

DISABLED AND RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS®

Official Publication of the Illinois Association of Retired Firefighters



FALL 2018
VOLUME 34



Ken "Sly" Sylvester

Retired Captain Local 49 Carrying Flag at IAFF Opening Ceremony

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IARF EBoard presenting PAC check to AFFI President Devaney • Photo courtesy of Elgin Retiree Larry Judkins

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Official Publication of the Illinois Association of Retired Firefighters

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IARF Quarterly Meetings 2018-2019

Northern District Location

October 27, 2018
Elgin Fire Barn 5
533 Saint Charles Street
Elgin, Illinois 60120
(847) 697-6242

Central District Location

January 26, 2019
Bloomington/Normal Fire & Police Club
1750 General Electric Road
Bloomington, Illinois 61704
(309) 829-8092

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President's Message

Jim Schrepfer, President I.A.R.F.



Brothers and Sisters,

It has been an exciting year for the IARF and I hope everyone is happy and healthy. First, I would like to give a special “shout out” to Wayne Stout, President of our Rock Island Chapter.

Wayne has stepped down as Trustee of this great organization. Wayne has been representing the IARF for a long time and he will be missed on the Executive Board.

This is an election year and everyone is talking about JB Pritzker and Bruce Rauner. In this magazine, the AFFI has an endorsed slate of candidates including JB Pritzker. Please review the endorsements that are based solely on the positions the candidates took on fire fighter issues. The AFFI does not consider issues such as right to life, abortion, climate control, guns, or building a wall. What a candidate does for fire fighters is the AFFI's only consideration!

I was enjoying breakfast, recently, with another retired fire fighter and the conversation turned to Governor Rauner. This retiree immediately began badmouthing Speaker of the Illinois House, Mike Madigan. I suddenly realized that all those Rauner commercials might be having an effect. In the race for Governor, I find it interesting that all Governor Rauner's commercials talk about Speaker of the House Michael Madigan. It seems that he is running against the Speaker of the House.

It is true that Michael Madigan has been around for a long time. It is also true that Michael Madigan has been a friend of Fire Fighters

for all that time. While Mr. Madigan has been Speaker of the House, The Municipal League, Illinois City Managers Association, and all other organizations representing management have been trying to reduce and eliminate your pension benefits. They have hired hundreds of lawyers and law firms to try to overcome the “pension protection clause” in the Illinois Constitution. Mike Madigan has stopped them every time. Mike Madigan controls the agenda in the House and has thwarted any attempt to put the constitutional amendment on the ballot.

Speaker Madigan has also assisted the AFFI in getting legislation through the General Assembly. There is a reason why the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois has been the most effective and successful Union in Illinois! The AFFI has introduced and secured passage of major legislative initiatives including The Fair Promotions Act, the Substitutes Bill, Fire Chief's Qualifications, and numerous others. With Speaker Madigan's assistance, the AFFI was able to secure a guaranteed funding mechanism for our pension funds through the Illinois Comptrollers office in the 2010 Pension Reform Act. It was Speaker Madigan who gave us a seat at that table.

Governor Rauner has refused to meet with the AFFI for his entire administration. He is the only Governor who has never met with President Devaney and our Executive Board.

The next time you hear anyone speaking bad about Speaker of The House Michael Madigan, please let them know that he is a true friend and protector of fire fighters.

I hope to see you all in Elgin at the Fall Northern District Quarterly Meeting on Saturday October 27th.

Fraternally in Solidarity,
Jim Schrepfer President

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Vice President's Message

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

IARF ENTERING 21ST CENTURY



It was an inevitability, but we have finally caught up with the 21st century. The IARF is going digital with both a Facebook page and a Webpage. In the near future, you will be able to get information you need on your computer, phone, or I-Pad.

We have had our Facebook page for several years, and it has been very successful. We get many new viewers every month, and some of our clubs have started post pictures of local events for us all to see. It has been a great source of information for meetings, golf outings, special events for local clubs, and general information we felt you needed to know. However, Facebook is limited in what it can do, and what other applications are available. For this you need a website.

Well, we have begun the process of creating our own website. I know some information is available on the AFFI website, but the AFFI website is really dedicated to active members. Our website will be dedicated to our retirees. Our idea is to set it up in a way that you can get general information by simply going to the webpage. Things like new legislation affecting retiree's, such as IARF and local club meetings and events, pictures of interest, anniversaries and passings. We also intend to set up a "Member's Only" section with rosters and officers listings. This area will be password protected, and the password will be available only to IARF members.

Our domain has been purchased, and it is going to be "IARF-AFFI", that is when it goes live. Our home page is being designed and information to be included is being gathered. Our webmaster is Jeff Boetto of the Evanston Fire Department. He is the digital guru who helped the AFFI rework their website back in 2005. He's even won the award for WebPage of the Year in 2010 & 2013. I think we are in really good hands.

Your board is trying hard to make you, the membership, more aware of those things that have a direct impact on you in a timely manner. These electronic enhancements will help us get you the information even faster. Stay tuned for further developments. On another important topic, we are polling our clubs to determine whether or not we can take over the marketing of our magazine ads. This would require each club to sell an amount of ads. This amount is yet to be determined. What we are asking for is your help in this project. Some areas of Illinois have been severely overlooked. Our club members would be in a position to know which businesses are "friendly" to our cause. This could work, but it will take a commitment from all members.

Until next time, Stay Safe.

I look forward to seeing you in Elgin this October and in Bloomington this January.

Until then, I remain fraternally yours.
George Bode, VP of IARF



Why You Need A Power of Attorney For Health Care

By: Eric R. Wilen, Esq.

As we all know, life is unpredictable. You could suddenly become very sick or could be involved in a life-threatening accident in a moment's notice. You may be rendered unconscious and find yourself being rushed to the hospital in an ambulance. What if serious medical decisions need to be made and you are unconscious or otherwise lack the ability to make such a decision. Who will be the person to make these decisions for you? Better question, who would you want to make these decisions for you?

The Illinois Power of Attorney Act provides a simple statutory form which will grant someone (i.e. your agent) the power to make decisions regarding your health care. The agent's authority to make health decisions can take effect when you cannot make your own decisions as determined by the physician taking care of you or the agent's authority can take effect immediately. While the statutory form requires you to name a health care agent, it also allows you to name one or more successor agents.

How do I choose my health care agent? You do not have to choose family members. In selecting your health care agent, you should choose someone who (i) is at least 18 years old; (ii) knows you well; (iii) you can trust to do what is best for you and will be willing to carry out your wishes, even if they may not agree with your wishes; (iv) would be comfortable talking with and questioning your physicians and other health care providers; (v) would not be too upset to carry out your wishes if you became very sick; and (vi) can be there for you when you need it and is willing to accept this important role.

The Illinois statutory form also contains HIP-PA release language which grants your agent access to your medical and mental health re-

ords. The statutory form has an option where you can retain the right to make your own health care decisions until you lack the ability to do so while giving your agent current access to your medical records with the authority to communicate with your health care providers.

What if there is no one that I can trust to be my health care agent? While you cannot create a Power of Attorney for Health Care without naming an agent, you should consider executing a Declaration to your attending physician in accordance with the Illinois Living Will Act. By executing a Declaration, you can provide that should your death be imminent, except for death delaying procedures, that you be permitted to die naturally with only the administration of medication, sustenance or other medical procedures determined to be necessary to provide you with comfort. It is recommended that people in this situation execute a Declaration to their attending physician in addition to a Power of Attorney for Health Care. By executing both documents, if your named health care agent and any named successor agents fail to act or become unavailable, then you will not be left in a terminal condition continuing to receive life-sustaining treatments.

Eric R. Wilen is an attorney with the Naperville Law Firm of Brooks, Tarulis & Tibble, LLC (www.NapervilleLaw.com). Eric has over 20 years of experience counseling clients regarding their estate planning matters and substantial experience with powers of attorney for health care.

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AFFI LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

At the time of this publication, the AFFI Legislative Committee is right in the middle of the 2nd year of the 100th General Assembly. As you know, the AFFI has a long history of advocating for its members at the capitol in Springfield. As retirees, many of you had a hand in promoting our issues and creating some of the many rights and benefits all of us enjoy today. It should also be noted that legislators in the Senate and House, as well as supportive Governor's have played a significant role in creating or maintaining all of our rights and benefits. Below is just a sampling of items that have passed and became law in just the last 5-7 years.

1. Increased the population threshold for municipalities in order to maintain relevance within the Work Comp statute.
2. Revamped the entire firefighter hiring process so that all municipalities and districts use the same process.
3. Ensured that employers pay for the exam review sessions within the promotion process.
4. Allowed for a Article 4 pension board to make payments to a beneficiary trust fund.
5. Allowed for public safety officers to solicit for charities at certain intersections in their communities.
6. Increased the dependent benefit for FF's who die and are not married.
7. Created the Regional/Unified Fire Protection District Act
8. Before a local government can cease FD operations they must put it on a referendum.
9. Ensured Manning is a mandatory subject of bargaining.
10. Increased the maximum age for a FF to be hired for those that are serving in the military at the time they reach 35 years of age.

11. Created the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Taskforce
12. Required Local governments to issue certificates of appointment to FF's hired
13. Allowed Bedford Park tier 2 FF's to participate in IMRF-SLEP as opposed to IMRF
14. Allowed a FF who was formerly a police officer in same local government to transfer up to 6 years of creditable service from Article 3 to 4
15. Broadened the infectious disease testing done at hospitals
16. Created minimum standards for Fire Chiefs to be appointed.

As we head into the Summer months, the AFFI will again go through the rigorous endorsement process ensuring that only those that are supportive of issues affecting our membership receive the coveted AFFI endorsement for the November General Election.

As members of the AFFI & IARF we ask that you participate in our political action program by volunteering to campaign on behalf of endorsed candidates when called upon. We also ask that you study our endorsement list and vote for those who support issues important to professional union firefighters and retirees.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact an AFFI Legislative Representative if you have questions or concerns.

In Solidarity,
AFFI Legislative Committee



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Trustee's Message

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



Greetings Retirees
and Spouses,

We have had a very productive Spring and Fall. We had two good quarterly meetings, one in Belleville and the other in Peoria. Thanks to the hosting clubs for doing a great job setting up the meetings. We sent IARF representatives to the Legislative Conference in Springfield. We listened and met with several Legislators from both sides of the aisle that support IARF / AFFI issues. We also sent delegates to the AFFI Bicennial Convention. We talked to several delegates and committee member explaining our resolution on our per capita reduction. With the help of the AFFI and IARF executive Boards it passed unanimously. This will be a huge factor in keeping the IARF afloat and in the black.

I would like to thank Trustee Wayne Stout and Chaplain Darrell Coons for their years of service to the IARF. Both have chosen to step down from their positions. They will both be missed. I would like to thank Mark Chmura from Naperville for stepping up to become our newly elected trustee, welcome aboard.

The "Friends of the IARF" fundraiser was a success. Thanks to all who bought and sold tickets. The first drawing was held at the Peoria meeting and more winners will be drawn at the next three quarterly meeting. The plan is to do it again next year so keep an eye out for the tickets when they become available. We are always looking at ways to fund this magazine. We are tossing around money-making ideas in which the individual clubs can help and make some money too.

Hope to see several of you at the upcoming quarterly meetings and at the IARF golf outing hosted by Springfield.

Fraternally,
Rocky Fardel - Trustee
Iaff524@yahoo.com



*Rockford Retired Firefighters enjoying
Quarterly Meeting supper.*

Trustee's Message

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



Retired Brothers
and Sisters,

Fall Greetings from
Belleville!

Let's hit the political
scene right off the
bat...Please educate
yourselves about
the candidates
before going to the

polls, but please be sure to vote on or before
November 6th. Vote the Person not the Party.

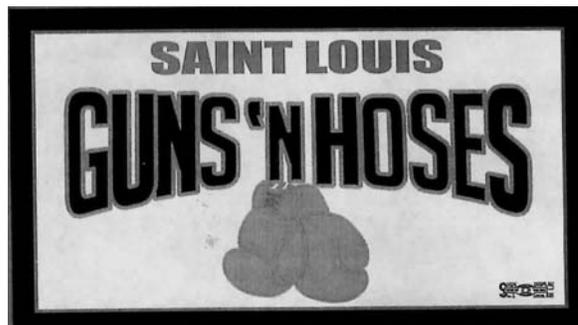
The Summer "Picnic" Meeting on July 28th
in Peoria was well attended and as usual the
food was exceptional. Thanks to the Peoria
Club for hosting! We had the first "Friends of
the IARF" Cash Drawing and I am happy to
say that one of the cash prizes was a ticket that
I sold. Thanks to all the people that purchased
those tickets, the raffle will really help our
organization! I am looking forward to the
next three drawings. Election of Officers was
held and I was re-elected to a two year term
as Trustee. I also picked up the IARF clothing
sales detail from Wayne Stout who retired
from his Trustee position at this meeting. I
will have T-Shirts and other goods available
at the Elgin Meeting. You can contact me in
advance to place an order.

Please plan on attending the Elgin Meeting
on October 27th. The meeting will be held
at their Firehouse Barn Museum. It is a must
see!

I am on the St. Louis Guns 'N Hoses event
Sales Committee again this year . The event
will be on November 21st. If anyone is
interested in purchasing tickets for this great
event, please contact me.

In closing, I would like to mention that the
Belleville Club will be hosting the Spring
2019 meeting. Please plan on attending and
make time to take in the 9/11 Memorial at
Fire Station Four grounds located at 1125 S.
Illinois Street.

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



Elgin Retirees in 4th of July Parade.

Trustee's Message

Jim Smith, Trustee I.A.R.F.



Hello to all fellow retiree's and spouses, I wanted to start out with a quick note on the happenings in Springfield. Governor Rauner has vetoed yet another bill in the house that is geared to the fire service. So far HB126, HB127,

HB2619 and HB5221, bills to assist the fire service in Illinois have been vetoed by our Governor.

Governor Rauner made a statement after he vetoed one of the House Bills and here is just a part of that statement, "castigating the legislation as perpetuating the decades of political corruption that has plagued the State of Illinois for too long. Time and again, elected officials have granted sweeping benefits and power to the unions in exchange for campaign contributions and political support, creating a system of entrenchment, waste and bad government".

This past July the picnic was held in Peoria and was attended by many. The day was beautiful, the food was great and the conversation with firefighters that attended was a pleasure to speak to. There were several key items covered at the meeting, there was Pat Devaney from the AFFI spoke to the attendee's, there was also the election for the board and trustees for the association and the first drawing of "The Friends of the IARF".

It was great to see Pat Devaney come to one of our meetings as well as enlighten us on the latest with the AFFI. He covered and explained several key topic's that could impact the fire service, as well as a few court cases that could affect firefighter's disability retirement. Mr. Devaney was well received by all of those who attended. There was also the first drawing of the "Friends of the IARF" held that day. Nine sponsors of the IARF were drawn from the hat, or in this case basket. With help from Marty Devaney son of Pat he drew all nine sponsors names out of the basket. Congratulations to all the people who supported the IARF who purchased the friend's tickets, and a few received a little in return for their investment.

I would also like to thank all the clubs who helped with the sale of the friend's sponsorship sales. The few clubs I had contact with to explain this endeavor of raising money for our association was met with some very positive responses from the members. As it appeared to me that this almost turned into a competition between clubs, with which club can sell more sponsor tickets then the other clubs. Again, THANK YOU for all your help in making the friend's event a success along with benefiting our organization.

Also, at the July meeting was the election for the IARF board and Trustee's. The current board for the most part has stayed the same with one exception. Trustee Stout stepped down from being Trustee after all these years and was replaced with Mark Chmura. Mark is retired from Naperville Fire Department, and after meeting him he is ready to hit the ground running with keeping the IARF a great organization.

I would like to thank Wayne for everything he has done for the IARF for so many years. When I joined the IARF 14 years ago Wayne was the go to guy for IARF clothing. For so many years Wayne carried boxes of polo shirts, t-shirts and hats to sell at the quarterly meetings to the members so that they could display our logo proudly. Now after many years Wayne is retiring again, and shall we say lighten the load of responsibility's. Thank you, Wayne, for all you have done, now sit back and enjoy your retirement. I am sure we will still see you at meetings.

I would also like to say welcome aboard to Mark Chmura the new IARF trustee, I look forward to working with you in the future. As I am sure you will bring in fresh ideas to help our organization maintain the high standards that have been set by the past board members since our start.

Fraternally,
Jim Smith.

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Treasurer's Message

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



At the Bloomington meeting the report of income and expenses showed slow improvement for January to April 2018. What little improvement that developed was a

result of raising the dues to \$10. At that time, the IARF was seeking a joint resolution with the AFFI to reduce the per diem that the IARF pays to the state association. That resolution passed at the AFFI Biennial Convention held this summer in St. Charles.

The reduction has helped balance revenue over expenses for the period of April to July 2018. In addition, the operating fund is in the black due also to the "Friends of IARF" program. I want to recognize President Schrepfer and Vice-President Bode for their efforts to negotiate with the AFFI for the restructuring of the per capita fees. In addition, the fund accounts have been moved from a high interest account at Busey Bank to a revenue gain account at MidAmerica National Bank in Canton. The IARF year-to-date budget reflects all obligations being supported by the anticipated revenue sources.

Continued on page 12

The Executive Board is looking to make a change in selling advertisements through the local chapters to achieve higher revenue levels. This could also result in addition revenue to the local chapters as well. At this time there is a committee studying this change. More information will be available at the October quarterly in Elgin. The Board is looking forward to all recommendations and suggestions.

Fraternally,
Dan Oaks



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Trustee's Message

Mark Chmura, Trustee I.A.R.F.



Greetings from the new guy!

As your new Trustee, I would like to introduce myself. I retired from the Naperville FD as a Captain / Battalion Commander after 30

years at the NFD, and after 37 years in the fire service total. I was hired in 1986, as part of a group to staff their new Fire Station 4. The City had only 47,000 residents, and open farmland. Today they now have 10 fire stations, 170,000 residents, and the farmland you find is backyard gardens.

only for the retired firefighters and surviving widows, but the fire service as a whole. I am excited to be part of this energetic team.

Which leads into my message for today. On November 6th, we will be deciding on Governor, State offices, and Congress. I hope that you go to the ballot box. Too often, we all hear: "My vote doesn't count anyway". Let's remember, in 2004 the President was decided by a few hundred votes and "hanging chads" in Florida. One special election recently was decided by a coin flip. And now, the special election in Ohio looks like a virtual dead heat. Brothers and sisters, your vote DOES matter! Please research the candidates and support your choices by voting this November 6th.

Fraternally yours,
Mark Chmura

Fast forwarding to the July meeting, it is easy to see that all of us aren't done yet! We all still have a lot to contribute. Together we can make the future a happy, healthy, and successful, not

MOVING ?

... please send us your change of address

.....

• *New Address:* _____

• Name _____

• Address _____

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.....

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



AFFI LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The second year of the 100th General Assembly (GA) began in the middle of January and concluded May 31st. The AFFI Legislative Committee worked through the Spring advocating for a number of AFFI initiatives and ensured bills detrimental to firefighters did not come to fruition.

Despite an anti-union Governor who wants nothing more than to destroy unionism in general and public employee unions specifically, we were able to move five AFFI initiatives through both chambers and to his desk in the second year of this 100th GA. As a reminder, six AFFI initiatives were passed and became law in year one of the 100th GA.

Three of the five AFFI initiatives were recently vetoed by Governor Rauner. They are listed below with a brief synopsis of each of the five. The other two bills have not yet been acted on.

SB 2619 Fire Chief Minimum Qualifications: This is a follow up bill to legislation we passed last year (SB 1304) that sets minimum requirements in order to be a Fire Chief or Department Head of a Fire Department. It affects those departments that utilize state statute to test and hire full time firefighters in Illinois. Volunteer and paid on call departments are not affected. Local units of government cannot “home-rule” out of the requirement. Still awaiting Governor action.

SB 3119 Bedford Park Tier 2 IMRF/SLEP and PTSD Disability Medical Exams: This bill has three amendments. Two of them pertain to AFFI members. House Amendment 1 is a follow up bill to legislation passed last year (HB 815). Amendment 1 creates language that makes it crystal clear that Bedford Park firefighters who are currently Tier 2 members in IMRF will be able to participate in IMRF-SLEP Tier 2 following an affirmative vote by the village board.

Amendment 2 to SB 3119 states that an annual medical examination of a firefighter receiving a disability pension for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related to his or her service as a firefighter shall not be made if: (1) the firefighter has attained age 45 (it is currently 50); (2) the firefighter has provided to the board documentation approving the discontinuance of the medical examination from at least 2 physicians; and (3) at least 4 members of the board have voted in the affirmative to allow the firefighter to discontinue the medical examination. Still awaiting Governor action.

As many of you are aware, the AFFI represents six affiliates that are paramedic only units. Three bills were moved through the grueling legislative process that added their occupation by definition to substantial state statutes. All three of these bills were recently vetoed by Governor Rauner. The AFFI Legislative Committee will work with the General Assembly this Fall during veto session to override the Governor’s veto.

HB 126 adds “Paramedic employed by a unit of local government” to the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (IPLRA). This will give our brothers and sisters in those six locals the ability to enter into binding arbitration. Governor Vetoed.

HB 127 adds “Paramedic employed by a unit of local government” to the Public Safety Employee Benefit Act (PSEBA). If a paramedic is catastrophically injured or killed this Act provides that the local unit of government provide medical insurance for the disabled paramedic and survivors. Governor vetoed.

HB 5221 adds “Paramedic employed by a unit of local government” to the Public Employee Disability Act (PEDA). This is within the Worker Compensation Act that provides for full compensation for line of duty injuries for up to 12 months for firefighters, police officers, correctional officers and hopefully paramedics. Governor vetoed.

As always, a number of pieces of legislation were introduced that would strip or drastically reduce some of our hard earned benefits and rights. A small sampling is below:

HB 447 once an agreement is reached between a public employer and its employees regarding all of the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, the agreement shall be reduced to writing and published on the website of the public employer. Requires the public employer, not less than 14 days after publishing such an agreement, to hold an open public meeting on the ratification of that agreement prior to signing.

SB 2438 if a unit of local government, as an employer, and public employees provide for arbitration of impasses, the employer’s financial ability to fund the proposals based on existing available resources shall be given primary consideration.

HB 669 Authorizes units of local government to provide alternative retirement plans in lieu of or in addition to the existing plan under the applicable Article. Provides that the alternative retirement plan may include a defined-benefit component, a defined contribution component, or both, and may include disability or survivor benefits and any other benefits that are permitted under federal law. Provides that the alternative retirement plan is not required to provide any minimum level of benefits and need not provide any benefits at all, other than mandatory Social Security coverage if applicable.

HB 5644 Creates the Local Government Bankruptcy Neutral Evaluation Act.

HB 3638 states that in the case of fire fighters, fire departments, or fire districts arbitration decisions concerning conditions of employment do not include manning levels. It also seeks to amend the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act. Defines “catastrophic injury” as an injury where the direct and proximate consequences of the injury permanently prevent an individual from performing any gainful work.

HJRC 18 Proposes to amend the General Provisions Article of the Illinois Constitution. Repeals a provision that specifies that membership in any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired.

Multiple bills were introduced to consolidate our pension funds into IMRF, or to consolidate all police and fire funds and have one statewide fund administered by a board appointed by the Governor.

Again, this is just a small sampling of bills that seek to remove, and/or diminish many of the current rights and benefits that the AFFI has gained over decades. We are pleased to report that none of these bills have gained any momentum. Why? We currently have Senators and Representatives that support our issues. We need to ensure we support them when necessary.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact an AFFI Legislative Representative.

Fraternally,

Chuck Sullivan, AFFI Legislative Committee, Secretary

Understanding Account Structures and Beneficiaries

It's important to understand account structures and beneficiary types when setting up an individual retirement account (IRA), employer-sponsored plan, or other retirement savings account. Here's a look at some basic principles to keep in mind when you open your next account, and to make sure your existing accounts are structured in a way that works for you.

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), 401(k)s and Other Employer-Sponsored Plans

Established and maintained on an individual basis and cannot be held jointly.

Annuities

Annuities which are not IRA's or part of a group retirement plan, can be held jointly.

A loved one passing away is an emotional event, and assuring that beneficiaries are current can help make the process of transferring assets as smooth as possible. You may designate two types of beneficiaries to receive your assets after you're gone:

1. Primary Beneficiaries

The person (or persons) who can claim the account assets when the account owner passes away.

2. Contingent Beneficiaries

The person (or persons) entitled to claim the account assets in the event there are no living primary beneficiaries.

Keep in mind that naming minors as beneficiaries can be more complicated than naming adult beneficiaries, as a guardian may need to be involved to ensure competent management of the proceeds. **It's important to check – and update, as necessary – the beneficiaries on your account every year.**



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TO ALL I.A.R.F. CHAPTERS

New program that will offset some of the costs that this Organization has endured over the last several years.

In January the Friends of Illinois Association of Retired Firefighters will be re-opened. All members will be asked to canvas sponsorship coupons for a minimum donation of \$10 per coupon. Your Chapter will be receiving your supply of coupons in the next drawing by the first of 2019.

The coupons are two parts. The first part is information on the I.A.R.F. they will sponsor; the second part is a stub where the sponsor will fill out personal information.

We will have gifts for 9 sponsors who have donated to the organization by drawing names at the quarterly membership meetings. The prizes that will be awarded are as follows:

- 1 - \$500.00 prize
- 1 - \$250.00 prize
- 1 - \$100.00 prize
- 6 - \$25.00 prizes

There will also be a \$25.00 prize for the I.A.R.F. Member who sells the \$500.00 prize coupon. On the section where the sponsor fills out information about themselves, there will be a line for the seller to place their name.

All stubs the sponsors have completed, all unsold coupons and total donations collected shall be returned to the I.A.R.F. by a designated date. In order to save processing time, please have your Chapter send one check made out to I.A.R.F. for the total amount of coupons they have sold.

The hope is for the Friends of Illinois Association of Retired Firefighters Program to turn into an annual event. With a little help from each of you, we may again make this program a success in helping our organization with covering costs.

Once the tickets are distributed, the stubs containing personal membership information along with donated funds are to be returned to:

Dan Oaks
23731 N. Algonquin Drive
Canton, Illinois 61520



ASSOCIATED FIRE FIGHTERS OF ILLINOIS

2018 General Election Endorsements

Governor/Lt. Governor J B Pritzker/Juliana Stratton - D

Attorney General Kwame Raoul - D

Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza - D

Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs - D

Secretary of State Jesse White - D

U.S. House

- 1 Bobby L. Rush - D
- 2 Robin Kelly - D
- 3 Daniel William Lipinski - D
- 4 No Endorsement
- 5 Mike Quigley - D
- 6 No Endorsement
- 7 Danny K. Davis - D
- 8 Raja Krishnamoorthi - D
- 9 Janice D. Schakowsky - D
- 10 Brad Schneider - D
- 11 Bill Foster - D
- 12 Michael Bost - R
- 13 Rodney Davis - R
- 14 Lauren Underwood - D
- 15 John M. Shimkus - R
- 16 Adam Kinzinger - R
- 17 Cheri Bustos - D
- 18 Darin LaHood - R

Illinois Senate

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2nd Omar Aquino - D | 30th Terry Link - D |
| 3rd Mattie Hunter - D | 32nd No Endorsement |
| 5th Patricia Van Pelt - D | 33rd Nancy Zettler - D |
| 6th John J. Cullerton - D | 35th Dave Syverson - R |
| 8th Ram Villivalam - D | 36th Neil Anderson - R |
| 9th Laura Fine - D | 38th Sue Rezin - R |
| 11th Martin A. Sandoval - D | 39th Don Harmon - D |
| 12th Steven Landek - D | 41st John Curran - R |
| 14th Emil Jones III - D | 42nd Linda Holmes - D |
| 15th Napoleon B. Harris, III - D | 44th Willam E. Brady - R |
| 17th Elgie R. Sims - D | 45th No Endorsement |
| 18th Bill Cunningham - D | 47th Jil Tracy - R |
| 20th Iris Martinez - D | 48th Andy Manar - D |
| 21st Michael Connelly - R | 50th No Endorsement |
| 23rd Thomas Cullerton - D | 51st Chapin Rose - R |
| 24th Chris Nybo - R | 53rd Jason Barickman - R |
| 26th No Endorsement | 54th No Endorsement |
| 27th Ann Gillespie - D | 56th Rachele Crowe - D |
| 29th Julie A. Morrison - D | 57th Christopher Belt - D |
| | 59th Dale Fowler - R |



ASSOCIATED FIRE FIGHTERS OF ILLINOIS

Illinois House

1st	No Endorsement	79th	Lisa M. Dugan - D
2nd	Theresa Mah - D	80th	Anthony DeLuca - D
3rd	Luis Arroyo - D	81st	David Olsen - R
4th	No Endorsement	82nd	Jim Durkin - R
5th	No Endorsement	83rd	Linda Chapa LaVia - D
6th	Sonya Marie Harper - D	84th	Stephanie A. Kifowit - D
7th	Emanuel 'Chris' Welch - D	85th	John Connor - D
8th	La Shawn K. Ford - D	86th	Lawrence 'Larry' Walsh Jr. - D
9th	Arthur Turner - D	87th	No Endorsement
10th	Melissa Conyears-Ervin - D	88th	No Endorsement
11th	Ann M. Williams - D	89th	No Endorsement
12th	Sara Feigenholtz - D	90th	No Endorsement
13th	Gregory Harris - D	91st	Michael D. Unes - R
14th	Kelly M. Cassidy - D	92nd	Jehan Gordon-Booth - D
15th	John C. D'Amico - D	93rd	Norine Hammond - R
16th	Lou Lang - D	94th	No Endorsement
17th	Jennifer Gong-Gerschowitz - D	95th	No Endorsement
18th	Robyn Gabel - D	96th	Sue Scherer - D
19th	Robert Martwick - D	97th	No Endorsement
20th	Michael P. McAuliffe - R	98th	Natalie A. Manley - D
21st	No Endorsement	99th	Mike Murphy - R
22nd	Michael J. Madigan - D	100th	No Endorsement
23rd	Michael J. Zalewski - D	101st	No Endorsement
24th	Elizabeth Hernandez -D	102nd	No Endorsement
25th	Curtis Tarver II - D	103rd	Carol Ammons - D
26th	Christian L. Mitchell - D	104th	No Endorsement
27th	Justin Q. Slaughter - D	105th	No Endorsement
28th	Robert 'Bob' Rita - D	106th	No Endorsement
29th	Thaddeus Jones - D	107th	No Endorsement
30th	William 'Will' Davis - D	108th	Charles Meier - R
31st	Mary E. Flowers - D	109th	No Endorsement
32nd	Andre Thapedi - D	110th	No Endorsement
33rd	Marcus C. Evans Jr. - D	111th	Monica Bristow - D
34th	Nick Smith - D	112th	Katie Stuart - D
35th	Frances Ann Hurley - D	113th	Jay C. Hoffman - D
36th	Kelly M, Burke - D	114th	LaToya Greenwood - D
37th	Matthew Hunt - D	115th	Terri Bryant - R
38th	No Endorsement	116th	Jerry Costello II - D
39th	Will Guzzardi - D	117th	Dave Severin - R
40th	Jaime M. Andrade Jr. - D	118th	Natalie Phelps Finnie - D
41st	No Endorsement		
42nd	No Endorsement		
43rd	Anna Moeller - D		
44th	Fred Crespo - D		
45th	No Endorsement		
46th	Deborah Conroy - D		
47th	No Endorsement		
48th	No Endorsement		
49th	No Endorsement		
50th	James G. Leslie - D		
51st	No Endorsement		
52nd	No Endorsement		
53rd	No Endorsement		
54th	No Endorsement		
55th	Martin J. Moylan - D		
56th	Michelle Mussman - D		
57th	Jonathan Carroll - D		
58th	Bob Morgan - D		
59th	Daniel Didech - D		
60th	Rita Mayfield - D		
61st	No Endorsement		
62nd	Sam Yingling - D		
63rd	No Endorsement		
64th	No Endorsement		
65th	Richard Johnson - D		
66th	No Endorsement		
67th	Maurice West - D		
68th	John M. Cabello - R		
69th	No Endorsement		
70th	No endorsement		
71st	Tony M. McCombie - R		
72nd	Michael W. Halpin - D		
73rd	No Endorsement		
74th	Dan Swanson - R		
75th	No Endorsement		
76th	Lance Yednock - D		
77th	Kathleen Willis - D		
78th	Camille Lilly - D		

2018 Membership Meeting Minutes

Quarterly Membership Meeting – April 28, 2018

Belleville

Officers present: Schrepfer, Oaks, Levine, Stout, Fardel, Swierczek, Smith, and Rev. Coons
(Bode - Absent With Notification)

- Colors presented by the **Belleville Fire Department Honor Guard**.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Moment of Silence for Fallen Military and Firefighters
- Christian Prayer led by **Chaplain Darrell Coons**
- President Schrepfer recognized the attendance of
Southern Illinois Vice-President Emeritus Ron McDonald and IARF President Emeritus Fred Bruss

• **Welcoming Remarks by Acting Battalion Chief Stephanie Mills**

President Schrepfer introduced Acting Battalion Chief Stephanie Mills. A/B/C Mills welcomed everyone and offered words of appreciation to all fire service retirees that have fought and sacrificed to bring about the benefits and traditions that active firefighters enjoy on the job today. Chief Mills gave a description of the several special teams and services offered by the Belleville Fire Department. B/CMills talked about the 9-11 Memorial at Station 4 and stayed to answer any questions from the membership.

• **Legislative Report from AFFI District 3 Vice-President Adam Ruderman**

President Schrepfer introduced AFFI District 3 Vice-President Adam Ruderman. VP Ruderman extended best regards from AFFI President Devaney and provided a full report of the AFFI Legislative activity. Several of the proposed bills are listed in the Spring 2018 “Disabled and Retired Firefighters” magazine. Retirees expressed significant interest in the pension proposals initiated by the Illinois Municipal League. Court rulings to provide retirees’ medical insurance continues to be an ongoing issue. A progress report of the medical insurance court rulings is scheduled for further explanation in the fall issue of the “Disabled and Retired Firefighters.” VP Ruderman reminded the membership that the AFFI has the best legislative record of any group in Springfield and he complemented President Devaney and the AFFI Legislative Committee for all their efforts to protect the benefits of active and retired firefighters.

1st Order of Business Treasurer and Secretary Reports:

- Treasurer Oaks presented the report of income and expenses for the period of January to April 2018. Raising the dues to \$10. has helped to push income levels over costs. The IARF is seeking a joint resolution with the AFFI to be presented at the Biennial Convention. The resolution will be explained later in this meeting. President Schrepfer offered an accounting of the association’s major expenses for the past year. The magazine expense and the dues paid by the IARF to the AFFI will be reviewed for cost reductions with reports to follow, Treasurer Oaks provided a breakdown of costs for the last three months along with a 2017 expense report.

Motion: Retiree Rujawitz motioned to accept the Treasurer’s report. Second by Retiree McDonald. The general membership voted unanimous to accept the Treasurer’s report with additional reports to follow.

- Secretary Levine presented the minutes of the January 27 general meeting held at the Bloomington/Normal Fire/Police Club. Copies of the minutes were made available to the membership before the meeting.

Motion: With no further comment, corrections, or additions Retiree Bingamon made a motion to accept the minutes. Retiree Westrom second the motion. The general membership voted unanimous to accept the January minutes into the file.

2nd Order of Business • AFFI Biennial Convention Reolution:

President Schrepfer presented a written resolution, co-sponsored by the AFFI to be enter for adoption at the AFFI Biennial Convention in St. Charles this summer. The resolution will serve to reduce the per-capita dues paid by the IARF to the state association. Treasurer Oaks explained the present issue of double payment for those IARF retirees who pay both active dues to the AFFI through their local unions and retiree dues to the IARF. The state association has expressed a willingness to adjust the IARF per-capita payment to compensate for any double payment by those individual retirees.

Treasurer Oaks explained that he will submit a current IARF membership list to the AFFI Secretary/Treasurer on a periodic recurring schedule. Dual memberships are defined as retirees in the IARF that maintain an active retired status with their local unions. Those individuals will be subtracted from the total IARF membership calculation used for the per capita dues paid to the AFFI. The effect will help the IARF to reduce the operating costs during this period of economic downturn. The new resolution will allow the IARF to pay only a per capita of 50% of the membership rate on 10% of the total IARF members that are not dual members. Treasurer Oaks also requested the board to canvass the active fire service to support this resolution.

Motion: Retiree McDonald made a motion to send the resolution to change the per capita calculation of the IARF dues made payable to the AFFI for adoption at the Biennial Convention in St. Charles this summer. Second by Retiree Westrom. The general membership voted unanimous to forward the IARF dues proposal to the AFFI Biennial Convention.

3rd Order of Business • Progress of the “Friends of the IARF” Membership Program:

President Schrepfer gave a history of the IARF fund raising practices. He reviewed the issues surrounding the solicitation process that supports the publishing of the “Disabled and Retired Firefighters” magazine. With the help of Trustee Jim Smith the association has initiated a new revenue program, the “Friends of the IARF.” It is a program that allows for an associate membership for \$10. with the chance to win prizes. President Schrepfer is asking the general membership to support this new program by contacting individuals and encourage memberships for Friends of the IARF.

• **Action:** The general membership took the report with recommendations for additional action.

4th Order of Business • Spring Meeting Sites:

President Schrepfer reminded the general membership that the IARF has a policy to encourage chapters in the southern areas of Illinois to host the spring quarterly meetings. He said there has been interest expressed by Alton, Carbondale, identified Trustee Joe Swierczek, who nominated the Belleville chapter to host the 2019 spring quarterly meeting. President Schrepfer stated that a representative of the Alton chapter had contacted him about hosting the Spring 2019 quarterly. The general membership will be allowed to vote on a site for the Spring 2019 meeting provided that a representative will be present at that meeting to make a proposal.

Motion: Retiree Grider made a motion to host the 2019 spring quarterly meeting in Belleville. Second by Retiree McDonald. The general membership voted unanimous to have the Belleville chapter host the IARF 2019 spring quarterly meeting.

5th Order of Business • Springfield Golf Event:

President Schrepfer announced the 25 th IARF Golf Classic is scheduled in Springfield. President Schrepfer recognized Springfield Chapter President, John Sullivan. John provided an update to the general membership on the progress of the golf event. All preparations are being finalized. Price of the golf event will include a golf shirt, cart, 18 holes, refreshments, and a dinner. President Schrepfer asked members to request sponsorships and encourage active firefighter teams from their local departments.

• **Action:** The general membership thanked Springfield President for his chapter's efforts and all look forward to a great golf event.

6th Order of Business • July Elections:

President Schrepfer reminded the general membership of the elections for IARF President, Secretary, and the four trustee positions to be held at the July annual meeting in Peoria. Announcements to the local chapters have been sent out. All have been reminded to make notification of intent to run for office, in writing and signed, to Secretary Levine by June 28.

• **Action:** The general membership took note of the election and that the by-laws were being followed with regard to the notification procedure.

7th Order of Business • Board Resignations:

Trustee Wayne Stout and Chaplain Darrell Coons submitted their resignations from the Executive Board due to more pending outside obligations.

• **Action:** The general membership complemented both Trustee Stout and Chaplain Coons for their years of honorable service and tireless efforts in the watchful care they have tendered to all of our Illinois' retired firefighters, their families, and friends. The IARF Executive Board extends its sincere gratitude along with an appeal for a long and comfortable road ahead within the ranks of our retiree association

8th Order of Business • Belleville Boy Scouts Request for Memorial Contribution:

Trustee Joe Swierczek requested a \$100. donation for a USA Boy Scout Troop 30 Memorial Project managed by Eagle Scout Andrew McKillip to honor firefighters LODD to be placed at the Belleville Station #4 • 9/11 Memorial Site.

Motion: Retiree Grider made a motion to donate \$100 for the Belleville Boy Scout Memorial Project. Retiree McDonald second the motion. The general membership voted unanimous to provide USA Boy Scout Troop 30 with \$100, for their memorial project.

9th Order of Business • 2018 Quarterly Meetings:

President Schrepfer reminded the general membership of the remaining 2018 quarterly meetings: Peoria on July 28; Elgin on October 27; and Bloomington on January 27, 2019.

• **Action:** The membership took note of the up-coming quarterly meeting schedule.

10th Order of Business • IARF PAC Fund Contribution:

Treasurer Oaks requested a \$1000. donation to be presented at the May AFFI Legislative Conference.

Motion: Treasurer Oaks made a motion to donate \$1000 to the IFFA PAC Fund. Second by Retiree Warner. The general membership voted unanimous to send \$1000 donation to the IFFA PAC Fund.

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Swierczek . Seconded by Trustee Stout

Motion to Adjourn - Passed by voice vote – unanimous at 1:02 pm.

The April 28, 2018 General Membership Minutes respectfully submitted:
Mike Levine, IARF Secretary

2018

Quarterly Membership Meeting – July 28, 2018

Peoria

Officers present: Schrepfer, Bode, Oaks, Levine, Stout, Fardel, Swierczek, Smith, and Chmura

- Colors presented by the **Peoria Fire Department Honor Guard.**
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Moment of Silence for Fallen Military and Firefighters
- **Welcoming Remarks by AFFI President Pat Devaney**

President Schrepfer introduced AFFI President Pat Devaney with his son Marty. President Devaney gave the census update for the Association at 220 locals consisting of 15,000 members state-wide. The AFFI Bi-Annual Convention was just concluded in June at the St. Charles Pheasant-Run Resort with over 600 delegates and guests in attendance. Thirty-three resolutions were concluded. There was great support displayed for the IARF to include the passage of the reduction in the Per Capita Calculation for retirees. President Devaney explained how the fund-raising activities of both the active and retired firefighters has diminished over the years. This has forced locals to either raise dues or adopt innovative measures to raise revenue. The IARF Executive Board was complemented for their efforts to reduce costs and implement new cash-streams. The Janus vs. AFSCME Appellate Court decision was explained in its entirety. However the effect on Illinois Firefighters has been minimal if not positive by increasing the paid membership roles. Illinois fair-share firefighters have been motivated to join their local union shops. The AFFI continues to battle state legislative attempts to reduce retirement benefits. Through a series of court cases local government has been redefining ‘catastrophic injury’ for duty related disabilities. Anyone affected by changes in their disability retirement are encouraged to contact their local unions or the AFFI directly. President Devaney announced to the membership that the AFFI is endorsing J.B. Pritzker for Illinois Governor. Each member and guest was asked to support J.B. in November.

1st Order of Business • Donation to the AFFI PAC Fund:

Motion: President Schrepfer asked for a motion from the membership to provide \$1000. to the AFFI Pack Fund. Motion made by Larry Judkins of Elgin. Seconded by Dave Klasing of Peoria. Vote was unanimous by the membership to approve.

• Introduction of Security Benefit Life Representatives

Vice- President Bode introduced representatives of Security Benefit Life, an associate agency of the IAFF Financial Corporation. The Responder First program is designed to give fire fighters and their families supplemental lifetime income. There is a web-site for anyone interested in additional income during retirement. Attendees are encourage to research the potential benefits at: responders-first.com or call for a representative at (800) 747-5164 Option 3.

2nd Order of Business • Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Oaks presented the report of income and expenses for the period of April to July 2018. The operating fund is finally in the black due to the following: increase in membership fees, “Friends of IARF” program, and the reduction of alliance cost to the AFFI. Oaks explained his efforts along with President Schrepfer and Vice- President Bode to negotiate with the AFFI starting back in March of 2018 to restructure the per capita fees. In addition, the fund accounts have been moved from the high interest costs of Busey Bank to the interest

revenue gain provided by MidAmerica National Bank in Canton. Treasurer Oaks also presented the year-to-date budget that reflects all obligations being supported by the anticipated revenue sources.

Motion: Ken Sylvester of Bloomington motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Larry Judkins of Elgin. Vote was unanimous by the membership to approve.

3rd Order of Business • Secretary Minutes:

Secretary Levine read the minutes of the April 28 executive board meeting held at the C.K. & L. Country Club in Belleville, IL.

Motion: With no further comment, corrections, or additions Steven Shults of Pekin made a motion to accept the minutes. Joe Waghurst of Pekin second the motion. The membership voted unanimous to accept the April minutes into the file.

4th Order of Business • 'Friends of IARF':

President Schrepfer announced the selection of officers for the 'Friends of the IARF' program that allows for firefighters, family and friends that want to support IARF activities the opportunity to further provide financial backing for retiree activities. This year's selection were the following:

\$25.00 officers: Terry Scott, Ron Vinyard, Dave Kruger, Steve Rutz, Stan Morlock, and Dave Kruger

\$100 officer: Bill Mitchel, \$250 officer: Gary Deihs, and the \$500. officer: John Dickson

Officers seeking election were allowed to be selected more than once.

5th Order of Business • AFFI Biennial Convention Resolution:

President Schrepfer and Treasurer Oaks recapped President Devaney's earlier remarks to the membership that the IARF Per Capita Calculation Resolution was successfully presented and adopted at the 2018 AFFI 42 nd Biennial Convention. Both President Schrepfer and Treasurer Oaks received complements by the membership for their efforts to reduce the major cost of the IARF with its association to the AFFI. The resolution nearly cut in half the per capita dues the IARF pays to the AFFI. Several changes allowing retirees to continue paid memberships into their local unions meant that retirees in the IARF may have been paying double membership fees to the AFFI. Treasurer Oaks will periodically audit the membership rolls to identify retirees paying into active locals. The IARF supports retirees paying into their respective locals. However, the AFFI will allow the IARF to deduct those retirees from the per capita calculation for a cost savings to the IARF.

6th Order of Business • Possible Change in Magazine Advertisements:

President Schrepfer shared with the membership the Executive Board's discussion on alternative methods to sell advertisements for the magazine that may have the potential to raise additional revenue. At this time, certain fund-raising activities are not producing to expected levels. The membership was informed of possible alternatives through individual chapters with revenue incentives. The proposal to offer local chapters an opportunity to sell advertisements was given considerable discussion. President Schrepfer asked Vice-President George Bode to chair a committee along with the trustees to explore alternatives for selling advertisements for placement into the magazine.

Action: A study by committee will be conducted to review potential alternatives for soliciting advertisement in the magazine publication. Local chapters will be canvased for any and all suggestions. A report back will be presented at future quarterly meeting. All recommendations are welcome and will be given full consideration.

7th Order of Business • Springfield Hosts Annual Golf Clasic:

President Schrepfer informed the membership of the Annual Golf Classic to be held in Springfield. Teams have been slow to sign-up and advertisements are expected to increase. The date has changed from previous years to September 11. The purpose of the golf classic on 9-11 is to demonstrate a sincere displeasure within the fire service toward the perpetrators of our nation's most horrific terror event. Active and retired firefighters have an opportunity to show respect to the fallen and raise a fist to the radical terrorists.

8th Order of Business • Election by Acclimation for President, Secretary, and 4 Trustee Positions:

President Schrepfer notified the membership that only one candidate per office had submitted proper notification as required under the by-laws. As of June 28 th the Secretary received and filed with the Board letters from Jim Schepfer for President, Mike Levine for Secretary, Rocky Fardel, Joe Swierczek, Jim Smith, and Mark Chmura for the four Trustee positions respectfully. A motion for election by acclimation was requested from the membership for the open positions with only one candidate per position. The two 2-year and two 4 year trustee's positions will be determined by a draw of numbers in full view of the membership.

Motion: Larry Judkins of Elgin made a motion for election by acclimation from the membership. John Dickson of Peoria second the motion. The membership voted unanimous to accept election by acclimation for the respective Executive Board Officers.

9th Order of Business • Chaplin Vacancy

President Schrepfer informed the Board that after Chaplain Darrell Coons resigned a request for replacement was sent to all the chapters for possible Chaplain candidates. At this time, no prospective nominations have been received.

Action: No action taken with report back on the Chaplain search at the next Board meeting.

10th Order of Business • Donation to “Hooked on Fishing” in East Peoria, IL

Secretary Levine recommend a \$200. donation to the non-profit “Hooked on Fishing” located in East Peoria, IL. This association provides an outdoor experience for families, the elderly, the physically challenged, and children of all ages. For all the groups there is instruction and supervision by adult volunteers to encourage a break from electronic devices and to focus on the sport of fishing.

Motion: Trustee Jim Smith made a motion to provide non-profit “Hooked on Fishing Park” of East Peoria \$200. Motion was second by Trustee Wayne Stout. The membership voted unanimous to to provide “Hooked on Fishing Park” with \$200.

11th Order of Business • IARF Web-Site

President Schrepfer notified the membership that an offer has been made by an AFFI firefighter, Jeff Boetto, a Captain with Evanston FD. Jeff runs the Union Fire Web Design company. Capt. Boetto has agreed to get the IARF webpage up and running for \$130. per year. Anyone interested in assisting Capt. Boetto may contact President Schrepfer.

12th Order of Business • Active Bargaining Unit Issues

AFFI President informed the membership of the active bargaining issues specifically affecting the Peoria Fire Department. At present, Local 50 is battling the closing of fire companies and reductions in staffing. Also, they are challenging the City's definition of a 'catastrophic injury' to justify a disability retirement. City of Peoria wants to define a duty injury as an ailment that restricts a firefighter from performing any type of gainful employment. Local 50 views the City's initiative as discriminative and unfairly restrictive. A circuit court case is expected to be filed in the very near future.

13th Order of Business • 2018 Quarterly Meetings:

President Schrepfer reminded the next general meetings: Elgin on October 27 and Bloomington on January 27, 2019. The membership took note of the up-coming quarterly meeting schedule.

Census: 81 Attendees representing 9 retiree chapters

Motion to adjourn by Vice-President Bode. Seconded by Trustee Stout

Motion to Adjourn - Passed by voice vote – unanimous at 1:02 pm.

The July 28, 2018 General Membership Minutes respectfully submitted:

Mike Levine, IARF Secretary

Elgin Quarterly Meeting

October 27, 2018

Saturday 12:00
noon



Elgin • Fire Barn 5 • Museum
533 Saint Charles Street
Elgin, Illinois 60120

(847) 697-6242



I.A.R.F. 1st Quarter Meeting for 2019

Saturday - January 26, 2019

Bloomington/Normal

Fire & Police Club

1750 General Electric Rd.

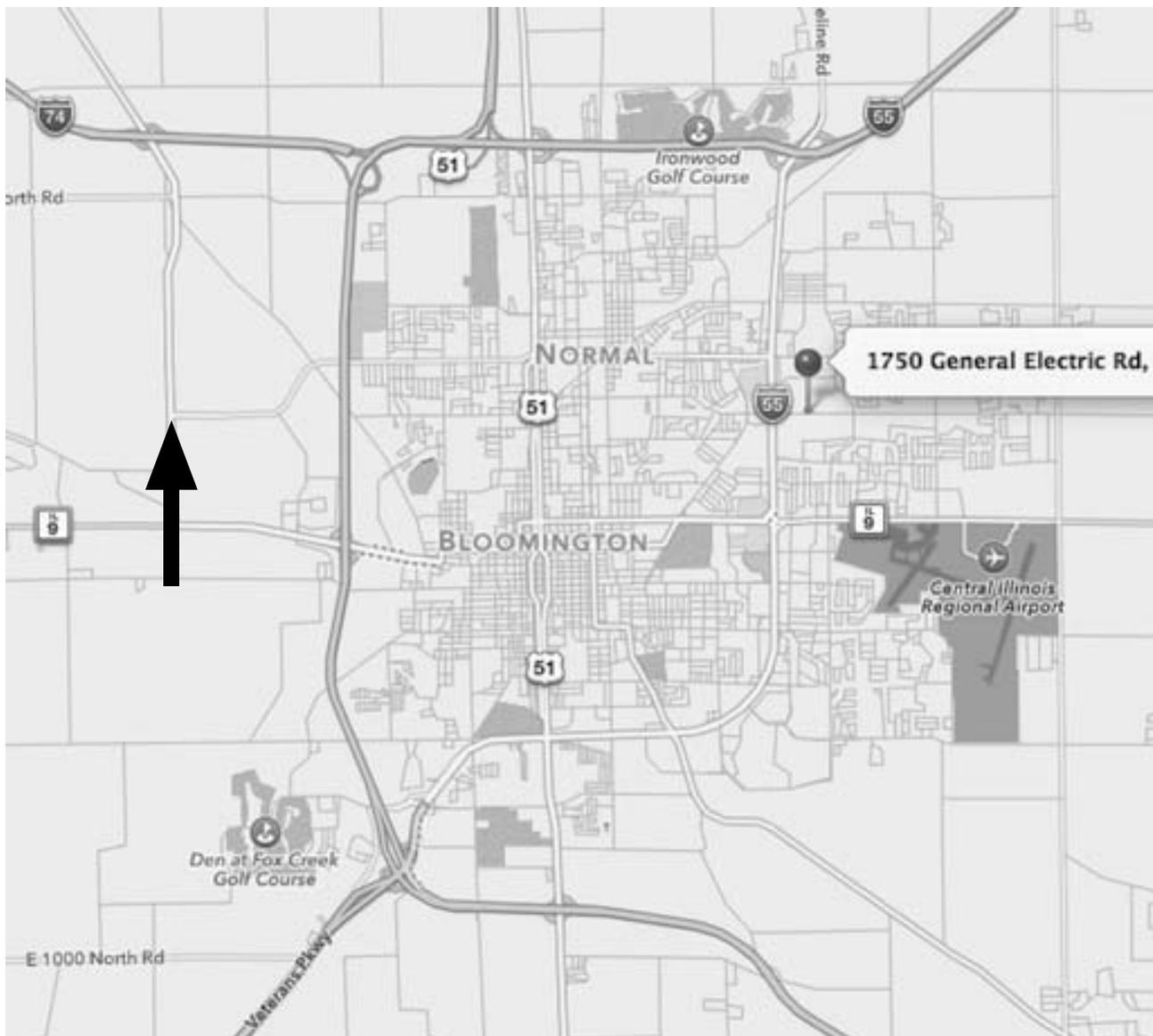
Bloomington, Illinois 61704

Meeting Times:

Board 10:AM

General Members

12 : Noon



Retirement for Firefighters: Finding Balance in the Home

Retirement is a relatively new concept, and it can almost seem unnatural when it finally happens. It brings in unexpected transitions, especially for firefighters and other first responders. As with everything else in life, it is best to be prepared before entering a new situation. Being armed with the proper tools, firefighters and their spouses can make the most out of their new life together and live that happy retirement dream that we seem to hear so much about.

A New Definition of Retirement

Retirement has been evolving since its conceptualization back in the early twentieth century. The millions of Americans who have retirement on the horizon most certainly grew up with the belief that retirement is a life that is filled with bickering couples, long lunch dates, and weekly card games; if they were lucky, it also included a condo somewhere warm. Not only is this idea outdated, it's not healthy or realistic.

People are now retiring with more passion and energy. Retirement is a second life—another chance to do something you love and spend your time doing things that make you feel fulfilled. It could be a second career, further education, being more creative, or volunteering. The options are endless. This precious time should not be wasted time; it should be invested into your happiness and into the world around you.

Retirement Planning

The road to get to this happy and fulfilling retirement needs to be taken seriously. It requires planning and necessary conversations with those important to you, especially spouses. When people hear the term 'retirement planning', they often think of the financial aspects involved. However, finances are only one piece to the retirement puzzle. Being prepared for retirement is also about being prepared in your marriage, being prepared emotionally, and being prepared to spend your time wisely. These necessary conversations should take place as early as five years before you retire.

According to Mitch Anthony—author of *The New Retirementality*—it is important to take advantage of this time in retirement. You will have a healthier retirement with yourself and with your spouse if you are able to create a plan for how you will use time and energy in new ways. Firefighters are used to solving problems and helping people. A healthy retirement for firefighters may involve using their time to help leave a positive impact on future generations. Psychologist Erik Erikson's theory of psychosocial development is made up of eight stages of human development from birth to death. The seventh stage he explores is generativity versus stagnation. He explains that adults begin to search for ways to leave their mark on the next generation. If adults successfully tackle this stage, they will feel a strong sense of worth, which is very important for retired firefighters. This could include taking care of grandchildren, volunteering at schools, or mentoring younger firefighters. Unfortunately, if retired firefighters are not able to find their own way to contribute, it will leave them to feel stagnate and unimportant. This, unfortunately, is what would lead to a more unhealthy mental issues that firefighters can face. By taking the appropriate time to plan for retirement, firefighters and their spouses can take care to avoid these common problems.

Changing Roles

You will be creating a new life together and many roles will be changing. Typically, firefighters retire earlier than the national standard of 65. Because of this, the spouse is perhaps still working. The roles in the house are sure to change and the goal of retirement planning is to make it an easier transition. Who will do the laundry? Who is in charge of dinner? Should we make a new budget? Is the retiree going to take up a new hobby or a second career?

You have most likely spent the majority of your marriage with specific roles. You have organized your work schedules and social calendars to align with each other, you each have specific household duties, and you may only get a few times a week to spend quality time just the two of you. As human beings, we crave routine, normalcy, and balance. Firefighter couples have been forced to make the 24-hour shift a normal part of life, and it works. So now how do you deal with the wealth of time? More importantly, how do you deal with the loss of the firehouse life?

As with all relationship issues, communication is the best way to start. The more we can talk and listen to one another, the more chance we have at successfully overcoming the hurdle. What is life going to look like beyond the world of 24-hour shifts? Each person in the relationship may have an idea of what that will look like, but how do the two visions line up with each other?

Emotional Trauma

Unfortunately, a firefighter's retirement will also force him or her to examine the emotional trauma of the previous thirty years on the job. Firefighters can go their whole career without dealing with much depression, PTSD, suicidal thoughts, or addiction. It is when the retirement begins that these issues may arise. Throughout their career, firefighters are filled with roles and responsibilities at the firehouse, in the community, and at home. There are rarely days with nothing to do, and they enjoy that energy of the constant calendar. When this stops, they find themselves searching for a sense of self and belongingness. One common occurrence among newly retired firefighters is a loss of identity. Thoughts of loneliness may set in, and memories from the past seem to resurface. This can bring up a dwelling depression or PTSD, and if not addressed, it can lead to failing relationships, substance abuse, or suicide.

When a newly retired firefighter is faced with these mental and emotional issues, it is important that the spouse is aware of what is happening. The retiree is going to need support and patience while working through this. Counseling is an excellent resource for the retired firefighter to explore. It is important to utilize all resources and also open up your conversations with loved ones.

Retirement for firefighters can bring a lot of unexpected stress. Working through this stress can lead them to find the happiness and balance that they want and deserve. Together, couples in first responder relationships can find meaning in this exciting new phase of life.

Hudson CLINICAL
COUNSELING

JADA B. HUDSON, M.S., L.C.P.C.,



Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
Firefighter Counselor
ILFFPS-Clinical Consultant

Pat Devaney, AFFI President

Labor Day marked the end of a very busy and productive summer for the AFFI. While we took some time to reflect on the accomplishments we've made as union professional firefighters in Illinois, we also recognize the challenges we face. Most importantly, we renewed our focus on the extraordinary opportunities that lie ahead to strengthen the labor movement across the state.

The AFFI kicked off the summer in St. Charles at our 42nd Biennial Convention. Almost 500 members and guests attended the four day event and enjoyed the outstanding hospitality offered by Local 3322. The attendees heard from IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger and many local and state elected officials including JB Pritzker, the AFFI's endorsed gubernatorial candidate. The delegates embraced our theme of "Strength in Unity" as they considered and acted on 31 Resolutions that will help shape our organization for years to come. Our week together concluded with the adoption of an emeritus resolution in gratitude of Vice President At Large Russ Hunt's 17 years of service. We then welcomed Luke Howieson to the AFFI Executive Board after being newly elected to the position.

A recurring discussion point during our convention centered around the potential impact of the impending Janus vs AFSCME decision. As we anticipated, on June 27th the United States Supreme Court issued its opinion overturning 41 years of legal precedent by prohibiting public sector employee labor unions from collecting "fair share" fees from bargaining unit members who choose not to join the union. As many of you know, the Janus case was first introduced by Governor Bruce Rauner, but then transferred to Springfield AFSCME Employee Mark Janus as the named plaintiff when the court's ruled the Governor lacked standing in the proceedings.

At times it's difficult to connect the dots to identify the players in the nationwide attack against workers and the unions that remain as their last line of defense. However, the Janus decision provides a clear illustration of the coordinated efforts by groups like the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, the Liberty Justice Center and the Illinois Policy Institute (IPI) to defund organized labor. Weakening organized labor in states like Illinois makes it easier to enact Rauner's proposals to strip collective bargaining, slash protections for injured workers and eliminate defined benefit pensions. As a reward for serving as an anti-union patsy, Mark Janus abruptly left state employment after the decision and was appointed as a "Senior Fellow" at the IPI.

Although the Janus decision was meant to deal a crippling blow to public employee labor unions like the IAFF and AFFI, I'm proud to report it's had an opposite effect. I firmly believe it has reinvigorated our membership and raised awareness of the important work our local unions do each day for the membership. To wit, our office received only two membership changes the week after the Janus decision and each was to sign a prior fair share payor up for full membership status. I'm confident this

trend will continue if, and only if, we all increase our efforts to educate our members about the importance of the work we do each day at the local level and in Springfield.

It was great seeing the Illinois delegation at the IAFF Convention in Seattle last month. As always, the AFFI was well represented as 142 of our members traveled west to serve as delegates and alternates. The IAFF Convention Delegates considered and acted on 51 Resolutions that will help shape the future course of our international union. A special thanks to 8th District VP Mark Sanders for coordinating the hospitality offering for his district attendees and to the other 8th District State Associations that joined the AFFI in sponsoring it with him.

Currently, a significant amount of the AFFI's focus is aimed at the November 6, 2018 General Election. It's really important that we all take a moment to remember why it is that we invest so many resources into ensuring the right people are elected to the general assembly and statewide offices. The AFFI Legislative Committee had a great year at the statehouse in 2018. We were able to pass four of our initiatives with overwhelming bi-partisan majorities while soundly defeating the governor and his supporter's continued efforts to negate previous accomplishments. In the end, and with only hours remaining before our initiatives automatically became law, Governor Rauner vetoed each of our four initiatives citing only that public employees need fewer rights as opposed to more as the reason why.

It's never been clearer that professional firefighters and paramedics in Illinois not only need, but deserve a new leader in our state. We have a golden opportunity to elect candidates who are committed to defending collective bargaining rights for public employees, strengthening protections for injured firefighters and creating revenue to meet our pension obligations at the state and local level.

It is my hope that many of us will place a priority on our profession and preserving decades of accomplishments that have elevated us to our current status. If you agree with me, we'll be able to set aside our partisan identities and vote for the candidates who have demonstrated a commitment to professional firefighters and paramedics in Illinois. You'll find our endorsements contain both republican and democratic candidates in the numerous general assembly elections based strictly on their record or pledge to support our positions on the issues affecting our members.

We have earned the reputation as leaders in the field of Illinois politics due to the real support we provide to the candidates who've earned our coveted endorsement. I'm confident we'll continue this tradition and improve upon it in the next couple months leading up to November 6th. Please know, regardless of the outcome, the AFFI will continue to fight as we've always done. We'll find out on November 7th whether the next four years will be an all-out effort to defend what we have or if we'll be working proactively with elected officials who respect the tough work our members do each and every day across the state.

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

Brad Westrom
(630) 306-6403
607 Fox Trial Dr.
Batavia, IL 60510
brad.westrom@gmail.com

Vice President

Ray Pfeiffer
(630) 606-3994
610 Peace's Ford
Oswego, IL 60543
rwp99@comcast.net

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

Charles "Chuck" Grider
(618) 235-0573
724 Fort Henry Drive
Belleville, IL 62221
ezgrider@hotmail.com

Secretary

Joe Swierczek
(618) 417-4427
624 N. Church Street
Belleville, IL 62221
joe@riskstrategies.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

Vice-President

Bob Wills

(309) 826-0035

6424 Alexander Rd.

Heyworth, IL 61745

bobwill@a1restoration.com

Secretary

John Grussing

(309) 275-9487

2207 Case Dr.

Bloomington, IL 61701

grussing415@gmail.com

Treasurer **Ken Sylvester** 1708 Fairfield Dr. Normal, IL 61761 captstly00@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

1282 N. Arcadia Ave.

Decatur, IL 62521

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
fyfytr6999@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

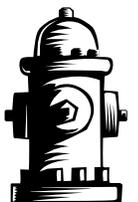
President

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

Dawn VanDell

(309) 299-5667

Galesburg, IL 61401

afgrandma@yahoo.com

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

jesselectric@mediacombb.net

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
(309) 738-8297
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.

2018 I.A.R.F. CLUB & CHARTER REPORTS



(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

Michael Scholle

(847) 815-4880

2683 N. Augusta Dr.

Waukegan, IL 60083

micsch@northchicago.org

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

Treasurer

Lyn Pond

10561 Harrison Ct.

Roscoe, IL 61073

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES This Club meets 3rd Wednesday of odd number months 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.

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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

Co-Chair

David Klasing

(309) 370-0612

4724 S. Hanna City Road

Hanna City, IL 61536

davidklasing@yahoo.com

Co-Chair

Mike Doyle

(309) 693-7814

3700 War Memorial Dr.

Peoria, IL 61615

mikedoyle56@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Dan McGann

dmcgann33@gmail.com

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES The Club meets on the last Monday of each month at the Peoria Firefighters Club, 203 S. 4th, Dunlap, IL 61525 at 6:30 p.m.

QUINCY

Quincy Retired Firefighters

President

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, 2018 meeting dates: May 19, Aug. 25 and Nov. 17. February 6, Retiree Appreciation Dinner.

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.



2018 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

lfpfd@yahoo.com

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

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Automated Drilling & Tapping Equipment	CNC Machining Centers and Modules	Tube Expanders	Burnishing & Deburring Tools	Water Washing, Deburring & Cutting Systems	Chemical Reactor Cleaning Equipment
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I CAN RELATE TO DUCKS

Joel Mains Retired Downers Grove Fire Department
I Can Relate to Ducks



Well, here we are. And by “we” I mean “me” of course. As I write this, I’m approaching the end of probation on my new job. Which is to say no job. Because like you, dear reader, I’m retired. This is still a new experience for me and I’m not quite sure I’m getting the hang of it. I sleep a little later in the day than I used to, and stay up a little later at night, but I don’t feel like I’ve gotten into the rhythm of retirement yet. Maybe it’s the lack of regimentation in my day. I could, of course, build some in, but I’m retired now and very few things that I do have to be done at a particular time. Besides, regimenting my day feels (to me anyway) like it’s the opposite of being retired. You know; timelines, deadlines, objectives, etc. They all feel like something working people have. Still...

And, I’ve got nothing against taking a part-time job. Like most of you (I think), I worked side jobs while I was on-the-job. I worked a couple years at a big box home improvement store (rhymes with Rome Creepo) and spent almost ten years doing fire investigations for an insurance company, but neither side job was a consistent, there-every-off-day thing. And I stopped doing the investigations ten years ago. For the sake of clarity, I don’t need a side job. But a part of me wants to find something to do with some of my time. And, like most people, I feel like a little extra cash would be a nice thing to have. Or fritter away, as the case may be. I know many of us have joked about being a greeter at certain big box, buy anything in the world there, store. You know the one, the monolithic corporation that fights unionization at every turn and is single-handedly responsible for destroying more Mom and Pop businesses in small American towns than anything else, while the family that owns it continues to get richer than... Sorry, I don’t know where that soapbox came from, but I figured I’d better get back off of it and save my rant for elsewhere. That thought may show up on my website, by the way.

Coming off probation at the firehouse was pretty straight forward. I knew what I needed to do, if not, there were plenty of people there to tell me. Now, not so much. The more I think about it, the more I’m inclined to just kind of let this ride. The part-time job thing. I’m happy here, with my free time. That’s why we retired, right?

Joel Mains retired after 25 years as a firefighter/paramedic with Downers Grove Firefighters Local 3234. He 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.

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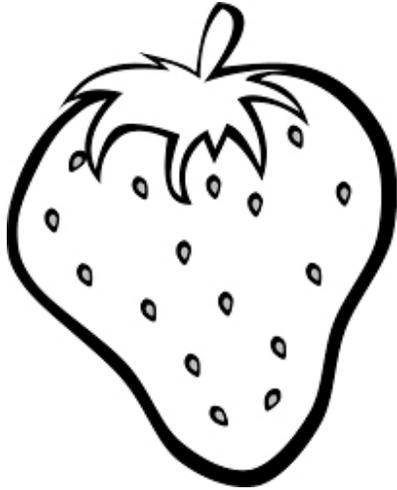
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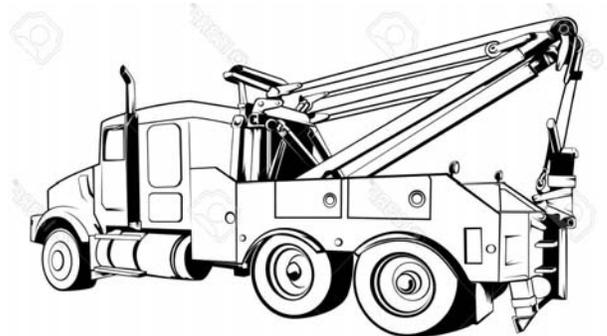
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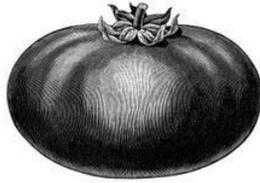
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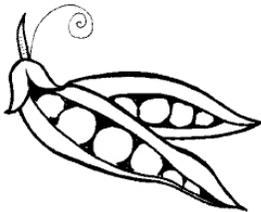
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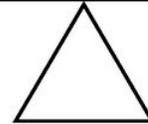
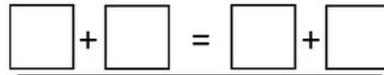
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SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
Never Forget...



REMEMBERING
9/11

To commemorate the people of the fire service who have earned their supreme happiness in heaven, we dedicate this page...

LAST ALARM

Firefighter James Salata	Waukegan	10/08/2017
Fire Chief Richard W. Niemi	Waukegan	01/21/2018
Firefighter Robert E Lovgren	Waukegan	01/21/2018
Dist. Chief Earl Jupin	Rockford	03/06/2018
Fire Chief Ed Sienko	Lockport	03/21/2018
Captain Robert Wagner	Evanston	03/22/2018
Fire Chief Gary L. Mell	Rock Island	03/23/2018
Firefighter William Jacobs	Aurora	03/26/2018
Firefighter Neal Smithweck	Evanston	03/29/2018
Lieutenant Robert 'Bobby' Peterson	Rockford	03/31/2018
Captain Donald Coffey	Bloomington	04/02/2018
Captain David A. Richardson	Decatur	04/18/2018
Engineer Rich Pellegrini	Joliet	04/20/2018
Firefighter Robert Allan Moff	Champaign	04/24/2018
Asst. Chief Gary G. Walker	Peoria	04/29/2018
Lieutenant Albert Pozzi	Aurora	05/12/2018
Lieutenant Larry O'Brien	Ottawa	05/15/2018
Engineer Dennis Benakovich	Berwyn	05/28/2018
Firefighter Dale Merwin Morris	Rockford	06/03/2018
Engineer Floyd Gordon	Joliet	06/13/2018
Lieutenant John Zickus	Waukegan	06/18/2018
Firefighter Bill "Chooch" Ahrens	Elgin	06/22/2018
Captain John McAtee	Normal	06/23/2018
Engineer Russell "Rusty" Mather Jr.	Kankakee	06/24/2018
Captain James McIntyre	Evanston	06/25/2018
Firefighter Clarence W. Magnuson	Waukegan	06/26/2018
Firefighter Gary C. Garrett	Decatur	06/30/2018
Asst. Chief Dale E. "Gene" Plott	Aurora	07/02/2018
Inspector Richard Grall	Rockford	07/02/2018
Captain Dennis Arnold	Rockford	07/07/2018
Firefighter Benny Haws	Decatur	07/12/2018
Lieutenant Dale Madden	Ottawa	07/17/2018
Firefighter Thomas Brauer	Decatur	07/20/2018
Lieutenant Ron Hinkamper	Quincy	07/21/2018
Captain Oran Skeldon	Kankakee	07/26/2018
Firefighter/Med. Jerrold Heber	Evanston	07/29/2018
Captain Gorge Neuhaus	Evanston	07/31/2018
Engineer John "Jack" Meyer	U of I	08/04/2018
Dist. Chief Don Weir	Rockford	08/19/2018
Firefighter/Med. Richard "Wilk" Wilkening	Elgin	08/30/2018



DISABLED AND RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS

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