

IFIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE



Notice to all who have not paid their dues: following this email, you will be removed from our mailing list. If you have not paid, and wish to do so, contact our office right away. Payment can be made by credit card, or an invoice can be sent.

Our big annual event, the Combined Conference is almost upon us. The preconference flyer showing the topics and descriptions is attached. There are two times of importance for you to be aware of. The first is early bird discounts for registration. **That will increase on March 15th.** The second is hotel registration. Our special block of rooms ends on **April 5th.** At that time

any remaining rooms are moved back to the hotel, and the price increases to standard rates. We have heard that some people have been told that rooms are full. We know that at this point there are still many rooms in our block. To eliminate this problem, we encourage anyone looking for a room at the Embassy to call them directly.

Please support 10 year smoke detector batteries. Senate bill 2837 is proposed to amend the smoke detector act. It will require smoke alarms to have batteries of a minimum of 10 years, and the battery must be non-replaceable and non-removable. There is a hearing on March 8th in Springfield on this bill. We encourage you to support it. Please file witness slips in support of this bill. http://my.ilga.gov/Hearing/HearingDetail/13462?CommitteeHearings-page=1&CommitteeHearings-orderBy=&CommitteeHearings-filter=&_=1457021321401 If you are unsure of how to submit a witness slip, see the attachment explaining the process.

A while back it was reported that a company was selling flame throwers to the public. House Bill 5821 was introduced to outlaw these sales. <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=5821&GAID=13&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=95285&SessionID=88&GA=99>

A popular Phoenix bar known for live music was forced to close and cancel shows because of a fire started by a band that was on stage one Saturday night. The bandleader of Three Bad Jacks squirted lighter fluid on the floor stage and then ignited it. For anyone with live music or entertainment, you should be aware of this type of activity. You can read more about it here: <http://www.cbs5az.com/story/31224326/rebel-lounge-in-phoenix-closed-after-three-bad-jacks-concert-fire#ixzz41i0GkvkG>

On Tuesday, March 8th, from 2:45 – 7 PM the Illinois Fire Prevention Association and the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers are once again hosting their annual product show. This is one of the largest exhibitions of products, services and related industrial components of the Fire Protection industry in the Chicagoland area. Admission to the show is *Free*, and more than 50 exhibitors are expected who will exhibit the cutting edge of fire products, services and information. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served beginning at 4:30 for all attendees, and door prizes will be awarded hourly.

At our last monthly meeting we were privileged to have Russ Sanders, our regional director for NFPA, join us. He changed this flight plan in order to do that. He provided a short update of what is going on at NFPA and what to expect in the future. Because he did not speak long, he did not get to a many of the items on his list – 13 pages worth of them. However, his notes are attached and you are encouraged to look through them. If you have any question, he, or possibly some of our members on various NFPA committees, might be able to answer them for you.

We are still soliciting nominations for the Lonnie Jackson award for exemplary work in the FLSE field. More information is available on our web site. Those need to be in the office by April 1.

Speaking of the website, pay a visit there every week or two. We are regularly adding new information. This is the best way to stay up on the goings on in the organization. For those interested in ICC activities, we have a spot there for their activities that might be of interest to our members.

Also don't forget to "like" us on Facebook. This is the avenue we have that can put out last minute information if needed. One thing of interest to many, is that we put out a notice of major historical fires of the day. We can't forget what has happened in the past, and we're afraid that many of the newer personnel don't know of these incidents. This is a great time to tell them of some fire service history. We must not forget.

Save the Date

Not to be missed is a fireworks seminar on May 9th. This will be presented by Gregg Smith from the American Pyrotechnics Association. Bob Wetzel from the Office of the State Fire Marshal will join in and present requirements specific to Illinois. This class is filling up quickly. Sign up can be done on our web page.

Our golf outing will be held on Aug 23rd at White Pines in Bensenville. This will again be done in conjunction with the IL Automatic Fire Alarm Association. There will be raffles for a chance to win one million dollars and \$2,500, as well as many par three hole in one games where people can win golf clubs, a vacation, cash, and even a car. Registration is capped at 144, and 50 are already signed up. Don't wait. Registration is on our website as well as the IL-AFAA web page.