

Illinois Fire Service Conference (IFSC 2024)

Presented by IFCA & IAFFD

September 15-18, 2024



General Information

Venue

We return to the Peoria Civic Center using 100,000 square feet of exhibit hall space and another 20,000 SF of meeting space to accommodate the education program and a larger audience that is anticipated with the event partnership with IL Fire Chiefs Association. Conveniently located within walking distance of each of the downtown hotels or a short drive from East Peoria.



Education

The IFSC 2024 schedule presents 3 days of programming, 4 separate tracks, (Trustees, Leadership, EMS & Pension), 20 Timely Topics and roughly 20 participating speakers!

Tradeshow

The tradeshow is open to all registered attendees Monday, 12:00 pm to 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday, 11:30 am-2:00 pm. Name badges are required for entry onto the tradeshow floor.

Hotel Information

The Marriott Pere Marquette and Courtyard hotel properties have a group rate (\$161) available until August 14. The blocks will open with registration in July and a link for making reservations will be posted on the posted on the IFCA and IAFFD websites. Cancellation fees may apply. Attendees should limit their booking to only those who have confirmed their travel plans.



Guest, Spouse and Family Registration

IFSC Conference welcomes family and/or guests to walk the tradeshow and take part in the other social gatherings being offered. Guests can register separately or added to the fire district's registration but must be affiliated with a member of the fire department and not a commercial business. Watch for more details on scheduled activities and area information.

Essential Trustee Training

This is an IAFFD exclusive 12-hour training program highly recommended for all members of the Board of Trustees, but open to anyone with a desire to learn the roles and responsibilities of fire protection district administration. Trustees who complete the entire ETT Program under 70 ILCS 70/6 are entitled to additional compensation. This program curriculum is developed and presented by attorneys who specialize in local and municipal government.

Pre-registration and an additional fee is required to attend.

- Part 1** Organization & Administration of the FPD
Monday, 9/16/24 - 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Part 2** Finances, Procurement, Legal Liability
Tuesday, 9/17/24 - 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Part 3** Personnel and Human Resources
Wednesday, 9/18/24 - 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

CE Hours for Fire & Pension Trustees

Fire Protection District Trustees (A) Public Act 95-0799 requires trustees who have completed the Essential Trustee Training Program to fulfill a 3-hour annual continued education requirement. **All** sessions presented at the IFSC satisfy this legal training requirement.

Pension Fund Trustees (P) The IAFFD Conference program offers **8 hours** of qualified pension training credit to fulfill the in ethics and pension fund administration. Some of the educational programs at the IFSC meet both the fire and pension board CE requirements.

Tru\$tee Grant\$

The IAFFD Foundation Scholarship program has a Trustee's Grant Program that is available to assist trustee members of the Association who are interested in attending the Annual Conference but may have financial constraints hindering their ability to participate.

The vision of the program is simple:

- to promote education for those serving as an elected or appointed trustee,
- to present opportunities for networking with others tasked with the same role, and
- to provide a venue to learn from the experts who provide resources, specialty services, and fire equipment utilized by the fire services.

The Foundation's Trustee Grant may award up to \$500.00 per recipient for the 2023 Annual Conference. Some restrictions apply and all applications will be considered. For more details and application, visit IAFFD.org

Special Events

Fire Service Memorial

Sunday, 9/15 at 6:00 pm

This special dedication pays tribute to fallen firefighters and other members of the Illinois fire service who have passed away during the past year. To include a person on the necrology and program, please be sure to **notify IAFFPD or IFCA before August 15.**

Tired Travelers Welcome Reception

Sunday, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Welcome to IFSC 2024! This is an opportunity to unwind after a long day and gather with attendees at the host hotel. Complimentary food and beverage provided.

Flag Raising Ceremony

Monday at 7:30 am

The tribute to our beautiful country presented by two local fire departments. The trucks and flag are on Fulton Street outside the facility (weather permitting) just before the opening session. A perfect group photo backdrop!



Wheels O'Time Museum Tour & Reception

Tuesday, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Conference attendees and guests are welcome and invited to hop on board a bus and take a 15 minute drive to the small town of Dunlap to visit the Wheels O'Time Museum where they showcase life in the twentieth century. This unique venue has multiple buildings and various themed exhibits to explore. The Fire House includes cars from the last 60 years including two local fire trucks and an 1855 man-powered pumper. Transportation, snacks and beverage provided.

2024 IFSC Guest Programs

Discover Peoria!

Monday, September 16th 10:45 - Noon

Join our guest speaker from the local visitor's bureau who invites you to Discover Peoria! Guests will find resources to help them plan their stay. Learn a little about Peoria's rich history, great shopping, local dining, and more. Make plans with long-time friends and find some new ones.

Canvas Work of Art Painting Workshop

Tuesday, September 17th 10:30 am-Noon

Join other guests Tuesday morning for an art lesson and creative expression with local artist, Jody Tockes, owner of The Hive Studio located on the Peoria Riverfront. The workshop fee is \$45 which covers the 12x12 canvas, all materials, and instruction. Pre-registration is required.



IFSC 2024 AT A GLANCE

Sunday 9/15	EVENT / PROGRAM
Noon - 6:00 pm	Registration Open
6:00 pm	Fire Service Memorial
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Tired Travelers Reception
Monday, 9/16	
7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration Open w/Coffee & Donuts
7:30 am	Flag Raising Ceremony - Conference Kickoff
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	ETT Part 1: Organization & Administration
8:15 am - 9:15 am	Opening Ceremony w/ Keynote: Ignite Your Leadership Potential
9:30 am - 11:45 am	Breakouts Sessions
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	Discover Peoria (Guest Program) w/CVB
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch in the Exhibit Hall
12:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Tradeshow Open
4:30 pm	Evening on your own
Tuesday 9/17	
7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration Open w/ Coffee & Pastries
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	ETT Part 2: Finance Procurement & Legal Liability
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Keynote: One Degree of Difference
9:45 am - 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Canvas Painting Workshop (Guest Program) hosted by IAFFPD Auxiliary
11:30 am - 1:45 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch w/vendors
1:15 pm	IAFFPD Membership Meeting & Awards Presentation
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	General Session Flash Point: Forge a Winning Team Culture
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	Breakout Sessions
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Vendor Hosted Hospitality
5:30 pm - 10:00 pm	IFCA Installation Banquet
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Wheels of Time Museum - (bus boards at 6pm)
Wednesday 9/18	
7:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration Open
7:00 am - 8:30 am	Coffee, Donuts & Pastries
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	ETT Part 3: Personnel & Human Resources
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Breakfast w/program - Affiliate Updates?
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Attorney Forum
10:15 am - 11:00 am	Legislative Reports
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Wrap Up with the Conference Leaders

**REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.IAFFPD.ORG**

Register before August 15th for great savings!

Illinois Fire Service Conference Agenda

Working Together For a Better Tomorrow

Sunday, September 15

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Pere Marquette Lobby

- Registration Open

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Pere Marquette Salon B

- Fire Service Memorial

7:00 pm - 9:00 pmPere Cotillion

- Tired Travelers Reception

Monday, September 16

7:00 am - 3:00 pmPeoria Civic Center Box Office Lobby

- Registration Open

7:00 am - 8:15 am..... Room 400 Hall D

- Continental Breakfast

7:30 am - 8:00 am..... Fulton Street

- Flag Raising Ceremony

8:00 am - 12:00 pmPCC 407-408

- **Essential Trustee Training Part 1: Organization & Administration**

Speaker: Jim Sinclair, Stobbs & Sinclair, Ltd.

The ETT program is given in three parts. Part 1 deals with administrative matters and ongoing requirements for fire protection district boards and administrators with a focus on the Annual Calendar and Checklist issued by the IAFFPD each year. It will be a broad-brush coverage of multiple, and sometimes disparate, topics dealing with fire protection district administration. Attendees must be pre-registered to attend this session.

8:15 am - 9:15 am.....PCC Room 400

- **Opening Ceremony w/ Keynote: Ignite Your Leadership Potential**

Speakers: Damon Schuldt, Ray Larson, PFD Honor Guard & LTC Oakland McCulloch

The official event kickoff with opening remarks followed by a dynamic keynote. Colonel McCulloch's talk is based on his wealth of knowledge and lessons learned during his career as a leader. Oak highlights leadership principles that will benefit today's leaders and inspire the leaders of tomorrow. There is NO discussion of theory in this presentation. We will discuss what every leader can do every day to improve their leadership skills and abilities. We will examine what it



takes to become the leader you were meant to be – a Servant Leader. *About our Speaker:* Retired Lieutenant Colonel Oakland McCulloch is an internationally recognized keynote speaker and the author of the 2021 release, "Your Leadership Legacy: Becoming the Leader You Were Meant to Be." Both his leadership talk, and his book are based on his 40+ years of leadership experience in combat, peacekeeping operations, disaster relief operations and in the board room. Oak highlights principles that will benefit today's leaders and inspire the leaders of tomorrow, in any profession and at any level of leadership.

9:30 am - 10:30 am - ROUND ONE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- **OMA/FOIA: The Latest Opinions & Decisions Interpreting Illinois Sunshine Laws**

Speaker: David K. Livingstone, Madison Co. State's Attorney Office

This program will bring you up to date on the current interpretations on compliance with Illinois' sunshine laws: the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. The latest opinions issued by the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor and decisions from the Illinois courts will be covered, focusing on how those opinions and decisions affect local governments.

- **Cyberattacks**

Erin Stone, Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Did you know that there is one new cyberattack every 39 seconds and that 64% of companies have experienced a cyberattack? Government agencies are in the top five most targeted industries worldwide for cyberattacks. In the ever-changing world of cybersecurity, this session will update you on the latest tricks and schemes that the cybercrooks are using to try to breach your systems. It will also cover current best practices on how to help safeguard your organization.

- **Relentlessly and Leading Relentlessly**

Speaker: Stan Partlow, Relentless Effort, LLC

The focus of this discussion is understanding the reasons leaders fail to become the bosses they they had. The conversation provides insights on making lasting change that will propel the students to become leaders they aspire to be.

- **Mobile Integrated Healthcare**

Speaker: Lt. Eric Christensen, Wauconda Fire Protection District

Mobile Integrated Healthcare – Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) is a program that is beginning to gain traction across the country and specifically in Illinois. MIH-CP is a proactive, preventative approach to prehospital care that is designed to increase efficiencies in EMS and 911 calls, better treat patients who are chronically ill and who use 911 to mitigate their chronic health conditions, and expand the level of care that paramedics provide to their respective communities. MIH-CP programs are designed with community service in mind and leveraging local resources and relationships to improve patient outcomes and more effectively utilize community and 911 services.

10:30 am - 10:45 am

- **BREAK**

Monday, Sept. 16 Continued

10:45 am - 11:45 am - ROUND TWO BREAKOUT SESSIONS

■ **Basic FLSA & Wage/Hour Issues**

Speaker: Karl R. Ottosen, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Casaldo, Ltd.
What is the FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act) and how does it apply to my fire district? Karl Ottosen will provide an overview of the FLSA and other State and Federal laws impacting the compensation and work hours of firefighters. He will discuss how each such law impacts fire departments of different sizes.

■ **Winning Attitude = Results**

Speaker: LTC Oakland McCulloch
Retired Lieutenant Colonel Oakland McCulloch has 40 + years of leadership experience, in Combat, Peacekeeping Operations, Disaster Relief and in the Board Room. His "Arm Yourself for Success" talk is based on his wealth of knowledge and lessons learned in coaching, teaching, and mentoring people during years as a leader. Oak highlights principles that will help you be a more successful person at work and in your personal life. In this talk we will covers the following areas to help you reach your potential: How to establish and Achieve Your Goals; How to establish Good Habits and Self-Discipline; The importance of and how to Develop a Winning Attitude; How to Overcome Your Fears; The importance of and how to Make Good Decisions; How to Get Results

■ **Emergency Physician Integration without a Hospital EMS**

Speaker: Dr. Benjamin Feinzimer, EMS Highland Park
Take a former field provider, an inviting group of Fire Chiefs, EMTs, and paramedics, and a willing donor, and you have the ingredients for a successful physician response program. Dr. Feinzimer will describe the pitfalls and successes should your system wish to build its own. From maximizing field care to changing SOPs with greater efficiency to improving relationships between pre- and in-hospital providers Dr. Feinzimer will share his passion for this growing field of emergency medicine.

■ **Anatomy of a Pension Benefit Calculation**

Speaker: Jessica Doogan, Lauterbach and Amen
What goes into the calculation of a pension benefit calculation? Learn the basic components of the various pension benefit calculations for firefighters and their survivors, as well as the steps that should be taken to ensure each component is accurate before the calculation is completed. This session will also cover some of the challenges in getting accurate information for benefit calculations, as well as the address some of the unanswered questions regarding Tier 2 benefit calculations.

12:00 - 1:30 pm

- **Lunch in the Exhibit Hall**

12:00 - 4:30 pm

- **Tradeshow Open (Bar Opens at 3:00 pm)**

- **Evening on your own**

Tuesday, September 17

7:00 am - 4:00 pm BOX OFFICE LOBBY

- **Registration Open & Coffee & Pastries**

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

■ **Essential Trustee Training Part 2: Finance Procurement & Legal Liability**

Speaker: Jim Sinclair, Stobbs & Sinclair, Ltd.
The second portion of the Essential Trustee Training Program will cover financial matters, including budgets, levies, financial reporting and other topics pertinent to the financial management of the fire protection district. Also covered will be procurement issues and liability matters and risk abatement in the fire service.

8:30 am - 9:30 am 400

■ **Keynote: One Degree of Difference**

Speaker: Frank Viscuso
In this Keynote, Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso, ret. will discuss the four stages of personal growth and team development (Incipient, Growth, Fully Developed, and Decay) and explain how individuals or teams may be one degree away from reaching their full potential. This is an informational and inspiring keynote speech that will help you understand why some people succeed and other struggle to achieve their goals.



About our Speaker: Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso served more than 26 years at the Kearny, NJ Fire Department. He is a columnist for Fire Engineering and Fire Rescue magazines and the author of several books, including the best-sellers: *Step Up and Lead*, *Step Up Your Teamwork*, *Common Valor*, and *Flash Point*.

9:30 am - 9:45 am

- **BREAK**

9:45 am - 10:45 am - ROUND THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

■ **Operating in a Time of Increased Cost and Declining Revenues**

Speaker: Shawn Flaherty, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Casaldo, Ltd.
How are fire protection district boards coping with increasing costs, flattened revenues, and ever-increasing unfunded mandates? It isn't easy. PTELL, Tax Caps, Rate Caps, TIFs and Enterprise Zones will be among the subjects discussed and revenue enhancers will also be reviewed.

Tuesday, Sept. 17 Continued

9:45 am - 10:45 am - ROUND THREE BREAKOUT SESSIONS CONT.

■ **Lessons Learned from the Highland Park Active Shooter Incident**

Speaker: Chief Joe Schrage, City of Highland Park

Tragically, on July 4, 2022, the City of Highland Park experienced an event that no community should ever have to endure. While celebrating patriotism and hometown pride during an Independence Day parade, a shooter on a roof rifled 83 rounds into the crowd killing 7 with 48 others wounded by bullets or shrapnel. 12 on-duty, Chief Schrage and 6 off-duty Highland Park Firefighters were in the parade. They immediately responded to triage, treat and transport the victims. Two additional firefighters responded to the scene from home. Decisions and actions, early in the incident, kept the incident from being more tragic. The quick actions of Police officers, Firefighters, and civilians saved lives. The responding fire department members have been recognized by the City of Highland Park, Illinois Tactical Officers Association, The Hundred Club of IllChiefinois and the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal with medals of valor.

■ **The Importance of Formal Research and Development in EMS**

Speaker: Scott Renshaw, Buffalo Grove FD

Innovation in EMS is rapid, exciting, and sometimes scary. Current products, medications and procedures are constantly evolving with new items being developed faster than we can seemingly keep track of. How do we make sure that what we currently use in the field is the latest & greatest? How do we take advantage of emerging technologies? How do we make sure that these new items are safe, for both us and our patients? Having a robust Research & Development process in-place takes the guesswork out of the evaluation process and provides a framework to identify, trial and ultimately incorporate these new tools into our day-to-day operations.

■ **Pension Case Law Update**

Speaker: Meganne Trela, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Casaldo, Ltd.

Illinois courts regularly issue opinions in cases involving the award or denial of pension benefits under Article 4 of the Pension Code, as well as other matters relevant to pension funds. This program will review recent cases issued by the courts since the last Conference. These court decisions become binding on pension boards in carrying out their administrative duties, making this a must program for all Article 4 pension fund trustees

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - BREAKOUT SESSIONS ROUND FOUR

■ **Nuts and Bolts Program**

Speaker: John T. Brady, Attorney at Law

This is a "back to basics" program for fire protection district trustees and administrative personnel. It will cover recurring mistakes made by districts in the administration of their district and how to avoid those errors which can be avoided by diligent administration of the district's finances and recurring requirements.

■ **NFPA 1582 - A Wholistic Discussion**

Speaker: Michael Connor, Front Line & Jim Kubinski, Killeen FD (TX)

The discussion will include changes to the NFPA 1582 and how to implement a new program or keep a currently implemented program running successfully.

■ **GEMT**

Speaker: Phil Giannattasio, Naperville FD

The presentation will focus on the essential steps to start and maintain status with the GEMT program. We will also cover best practices for cost recovery related to GEMT, do's and don't's regarding the cost report and billing ordinances, and we may hit some rule /legislative changes that will or could impact GEMT.

■ **IFPIF Update on the Investment Portfolio & Operational Issues**

Speakers: William Atwood, IFPIF & Carolyn Clifford. Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Casaldo, Ltd.

Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund of Illinois continues to build out its long-term asset allocation for the consolidated investment portfolio of the Article 4 funds This session will provide an overview of the newest investment components and insights behind those portfolio decisions. An update on operational issues, such as the ongoing FPIF compliance examinations and actuarial valuations, will also be provided.

11:30 am - 1:45 pm

■ **Exhibit Hall Open**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

■ **Lunch #2 w/vendors**

1:15 pm

■ **IAPFD Membership Meeting & Awards Presentation**

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held in conjunction with the IFSC. Membership Credentials Certification is required to vote at the Annual Meeting and these forms were mailed directly to District's office. One vote per District by Credentials or by Proxy. IAPFD will also use this opportunity to present the Trustee's Years of Service recognition.

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

■ **Flash Point: Forge a Winning Team Culture**

Speaker: Frank Viscuso

This impactful program will discuss the four stages of personal growth and team development (Incipient, Growth, Fully Developed, and Decay) and explain how individuals or teams may be one degree away from reaching their full potential. This is an informational and inspiring keynote speech that will help attendees understand why some people succeed and other struggle to achieve their goals.

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm

■ **Beverages & Snacks**

Tuesday, Sept. 17 Continued

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm - BREAKOUT SESSIONS ROUND FIVE

■ **IL OSHA Compliance & Striking Balance**

Speakers: Eric Kambarian, Illinois OSHA and Jim Sinclair

This program will inform attendees regarding new rules and developments in the Illinois OSHA regulatory system. The program will also focus on the resources for fire departments to improve learning from incidents and fatalities

■ **Generational Gap Issues**

Speakers: Joe Miller & Megan Lamb, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Casaldo, Ltd.

Boomers, Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z members are all working together in your fire department. Learn about what makes each generation tick and gain insight in how all these age groups can better work together for the betterment of your department.

■ **IDPH Recruitment and Retention Committee Round Table**

Speakers: Charles Kelley, Medstar Ambulance and Kim Godden, Superior Air Ground Ambulance Service

Current legislation efforts and EMS Recruitment & Retention trends in Illinois.

■ **Navigating Pension Benefits Quirks and Challenges**

Speaker: John Motylinski, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Casaldo, Ltd.

The evaluation and award of retirement and disability benefits may appear to be a routine matter. However, the reality is that the Illinois Pension Code is complex, which results in sometimes strange outcomes. A review of some of these unique issues is the focus of this presentation.

5:30 pm - 10:00 pm

■ **IFCA Installation Banquet Pere Marquette Hotel**

This dinner event recognizes the IFCA 2023-2024 Board of Directors and President Stycznski for their work this past year along with presenting the annual IFCA awards and installing the 2024-2025 Board of Directors.

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

■ **Wheels of Time Museum - (bus boards at 6pm)**

"Conference attendees and guests are welcome and invited to hop on board a bus and take a 15 minute drive to the small town of Dunlap to visit the Wheels O'Time Museum where they showcase life in the twentieth century. This unique venue has multiple buildings and various themed exhibits to explore. The Fire House includes cars from the last 60 years including two local fire trucks and an 1855 man-powered pumper. Transportation, snacks and beverage provided."

Wednesday, September 18

All sessions on Wednesday will be held at the Pere Marquette Hotel

7:00 am - 9:00 am..... Pere Marquette Lobby

■ **Registration Open**

8:00 am - 12:00 pmPere Marquette Hotel

■ **Essential Trustee Training Part 3: Personnel & Human Resources**

Speaker: Shawn Flaherty, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

This portion of the ETT program will focus on one of the most important topics in fire protection district administration: personnel. It will discuss the appropriate manner for fire protection district boards to administer their personnel in both career and non-career settings. You must be pre-registered to attend this session."

8:00 am - 9:00 am

■ **Breakfast with Program - Affiliate Updates**

- ✓ Office of the State Fire Marshal (*JC Fultz*)
- ✓ Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals (*Kris Murphy*)
- ✓ MABAS-IL (*Don Davids*)
- ✓ Illinois Fire Service Institute (*Jim Keiken*)
- ✓ Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts (*Cheri Breneman*)
- ✓ Illinois Fire Chiefs Association – (*John Buckley & Chad Hoefle*)

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Attorney Forum (New Time, Same Great Discussion!)

Speaker: Panel of Attorneys

This program, a longtime conference tradition, will provide attendees the opportunity to pose questions to attorneys from around the state

10:00 am - 10:15 am

■ **BREAK**

10:15 am - 11:00 am

■ **Legislative Reports**

Speakers: Jim Sinclair/John Buckley/Brittan Bolin

This program will assess the spring legislative session of the Illinois General Assembly with a focus on bills passed and sent to the Governor. It will also discuss fire service proposals in the spring session and how they fared and what is planned regarding those initiatives that did not pass in the spring session.

11:00 am - 11:30 am

■ **Wrap Up with the Conference Leaders**

Speakers: Damon Schuldt, Ray Larson, Ken Yeakley, Tim Leidig