

## IFIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE



Wow, it is hard to believe that it is already May. While one third of the year is in the books, those months were busy, active, and successful for the Board – and the IFIA. The big items the Board has been dealing with has been with legislation and our Annual Conference. By the time you read this our Conference has concluded and we feel we can safely say that it was our best event yet. Without all of you, whether a vendor, attendee, sponsor, or speaker, this Conference would not have been successful. There was also a lot of hard work from the Codes Committee, Fire and Life Safety Committee, and the Conference Committee. Please take a moment and thank those people whether in person, or in your thoughts, as their hard work and dedication made this event successful.

At this conference, two awards were given out. The Lonnie Jackson award for outstanding work in the FLSE field was given to Bill Proper of Tinley Park. The second was to Rich Piccolo for over thirty-five years of service to the IFIA on the Codes committee. Rich decided that last December was going to be his last year serving on that committee and on the Board. He will continue to be seen teaching a class or two over the years.

On the legislative front, the General Assembly was on spring break for two weeks. Prior to that, the IFIA testified on Senate Bill 1685, which is our initiative for minimum qualifications for fire alarm designers, installers, and testers. The testimony was for Subject Matter only. Basically that means it was not officially called for a hearing, but information was read into the record. After the testimony, several organizations contacted us to discuss the Bill. Discussions with those organizations are ongoing, and while the Bill has stalled, we are hopeful that after discussions, negotiations, and re-tooling that we will reintroduce an even better Bill. We feel confident, as the agencies agreed in concept to what we were doing, but had some differences of opinions on some of the language. As always, we will keep everyone posted.

June 10th will be the 1st IFIA/IL-AFAA combined Golf Outing to be held at White Pines Golf Course in Bensenville. Registration is open now, so please register early, and often. Don't forget we are able to process credit cards if that is helpful to anyone. We are still in need of volunteers to assist with the particulars of the outing. If you are interested in helping, sponsoring holes, or donating prizes please contact either our office at [ifiafire@illinoisfireinspectors.org](mailto:ifiafire@illinoisfireinspectors.org) or [www.il-afaa.org](http://www.il-afaa.org) for details.

The NFPA Annual Conference is June 22 – 25, 2015 at McCormick Place. The educational classes contain a plethora of great information from speakers from across the country. If you do not want to attend the educational sessions, you can still attend the Expo. It is free, you just need to send in a registration. Go to [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more details.

Also, remember that following the educational sessions, code hearings will be held. This is the time when codes, which you will need to enforce in the future, are voted on. If you are a voting member, now is the time to vote your thoughts.

NIFSAB will be hosting an Illinois Fire Service Day on Monday June 22 at the conference. This is a good time for Illinois fire officials to meet and discuss common concerns. More information will be forthcoming.

August 23, 2015 is the IFIA Day at the State Fair. We are looking for help in manning the Fire Museum Tent on that ONE day. It is family day, and with enough people you can still have a chance to walk the fair for a couple of hours. If you can spare one day to help out it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office to let us know for ticketing purposes.

The Board has looked into having a social event later in the year, and has decided to have a Kane County Cougar's Day. The date is Sunday, July 19th, at 1 PM. Face value of the ticket is \$11. We are selling them for \$10. On this date kids get a hot dog and drink for free, and former White Sox organist Nancy Faust will be playing organ that day. Bring your friends, family, or co-workers. We have 100 tickets on the third base side, half way up in the seats.

As we enter the summer months it is time to start planning for our Awards Luncheon, and Holiday Party. Please go to our website to review the available Awards and criteria. If you have someone who would be deserving of an award please submit an application to the Office.

Our Holiday Party will be Friday December 18, 2015. Please save the date. Door prize donations are greatly appreciated.

As we approach the summer months, the Board begins to look forward to the next year. If any member is interested in serving on the Board of Directors please contact the office, or a current Board Member for information. Currently the commitment is for five years.

Now is the time to register for an ICC class to be held at JC Restoration in Rolling Meadows on June 3. The class, in which you will receive ICC credits for, is on performing commercial fire inspections. Information will be on the website for this class.

Lastly, don't forget that due to the Memorial Day holiday, the monthly meeting is moved up one week to May 15. Appropriate for this time of the year, the topic will be on tents and stages. We look forward to seeing many of you there.