

# IFIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE



Summer is definitely upon us. That also means one annual event – the Fire Safety Tent at the State Fair. We strongly encourage you to help on this one day, August 23rd. The tent opens at 10 AM, and lunch is provided. Given that this is the last day of the Fair, we will be done with everything no later than 4:30 PM. If you can come and just provide a few of the hours, it would be appreciated, and much needed. That day is Family Day, and it is a big event. The office has parking passes and gate passes, so call them now and your will be in the mail ASAP. If your agency works with Explorers, they are more than are welcome to attend.

While we are on our annual summer hiatus, that doesn't mean we are sitting still. We had our first "Day at the Ball Park" outing on Sunday July 19, at Kane County Cougars. While attendance was lower than we hoped for, it was a great day, the Cougars won, and everyone had a good time.

At our last Board of Directors meeting, we started planning our 2016 Combined Conference. Executive Director Morris and President Toika went to Embassy Suites to discuss our conference and see how we can make it better. Discussions with Embassy are on-going, as are researching other locations for 2017.

While we have several topics already in mind for the next conference, we are looking for anyone that would like to present at the April 2016 conference. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, this link will take you to a form to submit for review. [http://docs.google.com/a/illinoisfireinspectors.org/forms/d/1sDWfDJEfr\\_GsLADZQkpdYpJjpHxhitDbkCjycd8x6jw/viewform?c=0&w=1](http://docs.google.com/a/illinoisfireinspectors.org/forms/d/1sDWfDJEfr_GsLADZQkpdYpJjpHxhitDbkCjycd8x6jw/viewform?c=0&w=1)

President Toika, Treasurer Riordan, Executive Director Morris, and Education Committee Chairperson Marek went to Springfield to meet with Fire Marshal Perez and his staff regarding several issues with inspector certification requirements. We had approximately a 1½ hour meeting that provided us with opportunities to review criteria for the Basic and Advanced Fire Prevention Officer, as well as opening the lines of discussion on the possibility of continuing education requirements for the inspector certifications. This first meeting was extremely beneficial.

While our fire alarm licensing proposal wasn't successful earlier this year, we are continuing our efforts to resubmit that proposal. These efforts include meeting with all interested parties to review, revamp, and develop a bill that will benefit not only benefit the inspectors and AHJ's, but also the fire alarm industry as a whole. We are hopeful that we can begin these meetings in August.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1) August 18 – Advanced Legal Aspects Class – Medinah Shriners, Addison. ANY code official is welcome.
- 2) August 23rd is the IFIA Day at the State Fair.
- 3) October 8th is the Annual Fire Safety Alliance Fire Prevention Luncheon. It will be held at Bobek's Banquets in Woodridge. Contact the Fire Safety Alliance for more information.
- 4) October 23rd is the IFIA Annual Awards Luncheon. If you know of someone deserving of an Award please go to our website and fill out the appropriate application. We know people are doing great jobs, and are worthy to be recognized, but it is up to you to let us know who they are.
- 5) Friday December 18th is our Holiday Party and swearing in of the new Board of Directors.
- 6) April 27, 28, and 29, 2016 – the annual Combined Conference in East Peoria

Be safe, have great summer and we look forward to seeing everyone at our summer events, and in September at our next membership meeting, September 18th, when the mini-seminar will be on Trus Joists floor joists with Flak Jacket protection.