

IFIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE



As February rounds the corner for 2015 we have been very busy as a Board.

Our first Combined Educational Conference is shaping up and we are hopeful that it will be a HUGE success. Please make sure you register early, before March 15, to take advantage of reduced registration rates, and hotel room rates. The conference runs from April 29 to May 1, 2015. There will be a Weary Travelers event on Tuesday, April 28th. There are still vendor spaces available, and any sponsorships would be welcome. Please reserve the dates and register now. [A preconference flyer can be found at this link](#). This will give you a detailed view of the conference this year. As there are classes for investigators, inspectors, educators, and juvenile firesetter interventionist, please forward this to everyone in your organization, and to neighboring departments as well.

In January the IFIA renewed their contract with Marquardt and Associates, who are our legislative lobbyist's. During 2014 Marquardt was instrumental in providing us with information on legislation in Springfield, educating us on how to accomplish educational goals, and advised us on issues that may have impacted us through legislation.

In 2015, the IFIA has approached Marquardt to submit legislation on behalf of our organization. The two items that we are currently working on is continuing education requirements for Fire Prevention personnel, and licensing/certification requirements for kitchen exhaust (hood/duct) cleaning companies. Both initiatives were brought to the Board through the Codes and Standards Committee over the past several years. After long discussions we felt it was now appropriate to move them forward. Both initiatives were brought to the Fire Services Association Legislative Summit in October. The Fire Services Association is comprised of 14 major fire service organizations in Illinois. Our kitchen exhaust initiative was approved by the Fire Services Association to be part of a fire caucus bill. Now the work begins on data collection, requirements that IFIA would like to include in the legislation, etc. Our second initiative, continuing education, was discussed also and the Fire Services Association directed the Office of the State Fire Marshal to work with us to create these requirements.

With the recent changes that have occurred in Springfield, we don't know what the political climate will be, however Marquardt will work very diligently on our causes, keeping us informed, and building our political base. Other initiatives continue to be discussed at the Board level and unfortunately there are no guarantees on success.

In September 2014 we had our annual Golf Outing at Silver Lakes Country Club, in Orland Park. We had a good turnout, but like all other organizations turn-out was down. We discussed, in concept, with the Illinois Automatic Fire Alarm Association about combining our resources and having one larger golf outing, instead of each group running their own. IL-AFAA approved the concept. We are proud to announce that the first IFIA/IL-AFAA Combined Golf Outing will be held on June 10, 2015 at White Pines Golf Course in Bensenville Illinois. Both IL-AFAA and we are looking for volunteers to help build this outing into something really special. Please contact IL-AFAA or the IFIA for out for more information, registration, and sponsorship opportunities.

Prior to our January membership meeting we received a correspondence from the OSFM regarding a company who was servicing and tagging fire extinguishers without a license. This just reminds us that we all need to be diligent in our inspections, verifying that qualified companies and personnel were performing the work at hand. If you have a situation where you feel the company or person isn't qualified, contact the OSFM as a resource to verify licenses, and notify the IFIA so we can notify other jurisdictions.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to work on our committees, our golf outing, our combined conference, and holiday party. If interested in volunteering, please contact our office so we can get you started and involved. Our success is due to the involvement of all of you.

The Suburban Building Officials are hosting a conference in March. Many of the topics planned to be presented might be of interest to our members. [Follow this link for more information](#).

A notice from UL warns of counterfeit fire sprinkler & UL Marks on LED lamps & power supplies. Note the releases for the following items.

- 1) UL Warns of Counterfeit UL Mark on LED Lamps ([Release 14PN-25](#))
- 2) UL Warns of Counterfeit Fire Sprinkler ([Release 14PN-18](#))
- 3) UL Warns of Counterfeit UL Mark on Power Supply ([Release 14PN-22](#))