

SPRING 2023



INDIANA FIRE FIGHTER

Representing Indiana's Professional Fire Fighters, Paramedics, EMT's, and 911 Telecommunicators



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PFFUI Members meeting members of Congress on Capitol Hill at the IAFF Legislative Conference

Cover Picture: Evansville Local 357

Photograph: Mark Mastison



President Anthony Murray

I'm excited to share that nearly 200 delegates, alternates, speakers, and guests will gather in Terre Haute for the 47th Convention of the Profes-

sional Fire Fighters Union of Indiana from May 24-26. I want to express my gratitude to Terre Haute Local 758 President Robert Malone, the Local 758 Executive Board, the Convention Committee, Mayor Duke Bennett, Chief Bill Berry, and the Brothers and Sisters of Local 758 for their hard work and effort in hosting a successful convention. The PFFUI was the first to sign a booking for the brand-new convention center in downtown Terre Haute, and we have an agenda packed with information, education, and guest speakers, in addition to conducting the business of the PFFUI. A full report of the convention proceedings will be published for members after the conclusion of business. I'm encouraged by the strong involvement of our locals across the state who have invested their time away from home to oversee the business of our state union.

Since our last issue of the newsletter, our members and leaders have participated in several IAFF and PFFUI sponsored training and events to help move our union forward. In January, the IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Summit was held, where 2,000 leaders joined together for labor leadership, human relations classes, and updates from IAFF leadership on important issues facing our members. I was honored to present two sessions on our experiences achieving goals through effective Labor-Management Relations with Chief (Ret.) Steve Westerman. In February, the PFFUI hosted training for affiliate leaders close to home in Indianapolis through instruction delivered by the IAFF Partnership Education Program. We also gathered for a well-attended PFFUI Legislative Conference where our members heard directly from state representatives and senators while participating in a detailed briefing on our legislative efforts at the capitol. Finally, I joined over twenty members from Indiana in Washington, D.C. at the IAFF Legislative Conference, and we met with members of Congress on Capitol Hill to discuss IAFF's priorities in this Congress and provide updates on the state of the fire service and EMS in Indiana. We will keep readers informed on actions taken on our key legislative issues. However, I regularly get questions about the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). IAFF supports the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 (H.R. 82), which would eliminate the WEP and ensure retired firefighters can receive their full Social Security. Each year, the PFFUI supports through an attendance scholarship to send a member from two locals to

the IAFF Legislative Conference. This year, with the Executive Board's support, we were able to send three since we missed a year during the pandemic. All of our members did a great job communicating our message while on Capitol Hill, and we heard President Joe Biden address IAFF members assembled at the conference. While in the capital, I had the opportunity to break bread with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra. Our group shared the work our members are doing in the Mobile Integrated Health and out-of-hospital care and transport space. I appreciate GST Lima's invitation to join in this conversation about our members' work and the challenges experienced in delivering care to people in our communities.

The PFFUI Executive Board has met twice this year to keep our union moving forward. We are in the process of completing our goal of collecting wage, benefit, and contract data for each of the 85 locals and 105 departments in the PFFUI to assist our affiliates in developing comparisons and data-driven justifications when negotiating. Brother Ross Sergi of Local 4406 is our Data Analyst and has worked diligently to harness several data elements and create custom comparison reports and presentations. We are excited to announce that we have expanded our Communications shop by adding a third Communications Specialist, Nick Pabon of Local 475. GP Kelly selected Nick to attend this year's IAFF Communications Training Academy, and we are confident that he will be a valuable asset in assisting our locals with messaging and supporting our PFFUI programs.



Evansville Local 357 President Larry Zuber, Brother Jonathan Wright, Representative Tim O'Brien and President Murray

Additionally, we are currently working on several projects to benefit our members. Firstly, we are building an updated platform for local union officer orientation to ensure that our incoming officers have the resources they need to succeed. We are also producing a workshop for our locals to help them navigate the process of establishing a merit system, which will be available this fall. Finally, we are collaborating with INPRS to develop an agenda for an in-person Pension Secretary resource workshop, scheduled for early this

summer. We will provide more information on all of these opportunities.

The 123rd Session of the Indiana General Assembly recently concluded (sine die) in the early morning hours of April 28. We are proud to report that the PFFUI had a successful session, and we will soon publish a special legislative issue of the newsletter, providing a detailed accounting of our work



Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this, the end of the 2023 Indiana General Assembly is rapidly approaching. President Murray is planning on a special

legislative newsletter this summer, so I will not go in depth on all of our bills. However, I will report on some of our accomplishments this year.

HB1025 adds fire territories and districts to the Indiana code for fire fighter discipline. This bill has completed the process and is waiting the Governor to sign into law.

HB1055 removes residency requirements for fire fighters in towns with populations below 7500. This bill is waiting for the Governor to sign into law.

HB1219 creates a PILOT program to test up to 1000 Indiana career fire fighters blood for PFAS. Reprehensive Bauer has been working on this concept for three years, to protect fire fighters from cancer. Cancer line-of-duty-deaths among firefighters are on the rise, and we are learning how PFAS is linked to many of those cancers. With this PILOT program, overseen by IDHS and the State Fire Marshall's office, we will learn more about the connection. The PFFUI has been heavily involved in this important legislation, and we will pass the information along to local leaders when the program is up and running. This bill is waiting for the Governor to sign into law. HB1341 requires any new fire protective gear purchased after June 30th 2024 to include a permanent label that this gear contains PFAS or is PFAS free. This bill is waiting for the Governor to sign into law.

SB185 will allow airport authority fire fighters to participate in the 1977 pension fund. It will also increase the maximum hiring age for fire fighters to less than 40 years of age. Additionally, it includes the technical corrections that will fix the 25 year longevity for pension base that was inaccurately placed in the Indiana code. This bill is waiting the Governor to sign into law.

during the session. In the meantime, we invite you to listen to VP Whited and me break down our key issues from this session on the fourth edition of the PFFUI Podcast, available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, SoundCloud, or YouTube. We encourage you to tune in, and keep an eye out for the special legislative issue in your mailbox soon.

With the session behind us, we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming union meetings and events this spring and summer. As always, please take good care of yourself and each other.

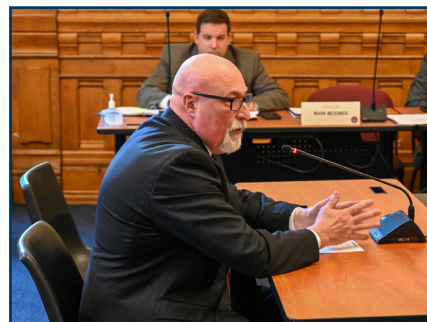
Vice-President Mike Whited

As of this writing we are still working on HB1016, the mandatory merit systems bill. It has been sent to a conference committee to remove an amendment that was added in the Senate. Hopefully this bill will also be going to the Governor soon. We are still trying to pass into law the increase to the maximum COLA cap for our 77 fund retirees.

The PFFUI has had another successful year at the Statehouse passing most of our priority bills that was on our agenda with still a couple of weeks to go working on our last 2 issues. I plan on having a full report on the 2023 legislative session in a few weeks when this session wraps up.

President Murray, Legislative Assistant Tom Hanify and I have already started meeting to work on our legislative agenda for the 2024 session and to plan our annual summer pension tour. Every year, we, along with the Indiana FOP, travel around Indiana meeting with legislators in their districts to explain what the 1977 police and fire pension does and doesn't do. This pension tour was started in 2012 when our pension was under attack and has been done every year since, meeting with around 15 legislators annually. This has been a very successful program of educating veteran and freshman lawmakers on the strength of the 1977 Fund. For the past several sessions, there haven't been any bills filed to change our pension negatively.

I wanted to thank President Zuber and the members of Local 357 for inviting me to their annual retirement gala. I always enjoy attending this awesome event that gets bigger and better every year. Finally, Secretary Treasurer Mike Pinkham has announced that he will not run again for office at the 2024 convention. Mike has been an invaluable asset to this organization for many years and will be greatly missed. I will reserve giving Mike his due accolades for the floor of the 2024 PFFUI convention.



VP Mike Whited testifying at Senate Committee on Pensions and Labor



Secretary-Treasurer Michael Pinkham

Brothers and Sisters,

Our 47th annual convention in Terre Haute May 24th – 26th is upon us and I hope your Local is

represented in person to participate and gather insight into our achievements and services and assist in the governance of our organization via the resolution process.

I'm pleased to report that we continue to enjoy a solid financial foundation. Our state association per capita dues are currently \$4.81 per active member per month and \$2.40 per retired-active member per month. Our membership presently stands at 85 Locals representing approximately 6,900 active members and 1,300 retired-active members.

The Regional Trustees completed the IAFF's constitutionally required annual financial review earlier this spring and it has been forwarded to the IAFF GST's office. All of our required federal, state, and local report filing requirements are currently met including the filing of our federal Form-990 NFP tax returns for both the Union and the PAC. All Local Affiliates are required to file a Form-990 federal income tax return annually, usually by the 15th day of May. Failure to meet these required filings can jeopardize your Local's not-for-profit status. Check with your Local Treasurer to ensure compliance with financial reviews and tax filings.

If your local is not yet utilizing the IAFF SMART platform please urge your leaders to consider doing so. The SMART platform offers ease of membership management and the ability to communicate quickly and effectively with members. The PFFUI has adopted the IAFF SMART State Association Per Capita Tax (PCT) Invoicing System for our online invoicing method to all affiliates and it has a monthly auto-payment feature to ensure your Local maintains its good standing with the PFFUI continually.

As our legislative team will also report, it appears we will experience another successful year in the Indiana General Assembly advocating for legislation protecting and enhancing the benefits of firefighters throughout the state. We could not have achieved our legislative successes without your support of our Indiana Firefighters Political Action Committee. Your financial commitments are critical to the success of our legislative initiatives. Please continue to help us in these efforts by contributing to the Indiana Firefighters PAC. You can use the following link to submit an individual contribution online: PayPal.Me/INFFPAC

It has been a lengthy and rewarding journey serving as your Secretary-Treasurer since January 1998. Then PFFUI President, now President Emeritus, Thomas Miller appointed me to succeed now Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Richard Kissel after his 22 years of dedicated service to our organization. I greatly enjoyed working alongside Tom Hanify during his 20 years as PFFUI President and now working with President Tony Murray as our organization continues to progress with distinguished leadership. I've had the great experience and pleasure of working with many, many different individuals serving over the years in their roles with the PFFUI, Local Affiliates, and around the IAFF.

I have decided I will not seek re-election at our convention next year in 2024. I will continue to serve to the best of my abilities and assist in the transition with whomever is elected as my successor next year. I am confident the delegates will elect a capable individual to carry on the proud tradition of dedication, service, and accountability established by my predecessor and continued by myself in this position.

It has been an honor and a distinct privilege serving this organization as Secretary-Treasurer. I look forward to another year of continued success for the organization and a fond farewell.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Lafayette Professional Firefighters Local 472

I want to express my gratitude to the PFFUI E-board for granting me the scholarship to attend the LEG CON in DC. This was my fifth consecutive year attending. Each year, I learn valuable insights that I bring back to our members, making it a worthwhile investment for our organization. This year's trip was no exception, with members from all across the country attending, making it an excellent networking opportunity and educational tool for us officers to utilize.

One aspect that impressed me the most was the IAFF's change of approach in selling our legislative ideas to members of Congress. Instead of pushing our same old "collective bargaining" and "Early Medicare" pitches, we adapted our approach and focused on how Congress could sell it to each other. For example, we proposed a tax credit that would offset our healthcare costs, rather than expanding a program or cutting taxes. By incorporating both options into a bill, we made it difficult for either party to reject the proposal.

It is crucial to have representation from every corner of Indiana during these meetings. During one meeting, a Congressman who may be filling an empty Senate seat next year recognized the mayors of every city represented in the room. This goes to show how critical it is for us to be involved in the political arena.

I highly recommend attending the LEG CON in DC at least once during your term representing your local. It is a fantastic opportunity to witness the respect and influence that members from all over the country have on high-ranking officials in our capital. You will not regret it.

Thank you again to the PFFUI E-board for this opportunity, and I look forward to sharing what I have learned with our members.

In Solidarity

Trent Richter
President Lafayette Professional Firefighters Local 472

Batesville Local 5380

We would like to express our gratitude to the PFFUI for granting us the opportunity to attend the 2023 International Association of Fire Firefighter's Conference in Washington, DC. It was truly an enlightening experience and provided us with invaluable knowledge about the legislative process and how to advocate for issues that impact our fellow firefighters and departments in Indiana, regardless of size or location.

One of the most beneficial aspects of the conference was the chance to network with other IAFF members. As new members of a local fire department, we were able to discuss best practices with our peers and gain insight into what makes other locals successful. It is essential that we work together to advocate for the issues that are facing our profession and are crucial to the fire service as a whole. The conference provided us with an opportunity to interact with legislators, staff, and even be present during President Biden's keynote address, allowing us to experience firsthand the process of lobbying and garnering support for critical issues.

We believe that the knowledge and skills we gained from attending the conference will be instrumental in our future meetings with state and local government officials. As firefighters, it is our responsibility to make sure our voices are heard, and we thank the PFFUI for supporting our attendance at this crucial event.

President Brian Hardebeck and Secretary-Treasurer Spencer Broughton
Batesville Local 5380

District News



Jon Parkhouse

1st District Vice-President

Brothers and Sisters of the First,

I hope you have all been productive while still enjoying the spring season. I have had the pleasure of speaking with many of

you and witnessing the cooperation that takes place in our district. It is a pleasure to see the wide spectrum of locals and different size memberships that accompany them.

I recently attended the IAFF Legislative Conference in Washington DC as a scheduler for the PFFUI, my first opportunity to do so in my position as DVP. It was an amazing experience to be part of and to make appointments with our elected officials. If you have an interest in how government works, then this conference is a vital one you should plan to attend at least once in your career. Indiana had a total of 22 attendees, and we were lucky to meet with most officials.

Speaking of elections, this newsletter will be right around the time of the Indiana primaries for cities and towns. We all know of the issues our brothers and sisters face in Gary and East Chicago. There have been significant movements in both cities and their endorsements, and the IAFF has stepped in to help EC with their battle. Regardless of their success, these brothers and sisters have truly stepped up and shown that they are a force to be considered. From the rookie firefighters to the executive board of EC, and to our members from around the state that were able to be a part of it, thank you.

With locals getting back to yearly fundraisers, I encourage you to reach out to me so that I can pass along any information to the rest of the state. There are always a lot of golf outings up here, and often the same players travel to other locals to help with their fundraising

efforts and work on improving their golf game at the same time.

Cedar Lake wishes Pat Scoleri, their founding president and original charter member, a happy and healthy retirement! Great party you guys threw.

Chesterton reports their annual golf outing on June 19th at Sand Creek, and otherwise, all is status quo.

Clay has already started fundraising with a recent donation of \$4500 for the Great Lakes Burn Camp in what they called "The Mustache Bash." Nice going, brothers and sisters.

Elkhart reports on upcoming negotiations and an ongoing battle with merit commissions. President Gour has taken over up there and is doing his best.

Goshen is going through some tough times, with multiple members in various stages of cancer, which we all know is the leading cause of LODD deaths last year. Cancer legislation is more important than ever before.

Hobart is coming on strong with a recent approval to hire 12 people, bringing staffing up to 57 in total. Hobart also expressed thanks and gratitude for everything about the sudden passing of Brother Castle.

Laporte is working well with their administrations and entering negotiations soon. L363 also had several brothers with 33+ years retire. Brothers Luscomb, Seymour, and Smith, enjoy your retirement.

Middlebury has recently hired an additional three people, bringing them up to 18 full-time staff, and have a good ongoing relationship with their elected officials.

Mishawaka L360 recently started a retirement party to be held annually, and they report the first one went over very well; Trustee Tillman was able to attend and said it was very nice.

Schererville is working with the town to file a safer grant and their PAC is already making moves for the upcoming election. Their beer garden fundraiser is scheduled to run June 7th through the 11th, more to come on that. St John has had a good relationship with their fire chief who came from the ranks of their local as well as a pre-

vious department. It is so important to have good skills in labor management and at this point, he still has that, and they continue to work together. Go Kevin!!! Valparaiso has their upcoming and very successful flower sale that is a whirlwind of flowers moved in a very short time.

I look forward to seeing a lot of you at the convention where there will be a lot of business to tend to. I know Terre Haute is excited to host and as many of our members that can attend, should attend. This is your organization and your input is vital to the direction. President Murray has been adding resources and staffing to better serve you, the membership, in your needs. We want every one of us to be able to serve our communities well, to be fairly compensated, and to go home safely to our families.



WELCOME EAST MADISON FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 5402



Cody Lever

2nd District Vice-President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the PFFUI 2nd District and beyond.

It was a busy end to 2022 and the first quarter of 2023 kept the pace.

We've had some turnover in many Locals, with new leadership being elected throughout the District. In Angola President Ray Harvey is picking up where longtime Local 3962 President Kevin Mory left off. Angola hosted their annual class at Trine University on April 1st bringing in two FDNY members to instruct on leadership. The brothers and sisters of Local 3962 use the proceeds earned from class registration to fund their local scholarship initiative. Auburn Local 2454 elected Matt Reihm as Local President, and he was able to attend the PFFUI PEP and Thomas H. Miller Legislative Conference in February this year along with former President Shane Jacobs. East Madison Local 5402 elected John Moore Jr. to President and Cameron Earl to Secretary-Treasurer. Both of these brothers are new to the Local leadership scene but are excited about the opportunity and have already reached out to the PFFUI for resources looking to move the Local forward with relationship building and collective bargaining in the future. Monticello Local 2278 elected brother Ryan Hahn to President who has also hit

the ground running with a local PR campaign and a possible visit to the Statehouse and PFFUI office in the works.

Congratulations to newly organized South Madison Local 5417 with brothers Jim Stewart, Brandon Leisure, and Alex Chefalo elected President, VP, and ST respectively. Thank you, President Murray, for all your work on getting these brothers organized. In Frankfort, the membership reelected Brother Jeremy Ward to President, and told me his focus this year is on locking down retiree insurance for his members.

Elwood Local 1671 and New Castle Local 1722 are both gearing up for their annual charity golf outings this year. Both outings this year are on September 16th, this should make for an busy travel day! I am sure Presidents Schrader from Elwood and Hauser from New Castle would appreciate hole sponsors and teams if anyone is interested.

Portland Local 5356 has been hard at work this year, hosting a leadership conference in January for over 60 first responders from the state, serving over 225 of their citizens at a chili lunch in February, and partaking in a multiagency water rescue training in March.

Several Locals in the Super 2nd have been hiring and/or have open hiring processes. Kokomo Local 396 swore in 6 new recruits on April 5th, Muncie Local 1348 has 8 recruits headed on shift sometime in April, Anderson Local 1262 has 7 recruits in the Fire Academy, with another 4 hopefully joining them in the coming weeks. Huntington Local 680 and Logansport Local 470 both have open hiring processes, and finally Wabash Township Local 5383 has almost doubled their original staffing number in their short amount of me organized!

The brothers and sisters of Lafayette Local 472 have been hitting the training circuit hard this year with several multiagency training sessions with many neighboring departments. President Richter hopes to host their first Fire Ops

101 later this year and based on their excellent hosting of convention a few years back, I am positive it will be a great success.

2nd District's largest Local, Fort Wayne Local 124, put on another incredible Get Green Fest in March despite the below freezing temps. This event starts in the early pre-dawn hours with a run that somehow drew hundreds of participants even with the bitter cold. It went throughout the day, with many family friendly events and of course the greening of the St. Mary's River. 2nd Region Trustee Jeremy Bush has been extremely hard at work in the organizing of many departments surrounding the City of Fort Wayne. Your work is greatly appreciated, brother, and will leave its mark for generations to come.

A few 2nd District Locals have already taken advantage of the PFFUI's data analyst, Brother Ross Sergi, in helping with data collection and presentation for negotiation purposes. Kokomo Local 396 recently requested a CBA comparison, Muncie Local 1348 went all in on a CBA and wage benefit analysis and Richmond Local 1348 received their analysis earlier this year which in return assisted these brothers and sisters in avoiding their version of arbitration. We in the 2nd are incredibly grateful for Brother

Sergi's work and looking forward to working with him in the future.

In my home Local, we're working with the City to weather the lateral transfer losses we suffered early in 2023. We currently have 7 in the Fire Academy, 4 hopefully getting Public Safety Medical's approval in the coming weeks, and we lateraled in one in March. This will put us over our budgeted number of 110 firefighters for a few weeks going into the heavy overtime season. We're also in talks with our Mayor and City Council on a plan to prevent future transfers, as much as possible, by looking at a salary increase outside of our contractual raises and an upgrade to our EMS service to focus on reducing the workload on our paramedics. We're monitoring the upcoming Primary Election closely having friends on both sides of the isle running for reelection and first-time candidates. I'd like to thank the brothers and sisters of Local 1262 again for allowing me to continue serving them as Local President, and for their continued support as I serve the 2nd District.

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your time. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful Summer. Hope to see many of you in Terre Haute soon!



Mark Mastison

3rd District Vice-President

Brothers and Sisters of the PFFUI,

Greetings from the 3rd district! As we wrap up the legislative session and prepare for primary elections, I'd like to commend our lobbyists for their outstanding

work in making Indiana a better place for Professional Firefighters. They continually strive to enhance our working conditions, and their expertise is recognized by politicians statewide. If you're politically active or wish to become more involved, consider joining and contributing to the PFFUI firePAC. Your support allows lobbyists to attend fundraisers and back candidates that support our cause, which further enables us to protect our profession.

Although locals are facing challenges such as contracts, hiring, and disagreements with administration, overall, things are going well in the 3rd district. President Canada of Bloomington is doing a fantastic job of raising awareness about the pay gaps and hiring issues in the fire service. Other locals, such as Brazil and Boonville, are currently in contract negotiations, while some are seeking advice from the PFFUI regarding union leadership. Princeton local #1634 is

currently in a dispute between the city and township over control, but they are working hard to mitigate the situation and we wish President Sander and his board the best of luck in resolving this issue.

Recently, I attended the IAFF Legislative Seminar in Washington D.C. with fellow members of the PFFUI. The seminar allows IAFF members to assist in lobbying efforts at the federal level and helps promote bills that benefit us. It was an excellent opportunity to meet with Indiana's Congressmen and Senators to discuss our concerns, and Congressman Banks of the 3rd district was particularly supportive of our efforts. The PFFUI offers two scholarships each year to attend this seminar and will send two members to the IAFF convention in Boston in 2024. I highly recommend that your Local apply for these scholarships

One of the most remarkable charitable foundations in Indiana is "911 Gives Hope," based in Evansville. The foundation organizes events throughout the year, including toy collections and charity boxing matches between police officers and firefighters. This year, over 9,000 tickets were sold, and public safety officers from several states trained year-round to raise funds for children in the tri-state area. Congratulations to the members of Local #357 for winning this year's competition and donating almost \$2 million to children's charities in the past 15 years. Brothers Luke Morrow, Chad Emsweller, Jesse Riddle, Kase Stolte, Nathan Klassy, Dan Orange, Eric Baumberger and Sister Paige Jones were incredible representatives of the local. I would also like to give a shout out the Police officers and those who worked

behind the scenes to make this event a showcase year after year. In the 15 years of Guns & Hoses, they have donated almost \$2 million to children's charities in the area.

The past eight months have been busy for members of Local #357, who responded to several natural disasters, in and outside of the state, and hazardous situations, including a house explosion that damaged 39 houses, two 5th alarm fires, dive rescues, and Haz Mat responses. The local hosted a Retirement Gala, where we recognized the retirees of the year and thanked Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke for his support and friendship during his 12 years as Mayor. He has been a good friend of the local, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.



Hank Harris

4th District Vice-President

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope your start to 2023 has been good. We have already had a busy start to the year. Across the District, we are preparing for several Contract Negotiations and have already begun a few of them. Pike, Wayne,

and Decatur will all be negotiating this year. We have also started negotiations with the Indianapolis Airport Authority. Currently, we are working on our proposals for our telecommunicators at MESA. This will be the first year for us negotiating for all the Public Safety Dispatchers for Marion County. We are looking forward to getting these men and women, who are the first line in public safety, a contract. We are hopeful that with this new contract, we can improve the recruitment and retention issues at the center.

Politically, like every District, we will be done with the Primary by the time this article goes to print. We have several friends facing challenges in this year's primary races. On the Democrat side, Indianapolis Mayor Hogsett is facing several opponents in the Democratic primary. We also have several supportive councilors facing primary opponents. Council President Vop Osili and Majority Leader Maggie Lewis have opponents, as does Public Safety and Criminal Justice Chair Leroy Robinson. Retired IFD and Local 416 member Monroe Gray has competition as well. David Ray on the eastside of the city, who is also a member of the IBEW, is also facing competition, as are Kristen Jones, Keith Graves, and Zach Adamson, to name a few. On the Republican side, Minority Leader Brian Mowery has a primary opponent, as does Paul Annee and Michael Paul-Hart. Whether Democrat or Republican, all of these councilors have always supported our members of Local 416. While we typically do not get involved in primary elections, we are supporting them in their primary elections this year because of their continued support. We support those who support us!

The PFFUI will be holding our annual convention May 23-26th in Terre Haute. Local #758 is doing a fantastic job of preparing what promises to be a memorable event. President Malone and his board have been working non-stop on events to guarantee the delegates in attendance have a great time. This is one of many events on the calendar for members of the PFFUI. As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your 3rd District Vice-President. I serve some of the most hard-working labor leaders in the state, and it is always fun to watch as they learn more about the union movement.

Thank you, brothers and sisters, and I look forward to seeing you at future events.

I also want to give a big thank you to President Murray, Vice President Whited, and Tom Hanify for their work at the State House. Thanks to their efforts, we can negotiate to get our brothers and sisters at the Airport in the 77 fund with the passing of SB 185. For those who do not know, our members at the Airport currently are not in a pension system and only have a 457 plan. More importantly, they do not have the disability protections that our pension system offers. They only have a short-term and long-term disability policy under the airport. The importance of this was displayed when one of their members was diagnosed with Leukemia and had to continue to work throughout his treatment because he could not afford to go on disability. Unfortunately, he passed away from Leukemia last year. We are hopeful we will be able to negotiate to get them in the fund with this new legislative change. They were also able to remove the residency requirement for 911 Dispatchers with SB43. This will help improve recruitment and retention at our dispatch center. Both bills will have a significant impact on our members and would not have happened without the work of the PFFUI.

Across the District we have several departments with recruit classes going on including Decatur and Pike. IFD just started a recruit class of 62. IEMS is putting on two recruit classes and are hopeful with these classes their staffing levels will improve. We are also working with Beech Grove to possibly organize their EMS employees under the Local. We also recently hosted several events including Saint Patrick's Day, Community Park Clean up as well as our FDIC Open House. I would like to give a big Thank You to the Emerald Society and all of those who came out to help make these events the success they were. Everyone had a great time and these events would not be possible without their help.

In closing, remember to be kind to each other, look out for one another and take time to remember those we have lost. Call or stop by the Hall if you have any questions or need anything.



WELCOME SOUTH MADISON IAFF LOCAL 5417



WELCOME GEORGETOWN IAFF LOCAL 5393



JC Mitchell

5th District Vice-President

Greetings from the 5th District!

It is great to finally see some sunshine here in Indiana. While winter was mild, I can say I'm definitely not disappointed about the warmer weather! It has been a busy first few months to around

the PFFUI and the 5th district. We had 15 members from the district attend the IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Summit in Las Vegas the last week of January. This conference offered many great opportunities for new leaders in locals to gain valuable training on local union leadership and a wide variety of topics surrounding human relations and human resource issues that our locals deal with on a regular basis. I would encourage anyone in the district to attend if your local can provide the opportunity. For those who may not be able to make that trip I would encourage you to attend the Partnership Education Program (PEP) that the PFFUI offers every February. PEP provides tracks that are from the ALTS programming of classes that would be similar to attending a day at the ALTS conference. This is a great opportunity for you to get some of the same instruction from the IAFF and their instructors close to home at a much more economical cost. The day following these PEP classes, the PFFUI hosts the Thomas H. Miller Legislative Conference where we discuss the agenda of the PFFUI for the current session of the Indiana General Assembly. Many of the legislators also attend this event and speak to the members who are in attendance. Both days are great opportunities to educate yourself to better serve the members in your local. If you have questions about any of these events or need help registering, please be sure to reach out and we will be sure to get your questions answered.

In early March, eight members of the 5th district attended the IAFF Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. where we got the opportunity to lobby our representatives in con-

gress about the issues facing the fire service. As you know, cancer continues to be a large issue in our industry and is now the leading cause of death of many of our brothers and sisters each year. The IAFF made it a priority for members who attended the LEG conference this year to lobby to get cancer included in the Public Safety Officer Benefit that is paid out to our members who die in the line of duty. No member has previously been paid the PSOB for a cancer death outside of those related to 9/11. Along those same lines, we lobbied for funding for PFAS free gear research and development and a seat at the table in the process. These are just a couple of the main issues we were lobbying are elected leaders for this congressional session. Two of the members from Batesville attended the LEG conference on a scholarship from the PFFUI. This scholarship covers your travel, hotel, registration, and provides per diem to cover meals. The scholarship is available each year. I encourage you to be on the lookout for that application process. This is a great way for a local that does not have the funds available to pay for such a trip on their own to be able to still send a member to gain this experience and take part in the process of lobbying for the issues that are important to our members and their health and livelihood. Those who attend and get the opportunity to attend and lobby a member of congress should have no problem lobbying their local city council when they get back from this experience.

The municipal election season is upon us and many locals around the district are deeply involved in races for mayor, city and town councils. I have spoken to many locals over the last several months about how to get involved in races, answering questions on performing PAC interviews, making endorsements, and how to use the endorsements to best help your candidates. Many locals are getting active in their political futures for the first time, and it is great to see! Ensuring you have a seat at the table of your local government is important, and it starts with electing people to represent you who understand why that is important to you. If you or your local have questions on how to get more involved in your local political races or starting your own PAC, please be sure to reach out to myself or one of the members of the PFFUI executive board members. We have a vast amount of political experience on our board and a great number of resources to help you get more involved at the local level.

I continue to travel around the district and attend many of the events. If I have not been to your local yet, I encourage you to let me know when your next event is or your local union meeting. I appreciate each opportunity I'm afforded to get to know you and your members. Over the last few months, I have attended many awards banquets, fundraisers, recruit orientations, retirement ceremonies, and member meetings around the district. I enjoy attending these events

and hope to attend many more at your invitation in the months to come. As always if you need me or a member of our executive board to visit with you or your local, please be sure and reach out and we will be happy to attend. I look forward to seeing many of you in Terre Haute in May for the state convention!



Booneville L4850 Retirees Breakfast



Lafayette & Monticello swift water rescue training



Joe Hurt

6th District Vice-President

Greetings from the expanding 6th District. It has been a busy time for our local leaders, and we are proud of the progress they have made. Here is a quick update on their work:

In Columbus, the Executive Board is working hard to secure a contract, and President Bailey is in close contact with PFFUI Leadership to advocate for the rights of members. We hope that the negotiations will be fruitful, and our members will be able to get the benefits they deserve.

Seymour is patiently waiting for the Mayor's primary to finish up, and negotiations are anticipated to begin soon. In addition, the Local is also assisting a member undergoing treatment for esophageal cancer, and we ask everyone to keep this member in their prayers.

Georgetown Firefighters are one of the newest Locals in the state, and they have hit the ground running. They are already at the negotiation table, and we are proud to say that they have developed a very professional and well-written proposal to start the process. Good work, Georgetown!

New Albany has been working closely with the City, and President McCormick continues to advocate well for his members. Recently,

the Local enjoyed a lunch with the Mayor attended by President Murray. New Albany got a correction to their longevity, which allowed for a slight raise for all members. President McCormick is always quick to reach out to me or Trustee Ben Fee to brainstorm ideas, and we appreciate his dedication to his members.

In Clarksville, the Town continues to grow and hire, and they recently hired three additional firefighters. Clarksville anticipates growth to continue, leading to the implementation of new staffed apparatus and increasing safety and response times. Clarksville Local leadership has been in close contact with PFFUI and IAFF leaders to ensure their books are in order and that they are compliant with CBLs. Great work on that, and we encourage all Locals to follow suit.

In Columbus Township, the priority is certainly to get into the 1977 Fund. PFFUI Leadership has been in contact with the Township Trustee and hopes to answer questions and concerns adequately to get these members in the Fund.

Jeffersonville has purchased two new pumpers that will be online by the publishing of this article. Jeffersonville had five members retire this year, including Batt Chiefs Dennis Dierking and Tony Decker, FM David Deark, Capt Pam Blanchard, and Lt Marvena Allen. This is a loss of nearly 150 years of experience, and we wish each of these members a long, healthy retirement.

Lafayette/Greenville Firefighters voted to organize and are in the process of becoming the "Floyds Knobs Professional Firefighters." Nearly all the firefighters attended the organization meeting, including the Chief. President Murray, Trustee Fee, and others had great discussions about the process prior to the unanimous vote in

the affirmative to move forward. We look forward to welcoming them to our family of professional firefighters soon and have already been working with them on plans for moving forward.

Overall, the Local leaders in the 6th District have been doing excellent work, and we are proud of their accomplishments. We will continue to support them and advocate for their rights and benefits.

As always, If any of you find your way to Kentuckiana, reach out and say hello. I will be absent for the convention this year unfortunately, but look forward to hearing the business that takes place on the floor. I hope all of you have a great spring and appreciate the opportunity to represent you on the Executive Board. Stay safe brothers and sisters.



**Representative Rita Fleming with
Jeffersonville Local 558 Executive Board,
6th District VP Joe Hurt and VP Mike Whited**



Representative Maureen Bauer



Senator Mike Crider



Representative Victoria Garcia Wilburn



Senator JD Ford



Representative Randy Frye



Senator Eddie Melton

Save the Dates

Aug 21-24-2023	IAFF Redmond-Barbera Symposium	New York, NY
Sep 7, 2023	PFFUI Seminar/Memorial	Indianapolis, IN
Sep 16, 2023	IAFF Memorial	Colorado Springs, CO
Oct 28, 2023	PFFUI Executive Board Meeting	Indianapolis, IN
Feb 26-27, 2024	PFFUI PEP-LEG	Indianapolis



Carmel Local 444

REGION TRUSTEES



Larry Tillman

1st Region Trustee



Jeremy Bush

2nd Region Trustee



Ben Fee

3rd Region Trustee



Shawn Cross

4th Region Trustee



IAFF Partnership
Education Program





INDIANA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS PAC



Supporting those who support us

The successes we achieve in the Indiana General Assembly to protect and enhance our pensions and other benefits could not be realized without participation in the political process.

The Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC relies solely upon voluntary contributions and is requesting that each member dedicate a minimum of \$1.00 per paycheck to build an effective political action committee. To donate return the form below, visit www.paypal.me/inffpac, or scan the QR Code below.

Indiana Firefighters PAC Contribution Form

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Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46885-5735



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IAFF Legislative Conference
U.S. Representative Larry Bucshon



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