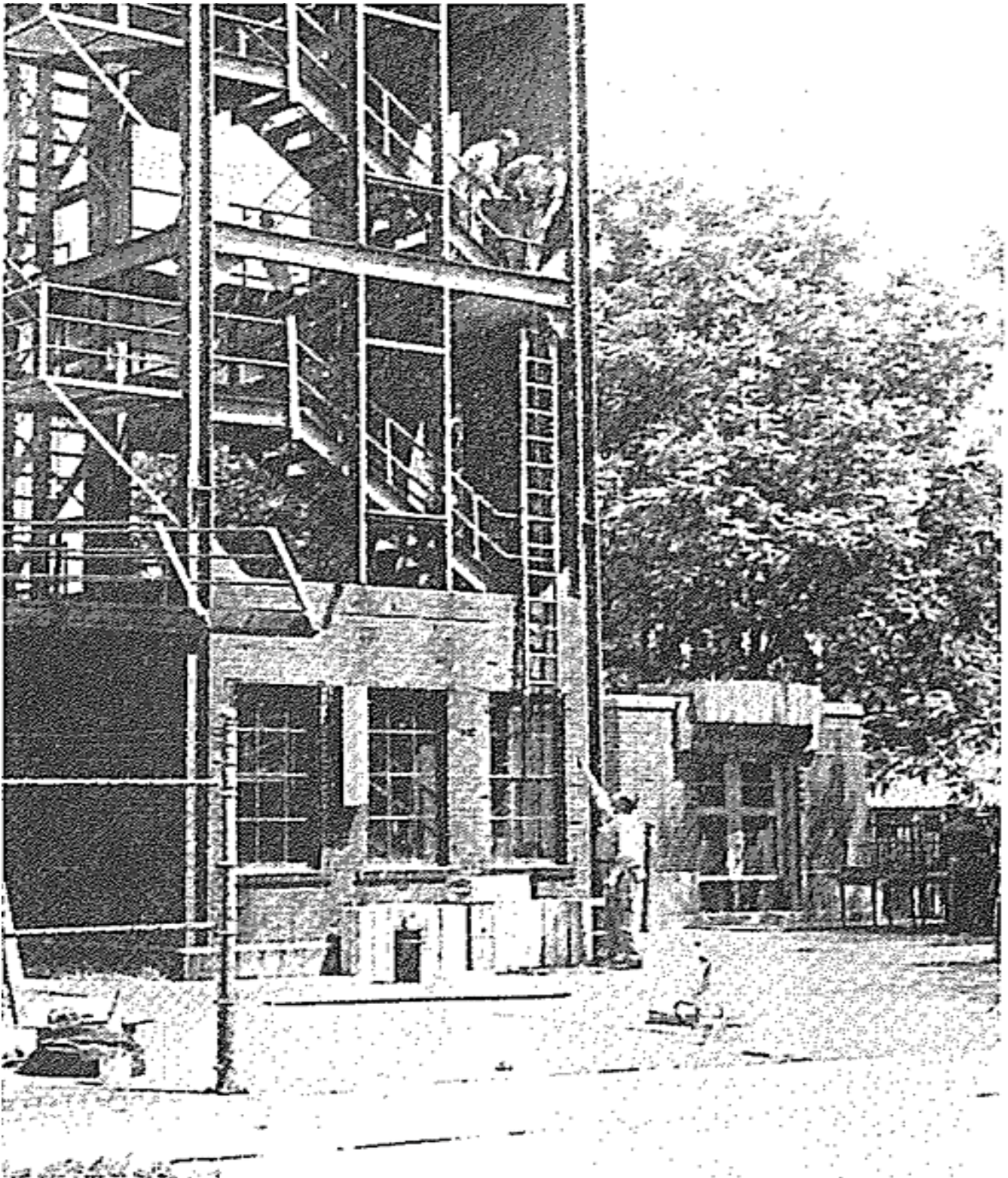
Fire College Enrollment

1925	219	1929	269	1934	288
1926	236	1930	252	1935	412
1927	267	1931	324	1936	453
1928	353	1932	416	1937	483
		1933	341		



The Training Tower on the University of Illinois Campus

1944



Galena Fire Department hoisting roof ladder with rope at Fire College Drill.

6

Facing Challenges on the Home Front: 1940 - 1949

*Death comes to all. But great achievements raise a monument
which shall endure until the sun grows cold.*

Georgius Fabricius

In 1941, the United States headed to war with Japan and Germany. Fire apparatus was looked upon as essential to protect the individual communities in America. The loss of valuable resources needed to fight the enemy abroad had to be minimized. Materials such as steel, metal, rubber, certain cloths, and chemicals were reserved for military and emergency use and had to be protected at all costs. Fuel oil and gasoline were rationed, as were coal, food, and other necessities.

New fire equipment could not be ordered by any fire department without government approval. World War II had stolen the fire service's most valuable resources: materials, money, and manpower.

Because of the limitations placed on its member fire departments and individual members, the Illinois Firemen's Association's Executive Board decided at its June 8, 1943 meeting to not hold an annual convention that year. The association's secretary and treasurer reports were printed in the back section of the Illinois Fire College's 1943 publication.

During the war years the Illinois Fire College's curriculum included addresses and demonstrations on timely subjects - subjects of a very practical nature. Of special interest were courses on (a) the use of oxygen masks - e.g. McKay, Chemox, and Burrell; (b) tools such as axes and cross-cutting saws, (c) the operation of artificial resuscitators, (d) the use of sand as an extinguishing agent, and (e) the utilization of the siphoner, two-inch hose to extract water from basements. Courses were well attended.

At the nineteenth College held June 8-11, 1943, the 247 firemen attending were told that there were two ways to combat fire: (1) legislation and (2) education. It was said that during times of war any fire that diminished necessary items such as rubber affected the lives of many. And, as we stated earlier, in wartime every commodity became a war material.

Illinois's involvement in rubber was also a vital topic at the College. Leading businessmen and legislators were hard at work trying to win the location of synthetic rubber manufacturing plants in the state. Most of the resources needed to manufacture the rubber were already available nearby - e.g. corn, wheat, soybeans, water, oil, and petroleum. But in the end, Illinois lost to another state.

Design trends in apparatus were also discussed. Mass production was up 700 percent; but apparatus were being manufactured only for use by the armed services and for the protection of war production areas (e.g. ammunition plants).

Thus the materials allowed for home production use had to be as dependable as those made of copper, tin, and rubber reserved for war products. Pump-type extinguishers were made with galvanized steel containers. Hand fire extinguishers had steel shells, zinc coatings, and porcelain enameled inside chambers. Brass was used for the caps.

Because the amount of rubber was diminished, fire hose was made with single, rather than double, jackets. Hard suction hose/chemical hose was braided and the wrapped type.

Well-aged timber was reserved for trussed aerial ladders. Nozzles and hose line equipment (e.g. siamese connections, strainers, wyes) were fabricated from ferrous materials to conserve copper-base alloys. Malleable iron with brass tips and valves with points were used in shut-off attachments.

Single-stage centrifugal pumps were produced to minimize the number of valves, gears, and bearings needed for assembly.

The 500-gallon pumper was made without running boards, rear fenders, and side paneling. The 500-gallon skid unit, with its direct driven engine and pump assembly, a single-stage centrifugal pump, was considered to be a very cost-effective piece of apparatus that could be built up by the purchasing fire department.

With the war came the demand for other pieces of apparatus that would serve as prototypes for standard equipment for special fire protection/suppression needs: rescue units at airplane crash sites and airport training grounds, crash trucks, and special equipment (e.g. water foggers, foamers, high pressure CO, applicators).

At the 1944 Fire College, held June 6-9, airplane crash fires became a topic of discussion. But by then, the problems of war were not the priority of the College officials nor the students. Learning better methods for fighting fire at home was considered more important, more practical. Learning more about the trends in fire service seemed more interesting, more important.

Clearly, the men enrolled at the 1944 College were more professionally-oriented. They were there to get accurate information about doing things in the safest, quickest, and most cost-effective ways. They wanted to see how much good they could do but felt it necessary to learn how to avoid getting hurt - or killed - in the process.

To minimize the occurrence of grain elevator fires, Fire College "students" were advised to implement regular inspection programs. Rantoul's method of inspecting each elevator every sixty days and using a different fireman in the department each time was strongly recommended. Also, regular grain elevator drills were considered a must.

That same year, a survey of several hundred Illinois fire chiefs was conducted. The respondents listed the following priorities for their own fire departments:

1. utility - apparatus that carry equipment conveniently,
2. maneuverability - of apparatus,
3. visibility - from cabs,
4. protection - of firefighters on vehicle (and canvas covers for hose),
5. accessibility - to equipment (termed important)
6. no front-wheel drive vehicles - too bulky, hard to drive;
7. four-wheel drive aerial ladder trucks,
8. auxiliary 2 1/2-inch hydrant connections.

Other items were listed and instructors at the College emphasized the point that fire prevention was no longer a matter of common sense but one of knowledge and skill.

The giving away of prizes was a favorite activity at the Fire College each year. Always donated by various companies, associations, and individuals, the prizes included practical and fun items alike: flags, playing cards, billfolds, hand lights, uniform caps, first aid kits, war bonds, pens, manicure sets, tobacco pouches, and electric clocks.

Almost two weeks to the day after a huge fire swept through the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago (June 5, 1946), students attending the Fire College were catapulted into the future by a representative from Underwriters Laboratories that said America was on the threshold of a combined electrical/chemical era. The man forecast a way of life that was unheard of, one that would include (among other things) synthetic wiring, plastic furniture, appliances, and fixtures; bacterial lamps, color-matched plug-in strips; power-driven tools in home workshops, factory-built flues in home heating plants, automatic recording telephone messaging systems, electric blankets, panel wall and floor heating, and lighter metals (aluminum and magnesium for building structures). While the possibilities sounded appealing to the 353 firemen attending the class, they must have posed some serious questions about handling the fire hazards these modern inventions would help to create.

Looking far ahead was interesting, even exciting; but in 1946, IFA conventioners concerned themselves with more practical, timely issues. It was the first time in four years that they were able to congregate, visit, and exchange ideas to take back home and put to use.

The delegates were thankful that membership in the Illinois Firemen's Association had remained reasonably stable. (Approximately 476 departments and individuals belonged). They were glad to visit Quincy again and under much better, warmer weather conditions. (The last Quincy meeting was held during the month of January, in 1927).

They were ready to learn what was going on in various areas related to the fire service. And they listened intently for three days (October 15-17) as speakers recharged their intellectual batteries.

Sad, but not surprising, was the fact that since the war had ended a year earlier, fire incidents in Illinois had increased 12 percent with property loss up 38 percent and deaths totaling 377 (up 136). Fire chiefs were urged to conduct fire safety programs on an ongoing basis because, according to the Illinois state fire marshal, the public appeared less "interested" and responsible than they had been. They had, reportedly, become very "careless."

But a fire department inspector from Indiana told conventioners of the need for public cooperation in trying to eliminate fire hazards within any community.

He said that each fire department had to maintain regular communications with plant officials, security people, operations managers, and business owners. Fire department personnel needed to be able to go to these people, discuss mutual problems and ways to resolve them, and ask for statistical data to develop comprehensive reports for generating more fire service revenue for their respective departments.

But with that, as several speakers warned, came the need for firefighters to do other things: (a) become skilled in conducting daily informal inspections within their communities, (b) enforce laws that put fire suppression and control clearly in the hands of qualified professionals such as themselves, and (c) equip themselves through continuing training in the latest strategies and techniques for preventing fire incidents and for controlling, suppressing, and investigating them.

The subject of hotel fires and hotel safety followed delegates from one area of the convention site to the other. The LaSalle Hotel fire had rested on firefighters' shoulders everywhere the blame for something that was clearly the fault of others. The hotel was a severe fire hazard poorly designed and in great disrepair. And the Chicago firefighters that responded to the alarm lacked the equipment needed to handle a blaze of that type and dimension.

Delegates to the 1946 convention were told that hotel fire safety was the responsibility, primarily, of hotel owners and operators. They were the ones that needed to install automatic sprinklers in large, open spaces, connect alarm systems to central fire stations, and implement regular self-inspections.

Similarly, fire departments were urged to offer special first aid, safety, and evacuation programs for hotel personnel at all levels. Preventing devastating losses of life such as occurred in the LaSalle Hotel fire (sixty-one persons died) was considered a pressing priority.

The issue of safety brought up the problem of fire department preparedness. Trial runs, driving instruction courses, and "blackboard" fire alarm exercises were suggested to ready firefighters for responding to calls safely.

Related to "numbers," members were strongly advised to fill out their departmental statistic forms as completely as possible because the information, published in the yearly Conference Number, or "Red Book," was also used by the association and other fire service entities to advance the cause. More departments filled out the informational forms, reporting facts about the year and make of apparatus on hand, the fire chief's salary, amount of fire loss, amount of departmental expense, and amount of tax collected.

As reported, some new types of equipment had been added: flood and lifesaving boats, trucks equipped with extinguishers, masks, inhalators, and liquid foam; floodlights and generators, and automatic portable iron lungs (Savanna).

During the same year, comprehensive data were compiled about the fire losses within the State of Illinois. The data, organized into a series of seven statistical charts, were offered by the Illinois Inspection Bureau for inclusion in the 1946 Illinois Fire College publication. Such information was considered beneficial to firemen, regardless of the size and capabilities of the fire departments with which they were associated.

In 1947, communities such as Chicago passed special "Disaster Plan" (April 25) ordinances to improve survival chances in case of fire, flood, tornado, explosion, railroad wrecks, plane crashes, etc.

The war was over. Revenue for departmental purchases and expenditures was coming in. Members of the IFA looked forward to attending more conventions like the one just held in 1946.

And the one hosted by Rockford in 1948 must have been one of the best planned. Held from October 14-16, it featured a three-color, 82-page program book given to each delegate. Inside were advertisements from more than 250 city businesses and photographs of the association's officers and executive board members and Rockford Fire Department members and municipal leaders. Of special interest were two feature articles: "Up the Rockford Fire Ladder," a history of the department, and "Rockford—The Forest City." Much planning and work had gone into the publication of the book, making it a fine example of fire department and community collaboration.

On April 4, 1949, Effingham, Illinois suffered one of the saddest fire incidents in the state's history. Eleven infants died when St. Anthony's Hospital caught fire. Investigators were to determine later that the hospital contained numerous combustible interior materials. Corridors and stairways were open. Vertical shafts had no covers. The hospital had no sprinklers, fire detection units, or alarm systems. Interestingly, this incident led fire departments around the state to work with their respective health facilities in developing and implementing internal fire prevention programs.

By 1949, the IFA "Red Book" featured a comprehensive one-page "Index" in the front of the volume. Listed in order of scheduling were the various activities that took place during the annual convention. The titles of addresses were not given; but the name and affiliation of each speaker was included.

Of all the talks given (there were sixteen) during the Rock Island convention (October 20-22), perhaps the memorial service address carried the most meaning. Rev. Dan G. Long, Broadway Church, spoke of "Beyond the Call of Duty."

In his talk, Rev. Long placed people at three levels: (1) those that live life below the call of duty, (2) those that do their duty and nothing more, and (3) those that go beyond the call of duty. He considered firemen to be part of the third group because they "respond to need." And he told listening firemen that "In giving aid, we have to go out but we do not have to come back." Though the talk seemed sad in one respect, in another it clearly praised the convention delegates for their unrelenting dedication and service to others.

One speaker suggested that firefighters needed to get more involved in public relations—in promoting the good things about themselves, their profession, and their activities. A fire chief in Davenport, the man described the specific programs firemen could implement within and through their own fire departments. But he advised that a professional public relations person was needed to represent the fire industry as a whole, especially to other industries and specialties.

The past president (R. J. Johnson) of the Illinois State Fire Prevention Association told about one example of a public relations and educational program developed by one fire department in Illinois. He described a film made by the Hampshire Fire Department in which party telephone users in a rural fire district cooperated to assist the fire department. The cost of making the film had been underwritten by the Illinois Telephone Company. The speaker also mentioned that during Fire Prevention Week (the week prior to the convention) nine thousand people in Rock Island had seen some of the ISFPA films available.

The sales and branch house manager of H. J. Heinz Company also told IFA convention delegates that more people had to be made aware of the contribution that firefighters made to their communities. He said that few taxpayers realized how little fire service cost them individually; and he suggested that fire departments needed to take the total cost of fire service for the last year, divide it by the total population for a "per" figure, then divide that by sixty minutes to show a "per person" cost per minute of each hour. (An even smaller figure can be derived by dividing the "per" figure by 365 days, then 24 hours, then sixty minutes to show a per person per minute cost. The final figure would be very small.)

Some important business matters were discussed over the three-day period of the 1949 convention. One concerned the fact that the association president received no salary, just coverage for expenses; and that the secretary's salary had remained the same (\$30) since 1919. Reportedly, this discussion ensued following some rumors about the "high" payments to officers for services rendered.

The Legislative Committee of IFA proposed a number of resolutions, among them:

1. a resolution for a bill that limited the work week of paid uniformed firefighters to 60 hours,
2. a resolution for a bill that provided pension at the time of disability or retirement based on the salary at the time of change or average salary of the three highest years of salary,
3. a resolution for a bill eliminating the 10-year active service requirement before eligibility for fire pension fund benefits,
4. a resolution that changed civil service commissioner appointment from total mayoral discretion to (1) the mayor, (2) 1 fire department, (3) 1 police department—each for two year terms.

Several pieces of legislation relating to firemen were also discussed. Delegates were warned that the next two years were going to be very rough because of the strong opposition over higher wages, better hours, and pension benefits.

The 1949 "Red Book" contained a statistical section that provided some fascinating "reading." For instance, it showed that more fire departments had assistant chiefs and officers (president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer), as well as more than one captain. While some fire chiefs reportedly still received no salary, others got paid per fire alarm response - e.g. \$1-\$4 per call. The chief of the Pana Fire Department, for instance, reported payment by the hour (\$2.50); a figure of \$10 was also given but not explained.

The 1949 Convention Number indicated something else: the association's high regard for the officers of the Ladies Auxiliary. Their photographs, names, titles, and community names were printed in the middle of the volume. By the way, the yearly dues for IFA members increased in 1949 - from \$5 to \$10.

Through the years, community-type fire service organizations and associations had formed. In 1949, the following were reported to have been affiliated with the Illinois Firemen's Association:

Related Community Fire Fighter Organizations

Community Firemen's Association of Southern Cook County	48 departments
Egyptian Fire Fighters Association of S. Illinois	76
Kane County Firemen's Association	14
Madison County Firemen's Association	23
Wolford County.....	7

Community Associations

Old National Trail Firemen's Association	25 departments
Lake County Firemen's Association	26
Three M Firemen's Association	
Southern Central Illinois Fire Fighters Association	51
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JOHN E. MERSCH - EVANSTON
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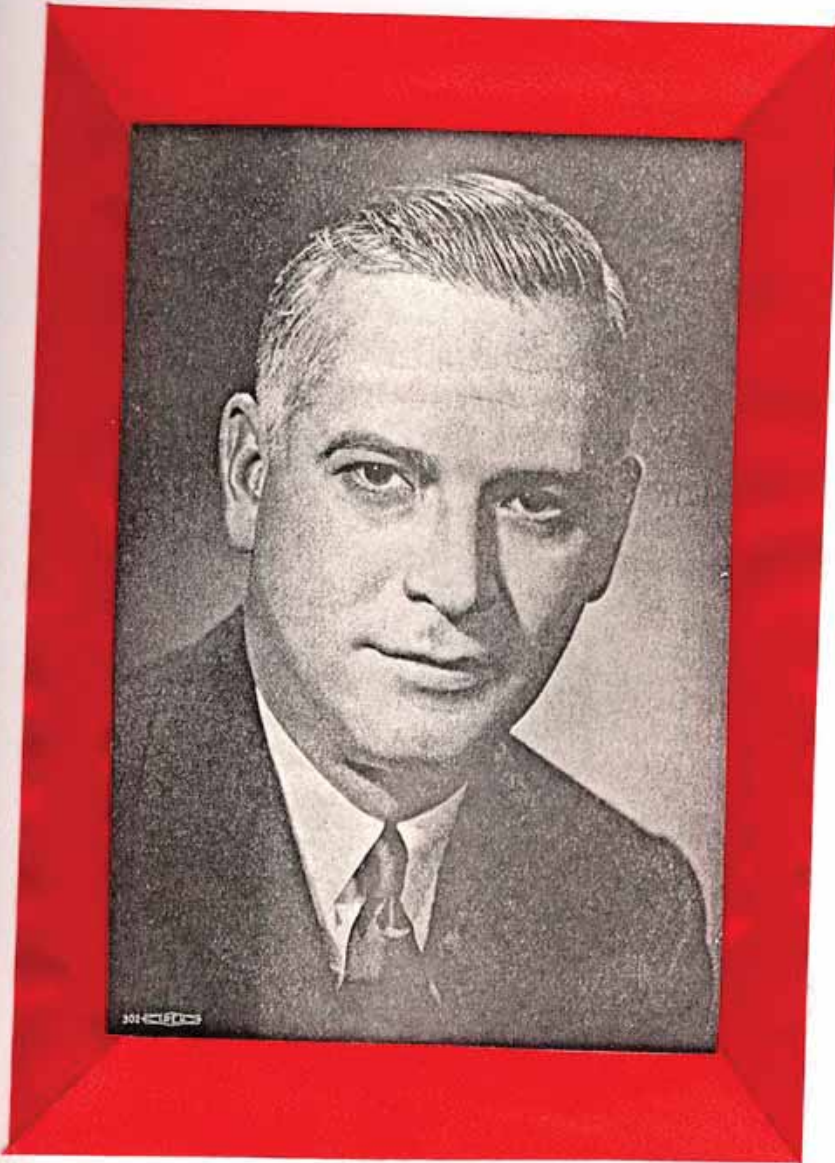
WILLIAM R. STONERHAM-WOOD RIVER
*President 55th Annual Meeting
Jacksonville, 10-13, 14 & 15, 1942*



RUSSELL WRIGHT - EAST ST. LOUIS
Pres. 56th & 57th Annual Meetings
Quincy, 10-15, 18 & 17, 1946
Mt. Vernon, 10-17, 18 & 19, 1947

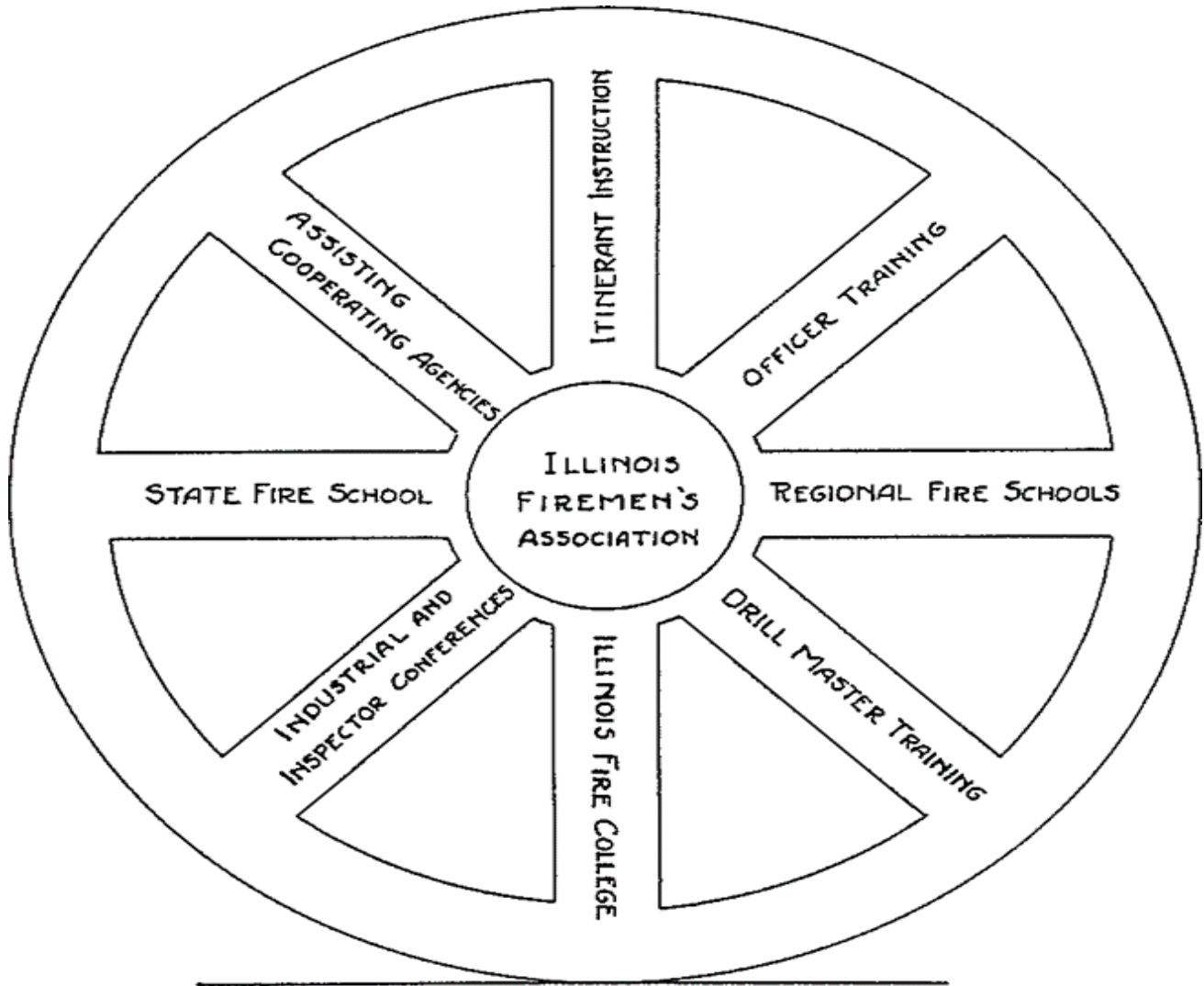


WILLIAM THAD PIPE - EAST ALTON
Pres. 58th & 59th Annual Meetings
Rockford, 10-14, 15 & 16, 1948
Rock Island, 10-20, 21 & 22, 1949



HONORABLE DWIGHT GREEN
Governor of Illinois 1946

FUTURE FIRE TRAINING



READY TO ROLL
FOREWARD TO A FIRE SAFE STATE

7

Spotting Evolutions of Change: 1950 - 1959

*A great social and economic experiment, noble in motive
and far-reaching in purpose.*

Herbert C. Hoover

By 1950, the membership of the Illinois Firemen's Association stood at 616. The association's framework appeared sound, even secure. New blood from every artery in the state flowed into the organization. With it came newfound energy and drive to continue IFA on its course, particularly in the areas of firefighter benefits, professional training, and safety legislation.

The whole structure of the Sixtieth Annual Convention was different than those of previous years. Changes had been made for logistical as well as aesthetic reasons.

The number of speakers used between October 19 and 21 was cut down. The convention was held in a hall rather than a hotel. Activities were spread out throughout the community of Alton: The "Assembly" was held at the city hall. Convention headquarters was set up at the Stratford Hotel, which also served as the location for the special events. And the memorial service was conducted at the First Presbyterian Church.

Each session moved quickly along, thanks to the presiding officers. But fellowship between members of the organization was still promoted as a major convention activity. On numerous occasions the older members took the opportunity to stress the importance of the younger men to the health and vitality of the organization. They were especially urged to take an interest in the state's civil defense plan being developed. According to the state fire marshal, the strength and abilities of every firefighter would be needed to operate an effective security program within the boundaries of each state. After two world wars of devastating financial and human proportion, total destruction was considered inevitable should World War III have ever become a reality. And the position of many entities, particularly the government (state and federal), was "We must be prepared to handle disaster."

One speaker, with the Chicago Civil Defense Commission, went so far as to offer solutions for handling problems of national security. Frank McAuliffe, also a member of the Fire Service Commission, was well qualified in the areas of wired communications, radiation detection, and command post operations. He introduced the new civil defense plan called "Special Order XXX" and said that the fire service needed to be designated as an essential component in making the plan successful. But delegates were told that it was the responsibility of state and federal authorities to utilize the fire personnel effectively.

The different capabilities needed in civil defense were considered the same ones needed in every community each day of the year. Paralleled by one speaker to those used in a circus, they included: (1) management prowess, (2) coordination and teamwork, (3) mechanical ability, (4) updated training and education, and (5) emergency and people motivating skills. Developing a cooperative spirit within others was dubbed the key to fire department success.

In the area of fire prevention, an area emphasized since World War I, cooperation was considered a key factor. With a nationwide property loss in 1949 totaling \$700 million, people in the insurance field pushed for firefighters to take a very active, aggressive role in public education.

A fire prevention engineer representing the Federation of Mutual Fire Insurance Companies cited specific public-oriented strategies to help alleviate the problem:

1. *work with children to instill instinctive safety habits that would continue into adulthood,
2. *manage adults to take preventive steps at home and work,
3. "assist" property owners in complying with current regulations and codes,
4. *push legislators and regulatory agencies to update building and inspection regulations,
5. *collaborate in the enforcement of laws already on the books,
6. *help organize private fire brigades within the community.

Also, firefighters were urged to train themselves and the public in coping, inspecting, detecting, and correcting techniques for fire prevention.

Association members were reminded that many groups were available to aid them in the teaching and promoting of fire preventive strategies and methods. The groups were categorized into three interest areas: non-insurance (government and private organizations), insurance, and others (e.g. manufacturers, contractors, insurance brokers/agents, accountants, attorneys, physicians). Materials were distributed to delegates to enable them to contact the groups.

Members of the Illinois Firemen's Association were very interested in what Professor L. H. Provine, retiring Director of the Illinois Fire College, had to say. He told delegates that the College was really the result of an experiment. It seems that on June 14, 1926, two hundred and nineteen people gathered at the University of Illinois to see what a fire college would be like. Since that time, the experiment had grown to twenty-six annual colleges during which over seven hundred topics had been presented. The consorted effort by many boards and bureaus was, according to Provine, responsible for the training of firemen as "scientists" skilled in "fire causes and remedies."

"We must educate the public of (the) universal cost of fire," said Provine. "We are our brother's keepers." He described the fire college as four days of hard work but a friendly, rewarding fellowship and urged firemen to take advantage of the college's various courses and demonstrations.

Members of the association showed their appreciation for the support of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Illinois Firemen's Association (LAIFA) by drawing more attention to the organization. In the 1950 Conference Number the Auxiliary's by-laws and organizational format were published in the front pages of the volume. Photographs of the officers at the time were placed in the middle portion of the book.

The organization was celebrating its third anniversary that year. The Auxiliary had been founded on October 18, 1947, by a group of twelve women that met at a coffee shop in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. (Please see Chapter 15: Ladies Auxiliary.)

At the convention several resolutions were considered. The delegates pushed for a change in the Firemen's Minimum Wage Act. They passed a resolution calling for an increase in the monthly pay of firemen in municipalities: \$250 for firemen in a community of 10,000 to 25,000 population; \$300, 25,00 to 150,000 population. The IFA also adopted to support aid for cities and to mail a special resolution to the governor to push for a reasonable rate of pay for firemen. A third resolution called for payments of 40 percent of a deceased fireman's annual monthly salary to the unmarried widow.

The year of 1950 also served as a year in which *The Bulletin*, the IFA's bi-monthly newsletter, demonstrated its far-reaching coverage of fire service activities. A very professional type of publication, it featured news of meetings of regional, district, and state fire service association. It also published news about the Illinois Fire College, wage disputes and agreements, and personnel changes within individual fire departments.

The delivery of new apparatus was given much attention with descriptions and sometimes quotes from firemen about the effectiveness of equipment in use by their respective fire department. Other bits of news concerned raffle and *Bulletin* donations, injuries, death notices (write-ups), meetings and special events, firemanship training courses, and issues of interest to members of the fire service. Clearly, Simon Kellermann's suggestion years earlier had proven itself a wise one to implement.

According to a report in the 1951 Fire College Proceedings book, a total of 606 firemen enrolled in classes that year. Held from June 19-22, the program included material on mine safety, devices, the new Illinois Fire Code, flammable liquid fires, fire resistant paints, farm fires, and fire burning speed. One evening the trainees were even entertained with a play, "Democracy at Work."

The future of the Fire College and fire training in Illinois was a key topic at the Sixty-first Annual Convention of the IFA, held in Chicago from October 2-4. Firefighting was about to be recognized as a "definite profession." Thus, there was an even greater need for information and technical knowledge on the part of the fireman.

Using a wheel as an illustration, Fire College Professor George Harper said the IFA represented the center, serving as the hub of firefighting and prevention work in the state. The spokes represented "what we have" and the outer rim, the boundary of "where we can go." Potential "spokes" were pointed out: summer state fire school, a regional association school, itinerant instruction, inspector and officer training, industrial fire protection, drill masters, cooperatives, and, the Illinois Fire college.

THE BULLETIN

ISSUED IN THE INTEREST OF THE FIREMEN OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
BY THE ILLINOIS FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

NUMBER 114



APRIL, 1954

Egyptian Ass'n Hears Talk By Director of Ass'n of Fire Directors

The Egyptian Fire Fighters Association met at Mt. Vernon, Illinois, Tuesday, March 9th for the first meeting of 1954 for that association. One hundred and two firemen attended the meeting in addition to ten deputy state Fire Marshal's.

The speaker of the day was H. C. Rigby, Dixon, Director of the Association of Fire Districts of Illinois as well as a member of the Executive Board of the Illinois Firemen's Assn. Inc. Mr. Higby's address was well received by the gathering. Dr. Frank Bridges, S. I. N. gave an address on Civilian Defense.

An excellent Mulligan and ample refreshments were provided with the compliments of Mt. Vernon, the host city.

Fred P. Haderlein, Deputy Fire Marshal, Carlyle, acted as Master of Ceremonies, and introduced the distinguished guests which included, C. E. Mc-Namara, American-La France, St. Louis, Missouri; A. Towers, Pres. Towers Fire Apparatus Co., Freeburg, Illinois; Walker Stone, Fire Fighting Equip-ment, Springfield, Illinois and the Mayors and City Commissioners of the various cities attending.

J. Sweeney, Sandoval, Illinois, won the attendance prize, a fireman's Ax donated by the Towers Fire Apparatus Ci.

The next quarterly meeting will be at Ashley, Illinois, Tuesday, July 13, 1954. George H. Holmes, chief of Carterville, the secretary of the Egyptian Fire Fighters Assn. was complimented by the Association for having just finished forty years in the garage business in his home city. The Holmes garage has been the place for the storage of the Carterville fire equipment since 1921. During those years either George Holmes and his brother, the late Ed Holmes, were connected with the fire department.

Springfield Depts. Sue For Pay

Springfield policemen and firemen filed suit March 1st in the Sangamon County Circuit Court to force payment by the city of \$70,871 due them in back salary from last July 16.

The Springfield City Council has been seeking ways to raise funds to meet the increased payroll and had put off paying the increase until the new fiscal year.

The Springfield city council has as yet made no move to increase the salaries of the policemen and firemen and back pay for the men will continue to pile up even after settlement of the present suit.

REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING for the 30th ILLINOIS FIRE COLLEGE June 21, 22, 23, 24, 1954

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A. M., in the Council Room of the Champaign City Building, on March 8, 1954, by President O. E. Hint, Galena.

The president welcomed the group and pointed out that this was the first time a planning meeting had representation from all of the fire organizations in the state. He further stated that the plans for the 30th Fire College should be better than ever, and should represent the needs and wishes of the firemen of the state.

Pres. Hirst opened the meeting by pointing out that the first order of business was to detail the plans for the 30th Fire College. If time was available after plans were made, there were several items which should receive attention. He then turned the meeting over to G. W. Harper, Director of the Fire College.

The remainder of the morning, and the early part of the afternoon was spent in discussion and selection of the topics for the Fire College program. It was decided that there would be a demonstration on each morning program, and that additional demonstrations would be held in the afternoons.

Chief Wimmer of Urbana presented Professor Provine with a gold badge, making him an honorary Fire Marshal of the City of Urbana.

The meeting recessed for a delicious lunch, prepared and served by the members of the Champaign Fire Department, the dinner being compliments of the Illinois Firemen's Assn. Inc.

At the close of the planning session, the meeting was turned back to President Hirst. At this point, he brought up a proposal to form a permanent Fire Training Advisory Council composed of representatives from each of statewide fireman's organizations. Chief Frank Foor, president of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, presented his thoughts on the subject. It was agreed that President Hint of the Firemen's Association, and President Foor, call a meeting of representatives of all statewide fireman's organizations to be held during the Fire College. (The date suggested was Tuesday evening, June 22, 1954).

State Fire Marshal, Sanford F. Giles, was asked for comment on this proposal, and he stated that such an advisory council, representing all fire groups in the state, would coordinate training plans and other matters and present unified. sup.

The need for industrial fire protection coincided with the continued implementation of the "National Preparedness Program." It required the conservation of resources and protection of manufacturing plants, storage buildings, stores, schools, public structures, and homes.

As people in the fire service agreed, fire prevention paid. Firemen recognized their responsibility in helping both the general public and business and industry to become more interested and cooperative in preventing fires from ever occurring.

With burns being the number three cause of accidental death in the United States, delegates were told that efforts to eliminate burn hazards and to improve the care of burns had to be two-fold. They had to be directed toward the education of the public and also directed toward the doctor to insure better care.

"Burn care needs to be standardized," said Dr. Harold Sullivan (Chicago). "Create burn centers utilizing a system including both associate and principal hospitals. Give blood transfusions versus plasma . . . Give sodium salt orally to supply fluids." Some fire departments in Illinois already participated in special localized programs to handle burn hazards in a more professional, expedient manner.

In business matters, the IFA Legislative Committee urged members to ignore the law exempting them from jury duty because good jurors were needed "in the box." Firemen were also told that a law had been passed August 1, 1951, which exempted both volunteer and paid firemen from personal liability were a person injured, maimed, or killed during the performance of duty. (Discussions led by the association's attorney in later years would indicate that a fireman could be charged with liability if willful negligence was indicated.)

About this time IFA members felt the pinch of being spread out over 56,000 square miles. A recommendation was made during the business session that the chairman of the Legislative Committee should be someone that "resides near Springfield to enhance our ability to be on hand." It was also advised by Vice President John M. Schmidt (Evanston) that the association needed to create a special fund to help fight legislation and that more "working together" was needed to strengthen the association's legislative impact. According to the "Red Book," no action was taken on any of those recommendations that year.

Some Interesting Facts: From the 1950 "Red Book"

Membership: 534 departments, 13 past officers, 83 associate members. (A gain of 10 departments)

Credentials: 94 departments, 150 delegates.

Bulletin publishing costs: \$136.50, 1500 copies.

Printing of 1950 Convention Number: \$976.03, 1200 copies.

As the 1952 convention convened in Peoria (October 29), the subject of *rain* was on every fireman's mind. Grass fires had kept many Midwestern fire departments busy day and night. It had been a very dry year. (According to a report in Collier's Year Book, 1952, the year was the "most unusual and most disagreeable in the annals of the nation . . . excessive snow, rain, drought, heat . . . summer one of the hottest on record.")

Yet the spirit of Illinois firemen thrived, particularly among members of the IFA. Faith in themselves and in the organization was reinforced somewhat by the continued support received from old-timers. Nat T. Pierce, 78 and retired in Los Angeles, remitted his dues check faithfully. James Flynn, crippled and a resident of Ontario, Canada, wrote letters reminiscing about convention time every January.

But the old-timers that continued to attend the annual conventions were considered special. Take Albert Hasse (Peru), for instance. At the outset of the October 29-31 convention in '52, he set the record straight. He told delegates that Peoria had been the host for five not four annual conventions (though IFA data shows only four). It was Hasse's fiftieth convention. To honor him and other members who had attended fifty annual conventions, delegates voted to award a special badge to each of them.

It was brought to the attention of conventioners that ten years after the passage of the Fire Protection District Act of 1927, ten fire districts existed. At the time of the convention, 375 were listed on the books. Delegates were told by one speaker that the district trustees played a vital role in every area of management: purchasing, quality assurance, surveying, personnel, insurance, strategy, mutual aid, and firefighter support.

Special addresses were given at the convention on preliminary arson-related information and fact-finding techniques, training film selection, and cooperative endeavors with other protective agencies. Some of the agencies mentioned were: National Board of Fire Underwriters, Underwriters' Laboratories (founded in 1892 by William H. Merrill, an insurance inspector during the Chicago World's Fair), industrial fire brigades, public utility companies, civil defense groups, and, of course, the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office.

During the business session, delegates voted to hire an association attorney from the Springfield area to work with the Legislative Committee. The candidate recommended had quoted a fee of \$600 minimum. Much discussion about the fee ensued until an officer quoted fees from other attorneys located in the area of the State Capital.

In Fire College business, it was announced that a class for instructors in fire service was scheduled for November 17-20 of that same year. Enrollment was expected to be "favorable" because College attendance back in June (10-13) had fallen somewhere between 500 and 600.

In the Convention Number published for 1952, it was reported that 321 persons had died the previous year because of fires and burns. Evidently, most of the losses occurred in cities.

Thanks to people like Charles Gailliaert and his wife, Florence (Colona), the 1954 Annual Convention (64th) must have been a lively one. The couple donated a deep freeze for the raffle drawing. The "size" of the "prize" brought in over \$1800 for the organization.

The sale of exhibitor space at the October 12-14 event also generated some much-needed income to help defray the expense of the convention held in Evanston. Thirteen signed up for interior space at \$64 each; three, for outside space at \$75, totaling \$1070.

Some interesting discussions took place during the three-day meeting. Of special merit were talks on departmental training, electrical circuitry, mutual aid, fire insurance payouts, the "Municipal Public Protection Classification," and functions of a safety council.

In a talk about fire prevention in the future, firefighters learned about the problems created when city enterprises moved to suburbs. On the whole, fire departments were left ill-prepared to provide the services needed by the new industries and businesses. Related to fire protection, it meant the need to increase water supply, to require sprinkler systems, to purchase larger and different types of apparatus, and to learn special techniques for combatting fires in large undivided areas such as those found in processing plants.

Of special meaning was the memorial service address. Titled "The Tie That Binds," it emphasized that the worth of man should be measured by the extent to which he realizes he was given life by God. "The man who comes the closest to discovering the dangers of life, the dangers of work," said Dr. Harold A. Bosley, "is the man who knows this life is given to him by doing something that needs to be done."

He said that much can be learned from dealing with others: patience, practical experience, stewardship. What counted was the "spirit in which one does his work—not becoming discouraged." What counted, according to Dr. Bosley, was the way that one "loses himself in the lives of others." As he pointed out, "work is essential to living and necessary for personal fulfillment."

It was a fact that firefighters more than many others must have known. Perhaps that was a key to why throughout history, firemen had been able to commit themselves so completely to their mission: *to save lives and to protect property.*

In 1955 someone termed the once-a-year fire school "inadequate" in meeting the training and professional development needs of firefighters in Illinois. To go about addressing the problem immediately, five regional officer training schools were set up. Their primary purpose: to train officers in supervision and personnel training. The first school opened its doors at Lanark, Illinois, on April 5 of the same year. Planners prepared for an enrollment of thirty; a whopping two hundred and fifty signed up. The four other regional schools that year generated similar attendance.

With the reported success of the regional training schools, members of the Illinois Firemen's Association opened their Sixty-fifth Convention (Mattoon) in style. A walleye pike fish fry started out the festivities held from October 20-22. Mattoon was crowded because of other events. But city officials, the local fire department, and area business people bent over backwards to find housing and parking for the conventioners.

Once again, the fundraising effort - this time book stub sales - proved very worthwhile. A total of \$2756.02 was raised for *The Bulletin*. Because of the low response by potential exhibitors, the fundraiser proved a real blessing.

Speaking of blessings, the traditional memorial service always reminded IFA delegates and guests how fortunate they were to still be among the living. The music, tolling of the bell, laying of flowers, and unison prayers brought special attention to the fact that so many dedicated firemen had given their lives to keep America alive. True, they were no longer required to furnish their own equipment (e.g. buckets, ladders, ropes) as in the early days of firefighting; but they were still available for one important function: *to respond to the fire.*

When the Legislative Committee made its report, it noted that much of IFA's recent success in Springfield had to be attributed to the special help received from Tom Johnson, the son of Fire Chief Oscar Johnson (Springfield). Tom, a "Chief Page" in the House of Representatives, helped the association to arrange meetings with legislators and to get copies of bills, session sheets, etc. Still, members of individual fire departments were urged to make contact with their respective local representatives to generate more support for IFA's legislative interests.

A resolution was made to hold conventions on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to improve convention attendance. The delegation moved to put the matter in the hands of the IFA Executive Board. Another item handled by the board was the proclamation to reserve Fire Prevention Week for people directly involved in the fire service. Evidently, other entities had been capitalizing on the event by promoting their own interests during that time.

An important note:

Each year Fire Prevention Week is held during the week of the eighth to commemorate the Chicago Fire of 1871. The special event was initiated in 1925, per a proclamation by the President of the United States.

The Conference Number 1955 showed some interesting statistical data in the back of the volume. Among the types of information contributed by IFA fire department members were: the names of firemen lost in the line of duty, the size of emergency and first aid trucks purchased, and whether lost fire victims were men or women. Many departments reported having a chief, two assistant chiefs, and officers. Some fire departments, especially fire protection districts, also named trustees; some districts listed more than one fire chief. Some fire departments reported having both paid and volunteer firemen. Fifteen categories of fire departments/protection entities were indicated in the "Statistical Data Section."

In January of 1958 twenty-six field instructors received training during the in-instructor training program offered through the Illinois Fire College. Of those, only nine became actively involved as part-time instructors. By October of the same year the first full-time instructor was hired: Sam Crow (Decatur). He was to serve until October, 1962.

At the end of the year (1958), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released a special report. In it, the organization put 1958 property losses due to fire in the United States at \$1.3 billion, the highest figure in history. The worst fire had occurred at an oil refinery in California on May 22; the loss totaled \$9 million. A similar high-loss incident had taken place August 27, 1955, at the Standard Oil Company refinery at Whiting, Indiana - adjacent to the community of East Chicago, Indiana. Flammable liquid had exploded into the sewer system running into the canal.

Some special news items were included in the March, 1959 issue of *The Bulletin*. Smaller areas were becoming part of the cities they bordered causing fire departments to lose the support of people in their service communities. In the case of the Fireworks Station near Centreville, things got so bad that the fire department had to remove its telephone service because of the lack of money.

In legislative matters, fire departments were urged to support H. R. Bill 3406. The bill provided for volunteer fire departments to secure surplus property from the government at a great savings. The cost of apparatus, tools, and gear had grown so expensive, often beyond the budgets of many fire departments. Any reliable source for purchasing needed items was met with enthusiasm and appreciation by officers within any given fire department. (Back in 1936, Lockport, Illinois, took delivery of a U.S. Army 750-GPM Northern pump with modernized body work.)

As reported in a number of *Bulletin* issues, Illinois firefighters held down some interesting regular jobs: sales, pipefitting, construction, business, mail carrier. The March 1959 *Bulletin* also reported that at least three thousand churches in the U.S. had been hit by fire, with losses exceeding \$20 million. In many cases, the heating systems were blamed for the incidents.

With a membership of over 700 departments (40,000 individuals) the Illinois Firemen's Association represented, at the end of the 1950s, one of the biggest professional associations of its type in the United States and certainly the largest one within the fire service.

The 4 E's Of Firefighting

- Education
- Experience
- Engineering
- Enforcement

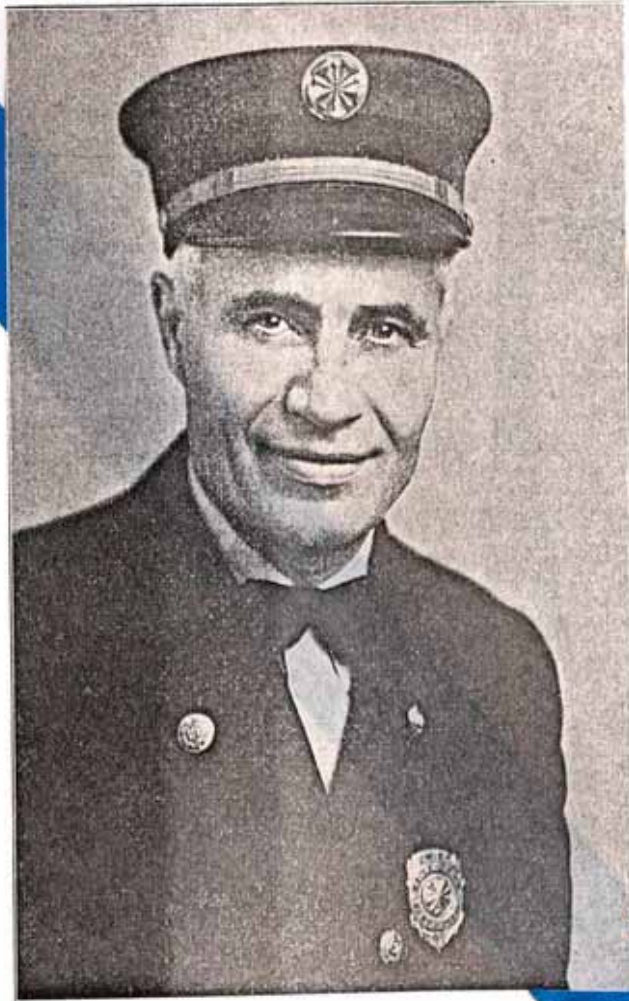


LOOK!

WE ARE
70 YEARS OLD

*3rd Oldest
in the United States*

Now Have 636 Cities, Towns, Villages,
Fire Districts and Industrial
Plant Departments



PAUL GODESIABOIS-EAST MOLINE
Pres. 60th & 61st Annual Meetings
Alton, 10-19, 20 & 21, 1950
Chicago, 10-2, 3 & 4, 1951



O.E. HIRST - GALENA

Pres. 62nd, 63rd & 64th Meetings
Peoria, 10-29, 30 & 31, 1952
Bloomington, 10-14, 15 & 16, 1953
Evanston, 10-12, 13 & 14, 1954

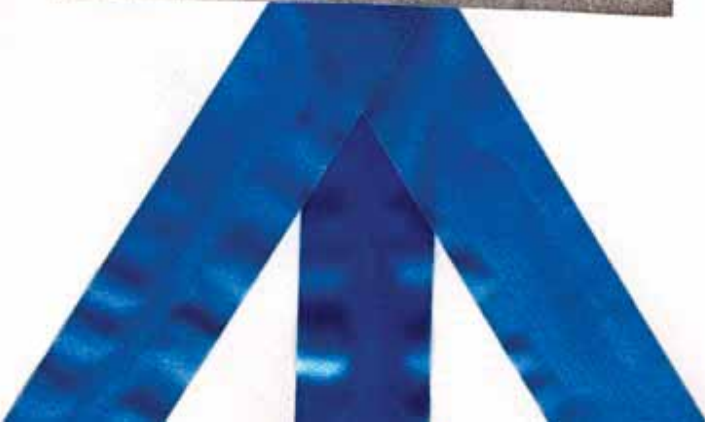


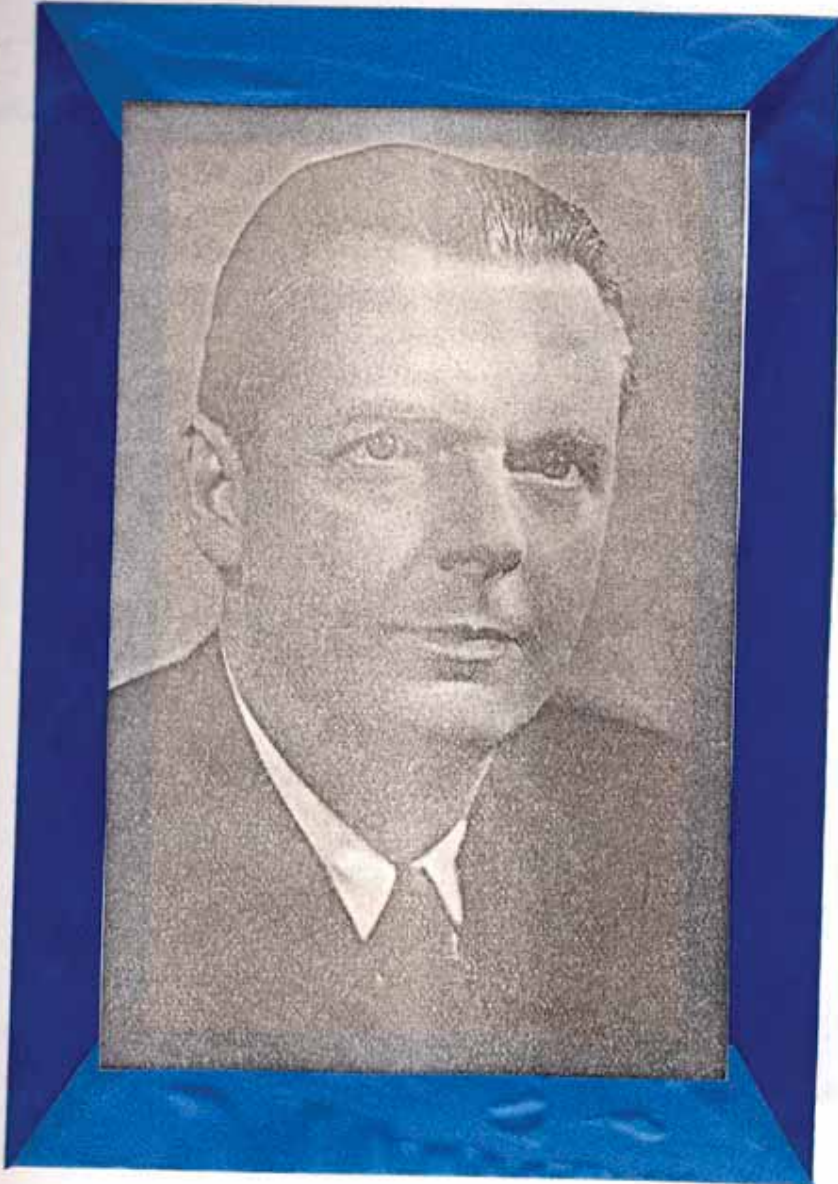
WILLIAM E. MURPHY-LA GRANCE
Pres. 65th & 66th Annual Meetings
Mattoon, 10-20, 21 & 22, 1955
Springfield, 10-23, 24 & 25, 1956



HERB DICKELMAN - DOLTON
*President 67th Annual Meeting
Taylorville, 10-15, 16 & 17, 1957*

CHARLES GAILLIARDI - COLONA
Pres. 68th, 69th & 70th, Meetings
Joliet, 10-21, 22 & 23, 1958
Carbondale, 10-20, 21 & 22, 1959
Springfield, 10-31, 11-1&2, 1960





HONORABLE WILLIAM G. STRATTON
Governor of Illinois 1952

1966



8

Planning for Progress: 1960 - 1969

Morality may perhaps consist in the courage of making a choke

Leon Blum

For members of the Illinois Firemen's Association, Inc., the year of 1960 was a sad year indeed. Its long-time member, officer, supporter, and friend - Simon Kellermann, Jr. (Edwardsville) - had died on May 1.

Kellermann had served *thirty-five consecutive terms as treasurer* of the association. He had been a member of the Edwardsville Volunteer Fire Department for sixty years. A circuit clerk in his community from 1929, he personified the ideal IFA member: intelligent, interested, enthusiastic, sports-minded and healthy, humorous, and professional. During his years of service to the IFA and to the fire service, he tended to carry his many fine qualities into everything he endeavored to do. As editor of *The Bulletin* for many years, he used his interest in many things to communicate to readers the association's broad scope and its objectives.

When his church funeral service and burial were held May 4 of 1960, the event was marked as one of the most heavily attended "farewells" in all the years of the IFA. In honor of his many deeds and years of service, the association established a memorial fund in his name.

During the latter part of the same month, the Rockford Fire Department co-sponsored its Sixth Annual Industrial Fire School. The school was conducted for representatives of area industries, large and small. The event included addresses, demonstrations of extinguishers, and programs about industrial fire prevention techniques and fire suppression. The event was attended by 200.

On May 18, 1961, legislation was approved that prohibited Illinois municipalities from combining their police and fire departments. The change, before that time, had been contemplated by a number of communities.

Ironically, some communities still opposed the formation of fire protection districts at that time in history. Fayetteville was one of those; it voted the system down 108 to 40.

H.M. Bill 1497 raised strong opposition from firemen throughout the state. It removed the right of Illinois firemen, except in Chicago, to use the *blue light*. The action was seen as a slap in the face, as firefighters in Illinois were the ones that work-ed to get the law passed originally.

Hydraulic ladders came under scrutiny during 1961. Sometime before July of that year, one of the ladders collapsed during a demonstration and pitched a firefighter to the ground. The incident occurred at Taylorsville.

Prior to the Seventy-first Convention held October 23-25 at Peoria *The Bulletin* published the menu for the convention banquet. Two courses sounded particularly tasteful: Canadian Cheese Soup and Braised Swiss Steak.

The newsletter also reported that months before, on June 29, Jacksonville firefighters fell victim to some verbal "fire," when they intentionally left the department's only resuscitator at the fire house when responding to a call. But the fire chief clearly explained that the call to Naples was specifically to "assist in recovering a body" and he did not want to leave the department helpless.

Even silos were subject to destruction in those days. On June 18 of 1961, a concrete silo swelled and cracked because of extreme heat built up inside the structure. The incident occurred at a grain company at Wenona.

Backfires were also a problem. Ripened wheat fields were set on fire by a passing vehicle outside of Pawnee on July 8.

In the Fall, the rank and file of policemen and firemen in Illinois won a real victory. They were instrumental in seeing that a bill to sharply increase the pensions of top officials in the Chicago Police and Fire Departments died. Opposition was termed very "heavy."

In 1962, the Convention Number was printed on enamel paper. It looked very impressive. And it commemorated the fact that the Illinois Firemen's Association was the third oldest firemen's organization in the United States. It also served as a fine document to give to its members, friends, and supporters.

Conventions in the 1960s offered delegates the opportunity to make suggestions. A "Question Box" was placed each year near the registration table. Delegates could write down suggestions, put them in the box, and later have them addressed by whatever committee the question involved.

In the early '60s *The Bulletin's* publication or editorship was taken over by Bruno Shaefer, from Edwardsville like his predecessor, Kellermann. In issues preceding and following the convention Shaefer talked about the convention.

The 1962 convention held at Decatur October 22-24 (Monday through Wednesday) enjoyed a registration of 146. Among other things it featured a cocktail party and a dance the first night.

Some highlights of the convention included the following points and activities:

1. The IFA exhibit at the Illinois State Fair drew a huge crowd of people.
2. In 1962, the State Fire Marshal's Office did 340 percent more work than in 1961.
3. A call for full-time inspectors who were firemen went out to delegates.
4. The Illinois Technical Institute of Chicago offered full scholarships plus \$500 living expense for fire protection study.
5. During the last year *The Bulletin's* account had built up to \$2116.
6. As of October, 1962, the Kellermann Fund contained \$1535.79. Plans were made to erect a memorial portrait of him in Edwardsville.
7. The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$200 to the general fund; \$25 to the Kellermann Fund.
8. Department membership dues were increased from \$10 to \$20.
9. Three communities vied for the 1963 convention: Carbondale, Peoria, Chicago. Carbondale was selected (125 votes).
10. A resolution passed to raise per man assessment five cents to increase the Indemnity Fund and enable death benefits to increase from \$1500 to \$2000.

Two important resolutions passed after some discussion. One, which amended Div. 2, Chapter 24, Illinois Revised Statutes, "Board of Fire and Police Commissioners," made candidates eligible for induction to age 36.

A second resolution gave the Legislative Committee authority to act for the permanence of fire marshal deputies. There was concern that personnel changes after each election caused a "temporariness" to the job, resulting in poorly trained, inexperienced people.

At the Seventy-third Annual Convention (October 21-23) in 1963, a special program about giving emergency treatment to laryngectomies was given by a registered speech therapist from Southern Illinois University. The speaker told the conventioners at Carbondale that 1 per 9,000, or 20,000 people had had the special procedure done that enabled them to breathe and talk through a neck opening, which also served as the source of oxygen.

Firemen were cautioned about administering aid to emergency victims before first clearly determining if they had the procedure's small opening. The doctor advised the firefighters to avoid blocking the area and to learn the special techniques needed to administer artificial respiration and mouth-to-stoma assistance.

One presentation interested aspiring fire chiefs. Ten "tips" were given to make the job more efficient and, hopefully, palatable. Among the suggestions offered were: scheduling everything, reading fast, self-disciplining oneself, avoiding procrastination, cutting desk work, training subordinates, handling unpleasant problems first, not hiding work, thinking straight, and profiteering from mistakes. (Editorial comment: doesn't that sound like a snap?)

In association business, the treasurer recommended that *The Bulletin* account be closed and the balance put into the general account. Election time got confusing because some people had had officers' cards printed before the election had been held. It should also be noted that from appearances *The Bulletin* had been disbanded temporarily. But Obbie E. Hirst suggested that the association look into publishing a "new paper." At the time, he cautioned that publication of any paper required the cooperation and input of all fire chiefs and their secretaries. A resolution put the authority to publish a newsletter with the Executive Board.

By 1965, the annual conventions were being sponsored by community or regional firemen's organizations. The convention at Waukegan September 30 to October 2 was sponsored by the Lake County Firemen's Association and the Waukegan Fire Department.

During the business session, a number of amendments to the by-laws were made. One concerned setting the bond on the treasurer at \$20,000. Another put the exhibitor/ associate membership fee at \$15 per year.

In other business, the treasurer's salary was raised to \$1000 from \$500 and the secretary's salary was kept at \$2000 for the second year in a row.

At the 1966 convention held at Alton from October 6 to 8, it was announced that 236 fire departments participated in the Indemnity Fund. This figure represented about one-half of the total number of fire departments belonging to the association at the time (565).

The Illinois Firemen's Association enjoyed a sound financial base in that year. Its status was credited to the loyalty, conscientiousness, and hard work - as well as professionalism - of the organization's officers.

The statistical information submitted to the editor(s) of the year's "Red Book" exemplified the higher level of energy being put into completing some of the reports. Apparatus were listed by type. The total fire loss only, not the total insurance value, was included. Alarms were separated into categories in many instances. And fire departments listed specific information about their apparatus. Clearly, the sense of pride had risen.

Of special concern to delegates were the projected changes of the fire service during the next twenty years:

- apparatus with automatic transmissions
- liquid chemical extinguishment
- push button operation of things
- electronic detection/communication devices
- "professional" versus "common" firemen
- supplementation of fire service with plant manpower
- organized radio communications between county/area fire associations

It was emphasized that county fire units should be named not numbered. The concern was that fire departments wanted to hold onto their individual identity.

Generating mutual aid was also an issue. To help alleviate some of the problem it was suggested that some type of mutual aid system be developed between and with police departments to enhance fire department operations.

Other possible sources of aid were area farmers and local forestry divisions.

The Legislative Committee was handed a resolution regarding the requirement for mercantile buildings with 5000 or more square feet to have sprinkler systems installed throughout.

When the Conference Number for the year came out, it included a collage of photos taken at the convention.

By 1967, the list of association members with display privileges included companies that specialized in new areas such as communications and electronics, safety equipment, and security services. During 1967-1968 the number of members in the display category diminished. However, at the 1967 convention, an outside exhibit featured a 1250-GPM Seagrave diesel-powered pumper.

Delegates to the Peoria convention (October 2-4) contemplated the problems that were confronting them because of riots and other major disturbances in the communities they *served*.

Civil disorders created big problems for fire departments called in to control crowds with heavy streams of water and other techniques available to them. But the biggest problems related to their safety back at the fire houses. Some special suggestions grew out of a meeting of metropolitan fire chiefs at the International Association of Fire Chiefs held in April of 1967. Firefighters were told to keep station doors closed, illumination at a minimum, men always located in pairs, apparatus ready at all times, and cabs closed off with protective shields or sheets of plywood three-fourths of an inch in thickness. Firemen were told of an incident in New York in which the firemen had to close up an aerial ladder because of fear they would be attacked during rescue operations. Related to this issue, legislation was passed to make it a criminal assault to harm a fireman while performing a duty.

In business matters, an announcement was made that a "new *Bulletin*" would be published, starting November or December, 1967. Delegates were also reminded to have their department secretaries notify IFA's Indemnity Fund people every fifty days about the condition of an injured member.

A special feature of the convention was the tour of two new engine houses. The meeting's host, the Peoria Fire Department, welcomed delegates to see some of the latest accommodations in fire station facilities.

The turmoil of the late 1960s put firefighters across the nation in an uncomfortable position with their fellow man. Often, they had to perform their duties under very trying, perplexing condition. Our cities and college campuses were in a constant state of unrest. Racially active areas were the sites of violent riots and incendiary fires, often resulting in the destruction and theft of valuable business and residential properties. Firemen, called into such neighborhoods or areas, found themselves in the path of open gun fire and brutal retaliations. The community and political unrest made the performance of one's duty as a firefighter very rough indeed.

Perhaps that is why delegates to the 1968 Annual Convention seemed to enjoy themselves so much. Held from September 20 to 22 in Dolton, the meeting featured issues and problems of timely concern.

One of the funniest presentations was given by Ross V. Randolph, Director of Public Safety, State of Illinois. Randolph told delegates about his early experience as chief deputy of Clinton in 1932. (At the time the town's population totaled six thousand.)

According to Randolph, he was no sooner hired into the sheriff's office when a call came in to go catch three armed robbers coming in on a train. He had the conventioners doubling over from laughter as he told how he miraculously caught the most fearful of the three - but not because of anything he did. The robber had simply run out of steam and when confronted by a man pointing a gun straight at him *at close range*, he decided to give up versus being shot to death. The ironic thing about the entire incident was that Randolph had never handled a gun prior to that time but, reportedly, the dangerous criminal didn't know that. The detailed description of the apprehension lent an entirely different if not humorous slant to the art of doing one's job.

During the business session of the same convention, delegates strongly opposed the lowering of the fire marshal's salary. They looked upon it as a serious error that would result in the attraction of unqualified candidates for the job. A motion was passed to have the Legislative Committee consider supporting legislation to give volunteers that become paid firemen one-third credit for years worked as a volunteer for pension rights.

IFA members were also asked to support four bills at the state level. Section 4107, the Pension Law, deleted "permanent appointment," making it when a fireman received his first appointment to the fire department. The third concerned pension benefits for injuries while not in the line of duty. And 4128 concerned fund investment.

It was in 1968 that the association created a library to "contain" tapes of conference proceedings. While an actual room or building was not acquired for the purpose, members were told that accessibility to the tapes would be simply arranged.

A report about activities of the Illinois Fire College revealed that during 1968, a total of 11,456 firemen had registered for courses and training programs held at the College and centers located throughout the state. By that time, 187 different centers were in operation.

Conventioneers recalled with sadness the day of Martin Luther King's death: April 5, 1968. They discussed the problems incurred in Watts and Detroit at that time. Besides attacks by rioters, the firemen had to combat wind currents that carried flames from one end of a block to another in a matter of minutes. With no advance notice, they were left defenseless and in serious danger. The delegates were urged by both the speakers and IFA officers to take great care in going on calls as long as such problems continued to exist.

The association was elated about receiving the \$200 donation in 1969 from the Ladies Auxiliary. Presented during a session at the Carbondale convention the gift meant a great deal—particularly since it was made with "no strings attached," meaning that the money could be spent as the association saw fit.

The three-day annual convention, held September 12-14, featured some interesting presentations. One was a panel discussion on "blitz attacks." It had become a good technique for putting out a fire quickly. The strategy was to hit the fire promptly with a large volume of water. Evidently, it was a method of fire suppression that a number of member fire departments utilized as delegates in the audience were recommended to at least try the technique described by panel members.

Reporting on the fire protection districts, a representative told delegates that 752 existed. Each had 25 men with 2100 men representing the fire districts.

During the business session, members of the association (IFA) voted to stay with the same certified public accounting firm, although the accountant with whom the association had been dealing had died. Resolutions regarding the Accident Indemnity Fund rules were also passed.

About three weeks after the convention (September 30), a law was passed called the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Compensation Act. It provided for \$10,000 in benefits to be paid to the beneficiary of heirs of an estate (e.g. wife, children, parents).

As the 1960s drew to an end, firemen and the general public alike wondered what the 1970s had in store for them. The war in Vietnam, yet to be officially declared a war, had once again robbed the state and the nation of many good men and women. And the complexity of the U.S. Armed Services' participation in the fight continued to raise serious questions in the minds of the public about the use of their tax dollars. They also questioned the government's administration of services and programs purportedly initiated to benefit the citizens of the freest county in the world.

Read at the 1967 Convention Memorial Service . . .

Title Unknown

The coat and boots are empty, The
helmet hangs on the wall, The siren
is loudly screaming But they'll not
answer the call.

Though many a time they responded, And
protected their wearer from harm, They no
longer will now be needed For he has
answered his last alarm.

They remain as a silent tribute,
To a fireman's life now a memory,
To his untiring effort to help others
To his devotion to saving both life and property.

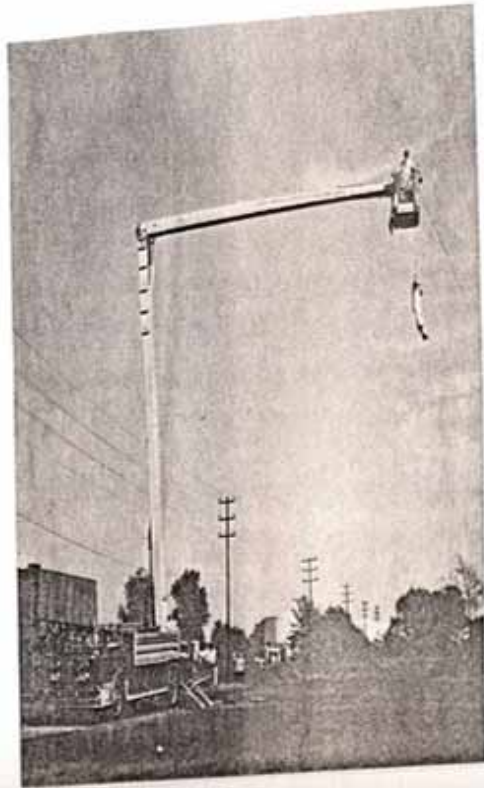
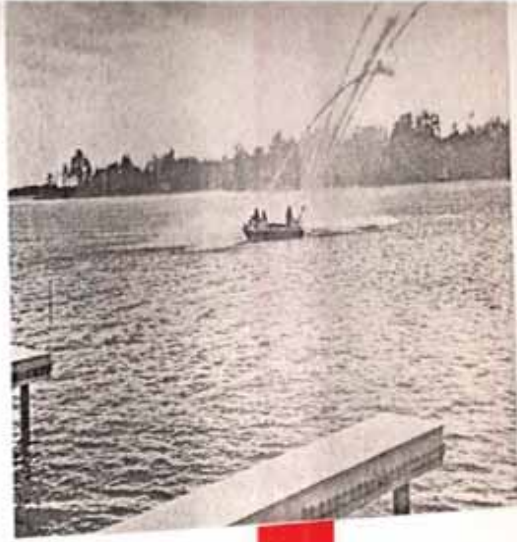
The Supreme Chief has ordered the fireman, To
take a detail for evermore,
To an assignment of peace and beauty Far
across to eternity's shore.

Yes, the coat and the boots are empty, The
helmet hangs on the wall,
The siren is loudly screaming
But they'll no longer answer the call.

Author Unknown



*Official IFA Memorial Bell presented to the association
in 1971 by the Bi-County Association/Clinton-St. Clair
County Firemen's Association.*





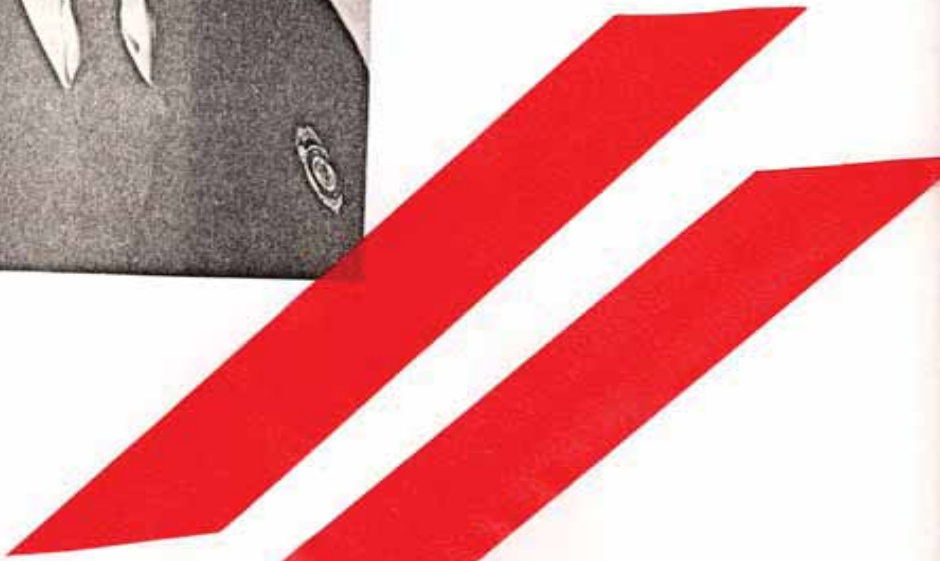
FAHEY FLYNN - GUEST SPEAKER
Banquet September 21, 1968
Dolton, Illinois

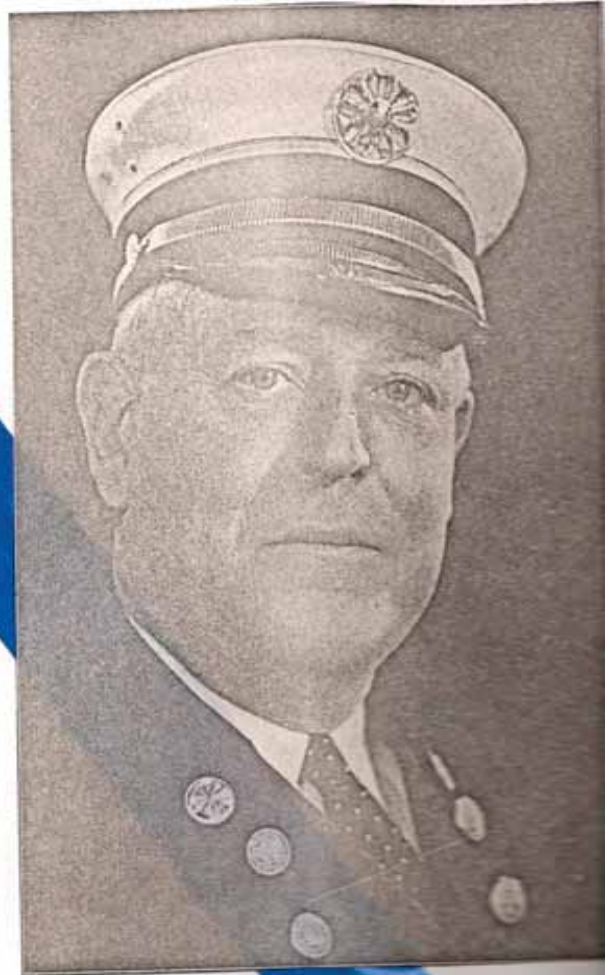


FRED D. WILSON - MACOMB
Pres. 71st & 72nd Annual Meetings
Peoria, 10-24, 25 & 26, 1961
Decatur, 10-22, 23 & 24, 1962



NORMAN P. HIRSCH - ST. JACOB
Pres. 73rd & 74th Annual Meetings
Carbondale, 10-21, 22 & 23, 1963
Peoria, 10-15, 16 & 17, 1964





CHIEF R.W. ALSIP - CHAMPAIGN
*Secretary, Illinois Firemen's
Association
January 1921 to October 1964*



JOHN H. WADE - BELLEVILLE
Pres. 75th & 76th Annual Meetings
Waukegan, 9-30, 10-1&2, 1965
Alton, 10-6, 7 & 8, 1966



FRANK WISWELL - MIDLOTHIAN
Pres. 77th & 78th Annual Meetings
Peoria, 10-2, 3 & 4, 1967
Dolton, 9-20, 21 & 22, 1968



HERB POLLOCK
President
Maccomb



LYNN RAY
Vice President
North Park



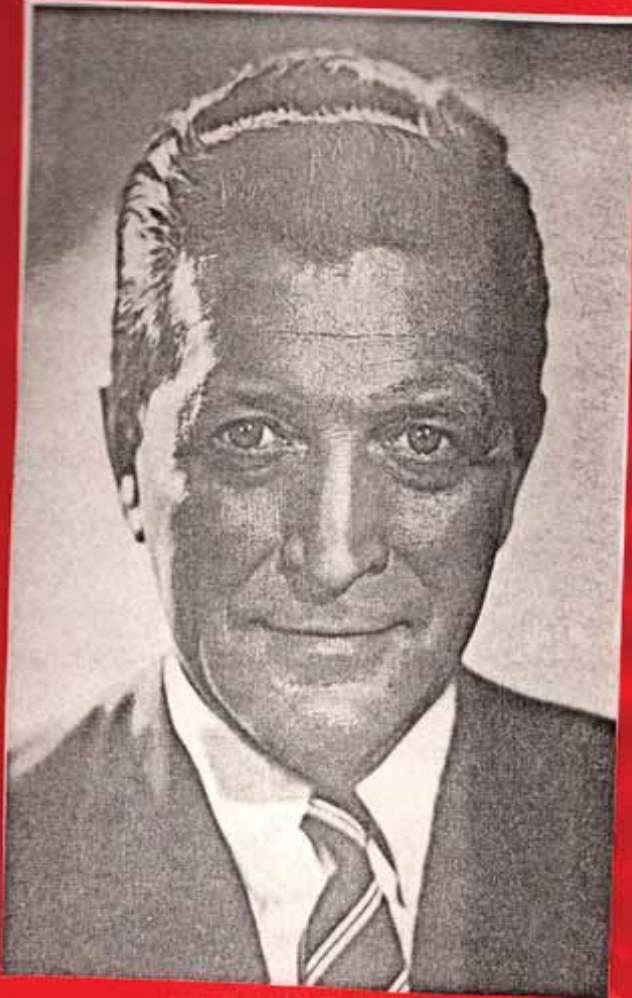
O. E. HIRST
Galena
Secretary



ANTON PERNE
Treasurer
Livingston

**OFFICERS ILLINOIS FIREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**

*79th & 80th Annual Meetings
Carbondale, 9-12, 13 & 14, 1969
Waukegan, 9-11, 12 & 13, 1970*



HONORABLE OTTO KERNER
Governor of Illinois 1960

9

Putting the Public at Rest: 1970 - 1979

*We, like the eagles, were born to be free, Yet we are obliged, in order to
live at all, To make a cage of laws for ourselves And to stand on the
perch.*

William Bolitho

By 1970, member departments of the Illinois Firemen's Association were paying annual dues of twenty dollars. At the convention in Waukegan that year, delegates were asked to contribute one dollar of that twenty toward the publication of *The Bulletin*. Help was needed in defraying the cost of editing and mailing.

The annual convention, held September 11-13, opened with the presentation of colors. A tradition of the association for many years, it set the stage for a series of motivating talks. Most related to the opportunities for organizational growth and emphasized the need for improved "public image" work on the parts of fire departments and the firemen within those departments.

By this time, the fire service was seeing the advent of women. Four women were reported to have been enrolled at the fire school a month earlier. And more women were being hired into fire departments - mainly because men were not available.

A similar problem had existed during World War II when so many men were serving in the armed services; but then women had to take the place of men in the factories, business establishments, universities, and government agencies. But, as Robert May, Illinois State Fire Marshal, noted during the 1970 WA convention "a fire does not know a man from a woman firefighter." According to May, fire departments could not afford to jeopardize their ratings because of lack of manpower; thus it was sound judgment to do whatever had to be done to sustain operations.

During one address, delegates discussed the need for more clout. The suggestion was given that the IFA and its members play a more active and participatory role in the Illinois Fire Services Association (IFSA). With the concerted efforts of IFA and the other associations that belonged to the IFSA, it was felt that a much larger group could stand a better chance of making its wishes known both on the state and the national level. (Other organizational members included: Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, Associated Fire Fighters, and Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.)

It was announced that steps were being taken to develop a model training bill for the fire service, similar to one already adopted in nine other states. The bill would call for a minimum number of training hours for paid or volunteer firemen. It would also set up different academies throughout the state (this type of program had been suggested some years earlier). Current training capabilities reached only one of fifty fire departments on a yearly basis; that was not enough.

The traditional memorial service, when held in 1970, proved to be one of the most beautiful ones in the history of the association. Conducted at the First Baptist Church in Waukegan, it featured a special arrangement at the front of the church altar. A fake burial mound had been created. At the foot of the mound lay a complete set of firefighter gear: coat, boots, helmet, and gloves. A large facsimile of the Firemen's Crest was displayed nearby.

The commemorative address likened death and sorrow to two lamps: one representing *hope* and the other, *memory*. The "hope" lamp led us forward through periods of uncertainty, trial and difficulty. The "memory" lamp took us back through the years helping us to recall unforgettable scenes and experiences, uplifting our thoughts of loved ones—their powers of example and influence. The message emphasized the fact that life was meaningful at any age and it was not up to us to try to comprehend God's plan for us. It was more important for us to simply do our part.

The message must have meant much to attending firemen, particularly those that had helped at the scene of the sixteen-freight car derailment at Crescent City on June 21. The accident had involved ten LP gas tank cars and required 250 or more firefighters and 58 pieces of fire apparatus to combat. The memory of working at such a dangerous scene must have remained vivid to those firemen prone to look back.

At the 1970 convention, the association gratefully accepted two donations. One, in the amount of \$200, was presented by the Ladies Auxiliary. The other, a \$118 gift to *The Bulletin*, came from an unnamed donor.

The 1970 convention proved busy in the area of organizational improvement. Several articles of the constitution were expanded at that time. The duties of the officers of IFA were changed to reflect the growth of the organization, the complexity of a more sizeable group, and the need for precise guidelines for those leading that body.

Article III: Membership was expanded to recognize that by 1965, fire departments were organized under the laws and ordinances of cities, towns, villages, or other political subdivisions of the state including special districts, fire protection districts, organized by industry - in particular departments of military installations and departments of state institutes.

A new group of associate members had been also added: services, company executives, sales representatives, and fire service promotional professionals. Annual meeting dates were changed from *October only* to any day between the end of the fiscal year and the start of the new calendar year.

Also, the names of "Committees" in *Article VIII* were professionalized, or updated. Promoting became "Promotions"; exhibit, "Exhibition." Resolution, Credential and Nominating Committees were added, as was an Advisory Committee made of past officers.

The 1970 convention proved to be a work-oriented one, much more than some had been in the past. Clearly, it indicated that members of the association recognized the potential impact the IFA could make, if it were better organized and more loyally supported.

About the same time the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) called a meeting at Williamsburg, Virginia. Ten major fire service organizations in the United States formed the *Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations*. The meeting, held in September of '70, was reportedly well attended and generated widespread interest in fire safety, fire prevention, and fire suppression matters.

In 1971, the Illinois State Legislature and the governor were looking at establishing a commission to set minimum standards for firefighters in Illinois. The formation of such a commission was considered necessary for Illinois to receive Federal funds, under the National Fire Safety Act. The funds were allocated for training, education, and equipment.

At the Eighty-first Annual Convention held at Belleville from August 20-22, association members were reminded that under the Fire Marshal's Act of 1948, fire departments were supposed to determine the cause and origin of a fire and report to the fire marshal's office any incident considered suspicious. As arson was considered a crime, it had to be investigated by law enforcement agents; however, the preliminary work was the responsibility of the fire department in charge at the scene.

Delegates were told that the largest concentration of fires in the state was in Northeastern Illinois. Other areas of concern included: Clinton-St. Clair County, Madison County, Sangamon/Macon, and Rockford/Winnebago. The need for training in scene coverage was required on a statewide basis.

The importance of proper training was illustrated when members of the Community Firemen's Association described a potential disaster they had faced. It seems that the association had conducted a training drill at a large boxcar industry plant and used sixteen fire departments for the drill. About a year later, an actual fire of that type broke out and the group was able to put out the fire because of the previous "training."

A silent film donated by Thad Fife added a comical note to convention discussions about training. Made in 1941, the otage showed some fire training drills and tactical exercises used at that time.

Members of the IFA were advised that the activities of the Inspection and Rating Bureau were curtailed until the next legislature in October. Thus no rate or classification changes could be made until the new law was passed. It was also reported that the Bureau wanted to put through a 24-hour monitoring service. Delegates questioned how much a system would work and requested that more information be sent to the individual fire departments.

Related to compliance issues, the Clinton-St. Clair County Firemen's Association offered a mutual aid booklet. Inside were listed the recommended equipment and guidelines for individual fire departments.

By this time more communities were experiencing noticeable growth. Reporting tremendous growth was the Third District Association that covered a 68-mile radius.

One of the most interesting parts of the 1971 convention was the tour through Carling Brewing Company. A special treat was free snacks served under a tent located outside the plant.

The most entertaining talk was given by Bob Kehoe. He told about the antics of some firemen sitting in their fire station located across the street from a pay telephone booth. Supposedly, one of the firemen went to the booth, copied the telephone number from the system, and returned to the station.

During the rush hour that afternoon, firemen would sit at a window facing the telephone booth and dial the booth's number, letting it ring until a passerby picked up the receiver. Then the fireman would make up some yarn about trying to reach a close relative wearing this or that and would the person please call to the telephone the person wearing such and such, standing or walking nearby. Then the fireman would hang up - and try again. One can imagine the laugh that story got. At the same time, a number of firemen must have felt rather embarrassed at the thought that professional men would join in such a prank - innocent or not.

During the Spring of 1972, thirteen open hearings were conducted by the Curriculum and School Standards Committee of the Illinois Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education Commission. Working together 166 fire departments developed a list of twenty-three subject areas for firefighting training. With firefighting reported by the U.S. Department of Health as the most hazardous profession in the country, standardized measures were seen as very necessary. The input of fire service professionals would prove to be helpful not only in the area of firefighting techniques and strategies but also pertaining to the development of suitable protective gear. Up to that time, no breathing apparatus had been developed exclusively for members of the fire service. Firemen had been forced to rely on equipment used in mines or as part of swimming/diving gear.

An outgrowth of the Curriculum and School Standards Committee efforts and contributions would be the passage of the first municipal resolution to have a certified fire training instructor. Passed by the end of 1972 or beginning of 1973 by the city of Danville, it exemplified the growing level of professionalism existing in the fire service. It also indicated the dedication of IFA members to ensuring that its individual departments could meet whatever special needs their respective fire departments might encounter. For instance, many departments custom built their own equipment to suit the fire protection demands of the community.

At the 1972 convention held at Rock Island from October 20 to 22, the Ladies Auxiliary celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary by presenting a \$500 donation to the men's association. The money was allocated for *The Bulletin* (\$200) and the Shrine Burn Center (\$300).

In kind, the IFA donated \$2,000 to the Illinois Fire Services Association (IFSA) to support the group's activities in legislative matters.

During the business session, a resolution was adopted whereby the IFA would defray some of the expenses incurred by Executive Board members traveling on official business. Allotted was ten cents per mile for travel, ten dollars for food, and the actual amount of lodging. The association was trying to help its dedicated officers out.

Delegates were also told about the federal bill that would pay \$50,000 additional compensation for a fireman killed in the line of duty. They were told that a bill had also been passed that provided scholarship aid to children under age 25 of fire officers killed in the line of duty. Of equal concern, however, was the need for the lift and safety code to be returned to the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office. A resolution was forwarded to the Legislative Committee for consideration.

The announcement was made that the association included twenty-six to thirty associate members with display privileges. However, the number of exhibitors at the Rock Island convention was never given.

Rev. Charles Willey (Moline), a nationwide speaker, gave some inspirational thoughts during a speech. He said that to be a happy person, one needed to (1) have a job fit to live for, (2) have a self-fit to live with, (3) have a land fit to live in, and (4) have a faith fit to live by. His talk provided a message for many delegates to carry home after the convention adjourned.

At the Eighty-third Annual Convention held at Crete from September 21 to 23, 1973, it was announced that an ad hoc committee had been organized for the National Fire Academy within the state of Illinois. Organized by the insurance people in the state, it included firefighter organizations, fire prevention bureaus, etc. An effort was underway evidently to bring the Academy to the University of Illinois. It was noted that the governor of Illinois would be presenting such a resolution to the U.S. Congress the latter part of the month.

Delegates were told that the day before the convention started the IFA and other major fire organizations of Illinois had sat down during an executive board meeting to discuss working together to effect greater unity and strength. The group had met three previous times during the year, agreeing that something had to be done to implement greater action on the behalf of the fire service.

Someone with the Indemnity Fund explained that under the fund's terms, in-juries and illnesses involving the internal portion or a function of the body required 24-hour notification and medical examination for coverage consideration.

Delegates were also urged to participate in "Operation Edith" on October 9. A home exit drill which had been conducted in only one other state, it would be held in every community within the State of Illinois.

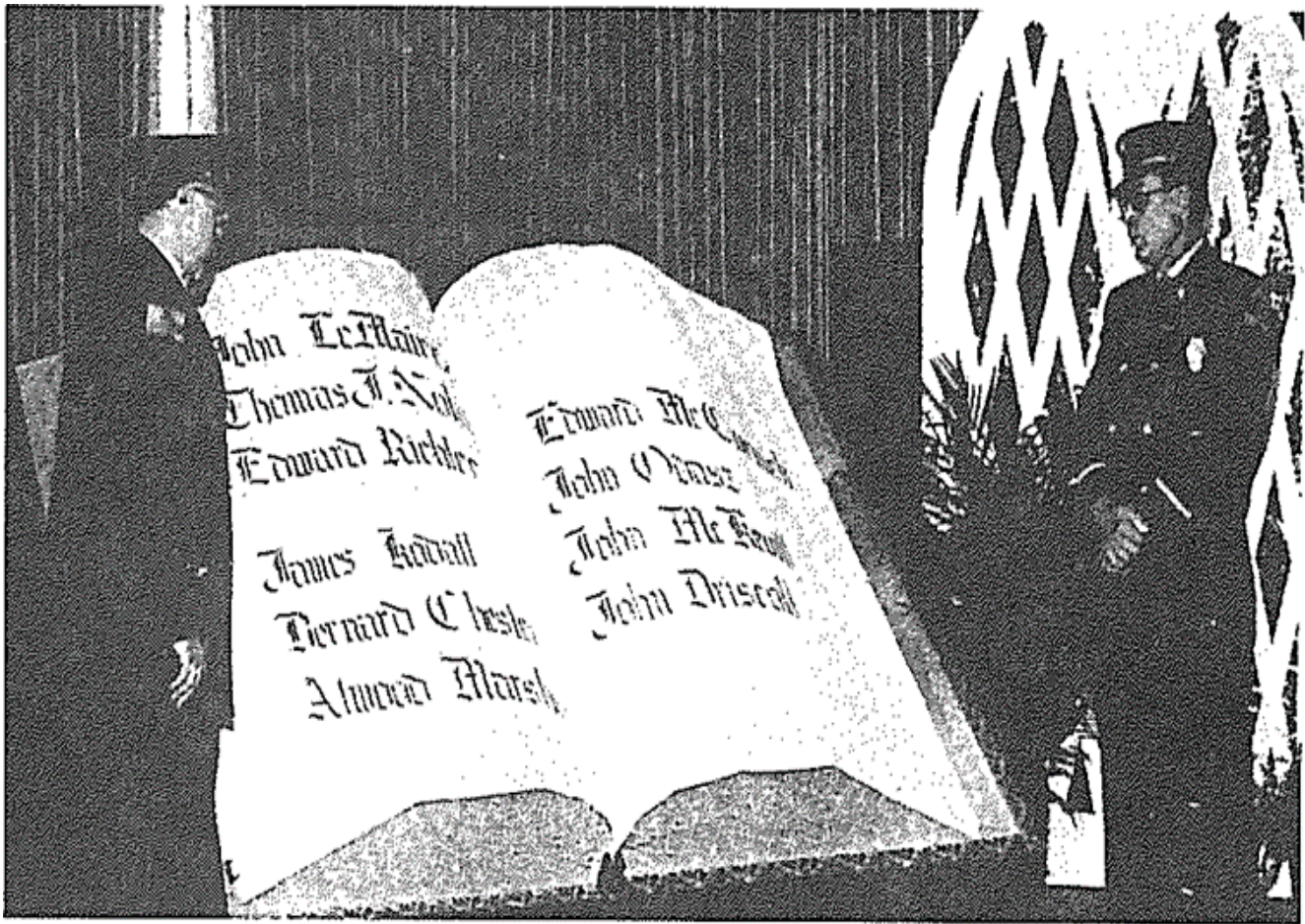
One of the biggest points of discussion concerned state aid for the purchase of an ambulance. It had to be clarified that the one-half amount (\$7500) allotted could be spent only for the vehicle proper. To equip it, a fire department had to seek grants from other sources.

A highlight of the convention was the old-fashioned OKTOBERFEST. It came complete with bratwurst, sauerkraut, salad, and beer. It turned out to be a real German evening, with its own German band music.

During the convention, attention was drawn to the North Park Fire Department. Evidently, at the request of its fire chief, the entire department was administered the certification exam. Fifty-six percent passed and the highest grade was achieved by none other than the chief, Lynn Ray. It was the opinion of some convention delegates that the exams had to be based on departmental/local situations: the individual department and its equipment and operations.

The banquet on the twenty-second drew 600 people. From all indications the convention that year seemed to be a very happy occasion.

During 1973 some talk could be heard about the purchase made by the O'Fallon Volunteer Fire Department. Starting with a 1957 190 chassis with a 3400 gallon tank, the fire department removed the tank from the chassis and remounted it on a 1969 International Fleet Star 2000. The Fleet Star was equipped with a 238-horse powered Detroit diesel engine and a ten-speed Road Ranger transmission. The front axle was changed to carry 18,000 pounds. Then the frame was reinforced with another frame inside the existing one and the rear axle was moved thirty-three inches to the rear for better weight distribution.



The memorial service in 1973 was made very special by the addition of two things. The altar area was decorated with a huge, oversized bible made by Fire Chief Harold Hecht of Steger. The bible featured large white open pages, on which the names of lost firemen had been hand printed in calligraphy. The display made quite an impact. Of special significance was the use of the official "Memorial Service Bell" donated in 1971 by the Bi-County/Clinton-St. Clair County Firemen's Association. The donation of the bell enhanced greatly the traditional "tolling" as the roll call of lost firefighters was read during the main part of the service.

At both the 1974 and 1975 conventions, the Illinois Firemen's Association received a donation of \$500 from the auxiliary organization.

The highlights of the '74 meeting held at Decatur from November 1-3 were a program explaining how nurses and firefighters could work together, a live helicopter rescue demonstration, and the announcement that the House Bill 2108, awarding a \$20,000 benefit to the survivor of a fire officer lost in duty, had been passed.

At the '75 convention held at Collinsville (September 26-28), the biggest news was that the governor had signed the "Blue Light Law" on September 10. Also, two resolutions related to the Firemanship Training Program/Project had passed. One designated that surplus funds (1-11/2%) left in the state treasury from the insurance companies for the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office should be paid directly to the University of Illinois for the firemanship program.

The other provided for the IFA to appoint a committee to work with the University of Illinois in preparing a firemanship training project. It was also announced that the National Fire Prevention Act bills to build a National Fire Training Academy had passed in Washington.

Regarding the 1976 convention held at Rockton (October 22-24), story had it that the Rockford fire chief was so eager to get to the convention on time that he showed up exactly on time—to the minute—but twenty-four hours early.

A representative of the newly formed National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC, March of 1974) announced that the Council, with 2 million members, was also working to get a representative from each state to serve as a counselor or board member. It was receiving a grant to research the number of volunteer firemen in the United States.

The convention was highlighted by the exhibits of twenty companies and special talks on subjects such as COLLAPSE (psychological collapse of firefighters), "BLEVEs" (boiling liquid expanding vapor explosions), and the "911" emergency number system—its use and its problems. A special feature of the memorial service was the huge white cross erected on the elevated stage.

At the 1977 convention at Peoria (October 21-23) the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association (IFIA) announced its "Fires Project." It was described as a statewide venture to foster educational efforts.

The most impressive presentation was "Setting of the Sails", an inspirational and motivational talk about goal setting. Also of interest, was the presentation on the Maryland Fire Training Facilities which feature regional sites designed to meet the needs of the locality. While Illinois was considered far advanced in personnel standards and certification, Maryland was regarded as a pioneer in developing outstanding training sites.

During the business session a copy of the "Blue Book" containing the revised set of the Constitution and By-laws was distributed to delegates. At the same time, attendees were urged to visit the display area which included twenty-three exhibits. (At the time forty-eight associate members with display privileges held membership in the IFA.)

In new business, a proposal was made to distribute "prize cards" at the 1978 convention to entice delegates to visit the exhibits; the "promotional" would feature the awarding of prizes to those visiting the most booths.

Coordinators from the area Muscular Dystrophy Association told delegates at the 1978 Rock Island convention that in one weekend, members of the U.S. fire service had raised \$4.3 million. (The fundraiser had been held the previous Labor Day week-end.)

During the September 15-17 meeting, O. E. "Obbie" Hirst (Galena) received a plaque from the Illinois Professional Firefighters for 50 years of service. He had served as an officer of the IFA since 1946.

Delegates were told that the work of the NFPCA was very difficult to complete because it lacked funding due to a serious division in Congress caused by a division in the constituency. Legislative problems were certainly not new to the IFA members.

Two issues regarding emergency service were discussed at the convention. One concerned the fire service limiting its ambulance service to fire scene/accident incidents. The other involved the explanation of the Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services Act (passed July 27, 1978). That act provided for the training of paramedics and the administering of ambulance/site treatment by them under project doctor direction via constant communications.

During the business meeting, a training packet printed by Monsanto was distributed to each delegate. The association's attorney also distributed a brochure that addressed general questions about civil liability, criminal liability, administrative liability, etc. Conventioneers were also asked to complete a survey to help convention planners identify topics of interest to members.

One "background" feature of each convention was the exhibit of various fire department badges. The display was put up each year using the emblems contributed by individual departments. It was an impressive sight and one that drew many comments.

The 1979 Annual Convention (89th) was held at Harvey from October 19 to 21. Sponsored by the Third District Fire Chief's Association, it featured thirty-five exhibitors inside and ten pieces of apparatus outside.

Of special interest was the comprehensive presentation on "Fire Crash and Rescue." Technological advancements in aeronautics, air travel demands, and the tremendously large variety of flammable and explosive materials were shown to create big problems for fire departments. The need to be prepared to put out fires related to airplane crashes was shown to not be confined to areas where airports were located; thus, preparedness was simply a wise move.

During the conference a donation of at least \$800 was given to the IFA by the Ladies Auxiliary. (Auxiliary records say the figure was \$800; IFA records report \$1,000.) When the auxiliary showed IFA members a scrapbook that it had compiled for itself, the group was asked to research and develop a similar history book for the IFA complete with a walnut cover. The auxiliary accepted the challenge.

In telling delegates about the 1980 convention at Collinsville, the Madison County Firemen's Association really played it up. They provided pre-registration cards for hotel/motel accommodations. They offered free camping facilities. They invited members to come early - on Thursday - to participate in a golf tournament offering prizes and trophies. Then, the group offered a special invitation for the association to hold its 1989, 100-year anniversary, convention in Collinsville, as well.

The delegates representing the 565 departmental member organization looked forward to the next decade .



LYNN RAY
President
North Park



ED. C. COOLBAUGH
Vice President
Edwardsville



O. E. HIRST
Galena
Secretary



ANTON PERNE
Treasurer
Livingston

**OFFICERS ILLINOIS FIREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**

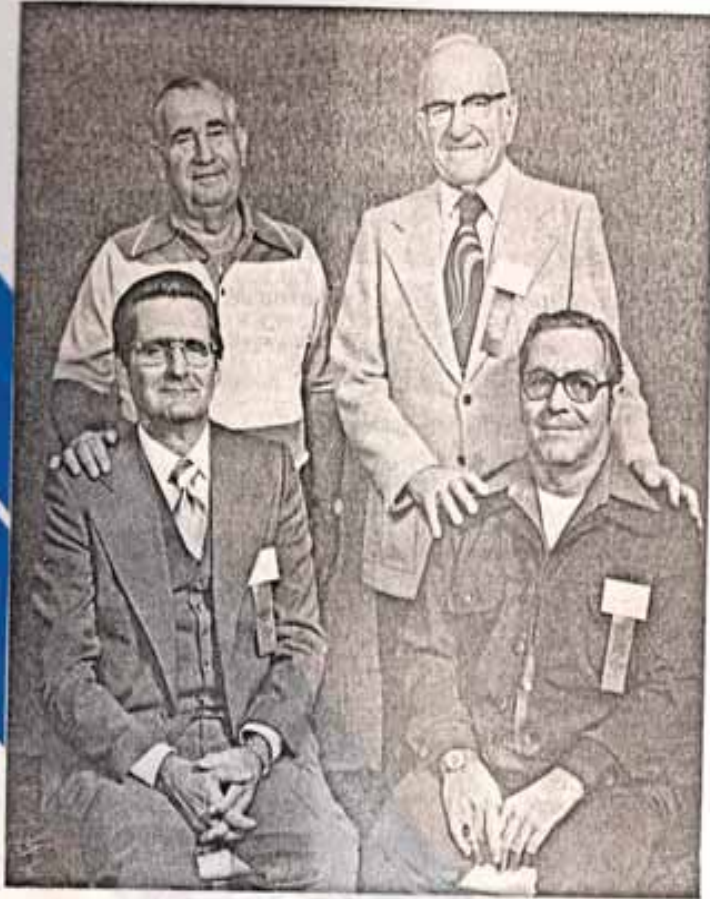
81st & 82 Annual Meetings
Belleville, 8-20, 21 & 22, 1971
Rook Island, 9-20, 21 & 22, 1972



From left to right: Frank Wiswell, Treasurer, Madothian; O. E. Hirst, Secretary, Galena; Rennie Bedar, President, DuQuoin; Ed Tobias, Vice President, Hillsboro.

**OFFICERS ILLINOIS FIREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**

*85th & 86th Annual Meetings
Collinsville, 9-26, 27 & 28, 1975
Rockton, 10-22, 23 & 24, 1976*



Seated Left to Right: Ralph Schauer, President, Lansing; Chester Steele, Vice President, Murphysboro.
Standing Left to Right: Frank Wiswell, Treasurer, Midlothian; O. E. Hirst, Secretary, Galena

**OFFICERS ILLINOIS FIREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**

*87th & 88th Annual Meetings
Pecoria, 10-21, 22 & 23, 1977
Rock Island, 9-16, 18 & 17, 1978*



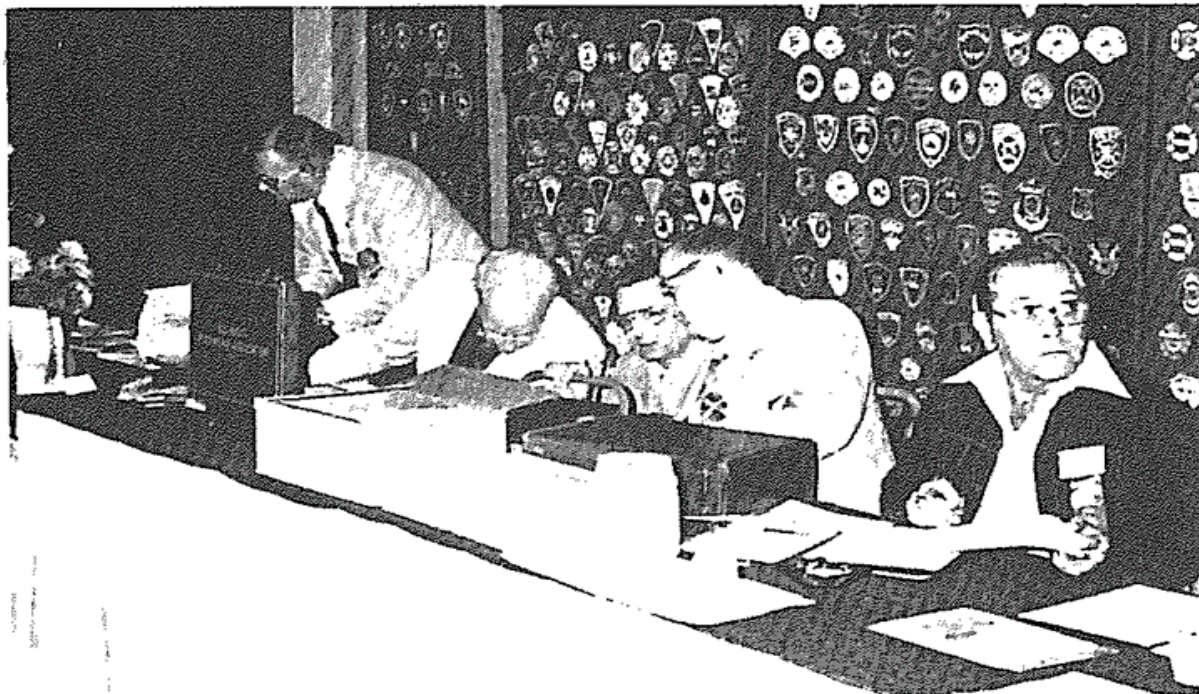


From left to right: Frank Wiswell, Treasurer, Midlothian; O. E. Hirst, Secretary, Galena; Ralph Schauer, President, Lansing; Chester Steele, Vice President, Murphysboro.

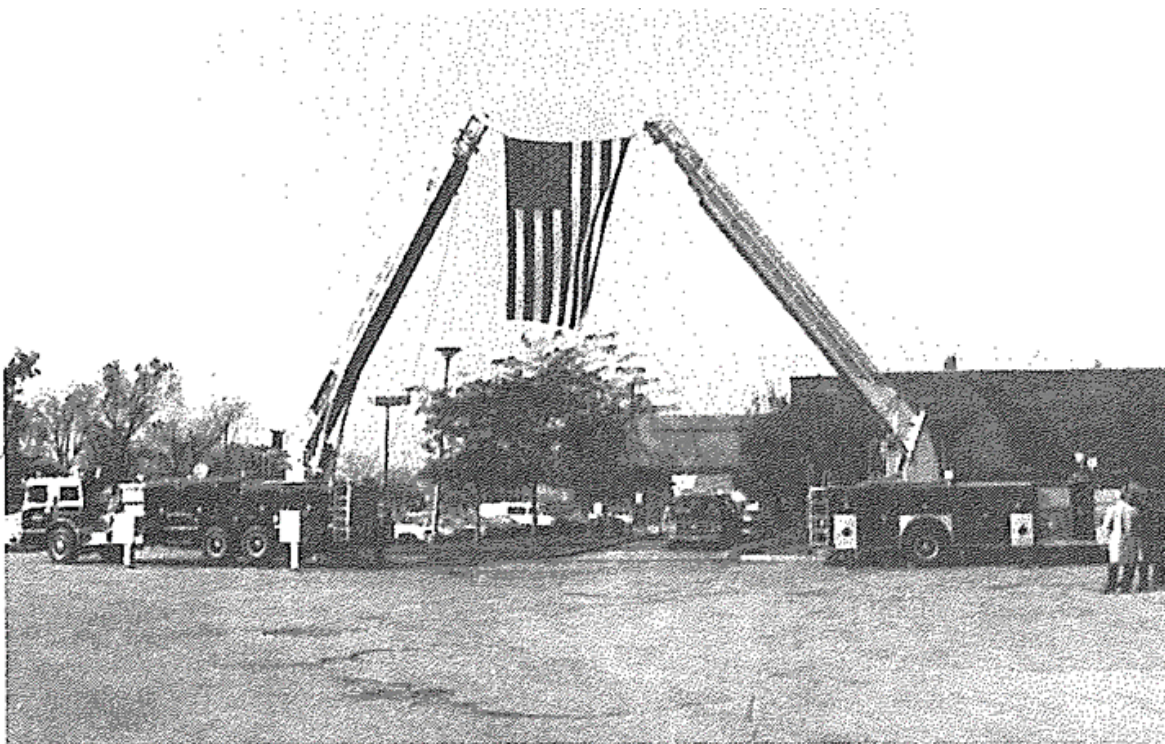
**OFFICERS ILLINOIS FIRMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**
89th Annual Meeting
Harvey, 10-19, 20 & 21, 1979



DAVE O'NEAL
Lt. Governor Illinois
1979



Display of badges behind registration table at 1980 annual



Display of huge U.S. flag suspended in air between two aerial ladders at 1987 conference, Harvey

10

Reaching for New Heights: 1980 - 1989

They are never alone that are accompanied with noble thoughts.

Sir Phillip Sidney

As of 1980, the Illinois Fire Service Institute (originally known as the Illinois Fire College) enjoyed official status as part of the Illinois State Fire Marshal's budget and legislation for Illinois Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education Commission. Its legal basis was formalized with the passage of the Illinois Fire Service Institute Act (81-1147). The act designated one-eighth of the Fire Prevention Fund monies for the Institute's financial support. Among other things, the act called for the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois to operate a state fire academy—the Illinois Fire Service Institute.

The academy's purpose or mission was to be four-fold: (1) to conduct programs of training and education, (2) to provide service activities such as consultation, development and distribution of training materials, and evolution services; (3) to research to support fire training and education programs, and (4) to develop training facilities and structures needed to conduct other functions.

The progress and success of the Fire Service Institute were watched very carefully over the years by the Illinois Firemen's Association. As its founding co-sponsor in 1925, the IFA recognized the growing need for the training system to develop into one that continued to address the timely needs of members of the fire service. In the early 1980s the association monitored its programs and activities even more closely because of the desire to help the Institute's Director, Gerald E. Monigold, develop and expand the level of services provided to individual fire departments and regions.

One way that the IFA extended their emphasis on training was by distributing at each convention a training packet. The kit distributed at Collinsville in 1980 (October 17-19) had been printed at the expense of the Olin Corporation.

Another way that the importance of training was brought home to delegates was through some of the speeches and presentations offered. In the area of fire inspection, it was announced that during the previous twelve months the Illinois Fire Inspectors organization had trained one hundred inspectors. Its forty-hour fire prevention segment qualified fire officers for certification in Illinois.

But training, in the eyes of IFA members, always included gathering information from experts in different areas of the fire industry as well as other areas. At the 1980 convention, a number of interesting programs was offered. They covered subjects such as, fire engineering management, prehospital management of mass casualties, motivation, cooperative emergency municipal programs, stress, and news from the fire marshal's office.

Association business was important "training", too. It illustrated the complexity of fire service management, community relations, and corporate (organizational) development.

In 1980, the association was presented with two sizeable donations to help support its activities during the coming year. The Madison County Firemen's Association donated \$2,500. The Ladies Auxiliary gave a check for \$1,000.

The Ladies Auxiliary also presented the association with a special gift: the IFA "history book." In actuality a scrapbook, the volume featured solid walnut front and back covers, nozzles for special effects, and original water color paintings of period fire apparatus. The front cover, which included a thick solid brass inlay in the shape of the State of Illinois and hand-carved etchings, had been the fine work of auxiliary member Jacque Slawnikowski.

Included in the volume were clippings, photographs, stories, and other mementos from the IFA's ninety-one years of existence. The book would be valued in the years to come as a vivid illustration of the association's slow but steady growth.

At the 1981 convention held at the Chicago O'Hare Marriott Hotel, firefighters were told by the association's attorney that state statutes ably protected them from lawsuits as a result of injury incurred in the line of firefighting duties. Negligence was said to always be a determining factor.

Another attorney speaking at the three-day event (September 25 to 27) warned that closer ties to attorneys were needed by firefighters. "Preventive lawyering" was necessary because firefighting had become more complicated. In fire administration the need was even greater, according to the legal counsel available at the convention.

It seemed that every group representative that spoke at the 1981 convention expressed concern that its impact was not nearly as effective as hoped or needed. The most positive messages seemed to come from association members themselves. For instance, they could point with pride at the expanded training packet which contained materials from different companies and professional and trade organizations.

With six hundred and forty-eight members the IFA concentrated on improving communications among and between its members, improving membership services, and implementing programs that coincided with the original and still important object/mission of the association.

As delegates to the Ninety-second Annual Convention (October 22-24, Peoria) saluted Old Glory during the opening ceremony, they must have been reminded that American patriotism had more to do with the way one lives than the way one talks or the country from which one originates. It had to do with honoring the past and those that made it so memorable. It had to do with following the same principles upon which the United States had been founded: truth, justice, and charity. And it had to do with service: the loyal and undying service that so many men and women who wore the Maltese Cross gave without question or hesitation.

Conventioneers were given a real boost by the host, the Peoria Fire Department, when it opened its firehouse and academy doors to delegates. Ralph J. Schauer, IFA president, received a "Mayor for a Day" plaque. The mayor of the city welcomed the group and noted that "freedom has a taste to those who have fought and almost died that the protected will never know."

Speakers such as the president of the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors referred to an old issue of *The Bulletin* (April, 1954) and advised attendees to concentrate on training for leadership. That recommendation was taken one step further by a speaker that followed in saying that a positive approach was necessary to effect positive change.

Delegates to the 1983 annual convention appreciated programs that offered constructive methods for advancement and doing a better job. At the same time, they wanted information about fires, new codes and regulations, and legal changes.

One of the things that the association had to do was to continue to provide programs that supplied its members with material and facts they could use, techniques and strategies they could apply, and programs and projects they could self-implement with minimal expense, time, and leg work.

Since the association had changed its name from the Illinois Firemen's Association to the *Illinois Firefighter's Association* in 1980, the organization had experienced constant growth - not necessarily in membership. The association could point with pride at its involvement in the very successful 1982 State Fair Exhibit. Sponsored by the Illinois Fire Services Association, it represented twenty-two departments and organizations from Illinois; more than one hundred and fifty firefighters participated.

The association was instrumental in getting the Illinois Fire Service Institute (formerly the Illinois Fire College) put on wheels—a mobile training/demonstration system. The Advisory Board of the University of Illinois Fire College included an association executive officer. And by the 1982 convention, the IFA's associate membership with display privileges roster had built up again and totaled 58.

One of the IFA's finer accomplishments during 1982 had been its raising of \$108,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Fund. It continued to be one of the organization's biggest outside fundraisers.

During the 1983 convention at Peoria (August 26-28), the Judicial Committee recommended a list of changes to the by-laws to reflect trends in the fire service. For instance, *Article 10, Sec. 2* called for the submission of a resume by every executive board member applicant; board members vying for re-election had to submit resumes with their letters of intent.

Of special interest was *Article 3, Sec. 4*. It enabled an absorbed member of a fire department to apply for the association department membership at dues of forty dollars.

Addresses like "Old Tricks and New Dogs" tickled delegates' funny bones and reminded them that even language didn't stay the same. (A list of over 40 early terms had been changed to high-tech buzzwords.)

Gaps in terminology were mentioned, too, and more instruction - even for fire chiefs - was emphasized.

The world of firefighting had changed tremendously over the years; and to keep its association alive and healthy, the IFA had to offer convention programs that challenged delegates.

Take the talk at the 1984 convention in Peoria - the one about equipping a department to specifically fit the terrain and environment of the community it serves. Some years earlier a similar discussion had been held at an annual meeting; and delegates considered engines with sturdy chassis and longer beds good enough. In 1984, attendees of the August 24-26 event were advised to prepare their fire departments for going over any line. Firefighters needed to preplan for going into a fire and covering it from all angles. To do so, sharing equipment with other departments was suggested as something to look at seriously. (The term "mutual aid" was not used to describe this type of activity.)

The subject of stress management had to be addressed in such a way that firefighters understood clearly that they were good candidates for the problem and to take early steps to live a more even-keeled lifestyle.

Gerald E. Monigold, Director, Illinois Fire Service Institute, offered simple directives for planning and implementing more localized training programs. He encouraged firefighters involved in the training aspect of departmental operations and management to use a systematic and realistic approach. He gave specific, simple steps to ensure that the curriculum satisfied standards and met professional requirements.

Members took more time to absorb some of the facts offered and requested information about the areas that concerned them.

Continued donations helped defray the costs of *The Bulletin*, the annual convention and officer expenses.

All in all, the early 1980s were used to concentrate on training issues, as well as "internal" matters.

In 1985, liability was a key issue. It was still the era in which everyone was suing everyone else. And firefighters were worried about their level of liability, realizing how things could be twisted around and used against them.

Delegates to the Decatur conference on September 13 to 15 were interested in learning more about workmen's compensation and how it was figured.

Administering emergency medical service also became a big issue with the appearance and publicity about AIDS, a terminal virus. For the first time, people such as paramedics were actually afraid to give certain assistance at the fire scene or anywhere else.

The threat of explosions and resulting serious injuries/fatalities caused firefighters in the association to concern themselves with chemicals and hazardous materials.

It seemed that the profession had become very complex and downright dangerous in ways that firefighters were ill-prepared to handle safely. The need for constant re-orientation and upgrading of knowledge and skills was an absolute - not a choice.

The Illinois Firefighter's Association had, perhaps, become more of a fostering organization than a powerhouse. Certainly, helping its members advance professionally in attitude, skill, technological strategy, and operations was a high priority.

In 1985, the IFA received some generous donations. The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$2,000; the Community Firemen's Association gave \$500.

As fire service became more technologized, the programs offered at the annual convention had to be more scientific in nature. Even in-depth discussions about identity and emotions had to be put into more academic terms. As a result, attendance may have suffered.

While association membership was stable at 622 in October of 1986, the report of the Credentials Committee showed that only 69 delegates qualified to vote during the election. Did that mean that attendance was actually down for the convention? Did it mean that some fire departments did not want to exercise their voting privilege? And if so, why? Between October 3 and 5, the featured programs seemed more important than the business aspects of the convention.

At this convention, the association challenged the Illinois Fire Chief's Association's Scholarship Foundation to match their donation of \$2,500 for professional education purposes. The challenge was accepted and met.

The Ninety-seventh Annual Conference was held at Harvey from October 23 to 25 in 1987. Delegates were greeted by warm welcomes from the association's chaplain, Walter C. Kennedy, Governor James R. Thompson, and various local dignitaries from Harvey.

As in previous years, the IFA was presented with a special service award from the Muscular Dystrophy Association, signed by Jerry Lewis, the national chairman.

In a brief talk by State Fire Marshal Thomas Bestudik, the four operational divisions of the Fire Marshal's Office were described. They were: Arson Division, Division of Boilers and Pressure Vessels, Fire Prevention Division (in Stage 2 of the Life Safety Code 101), and Division of Personnel Standards & Education. An internal division, Division of Management Services, was described as an internal support services agency.

One of the best addresses was given the first day of the conference. The subject: The Last Great American Untapped Treasure. The speaker, Rick Haberstroah, a renowned public speaker, said that the real "Future Shock" came when the microchip appeared on the scene. People for too many years, were afraid to learn about computers and how to use them.

As learning is essential, Haberstroah stressed that it should become a lifetime pursuit: the choice *to learn to learn*. The vital thing mentioned was related to the second step to take toward preparing for the future: *learning to choose*. But the most important key to both was said to be that untapped treasure: *resourcefulness*. People who advance in life were said to possess this quality as a part of a group commonly called "pathfinders" - people committed to a common cause.

Firefighters attending the conference understood what the man was talking about. All of them, some for more than fifty years had been committed to a common cause. As members of the IFA, they were all *committed to a common cause*.

A special feature of the conference was the display of the photos taken during the day. Members were given order blanks for ordering any that interested them. The large variety of exhibits offered information on apparatus and both large and small equipment, gear, tools, etc. Many samples were available. Specialty items to take home were also available for purchase.

That year the educational programs were divided into "workshops." Workshop "A" dealt with firefighter safety. Workshop "B" explained the ISO Grading Schedule. Workshop "C" discussed EMS. Workshop "D" offered special, more spiritual, guidelines for handling stress - tips for the firefighter as well as the family.

During the business session, the association was presented with three donations: \$1,000 from the Madison County Firemen's Association; \$500, Ladies Auxiliary; \$100, 3M Firemen's Association.

Highlights from the special reports include the following information:

- National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) - Efforts were underway to increase the budget from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- Memorial Service - The names of 121 deceased firefighters were received for commemoration.
- Education - Educational and training tapes of the conference workshops were made available.
- Resolution - The host and planners were thanked for planning such an outstanding conference.
- Credentials - A total of eighty-one companies and twelve past officers registered.
- Constitution and By-laws - Made was a recommendation that the separate position of secretary and treasurer be combined into one.

Special regrets were offered by Frank Wiswell (Midlothian), who was retiring. A pioneer of the organization in his own right, the man had attended fifty-two annual conventions.

Of special significance was the Memorial Service. Conducted at the hotel by Chaplain Walter C. Kennedy, it featured the reading of the "Roll Call." Many departmental flags had been placed at the front of the "altar" with its large white cross. One of the most impressive parts of the service included the tolling of the bell for every four or five names of deceased firefighters read. This tradition paid tribute to each firefighter who had fallen in the line of duty. Placement of flowers added the warm message of thoughtfulness and respect.

The 1988 conference was also held at Harvey and from November 4 to 6. Like the one the previous year, it featured educational workshops, this year on topics such as fire training and NFPA 1403, the Regional Emergency Dispatch System (RED), supervisory status in the fire service in Illinois, administration and leadership, hostage/terrorism assistance, hazardous materials' certification for firefighters, and administration and supervision. Each workshop was very well attended and generated much discussion and interest.

Two programs were of special inspiration: "Eagles Fly," a motivational talk by Joe O'Rourke, and the vivid film and oral account by firefighter Greg Fleger (Mesa, Arizona) of his personal brush with death in a training mishap.

But the most heart-rendering presentation was by Patricia Mieszala. Mieszala told about the experiences of the nine burned children sent to a special camp for one week in Colorado. She showed a slide presentation that illustrated the children's experience from the time they left Chicago on a plane, all flight expenses paid by United Air Lines, landed at Camp Cheley in Estes Park and went through the daily activities. As co-sponsor of the event coordinated under the auspices of the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, members of the IFA were very touched. Plans were announced to do the same type of project in 1989.

To help start the fundraising effort, a full-sized "Fireman" (actually a poster) in yellow gear with a real boot was placed at the front of the conference meeting room to plead for donations for sending children to camp. Mieszala also told the crowd that by 1990, the sponsors of the project wanted to be able to offer a camping program right in the State of Illinois.

The convention included many inside and outside exhibits. Delegates took the time to see what the different groups had to offer. Some outstanding copper etchings, ink drawings, handmade gift items, and Christmas tree decorations, and accessories were available and offered conventioners a chance to take something special home.

Besides the hospitality room get-togethers and special banquet and entertainment (Saturday evening), delegates got to enjoy a unique lunch with distributors in the exhibit area on Saturday. The menu was appealing to people who were hungry: hot dogs with all the trimmings, potato chips, and a soft drink. Some delegates carried their lunches into the exhibit area, sat down and ate with distributors also enjoying the informal meal.

While nothing much was said during the conference about the most recent activities of the Illinois Fire Service Institute, it is important to mention that the July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988 fiscal report of the Institute's activities recorded that 942 of the 1300 fire departments in Illinois were being served by the Institute.

Under the direction of Gerald E. Monigold since April 1, 1963, the Institute conducted activities in eighty-five of the one hundred and two counties. Enrollment had been up: 22,771 from 15,237. More training courses were being held in near proximity to the fire departments, making it easier for firefighters to take the courses needed for certification, instructorship, and supervisory preparation.

The conference ended with the announcement of plans about the 100-year anniversary celebration to be held during the 1989 conference at Collinsville. Representatives from the Madison County Firemen's Association distributed colorful fold-out brochures about the community and information about hotels, restaurants, and other accommodations. Delegates were encouraged to register as early as possible and to make plans to participate in the special annual conference.

In closing, the last chapter on the *history* of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc. (formerly Illinois Firemen's Association), it is important to recognize the 1988-1989 executive officers and board members. Many have served the IFA for years: tirelessly, enthusiastically, and loyally. And in some respects they represent the commendable qualities needed and found in every firefighter within the state. Thus, in calling attention to these officers and board members, recognition is really being given to every single IFA member.

Executive Officers

Ralph J. Schauer, Jr., President/
Lansing
Richard Stading, Secretary-Treasurer/
Hampshire

Greg Berk, Vice-President/
Flossmoor
Thomas Scaturro, Chairman/
Granite City

Executive Board

Marvin Behrhorst/Hamel
Donald Brayfield/DuQuoin
Douglas Chappell/Hazel Crest
James Eaves/Harvey
Terry Ford/Godfrey
Dale Lange/Alsip

John Meisch/Marywood
Ron Mulach/Hamel Vol. Fire Dpt.
Robert Reason/Spring Bay
John Swan/Colona
Joseph Triska/Signal Hill
Robert Turner/Rockton

As the officers and board members just named would probably agree, any association - regardless of size, budget, support, and influence - tends to, experience many rough trips down the road to posterity. Like any of its members growing up in the fire service and then giving back to it some of the rewards received, the IFA has tried hard to endure the trials and tribulations anything or anyone must face. It is considered a part of life. It is considered a part of *being a part of life*.

Most especially, it is considered an essential part of fulfilling whatever mission for which one was selected to serve long before organized firefighting was ever heard of.

As yesterday fades and today comes to an end, tomorrow and the hope of a better existence shines ahead for this association - like a beacon, such a welcome sign to a lost sea captain; like a shelter to a homeless child; like a church to a lost soul.

It is hoped that the experiences and lessons from the past will have instilled the drive, spirit, and faith needed for the Illinois Firefighter's Association to celebrate in year 2089 yet another one hundred years of pioneering success.

State Fire Marshal Tom Armstead



Reverend Al Weidlich

L to R: Steve Gambrill, John Swan, Don Brayfield,
Verlyn Luther, Joe Triska, Terry Ford, Jim Eaves,
Richard Hewitt, Jay Spitzer, Greg Berk,
Seated: Marv Behrhorst, Doug Chappell, Ron Mulach





L to R: Ron Mulach, Joe Triska, Don Brayfield, Steve Gambrill, Ralph Schauer, Richard Hewlett, Marv Behrhorst, Doug Chappell, Jim Eaves, Jay Spitzer, Terry Ford, Verlyn Luther, John Swan

Joe Triska



Verlyn Luther & Jay Spitzer



Steve Gambrill



Mike Yurgec

Greg Berk



Terry Ford



Reverend Al Weidlich



Ralph Schauer



L to R: Bob Reason, John Swan, Ron Mulach, Ken Wiesemann,
Don Brayfield, Jim Eaves, Mike Yurjec, Steve Gambrill, Jay Spitzer,
Ralph Schauer

Seated: Greg Berk, Doug Chappell, Terry Ford, Marv Behrhorst





Greg Berk



Doug Chappell



Terry Ford



Marv Behrhorst



Jim Eaves





In Memoriam
Emmett T. Cox
1904 — 1981





RALPH SCHAUER - LANSING
Pres. 91st & 92nd Annual Meetings
Chicago, 9-25, 26 & 27, 1981
Peoria, 10-22, 23 & 24, 1982

Some Fire Problems Through The Years

- 1890 — Wooden structures built with untreated materials and stored with combustible products.
- 1908 — Sinking mines due to fire burning out of control days at a time.
- 1916 — Explosions of mill dust in elevator mills (e.g., 120 ft. long; 60 ft. high).
- 1934 — "Dust Bowl" drought years.
- 1935 — Mill dust, late discovery, loss of lumber sheds, and actual mills. . . danger to other buildings. . . lack of rain to help prevent the spread of flames to adjacent buildings.
- 1936 — Worst drought in U.S. history.
- 1945 — Automotive garage explosions. . . fear of suffocation by trapped victims.
- 1950 — Large fires (with potential large losses and potential major fire spread) that required assistance from other companies... air trapped in hoses/stiffened cotton hose. . . certain products such as wood.
- 1957 — Multiple fires in combustible/flammable buildings, loss of multiple lives and greater numbers of injuries. . . caving roofs, toppling floors into basement levels. . . hurling debris because of explosions. . . church and school fires because of heating systems.
- 1961 — Inflammable cleaners, smoking, overheated equipment, trash, splashing gas, fireworks. . . arson. . . inadequate water supplies.
- 1970 — Hotels: lack of sprinkler systems, fibers, woods, code violations, unrest in communities/on college campuses.
- 1980 — Hi-rise fires, restaurants and sanitation, grease, chemicals, etc.
- 1988 — Hazardous and toxic materials... explosives... deteriorating containments. storage facilities. . . drought... negligent vacationers,. arson/incendiary fires. . . insurance fraud cases. . . terrorism.



11

The Future of the IFA: 1989 and Beyond

*May you fly in on the wings of an eagle, And soar ahead, ever upward,
Leading you to nobler deeds, greater heights. The world is yours.*

... SKS

A challenge of indefinable dimension faces the Illinois Firefighter's Association, as it does the countless other professional organizations in America: *the challenge of survival*. The most primal of needs, survival is probably understood by firefighters better than by any other group. For every day, they must prepare for and live with the threat of its antipode, namely, extinction or death.

Such preparedness requires certain individual skills and traits that, when brought into an organization of this type, do much to make it stable and strong. These capabilities — the mainstay of the IFA since its inception in 1889 — equip the organization to meet the *challenge of survival* with the same sound judgment, confidence, and creativity used to build it into a "sleeping giant."

Numbering more than 700 regular and associate members, with in excess of 44,000 individual firefighters, the association possesses well within its grasp the power to change the course of the firefighting profession in every community within the State of Illinois. The IFA's capabilities and strengths also serve to impact the status of the fire service as a unified body functioning in every corner of this nation.

To effect changes — broadly stated as they might be at this time, the IFA must aggressively pursue activities in each of the following areas:

1. Membership - recruitment, retention, and services
2. Legislation
3. Public Relations
4. Corporate Development and Fundraising
5. Fire Protection Industry Relations
6. Co-op Corporation Giving (charity) Projects
7. Professional Advisory Services — Speakers Bureau
8. Training and Development
9. Conference/Meeting Planning
10. Association Administration and Management

In the area of *membership*, the association plans to implement an on-going system of recruitment that better capitalizes on existing and accessible resources at the local departmental level. The system would, ideally, be operated in three tiers: (1) IFA executive officers and board members - administration and management, (2) regional - coordination and reporting, and (3) local - implementation.

The membership system would follow a five-phase localized program supported by (a) recruitment materials and aids, (b) regional "get-acquainted" events, and (c) the association membership network. This recruitment activity would require the refinement of existing membership services, as well as the association's eventual installation and utilization of a statewide data bank. It may also well require the implementation of a membership recruitment benefits program that attracts and pulls in a majority of individual departmental firefighters — particularly, those under the age of 30.

To ensure that the rights and welfare of all firefighters are protected, the association will take a very aggressive role in the *legislative process*. This activity shall include: (a) ongoing monitoring of all house and senate bills and lobbying efforts related to the firefighting profession, (b) regular communication with legislators and lobbyists, and (c) active participation in bill writing, sponsorship, lobbying, and voting processes.

Public relations and corporate development and fund-raising activities will be closely coordinated and pursued simultaneously. A number of programs must be refined to strengthen internal relations and extend external (public) awareness. Included should be (1) publications - e.g. newsletters, brochures, press releases, and public service announcements (PSAs); (2) productions - e.g. video tapes, cassettes; (3) relations with the media, trade/industrial groups, the business and industrial community at large, government agencies, educational institutions, and research foundations; and, (4) the general public. Fundraising activities should be of two types:

1. those that generate funds for internal association use only - e.g. management, program development and implementation.
2. those that generate funds for specific community service projects, as well as free association publicity.

Related to public relations is the development of IFA *professional advisory services*. Such services would be made available to other professional organizations in the form of speakers, panel members, advisory board members, and expert witnesses — all available in specific areas of expertise from the IFA membership ranks. The expertise of this same group of individuals (and departments) could be offered to special publishers, editors, convention/exhibition planners, and philanthropic organizations.

Of particular concern to the association will be its continued active advisory participation in the operation of the Illinois Fire Service Institute. The ability of the Institute to meet the future needs of men and women in the firefighting profession will rely heavily on the suggestions, support, and constructive criticisms of the IFA. As the driving force behind the starting of the Institute in 1925, the IFA must continue that same momentum. It must help to ensure that all firefighting practices are standardized and made as safe as possible.

To enhance its efforts related to *training and development* (professional education), the Illinois Firefighter's Association may readily see the need to develop a more streamlined fire protection industry communications program. In essence, such a program would bring firefighters in closer contact with researchers and developers, manufacturers, testing and evaluation groups, and others dealing with the actual products and materials used in the field and at the fire station. Such an ongoing endeavor would also help ensure the provision of equipment, gear, tools, etc. not so readily available or of limited capacity.

Administratively, the IFA must look at making some changes in the operational and reporting activities of each of the association's standing committees. A policy needs to be implemented whereby the administration sees that the membership gets a brief report of each committee's activities (and concerns and needs) throughout the year. Here the IFA's bi-monthly newsletter, *The Bulletin*, can be invaluable.

Related to the regular dissemination of news is the problem of getting the communications to individual firefighters within the member departments. A better plan must be devised and carried out to ensure that each communication from the association to each member department gets to the fire station and posted for individuals to read. One possibility is to mail all materials with the envelope or a label marked "Post/Circulate" and directed to the main address of the fire department versus that of the private home. The prompt, regular dissemination of information is essential to keep members up-to-date on related issues and events. It will also help in making them feel like a real part of the organization, especially during the twelve months between each annual conference.

This need serves as a constant motivator for those IFA members actively involved in *planning the annual conference*. Planners recognize the need of each individual delegate to feel more a part of the organization. They recognize the role that the annual conference must play. As the only statewide membership event held during the year, it must meet the association's standard objectives: to disseminate information that requires immediate action, to nominate and elect officers and board members, to exchange timely information about firefighting problems, experiences, techniques, and strategies; and to enhance interpersonal relations — "the sense of brotherhood" — between and among firefighters and fire departments throughout the state (and beyond).

Thus, for those that give of their time (and often their own money) to attend the annual conference, the event must be planned to make attendance personally gratifying, helpful, and fun. Both the executive board that supervises and the host fire department/professional community association that coordinates the event must develop more formal guidelines for conducting the event. While past planners have done an excellent job (considering their experience and resources), the effectiveness of future conferences should not fall to chance.

Needed are concise, simple instructions that, once available, will surely entice other interested fire departments and associations to host an annual conference. Even relatively small communities have much to offer to IFA members. Some have probably seen a rural fire district only from the berm of an interstate highway passing through the countryside or from the seat of a low flying airplane.

The Illinois Firefighter's Association (IFA) wants the "sense of brotherhood" to mushroom. It wants the association to be strong to better serve firefighting professionals in the State of Illinois. It wants to expand its own horizons and help its fire department and associate members strengthen their own positions within the communities they so unselfishly and tirelessly serve. And it wants to be ever mindful of the association's past and more appreciative of present activities and accomplishments — little as they might seem at times — in order to build a future for those yet to come, a future to be remembered with fondness and respect.

A "sleeping giant," the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc. is ready to awaken, climb out of its remote cave, and show its strength, its insight, its power, its greatness.

From the "No Man is an Island" passage by John Donne.

. . . No man is an island entire of itself. Every man is a piece of continent, a part of the main . . . Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee*

* Passage served as Ernest Hemingway's inspiration for his novel *For Whom The Bell Tolls*.



Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Thomas Scat
808 Third St
Venice, IL 62



Thomas Scaturro, President



OFFICERS

1985 - 1986

President, Thomas Scaturro, Venice; Vice President, Clifford lee, Godfrey;
Secretary, O.E. Hirst, Galena; Treasurer, Frank J. Wiswell, Midlothian.
Executive Board - Joseph Triska, Signal Hill; Ralph J. Schauer, Lansing;
Marvin Behrhorst, Hamel; Gregory Berk, Flossmoor; Frank Denman, Matteson;
John Meisch, Marywood; Donald Brayfield, DuQuoin; Richard Stading, Hampshire;
John Downs, Hillsboro; Stuart Heohne, Fox Lake; Les Wallack, Barrington;
Charles Turner, West Peoria; Dale Lange, Alsip.

*Illinois Firemen's State Conventions
Held in Madison County*

3rd	January 1891	Edwardsville
5th	January 1893	Collinsville
14th	January 1902	Edwardsville
22nd	January 1910	Granite City
24th	January 1912	Edwardsville
31st	January 1919	Granite City
47th	October 1934	Granite City
60th ★	October 1950	Alton
76th ★	October 1966	Alton
85th ★	September 1975	Collinsville
90th ★	October 1980	Collinsville

★ Sponsored by MCFA

*Illinois Firemen's Association
 Presidents from Madison County*

1921	Simon Kellerman, Jr.	Edwardsville
1922	Simon Kellerman, Jr.	Edwardsville
1925	Pearl Smith	Madison
1926	Pearl Smith	Madison
1942	William Stoneham	Wood River
1943	William Stoneham	Wood River
1944	William Stoneham	Wood River
1945	William Stoneham	Wood River
1948	William Thad Fife	Olin Corporation
1949	William Thad Fife	Olin Corporation
1964	Norman P. Hirsch	St. Jacob
1965	Norman P. Hirsch	St. Jacob
1974	Edward Coolbaugh	Edwardsville
1975	Edward Coolbaugh	Edwardsville
1984	Thomas Scaturro	Venice

*Illinois Firemen's Association
Vice Presidents ~ Executive Board Members
from Madison County*

1890-1891	A. J. Platt	Collinsville
1892-1898	Dennis Flentz, Sr.	Edwardsville
1901-1903	Dennis Flentz, Sr.	Edwardsville
1905-1908	Simon Kellerman, Jr.	Edwardsville
1909-1910	Fred A. Garesche	Madison
1912-1913	Henry Kluge	Collinsville
1912-1914	Pearl Smith	Madison
1915-1916	Charles DeRousso	Granite City
1918-1919	Jules DeLong	Madison
1919-1920	Charles DeRousso	Granite City
1920-1923	Henry Kluge	Collinsville
1920-1924	Pearl Smith	Madison
1922-1923	Frank Nelson	Granite City
1923-1927	Simon Kellerman, Jr.	Edwardsville
1925-1926	Leo Connole	Venice

Illinois Fireman's Association

Historian

1909-1920 *Simon Kellerman, Jr.* *Edwardsville*

Treasurers

<i>1899-1900</i>	<i>Dennis Hentz, Sr.</i>	<i>Edwardsville</i>
<i>1928-1960</i>	<i>Simon Kellerman, Jr.</i>	<i>Edwardsville</i>
<i>1960-1961</i>	<i>George Lautner</i>	<i>Edwardsville</i>
<i>1968-1973</i>	<i>Anton Perne</i>	<i>Livingston</i>

12

The Future of the IFA: 1990 - 1999

Collinsville, IL – 1990

State Fire Marshal's message dealt with the loss of office funds, the lack of legislative and government support and the need to work closely with the firefighters of Illinois. He stressed the need for statewide cooperative educational training and prevention programs. The National Association of State Fire Marshals was also formed during 1990.

Moline, IL – 1991

State Fire Marshal stated that the fire service in Illinois moved from a "reactive fire suppression force" to a proactive service group. Training and education have become the top priority. Smoke Detector Law was passed as well as House Bill 72 – Sprinkler Law in New Schools. The IFA Board shared 11 Organizational Goals. Three House Bills and one Senate Bill was also mentioned. The bill to legalize fireworks in Illinois was not passed.

Moline, IL – 1992

State Fire Marshal commended the Illinois departments for having the most effective fire prevention programs. State Fire Marshal shared additional resources and reminder to file incident reports with the OFSM. These statistics from these reports help in aiding Illinois departments in budget negotiations and manpower. House Bill 2703, Budget Appropriations for the OSFM, was left intact. Fireworks task force was formed. Other matters; American Disabilities Act (ADA) and OSHA standards on Blood Borne Pathogens.

Decatur, IL – 1993

Fire Safety Houses and the "Plan To Get Out Alive" programs have become an effective educational tools used throughout the State. Nothing but positive feedback. Smoke Detector Distribution Program is a huge success due to a collaborative grant with the OFSM and the National Association of State Fire Marshals. Slow legislative year. Tax Cap Limitation Act and Bill on Prohibiting Leaf Burning did not pass the Legislator.

Decatur, IL – 1994

State Fire Marshal still urged the importance of fire safety education. Also, the importance of regular inspections of day care centers. The first Open Forum was held during conference. This allowed attendees to share questions, concerns, issues or opinions with the IFA Board. The establishment of the Illinois Firefighter License Plates was announced during this conference. Funds from the sale of the plates would support the building and upkeep of a firefighter memorial on the Capitol grounds in Springfield.

Peoria, IL – 1995

State Fire Marshal reported no firefighter line of duty deaths in 1994. OSFM urged the importance of having House Bill 901 passed – mandates placed on Illinois departments for clean-up under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations; serious consequences of these new mandates. The IFA hosted 4 regionals training sessions, greater efficiency in administering classes and sponsor agency for the Illinois Fire Marshal Certification Program.

Peoria, IL – 1996

State Firefighter Exhibit was developed through the OSFM. Juvenile arsonists becoming a Statewide as well as National level problem. OSFM provided some tips on how to prevent the problem from escalating further. Legislation passed for the Illinois Firefighter License Plates.

Moline, IL – 1997

NFIRS system in process of being replaced. Residential fire deaths on the rise and OSFM urged the Illinois departments to put more emphasis on Fire Prevention Week, public awareness education and smoke detector distribution. Smoke detectors double the chances of surviving a fire. Solidarity is needed to achieve the common mission of saving lives and protecting property. Seventy-five Bills came forward to the State Legislator. Six of them passed; five were related to firefighter pensions.

Collinsville, IL – 1998

The Fire Service's mission has expanded from not only fire suppression, EMS and HazMat but, need to include disasters like terrorism and floods. Construction began on the Illinois Firefighter Memorial in Springfield. Dedication scheduled for May of 1999. Medal of Honor Ceremonies are always held on the second Thursday in May; Illinois Firefighters Day. Underground storage tanks needed to be compliant before end of year. Strong partnership needed addressing with the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI). Not only firefighters traveling to IFSI for training but, develop relationships for regional trainings.

Collinsville, IL – 1999

The State Fire Marshal reported that smoking is still the number one cause of fire deaths. Fire service is facing new demands and the course of action is strategic planning, networking and accessing new resources. Illinois Fire Service Institute reminded everyone of the basic and advanced courses offered to Illinois firefighters whether at the Institute or at regional training sites. The dedication of the Illinois Firefighter Memorial, in conjunction with the Medal of Honor Ceremony, was held on May 13, 1999, on the Capitol Grounds in Springfield, IL

13

The Future of the IFA: 2000 – 2009

In 2000, the IFA partnered with the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Illinois Fire Service Institute introduced the Illinois Fire College in which reimbursable classes were offered to Illinois firefighters. Classes were also offered on a Regionwide basis. This, along with other initiatives, was the “Vision 2000” plan outlined by the IFSI. The OSFM also introduced task forces such as the Governor’s Blue-Ribbon Panel, Claims Reimbursement Task Force and Terrorism Task Force. This will also the release the IFA’s website – www.illinoisfirefighters.org. This was developed to help strengthen the communications between the IFA and its membership, dissemination of information and provided links to other fire services associations. On the Federal level, the National Fire Caucus presented to Bills to Congress: Bill #1 – The Fire Bill and Bill #2 – Volunteer Fire Service Bill.



In 2001, the IFA participated in a combination conference with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and the Illinois Fire Service Instructors. The OSFM stressed the importance of the Illinois Fire Service working together and the necessity to continue to grow the events of September 11, 2001. The IFSI introduced the “Cornerstone Program” which is a reimbursable program that offers various fire service trainings to Illinois firefighters. This was also the introduction of a partnership with the IFA and IFSI with the “Down & Dirty” CD set that was sent to member departments, so that IFSI training could be shared back home at member department, especially to the firefighters that were not able to take advantage of the training at our annual conference.



In 2002, was another combined conference with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and the Illinois Fire Service Instructors. IFSI explained the development of the “Down & Dirty” CDs; combined efforts with IFSI and the IFA Executive Board. Cornerstone and Homeland Security Program still in existence, but funding is at a lull. HazMat awareness is available on-line and at no cost.



In 2003, the IFA accomplished several initiatives such as letters being sent the President and Federal legislators to keep the Fire Act Grant Funded and a response was received by the President, formed a partnership with VFIS to provide insurance benefits to the membership and Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn was brought in to be a voice for the IFA on a State level.

But in 2004, the IFA decided to form a special partnership with the Illinois Fire Service Institute (which is Illinois' State Fire Academy) which began the "Down & Dirty" Firefighter Weekend. It consisted of a combination of classroom and "hands-on" training in which the IFA member departments were able to receive training from the IFSI instructors and full use of the academy facility for training.





The year 2005, the partnership between IFA and IFSI grew closer with the 2nd Down & Dirty Firefighter Conference, in addition to CD program. The Board attended various conferences, including the National Benefit Summit in which the Job Security Act came out of this Summit.

The 2006 conference continued the partnership with IFSI with over 50,000 people in the State that have been trained through IFSI since last conference, the State of Florida asked permission to have the Down Dirty CD/DVD program distributed in their State. In return, University of Florida offered on-line bachelor's degree program in Fire Science at the Florida in-state tuition rate. The IFSI library has expanded in the international network of fire service libraries so information can be obtained from all over the world. On the legislative side, bills passed to date have been the Fire Sprinkler Dormitory Revolving Loan Fund Act, Arsonist Registration Act, Volunteer Firefighter Job Protection Act, Fire Prevention Funds protected, Rotating Lights and Impersonating a Firefighter.



In 2007, The OSFM offered free NFIRS classes and if the class was taken, the department would get a laptop computer and printer to allow for electronic filing of reports. Additionally, IFSI discussed a plan to have firefighter awareness training surrounding ethanol plants. There were 100 million bushels of ethanol moving in and out of processing plants.

IFSI, in 2008, worked with the aerial apparatus manufacturer's factories to develop an addition training disc for the Down & Dirty DVD program. The apparatus manufacturers asked if copies of the DVDs could be supplied every time, they sold new aerial apparatus as they found this to be a great training aid. A new CD on Fire Attack is the next project for the Down & Dirty CD/DVD program. Videos provided on the ISFI website for Ethanol and foam training. IFSI expanded international training relations with China.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal, in 2009, in place of e-mailing each month, has developed a portal for the State NFIRS reports in which you can access to check your reports on the internet. This also allows anytime access to check reporting status of your NFIRS reports.



Self-extinguishing cigarette legislation was passed;
leading cause of residential fire deaths.

Legislation was passed requiring all fraternities and
sororities that they will have test sprinklers in them
within a nine-year timeframe.



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The Future of the IFA: 2010 – 2019



State Fire Code requiring all new residential construction have residential sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings as well as hard-wired smoke detectors.

The Cornerstone Program became an official line item to the State Fire Marshal budget. Fires On The Farm were added to the Cornerstone Program.





IFSI added Crude Oil by Rail Awareness and Ops Courses.

OSFM looking into electronic testing for certification.

New Grain Bin Rescue training being rolled out.



Recruitment & retention, fundraising & revenue, data management, benefits & financial security are still the biggest and most common issues in the fire service today.

Volunteer firefighter tire purchase on state bid pricing legislation passed.



Front row: Bob Reason, Bill Offerman, Jeff Stuck, Kerry Federer, John Swan, Rosemarie Arvia, Joe Heim
Back row: Kevin Schott, Ed Myers, Vernon Davis/Longhorn, Joe Mandarin, Terry Ford, Ron Mulach



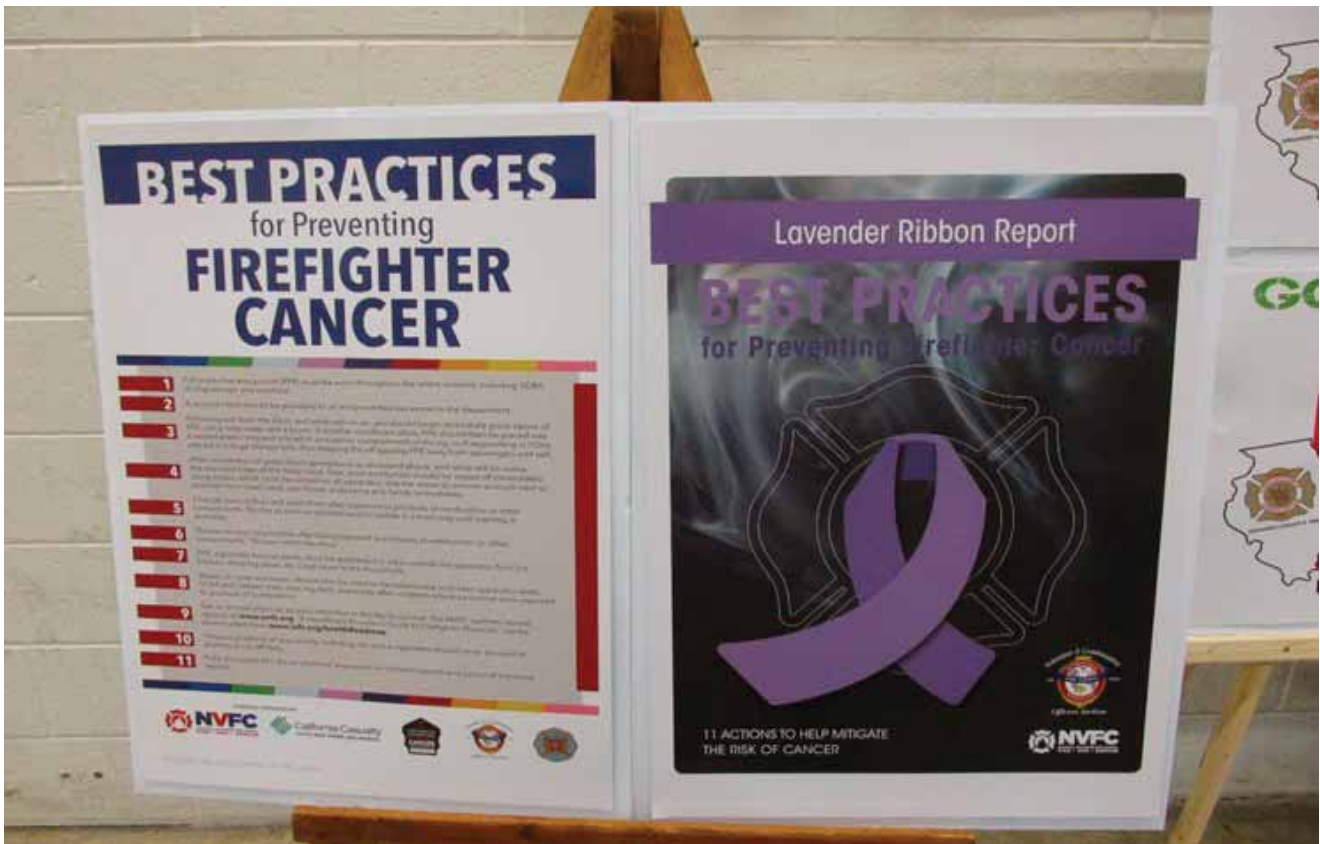
State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



Colonel Royal Mortenson, Director, Illinois Fire Service Institute



In 2018, the GO GREEN CLEAN campaign was inceptioned to bring forth the awareness of the increasing number of firefighter cancer illnesses and issues and the best practices for prevention through the Lavender Ribbon Report.





From left to right:

Sean Burke, IFSI; Joe Heim Director;
Kent Tomlin, OSFM; Ron Mulach, Director,
Bob Reason, Director; Ed Myers, Director;
Terry Ford, Vice President; Alix Armstead, OSFM;
John Swan, President;
Kerry Federer, Secretary/Treasurer;
Joseph Mandarino, Director; Rosemarie Arvia, Director,
Bill Offerman, Director; Jeff Stuck, Director



1952 Auxiliary conference business meeting being conducted by (left to right); Secretary Winnie Esterday (Crete), President Maxine Shockey (Lake Zurich) and Vice-President Ethel Schmidt (Riverdale).



Historian Sue Heusing (Beecher) presenting "History Book" scrapbook to men's association at 1980 annual conference.

15

Ladies Auxiliary of the Illinois Firefighter's Association (LAIFA):

1947 - 2006

She who serves others benefits herself the most

... SKS

Through the years, since its founding, the Ladies Auxiliary has served as a constant support system to the Illinois Firefighter's Association. Its regular financial donations have enabled the association to continue projects such as the publication of *The Bulletin*, the support of other worthy causes, and the promotion of the fire service.

Proudly, the association includes a brief history of this most important arm of the IFA.

On October 18, 1947, a group of twelve women, representing five communities, met at Geneo's Coffee Shop in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. In addition to coffee, their purpose was to discuss the possibility of establishing a statewide ladies auxiliary, at the request of the men's association. The discussion was pro and con, but the Ladies Auxiliary of The Illinois Firefighter's Association was formed. The first president was Mrs. Esther Walk of Fox Lake. She spent the first three years in the office and traveled around the state organizing localized auxiliary groups in various communities.

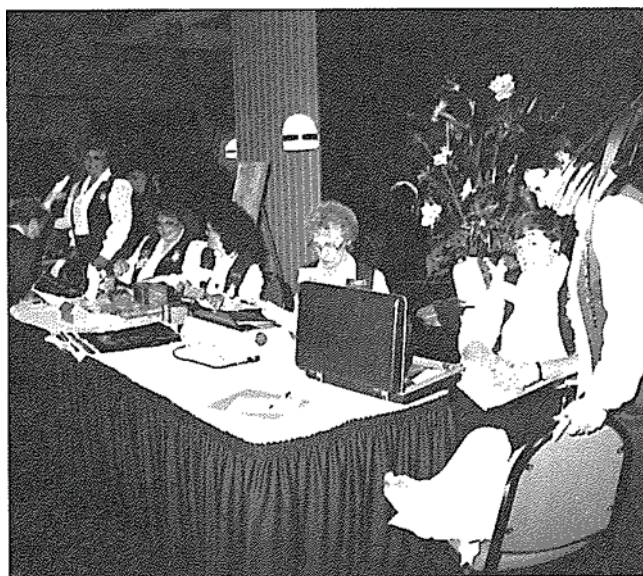
The first five or six years consisted in organizing, developing a working set of by-laws, and generally setting up a viable auxiliary. By 1953 the membership had grown to 520 women with twenty auxiliaries represented; by 1961, 800 representing thirty communities. Women everywhere realized that they could help the fire service.

The auxiliary's first scrapbook contest was held in 1952. The winner was the Crete Ladies Auxiliary. The contest has been held ever since, becoming one of the favorite traditions enjoyed by the membership. While Sue Heusing (Beecher) served as historian, the men's association was shown the winning scrapbook made by the Sauk Village Ladies Auxiliary. They were so impressed that they requested that the auxiliary create a similar book for their history.

The challenge was accepted and in 1980 the IFA "History Book" was presented to the men. The work was very impressive with its hand-carved front cover, made of walnut—the work of Jacque Slawnikowski (Sauk Village).

In 1948 the auxiliary donated \$10 to the Men's Legislative Fund, and by 1960 the amount could be increased to \$100. Revenue was earned in various ways, particularly by raffles. In 1985, the auxiliary presented a huge check for \$1,000 to the men's association. The sizeable gift was most appreciated.

Since the early days of the auxiliary, it has continued to make financial contributions to the IFA fund. Recently, the challenge was accepted to sponsor scholarships for further educational endeavors by firefighters, in the name of the L.A.I.F.A. Hopefully, this fine tradition, started during the term of Beverly Miller (Burbank), would continue for many years. It should be mentioned that the scholarship funds donated by the auxiliary were met by the Illinois Fire Chief's Association (IFCA).



*The 1987 conference registration table being run by
Jacque Slawnikowski, Elnora Cole, Dorothy Horak, Kathy Rogge,*

The LAIFA's primary purpose has always been to be a "helping hand" to each local auxiliary as it goes about its activities. At the same time, the organization tries to be informative on current fund raisers and to help each other in whatever ways possible.

Of special importance is the annual auxiliary conference and the opportunity in networking that the meeting has offered to anyone who attends. Through those brief get-togethers have evolved many long-lasting relationships and true friendships.

The present aim of the Ladies Auxiliary is to make the organization a strong support system for the men's association and for everyone actively or inactively engaged in fire service within the State of Illinois.

The auxiliary stands ready to assist—to serve coffee and food at fire scenes, to help provide scholarship assistance for firefighter education and training, and to help represent, in our respective communities, the service mission and the professional objectives of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc. (IFA).

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Illinois Firefighter's Association disbanded in September of 2006.

APPENDIX

I.F.A. Presidents

Name	City/Town/Village	Term(s) of Office
1. J. H. Henshaw	Peru	1/1889 - 1/1890
2. E. W. Barkman	Polo	1/1890 - 1/1893
3. John Clegg	Ottawa	1/1893 - 1/1894
4. J. E. Moffet	Clinton	1/1894 - 1/1896
5. M. J. Meyers	Mt. Pulaski	1/1896 - 1/1898
6. O. D. Wilcox	Monmouth	1/1898 - 1/1900
7. C. C. Chain	Bushnell	1/1900 - 1/1903
8. F. B. Bolte	East St. Louis	1/1903 - 1/1905
9. George A. Detrick	Dixon	1/1905 - 1/1907
10. Peter Kipley	Riverdale	1/1907 - 1/1909
11. N. T. Pierce	Xenia	1/1909 - 1/1911
12. J. H. Lohmann	Aurora	1/1911 - 1/1913
13. J. J. Daugherty	Ottawa	1/1913 - 1/1915
14. Otto Sorgenfrei	Blue Island	1/1915 - 1/1918
15. M. S. Philip	Chicago Heights	1/1918 - 1/1920
16. Walter E. Price	Champaign	1/1920 - 1/1921
17. Simon Kellermann, Jr.	Edwardsville	1/1921 - 1/1923
18. A. W. Thode	Galena	1/1923 - 1/1925
19. Pearl Smith	Madison	1/1925 - 9/1927
20. Thomas J. Ruddy	Joliet	9/1927 - 9/1928
21. Albert Hasse	Peru	9/1928 - 9/1930
22. Fred P. Haderlein	Carlyle	9/1930 - 9/1932
23. Joe Valentine	Rock Island	9/1932 - 10/1934
24. Frank J. Rutkowski	Steger	10/1934 - 10/1936
25. George Knol	Cicero	10/1936 - 10/1938
26. Elmer W. Weidler	Mt. Olive	10/1938 - 10/1940
27. John E. Mersch	Evanston	10/1940 - 10/1942
28. William R. Stoneman	Wood River	10/1942 - 10/1946*
29. Russell Wright	East St. Louis	10/1946 - 10/1948
30. William Thad Fife	East Alton	10/1948 - 10/1950
31. Paul Godesiasbois	East Moline	10/1950 - 10/1952
32. O. E. Hirst	Galena	10/1952 - 10/1955
33. William E. Murphy	LaGrange	10/1955 - 10/1957
34. Herb Dickelman	Dolton	10/1957 - 10/1958
35. Charles Gailliaert	Colona	10/1958 - 10/1961
36. Fred D. Wilson	Macomb	10/1961 - 10/1963
37. Norman P. Hirsch	St. Jacob	10/1963 - 10/1965
38. John H. Wade	Belleville	10/1965 - 10/1967
39. Frank Wiswell	Midlothian	10/1967 - 9/1969
40. Herbert Pollock	Macomb	9/1969 - 8/1971
41. Lynn Ray	North Park	8/1971 - 9/1973
42. Edward Coolbaugh	Edwardsville	9/1973 - 9/1975
43. Rennie Bedar	DuQuoin	9/1975 - 10/1977
44. Ralph Schauer	Lansing	10/1977 - 8/1983
45. Joseph Triska	Signal Hill	9/1983 - 9/1985
46. Thomas Scaturro	Venice	9/1985 - 10/1987
47. Ralph Schauer	Lansing	10/1987 - 10/1990
48. Gregory C. Berk	Flossmoor	10/1991 - 10/1992
49. Douglas E. Chappell	Hazel Crest	10/1993 - 10/1996
50. Terry Ford	Godfrey/Alton	10/1997 - 10/2000
51. Gregory C. Berk	Flossmoor/Wheaton	10/2001 - 10/2003
52. John Swan	Colona	10/2004 - Present**

* Term of office continued during World War II years.

** Served as president more terms than any other in organization's history.

**PRESIDENTS - LADIES AUXILIARY
ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION**

Esther Walk	Fox Lake	1947-50
Florence Williams	Steger	1950-51
Maxine Shockey	Lake Zurich	1951-53
Ethel Schmidt	Riverdale	1953-55
Winnie Easterday	Crete	1955-57
Florence Gailliaert	Colona	1957-59
Helene Nadoonly	Fox Lake	1959-61
Alice Cole	Steger	1961-63
Mary Jesk	Oak Forest	1963-65
Bobbie Paulsen	Harvey	1965-67
Harriet Oudsteyn	Chicago Ridge	1967-69
Alice Altringer	Riverdale	1969-71
Louise Hinrichs	Crete	1971-73
Ethel Gebert	Glenwood	1973-75
Carol Mulder	Harvey	1975-77
Caroline Pfeifer	Steger	1977-79
Letty Luther	Sauk Village	1979-81
Beverly Denman	Matteson	1981-85
Dorothy Horak	Glenwood	1983-85
Beverly Miller	Burbank	1985-87
Sue Heusing	Beecher	1987-88
Jacque Slawnikowski	Sauk Village	1988-90
Evelyn Roselle	Colona	1991-92
Kathy Rogge	Crestwood	1993
Carolyn McCarter	West Peoria	1994-95
Marianne Parkinson	Crete	1996
Linda Capps	West Peoria	1997-98
Carol Sokolski	Crete Township	1999-2000
Amy Hernandez	Glenwood	2001
Kim Stecher	West Peoria	2002-2003
Corie Medley	Colona	2004-2006

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION Annual Meetings/Conferences

Number	City/Town	Date/Dates	Year
1st	Clinton	Jan. 8	1889
2nd	Lincoln	Jan. 14	1890
3rd	Edwardsville	Jan. 13	1891
4th	Pittsfield	Jan. 12	1892
5th	Collinsville	Jan. 10	1893
6th	Effingham	Jan. 9	1894
7th	Sterling	Jan. 8	1895
8th	Peru	Jan. 14	1896
9th	East St. Louis	Jan. 12	1897
10th	Champaign	Jan. 11	1898
11th	Clinton	Jan. 10	1889
12th	Princeton	Jan. 9	1900
13th	Pana	Jan. 8	1901
14th	Edwardsville	Jan. 14	1902
15th	Aurora	Jan. 13	1903
16th	Waukegan	Jan. 12	1904
17th	Waukegan	Jan. 10	1905
18th	Peoria	Jan. 9	1906
19th	East St. Louis	Jan. 8	1907
20th	Morris	Jan. 14	1908
21st	Clinton	Jan. 12	1909
22nd	Granite City	Jan. 11	1910
23rd	Peru	Jan. 10	1911
24th	Edwardsville	Jan. 9	1912
25th	Ottawa	Jan. 14	1913
26th	Canton	Jan. 13	1914
27th	Mattoon	Jan. 12	1915
28th	Murphysboro	Jan. 11	1916
29th	Bushnell	Jan. 9	1917
30th	Joliet	Jan. 8	1918
31st	Granite City	Jan. 14	1919
32nd	Murphysboro	Jan. 13	1920
33rd	Jacksonville	Jan. 11	1921
34th	Rockford	Jan. 10	1922
35th	Dixon	Jan. 9	1923
36th	Aurora	Jan. 8	1924
37th	Murphysboro	Jan. 13-15	1925
38th	Kewanee	Jan. 12-14	1926
39th	Quincy	Jan. 11-13	1927
40th	Jacksonville	Sept. 13-15	1927
41st	LaSalle	Sept. 11-13	1928
42nd	Joliet	Sept. 10-12	1929
43rd	Peoria	Sept. 9-11	1930
44th	Murphysboro	Sept. 8-10	1931
45th	Decatur	Sept. 13-15	1932
46th	Quincy	Oct. 17-19	1933
47th	Granite City	Oct. 16-18	1934
48th	Waukegan	Oct. 15-17	1935
49th	Pekin	Oct. 13-15	1936

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION Annual Meetings/Conferences

Number	City/Town	Date/Dates	Year
50th	Danville	Oct. 12-14	1937
51st	Peoria	Oct. 18-20	1938
52nd	Kankakee	Oct. 17-19	1939
53rd	Murphysboro	Oct. 15-17	1940
54th	Bloomington	Oct. 14-16	1941
55th	Jacksonville	Oct. 13-15	1942
56th	Quincy	Oct. 15-17	1946
57th	Mt. Vernon	Oct. 17-19	1947
58th	Rockford	Oct. 14-16	1948
59th	Rock Island	Oct. 20-22	1949
60th	Alton	Oct. 19-21	1950
61st	Chicago	Oct. 2-4	1951
62nd	Peoria	Oct. 29-31	1952
63rd	Bloomington	Oct. 14-16	1953
64th	Evanston	Oct. 12-14	1954
65th	Mattoon	Oct. 20-22	1955
66th	Springfield	Oct. 23-25	1956
67th	Taylorville	Oct. 15-17	1957
68th	Joliet	Oct. 21-23	1958
69th	Carbondale	Oct. 20-22	1959
70th	Springfield	Oct. 31/Nov. 1, 2	1960
71st	Peoria	Oct. 24-26	1961
72nd	Decatur	Oct. 22-24	1962
73rd	Carbondale	Oct. 21-23	1963
74th	Peoria	Oct. 15-17	1964
75th	Waukegan	Sept. 30/Oct. 1, 2	1965
76th	Alton	Oct. 6-8	1966
77th	Peoria	Oct. 2-4	1967
78th	Dolton	Sept. 20-22	1968
79th	Carbondale	Sept. 12-14	1969
80th	Waukegan	Sept. 11-13	1970
81st	Belleville	Aug. 20-22	1971
82nd	Rock Island	Sept. 20-22	1972
83rd	Crete	Sept. 21-23	1973
84th	Decatur	Nov. 1-3	1974
85th	Collinsville	Sept. 26-28	1975
86th	Rockton	Oct. 22-24	1976
87th	Peoria	Oct. 21-23	1977
88th	Rock Island	Sept. 15-17	1978
89th	Harvey	Oct. 19-21	1979
90th	Collinsville	Oct. 17-19	1980
91st	Chicago	Sept. 25-27	1981
92nd	Peoria	Oct. 22-24	1982
93rd	Peoria	Aug. 26-28	1983
94th	Peoria	Aug. 24-26	1984
95th	Decatur	Sept. 13-15	1985
96th	Decatur	Oct. 3-5	1986
97th	Harvey	Oct. 23-25	1987
98th	Harvey	Nov. 4-6	1988
99th	Collinsville	Oct. 27-29	1989

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION
Annual Meetings/Conferences

Number	City/Town	Date/Dates	Year
100th	Collinsville	Oct. 19-21	1990
101st	Moline	Oct. 11-13	1991
102nd	Moline	Oct. 16-18	1992
103rd	Decatur	Oct. 22-24	1993
104th	Decatur	Nov. 4-6	1994
105th	Peoria	Sept. 22-24	1995
106th	Peoria	Oct. 26-28	1996
107th	Moline	Sept. 26-28	1997
108th	Collinsville	Sept. 25-27	1998
109th	Collinsville	Oct. 22-24	1999
110th	Collinsville	Oct. 20-22	2000
111th	Peoria	Oct. 26-28	2001
112th	Peoria	Oct. 25-27	2002
113th	Champaign	Sept. 12-14	2003
114th	Champaign	Oct. 1-3	2004
115th	Champaign	Oct. 14-16	2005
116th	Champaign	Sept. 29 – Oct. 1	2006
117th	Champaign	Sept. 21-23	2007
118th	Champaign	Sept. 23-25	2008
119th	Champaign	Oct. 23-25	2009
120th	Champaign	Oct. 8-10	2010
121st	Champaign	Oct. 7-9	2011
122nd	Champaign	Oct. 4-7	2012
123rd	Champaign	Oct. 10-13	2013
124th	Champaign	Oct. 17-19	2014
125th	Champaign	Oct. 15-18	2015
126th	Champaign	Oct. 13-16	2016
127th	Champaign	Oct. 19-22	2017
128th	Champaign	Oct. 18-21	2018
129th	Champaign	Oct. 24-27	2019



ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE Chronological List of Events

- 1925
June - 16 Opening of Illinois Fire College, at University of Illinois, Champaign; IFA primary sponsoring organization.
- 1926
June Three firefighters spoke at College.
- 1928 \$10,000 appropriated to IFA used to build first permanent training tower and smoke house, 6th & Haley Streets.
- 1952
Nov. - 21 First firefighting instructor training program offered.
- 1953
Nov. - 12 Division of University Extension (U of I) formed
- 1955 Five regional officer training schools set up. First held at Lanark, April 5.
- 1956 Lobbying by IFA generated \$75,000 additional budget for Fire Marshal's Office. FMO agreed to reimburse U of I for cost of conducting schools. First funds remitted.
- 1957
July Firemanship Training Section, result of Div. of U Extension contract.
Oct. J. I. Fetters named director of FTS.
- 1958 Training Tower torn down to make way for English Teacher organizational building.
- Oct. - 1 First full-time instructor hired.
- 1961 U of I purchased present site of 21 acres.
- 1963
April 1 Gerald E. Monigold hired as new director; he and Charles Kobler first faculty with degrees.
- 1965 Fire Prevention Fund channeled through Department of Public Safety \$125,000 appropriation for construction.
- 1968 \$40,000 needed to block in tower skeleton and install doors/windows, electricity.
- 1970 \$15,000 appropriated for inside work.
- 1974 Firemanship Training Section made part of university-wide extension program.
- 1976 Division of University Extension reorganized. Firemanship Training Section reorganized into Illinois Fire Service Institute.

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE— Chronological List of Events (continued)

1979 201 of 217 programs held at locations other than U of I, Champaign campus.

1980

July - 1 Senate Bill 1344 passed, providing for direct appropriations to U of I to conduct fire training programs.

1988 Illinois Fire Service Institute staff includes eleven full-time faculty and sixty-five part-time instructors, all practicing firefighters and officers.

1990

Terry Sutphen – Instructor – IFSI – presented an “Apparatus Prevention Maintenance & Service Testing As It Relates to Safety” workshop at our 100th Annual Conference in Collinsville, IL.

Gerald “Jerry” Monigold, Executive Director of IFSI, was present as well.

1993

Jerry Monigold, Executive Director, and Dan Williams, Deputy Director, of IFSI, presented A Forum on Hazardous Materials workshop at our 103rd Annual Conference in Decatur, IL.

1996

James Straseske, Acting Director of IFSI, gave an Institute update at our 106th Annual Conference in Peoria, IL.

1997

Colonel Richard Jaehne, Executive Director of ISFI, was keynote speaker at our 107th Annual Conference in Moline, IL, “Illinois Fire Service in the 21st Century: What We Can Look Forward To”.

1998

Colonel Richard Jaehne, Executive Director of ISFI, gave an Institute update at our 108th Annual Conference in Collinsville, IL, on improvements, vision & training goals of IFSI.

1999

Dave Clark, Representative from IFSI, gave an Institute update at our 109th Annual Conference in Collinsville, IL, and shared IFSI’s “Basic Points of Mission”.

2000

The IFA partnered with the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Illinois Fire Service Institute introduced the Illinois Fire College in which reimbursable classes were offered to Illinois firefighters.

2001

The IFSI introduced the “Cornerstone Program” which is a reimbursable program that offers various fire service trainings to Illinois firefighters. This was also the introduction of a partnership with the IFA and IFSI with the “Down & Dirty” CD set that was sent to member departments, so that IFSI training could be shared back home at member department, especially to the firefighters that were not able to take advantage of the training at our annual conference.

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE—Chronological List of Events (continued)

2002

IFSI explained the development of the “Down & Dirty” CDs; combined efforts with IFSI and the IFA Executive Board. Cornerstone and Homeland Security Program still in existence, but funding is at a lull. HazMat awareness is available on-line and at no cost.

2004

The IFA decided to form a special partnership with the Illinois Fire Service Institute (which is Illinois’ State Fire Academy) which began the “Down & Dirty” Firefighter Weekend. It consisted of a combination of classroom and “hands-on” training in which the IFA member departments were able to receive training from the IFSI instructors and full use of the academy facility for training.

2005

The partnership between IFA and IFSI grew closer with the 2nd Down & Dirty Firefighter Conference, in addition to CD program.

2006

The 2006 conference continued the partnership with IFSI with over 50,000 people in the State that have been trained through IFSI since last conference, the State of Florida asked permission to have the Down Dirty CD/DVD program distributed in their State. In return, University of Florida offered on-line bachelor’s degree program in Fire Science at the Florida in-state tuition rate. The IFSI library has expanded in the international network of fire service libraries so information can be obtained from all over the world.

2007

IFSI discussed a plan to have firefighter awareness training surrounding ethanol plants. There were 100 million bushels of ethanol moving in and out of processing plants.

2008

IFSI worked with the aerial apparatus manufacturer's factories to develop an addition training disc for the Down & Dirty DVD program. The apparatus manufacturers asked if copies of the DVDs could be supplied every time, they sold new aerial apparatus as they found this to be a great training aid. A new CD on Fire Attack is the next project for the Down & Dirty CD/DVD program. Videos provided on the ISFI website for Ethanol and foam training. IFSI expanded international training relations with China.

2010 and Beyond...

The Cornerstone Program became an official line item to the State Fire Marshal budget. Fires On The Farm were added to the Cornerstone Program.

IFSI added Crude Oil by Rail Awareness and Ops Courses.

New Grain Bin Rescue training being rolled out.

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER

Are you an *active* MEMBER
The kind that would be missed
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list.

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd
Or do you stay at home
And crab both long and loud.

Do you take an active part
To help the Fire Department along,
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belong.

There's quite a program scheduled
That means success if done
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meeting pronto
And help with hands and heart
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.

Think this thing over, member
Are we right or are we wrong?
Are you an ACTIVE MEMBER
Or do you just belong.

Author unknown

