

FIRE GUARD



Volume #24

Publication of Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts

July • 2003

Letter from the President

The Board of Directors has met and developed a list of short-term goals and objectives for 2003-2004. Items included stronger membership involvement, continued legislative action and establishing an educational tool for the further development of Fire Officials. Thanks again to our members that have volunteered their time to represent the Board of Directors!

We are looking for persons to help in our legislative fight. We need additional help with our involvement towards tax cap restrictions, funding, tort and pension contributions. We would like to expand participation for the Committee this year and need to have a set of issues in place before our Fall meeting. Please contact our office if you would be interested in assisting.

Don't forget the NIAFPD web site. Go to www.NIAFPD.com and visit the new web site. It has become a useful tool in a way of supplying you information regarding Fire District profiles, Legislative updates, contact information and hyper links to other associations, government offices and vendors.

The NIAFPD is always striving to best represent your Fire District and its needs. The fall session will include a training session. Please forward any suggestions for topics that you feel would be beneficial. Our efforts are to both explore and educate the membership in new and developing areas that will benefit our overall goals. Thanks for doing what you do!



Jack L. Mancione
President, Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts
Darien Woodridge Fire Protection District



Implications of the New Fire Department Promotions Bill for Boards of Trustees

by Carolyn Welch Clifford, Ottosen Trevarthen Britz Kelly & Cooper, Ltd.

The new Fire Department Promotion Act (the "Act") makes significant changes in the way boards of fire commissioners must conduct the promotional process for full-time members. However, boards of trustees of fire protection districts will also have new rights and responsibilities regarding the promotional process under this new Act. Below are a summary of those provisions of the Act that impact the board of trustees:

- The Act has now carved out an exception to the commission's promotional process for two (2) people for an administrative or executive rank (deputy or assistant chief, for example) who hold the rank immediately below fire chief, and which has at least one promoted rank below that rank. The board of trustees may appoint people to that rank under this new Act (see Section 5 of the Act).
- The Act now allows the commission to set pre-eligibility requirements to participate in the promotional process in such areas as length of employment, education, training, and certification in subjects and skills related to firefighting. Note that the bill requires, however, that any such eligibility requirements be published at least one year prior to the date of

the beginning of the promotional process and all members be given an equal opportunity to meet those eligibility requirements. Thus, boards of trustees may wish to include such criteria as "required," rather than "desired," for promoted ranks within the district's job descriptions for these promoted ranks (see Section 15(b) of the Act).

Continued on Page 2

Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services/Midwest

1431 Opus Place, Suite 515
Downers Grove, IL 60515-1169
Tel (630) 852-5333
Fax (630) 852-5696
1-800-422-1431

Ronald W. Dukes
Deputy Regional Director



Volunteer Firemen's
Insurance Services, Inc.
A SUBSIDIARY OF THE GLAYFELTER INSURANCE GROUP

Elburn and Countryside Fire Protection District

Trustees: James Feece
 Ronald Ehlers
 Leroy Herra

Fire Chief: Kelly Callaghan

Administrative Assistant: Jeff Armesy

District Covers: 75 square miles

Personnel: 14 Full-Time Firefighters
 47 Part-Time Firefighters / EMS

of Stations: 2



Population: 17,000

Budget: \$1,721,407

2001 Fire Calls: 497
2001 EMS Calls: 706
2001 Other Calls: 161
Fire Loss: \$478,075.00

Implications of the New Fire...

Continued from page 1

- If the board of trustees decides not to fill a vacancy, then the existing promotional list shall continue in effect until all positions vacated have been filled or for a period up to five (5) years (see Section 20(d) of the Act). Currently, a promotional list would expire at the end of three (3) years (see 70 ILCS 705/16.11). However, the new Act permits the list to be valid a minimum of two (2) years and a maximum of three (3) years (see Section 20(e) of the Act).
- The fire protection district must prepare and post a seniority list before the written examination is given in the promotional process that includes the seniority date, any breaks in service, the total number of eligible years, and the number of seniority points (see Section 40(b) of the Act).
- If the commission uses performance evaluations as a basis for promotions, the fire protection district must insure that the evaluations be given annually and made readily available for the candidates' review. Also, the evaluations must include any disagreement or documentation the employee has provided to refute the evaluation (see Section 50(d) of the Act).
- No one, including the commissioners or trustees, may see the actual written exam in advance of the test. If a commissioner or trustee knowingly receives or divulges test questions or answers before a written examination, or otherwise knowingly violates or subverts the Act, it constitutes official

**The Law Firm of
 Ottosen Trevarthen Britz
 Kelly & Cooper, Ltd.**

Dedicated to helping the fire service operate effectively and productively.

300 S. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, Illinois 60187
 630-682-0085 www.otbk.com
 Also offices in Elburn and Woodstock

**DESIGNING EACH FACILITY TO MEET
 YOUR NEEDS AND BUDGET . . .**

FGM
 ARCHITECTS • ENGINEERS

BELLEVILLE, IL 618.233.3254	CHICAGO, IL 312.641.3769	LAKE IN THE HILLS, IL 847.458.0890
OAK BROOK, IL 630.574.8300	MT. VERNON, IL 618.242.5620	PEORIA, IL 309.669.0012



Legislative Update

by Chuck Vaughn, Vaughn Consulting Services



We have so far, had an amazingly successful year. During the past few days bills we sponsored (or valued) have been passing out of both the House and the Senate and going on to the Governor. I will stay on remaining issues to cement a most gratifying campaign.

Bills of general interest to the District and Chiefs:

Passed Both Houses

- SB 21 Prevents use of signal preemption devices by public.
- HB 115 No interest loans program for districts with older trucks.
- HB 116 Ability to set penalties and standards for repeated false alarms. (suggested guidelines to follow)
- HB 117 Uniformity in motor fuel tax exemptions and assistance to districts in securing the exemptions.
- HB 121 Equipment exchange program and liability shield.
- HB 123 Similar signal preemption bill.
- HB 407 Covers the continuation of pensions when a district is dissolved.
- HB 544 Lowering audit level standards for fire districts.
- HB 1194 Guarantees reasonable conditions of premises to firefighters and gives civil standing to firefighters.

HB 1267 Districts can force annex under 60 acres.

Final Passage Stage In Second House Or Conference Committee After Being Through Both Houses

- HB 120 Non-resident charges for services by municipal FPD (concurrence).
- HB 335 Covers situations where a certifying unit for collective bargaining falls below 35. 3rd in Senate
- HB 1482 License for fireworks displays. 3rd in Senate
- SB 158 Creates strict liability for direct and indirect causes for various health hazards that can result in disability. 3rd in House
- SB 524 Incentives for vols. adding a prohibition of convicted arsonist to be vol. 3rd in House

Various Tax Cap Bills – Still No Agreement On The Final Package

- HB 1195 Promotional Bill – passed both Houses. Amended in Senate with compromise. Language worked out with IML and us. In for concurrence.

The participation of our member is what makes and keeps, us strong.



2ND ANNUAL MARGARET J. SCHOFIELD FIRE SERVICE MEMORIAL FUND GOLF OUTING

Sunday, August 17, 2003

Silver Lake Country Club, Orland Park, IL

\$125.00 includes golf, cart, lunch, refreshments, prizes, and dinner

For more information to play golf or be a sponsor
contact: Peggy Schofield Figiel
312.861.0914 or the2figs@aol.com

The 2002 Golf Outing was a huge success. The Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts was presented with a check for \$5,000.00 for the training and education of fire administrators, trustees, and commissioners.

Fire Guard is a quarterly publication of:

NIAFPD

500 Waukegan Road

Deerfield, IL 60015

847.945.4120

NIAFPD Officers

President	Jack Mancione	630.417.1649
Secretary/Treasurer	Nicholas Kosiara	630.682.4165
Immed. Past President	Ronald Kubicki	708.354.6567
Directors	Patrick Amerena	630.628.6490
	Marshall Gray, Jr.	630.894.9080
	Marge Hodek	708.974.4474
	Dale Karlson	815.469.0400
	Zachary Lawrence	630.434.0680
Executive Director	Kathleen Haage	847.945.4120

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

NIAFPD Membership Meeting

Saturday, August 16, 2003 • 10:00 a.m.

Orland Park Fire Protection District

9790 West 151st Street

Orland Park, Illinois

708.349.0074

Meeting Goal:

Plan Upcoming Year's Legislative Agenda

*Newsletter design & editing by Bright Ideas
Marketing Solutions • mbuhr8@aol.com*

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!