



Official Publication of the Illinois Association of Retired Firefighters

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IARF Quarterly Meetings 2017-2018

Northern District Fall Meeting Location

Saturday October 28, 2017
Parasol Room-Evanston City Hall
2100 Ridge Ave. Evanston, IL

Central District Meeting Location

Saturday January 27, 2018
GE/Union Park
1750 General Electric Road Bloomington, IL

Southern District Location

Saturday April 28, 2018
C.K. & L Country Club
2800 N. Illinois St. Belleville, IL

Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic

Saturday July 28th, 2018
ITOO Hall
4909 Farmington Road Peoria, IL

PAST OFFICERS

Darrell "Dude" Meisinger
5331 Illinois Rt. 29, Green Valley, IL 61534

Tom Jackson, Treasurer/Emeritus
3726 W. Eagle Point Dr., Peoria, IL 61615

Herman Brooks, President
2109 W. Jubilee Lane Dunlap, IL 61525

Fred Bruss, President
309 Silverthrone Drive Freeburg, IL 62243

John Dickson, Trustee/Treasurer
3357 W. Lexington Ct., Peoria, IL 61615

George "Brunch" Lehman, Trustee
3300 Randy Road, Joliet, IL 60435

Keith Park, Vice President
2353 Hollands Grove, Washington, IL 61571

Don VanScoyoc, Trustee
3509 W. Lodi Court, Peoria, IL 61615

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President's Message

Jim Schrepfer, President I.A.R.F. **WHAT DO I GET FOR MY \$10 DUES?**



Brothers and Sisters, Since being elected President, I have been driving around the State visiting clubs and attending their regularly scheduled meetings. Since I travel on my own dime (receiving neither mileage of per

diem), I have been able to attend a couple club meetings a year. To date, I have dined with Urbana-Champaign, Peoria, Danville, Galesburg, Moline, East Moline, Rock Island, Bloomington-Normal, enjoyed a breakfast with Rockford's President and Secretary and a lunch with Jacksonville's President. That's 10 down and 15 to go. Vice President George Bode has also met with Elgin, Skokie, and Joliet.

The two most frequent question that I get asked are: "Why did the IARF raise the dues from \$2 to \$10 per year?" and "What do I get for my \$10?" The first part of the question is pretty simple. The IARF raised the dues from \$2 to \$10 because we had a severe negative cash flow. Magazine ad sales had fallen off, members, who were not affiliated with clubs had stopped paying dues, and printing costs increased. Our dues had been at \$2 per year since our inception in 1982 and per capita to The AFFI has risen to \$24,000 per year.

- Your \$10 per year gets you membership in the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois-an organization that is in Springfield fighting for your pension. \$1 of your \$10 goes to the AFFI PAC Fund which helps pay for yard signs, door knockers, flyers, and other campaign

material needed to get our friends elected. These "Friends" are legislators who will vote to protect your pension.

- Your \$10 per year gets you 2 magazines per year that hopefully are filled with articles that will assist you in retirement. The IARF has reached out to organizations to write these articles to help you financially, emotionally, politically, and fraternally. I hope you have noticed the increase in quality and take the time to read the articles.

- Your \$10 per year gets you free food and drinks. The IARF Executive Board has made an effort to spread our quarterly meetings among all three districts. The Spring meeting is always in the South, the Fall meeting is always in the North, and Winter and Summer are centrally located in Bloomington and Peoria. If you choose to attend the quarterly meetings, you enjoy four catered lunches. If you decide to only attend the one in your district, you still get one free meal. I have noticed an increase in attendance and I sincerely hope more members will start attending the social hour/quarterly meeting/lunch and enjoy the comradery that I feel whenever fire fighters get together. You are all welcome to attend. Dates, times, and location are in this magazine.

I am happy to announce that our finances are improving. We are working with the magazine telemarketers to increase sales. We have done a better job of collecting dues from our members. We have significantly cut our costs for printing the magazine and are adhering to an austere budget.

May God Bless You and hope to see you soon!

Fraternally in Solidarity,
Jim Schrepfer, President IARF



Memorial to Bob Sullivan

President Emeritus I.A.R.F.

First of all, a most sincere message of gratitude to the many retirees from around the state that came to Bob Sullivan's memorial service. It was a deserving tribute to a man who worked so hard to help countless numbers of working families. There were many great stories shared about Bob by both family and friends.

When I was in training with three other recruits in 1975, Bob Sullivan was the President of Decatur Firefighters Local 505 and spoke to us about becoming a member of the Union. While I have forgotten most of what he told us, the one thing that has stuck with me is, "if we don't look out for ourselves (meaning Local 505), don't think anyone else (meaning the City of Decatur) will look out for us!" In our negotiations over the 33 years I was a member of Local 505, he was exactly right. The same holds true today for all retirees of the fire service and our families.

As Bob's health began to decline, he decided to give up his role as President of the Decatur Association of Retired Firefighters. No one, and I mean no one, felt like they could do the job as well as Bob had done for so many years. Out of respect for Bob, I accepted the position. I look forward to taking Bob's mantra, but for a larger cause. In Decatur we will join with the AFFI and the IARF to "look-out for Illinois retirees."

For all of the years, I had been a member, Bob opened the meeting at Diamond's Restaurant

by pounding a salt shaker on the table to get everyone's attention. For Christmas that year, my wife purchased a gavel on eBay for me to use at the meetings. How I wished that I had gotten one for Bob to use for all the time he served as President! He deserved better than a salt shaker! My plan is to get it engraved with Bob's name as a memorial for all he did for our club.

After Bob could no longer attend the monthly meetings of the Decatur Association of Retired Firefighters, I would swing by his house and report on all that went on at the meeting. We both enjoyed these visits.

During our February 2017 meeting at Diamond's Restaurant, someone noticed that the Fourth of July fell on the first Tuesday of the month, which is our normal meeting date. After some discussion, we voted to move the meeting a week later to July 11th. As I was relating this information to Bob, the first thing he said was, "Did you talk to anyone from Diamond's restaurant to make sure the meeting room was available on July 11th?" My response was, "Duh, I didn't even think about that!!" To which his reply was, "You might want to do that right away!"

Luckily, I had their number in my cell phone and called them from his house. Fortunately for our club, the date was open, so we were able to book it. The moral of the story is that Bob was still very involved with our meetings even though he was unable to attend them any longer. He will be missed!!

Fraternally, Steve Bingamon, President
Decatur Association of Retired Firefighters

Vice President's Message

George Bode, Vice President I.A.R.F.



I was recently at the Elgin Retirees meeting and heard about an article in their local paper identifying Arlington Heights Republican State Representative David Harms sponsoring two bills taxing public retiree pensions.

Harms wants a two-tier tax rate. One for those under 65 and a higher rate for those over 65. Another proponent, Natalie Davila of KDM Consulting, wants to rebrand retirement income to another name due to all the emotional visions of hurting a poor aged retiree barely able to survive. The Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois may be another misinformed group attempting to reduce certain retiree benefits. Unfortunately, these individuals are cutting their nose-off despite their face. One day they will face the reality of limited income under mounting expenses. They will be confronted with an even greater tax burden and experience how their self-destructive uninformed proposals did not solve the Illinois budget/revenue problem.

In another matter, across the nation local law-enforcement is being attacked by mobs organized by professional groups. In some of the most terrible cases a police officer or innocent civilian is hurt or worst. Unfortunately, many of these public servants are victims being placed between a rock and a hard place. The Elgin retirees placed a letter of support for the Elgin Police Dept. in the Elgin Courier-News. At the end of their letter the Elgin retirees say: "Law enforcement in America has come under a great deal of scrutiny, much of it unfair and we feel it is time we thank them for a job well done." Back during our days on the job, we were thankful for the police protection at a fire scene, or the size-up they provided as we answered a call, or the professional courtesy extended at public events. A little show of support may help all of us stay united and vigilant against our common adversary.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and I will see you at the next meeting in Evanston. Right?

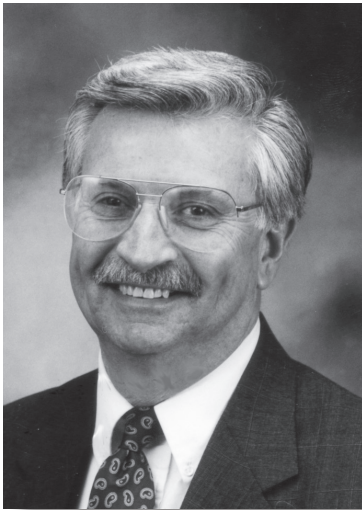
Fraternally Yours,
George Bode

Secretary's Report

Mike Levine, Secretary I.A.R.F.

Secretary's Report: Tribute to Trustee Dude Meisinger

Darrell "Dude" Meisinger has served on the IARF Board as a trustee since January of 2008. He replaced a dynamic retiree, Danny Donald, who had to resign due to an illness. Danny was missed, but Dude became the right man for the job and carried-on in Danny's position with enthusiasm.



We all know him as "Dude." He is now being hospitalized and recently sent his letter of resignation. Dude served on the Pekin Fire Department for twenty-six years and then ten years for the Illinois Office of State Fire Mar-

shall. During his retirement from the Pekin department he also served as retiree club President. Dude worked tirelessly monitoring legislation, standing-up for the issues of working people, and keeping legislators informed.

Dude also was a Tazewell County Board member for over eight years as a Democrat for District 1, and had just won a third four-year term. He was vice-chairman of the property committee, and held seats on the finance, risk management, and executive committees. However busy, Dude always answered or quickly return a call about retiree issues. He could be counted-on to be in Springfield or

anywhere around the state for IARF activities.

We all learn the importance of teamwork in the fire service and Dude continued that tradition supporting the direction of the IARF Executive Board. His example encouraged all members to stay active in their local unions and retiree clubs.

Dude brought a since of trust to the organization. He felt that if any collection of individuals was to become a team, there had to be involvement and encouragement of effort to learn how each other performs. He felt that trust comes from working together and from that comes the confidence in an organization's leadership.

Dude Meisinger's fellowship will certainly be missed, but his legacy continues to motivate the Executive Board. As soon as he returns to good health, we will look forward to his advice and direction.

Remember Evansville on October 28th; Bloomington on January 27, 2018; and Belleville on April 28, 2018.

Submitted by Mike Levine, IARF Secretary

THANKS
to our loyal sponsors
Please support them whenever you can!

Treasurer's Message

Dan Oaks, Treasurer I.A.R.F.



The Canton Fire Department is currently requesting donations for the Howard Strube Memorial Fund. This is a project that is close to many Canton firefighters, including myself.

Canton is a farm community just southwest from Peoria. It was once home to an International Harvester manufacturing plants. The community has struggled since the plant closed.

The fire department has a rich history dating back to the 1800's. With sixteen (16) firefighter members of Local 1897, training remains a high priority to assure the community its fire service will be ready for all calls. Firefighter Howard Strube was a member of my crew. He lost his life during a training exercise. His friendship and commitment to duty will be missed, but never forgotten. Howard's memory remains a symbol of the highest commitment to public service.

The AFFI and the IARF received a letter from Canton Local 1897 President Jay Smith about their attempt to reach-out to the Illinois fire service family to help raise \$50,000 for a perpetual memorial for Howard Strube. The IARF voted unanimous to send a \$500 donation to the Canton Memorial Fund, but more is needed. Anyone wishing to help may send contributions to the Canton Fire Department, c/o Howard Strube Memorial Fund, 101 E. Spruce Street, Canton, Illinois 61520-1946. Or call for information about the fund: (309) 647-0040.

Fraternally,
Dan Oaks

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER



Our disaster relief efforts on the ground in Texas and Louisiana are nothing short of amazing. On behalf of our entire membership and the IAFF Executive Board, I want to thank our members in the disaster zone for their commitment to serving their communities despite dealing with their own personal losses. Literally thousands of our brothers and sisters have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey

The unbelievable destruction wrought by this storm will have a life-changing effect on our members for months to come. The assistance our teams on the ground are providing is just beginning. As of the last briefing, we have processed 147 disaster relief applications – and that number will continue to rise significantly in the coming weeks.



On Friday, our teams made it to Port Arthur, Orange, Nederland, Port Neches and Beaumont. In Louisiana, 14th District Vice President Danny Todd and his team are up and running in the Lake Charles/Sulphur operation center. We have also deployed two teams from our 11th District operation to Beaumont to assist the 14th District with relief efforts, including food, water, clothing and financial assistance.

In the meantime, with the high levels of E. coli following a flood, we have purchased 4,000 Hepatitis-A and 2,000 Tetanus vaccines for our members who have been exposed to toxic waters from the storm, and these will be administered at several regional sites by a physician's clinic group that provides healthcare to local fire departments. In addition, we have distributed the NFORS exposure app for all members in the affected area.

I am so incredibly proud of our leadership and membership who have stepped up to help their brothers and sisters in need as they remain on the frontlines helping others. I couldn't be more impressed by the work of the TSAFF, Houston Local 341, 14th District Vice President Todd and his team at the Lake Charles/Sulphur operations Center, our senior staff on the ground and our Peer Support squad during this very difficult time.

As a reminder, I ask that you please DO NOT self deploy. **The best way you can help on a personal level is by giving to the IAFF Disaster Relief Fund** to ensure our members get the help they need now and as they start to rebuild and recover. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

We will continue to provide more updates in the coming days and weeks.
In Solidarity,

Harold Schaitberger
General President

Peoria Local 50 Firefighters Support One of Our Own



Peoria Local 50 Treasurer, Capt. Mike Lierle, made a presentation at the IARF July Annual meeting for donations to the Peoria Firefighter's Charitable Fund. Over the years, the benevolent efforts of Peoria firefighters have supported "Toys for Tots," MDA, cancer research, local neighborhood assistance programs, and many more community requests for help. But now Peoria's bravest are working with their brothers and sisters from Normal to give direct support for one of the fire community's own. The family of Nick Riordan needs the help of our active and retired Illinois firefighters to cover the medical and daily living expenses while Nick fights to survive stage 4 cancer.

Nick has only a few years on the department and not invested for medical or retirement. His wife, Sarah, is a pediatric nurse but unable to work during her recent pregnancy due to required bedrest. The medical and daily bills continue to pile-up without the sufficient revenue to meet all the family expenses. Nick's brother, Nathan Riordan, is a firefighter paramedic on the Normal Fire Department. The active firefighters on both departments are shaving their heads, wearing bracelets, and raising funds to support the Riordan family.

Just a short time ago Nick watched hundreds of people fill the Knights of Columbus hall at a fundraiser to show solidarity with the father of three who is undergoing chemotherapy. All of his company officers have expressed their admiration for Nick's dedication to the job and positive attitude during his life-threatening diagnosis of neuroendocrine carcinoma. They say that Nick had always arrived to the station with a smile, served with a pleasant manner, and was always motivated to do his best. Nick continues to receive the respect of his fire crew and they look forward to keeping him apart of their team.

He was initially given months to live but his wife, Sarah, while holding their 1-month-old daughter, said they had gone to a doctor in Denver and had gotten some encouraging news. Still, it's an uphill battle with the medical bills, the time off work and just the stress for Nick Riordan, whose children are still too young to understand completely what is going on. "They just know Daddy's sick and taking medicine to get well," he said.

Family and friends have established a "GoFundMe" page called "Relief for the Riordans" at: <https://www.gofundme.com/relief-for-the-riordans>

Nick, we wish you the best in your treatments and your battle. You are not fighting this alone! No one in this family fights alone! Stay strong, brother!

For more information on Nick and his battle, click this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Team-Riordan-Nicks-Crew-1697048810335533/>

More photos are on Peoria Fire Department Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?se=a.1367686769952647.1073741846.113184745402862&type=1&l=f39a0cc0f4>

Trustee's Message

Rocky Fardel, Trustee I.A.R.F.



Retiree's and Spouses,

As summer slowly comes to an end I hope everyone has had a safe and healthy year so far. I'd like to thank the Belleville Retired Firefighter Club for hosting our spring meeting

and doing a great job. I would also like to thank the Peoria Retired Firefighter Club for doing a great job hosting our summer meeting/picnic. This meeting is considered our annual convention where we do the elections of officers and choose the Golf Outing site. Remember any club can host a quarterly meeting.

At the time of writing this article, we are less than two weeks away from the IARF Golf Outing in Pekin. As of right now we have a hand full of teams signed up. Hopefully we'll get several last-minute teams. Any club can request to host the yearly outing. This outing can be a great fundraiser for your club. Some of us smaller clubs, it's the only fundraiser. Let's all try to support this yearly event. If you are not able to put a team together, you can sponsor a hole for a small fee. The IARF and the local clubs can only grow and thrive if they have active participation.

Thank You
Rocky Fardel-Trustee
Iaff524@yahoo.com

Trustee's Message

Joe Swierczek, Trustee I.A.R.F.



IARF Brothers and Sisters,

Fall greetings to everyone. I hope the Pekin Retirees Club had a great golf event on September 13th. The IARF Executive Board would like to

see this activity move around the state and give all our clubs a chance to host this golf event. It provides a great time of fellowship and displays the strength of our organization to all our political friends.

The annual picnic in Peoria was host to a great turnout, very informative, and fantastic food. The quarterly meetings bring together retirees from around the state to meet with local officials and our state legislators.

The Fall meeting will be in Evanston on October 28. Please schedule your time to be there and bring another retiree.

I am on the Sales Committee for the Annual Guns N Hoses Event held in St. Louis, MO. On the night before Thanksgiving. All proceeds benefit the Backstoppers Organization. If you are interested in tickets for the event or would like to be a sponsor or make a donation please contact me.

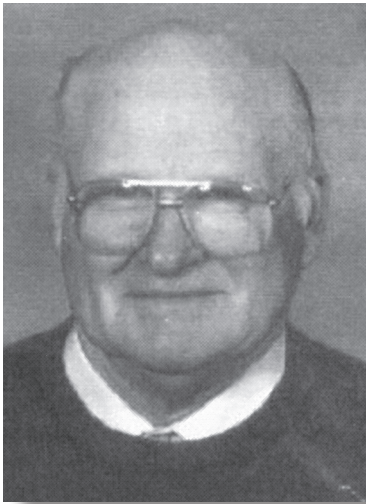
Sincerely,

Fraternally,

Joseph A. Swierczek Jr. – Trustee
618-407-4427 / joe@riskstrategies.net

Trustee's Message

Wayne Stout, Trustee I.A.R.F.



Hi to all our IARF Brothers and Sisters.

Our Belleville meeting was a time of sadness as we were told Dude Meisinger was resigning as a trustee due to medical reasons.

Dude served as a trustee with a strong desire and love for the IARF. It has been a pleasure to serve with Dude as we worked to make conditions better for all. At our meetings he would make sure that we were following the rules and when he was asked to do something he did it well. When I was sick he would call to check on how I was doing. Dude get well and back on your feet, you will be missed.

The meeting in Belleville was informative and a good meal. Thank you Belleville for being our host. The Peoria meeting had a good turn out and as always a good meal. Chuck Sullivan the AFFI Central District legislative Representative was in attendance. He reported that that the AIFF will endorse J. B. Pritzker and Julianna Straton for Governor and Lt. Governor respectfully. We need a strong voice as Governor and one who is backing the working people of Illinois.

For many years clubs were only charged \$2.00 for dues, and the association would cover the normal day to day operations. Today with cost of the magazine and the per capita we contribute to the AFFI we can no longer cover these expenses. That is the reason the decision was made to increase dues to \$10.00 making it an \$8.00 increase. We did not want to make it a hardship on anyone, but the increase was necessary.

We as an Association are trying to get more members involved on a local level as well the State level. President Schrepfer has been traveling around the state and talking to clubs that have been dormant and encouraging them to become active again. When he comes to your local club give him you input on how you think we can expand. We as an Association can only grow if we are active and increase in number. Keep up the good work and I hope to see you in Evanston October 28th.

Sincerely, Wayne



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5 STRATEGIES TO REDUCE REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS (RMD'S)

Nothing lasts forever. This includes tax deferral on your IRAs, 457 Deferred Compensation Accounts, 401K's, 401A's (for those who were the management side of the fire service) and other **pretax retirement accounts**.

Eventually, Uncle Sam is going to want his share and will require funds to come out of these accounts. That is when required minimum distributions (RMDs) must begin. What if you don't need the money? What if you don't want a tax hit? Here are five strategies to reduce your RMDs.

1. Move your money to your plan. Are you still working after age 70 ½? If you do not own more than 5% of the company where you work and the company plan offers a "still working exception" you may be able to delay taking RMDs from your current employer plan until April 1 following the year you retire.

If your plan allows, you can roll your pre-tax IRA funds to your plan and delay RMDs on these funds too. Just be careful. If you have an RMD for the year from your IRA, you must take it before you can roll over the rest of the funds.

2. Consider a QLAC. A Qualifying Longevity Annuity Contract (QLAC) is a product designed to help with longevity concerns. Any funds you invest in the QLAC are not included in your balance when it comes to calculating your RMDs until you reach age 85.

This will reduce your RMDs. You can purchase a QLAC with the lesser of 25% of your retirement funds or \$125,000. The 25% limit is applied to each employer plan separately, but in aggregate to IRAs.

3. Be charitable. Are you charitably inclined? If you are planning on giving money to charity anyway why not do a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA? If you are 70 ½, you may transfer up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA to a charity tax-free. The QCD will also satisfy your RMD but without the tax bite.

4. Go Roth. If reducing RMDs is a top concern for you, you may want to consider a Roth Conversion. Almost everyone is eligible to convert pretax retirement accounts to a tax free Roth IRA account. You will have to pay the income tax on the amounts you move over into the Roth IRA account but the good news is you are not required to take RMDs from your Roth IRA during your lifetime.

As mentioned, the money you convert is a taxable event, but you can exchange a one-time tax hit for a lifetime of never having to worry about RMDs and their tax consequences. Keep in mind your beneficiaries will need to take RMDs from the inherited Roth IRA. However, these distributions will be tax-free.

5. Do it your way. Who says you have to be on Uncle Sam's schedule? Once you reach age 59 1/2, you can access your IRA funds without penalty. From age 59 ½ to age 70 ½ is the sweet spot for IRA planning.(Age 50 to age 70 1/2 for 457 Deferred Compensation Accounts) The money is yours penalty-free if you choose to take a distribution.

However, you are not required to withdraw specific amounts each year, as you will be once RMDs are required at age 70 ½. Take advantage of these years to take money from your IRA on your own schedule. If you are now retired and your income is lower this may be the time to take taxable IRA/457 distributions to reduce RMDs later. You may consider leveraging these funds to purchase life insurance on your self as a tax free gift to your children or grand children. Fund an HSA, if you are eligible. Or, you could use them to enjoy your well-earned retirement.

Doug Aller is Vice President of New Concept Benefit Group. New Concept Benefit Group is a independent financial education, investment, accounting, legal and tax planning firm-specializing in working with the financial needs of public safety personnel.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAPLAIN...Darrell Coons

I'm writing today on the Tuesday after a really nice Labor Day. My wife, Sandy, and I slept in for a change! It was great! There were several places we could have been, celebrating the holiday at a local parade or visiting with family, but we decided we needed some "us time." What made it remarkably refreshing was that we didn't watch television news and we stayed off the internet. Yes! It was SO refreshing!

But, today is Tuesday and the "normal" world and routine called us back. Back came all the news and opinions of what was in the news that made it feel like one of those "Rainy Days and Mondays" that could absolutely get you down.

The devastation in Houston is still being revealed in all of its terrible, raw reality and now we're looking at Category 5 Hurricane Irma bearing down on Puerto Rico, Haiti, Cuba and Florida! It seems that most of our West Coast is on fire, with firefighters from all over the country answering the call to try to tame the flames.

Kim Jung Un is screaming threats against the world and, rather than trying to find ways to defuse the situation, our leadership is screaming threats right back! (Those who don't study history are doomed to repeat it)! It feels like we are right back where we were with Kim's grandfather in 1950 and the outcome could be so much worse this time around if some kind of sanity doesn't take hold.

We are scratching our collective heads wondering how to stop the heroin epidemic, there is rampant violence around us and especially in our state's largest metropolis, accusations of "racism" are heard so often that many have grown immune to the word, and people all over the world have decided that it's fun to destroy our peace of mind with their malware and viruses!

Wouldn't it be best to just shut ourselves in and forget the world?!!

But then you see the eight-year-old down the street setting up her lemonade stand to raise money for victims in Houston, you hear squeals of delight as other youngsters play with neighbors without thinking about their difference in skin color, and you read a comment on the IARF Facebook Page from a retired firefighter who has little contact with his fellow retirees and you can feel his delight at making a connection.

Even on a "Monday-kind-of-Tuesday," I am encouraged and find hope! Could it be that our connectedness generates that hope to a great extent? I think it does. I encourage you and challenge myself to look for the connections that have failed in days gone by, to seek out the retired firefighters around us and coax them back into the "family" and to welcome them completely. Together, we stand a much better chance of being sources of hope and, maybe, ambassadors of reason and sanity in a time where it is so needed.

Blessings to you all, Chaplain Darrell Coons



FROM THE DESK OF THE AFFI PRESIDENT

At almost any other time in our state's history, I would be telling you about the results of the General Assembly that should have adjourned on May 31st. At no other time in our state's history would I be sharing with you news about the legislature passing the first state budget in almost three years. In fact, no state in modern history has gone as long without passing an annual budget.

Let's start with the good news. The balanced budget was passed with a bi-partisan supermajority in the House and with a Democratic supermajority in the Senate. It was immediately vetoed by Governor Rauner and then overridden with the same supermajorities in each chamber.

The AFFI worked throughout the spring and summer to provide funding for the Illinois Line of Duty Death Compensation Act to ensure our survivors are paid the benefit owed to them. We also worked with a coalition that was able to increase funding for our 911 centers and preserve local government revenue sharing to ensure our cities and villages continue to receive the dollars necessary to fund fire department operations. I am proud to report that all of these items were included in the budget we now have in place due to the bi-partisan compromise. In fact, many communities will see a modest increase in their Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) payments in this fiscal year (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018).

As you can see in our legislative update, the AFFI was also able to pass six of our own legislative initiatives. Fortunately, all of our bills were passed with bipartisan support so I'm optimistic about our ability to pursue legislative overrides in the likely event the governor continues to veto some of the AFFI's legislative initiatives.

The bad news for our membership and the rest of organized labor is that Governor Rauner's current term of office does not expire until January 14, 2019. Despite the bi-partisan shift we observed in July where members of his own legislative caucus broke ranks with him, it doesn't appear the governor has any plan to abandon his anti-union crusade anytime soon as evidenced by a recent interview by the Hoover Institution. He continues to advocate for stripping collective bargaining rights, diminishing protections for injured workers and illegally reducing pension benefits promised to public employees.

Continued on page 14

Thankfully, the majority of members in each chamber of the General Assembly led by President Cullerton and Speaker Madigan have refused to capitulate to the governor's extreme anti-worker agenda. Despite intense public pressure they have stood strong against his fixation with damaging unions and now have defeated his strategy of holding the state budget hostage as a means to do so.

Accordingly, one of the top priorities of the AFFI is to defeat Rauner on November 6, 2018 and replace him with a governor who values our profession and the work you do each day across the state. That's why I have personally been extremely focused on identifying the candidate who is best suited to do it. Over the past nine months we met individually with candidates, participated in small group interviews and discussed the race with those whose opinions we trust and respect. In May it became clear to our legislative committee and executive board that we found the candidate best aligned with the interests of our membership and with the greatest potential to defeat Rauner in 2018.

It was very exciting to be in Peoria on May 26th to announce our endorsement of JB Pritzker for Governor while standing shoulder to shoulder with 50 AFFI members from across Central Illinois. While accepting our endorsement, Pritzker vowed to fight for collective bargaining rights, work to protect and fund pensions and ensure first responders have the resources necessary to protect citizens across Illinois. He further stated his commitment to doing what is necessary to defeat Rauner and those in the General Assembly who have chosen to support his anti-union agenda.

The AFFI has become a central part of the JB Pritzker for Governor campaign and I'm confident you will be hearing a lot more from us about the importance of mobilizing our membership in support of his candidacy. Please reach out to your AFFI VP or Legislative Representative if you have any questions or would like to learn more about opportunities to get involved with the campaign.

As always, thank you for your support of the AFFI and the work we do on your behalf. We have been and continue to be one of the most respected organizations in Springfield and across the state. It's due in large part to the great job you did while serving people each day in communities across Illinois. Keep up the good work.

Pat Devaney
President
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois
217-522-8180



Midway
NEUROLOGICAL & REHABILITATION CENTER

MIDWAY NEUROLOGICAL
& REHAB CENTER

Recovery

8540 S Harlem Avenue
Bridgeview, IL 60455



1901 PRATT
ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL 60007

AFFI LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The AFFI was successful in moving 6 bills through the legislative process during the first Spring session of the 100th General Assembly. Below are the bills numbers, the chief sponsor of the legislation in each chamber, a brief synopsis of the bill and its current status.

HB 616: (Rep. Moeller & Senator McGuire) FIRE DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENT CERTIFICATES. When a local unit of government chooses to hire a new firefighter, the individual(s) are selected from the current eligibility list. The sole authority to issue certificates of appointment belongs to the Civil Service Commission, Board of Fire & Police Commission and the Fire Protection District Board depending on the form of government. This bill clarifies that after being selected from the list of candidates, each appointee shall be presented with his or her certificate of appointment on the day they are sworn into the fire department. In addition, any current firefighters who did not receive a certificate when he or she was appointed may request one from the appointing authority and receive it within ten business days. **This bill has become law and is effective immediately.**

HB 622: (Rep. Hoffman & Senator Biss) STAY ON APPEAL. During the pendency of an appeal process in relation to Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) filings, statute allows either party to petition the court to stay an order of the Illinois Labor Relations Board (ILRB) in accordance with Administrative Review Law. However, the intent of current statutory language and principles of administrative review require a motion to be granted by the appellate court to stay an order of the Board during the pendency of an appeal. Recently, due to ambiguous and conflicting language contained in the Administrative Rules, some parties have suggested the ULP orders by the Board are automatically stayed if either party files an appeal in the appellate court. This legislation clarifies the intent that either party must file a successful motion in the appellate court to obtain a stay of a ILRB ULP order. **This bill is awaiting the Governor's action.**

HB 688: (Rep. Zalewski & Senator Cunningham) ARTICLE 3 POLICE TO ARTICLE 4 FIRE PENSION TRANSFER. This legislation allows a firefighter who was hired by the same unit of local government where he or she originally served as a police officer to transfer up to 6 years of credible service from Article 3 to Article 4. If the individual withdrew his or her contributions from the Article 3 fund, it must be paid back with interest added at the rate of 6% per year compounded. The legislation requires employer contributions to be transferred from the police fund to the fire fund. If the bill is signed by the Governor, these individuals will have 6 months from the date of his signature to transfer the funds. **This bill is awaiting the Governor's action.**

HB 815: (Rep. Zalewski & Senator Sandoval) BEDFORD PARK FIREFIGHTERS TO IMRF-SLEP. This will be the third time this bill has been transmitted to the Governor for his signature. The previous two times have resulted in a veto. This bill allows Bedford Park firefighters to participate in IMRF-SLEP (Sherriff Law Enforcement Pension) as opposed to

their current participation in the IMRF regular formula. Both the firefighters and the village of Bedford Park are proponents of the legislation. **This bill has become law and is effective immediately.**

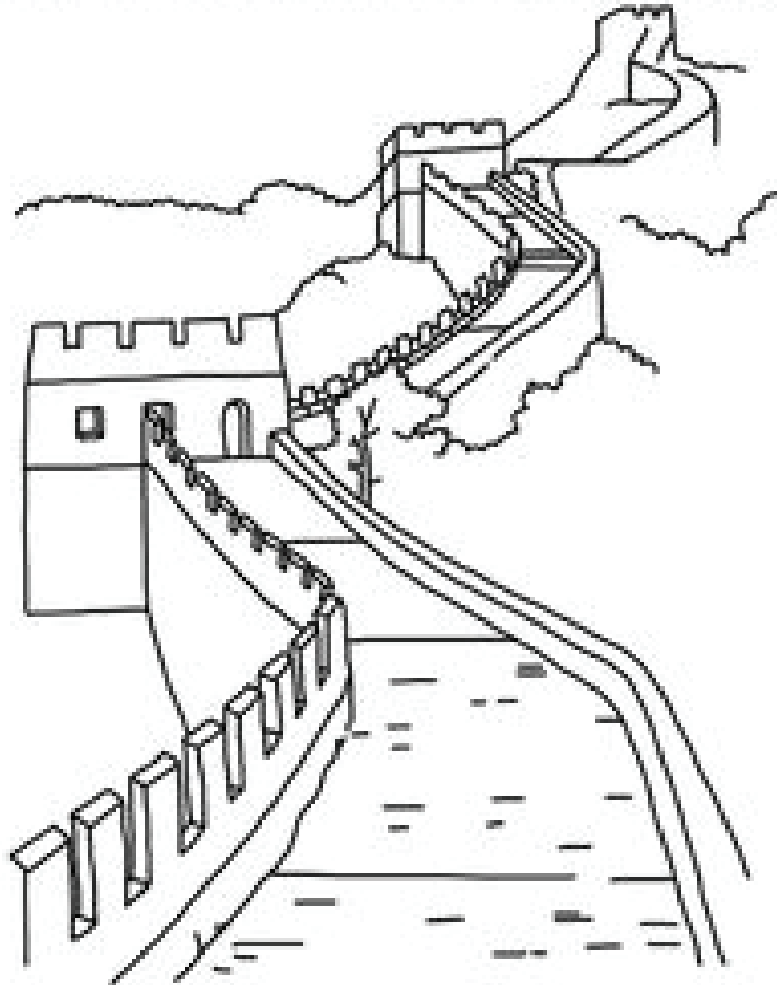
HB 1952: (Rep. Cabello & Senator Anderson) ALS FIRE ENGINES. Due to some ambiguity in the current EMS Act, we identified a need to clarify that a fire apparatus can be classified as an “ambulance assist vehicle.” This bill allows the local government to submit a proposal to the Project Medical Director that requests that a fire engine may be upgraded to ALS service if a paramedic is assigned to that fire engine. It simply allows a fire apparatus to operate at the highest level of EMT license held by any person staffing the apparatus. **This bill has become law and is effective immediately.**

SB 1304 (Senator Anderson & Rep. Willis) FIRE CHIEF QUALIFICATIONS. This legislation requires a local government that hires firefighters under the Civil Service Commission Act, The Board of Fire and Police Commission Act or the Fire Protection District Act to appoint a department head (fire chief, director, etc) that meets minimum qualifications. The minimum qualifications contained in the legislation are Office of the State Fire Marshal Basic Firefighter Certificate, Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire Officer I and II, an Associates degree in a fire service related field or a bachelor’s degree in any field. All of these qualifications are required for appointment as the fire chief, OR the person must have a minimum of ten years of service as a firefighter at the department in the jurisdiction making the appointment. **This bill has become law and is effective immediately.**



GREAT WALL

RESTAURANT



950 ARTHUR AVE
ELK GROVE VILLAGE
IL 60007

Prosport Express Inc



**PROSPORT
EXPRESS INC**

1901 Pratt
Elk Grove Village
IL 60007

PENSKE

**TRUCK
RENTAL**

**3900 MANNHEIM ROAD
FRANKLIN PARK, IL 60131**

SIMO BROS TREE SERVICE



**PO BOX 69
HIGHLAND PARK
IL 60035**

RIVER PARK LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE



**8601 W Fullerton Ave
River Grove, IL 60171**

CORFU FOODS INC

Corfu foods began in the spring of 1970 with a focused desire: to offer delicious family food to a local market ready for consistency. Today, we still create traditional greek and mediterranean choices prepared by close-knit family. All that has changed is the range of our items and the size of the space where we make them for you.

We don't want to be the biggest provider of food. We want to be the one known for familiar freshness and taste that build a loyal following. From the U.S., To the U.K., To Japan, we're creating devoted grocery and restaurant customers through old-world recipes, pure ingredients and flavors they cannot forget.

Together with our sister company, mediterranean pita, we will continue to import and produce excellence that sells and speaks for itself – and does the same for you.

**755 THOMAS DRIVE
BENSENVILLE, IL 60106**

EL PATRON

Mexican food in America is usually synonymous with hard shell tacos and queso dip. But beyond the ever-popular Tex-Mex favorites and San Francisco-style burritos that are actually a modern product of cultural integration in the USA, there's a wildly variable food landscape in Mexico that deserves more of our attention.

There are seven important regions that you should know if you're interested in learning more about Mexican cuisine. Due to their geography and history, each region's food has distinctive characteristics, varying in everything from staple crops to the spices used to season dishes. Learning about the food in different regions can help you get a better understanding of what Mexican cuisine is really comprised of – and perhaps inspire you to go out and try something new.

**103 RAND RD
MCHENRY, IL 60051**

EL SOMBRERO
KAJA CORP

314 Lincoln Avenue
Fox River Grove
IL 60021

B.G.
INTERNATIONAL

2700 Wisconsin Avenue
Downers Grove, IL
60515

BILLY GOAT
INN INC

430 N Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60607

VAZQUEZ
MUFFLER & BRAKES

726 W Lake Street
Addison, IL 60101

F.H.N. FAMILY
HEALTH CENTER

803 S. 1st Avenue
Forreston, IL 61030

GENERATIONS
AT
ELMWOOD PARK

733 W. Grand Avenue
Elmwood Park, IL 60707

MEKATECH
CAR DIAGNOSTIC
CENTER

5233 W. 111th Street
Alsip, IL 60603

MIKE'S
TANOSHI SUSHI

5547 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640

2017 Membership Meeting Minutes

2ndQuarter Membership Meeting – April 22, 2017

Belleville

Officers present: Schrepfer, Bode, Oaks, Levine, Stout, Meisinger (medical), Fardell, Swierczek, Sullivan (medical), and Rev. Coons

All members were requested to stand for a moment of silence and recite the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Report by Adam Ruderman, AFFI; District 3 Vice-President:

President Schrepfer introduced Adam Ruderman, AFFI; District 3 Vice-President. Brother Ruderman has served as President of the Decatur Firefighters Local #505 and is a commissioned Fire Captain. In the job as AFFI Vice-President, Adam seeks to strengthen the AFFI by recruiting local unions throughout the third district and assisting in all aspects of collective bargaining.

Vice-President Ruderman reminded the membership that Governor Rauner has made considerable profits managing Illinois government pensions. Unfortunately, the Governor is now setting the stage to reduce retirement benefits for public employees. Rauner has proposed to consolidate all the many government pension plans into one large program. This strategy will allow his investment management friends to make larger profits under a central fiduciary board rather than negotiating under the array of many smaller pension boards. The Governor's initiatives would serve to reduce the voice of pensioners and provide less representation – a very un-American scheme.

There was general discussion from the membership about the looming threat to Illinois families in the reform of defined retirement benefit programs being turned into defined contribution programs. Such a process would only benefit the pockets of Rauner's friends. There was an even greater concern of corruption from the reduction of administrative regulation and oversight that would come from many of the governor's proposals. Merging the large number of local pension boards under one large state bureaucracy runs the risk of empowering a few outlaw finance managers with control over one sizable pension fund. Thus, allowing unscrupulous politicians a source of corporate welfare for their private sector friends by dipping into the retirement dreams of working families.

Comments from the floor described how, over the years, monies needed to cover legitimate government pensions have been stealthily funneled into programs that fund the interest of private business. These so called "economic development programs" were not accountable to the public trust and did not provide any measurable economic gain.

Governor Rauner may be using the state budget controversy to legislate unrestricted regulation and additional government funding for large corporations. Eventually, the working families of Illinois will be reduced to a third world existence. Because of his agenda, Ruderman said that Governor Rauner has not signed any of the AFFI sponsored bills that have passed the legislature. Illinois working families will be burdened with this governor for another 18 months.

Adam assured both retired and active firefighters that the AFFI will fight any threat to our pension. The IARF and the AFFI will need all of our membership to work for the election of a new Governor and re-elect the legislative friends of the fire service.

The AFFI is actively seeking the Democratic candidacy of J.B. Pritzger for Illinois Governor. J.B. Pritzger is a life-long Illinoisan living with his family in the Chicago area. J.B. has organized and funded several non-profit agencies to assist in job creation, legal justice, and community service. One of his political objectives is to see Illinois exceed the neighboring states in job creation and economic enhancement. He believes Illinois has many hidden resources to foster growth and secured job benefits for working families. Unlike Rauner, J.B. has promised to work with organized labor in rebuilding Illinois as a safer and more prosperous place to live for all.

Vice-President Ruderman updated the membership on the progress of the AFFI to seek legislation that would fund local pensions similar to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF). By 2040, it is the desire of the AFFI to have all Illinois firefighter pensions funded to 90%. This would not be an impossibility as there are several Illinois fire pensions already funded to 100% or more. The 90% funded pension is a reachable objective and could allow a local community a benefit of reducing future contributions. This would happen when a properly managed investment fund could support the payouts and leave the principal intact.

At present the IMRF remains solvent because the state can demand pension payments when a municipality holds back funding. If local government skips on the minimum IMRF payment, the state can withhold an equal amount of local sales tax revenue. Please remember the IMRF is the pension fund for those high-paid local officials and politicians. They made sure their retirement funds are protected, because they are the ones that mismanaged everyone else's.

President Schrepfer thanked Adam Ruderman for his presentation and discussion. The membership gave Adam a most appreciative applause.

1st Order of Business: Secretary Levine distributed the minutes of the January meeting held in Bloomington. The minutes were reviewed for corrections or additions. Members were reminded of the delegate elections and to have their nominations sent to the Secretary in writing in accordance of the by-laws.

Motion: Ron Heakmeyer of Quincy moved to accept the January General Membership minutes. Trustee Far-dell 2nd the motion. The Membership voted unanimous to accept the January General Membership minutes.

2nd Order of Business: Treasurer Oaks presented the November – April report of the Treasury. A detailed register of income and expenses was provided. In summary revenue is down from past levels. The largest expense of the magazine has been reduced from its past publications as a cost savings measure. Revenue continues to be a victim of the regional economy. There was a quarterly audit by the trustees. President Schepfer requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's report with approvals to reimburse Secretary Levine \$400. for computer supplies and provide Epic Services of Peoria a \$500. donation.

Motion: McDonald moved to accept the Treasurer's report with attachments and expense requests of \$400. and \$500. respectfully. Rich Rajawitz of Belleville 2nd the motion. Membersip voted unanimous to accept the Treasurer's report with attachments and expense requests.

3rd Order of Business: President Schrepfer was requested by the AFFI officers to update the IARF membership on the status of the AFFI proposals to legislate the administrative fees charged by the Illinois Municipal League (IML) to collect and distribute the Foreign Fire Tax Fund. It has come to the attention of the AFFI that the IML is charging an unreasonably large amount to manage the Foreign Fire Tax Fund. Those funds are to be distributed to local fire departments and in-turn reduce the tax burden to the public. Instead the IML is using the funds to support the inflated salaries of the IML staff and fund programs designed to injure public servants.

The AFFI is promoting HB628 that limits the IML to \$100,000 management fee on the Foreign Fire Tax Fund. At present, the IML is gouging the public over \$1,000,000 annually to perform a simple low-cost automated clerical process.

4th Order of Business: President Schrepfer received a letter from North Riverside thanking the IARF for the monetary contribution to assist in the legal battle to keep their jobs. The mayor has spent over \$1 million in legal fees and has lost 13 court cases to disband the Riverside Fire Department. In January, the IARF sent a donation to North Riverside firefighters of \$800. by approval of the membership

5th Order of Business: President Schrepfer informed the membership that more municipalities are considering public safety managers in a move to save money by consolidating the police and fire chief positions. SB1304 will require a minimum educational and professional requirement for a public administrator with duties over the fire service.

6th Order of Business: President Schrepfer informed the membership of SB1335 that will require a secondary government employer of a pensioned firefighter to contribute funds back to the pension cost of the primary fire department. The pension costs of a fire department are being unfairly impacted when firefighters may become injured on a second job.

7th Order of Business: President Schrepfer reminded the membership of a substitute law that prohibits a municipality from replacing commissioned firefighters without union permission. The North Riverside community near Elgin is attempting to replace it's 14 firefighters with a contract service. The legal contest has reach the Illinois Supreme Court. North Riverside has lost over \$1,000,000 in legal fees after losing 14 court rulings. The AFFI endorses HB616 that requires the employer to present a certificate of appointment to each firefighter candidate should a mayor or council use a loop-hole to replace its fire department with a contract service.

8th Order of Business: President Schrepfer informed all in attendance that the AFFI is fighting against legislative proposals to consolidate all the pension funds into one large fund. In addition, other legislation that the AFFI seeks to eliminate is the requirement that a firefighter must prove an ailment or disease (such as cancer, hearing loss, etc.) was caused on the job. Members were reminded that the IARF executive board attends the AFFI legislative conference to express support for firefighter issues and the board asks all 2000 IARF members to contact their state Senators and Representatives about supporting AFFI legislative initiatives.

9th Order of Business: President Schrepfer discussed the effort of the AFFI to promote the benefits of the Illinois Firefighter Peer Support Program. This is valuable service to assist both active and retired firefighters in the area of PTSD and other conditions of depression. Statistics show a high rate of suicide within the ranks of retired firefighters. Both the IAFF and the AFFI support programs to bring assistance to fire service families affected by job related stress and depression.

10th Order of Business: President Schrepfer asked for proposals from the membership for locations in the southern district to host the Spring 2018 meetings. The IARF funds meeting costs and provides a stipend to the hosting club. The Belleville officers offered to host the 2018 Spring meeting.

Motion: was made by Trustee Swierczek and seconded by Trustee Fardell. The membership voted unanimous to hold the 2018 Spring meeting in Belleville.

11th Order of Business: President Schrepfer announced the 2017 Golf Classic to be held in Pekin. Trustee Rocky Fardell reported that the 2017 Golf Classic is ready and reminds the membership that team application forms will be in the Spring magazine. Members are invited to organize friendly completion between retirees and active firefighters. An invitation was extended to the southern clubs to host the 2018 Gold Classic in September.

12th Order of Business: Treasurer Oaks made a motion to reimburse Secretary Levine \$400. for the purchase of software used for the magazine and to donate \$500. to the EPIC group in Peoria for labeling and sorting the magazine for mailing.

Motion: to provide \$400 reimbursement to Secretary Levine and \$500. donation to EPIC was made by Vice-President Bode with Trustee Stout 2nd the motion. The membership voted unanimous for approval.

13th Order of Business: President Schrepfer invited everyone to attend the July 22 Annual meeting in Peoria. All were reminded that delegates for the 2018 AFFI Convention will be recognized for election. This is also the major business meeting for the IARF and usually brings the highest attendance. An announcement was made for the Fall meeting in Evanston and the Winter meeting in Bloomington.

14th Order of Business: Trustee Stout notified the membership that a change in the supplier of the caps may be required. There are blankets, certain shirt styles and selection of logo for sale.

President Schrepfer requested a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Paul McAdams of Decatur. Seconded by Trustee Joe Swierczek. Motion to Adjourn Passed by voice vote – unanimous at 1:30 pm.

MOVING ?

... please send us your change of address

.....

• *New Address:*

• Name _____

• Address _____

• City / State / Zip _____

.....

Mail this form to • IARF • 23731 N. Algonquin Dr. • Canton, IL 61520

2017

3rd Quarter Membership Meeting – July 22, 2017

Peoria

Officers present: Schrepfer, Bode, Oaks, Levine, Stout, Fardel, Swierczek, Rev. Coons, (Meisinger announced resignation due to medical)

Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence for Fallen Military and Firefighters

1st Order of Business: President Schrepfer requested a motion to allow the non-IARF members, invited to the annual meeting/dinner to remain for the meeting. This may be the start of a new tradition – now that the annual meeting has been moved to July. So much of the work of the IARF affects family members and are welcome to stay for the business meeting and remain informed.

Motion: to allow non-members to attend the general membership meeting was made by Larry Jenkins (Elgin) and seconded by Trustee Stout. Membership voted unanimous to allow non-members attendance at the general meeting.

Prayer of Memorial and Gratitude to the Lord:

Reverend Coons provided a prayer in memorial for Brother Robert Sullivan, also prayer for recovery back to good health for Trustee Meisinger, and prayer of good health/prosperity for all the families and friends of our fire service along with prayer of gratitude for the dinner.

2nd Order of Business: Treasurer Oaks presented the May/July financial packet and report of the Treasury. A detailed register of income and expenses was provided. In summary revenue is stable and improving from past levels. To cut expenses, the number of magazines printed and mailed has been reduced. Also a continuous membership roster is being updated to reach maximum revenue from dues receipts.

Motion: Larry Judkins (Elgin) moved to accept the Treasurer's report with attachments. Trustee Stout 2nd the motion. The membership voted unanimous to accept the Treasurer's report with attachments.

3rd Order of Business: President Schrepfer offered additional explanation of the IARF financial status. President Schrepfer provided a report of the original 1982 agreement between the AFFI and IARF to allow retiree attendance at AFFI sponsored conventions. It was approved by the AFFI general membership to allow retirees full membership rights at one-half of the active AFFI membership fee for the first 250 retiree members. The AFFI executive board is working hard to defend benefits and pensions. The AFFI is requesting a more current membership roster from the IARF to reach-out to retirees for political action assistance. The attendees were reminded that membership numbers are improving even with the dues increase.

4th Order of Business: Secretary Levine distributed the minutes of the April meeting held in Belleville. The minutes were reviewed for corrections or additions.

Motion: Larry Judkins (Elgin) moved to accept the April Executive Board minutes. Trustee Stout 2nd the motion. The membership voted unanimous to accept the April Executive Board minutes.

5th Order of Business: President Schrepfer notified the membership that Trustee Meisinger had to resign his position due to an illness. Recommendation to fill the Trustee vacancy continues to be opened due to a lack of notifications being made to the Secretary per the by-law requirements. President Schrepfer offered encouragement to all members to apply for the position. The duties and expectations of the office were explained. Anyone interested is urged to call or email presidentiarf@gmail.com. Also notification was made about the open President Emeritus position. Since this is not an elected office and there is not an immediate past-president, the Executive Board will be deliberating to fill this position.

6th Order of Business: President Schrepfer announced two candidates have supplied letters of intent for the 2018 AFFI Convention in St. Charles; Vice President George Bode and Trustee Rocky Fardel. All the clubs were sent notification to supply names of candidates for the Convention. Without the nomination of additional candidates, the President requested a motion to send Vice President George Bode and Trustee Rocky Fardel to the Convention.

Motion: to send Vice President George Bode and Trustee Rocky Fardell to the Convention was made by Treasurer Emeritus Tom Jackson and 2nd by Secretary Levine. The membership unanimous voted for approval.

7th Order of Business: President Schrepfer asked for an update on the 2017 IARF Pekin golf event scheduled for September. Trustee Fardel golf event is advancing according to plan and on-schedule. Pekin club president Tim Zimmerman may be attending the general membership meeting and would be available to give a more comprehensive progress report to the full membership.

President Schrepfer asked for requests from the floor for clubs wanting to host the 2018 IARF golf event. Springfield Club President, John Sullivan, offered to host the golf event in 2018 and Vice President George Bode entered the Joliet club into the offer. Both clubs campaigned for the membership vote. Mike Motion: Mike Doyle (Peoria) made a motion have Springfield host the golf event in 2018 and to have Joliet host the golf event in 2019. This motion was 2nd by Treasurer Emeritus Tom Jackson. The membership unanimous voted for approval.

8th Order of Business: President Schrepfer read a letter from the Canton Local 1897 President Jay Smith about the Howard Strube memorial. The Canton firefighters are attempting to raise \$50,000 to build a memorial to honor the sacrifice of one of their own lost in-the-line-of-duty.

Motion: of \$500.was made by Larry Judkins (Elgin) for the Howard Strube memorial. Seconded by Vice-President Bode. The membership voted unanimous to send a \$500. donation to the Canton Memorial Fund.

9th Order of Business: Captian Mike Lierle notified the board of a Peoria firefighter with less than 4 years seniority who has been diagnosed that his life may be cut short by stage 4 cancer. This brother and his wife just had a new born and the family already has two children.

Motion: of \$2500 was made by Treasurer Emeritus Tom Jackson and seconded by Charles Nachtrieb (Peoria) to give to the Peoria Fire Department Charitable Fund to assist the family of a firefighter suffering from stage 4 cancer. The membership voted unanimous to provide this \$2500. donation.

10th Order of Business: President Schrepfer requested a motion to give MDA \$500. The history of this donation was reviewed for the good of the order.

Motion: was made by Treasurer Oaks and 2nd by Randy Dixon (Pekin) to donate \$500. To MDA. The membership voted unanimous to provide this \$500. Donation to MDA.

11th Order of Business: President Schrepfer announced the arrival of Chuck Sullivan, AFFI Central District Legislative Representative. Representative Sullivan provided information on the AFFI endorsement of JB

Pritzker and Julianna Straton for Governor and Lt. Governor respectively. AFFI President will conduct local firefighters to rally while on a state tour with JB and Julianna. The AFFI was able to get the state to release duty death benefits of over \$300,000 per incident for three firefighter survivor families. Chuck entertained comments and questions from the membership. All attendees

12th Order of Business: Larry Judkins of Elgin Local 439 asked if an active member could join the IARF and continuously be a member of their local unions because both are associated with the AFFI. President Schrepfer advised that some retirees continue to pay dues to their active local unions along with their dues to the IARF without issue. There does not appear to be a conflict belonging to both organizations only appreciation for those dedicated to do so. The IARF is encouraging local retiree clubs to admit and/or recruit active firefighters that are age 50 with 20 years of seniority. In such cases, those individuals would be associated with the AFFI through their union and the IARF. The AFFI encourages this practice as well.

President Schrepfer requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: to adjourn by Mike Whitson of Galesburg. Seconded by Trustee Stout. Motion to Adjourn Passed by voice vote – unanimous at 1:15 pm.

The April 22, 2017 and the July 22, 2017 General Membership Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted:
Mike Levine, IARF Secretary

2017 Quarterly Membership Meetings

Evanston

Saturday, October 28

.....

2018 Quarterly Membership Meetings

Bloomington/Normal

Saturday, January 27

.....

2018 Quarterly Membership Meetings

Belleville/Swansea

Saturday, April 28

ELGIN FIRE DEPARTMENT MARKS 150 YEARS

(Story from the Cover Photo)

On July 4th, 2017, The Grand Marshals of the big parade were the members, past and present, of The Elgin Fire Department. The parade, watched by more than 10,000 people, was led by Elgins' 1869 horse drawn Silsby Steamer, followed by a 1929 American La France Engine and a 1954 Ward La France engine manned by members of The Elgin Fire Barn #5 Museum.

After that came a 1948 American La France engine driven by President Larry Judkins of the Elgin retired Firefighters Assoc. with Vice President Bill Freiberg in the right seat ringing the bell.

Riding in the hose bed and on the tailboard were members of the Elgin FD Retirees Association and, all told, the firefighting experience on that one rig alone totaled over 250 years!

The Elgin Fire Department was formed in the small river community of Elgin on September 16th, 1867. Today, The Elgin Fire Department boasts 7 stations staffed by 133 personnel. Together, they now protect the 8th largest city in the State of Illinois with a population of over 110,000 residents living and working in a diversified city of 40 square miles.

Additionally, Saturday September 16th, 2017 marks our exact 150th birthday and the public of all ages is invited to attend an open house to help us celebrate at The Elgin Fire Barn #5 Museum located at 533 St. Charles St. Elgin, Il. 60120.



FARM & FLEET

6674 Logan
Belvidere, IL 61008

CULVER'S

2500 Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

GO 4 FOODS

212 W. 23rd Street
Chicago, IL 60616

**PERFECT
CAR WASH**

5850 N. Northwest Highway
Chicago, IL 60631

**HOME TOWN
PANTRY**

114 S. Bolingbrook Drive
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

LAGRANGE CITGO

2 N. Brainerd
Lagrange, IL 60525

S & K PANTRY

7142 Caton Farm Road
Plainfield, IL 60586

**WORTH STEELE
& MACHINERY**

4001 W. 123rd Street
Alsip, IL 60803

**MARCO DIE
SUPPLIES INC.**

727 N. Larch Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126

**FULLER'S SERVICE
CENTER**

102 W. Chicago Avenue
Hinsdale, IL 60521

**FRATERNAL ORDER
OF EAGLES**

3829 11th Street
Rockford, IL 61109

**LOGAN'S BAR
& GRILL**

1805 S. West Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032

**POP'S ITALIAN
BEEF & SAUSAGE**

8001 Ogden Avenue
Lyons, IL 60534

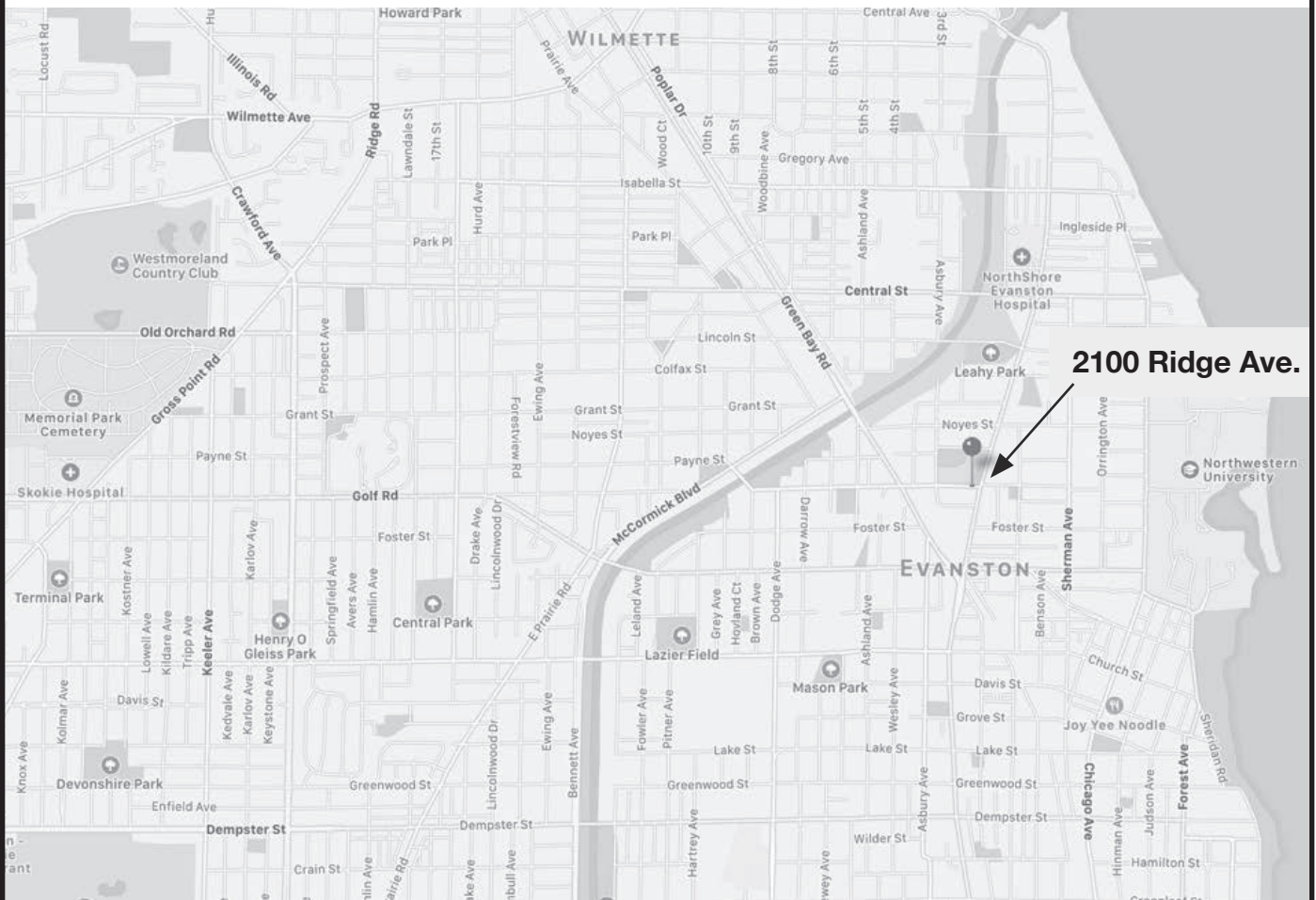
Evanston Quarterly Meeting

October 28, 2017

Saturday 12:00
noon

Evanston City Hall 2100 Ridge Avenue
(Fourth floor - Parasol Room - Elevator Access)
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Details: Ron Gannon
847-966-7665



I.A.R.F. 1st Quarter Meeting for 2018

Saturday - January 27, 2018

Bloomington/Normal

Fire & Police Club

1750 General Electric Rd.

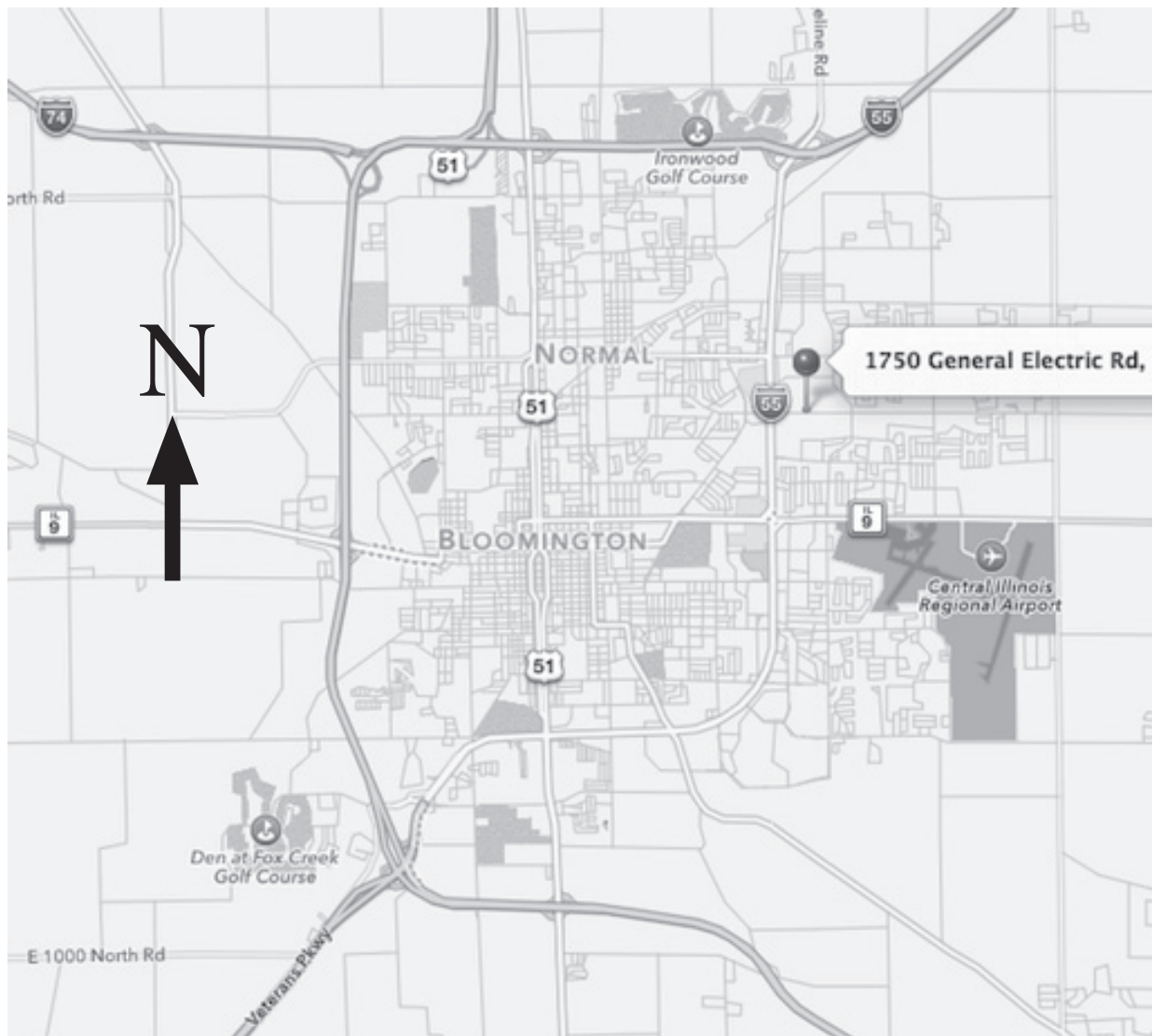
Bloomington, Illinois 61704

Meeting Times:

Board 10:AM

General Members

12 : Noon

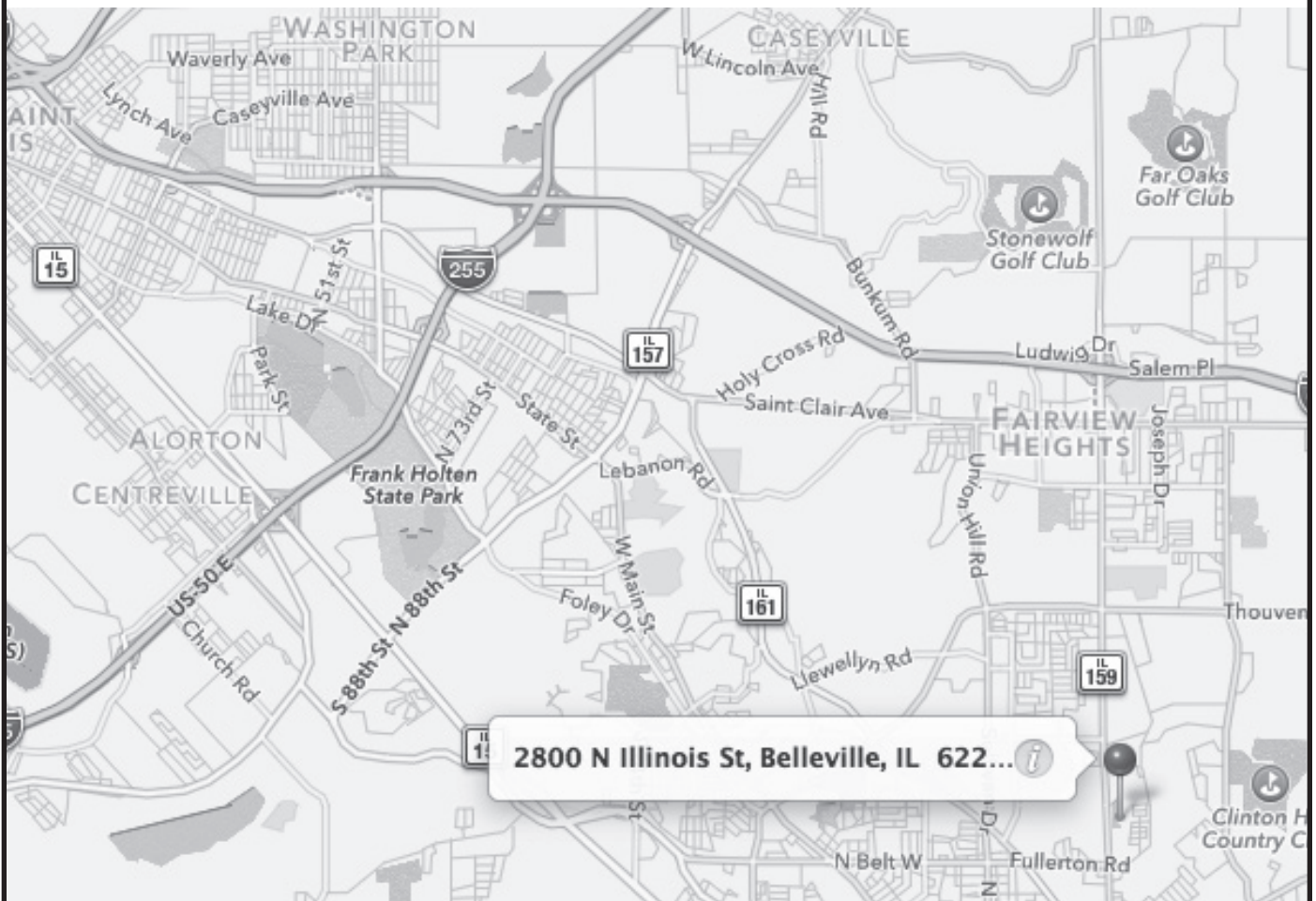


I.A.R.F. 2nd Quarter Meeting for 2018

Saturday - April 28, 2018

C.K. & L Country Club
2800 N. Illinois St.
Belleville/Swansea,
Illinois 62222
618-235-2420

Meeting Times:
Board 10:AM
General Members
12 : Noon



If Retirement is for Relaxation... Why Can't You Sleep?

By: Jada Hudson, M.S., LCPC, CADC

Retirement ushers in a new season of time for a slower pace, recreation, and rest. It brings quietness, a stillness that can be a welcome break from the hectic schedule of working years. You finally can relax without the consistent awareness that a call could come in and require you to jump up and go handle an ambiguous situation. You now have the opportunity to spend time with your family, travel, and possibly pursue a new hobby or dream. What a relief! The time is yours! But, this new, flexible schedule you have can also be an open door.

Quiet opens the doors for reflection, remembering, and hurting again over traumatic events that occurred years ago. These things you will never un-see have a way of finding their way into your mind at bedtime. Sleep is vulnerable, and this vulnerability makes the horrific haunt you. You picture the people, hear the sounds, smell the smells, and, all of the sudden, you can't sleep.

During the day, you are physically present in your world, but at night your mind is dancing with ghosts. For a while, you can hold it together, but after a few weeks of sleep deprivation and way too much remembering, you start to feel the burden of "stuffing it." These ghosts creep into your daytime thoughts as well. The quiet overwhelms you and causes you to feel things you never felt when you were busy.

You can't get away fast enough. You feel irritable. You don't think people will understand. They weren't there. Their lives are overly simple, anyway. They haven't ever seen the horror you have seen. "I need a drink," you think. Maybe then I can relax and escape this for a while.

The memories won't stop coming back. "I'm a firefighter," you think, "I can handle this." So, you keep finding ways to deal with it – some healthy and some not. Maybe you work out, go golf with a friend, take a vacation, work on a project around the house, or maybe you keep turning to the bottle. You go out for a beer with the guys, but you just keep needing beer to be able to relax enough to go to sleep at night.

You need answers. Why is this all coming up now?

There are two roads you can walk at this point – open up and talk to someone or continue to "deal with it" until it crushes you. The road of "deal with it" is a hopeless and lonely road. Your thoughts hold you captive until you find yourself trapped in an addiction or considering suicide. The road of "talk to someone" is one of freedom, hope, and healing.

Staring straight into the face of traumatic memories can be intimidating, but looking at them with a safe listener can be just what you need to knock down the walls that hold you captive. A counselor, peer supporter, spouse, or trusted friend can invite you to discover a world where life is real, a world where you are not alone because you have brothers who have been there and care about you, a world that is not always about horrible situations and memories. But, the only way to find that world is to talk about the world you find yourself in as you try to fall asleep at night.

Retirement can be amazing, exciting, freeing, but if your fear or ego are keeping you from talking to someone, you will never see that side of retirement. Until you are ready to talk, your ghosts will just keep dancing, robbing you of the amazing sleep and rest retirement can hold.

Are you ready to stop dancing with ghosts?



RETIREMENT COUNSELING

Jada Hudson, M.S., LCPC, CADC is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, who creates a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere to help you resolve traumatic memories, find emotional wellness, and set yourself on a course to spend your retirement years doing the things that matter most to you. In her Retirement Counseling Track, you will spend seven sessions with Jada, as she helps you process and gear up for an emotionally healthy retirement, identify your passions, think through any occupational goals, and find freedom to enjoy this season of life! With questions or to schedule your first appointment, call (630) 815-3735. hudsonclinicalcounseling.com

MEMORIAL DAY FLAG PROJECT



For over 50 years, the Bloomington-Normal Retired Firefighters have been placing a memorial flag at our fallen brothers' gravesites during Memorial Day weekend. The club was losing many of the original older firefighters due to sickness or death. These brothers were the ones who always knew where all the graves were located by mem-

ory and with their passing, we were losing that helpful information. One of these long time members, Roy Shapmire passed away and his family designated the Bloomington Normal Retirees Club as a recipient of donations in lieu of flowers. Because Roy was one of the strongest supporters of this project, The Retiree Club voted to use the money on this project buying flags and GPS Units. By 2014, the club was placing (75) flags at gravesites.

In 2015, using donations from Roy's family and friends, The Club decided that the club needed to start documentation of the graves by using GPS units. We also decided we need to start locating all of our past firefighters who help start both departments.

In 2016, the process started by working with the active members of Bloomington Local 49 & Normal Local 2442. The club developed Department lists of the guys who had served with the departments. In researching Bloomington's beginning, it was traced back to the period of the Civil War & WW I. Bloomington Fire service started in 1854 with the "Prairie Bird Companies"-from pulling the carts, & horses. Those firefighters fought Bloomington's major fire on October 16, 1855. Normal was started in 1893 with its 12 man volunteer department. Trying to locate some of the early graves was next to impossible.



During the research for Bloomington we were able to locate our first paid Fire Chief- MX Chuse. MX Chuse, along with (6) other firefighters who put an engine on a train & steamed to Chicago to help fight the great Chicago Fire of 1871. Along with MX Chuse, we were able to locate & mark, with our GPS units, additional (105) firefighters from 1856-present day.



So 2017, we were placing memorial flags at (180) of our past brothers who got our departments started. Using the GPS units on May 26th we were able to locate & place a flag at (180) gravesites in (6) cemeteries in Bloomington & Normal in 2 ½ hours' time! Comparison before use of GPS, it would take that long to lo-



cate (40) gravesites in just one Cemetery! The flag placing process developed includes a GPS unit that has a number with each name, a booklet with list of names along with a photo of the grave marker. This enables guys to know if it's

an upright or in ground marker. The GPS will get us within 20' of our location. Once the grave is located we then place a flag, step back & salute our fallen brother in honor of their service! We have had a great response from family members thanking us for what we are doing. But we always tell them it has been our honor to recognize & a privilege to remember those who have served before us!

Article submitted by Bob Wills VP
Bloomington/Normal Retired Firefighters Assoc.



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ALTON

Alton Retired Firefighters Club

President

Richard Siemer
(618) 372-3786

980 West County Line Road
Brighton, IL 62012

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Harvey
(618) 208-7143
(618) 593-6904

3516 Castelli Dr.
Alton, IL 62002
mharvey54@yahoo.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday in January, May, and September at the Alton Motorboat Club.

AURORA

Aurora Retired Firefighters Club

President

Hal Carlson
(630) 675-3267
2930 Clara Ave.
Aurora, IL 60502
halcarlson2930@gmail.com

Secretary

Mike Zelensek
(630) 859-8710
233 S. Commonwealth Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
amfires@aol.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meets on the first Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December at the Aurora Regional Fire Museum, 53 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois 60505.

Picnic is in August or September and a Holiday Dinner in December. Call secretary for times.

BELLEVILLE

Belleville Retired Firefighter Club

President

Walter Witkus
(618) 398-8513
416 Country Club Acres.
Belleville, IL 62223

Secretary

Ronald Volkman
(618) 233-7478
222 Summers Trace
Belleville, IL 62220
rcvolkman73@charter.net

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meetings are on the second Wednesday of February, May, August, and November at Belleville Exchange Club, 404 Sycamore, at 7:00 p.m. The Club invites every retiree in the area to attend.



BLOOMINGTON

Bloomington/Normal Retired Firefighters Club

President

Ron Fowler

(309) 829-2785

7 Nicole Ct.

Bloomington, IL 61701

captfowler30@aol.com

Secretary

Ken Sylvester

(309) 452-8678

1708 Fairfield Dr.

Normal, IL 61701

captly00@aol.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. The meetings are held at the Union Club House at 1750 General Electric Road in Bloomington.

DANVILLE

Danville Retired Firefighters Club

President

Don Wolfe

(217) 442-4796

1903 Edison

Danville, IL 61832

fireone.1@comcastnet

Secretary

William Thoma

(217) 427-5427

13033 E. Lyons Rd.

Catlin, IL 61817

wctxklt92@gmail.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club holds Breakfast at "Hank's Bait and Bite" every other month beginning in February. The Club also has an annual breakfast for retirees, wives and widows that is prepared by active fire fighters Local 429.

DECATUR

Decatur Retired Firefighters Club

President

Steve Bingamon

(217) 433-2609

1610 E. North Port Rd.

Decatur, IL 62526

rocky752@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Dale Penn

(217) 433-2375

3015 Lake Bluff Dr.

Decatur, IL 62521

dalewpenn@gmail.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month (no exceptions) at 11:00 a.m. at Diamond's Restaurant, located at Pershing and Oakland streets.



EAST MOLINE

East Moline Retired Firefighters Club

President

John Long

(309) 496-9006

1121 3rd St.

Rapid City, IL 61275

jrak4long@aol.com

Secretary

Jeff Freiburg

(309) 755-9532

432 35th Ave.

East Moline, IL 61244

j.freiburg@mchsi.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meets twice a year at station No. 2 spring and fall. The Breakfast is also twice a year.

Members participate in a Memorial Day event by placing markers on deceased firefighters graves in honor of their profession.

ELGIN

Elgin Retired Firefighters Club

President

Larry L. Judkins

(847) 695-0523

901 Mohawk Ct.

Elgin, IL 60120

fyrfytr6999@yahoo.com

Secretary

William Freiberg

(847) 695-6795

300 N. Aldine

Elgin, IL 60123

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meets at the American Legion Hall, 820 N. Liberty, on the first Wednesday of every month. Time: 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Eat lunch - Tell stories - Update issues relevant to retirees - Pension - etc.

EVANSTON

Evanston Retired Firefighters Club

President

Bob Nelson

(847) 814-2102

1748 Kelley Lane

Pingree Grove, IL 60140

ninabob354@yahoo.com

Secretary

Ronn Gannon

(847) 966-7665

8412 McVicker Ave.

Morton Grove, IL 60053

ronnfgannon@comcast.net

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meets twice a year (tba), once in the spring and once in the late fall.



GALESBURG

Galesburg Retired Firefighters Club

President

Mike Whitson

(309) 337-1959

1163 Greenleaf St.

Galesburg, IL 61401

firewhitty@gmail.com

Secretary

Lynn A. Nelson

(309) 343-4853

492 S. Soangetaha Rd., Apt. #2

Galesburg, IL 61401

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meetings are the first Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

JACKSONVILLE

Jacksonville Retired Firefighters Club

President

Scott Jess

(217) 371-1336

2360 Mound Ave.

Jacksonville, IL 62650

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES This Club meets at the Ponderosa Steak House, West Morton Avenue, on the second Wednesday of January, March, June, September and December at 7:00 p.m.

The Club celebrates Illinois Firefighters Memorial Day and has wiener roast in September and a Christmas dinner in December. These are member and family affairs.

JOLIET AREA

Joliet Area Association Retired Firefighters

President

Mike Bessette

(815) 439-1865

4711 Galway Rd.

Joliet, IL 60431-8674

mjb53@comcast.net

Secretary

David Apgar

(815) 729-3382

250 Lake Lawn Ct.

Joliet, IL 60534-6874

d_apgar@comcast.net

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES Meetings are on the second Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in January, April, July and October.



KANKAKEE

Kankakee Retired Firefighters Club

President

Gary Regas

1374 N. Tower Road
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 351-8567

Secretary

Phil Hodak

905 S. Evergreen Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 370-5998
hodak58@gmail.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES Club's membership includes over 40 retirees. Meetings held at the Rich Lambert Memorial Union Hall #653, 120 E. Hickory St., on the second Wednesday each month at 6:30 p.m.

MOLINE

Moline Retired Firefighters

President

Ron Miller

2812 32nd Ave. Dr.
Moline, IL 61265
(563) 449-4757
molinefirelt@hotmail.com

Secretary

Rick Jewell

1130 27th Street
Moline, IL 61265
rjewell@mchsi.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES This Club will meet at the VFW on 7th Street in Moline at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the even months. Memorial markers are placed on the graves of our deceased each Memorial Day, and a Memorial Service is held at the Central Fire Station each year with an Honor Guard and Pipers. August meeting is a potluck with the wives.

MOUNT VERNON

Mt. Vernon Retired Firefighters Club

President

Larry Myers

17676 N. Illinois Highway
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
(618) 315-4398

Secretary

Richard Page

1703 Pace Ave.
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
(618) 242-0774
chaos1950@charter.net

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month starting in August. Social time is followed by a meal and business meeting.



(FORMERLY WAUKEGAN) NORTHEAST

Northeast Illinois Retired Firefighters Club

(Formerly Waukegan / North Chicago Retired Firefighters Club)

President

John Bruno

(847) 800-1968

6138 Crossland Blvd.

Gurnee, IL 60031

jtbruno18@gmail.com

Secretary

Jim McGrain

(847) 244-1931

2913 Brookside Ave.

Waukegan, IL 60085

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meetings are held on the second Tuesday of March, May, September and November at 2:00 p.m. at Bertrand's Bowling Alley on Washington St. in Waukegan. This Club supports the programs of the WFD and Local #473.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Retired Firefighters Association

President

Ed Whittington

(815) 332-4375

4639 Lindbloom Lane

Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Secretary

Ronald E. Seeley

(815) 623-6980

11591 Wild Deer Trail

Roscoe, IL 61073

rockfordretiredfirefighters@gmail.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES This Club meets 3rd Wednesday at Venetian Club, 2180 Elmwood Road, Rockford, Illinois.

OTTAWA

Ottawa Retired Firefighters Club

President

Robert Pillion

(815) 434-5559

321 Nebraska St.

Ottawa, IL 61350

bgpill@att.net

Secretary

Tom Ganiere

(815) 252-7886

323 Taylor St.

Ottawa, IL 61360

tomgan@aol.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meetings are on the last Thursday of the odd number months.



PEKIN

Pekin Retired Firefighters Club

President

Tim Zimmerman

(309) 346-6082

(309) 251-5396

2205 Scenic View Ct.

Pekin, IL 61554

captz.28.zimmerman@gmail.com

Secretary

Steve Shutts

(309) 696-8134

PO Box 275

Pekin, IL 61555

pknfr@grics.net

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Pekin Club will have their meetings in February, April, June, August, October, and December on the second Tuesday at the American Legion Hall, 718 Court St. gathering at 6:00 p.m. with a 7:00 p.m. meeting start.

PEORIA

Peoria Retired Firefighters Club

President

Mike Doyle

(309) 693-7814

3700 War Memorial Dr.

Peoria, IL 61615

Co-Chair

Dave Klasing

(309) 370-0613

4724 S. Hanna City Road

Hanna City, IL 61536

Secretary

Dan McGann

dmcgann33@gmail.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meets on the last Monday of each month at the Amvets Post, 237 NE Monroe at 7:30 p.m.

QUINCY

Quincy Retired Firefighters

President

Ronald W. Hinkamper

(217) 440-5941

2625 Woodale Ct.

Quincy, IL 62301

Secretary

Gerald Gengenbacher

(217) 224-0586 or (217) 316-6078

1400 Jefferson St.

Quincy, IL 62301

gbackup@adams.net

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club has meetings on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Eagles Club, 3737 N 5th Street.



ROCK ISLAND

Rock Island Association of Retired Firefighters

President

Wayne Stout

(309) 795-1095

16509 99th Ave. West

Illinois City, IL 61259

mlp614@aol.com

Secretary

Jerry Wiesman

(309) 949-3209

1121 West Court

Colona, IL 61241

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES This Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Hy-Vee in Rock Island at 9:00 a.m.

The Club has a Memorial Service each year on Firefighters Memorial Day and participates each year in the Labor Day Parade.

SPRINGFIELD

Springfield Retired Firefighters Club

President

John Sullivan

(217) 787-8392

#9 Inverness

Springfield, IL 62704

ksns68@att.net

Secretary

Pete Janssen

(217) 787-0898

2000 Montague

Springfield, IL 62711

pete.janssen.sarff@gmail.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES At Firefighters / Postal Club 940 West Lake Shore Drive, August 21 and November 7, at noon: Christmas Party – December.

U-C-U

U-C-U Retired Firefighters Club

(Urbana Champaign University)

President

John Mullen

(217) 688-2256

2375 CR 1200 N.

St. Joseph, IL 61873-9725

jjmullen@juno.com

Secretary

Robert L. Mullins

(217) 369-5927

2395 CR 1150N

Homer, IL 61849-9745

rlmullins626@gmail.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES This Club meets in the VFW Post #630 located at 1303 E. Main, Urbana at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every other month beginning with January.



2017 I.A.R.F. CLUB & CHARTER REPORTS

WESTERN CHICAGOLAND

Western Chicagoland Retired Firefighters

President

Steve Rose

(630) 205-8315

434 Zachary Drive

Hampshire, IL 60140

stephenrose8152@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Mario Tricoci

ltfpd@yahoo.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES Correspondences to WCRF can be sent to:
WCRF, P.O. Box 87, Forest Park, IL 60130

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GOLF NEWS & NOTES

*2017 Earl Levine
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Widow Registration This form is to be used by widows

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I wish to pay by check (send no cash, please): One year – \$10

Name _____

Address _____

Supporter Registration This form is to be used by anyone who wishes to compliment a widow

YES, I SUPPORT the endeavors of Illinois Association of Retired Firefighters. I would like to compliment the widow of deceased husband _____ with a subscription of the magazine.

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Name _____

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Welcome to the IAFF Alumni

The Alumni program is designed exclusively to assist retirees and former members in continuing their relationship with the IAFF.

Membership in this free program allows Alumni members to benefit from select IAFF and Union Plus programs, services and discounts, such as automotive, consumer education, computers, clothing, healthy lifestyles, home improvement, financial/insurance products, mobile phones / calling plans, pets, legal services and travel. Additionally, Alumni members can now subscribe to the *International Fire Fighter* magazine for a nominal price and will also automatically receive email communications directly from the IAFF that feature news and updates on fire fighter health and safety and local, state and federal politics.

Eligibility

All active-retired IAFF members are automatically members of the Alumni. Most former IAFF members with an inactive-retired membership status are eligible to participate provided that they retired or left their local in good standing. The final Alumni eligibility decision is at the discretion of the retiree's former union.

Welcome Package

New IAFF retirees who are eligible for the program will automatically be sent an Alumni Welcome Package that contains an Alumni membership card, a recent issue of the *International Fire Fighter* magazine and a temporary web site address that must be accessed to validate new Alumni memberships.

Each Alumni member will receive a thank you letter and Alumni decals approximately two weeks after updating their contact information at the temporary web site.

Contact Us

Please contact the IAFF with benefit, eligibility, welcome package and other questions related to the IAFF Alumni program.

Email alumni@iaff.org

Phone (202) 824-1567

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Byron, IL 61010

**R-SQUARED
CONSTRUCTION**

35 N. Commercial Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032

**BOONE COUNTY
TRANSMISSIONS**

8855 Town Hall Road
Belvidere, IL 61008

FURST – McNESS COMPANY

120 E. Clark Street
Freeport, IL 61032

VERSA FOODS

320 S. Gerri Lane
Addison, IL 60101

DEE PLUMBING & SEWER

3828 W 128th Place
Alsip, IL 60803

MHRC INC.

5668 E. State Street
Rockford, IL 61108

K & J ENTERPRISES

1021 E. 7th Street
Lockport, IL 60441

**BLUEBERRY HILL
RESTAURANT**

14355 S. Bell Road
Homer Glen, IL 60491

COLLISION CRAFT

536 N. Grant Street
Westmont, IL 60559

1ST RENTAL & SALES

7190 N. Cherryvale Mall Drive
Rockford, IL 61112

ANTHONY AUTO TRANSPORT

17040 Cheyenne Court
Lockport, IL 60441

IVAN AUTO CARE

4448 Soo Line Lane
Schiller Park, IL 60176

CONVENIENT FOOD MART

501 W. 87th Street
Naperville, IL 60505

BELVIDERE LEGION CLUB

900 W. Chrysler Drive
Belvidere, IL 61008

ED & JOE'S RESTAURANT & PIZZA

17332 S. Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477

UBE UNIVERSAL BEVERAGE EQUIPMENT

100 Leland Court
Bensenville, IL 60106

COUNTY TOBACCO 3

12105 W. 159th Street
Homer Glen, IL 60491

TOBACCO & GIFTS

1556 E. Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

OAKLEY UNISEX HAIR SALON

2253 W. 24th Street
Chicago, IL 60608

UNITED CUSTOM DESIGN

5000 S. Central
Chicago, IL 60638

M. HAIR DESIGN

2458 Millard Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623

TASTE OF INDIA

7243 S. Kingery Highway.
Willowbrook, IL 60527

EMPORIUM LIQUORS

17559 Kedzie Avenue
Hazel Crest, IL 60429

ACORN TIRE

275 E. Ogden Avenue
Naperville, IL 60540

PERDESI GROCERIES

1184 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

CENTRAL LIQUORS

2914 N. Central Avenue
Chicago, IL 60634

MOBILE GAS

15860 Dixie Highway
Harvey, IL 60428

THE PANTRY

1105 W. Bryn Mawr
Chicago, IL 60660

HARVEY FOOD & LIQUORS

263 E. 159th Street
Harvey, IL 60426

KIM LONG

1054 W. Argyle Street
Chicago, IL 60640

FRIENDS MINI MART

6343 26th Street
Berwyn, IL 60402

AMERICAN DREAM FENCE & DECK

1419 E. Cass
Joliet, IL 60432

JO JO CHICAGO INC.

180 W. Lake Street
Chicago, IL 60601

K & K AUTOMOTIVE CARE INC.

1004 Dell Road
Northbrook, IL 60062

**ECONOMY TRANSMISSION
& AUTO REPAIR**

3400 W. 150th Street
Markham, IL 60428

T & T AUTO CARE

21750 Main Street
Matteson, IL 60443

MICHAEL HILL JEWELERS

4104 N. Harlem Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706

THE UPS STORE

9923 Ridgeland Avenue
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415

FIESTA PALACE

4449 Highway 64
Mt. Morris, IL 61054

FAMILY YMCA OF NORTHWEST IL

2998 W. Pearl City Road
Freeport, IL 61032

PARK FOREST LIQUORS

22228 Governors Highway.
Richton Park, IL 60471

BEIJING CHINESE RESTAURANT

10213 W. Grand Avenue
Franklin Park, IL 60131

WINDSOR AUTO SALES

7010 N. Alpine Road
Loves Park, IL 61111

DELEHANTY FUNERAL HOME

401 River Lane
Loves Park, IL 61111

ROCKFORD CONSULTING & BROKERAGE

1639 North Alpine Road
Rockford, IL 61107

EXTRA VALUE FOOD & LIQUOR

27W235-237 Geneva Road
Winfield, IL 60190

DR. RICK MCNALLY

631 N. Longwood
Rockford, IL 61107

ALEX & A AUTO REPAIR

936 W. 31st Street
Chicago, IL 60608

LA FOGATA NUEVA

3433 W. Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625

DENA KITCHEN

3306 W. Fullerton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647

BEE LINE SERVICES

2291 US 20 East
Freeport, IL 61032

PARK LICENSE SERVICE

6402 N. 2nd Street
Loves Park, IL 61111

EZ DINNERS

5533 N. 2nd Street
Loves Park, IL 61111

ROCK CUT ELEMENTARY

7944 Forest Hills Road
Loves Park, IL 61111

EZ AUTO GLASS

4840 W. North Avenue
Chicago, IL 60639

VAPES N JUICE

4437 E. State St.
Rockford, IL 61108

WHITE EAGLE CLUB OF ROCKFORD

235 15th Avenue
Rockford, IL 61104

**THE MECHANICS
OF OAK LAWN**

5534 W. 110th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

**PROMET
PROCESSING
CORPORATION**

951 Frontenec Rd
Naperville, IL 60563

SUPER NAILS

6236 Main Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516

CHINA WOK RESTAURANT

8821 Ridgeland
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

RAMIREZ TRANSMISSIONA

1004 Claim St
Aurora, IL 60505

MILES MIND

Downers Grove, IL 60515

HART'S GARAGE COLLISION CENTER

Downers Grove, IL 60515

CLEAN CLEAN DRY CLEANERS.

Chicago, IL 60638

ALTA SEER EDUCATIONAL

Oak Lawn, IL 60453

DISCOUNT TOBACCO

Rockford, IL 61114

FAST LANE THREADS

Belvidere, IL 61008

KEDZIE AUTO BODY SHOP

Chicago, IL 60623

EMBRACE CONSIGNMENT

Kankakee, IL 60901

*Thank
You
For
Your
Support!*

**THE MORSE
GROUP**

500 W. SOUTH STREET
FREEPORT, IL 61032

**G & K
SERVICES**

5611 11TH STREET
ROCKFORD, IL 61109

I CAN RELATE TO DUCKS

Joel Mains retired after 25 years as a firefighter/paramedic with Downers Grove Firefighters Local 3234. He has served his local as President, Vice President and Steward at various times in his career. He writes on a variety of topics at icanrelatetoducks.com and can be reached through that website.

Let me start by briefly telling you a little about me...

I just retired from Downers Grove Professional Fire Fighters Local 3234 after twenty five years on the job. Well, that's not exactly true. As I write this, I'm still on-the-job. Literally. I'm sitting at the kitchen table at Station #3, watching a couple of new guys prep dinner (chicken enchiladas) and trying to figure out what I'm going to say here. My last shift will be September 15th and my last day on the books will be September 29th. I need to have this to the printer by September 1st and, deadlines being, well, deadlines, I'm working on it now.

And let me just say, when President Schrepfer asked me if I would like to write something to be published in the quarterly retired guy newsletter (not the official name, but you know what I mean) I jumped at the chance.

But back to where I was originally headed.

I'm retired. That sounds weird.

Where in the heck did twenty five years go? It feels like I just walked in the door about six months ago. Don't get me wrong, I know it's time. Everything aches but nothing hurts, so it seems like the time is right. I have days where I feel really good, like maybe I'm 40 years old again (I'm 58 by the way) and I have days where I feel like I'm 75 years old. I just said that the other day, to a cousin I hadn't seen in a very long time. She just looked at me and said "I'm 75". She wasn't impressed with my choice of ages, apparently. In my defense, she was using a cane, so...

But I digress.

So, what does a retired guy do anyway? And I'm not even trying to be a smart alack when I ask that. I mean, I've got a little bit of an idea since I don't currently work a side job, but I'm pretty sure once the newness wears off, I'm going to be needing a little more to do besides walking the dog twelve times a day. I do, in all honesty, plan to devote a good portion of my newly found leisure time to writing more, I've had a blog that I've been writing on (at?) for the last seven or eight years and I'd like to flesh that out into something more, perhaps a book, but I'm not yet convinced I can make that work, sooooo.

Sorry, we just got back from three calls back-to-back-to-back and I lost my train of thought. I'm going to miss that. Not the losing my train of thought part, the running calls part. I take great pride in the fact that I've been at the busiest house in town for 15 of my 25 years, mostly here at the end of my career. I don't understand why most of these kids today don't want to work at the busy house.

That's another reason I know I'm ready to retire; I say "I don't know why these kids" a lot lately.

Ok, I think I'm running out of room so, even though I haven't really accomplished anything here, I'd better wrap it up. I'm looking forward to this new phase in my life, the friends of mine that are retired all seem pretty happy, and I can't wait to jump in and see what comes next.

One last thing...

Who shows me the secret handshake? We have one, don't we?

