

FALL 2022

Professional
Firefighters
Union of
Indiana



INDIANA FIRE FIGHTER

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



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Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus:

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Table of Contents

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Page 3 President Anthony Murray

Page 4 Vice-President Mike Whited

Page 5 Secretary-Treasurer Michael Pinkham

Page 6 District News

Page 13 Save the Date

Page 14 PAC Contributions



Charter presentation for
Batesville Local 5380



President Anthony Murray

Throughout the summer your PFFUI team has been building our legislative agenda for the upcoming session of the General Assembly. The

2023 session begins January 8th and is a long session, which includes building the two-year budget for the state. The focus of our legislative priorities center around our members' health, safety, and wellness; retirement and disability system; recruitment, training, preparedness and enhancing our professional development. As the session draws near, we are meeting with key stakeholders, legislative leadership and our partners to discuss our priorities and build support for our initiatives. The PFFUI will likely be engaged with over one hundred bills this session that have an effect on our membership. Legislative agendas remain fluid but as bills begin to be filed and the session draws nearer, we will communicate in real time, through our social media channels, details of the bills we are tracking and actions taken. As always, members are invited to the statehouse to meet with our legislative team and visit with legislators. Feel free to contact me, VP Whited or your DVP. The PFFUI Legislative Conference and Partnership Education Program is scheduled for February 20-21 and is the half-way point of the session.

The PFFUI political action arm, Indiana Firefighters PAC, endorsed in 17 Senate races and 51 House races, winning in all but two races. Our political strategy is to the support those that support our professional issues regardless of political party. It is important that we invest in the political universe in Indiana, securing opportunities to work with and educate elected decision makers that are willing to listen to our issues. I congratulate everyone that was elected or re-elected to public office and I look forward to working with great legislators in the upcoming session. I also thank our members that give voluntarily to PAC so that we can help good lawmakers return to the Assembly and help elect new legislators willing to support our members.

Recently the Executive Board came together at the annual fall meeting to plan for our state union programming in the coming year. We are planning several events to deliver education and information to our affiliate leadership and members. Our traditional IAFF Partnership Education Program in conjunction with the Thomas H. Miller Legislative Conference will take place in February that will offer three tracks for leadership to enhance their knowledge of leading and representation. Make sure your Local leadership plans

to attend. We will also offer a joint program with the FOP to offer detailed information for pension secretaries, union presidents, fire administrative staff and local government contacts. Also in 2023, we plan to host a conference to take a deep dive into challenges our members and our Locals face in the areas of health and wellness.

The 47th PFFUI Convention is scheduled for May 24-26 and I am looking forward to all that Terre Haute Local 758 have planned for our delegates. The convention is one of the most important events to attend for Locals. Our conventions serve to chart the course for the future of the PFFUI from the boots on the ground and it is vital that Locals send their delegates. Convention Call will come out after the new year and I encourage Locals to discuss and put forward resolutions for consideration that reflect the direction you would like for your PFFUI.

Speaking of the organization, earlier this year we grew our governmental affairs by bringing former PFFUI president Tom Hanify on board as my Assistant for Legislative and Governmental Affairs. Tom's experience and expertise in the statehouse assists VP Whited and I further meet the goals of our members' agenda. Since June, our team has engaged in attending more than 107 legislator, party and caucus fundraisers. Our expanded workflow is now better achieved by having three full-time lobbyists to advocate for our issues and by developing a deep bench. I am also happy to relate that we have brought on a data analyst to help collect, harness and organize data for our Locals to better meet their goals by using data on salary, benefits, and response benchmarks. Locals can access Data Analyst Ross Sergi by contacting your DVP for a request to triage a data analytics assignment.

The PFFUI is expanding to now 82 local affiliates and we are still organizing. For the first time, our membership is now greater than 8,000 active and active-retired members. Recent new affiliates include Georgetown Professional Fire Fighters Local 5393, East Madison Professional Fire Fighters Local 5402 (Madison Co.) and Indianapolis-Marion County 911 Telecommunicators electing Indianapolis Professional Fire Fighters Local 416 as their union.

As we wind down the year, PFFUI principal officers and staff are on the road attending District Meetings around the state. These gatherings of local affiliate leaders are important as a means to hear first-hand what is happening in Locals around the state and to share information from the PFFUI. It is equally beneficial to this leadership team, DVPs included, to have a dialogue with Locals to better understand the needs of our membership in order for us to meet the mission of making better lives for our members and their families. In addition, I have enjoyed meeting our members

where they are over the last five months as I have attended union meetings, retirement events, recruit graduations, and local events. Thank you for the great welcomes and firehouse hospitality.

In closing, I look forward to our expanded efforts to communicate with members in an effort to engage and inform. Our communications team is planning a launch of a regular podcast from around the PFFUI. I look forward to those conversations and welcome your suggestions for topics to

discuss or issues you would like to hear about. Communications Director Erik Scheub and our newest additions, Communication Specialists Tim Gallagher and Kenny Woolsey, are working to provide a variety of means by which we get you the information you need and want.

I wish you all the best and encourage you to be active in your local and do good work. Please enjoy the holidays and take care of each other.



Vice-President Mike Whited

Greetings
Brothers and
Sisters,

Since our last
newsletter I have
traveled around
Indiana meeting
with legislators

and local leaders, working on upcoming legislation and protecting our pension by explaining how our pension works. As you know, we have a pension that's much more than just a pension. Included in the 1977 Police and Fire Pension Fund is both long and short term disability, a death benefit and a spousal benefit. What we and the State FOP leadership do, and have done for a decade now, is meet with legislators in their home districts during the summer months to explain just what our pension is. We do this for two reasons. First, we want to get to know these legislators a little better and let them know who we are, meeting with them away from the busy Statehouse but instead meeting with them in a more personal setting in their home districts. Second, we want to explain how our pension is much more than just a pension. This has been a very successful way to educate these lawmakers in how our pension works, it also has been successful in keeping at bay potential legislation to change our pension in a negative way.

President Murray and I have also traveled around the State meeting with new candidates running for Indiana Senate or House seats. Working with local leaders we have chosen to endorse some of these potential future State lawmakers. The PFFUI PAC has also endorsed some of our proven friends in the November election. We take these endorsements very seriously and only give them to people that support firefighters and listen to our concerns.

Starting the day the 2022 legislative session ended, President Murray and I started working on the 2023 session. As I stated earlier, we have traveled around the State meeting with legislators and key stake holders about our 2023 agenda. Some of the issues we will bringing next year include:

- 1) Merit systems. At the 2019 PFFUI State Convention, the delegates gave us a directive to pursue a state model merit system for all departments that don't currently have a merit or civil service system in place. The legislation we are pursuing would have departments, including a fire territory or fire district, servicing a population of 14,000 or more that currently have a merit or civil service system in place adopt the state model system unless the majority of the firefighters and the majority of the legislative branch vote to opt out of the system.
- 2) A technical correction that would add Fire Protection Districts and Territories to the Firefighter discipline statute currently in law.
- 3) PFAS. We are working with two different legislators on legislation to help protect our members from PFAS. The first will be tracking and testing of PFAS levels in blood. This will help build a database so we are able to better address it in the future. Second, adding disclosure notices of PFAS on structural firefighting gear.
- 4) Airport Firefighters. Permit airport firefighters to access the 1977 pension fund. Any City or Town that does not participate in the 1977 Fund can move all of their firefighters into the fund and pay calculated fees to do so in order to have their firefighters protected in a better pension system. Currently career airport fire departments are not allowed.
- 5) Merit rank retirement. We are exploring the cost to the 1977 Fund to have retirement based on the top 3 years including merit ranks instead of what is currently done. This topic has been discussed at PMOC (pension management oversight commission) this summer. It will be studied and will have a recommendation before the start of the General Assembly next year.
- 6) 1977 Fund COLA. Currently the COLA raise for the 1977 Fund retirees is capped at 3%. With inflation, we believe 3% may not be enough. So we will be asking to increase the cap. However, we do not want to do anything that

will have a negative impact on the fund. So, just like contract negotiations in your home local, we have to be very creative where we can get the money to help pay for this.

- 7) 1977 Fund technical correction. In the 2021 session we helped pass a bill that allowed your pension base to be calculated on up to 25 years longevity instead of 20 years. But when the new law was printed it said "less than 25 Years". We will try to correct this in 2023.

As you can see, this is a large agenda but we are committed to protecting and increasing the benefits of our members on the State level.

Newly elected President Murray had some big shoes to fill when Tom Hanify decided not to run for reelection as Pres-

ident of the PFFUI. Having worked with Tom Hanify for nearly two decades on the PFFUI Board, thirteen years as Vice President, I can attest to how hard it would be to follow that work ethic. Having worked with President Murray in his new role for the past few months I can tell you with confidence that Tony Murray gives the same dedication and work ethic that we have enjoyed for the past 20 years.

In closing, it is an honor to serve you as Vice President of this great PFFUI. I enjoy working with local leaders around the State making sure that all of our members are treated fairly and equally. I also enjoy working with State lawmakers in writing laws that will either enhance our well-deserved benefits or protecting our health and safety so you can retire with dignity and draw a long pension benefit.



Secretary-Treasurer Michael Pinkham

As the year enters its final months I'm pleased to report that we continue to enjoy a solid financial foundation and our per capita rates remain

among the lowest compared with other IAFF State and Provincial Associations.

Our state association per capita dues are currently \$4.67 per active member per month and \$2.33 per retired-active member per month. These rates will increase nominally January 1, 2023 to \$4.81 per active member and \$2.40 per retired-active member. We are proud of the value we can provide our affiliated members with such reasonable rates. Our membership presently stands at 82 Locals representing 6,834 active members and 1,267 retired-active members.

If your local is not yet utilizing IAFF SMART please 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.

It has been a busy and productive second half of the year to date under President Tony Murray's leadership as your Executive Board, Trustees, and representatives continue the work advocating for protections and benefits for our membership and their families.

We are already planning numerous events for next year and we are pleased to announce that we will again host a minimal cost affiliate leadership educational program in con-

junction with our annual legislative conference February 20-21, 2023 in Indianapolis and our 47th annual convention is scheduled May 24-26, 2023 in Terre Haute. Details on these and other events will be emailed to affiliate leaders as they are finalized.

With the end of the year and potential changes in affiliate officers please remember to keep us informed of changes in your elected local leadership and be reminded to schedule an annual financial review in compliance with the IAFF Constitution & Bylaws and that every Local Affiliate must file a Form 990 federal tax return typically by May 15th to ensure compliance with IRS not-for-profit regulations.

We have enjoyed success in recent years in the Indiana General Assembly and our expectations remain high for next year's session as we continue to be your advocates seeking 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](https://www.paypal.com/INFFPAC)



Brother Jim Ridley leading a seminar on Human Relations

District News



Jon Parkhouse

1st District Vice-President

Brothers and Sisters of the First,

Time waits for no one... Those words are so true it seems these days, at least in my life. Our twenty-six Locals here in the first

have wrapped up outdoor events in the form of golf outings, beer gardens, flower sales, and so many other creative ways to raise money on your Local's behalf. It sounds like there were many successful events held.

Now is the time our Locals get back to the table in the form of contract talks for the new year, salary adjustments, and local elections. To anyone not seeking a position again on your respective E-board, I thank you for your time on your members behalf. It is a thankless job that many people cannot appreciate, and others think has nothing to do with our job of running emergency calls.

Good luck to those Locals who are involved in political races. We need to put those that support us and public safety out front, regardless of political affiliation. We all have our own personal views but when we talk to these people, we need it to be in the best interest of public safety and more importantly, responder safety.

Our fall seminar and memorial were well attended by Locals from the First. I was on the way and had an issue while traveling on I-65 that involved striking a tire and causing damage to my car, forcing me to turn around and miss the event. I hope our members found it informative and useful.

There have been two "major" projects I would say are both progressing along well here in the 1st. The first one is a peer-support team on a county level. No one Local or department can sustain a true team so multiple agencies get involved to offer our services to Locals

that may need to talk to someone from their or another department. This training will take place in early January and a big thanks goes to Hammond 556 for being the host agency, the PFFUI, Lake County Council, and Representative Andrade for bringing all this together to benefit a multitude of members across fire departments throughout Lake County.

The other project that could benefit our Locals in Porter County is the introduction of a public safety income tax. These are nothing new to most people in the state, but Porter County has the lowest income tax of them all and nothing earmarked for public safety. The PFFUI is working with political figures who helped to get one passed in Laporte County earlier this year and following that "blueprint" we hope to get something positive passed in Porter County as well.

I look forward to our district meeting in early December as we have important issues facing us and must always be on the ready, especially with the upcoming year and any new legislature that may come our way.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable transition into the holidays and look forward to seeing many of you at events throughout the rest of the year. Please feel free to contact me at any point, anytime.



4th DVP Hank Harris, 5th DVP JC Mitchell,
Representative Randy Frye, President Murray,
VP Whited



Cody Lever

2nd District Vice-President

Brothers and Sisters of the PFFUI 2nd District and beyond,

It was a busy summer for the 2nd, and it appears fall will be no different. I continue to be amazed at all the hard work, both on and off the job, the Brothers and Sis-

ters of the 2nd District do on a regular basis. It is an honor to represent you all and I want to thank each of you once again for the opportunity to do so.

Speaking of hard work, I want to congratulate President Adam Matson on successfully negotiating his Local's largest salary increase in their history. Alexandria Firefighters are set to receive a 14.6% increase next year, raising their pension base to \$56,000. Brother Matson pointed out that this increase would not have been possible had it not been for the work done by many professional firefighters in Madison County who worked hard to ensure the passing of a public safety local income tax increase in 2021.

Elwood Local 1671 hosted another successful golf outing benefitting their scholarship fund and visited their local elementary school for a successful Fire Prevention Week campaign.

Fort Wayne Local 124 reports that things continue to improve for their Local as they look to add some positive changes to their merit system and hopefully organizing some county departments into the ranks of Local 124. Fort Wayne hosted their annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial in early October where they honored the Brothers and Sisters who have made the ultimate sacrifice. President Jeremy Bush wants to remind us all that Local 124 is happy to assist any Local in need, at any time!

For all of us who follow Kokomo Local 396 on social media, we are aware of how busy they've been on the job and also on the community outreach front. Kokomo Firefighters hit the streets for the MDA Fill the Boot campaign this year collecting over \$38,000 in donations! Kokomo Fire hosted another extremely successful 9/11 stair climb event having their 30-minute time slots full all day. Local 396 also created a Breast Cancer Awareness tee shirt and participated in a charity softball tournament with other local unions benefitting the Military Foundation Inc.

Of course, we cannot discuss community outreach and not mention Lafayette Local 472. Lafayette Firefighters held another very successful Fill the Boot campaign after being recognized nationally for their work on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association over many years. They also held

their 2nd annual reverse raffle benefitting the John Butler Medical Relief Fund.

Marion Local 676 held their annual retiree banquet in September where several retirees were recognized for their service. President Stephen Johnson and Secretary Parker Smithley were both reelected to their positions and a newcomer to the Executive Board, Brandon Satterthwaite, was elected Trustee. Brother Johnson is happy to report that through a combination of negotiations and a grievance victory, Local 676 was able to secure a 10% salary increase retroactive to January 1st of this year. Marion Fire also just hired two new firefighters and are currently interviewing for two more open positions.

Monticello Local 2278 has been doing incredible work in their community through multiple fundraising and outreach initiatives. Local 2278 supported both Breast Cancer Awareness and Remember Everyone Deployed with specialty tee shirts. Monticello Firefighters joined the FOP in hosting a softball game raising over \$1,000 for the Monticello Youth Baseball program. Local 2278 even partnered with Habitat for Humanity and assisted in the construction of a new home!

Muncie Local 1348 continues to see an increase in calls as they are on pace for over 18,000 this year. Local 1348 graduated their inaugural class of paramedics this year with three members becoming Muncie's first in-house paramedics with seven more in paramedic school currently. Muncie Fire had twelve new recruits start in June and are looking to start seven more in January of next year. President Chafin reports that after being understaffed for nearly two years, it is nice to be fully staffed especially now that Ball State University has begun paying overtime for EMS at some of their events. Local 1348 continues to be a leader in the firefighter political action arena by endorsing several state and local candidates this cycle while also maintaining a record high PAC balance for next year's municipal elections.

President Chase Houser from New Castle Local 1722 was happy to report that their planned 4% salary increase for 2023 has since been increased to 11% with another 5% increase scheduled for 2024! Brother Houser and the members of Local 1722 continue to have a great relationship with their administration as they work to improve their training facility, joined with the police to develop new active shooter action plans, and received new radios and other needed technical equipment, all helping to make their working environment even better.

Our Brothers and Sisters of Tipton Local 1979 celebrated their one-year anniversary of being back in this great Union! Congratulations and welcome to the 2nd District after a short stint in the 5th! Tipton Firefighters joined with the FOP to put on their 2nd annual kids fishing rodeo where they were able to supply approximately thirty kids with prizes and a great time! Local 1979 will be cooking hot dogs and chili for trick or treaters on Halloween night, allowing families to grab a bite to eat and visit with a firefighter.

President Ogden reported that Local 1979 members were present at each budget session this season and he believes this to be playing a vital role in their relationships with city officials over the last two years. Tipton Firefighters will be seeing a salary increase and improved benefit package in 2023 that includes a decrease in health insurance deductibles and the addition of dental and vision plans to their benefit package. Brother Ogden also wanted to give a special thank you to PFFUI President Murray for his assistance in getting Local 1979 reaffiliated with the IAFF and PFFUI as well as lending assistance with other issues over the last year.

The 2nd District's newest Local, Wabash Township Local 5383 has hit the ground running with community outreach initiatives of their own in Fire Prevention and Breast Cancer Awareness while also supporting several departments near them who are working on the same initiatives. Local 5383 also jumped right into the arena of supporting those that support us by requesting design assistance from the IAFF for t-shirts and yard signs in support of their Township Trustee - the same Township Trustee who rehired all of them, got them into the '77 Fund, and has budgeted to hire six more Firefighters in 2023!

Richmond Local 1408 hosted a golf outing for Fallen Officer Seara Burton that brought in firefighters from all over the district including Winchester Local 2458 and Portland Local 5356. Richmond Fire held their 52nd Annual Memorial Service honoring the six fallen firefighters Richmond Fire Department has lost over the years. We are pleased to announce that Richmond will be the host of our 2nd District Fall Meeting at the firefighter owned and operated Firehouse BBQ and Blues.

Anderson Local 1262 has kept busy over the summer and beginning of fall hosting our quinquennial (every five years, if you're like me and had to Google a word for that) retiree banquet, our annual charity fund golf outing, multiple retiree breakfasts and annual retiree party. A new generation of Local 1262 members have stepped up recently. Brothers Andrew Csire and Zach Powers organized a very successful Fill the Boot campaign this year, Brother Kyle Kuklenski is in the process of designing and organizing a fundraising t-shirt for a local veteran's organization, and Brothers Justin Chase and Tra Burt attended their first PFFUI Educational Seminar and Firefighter Memorial this year. It is great to see new faces getting involved and we're hoping to continue that trend as we look to 2023. On the other end of the generational spectrum, Local 1262 has been lucky to see Retiree David Clendenen appointed to our Board of Public Safety, Retiree Jeff Freeman caucused into an open City Council seat, and Retiree Jerry Burmeister running for a Madison County Council seat. As usual, I have to thank the Brothers and Sisters of my home Local for continuing to allow me to serve as your Local President and supporting the work we do in the 2nd District as well.

As you can see the 2nd District is as busy as ever and it also continues to grow! East Madison Fire Territory voted to organize recently and we're hopeful to see them with a Charter

by the end of this year. Many other discussions are happening throughout the district and we're hopeful those discussions will turn into action in the coming months.

Thank you again to the Brothers and Sisters of the 2nd District for this opportunity. It's been a whirlwind of a fall so far with all of the PFFUI happenings and also having to make some trips to Wisconsin and Michigan for their State Political Training Academies. With that said, please continue to let myself and the Principal Officers know of your Local events. We love getting out and visiting with the brothers and sisters and of course, do not hesitate to reach out for any assistance or just to talk.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to consider contributing to our Indiana Firefighters PAC, if you don't already. Having been blessed with the opportunity to travel for the IAFF and get to see what other states are doing, I cannot stress enough how lucky we are to have our own at the statehouse working on our behalf, protecting, and even advancing our pension and labor issues. I'd be happy to discuss this in more detail with anyone or at any Local meeting, just say the word. Politics aren't everyone's favorite obviously, but for us in the fire service, every decision made, is made by an elected official or someone appointed by one.

Keep up the great work brothers and sisters, stay safe, and don't forget to support the PAC!



Monticello Local 2278 volunteering for Habitat for Humanity



State Rep Tim O'Brien attended Evansville Local 357 Fire Ops 101



Mark Mastison

3rd District Vice-President

Brothers and Sisters of the PFFUI,

Welcome once again from the 3rd District. As the weather cools off, the PFFUI lobbying efforts heat up across the State. Your PFFUI lobbyists spent the summer

traveling the state meeting with legislators to discuss our issues and concerns. This gives them the opportunity to meet outside the halls of the statehouse and lay the groundwork for future legislation. It also gives them the time to discuss our pension and how important it is to our members and their families. President Murray, Vice-President Mike Whited and Brother Tom Hanify work diligently to give our members a team of lobbyists that are second to none. They believe in the message, and are always willing to do what is best for the Brothers and Sisters of the PFFUI and their families.

Things seem to be happening at all points of the spectrum in the 3rd district. We have Locals engaged in disputes with the administration and city management, working thru the grievance process, and looking into mediation or litigation. Many Locals in the district are reporting that they are dealing with inflation and just trying to keep up. Other Locals report that they are doing well working with a friendly administration. Brazil Local 1453 President Zach Mormans is doing a fantastic job working with a Chief with Union experience and a good Mayor who believes in public safety. Their newly signed contract gives their members an incredible pay raise and added benefits. Local 3087 President James Phillips out of Linton is busy working on recruiting and bringing the department back up to full manpower. President Chad Batton, Local 495, is working with the Mayor of Washington to increase the pension base for his members. Local 357 out of Evansville hosted a Fire-Ops 101 in September. Local 4850 out of Boonville and 4915 out of Scott Township assisted at the event. City officials, politicians and those involved in the medical field attended and walked away with a newfound respect for the fire service. Evansville Deputy Mayor Schaefer has pledged to work with the Local and the department to assist in whatever way he can. District 78 State Rep Tim O'Brien also said this was a tremendous learning experience and wants to work with the PFFUI.

Boonville President John Dohrn reports that Local 4850 continues to grow and expand across Warrick county in Southern Indiana. They are in the process of remodeling their current station and building a second station. They are adding more manpower, adding two new rescue pumpers and a new dive boat with new high tech sonar equipment. They are working on adding to their pension base and to

overhaul insurance for both active and retiree members. This once again comes from working with a union friendly Chief Steve Byers and Mayor Charlie Wyatt who work with our members instead of against them. They passed a Public Safety LOIT which gives them the opportunity to better serve their citizens.

The members of the 3rd District would like to thank Larry Zuber for his 20 years of service as a PFFUI 3rd Region Trustee. During his time in office the PFFUI continued its pattern of incredible stewardship of our financials. Brother Zuber was usually one of the first people the members saw upon registration at our events. He continues to do a great job as President of Local 357 in Evansville. He will be around and he is always happy when someone shares stories with him. Thank you, Brother Zuber.

The 3rd District met in caucus in early October hosted by Terre Haute Local 758 and President Bob Malone. This gave us the opportunity to tour the facility where the 2023 PFFUI state convention will be held. The newly constructed convention center is outstanding and the food was amazing. We were welcomed by Mayor Duke Bennett and Fire Chief Bill Berry. Brother Berry was a true union leader and is doing an incredible job as the Chief. The purpose of the caucus is to bring the members of the 3rd district up to date on what is happening across the state and the IAFF. PFFUI VP Whited spoke on the upcoming legislature and possible bills going thru the statehouse. Secretary-Treasurer Pinkham brought the members in attendance up to date with our financial report. Rest assured, with Brother Pinkham we have a fiscal conservative handling our finances. The PFFUI has one of the lowest per-capita rates in the country while maintaining what I believe to be top notch service. IAFF 8th District VP Mark Sanders attended and gave an in-depth report about the happenings of the IAFF and future events. Many Locals in attendance used the opportunity to meet with VP Sanders and are currently using the resources of the IAFF legal and other departments. VP Sanders does an excellent job representing the Locals of the 8th district, which is one of the largest in the IAFF. If any Locals need any assistance, I encourage you to reach out to your District VP to get the ball rolling. Whenever your district has a meeting, make sure someone from your Local is in attendance to be able to bring the information back to your Local. These meetings are a wealth of knowledge and are at no cost to the Local.

It is always sad to lose a brother or sister due to an untimely passing. The PFFUI lost one of the best in June with the passing of longtime District VP Bob Loviscek. Bob's love of the union and his enthusiasm to help was contagious to all of the lives he touched. He truly loved his family and the community of Bloomington that he served. I was lucky enough to get to travel with Bob and watch him work a room. The memorial on the grounds of Ivy Tech in Bloomington is his brainchild. He took a trailer and drove to New York after 9/11 and was able to bring back an I-beam which now sits as a testament to the man who wanted to make sure that we never forget that horrific day. They dedicated a tree in his honor and placed a plaque with Bob's name to remind us of

his dedication to the fire service. For Bob, Semper Fi.

We have many events coming up throughout the State of Indiana in the upcoming year. Starting with the PEP in February, district meetings and the PFFUI state convention in Terre Haute in late May. These events help to set the direction of your union and help to get information to our members. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact



Hank Harris

4th District Vice-President

Brothers and Sisters,

The past couple of months have been busy. We also have been busy working with the districts across the Local. Politically, we have a contested race for Wayne Twp Trustee between the

current Trustee, Jeb Bardon and the past Admin Chief, Rick Scott. Our members in Wayne twp. voted overwhelmingly to support the previous Admin chief in the election. We also have a contested race for Decatur Township Trustee. Our members there voted overwhelmingly to support the current trustee, Jason Holiday. Our members also voted unanimously to endorse Kyler Walker in his Indiana Senate race. While we are not getting involved, we are also watching several state races as well as the Marion County Prosecutor race. We have been attending several political events for both parties including the Marion County GOP Fall Dinner as well a Gold Circle event for the State Democrat Party. We are also in the process in preparing for next year's Marion County Mayoral and Council races.

We were victorious in the election to represent our Public Safety Dispatchers. The vote was overwhelmingly in our favor. After the vote we held an enrollment blitz at the center. We went twice a day for three days to inform the employees of what Local 416 does, answer any questions, and get them enrolled. I am happy to announce as of this article we have 63 new Public Safety Dispatch members of Local 416.

We also have been working with Mayor Hogsett and the Council Leadership of Indianapolis on the Indianapolis Budget. We were able, through working with the Mayor's office, to get our Pension Base increased to 25 years. We also secured funding for a new fire station and additional funding for station repairs. Further in this budget we will be able to complete IFD's apparatus replacement plan. This means IFD would have replaced every frontline piece of apparatus in their fleet. This not only improves our frontline apparatus but also our reserve fleet.

We wrapped up our negotiations with IEMS. For the first time our Medics and EMT's at IEMS will have their pay

a member of the Executive board. As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your 3rd District VP. The Locals in the district have hard working executive boards and do the best they can under difficult circumstances. It humbles me to get the chance to represent them. Thanks to all the Brothers and Sisters of the PFFUI. I look forward to seeing you at future events.

and benefits in the contract. I want to thank our team and IEMS's Management team. This new contract's pay and benefits will make IEMS competitive in recruiting and retention. Furthermore, with the new pay we incentivized EMT's to become Paramedics. By doing these two things we believe we will help improve the shortage in paramedics here in Indianapolis. As everyone knows there is a national shortage of paramedics, and we believe this new contract will help IEMS with this.

Lastly, we held our Fire Ops 101 program at the new IFD Training Facility which will be opening by the end of the year. This was great event held at the new IFD Training Facility. We had several City County Councilors, State Reps, Health and Hospital leadership as well as other Local leaders. This shows our elected leaders the physical demand and stress of what our members go through every day. We had participants mention what a great program it is at a public hearing. I want to thank Chief Malone and all our members from across the district who came out and helped put this event on. It could not be the success it is without all 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.



INDIANAPOLIS FIRE OPS 101

Mayor Joe Hogsett

Tim Moriarity & Paul Babcock
Health and Hospital Corp



JC Mitchell

5th District Vice-President

Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from the 5th District! I hope that each of you are enjoying the fall weather and that this newsletter finds you well. It has been a busy first five months in this new position as your

district vice-president and I have enjoyed the time I've gotten to spend with each of you and your Locals around the district and look forward to more opportunities to do so.

President Murray and VP Whited have been very active as well over the last few months making their way across our state meeting with legislators, attending fundraisers, and sharing the importance of protecting our benefits and educating these individuals on the issues that will be coming before them in this next session that will affect our members. The executive board of the PFFUI is working daily to ensure that the members of our union across Indiana can continue to rely on the fact that they have a safe and secure pension and disability system. This work will continue as we prepare to enter this long session of the General Assembly and our team will all be there in the halls everyday representing you and the agenda of this union. I want to encourage you to take a day and visit the statehouse during this session to get a firsthand look at the work that is being done and to get a chance yourself to share the importance with your legislator on the issues that are affecting fire fighters today. As Tom Hanify expressed over the years, the most powerful lobbyists for our members are the members themselves. If you'd like to take a day and visit, reach out to one of us and we can be sure to make arrangements for you to do so.

September 29th, we added nine names to the wall of our state memorial. The event was very well attended and was a fitting tribute for the families to the sacrifice that was made by each member added to the wall this year. Thank you for all who were able to attend this year's remembrance. I encourage you attend this event in the future and be a part of honoring those Brothers and Sisters who've paid the ultimate price for those they served.

On the 13th of October I hosted the 5th District meeting at the Local 416's union hall. We had about twenty members in attendance from the district and the executive board of the PFFUI. A representative from MDA gave a presentation to kick off our meeting on the what was happening with the charity we have such a long history of supporting and explained the new challenges they have faced since COVID and the decrease in funding that has resulted. If you're not aware, funding has been down significantly post pandemic and they are hopeful to get back to the fundraising levels

they had seen prior to 2020. I encourage each Local to get involved in these fundraising efforts if you have the opportunity. If you'd like more information on how you can get involved or need help getting your own campaign kicked off, please reach out to me and I will be sure to get you in contact with our local MDA representative.

Nationwide also gave a short presentation and reminder of the benefits and programs they have available to our members. If you're not aware, they are a partner of the IAFF Financial Corp and provide many benefits to members of the IAFF. If you need more information on what Nationwide offers and how it may benefit you and your members reach out to myself and I can get you in contact with that representative.

Tom Hanify gave an update on legislative items on the agenda this year for the General Assembly as well as some areas that the Pension Management Oversight Committee was studying to further improve and protect our pension and disability fund.

President Tony Murray provided attendees with a report on the happenings since he took office in June. He informed attendees that the PFFUI executive board had endorsed seventeen Senate candidates and thirty-six House candidates for election to our state legislative body and had attended more than one hundred fundraisers for members of the General Assembly. He has also been very active meeting with many Locals across the state as well as the individuals that play an important role in making decisions that impact our job on a daily basis, such as the new State Medical Director, new State Fire Marshal and the Director of Homeland Security. President Murray pointed to the fact that we continue to grow as a union in the state and spoke of the recent and current newly organized Locals including our most recent in the 5th District, Batesville 5380. Our state executive officers had recently returned from the Federation of State and Provincial Fire Fighters conference where they interacted with other leaders of state associations across the country on the issues facing each of them and sharing ideas and strategies a to move their respective associations forward. I encourage you to invite President Murray to your own Local's meeting so that he can share the work is happening for the members of the PFFUI every day.

Secretary/Treasurer Pinkham provided the up-to-date financials of the PFFUI and we concluded the meeting with lunch and my report on my travels throughout the 5th District the last few months.

Over the next few months, I hope to get to each of your Locals that I have not yet visited. I have already scheduled some of those visits and hope to schedule the remaining very soon. Please let me know if there are any events, ceremonies, and/or meetings you'd like me to attend as I'm happy to do so. It is a pleasure to serve each of you in the 5th District. Please continue to reach out if you need anything from myself or the PFFUI.



Joe Hurt

6th District Vice-President

Greetings from the
6th District,

I am happy to report that
our Local Leaders are doing
the work!

President Bailey with Columbus Firefighters has enjoyed discussions with Columbus Township about mutual aid response and potentially working even closer to provide better services and safer numbers of firefighters on emergency calls. This includes mutual training recently with both departments. President Bailey also reports that the city just passed a 7.9% raise for next year. This is great news for the members of Columbus and well deserved. Bailey reports also that he has successfully worked through two grievances recently and that he is working well with his administration to resolve issues.

President Clark with Columbus Township, while focusing on their expanding roles in the community with Columbus Fire, has also been working with the PFFUI and the INPRS board along with Township officials to examine ways to get their members into the 1977 Fund. The firefighters of Columbus Township have come a long way recently and in addition to hard work on the part of the Local, they credit the cooperation of their administration.

President McKinney reports good news from Seymour. Seymour Firefighters have reached a tentative agreement to secure a 4% pay increase and increase longevity from 20-25 taking advantage of the new legislation that allows for up to 25 years longevity pay. President McKinney is also proud to report that it seems they will also be receiving a new incentive pay for members that are required to ride the seat, putting a little more money in our members' pockets when they are required to take on additional responsibility. Great job Kaleb.

President McCormick in New Albany has hit the ground running this year and has been in close contact with the PFFUI leadership along the way. New Albany Firefighters are always working hard and staying busy with their work and run volume. Local leadership has been staying extra busy as well. New Albany has had several grievances and some disagreements with their administration and President McCormick, along with his team, have been doing good work, staying professional, and representing their membership well. The New Albany team, along with the PFFUI and the IAFF will work with the administration to resolve these issues and ensure that our members in New Albany are as safe as possible while fulfilling their duties to keep their city safe.

Clarksville is happy to report that they have finally secured a new contract with the Town. This has been a long time coming and President Hansford and his team are happy to announce that this agreement includes their largest raise in recent history. Our members in Clarksville have earned a 3% raise per year for the next 4 years. Good work to the team on staying diligent and working well with your Town's decision makers.

A special thanks to Mike Blum for his efforts and time in assisting with the organization of the Georgetown Firefighters. Mike is always willing to go above and beyond, and it deserves mention.

Georgetown Firefighters have been going through the organization process to affiliate with the IAFF and the PFFUI. They have been approved and their Local number is L5393. I am proud of the continued efforts that they have put in to ensure they are going to be our next successful Local. As of this writing they have completed their first election of E-Board members and congratulations to all that were elected. Corey Payne- President, Isaac Williams- VP, Josh Sutton- Treasurer, and Ally Cianci- Treasurer. A Special thank you to Chris Pelman for all his work getting the ball rolling for this organization process.

Georgetown has been growing and is currently staffing two houses full time 24/7 with at least three firefighters each. They credit their administration for working with them through the process and look forward to continued growth in this newly organized area of the state. Welcome to our new Local!

The city of Jeffersonville is growing fast. President Hopf and his team have been working through some growing pains with their administration, but overall times are good, and the union and administration are working together to make the department better. The administration has reported that they intend to build a new firehouse soon to replace an old house, and both the Local and the administration are working together to hopefully hire additional staff to beef up the City's booming east end with a new, additional apparatus.

It is also noteworthy to report that the Local's Human Relations Committee, working with the administration and the Merit Commission, have created a new hire list for Jeffersonville that includes several minority and female candidates. This has been a goal of all parties involved and through good recruiting, Jeffersonville is seeing success in increasing our diversity and hiring great people.

A special thanks to Trustee Ben Fee. Ben has hit the ground running and is regularly in contact with myself and our Locals and is always ready and willing to help. Ben was instrumental in helping to organize Georgetown Firefighters and we talk regularly about how to help our Locals succeed and improve. Also, thank you to President Murray for being the backbone of the organization and being organized and always willing to go above and beyond to ensure the Executive Board and affiliate leaders have what they need.

Lastly, if you and or your Local are not contributing to the Indiana Firefighters PAC, PLEASE consider doing so and if you are already contributing, thank you and please consider contributing more if you can! Those voluntary PAC dollars are crucial for our agenda in the Indiana General Assembly and keeping our pension safe and healthy!

I hope everyone and your families have a great and safe Holiday season. Reach out anytime you need anything and or make it to the southern part of this great state.



Hamilton County Local 4416 and Carmel Local 4444
hosted Fire Ops 101

REGION TRUSTEES



Larry Tillman

1st Region Trustee



Jeremy Bush

2nd Region Trustee



Ben Fee

3rd Region Trustee



Shawn Cross

4th Region Trustee

Save the Dates:

Dec 7, 2022

1st District Mtg – 6pm
Michigan City, IN

Jan 29-Feb 1, 2023

IAFF ALTS/EMS Conference
Las Vegas, NV

Feb 20-21, 2023

PFFUI PEP-LEG Conference
Indianapolis, IN

Mar 5-8, 2023

IAFF Legislative Conference
Washington, DC

May 1-5, 2023

IAFF PTA-CTA
Linthicum Heights, MD

Apr 24-29, 2023

FDIC
Indianapolis, IN

May 24-26, 2023

PFFUI Convention
Terre Haute, IN

Aug 21-24, 2023

IAFF Redmond Conference
New York, NY

Sep 16, 2023

IAFF Memorial Ceremony
Colorado Springs, CO



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

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Local _____ ☐ Active ☐ Retired

Shirt Size (circle one) XXXL XXL XL L M S

Check the box to indicate the level you are joining:

☐ **President Club Level**

\$200 or more per year
(\$8.00 per paycheck)
Receive an Indiana FIREPAC Windshirt

☐ **Capitol Club Level**

\$100 or more per year
(\$4.00 per paycheck)
Receive an Indiana FIREPAC
Polo Shirt

☐ **Leadership Level**

\$50 or more per year
(\$2.00 per paycheck)
Receive an Indiana FIREPAC T-shirt

☐ **Membership Level**

\$26 or more per year
(\$1.00 per paycheck)
Receive an Indiana FIREPAC
Car Decal

MAIL TO:

Indiana Firefighters PAC
P.O. Box 15735
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46885-5735



CONTRIBUTE

These contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes. Fill out the form and mail it in today. Let us know we can count on your support.



Wabash Local 5383 received their new IAFF Charter on July 25



Indiana Fallen Fire Fighters Annual Memorial September 29, 2022

Philip Riley ✦ Richmond Fire Department - 1860

Gary Hineline ✦ Chesterton Fire Department - 1943

Tracy L. Hayden ✦ Decatur Township Fire Department - 2019

Timothy D. Medsker ✦ Mooresville Fire Department - 2020

Robert G. Cree ✦ Harrison Township Volunteer Fire Department - 2020

Martin "Marty" Meyers ✦ Kokomo Fire Department - 2021

Kyle Martincic ✦ White River Township Fire Department - 2021

Mark B. Gillam ✦ Elwood Fire Department - 2021

Gerald A. Brooks ✦ Indianapolis Fire Department - 2021





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