

# IFIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE



WOW!! Can't believe September is here. It feels like summer just got here and our break just started. Alas, break time is now over. We hope that everyone had a great summer and got some time to smell the roses and reenergize.

Your Board was anything but inactive over the past months. In August we held our "Advanced Legal Aspects for the Code Official" seminar with Linda Pieczynski. With over 70 in attendance, this seminar was very well attended, and very well received.

The Board also went to Springfield to work the Fire Safety Tent on the last day of the State Fair. The State Fair attendance was low this year, but it was still a good event for us. With the exception of three people, the tent was staffed by members of the Board. Due to the low turnout, we had many displays that could not be constantly staffed. In looking back several years, we have had over 20 IFIA members who help staff the tent. In fact, for a few years, we even rented a coach bus to take people down. One of the reasons we moved our day to the last day, a Sunday, was because we had heard people saying that they could not take a day off during the week. From the Board's perspective, we need to understand why people are not assisting in the event. Once a year we ask for volunteers to assist us for this one day, and we provide the parking and gate passes. Families are also welcome to come down. When someone works, we always give them some time to walk around and enjoy the Fair. Please let the Board know what we might do to get your participation for one day working the tent at the State Fair. When we see the attendance from other organizations, we need to see why our membership does not want to be involved.

In August the Board got together to discuss our Fire Inspector/Fire Prevention Officer curriculums, based on a previous meeting we had with the State Fire Marshal. This meeting was held to get everyone caught up on what changes needed to be made due to the impact of the Fire Officer Curriculum no longer offering stand-alone leadership classes. The OSFM has asked our opinions and thoughts on several ideas to fill in the blanks in our curriculum, including reviewing a rough draft of possible continuing education requirements for Fire Inspectors.

With summer winding down we reopened the IFIA legislative folder and began working on our fire alarm legislation. As you may recall, this originally had to do with having minimum requirements for designers, installers, and repair techs. We had a very informative meeting with the Illinois Electronic Security Association regarding their concerns with our initial legislative attempt. This was the first step in redrafting this piece of legislation. Several days later, a meeting was held with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. This meeting was also productive. As we move forward we are looking to work closely with both organizations, the Fire Protection Engineers, and any other interested groups, in designing/drafting legislation that we can all work with, and which should improve the systems in the field.

September is also a return of our monthly meetings and mini seminars. This month it is on Tru-Joists by Weyerhaeuser. The technology that Weyerhaeuser has introduced can be a huge change in building construction and fire ratings. This seminar will be well worth the price of admission as we are sure the Fire Service will have huge questions. We would recommend passing this on to your training divisions to invite them to attend also. Don't forget that this impacts the buildings greatly, and we would suggest that building inspectors be made know of this seminar.

October is our annual Fire Prevention Award luncheon. We are still accepting nominees for our awards. Please go to the IFIA webpage to review the awards and submit any nominations, but do it soon.

**Due to a conflict at Medinah, this month's meeting was moved up one week to September 18. See you then.**