

Who is the “Illinois Fire Services Association”?

The “Illinois Fire Services Association” is made up of the 13 major fire service organizations. The Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors, Illinois Firefighters Associations, Illinois Professional Firefighters Association, Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, Associated Firefighters of Illinois, Office of the State Fire Marshall, Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, City of Chicago Fire Department, Illinois Fire Service Institute, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, Illinois Fire Inspectors Association and Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts.

What are they doing for me?

One of the many things the Illinois Fire Service Association (IFSA), has learned over the years is **“We can’t do it alone”**! The fast moving pace and the immensity of recent issues as they present themselves, have different effects on all of these organizations. Yet the ability for several groups to work effectively on any one issue and to come to an agreeable and effective result has shown to be a great and effective tool. With similar needs and issues the IFSA has been the needed coalition to develop cohesion between these fire service organizations. We can work together and yet maintain our amenity as individual associations.

How does it work?

Years ago, Fire Service leaders were named to form a Governors Commission, named “The Fire Service Blue Ribbon Commission” as a result of that committee action, a new association was formed, and “The Illinois Fire Services Association” has developed and has brought forward the movement that continues advancing the fire service as a whole.

The first example was the follow-up on the Blue Ribbon Committee report. The formation of both the Fire Services Legislative Summit and the Illinois Fire Service legislative Committee was next. Illinois Fire Service legislative Committee is a bi-partisan committee made up of members of the Illinois General Assembly. The appointed leaders, (Representative Moffitt and Senator Smith), each year at the legislative summit all 13 groups gather and each member’s issues are brought forward. After discussion, each issue is either agreed or disagreed upon by every member. If any one of these members disagrees, the issue cannot move forward to the General Assembly Legislative Committee as a summit agreed on issue.

What other issues are concerns of the IFSA?

- Pre-Summit
- Summit
- The IFSA and the OSFM, the Illinois State Fair Committee.
- 16 Safety Initiative Committees
- Development of Additional Funding Sources
- Stop the Disbursement of Funds
- Illinois Fire Services Foundation Board
- Several other Issues.

Where does the IPFA fit in with these groups?

I.P.F.A. has representation on each of the committee's. We take an active part in most all of the actions of each of these boards. As your representative interacting with each committee throughout the state is our way of making sure IPFA issues are heard. Because of IPFA interaction, we are also looked upon as one of the moving factors in the Illinois Fire Service and will continue to work for all of your issues as well as being "Your Pension Protectors".

IPFA is also represented on a new coalition of labor pension organizations coming together to meet the issues of:

- Two Tier pension systems
- Consolidation
- participant Vs Defined pension systems
- And other issues that will impact our pension funds as we know them today.

Thank You

Terry B. Cox
Executive Director of the Illinois Professional Firefighters Association!