

Fire GUARD



A Publication of the Northern Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts

Fall 2010

Letter from the President



Hello again, I hope your summer went well.

On the Legislative Front

The legislators in Springfield will be back to work right after the election. I have met with Chuck and gave him some ideas for legislation for the upcoming year. If you can think of any legislation that might help the fire service please let Chuck know. Kathy Haage and Bill Hoffmeister attend the Fire Service Caucus at Motorola on October 25. They attended on behalf of the NIAFPD. The Fire Caucus is a collection of all the agencies that support the Fire Service, Labor and Administration and then they will put together a legislative platform on behalf of the whole fire service. You can read more about this and other legislative news in Chucks report later in the Fire Guard. Thanks Chuck for another great year.

On the Conference Front

The conference committee has been meeting and in my mind has put together another great conference for you. We have some great new topics and some new and excellent speakers. The dates for the conference are Thursday February 3rd to Sunday the 6th, 2011. You will find more information about the conference in this issue of Fire Guard. Something new this year is that we will be offering classes starting on Thursday afternoon. As in the past you will be able to get your continuing education requirements fulfilled at the conference.

The Sexual Harassment Class held on September 25 at the Glenside Fire Protection District was a success. We had about 25 attendees and Karl Ottosen did a great job for us. Thanks Karl.

As always if you should have any questions about the NIAFPD or maybe you would like to author an article for the Fire Guard, please don't hesitate to call Kathy Haage, or myself. Please don't forget to check out our web site www.niafpd.org.

Have fun and stay safe.

Ronald P. Kubicki

President, Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts

Message from the Executive Director



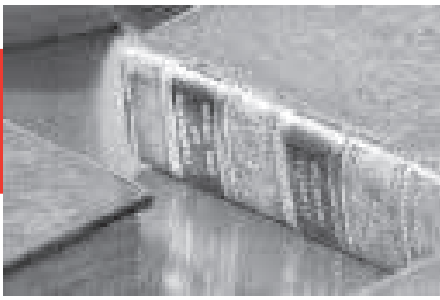
The NIAFPD fiscal year closes at the end of October. Members will be receiving their membership dues invoice shortly and I'm happy to report that there will be no increase in dues or of the Lobbyist Assessment. The assessment was calculated based on your Assessed Valuation you provided for our 2008/09 Membership Director. Last year most district members will notice a reduction in their assessment.

The NIAFPD 2011 Conference will be here before you know it. In fact the registration deadline for the Conference is January 7, 2011! I know this seems early, but we need to provide the Doubletree Hotel with our rooming list on 3 weeks prior to the conference. Please put attendance at the Conference on your November and December Board of Trustees Meeting Agendas. The most current information on our Conference will be posted on our website www.niafpd.org. If your Pension Fund Board needs to complete continuing education hours the conference will offer Pension sessions Thursday afternoon and all day on Friday.

If I can be of help to anyone please give me a call at 847-945-4120. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming conference.

Kathleen Haage

Executive Director, Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts



Election Calendar Extended Due to Recent Amendments

Robert J. Britz & Patrick Jesse, Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper & Gilbert, Ltd.

Effective July 6, 2010, the 96th Illinois General Assembly enacted legislation that changed election deadlines for fire district trustees in regards to the November General Election, the April Consolidated Election, and future elections as well. Public Act 96-1008 changed the deadlines for petitions to be filed, for vacancies to be filled, for submission of public questions, and for filing of objections.

In each case, the new law affected the filing or submission deadline by providing a longer time period for filing than under the previous legislation. Under the new legislation, in most of the changes, the first day for filing is 14 days earlier than the current time period and the last day for filing is 7 days earlier than the current time period.

For instance, petitions for nominations for municipal office are to be filed not more than 99 days but not less than 92 days prior to the date of the primary. Originally, the petition was required to be filed not more than 78 days but not less than 71 days prior to the date of the primary. In addition, the deadline to file petitions for referenda for public policy questions has been changed from 78 days before the election to 92 days before the election.

Using this new time framework, we have calculated with regard to filing dates for the April 5, 2011 consolidated election, the filing period for nominating petitions will begin on December 13, 2010 and end on December 20, 2010. The last day to file objections to nominating petitions for the consolidated election will be December 28, 2010.

Further, the Act also changed the requirements regarding absentee ballot applications. The Act eliminates the requirement that an absentee ballot application must originate with the election authority. Under the new legislation, any person is permitted to reproduce, distribute, or return an absentee ballot application.

In addition to these new requirements, a candidate for fire district trustee should also be aware of several other important provisions involving elections. Prior to the election, it is necessary for each candidate to file a Statement of Candidacy, which includes such pertinent information as: the candidate's name (both printed and signed); the address of the

candidate; the office for which the person is a candidate; political party designation, if necessary; and any statements that would qualify the candidate for office. The candidate is also required to swear to or affirm his or her statement of candidacy, and the statement must be notarized. Regarding the loyalty oath and nominating petition signature sheets, the name appearing on those forms should match the name on the Statement of Candidacy. Failure to match the name correctly on all three forms may result in the candidate's name not being included on the ballot.

The nominating petition signature sheets must be filed with the proper election officials and should contain the original signatures of the voters as well as the original signature of the circulator. Photocopies or duplicates of those sheets will not be accepted by local election officials. The circulator of the petition signature sheets must also sign a statement indicating: (1) he or she personally witnessed all voter signatures; (2) the petitions were signed in his or her presence; and (3) the petitions show the first and last dates of circulation. It is also important to number the petition signature sheets consecutively with the top sheet starting at number "1." Attached to the nominating petition signature sheets should be the Statement of Candidacy, the Loyalty Oath, and the receipt for filing the Statement of Economic Interests. The filing of the loyalty oath is optional. These are but a few of the many election code provisions that prospective candidates should know.

The Illinois State Board of Elections produces a Candidate's Guide each election year, which provides further information regarding the above topics. The Board of Elections routinely updates this guide on its website (www.elections.il.gov) when new changes or laws are passed. It is worthwhile for any candidate seeking elected office to remain abreast of these changes either by accessing the Board of Elections' website or contacting their attorney.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3-6, 2011
NIAFPD Conference
DoubleTree Chicago Oak Brook Hotel

May 4-6, 2011
IFCA Annual Symposium
Peoria, IL

June 9-12, 2011
IAFPD 66th Annual Conference
Peoria, IL

October 9-12, 2011
IFCA 61st Annual Conference
Peoria, IL



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With Autumn Comes a Return to Optimism

Thomas S. Sawyer, Sawyer Falduto Asset Management, LLC

During the late weeks of summer, the markets seemed to shake off concerns of a double dip recession. After a second quarter in which markets were very much driven by concerns over the economy, equities recovered nicely during the third quarter. Equity markets embraced the modest improvement in economic indicators as a sign that the economy is likely continue growing albeit at a slow pace.

U.S. stocks had their best September in many years with index total returns ranging from 7.85% for the Dow Jones Industrial Average to a robust 12.46% for small cap stocks as measured by the Russell 2000. Not to be completely excluded, alternative asset classes turned in positive results as will with real estate and natural resources turning in positive results of 4.43% and 3.86% respectively. Bond yields continued to move lower during the quarter fueling strong total returns for fixed income securities.

Traditionally in this column we spend a little time reviewing short-term interest rates as that piece of the yield curve is of particular interest to district treasurers and trustees. We wish we had something new to discuss. The Federal Reserve continues to maintain the fed funds rate at zero to 0.25%. Suffice to say, the Fed has been very clear that the fed funds rate will be kept at "exceptionally low levels."

2011 Index Performance through September 30., 2010

	MO	QTR	YTD
Standard & Poor's 500 Index (Large Company)	8.92%	11.29%	3.89%
Dow Jones Industrial Average (Large Company)	7.85%	11.13%	5.57%
Russell 2000 Index (Small Company)	12.46%	11.29%	9.12%
MSCI-EAFE Index (Foreign)	9.82%	16.53%	1.46%
DJ US Select REIT (Real Estate)	4.43%	13.22%	19.19%
S&P NA Natural Resources (Hard Assets)	3.86%	12.63%	2.13%
BarCap US Government Bond (Fixed Income)	0.05%	2.52%	8.05%

As a reminder, by statute, Illinois Firefighter pension funds may invest up to 45% of fund assets in equities so long as the investments meet certain statutory conditions. Those pension funds with less than \$2.5 million in assets may only invest up to 10% of assets in equities. If we translate market returns to portfolio level return for the first nine months of 2010, firefighter pension funds should see positive returns ranging from 6.5% to 7.5%.

Looking Forward:

The outlook for the economy continues to be for an environment of slow growth and low inflation. Corporate earnings growth which has been quite robust relative to levels observed at the heart of the recession will likely slow somewhat but remain nicely positive. Companies included in the Standard & Poor's 500 index are now priced at multiple of just over 13 times operating earnings, a level that we view as neutral in terms of valuing the stock market. In other words, stocks are moderately more expensive than at our last writing.

The yield on the 10 year U.S. Treasury note moved from approximately 3.05% down to below 2.40% at this writing reflecting the effect of the Fed's asset purchases and expectations for growth and inflation. Additionally, the outcome of the November elections could have a sig-

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Session Report

Charles R. Vaughn, Vaughn Consulting Services

We are now approaching the most potentially dangerous phase of the Illinois legislative process. With the start of the veto session we will see votes cast by several categories of legislators who will be asked to do very strange, and potentially destructive, things. The first group is made up of people leaving the legislature (defeated or retiring) who may become "flexible" in return for a job or "soft place to land." Here you may see votes that are very different than what they have done before. The next group is made up of candidates that got a lot of help in the recent election (\$\$\$\$\$). Favors given must be repaid. If there is any change in who will be the majority in 2011-12 the losers may make last- moment decisions before the lose power in January. This is a recipe for getting bad legislation.

Many groups have been badly wounded in 2010. This includes public pension advocates, labor, projects needing money, and people expecting to be paid by the State of Illinois. We need to remind those who represent us that we will not stand for this process to go on We will remember in the next election. As to our issues, the first providers still stand on center stage in the Legislature. Our regulatory issue will still

be well met, and we can expect help on everything except things that cost money. The state is beyond broke, and recovery will be very slow.

Our industry, and our membership, is what most taxpayers are looking for. We have a good and reliable product, and we keep costs low. Our future in Springfield is much better than most, because you all do such a good job. It will continue to be both my honor, and my pleasure, to represent NIAFPD.

Side Note:

Many of you know I recently had some serious health issues with open heart surgery. I am glad to tell you that I am fully recovered and back to work for you. Much of my strength in my amazing recovery has come from the good wishes of my friends. So many of the NIAFPD members were so kind with words and support, and I thank you all very much. Chuck Vaughn



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nificant impact on capital markets should the opposition to the current big government policies continue to gain momentum. The bond market continues to appear rich to us. Our inclination is to maintain durations/maturities at levels below benchmarks.

No single asset allocation is right for all pension funds. The allocation to equities, fixed income and all available asset classes should be determined with careful consideration given to investment time horizon, liquidity requirements, diversification and the risk tolerance of the pension board. The resulting asset allocation guidelines should be well documented in the pension fund's investment policy statement. Please feel free to give us a call should you have any questions regarding the investment policy and structure of your fund.

The information in this article is obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Information in this article is the opinion of the author and should not be construed as investment advice or a guarantee of future returns.



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 New Pension Track on Thursday 1-5 p.m.

**Look for Conference Registration Packets
 in the mail beginning of November**

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