

The Size up!

ILLINOIS PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER **Terry B. Cox**

WELCOME LONG GROVE FIRE DISTRICT

At a meeting on October 13, 2008 an agreement was finalized for the paid staff of the Long Grove Fire Department to become members of the Illinois Professional Firefighters Association. Executive Director Terry B. Cox and Chief Robert Turpel completed the steps necessary to induct all the members as association members.

Long Grove is a community within Lake County and borders Cook County on the south. As a fast growing fire district, Long Grove enjoys the ambience of a tourist community, yet the area is enjoying a fast growing population that has an above average income and enjoys the country feeling of Lake County. As members of MABAS Division 4, Long Grove and its members are involved in the Special Response Teams of both Lake and McHenry Counties. Long Grove has transformed from a very aggressive volunteer department to a highly trained and staffed paid and paid on-premise department that is looking to continued growth. The Board of Directors and the men and women of the IPFA would like to welcome the Long Grove members to our ranks.

WELCOME OAK BROOK TERRACE FIRE DISTRICT

Director Cox met with the Oak Brook Terrace Fire District Personnel. The men are filing for group dues status with IPFA. They will enjoy a 10% discount in dues and several other advantages covered by the plan. Welcome to the Oak Brook Terrace firemen as IPFA members. Oak Brook Terrace is located in the western suburbs of Chicago off Butterfield Road near Rt. 355.

WHAT ARE SOME ADVANTAGES OBTAINED AS AN IPFA MEMBER

By joining IPFA, The Long Grove and Oak Park Terrace fire districts, have gained added representation within several fire organizations, and their boards of directors. Director Cox or his designee sits on:

- the Board of Advisors for the Illinois Fire Service Institute,
- the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office,
- the Illinois Fire Services Association,
- the Illinois Medal of Honor Foundation,
- the Medal of Honor Committee,
- the Illinois State Fair Committee,
- a coalition of pension fund boards (that recently negotiated the Pension Reform Act in answer to Illinois Municipal League's attempt to shift the under funding of fire and police pension funds from themselves to the fire and police pension boards).

IPFA Director Cox was able to represent several fire organizations. He was able to continue negotiations with Senator Collin's office until a common ground settlement and a Supreme Court Ruling declared the Sudan Bill unconstitutional.

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Internal Revenue Compliance

Mr. Cox is representing IPFA as part of a coalition of Public Pension Funds that includes FOP, IAFF, Illinois Government Finance Officers Association, Illinois Public Pension Funds Association, and more. This group is working with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Pension Fund Division, a national law firm, and an accounting firm. A problem has surfaced with the National Internal Revenue Service. The State of Illinois Pension Funds no longer complies with the Compliance Act as it is recognized today. For each fund to try to comply on its own would be very expensive.

This coalition was formed with the guidance of the Acting Director of the Pension Division, Scott Brandt. A plan of action and a budget has been worked out that will allow all 500 plus funds to become compliant and remain in compliance for the next five years. The proposed budget will include a five-year projection and funding to cover the costs incurred for expenses that will include seminars to inform and keep all the funds informed of current options. The costs included in the proposed budget will be about \$400.00 per pension fund. The most expensive part of the process will be to get all 500 funds in compliance. After that it should be a matter of maintaining the compliance.