



Reunite. Reconnect. Reengage.

Fire and Life Safety Conference

March 23 - 25, 2022

Par-a-Dice Hotel, East Peoria, IL

*Celebrating **55** years as an Association!*



Fire and Life Safety Conference

March 23 – 25, 2022

PRE-CONFERENCE

Tuesday, March 22

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Stepping Up Your Virtual Fire & Life Safety Activities: Tips, Tricks, and Ideas to Support Face-to-Face Efforts

Brene Duggins

Not sure where to get started or how to navigate a blended “hybrid” world? Join Ms. D as she shares tips, tricks, ideas, and personal experiences for making the most of your fire and life safety programs in a blended, face-to-face, and virtual environment. Participants will walk away with a digital tool kit of resources, links and templates to spice up your programs for the hybrid world.

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Conference Registration

Early arrival registration will be held at the Tin Lizard Bar & Grill (by the boat behind the hotel).

FREE for IFIA members!
\$25 for non-members

Wednesday, March 23

6:30 am – 8:00 am

Registration at the Conference Center

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Opening Remarks

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Stand Up and Be the Best

Pat Kenny

The brotherhood and sisterhood shared amongst firefighters represents one of the most sacred traditions of our proud profession. Sit down at the firehouse kitchen table anywhere in the country and you’ll undoubtedly hear stories of past fires, moans and groans about the off-going shift, tales of machismo, and relentless, good-hearted humor. It’s these conversations and personal exchanges that represent some of our most memorable moments, but these conversations also define who we are, what we do and how we address critical issues. In this very personal address, Chief Pat Kenny will bring attention to two of the most critical issues facing fire service leaders today: firefighter behavioral health and occupational cancer. Armed with a career of advocacy for firefighter health and wellness and a personal story, Chief Kenny will put forth a call to action to stand up and face these challenges head-on, to exemplify the strong and defined leadership necessary in these trying times, and to extend the brotherhood and sisterhood beyond simple words.



10:00 am – 10:30 am | Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Power of Positivity – Lead from the Front

Steve Chikerotis



Topics covered include Leadership Development, the Power of Positivity, Conquering PTSD, the Power of Mentors, Critical Incident Decision-Making, Fireground Tactics, Achieving Your Goals, and Motivating Your Team.

Chief Chikerotis (Ret.) will share case studies and powerful lessons learned from his personal experiences including his 36-year career on the Chicago Fire Department. Chikerotis shares lessons learned from the many mentors in his life as well as those learned by trial and error while working on the busiest fire companies and battalions in the Chicago Fire Department.

The goal of this presentation is to motivate those in attendance to enrich their lives by taking control of their lives, conquering their goals, becoming better leaders, better mentors and better people.

12:00 pm | Lunch with exhibitors

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Bathrobes and Boxers (FLSE)

This presentation, facilitated by Fire and Life Safety Education Committee members, will provide a round table for attendees to discuss best practices, concerns, and other FLSE related issues.

NFPA 30 (CODES)

Kamal Aljazireh

Flammable and combustible liquids are used in a variety of industries, whether at a petroleum refinery or a pharmaceuticals laboratory, these materials can pose significant fire hazards. NFPA 30 is a code that has long been the overarching consensus document presenting methods to protect against fires and explosions resulting from storage or use of flammable liquids. This class intends to cover the regulatory framework and an overview of fire and explosion protection concepts in NFPA 30 for an effective understanding of how to best protect against flammable/combustible liquids.

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Raffles and Hospitality Bar in the Exhibition Hall

5:00 pm

End of Day – Evening on your own



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Thursday, March 24

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Updates from the State Fire Marshal and the Illinois Fire Service Institute

8:30 am – 10:30 am

Building Public Partnerships and Relationships for Risk Reduction

Josh Fulbright and Marsha Giesler

This presentation will focus on the need for forming and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships and the power of partnerships internal and external to the fire service for Community Risk Reduction. Relationships can be messy; however, through greater self-awareness, we can increase our situational awareness and emotional intelligence. Coupled with a strategic risk reduction plan, these skills can increase a fire and life safety educator's effectiveness in their community. Presentation will encourage participants to examine themselves through a personality assessment, share relationship examples, and reflect on their own interpersonal skills.

10:30 am – 11:00 am | Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Mayday for Mental Health

Pat Kenny



The presentation is intended, at the very least, to create an awareness of attendees that they need to first self-examine and then as an organization reflect on what tools are in place to deal with the very real challenge of mental health. The fire service culture is a direct contributor to the stance that mental health disease is not a disease at all but rather a character deficiency.

The presentation is delivered from a very personal perspective as a fire chief and the turmoil that naturally evolves from trying to maintain the "super" image as the department leader versus the father who is struggling to keep his son alive.

12:00 pm | Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Working Smarter, Not Harder at Saving Lives (FLSE)

Karla Klas

Although most burn and trauma center hospitals are required to provide injury/violence prevention, they are often overlooked as potential CRR partners with fire service agencies. With pandemic-related reductions in staffing and/or support, we now more than ever need to cultivate collaborative multi-agency approaches to our life-saving education and prevention efforts. Come join the discussion about available resources, tips for collaboration, and sharing ideas on "Working Smarter, Not Harder at Saving Lives."

Area of Rescue Assistance Requirements (CODES)

John Pierce

The course goes over the requirements for these systems, based on IBC and NFPA 72, including system make up, communication requirements, supervision, signage, and wiring requirements.

OSFM Licensing 101 (CODES)

Robert Wetzel

This presentation will provide an introductory overview of the OSFM Pyrotechnic/Fireworks, Fire Sprinkler, and Fire Equipment licensing and industry regulatory programs.

Topics include:

- Pyrotechnic licensing classifications, permit and display requirements, as well as concurrent, ATF, USDOT and IDNR compliance issues
- Fire Equipment licensing classifications and how to recognize them as well as common checks for service performance
- Current issues in the fire sprinkler industry including significant legislative initiatives and changes
- OSFM's on-line resources available to fire inspectors for Pyrotechnic, Fire Equipment, Sprinkler, Elevator, Boiler and Pressure Vessel, and Above and Underground Fuel Storage Tanks

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Break

BE SURE TO REGISTER
BY **FEBRUARY 22** TO GET
THE EARLY BIRD RATE

www.illinoisfireinspectors.org



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Thursday, March 24 continued

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Working with Students with Disabilities: Characteristics and Engagement (FLSE)

Jeffrey Bakken and Dietra Kuester

This presentation will begin with a brief discussion on the characteristics of individuals with a variety of disabilities. Next, we will provide guidance and information about how to engage individuals with a variety of disabilities, followed by how to engage learners at the elementary level versus the secondary level. Finally, we will discuss possible ways you can work with teachers, administrators and schools when working with individuals with disabilities.

NFPAs “LiNK” and Other Resources For You! (Codes)

Meredith Hawes

Watch live demonstration of LiNK™ – a new digital application that allows you to go “by the book”, without the book, with digital access to NFPA® codes and standards. This session will teach you how to navigate this tool to utilize expert commentary, supporting content and understand code requirements based on real-life situations. Additionally, discover how LiNK™ can help you curate content, bookmark, add notes, share, and collaborate to get the job done right! You will also learn about the most recent updates, reports, and resources at NFPA.

4:30 pm
End of Day

Join Us!

6:00 pm | Social Gathering

6:30 pm | Banquet



Friday, March 25

9:00 am - 10:30 am BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Close Before You Doze, and New Smoke Alarm Requirements (FLSE)

Sean DeCrane and Jennifer Williams

With only three minutes or less to escape a home fire, educating your community about the importance of working smoke alarms, closed doors, and fire escape plans is more important than ever. UL's Fire Safety Research Institute understands the early warning that smoke alarms can provide and the vital role that they play in addition to closed doors in saving lives from fire. This session will help enhance your knowledge of what the new UL 217 standard means for smoke alarms, fire safety messaging and will provide you with new and creative, research-based resources around the importance of closed doors and fire escape plans.

Protection of Expanded, Exposed Foam Plastic in Racks (CODES)

Jerry Schultz

As recently as the 2013 edition of NFPA 13, there were no requirements for the protection of expanded, exposed, Group A plastic in racks. With the introduction of the 2016 edition of the standard, the first series of design considerations was introduced to the standard. In 2019, additional protection was introduced so that now this commodity can be properly protected. This presentation will discuss what was done prior to 2016, what happened in 2016 showing a video of an actual fire test run by UL, and highlight the requirements as they appear in the 2019 edition.

Discussion will be held on what can be done with those systems that were installed prior to the first series of requirements and the class will be asked if this is a retroactive requirement that should be enforced.

10:30 am - 12:00 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS

If They're Not Listening, They're Not Learning (FLSE)

Marsha Giesler

Fully prepared with lesson plans, visual aids, and support materials, you walk into a classroom or adult presentation ready to inspire more positive behavior. A few minutes in and you realize attendees are not actively engaged in what you have to say. One of the most difficult parts of an educator's job is classroom management. How do we get the kids to listen? How do we keep their attention?



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Friday, March 25 continued

10:30 am - 12:00 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS

How do we energize a room of reluctant business owners? Where do we connect with older adults? What techniques do teachers use that elude other speakers?

This presentation provides attendees with techniques to use when working with all audiences so they attend to important messages and walk away with an authentic learning experience. Considerations that create a better experience for both the audience and the speaker include physical cues, body language and non-verbal cues, phrasing, timing, room arrangement, strategies specifically related to various age groups. Learn how to deflect negative behavior, frame questions, and avoid some well-intentioned actions that could easily erode a positive interaction.

Bring your concerns and we'll figure things out together!

How to Prevent Thermal Runaway in Lithium-ion Batteries (CODES)

Scott Lang

This session will describe the hazards posed by lithium-ion battery energy storage systems and approaches to fire protection. We will describe how lithium-ion batteries work and their failure modes. There will be an overview of applicable codes and standards for energy storage. We will highlight the Li-ion Tamer off-gas detection product and its role in protecting energy storage systems.

12:00 pm

End of Conference

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration can be made at the IFIA website. Visit www.illinoisfireinspectors.org, or [click here](#).

CONFERENCE FEES

By February 22nd

Full Conference - \$325

Daily Rate:

Wed/Thurs - \$175

Fri - \$100

After February 22nd

Full Conference - \$395

Daily Rate:

Wed/Thurs - \$225

Fri - \$125

Tuesday's Pre-Conference session is **FREE** to IFIA members.

If your organization is not a member of the IFIA, the cost is only \$25.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

A block of rooms has been reserved with Par-A-Dice Hotel at a rate of \$100 plus tax for single/double occupancy.

The cost of the hotel room is not included in the registration fee. To make a hotel reservation please contact the hotel directly by phone or website. Payment for the hotel must be paid separately and sent directly to the hotel.

Par-A-Dice Hotel
21 Blackjack Blvd., East Peoria, IL 61611
309.699.7711 | www.paradicecasino.com

Room reservations for the conference can be made by calling 1.800.547.0711 and referencing code 0323FIR or by going to www.paradicecasino.com/groups and typing in 0323FIR.



Register Today!



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SPONSORSHIPS & EXHIBITORS SHOWCASE

Join us for a **ONE DAY** exhibitor showcase. On **March 23rd, from Noon – 5 pm**, we will host an exhibitor showcase. Educational classes will conclude early at 3 pm, and attendees will have access to the showcase room from 3 until 5pm, as well as during lunch – which is held in the same room. A hosted hospitality bar will be provided during the afternoon showcase, and a raffle will be held at the conclusion of the day.

In light of the pandemic, we have reduced the fees for all of our sponsorships and exhibitor spaces.

If you are unable to participate in the showcase, and would like to support the education of fire inspectors and fire and life safety educators in Illinois, the following sponsorships are available:

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ **Hospitality Bar \$850**
Half price exhibit space for co-sponsor, full page ad in the program, signage at the event
- ▶ **Music Sponsor \$500**
(Wednesday during the Exhibitor Showcase)
Half page ad in the program, signage at the event
- ▶ **General Sessions \$750 per morning**
(Wednesday or Thursday)
Half price exhibit space, signage at the room entrance, full page ad in the program, acknowledgment at the beginning of the session, logo in the program
- ▶ **Lunch Sponsor \$350 per day**
(Wednesday or Thursday)
Half page ad in the program, signage at lunch
- ▶ **Morning Break \$250 per morning**
(Wednesday, Thursday or Friday)
Quarter page ad in the program, signage at the break
- ▶ **Afternoon Break \$250 per afternoon**
(Wednesday or Thursday)
Quarter page ad in the program, signage at the break
- ▶ **Breakfast \$200 per morning**
(Wednesday, Thursday or Friday)
Quarter page ad in the program, signage at breakfast

PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENTS

- \$500 Full page**
- \$350 Half page**
- \$150 Quarter page**
- \$75 Business card**

Sponsors and advertisers to provide ready-to-use artwork. To meet printing deadlines, a high-quality full-color TIFF, JPEG or PDF file must be submitted by March 1 to ifiafire@illinoisfireinspectors.org.

To sign up to become a sponsor or advertiser please visit our website at www.illinoisfireinspectors.org.

EXHIBITOR TABLE \$300

Includes 8 x 10 booth space, lunch for one person and company will be listed in our conference program

Exhibitor spaces will cost only \$300 this year. The **cost will be reduced to \$225** if the exhibitor provides a \$50 gift for the raffle.

Exhibitor spaces are limited, and are on a first come basis. All exhibitors will be listed in the on-site program as well as on an exhibitor sign in the room.

Registration is available on our website at illinoisfireinspectors.org or by calling our office at 224.387.3340.



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SPEAKER BIOS

KAMAL M. ALJAZIREH

Kamal M. Aljazireh, PE, is an industrial fire protection consultant based in Chicago with experience in hazard analysis and evaluation, hazard mitigation techniques and requirements, code compliance studies, and specification of fire protection features for various industrial applications. His experience focuses on developing fire and explosion risk reduction solutions for industrial processes handling hazardous materials such as flammable/combustible liquids and combustible dusts. He completed a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and a M.S. in Fire Protection Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Mr. Aljazireh is a chair member of the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, and an active member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

JEFFREY P. BAKKEN

Jeffrey P. Bakken, Ph.D., is Professor of Special Education at Bradley University where he has taught since June of 2012. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, and graduate degrees in the area of Special Education-Learning Disabilities from Purdue University. Dr. Bakken has received the College of Education and the University Research Initiative Awards, the College of Education Outstanding College Researcher Award, the College of Education Outstanding College Teacher Award, and the Outstanding University Teacher Award from Illinois State University. His specific areas of interest include: learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral disorders, reading comprehension, response to intervention, collaboration, transition, teacher effectiveness, assessment, learning strategies, assistive technology, Smart Classrooms and Smart Universities. He has published over 200 works that include books, chapters, journal articles, proceedings at international conferences, audio tapes, encyclopedia articles, newsletter articles, book reviews, a monograph, a manual, and one publisher website. He has also made over 260 presentations at International/National and Regional/State conferences. Lastly, he has authored or co-authored numerous grants totaling over \$1,000,000.00.

STEVE CHIKEROTIS

Steve Chikerotis has been involved in the fire service for over 40-years. Steve retired in November of 2014 as a Deputy District Chief (7 Battalions / 30 fire stations) after a 36-year career with the Chicago Fire Department. He was a firefighter and company officer on some of the busiest fire companies in the city. Steve was a chief officer for 19-years, serving in the roles of Battalion Chief, Deputy District Chief, Chief of Fire Academy Operations, Director of Training, and as a Safety Officer.

Steve is a student of the game and holds a BS in Business Management and an AS in Fire Science. He has been a fire

service instructor for over 30-years and has been an on-staff instructor at Harold Washington College, the Chicago Fire Academy, Illinois Fire Service Institute, and RICO Fire Rescue. Chief Chikerotis has delivered classes and keynote addresses at conferences throughout the nation including twenty at FDIC.

Chikerotis is also a published author currently working on his third book. Steve also has worked in the television and movie industry for 29-years as a Producer, Screenwriter, Storyline consultant, and Technical Advisor. Currently he is a Producer/Writer/ Technical Advisor on the hit NBC television show "Chicago Fire", which is currently finishing its eighth season.

SEAN DECRANE

Sean DeCrane started his career with the Cleveland, OH Fire Department in 1991 where he is currently a Battalion Chief assigned to the 3rd Battalion, while previously serving as Chief of Training for the Cleveland Fire Training Academy. He is a State of Ohio certified instructor and represents the International Association of Fire Fighters in the International Code Council. He also has served on the 2009 and 2012 International Fire Code Development Committees and is the current committee chair for the 2015 Edition. He was awarded the 2010 International Code Council's Fire Service Award, the International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire Life Safety Section's 2013 Fire Service Award, and gave the 2015 FDIC General Session Keynote Speech. DeCrane also serves on the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 1 Fire Code Technical Committee. In addition, he serves on the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Council, the U.S. Fire Administration's Residential Fire Environment Workshop Project, the U.S. Fire Administration's project on Fire Fighting Tactics in Wood-Frame Residential Construction, and the Modern Fire Environment Education Committee.

BRENE DUGGINS

Brene Duggins is the Fire Prevention Coordinator/Firefighter at Holly Grove Fire Department in Lexington, NC. During her 18 years as a volunteer in the fire service, she has shared her passion for technology and education across not only the state of North Carolina but across the East Coast, teaching the public as well as fire service personnel to enhance their own programs through the integration of technology. Most recently she has started Ms. D's Virtual PD, which is a virtual professional development training program that combines live training sessions and on-demand training opportunities for public school personnel and fire service personnel. Brene is the Chair of the NC Eastern Region Fire and Life Safety Educators Association and also is the Secretary of the North Carolina Fire and Life Safety Educator Association State Council. Her day job is as the Media Coordinator at Oak Grove High School in Davidson County, NC, and she is also a Past President of the North Carolina School Library Association.



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JOSH FULBRIGHT

Josh Fulbright, the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Section Chief with SC State Fire, leads a team of seven tasked with fire and life safety data analysis, curriculum coordination, and outreach. Chief Fulbright coordinates statewide CRR through the Fire Safe South Carolina program. He manages fire fatality research of the Community Loss Education and Response Team. Annually, his team hosts quarterly Fire and Life Safety Educator Trainings, a Fire and CRR Summit, and supports local CRR practitioners. As Situation Unit Leader for the Palmetto Incident Support Team and as a State Duty Chief, he manages routine and emergency response coordination of personnel. For nationwide relationship-building, he serves as Team Lead for Vision 20/20 Technical Advisors and South Carolina Representative to the NFPA. He also serves as a Board Director to the NFPA Education Section and as a National Fire Academy Contract Instructor. A native of NC, he served with the Cary Police Department, earning the rank of Corporal and gaining valuable community-building experience. He has a B.A. in Criminology from NC State University and a M.J.A. from Methodist University.

MARSHA P. GIESLER

Marsha P. Giesler served as a fire inspector and as the Fire and Life Safety Education/Public Information Officer for the Downers Grove, IL Fire Department for 28 years. As a former teacher, she brought her education experience and expertise to the fire service, and continues to work as a program designer and practitioner in the field of FLSE. She has written FLSE curricula and instructed firefighters throughout her career. Marsha collaborated with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association to develop and teach the FLSE and Community Risk Reduction classes for Fire Officer I and Chief Officer certifications. Marsha holds a BS in Education and a MS degree in Organizational Leadership. She authored the comprehensive and reader friendly 2016 Fire and Life Safety Educator textbook for Jones and Bartlett compliant with the 2015 NFPA 1035 standard. Marsha was the recipient of the 2015 NFPA Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year and the 2017 Dr. Anne W. Phillips Awards for Leadership in Fire Safety Education by the Congressional Fire Services Institute and the International Fire Services Training Association. Marsha is currently serving as the Project Manager for the IL CRR Stakeholder Taskforce.

MEREDITH HAWES

Meredith Hawes is an NFPA Public Education Specialist for 16 states. Meredith earned a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development from Central Michigan University, has a current Michigan Teaching Certification for K-8, and is currently enrolled in a Master's Degree program from Central Michigan University. Her work experience ranges from non-profit administration, corporate training, and public education on a local, state, and national level.

Meredith is a member of the Aging and Disability Resource Collaborative of Northwest Michigan's Steering Committee, the Coordinator of the Traverse Bay Area Hoarding Task Force, and she serves on the Board of Governors for the National Cherry Festival.

Meredith and her Fire Department were awarded the Rolf Jensen Award from the NFPA, and have been recognized by the University of Michigan Burn Center for innovative programs in public education. Meredith was also presented the Public Fire Educator of the Year Award from the Michigan Fire Inspector's Society.

PATRICK J. KENNY

Patrick J. Kenny has been a member of the fire service for over 38 years, and before retiring in January 2021 served as the Fire Chief in Hinsdale and Western Springs, Illinois. He has been a chief officer for over 25 years and a speaker in multiple countries on Mayday for Mental Health® for more than a decade. He has articles published in the areas of mental health, leadership, fire safety, and fire code challenges. He was awarded the Fire Chief of the Year in 2004 by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. He was awarded the Fire Engineering/International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) George D. Post Instructor of the Year Award for 2020/2021.

KARLA KLAS

Karla Klas, BSN, RN, CCRP manages the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center's nationally acclaimed community and family-centered injury prevention programs. Her 29-year distinguished career in burn/trauma critical care nursing, research, professional development training, mentoring, program management, public education, curriculum development, CRR, and injury prevention. Klas has produced numerous journal publications, textbook chapters and grant awards. She has attained multiple specialty certifications and leadership appointments to committees devoted to injury control. She is a Professional Instructor for the National Fire Academy in the Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Courses. An award-winning educator, speaker, and author, Karla also mentors at-risk youth, volunteers in survivor support programs, and enjoys all kinds of outdoor adventures with her family. Learn more at: <https://traumaburn.org/karla-s-klas-bsn-rn-ccrp>

DEITRA KUESTER

Dr. Deitra Kuester is an Associate Professor in the Department of Education, Counseling and Leadership at Bradley University. She earned her Ph.D. from Purdue University in the area of special education, along with her license in administration and supervision for director of special education. She holds a master's degree from Butler



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University in the area of special education with an emphasis on attention deficit and behavior disorders, and a bachelor's degree in special education and computer science education from Purdue University. Prior to joining Bradley University, Dr. Kuester was a classroom teacher and department chair for several years K-12, and taught as an adjunct professor at Purdue, Butler, the University of Indianapolis and Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis. Her research centers on multi- and interdisciplinary collaboration related to successful inclusion of all learners and using robotics to help teach social skills to individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Dr. Kuester has a patent, has published several scholarly articles and book chapters, presented worldwide, across the nation and locally, secured over \$100K in grants, and is the two-time recipient of the College of Education, Counseling and Leadership Research Award at Bradley University. She continues to serve as the chair and/or member of committees and organizations across campus, in the community and professional arena. She currently teaches classes in the Teacher Education Program using hands-on, real-world, experiential learning with her students and alumni. As a mother and now a 'MeeMee' to their grandson, Dr. Kuester and her husband enjoy family-time with their son's family, riding the motorcycle, especially for Peoria St. Jude Rides, hiking in the mountains, kayaking, camping and eating ice cream (and Kit Kats) any time of the year!

SCOTT LANG

Scott Lang is a Senior Industry Affairs Manager for Honeywell Fire. With more than 25 years of experience in the industry, his primary focus is on codes and standards development for fire & life safety detection and notification. Scott began his career at Pittway (System Sensor) in 1992 as a design engineer after graduating from Northern Illinois University with a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering. Since that time, he has worked in various aspects of smoke detector research and development as well as a variety of fire detection and notification projects. After earning a Master of Business Administration Degree, he worked in product management for eight years. He currently serves on a number of NFPA and UL standards development committees and is active on several industry trade associations including NEMA.

JOHN PIERCE

John Pierce is responsible for all sales operations, related administrative services, and support functions for RATH Communications. John manages, directs, and coordinates all area activities including sales, tradeshow, and promotional activities. He develops and executes sales plans and goals designed to increase sales and profits and to minimize expenses. John is also responsible for the growth and development of sales and market share for:

- Elevators: All of US, Canada & Mexico for RATH
- AOR and Elevator Landing

JERRY SCHULTZ

Jerry Schultz is a fire protection engineer with close to 40 years' experience in the field. He is President of The Fire Protection International Consortium, Inc., a fire protection and security consulting engineering firm that specializes in the storage field. He is an alternate member on the Discharge Committee of NFPA 13 and has been teaching the NFPA seminar on automatic sprinklers for over 20 years. He brings to a seminar an understanding of the practical and real-world issues in NFPA 13 and is an exciting and dynamic speaker.

ROBERT WETZEL

Robert Wetzel is the OSFM Fire Safety Compliance Manager. Bob has been responsible for licensing and compliance for the Pyrotechnics/Fireworks, Fire Equipment, and Fire Sprinkler industries since 2014.

Prior to joining OSFM, Bob worked as a career Firefighter/Inspector/Investigator/Fire Officer over a 26-year career, and has taught in fire service programs at the collegiate level since 2001. He holds a B.A. (Fire Prevention Technology), M.S. (Safety, Security, Emergency Management), and MPA (Public Administration).

JENNIFER WILLIAMS

Jennifer Williams is the Marketing Specialist for the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute. She supports the UL Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) team and partners to amplify reach and engage with key stakeholders to increase firefighter knowledge and reduce injuries and deaths in the fire service and the communities they serve. She is an 11-year veteran of the fire service with most of her service at the Lewes Fire Department in Lewes, Delaware.

She received her Associates Degree in Fire Science: Arson Investigation, from Montgomery College and is currently working toward her Bachelor's Degree in Marketing through the University of Maryland University College. Before joining UL FSRI, Jennifer worked as the Public Relations Specialist for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, University of Maryland, and has worked on numerous safety initiatives over the years.