

# Greetings from Hanify



# INDIANA Professional Firefighters Newsletter

## Brothers and Sisters,

The 37th Annual Convention of the PFFUI was hosted by Bloomington Local 586 at the end of May and our Brothers and Sisters in Bloomington did an outstanding job of providing hospitality. Thank you to Bob Loviscek (PFFUI 6th DVP and Bloomington Local President) and his team. Everyone pitched in to host a great convention, including Chief Kerr. I'd also like to recognize Lee Chapman for frying up some of the best fish you'll ever taste. For a full report, see Secretary Treasurer Mike Pinkham's article in this newsletter. Also, please ask your Local executive board to share information they received at convention.



Next year we'll be in Indianapolis and then in 2015 convention will be hosted by Local 362 in South Bend, home of the Fighting Irish.

Last week I met with State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson, my old fire chief, to talk about fire service issues around the state of Indiana. Afterwards, we started reminiscing about a time when Jim was the chief of administration and I was the local president.

In the mid 1990s we were preparing to negotiate a contract when we were informed that then-Mayor Steve Goldsmith had hired a labor attorney to negotiate on behalf of the city. John Neighbours was a hardnosed, no nonsense negotiator. If the labor side proposed something he felt was unreasonable he could go off like a firecracker. He was also absolutely honest with his client and across the table. I can always do business with people like that. Needless to say, negotiations were tough and we eventually came to an impasse about money. It's always about money. So, we said we were going to go see the mayor.

The management team had a pre-meeting with Mayor Goldsmith. At the pre-meeting, John told him "Mayor, you have to understand. Tom Hanify and these firefighters look at negotiations as part of their daily job. They are prepared and they are going to make arguments that will make you want to say yes. Listen politely, don't smile, don't nod. Let us negotiate the contract." Goldsmith listened and did just that. However, he did give his team permission to offer more money and the contract was settled a few weeks later.

I relay this story because of two programs the PFFUI is now initiating to ensure that all Locals are able to enter negotiations prepared. At this year's convention we introduced Action Eagle, a pilot project for building community based social networking. Eight Locals are participating for one year in this pilot program and we will have a full report at our legislative conference in February. If this program is effective we hope to expand it to additional Locals across the state. The concept uses current technology to keep our members and our communities informed about what is happening in our Locals and in our communities and provides an additional tool with which to market ourselves.

The second program will be in conjunction with this year's Memorial. On September 19th, we are going to host a class on collective bargaining. This will be a nuts and bolts training for Local leaders. It will include how to prepare for negotiations and present our issues at the table.

It is my hope that these programs will be successful to better prepare our Local leadership for the bargaining table.

Finally, our Indiana Fallen Firefighters Memorial will be held at 11am on September 20th. This is a brief but important annual ceremony that I ask you to attend. Every year we gather to remember our fallen Brothers and Sisters at this beautiful memorial located on the Statehouse grounds. It is our opportunity to remind ourselves, our families and our state that this job we love can come at a sacrifice. Please consider wearing a uniform, but your attendance is the most important.

Stay safe,  
Tom Hanify

# Indiana State Executive Board

## President:

Thomas Hanify  
623 E. St. Clair  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
317-450-1381 cell  
317-630-1840 office  
Hanify@indy.rr.com

## Vice-President:

Mike Whited  
10901 S C 700 E  
Selma, IN 47383  
765-744-5853  
VicePresident@pffui.com

## Secretary-Treasurer:

Michael Pinkham  
P.O. Box 15735  
Fort Wayne, IN 46885  
260-414-6889  
Secretary@pffui.com

## District Officers:

1st District Vice-President: Ed Lomeli  
2nd District Vice-President: Ron Meikle  
3rd District Vice-President: Mark Mastison  
4th District Vice-President: Bonnie Hensley  
5th District Vice-President: Anthony Murray  
6th District Vice-President: Robert Loviscek

## Region Trustees:

1st Region Trustee: Ken Marks  
2nd Region Trustee: Matt Cole  
3rd Region Trustee: Larry Zuber  
4th Region Trustee: Bonnie Hensley

## Emeritus Officers

President Emeritus:  
Thomas H. Miller  
Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus:  
Richard O. Kissel

## Vice-President Report

MIKE WHITED

### Brothers and Sisters,

The 2013 General Assembly session is now over. As an organization, we had a very successful year. For the most part, bad legislation that could have affected us never made it out of committee and good legislation was signed into law by the Governor. This wasn't because we were lucky. This was because President Hanify and I were at the Statehouse everyday talking to the Legislators about our issues, building relationships and promoting an incredible product: Firefighters.

Some of the bills we were able to defeat this session:

HB1390 could have drastically changed how a Fire Territory does business. As few as ten or more taxpayers could file a petition to the Department of Local Government Finance requesting the DLGF to reduce the maximum permissible and the actual property tax levy for a unit of a Fire protection territory.

SB0102 would have prohibited a local unit of government from entering into an agreement with a labor organization for the purpose of union release time. The bill would have also allowed the Attorney General or a taxpaying resident of the state to institute a civil action for a violation of these provisions.

SB0605 would have disallowed payroll deductions of union dues for some unions. This was nothing more than a direct attack on organized labor.

President Hanify and I also helped to change a bill that could have re-directed money away from already cash strapped Cities and Towns back to Casinos and the State: Now, with the amendment, these local units will not lose valuable revenue.

Firefighters were almost amended out of the criminal code that makes it a crime for battery by bodily waste. Without the help of some friends at the Statehouse this would have slipped through the cracks.

We also saw the passage of positive bills for the fire service.

Thanks to State Representative and retired IFD Firefighter Randy Frye, HB1325 passed and will authorize the state to reimburse a political subdivision for a backfill employee necessary for the political subdivision to fill the position and duty of an employee deployed to a mobile support unit.

HB1561 allows that a firefighter in the 1977 pension fund can now be hired by another Fire Department that participates in the 1977



fund and transfer their pension credits to that department without meeting for a second time the age limitations and the physical and mental requirements for admission to the 1977 fund.

We were also successful in passing a Senate Resolution urging the Legislative Council to assign to the Pension Management Oversight Commission the topic of disability benefits for municipal emergency medical service workers. This is the first step to getting some much needed disability benefits to our EMS Brothers and Sisters.

I am also pleased to report that no bills were filed this session that had a negative impact on our pension. Of the 40 plus bills that were filed that had germane pension language, no attempt was made for negative amendments concerning our pensions. Indiana still has one of the best funded and managed pension systems in the country, but sometimes attacks will still come even in a well-funded system. That is why is so important to have a presence at the Statehouse and to keep a watchful eye on what is happening.

President Hanify and I have already started preparing for next year's General Assembly session by traveling around the state attending events for our legislator friends. We are able to make these contributions and develop these relationships because of the PFFUI PAC. If you and/or your Local give to the PFFUI PAC, thank you. If your Local doesn't give to the PFFUI PAC and you would like me or Tom to come to your union meeting to explain the benefits of this, please let us know. It does make a huge difference.

## Secretary-Treasurer Report

MICHAEL PINKHAM

### PFFUI Convention Summary

The 37th annual convention of the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana was held in Bloomington May 21 – 23, 2013 at the Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center. The members of the Bloomington Metro Professional Firefighters Union Local 586 were terrific hosts providing a number of hospitality events including a well attended golf outing resulting in a contribution of \$4,000 to benefit our IN Firefighters PAC.

A total of 116 delegates, 21 alternates, and numerous guests representing 42 of our 67 Locals attended, with an additional 2 Locals represented by proxies. IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger, IAFF 8th District Vice-President Paul Hufnagel, and Emeritus Officer Chuck Sosbe joined the PFFUI Executive Board and Regional Trustees for a well attended and successful convention.

A total of three (3) resolutions were debated and acted upon. No resolutions created an additional per capita increase at this convention. Resolutions acted upon are summarized as follows:

A resolution was adopted amending the Affiliate Scholarship Program eligibility guidelines by removing the affiliate size limitation.

A resolution was adopted establishing guidelines and expectations for affiliate representatives attending the annual PEP Educational Seminar and Legislative Events.

A resolution from Jeffersonville Local 558 regarding Collective Bargaining Assistance was withdrawn by the Local President.

The 4th District held a nomination caucus for election to fill unexpired terms of office as 4th District Vice-President and 4th Region Trustee resulting from the resignation of 4th District Vice-President Mike Reeves at the beginning of the year to devote his energies to his election as Local 416 President. Bonnie Hensley was elected 4th District Vice-President by acclamation and Scott Williams was elected 4th Region Trustee also by acclamation.

South Bend requested consideration as 2015 convention host Local and was selected by acclamation. Next year's convention will be held in Indianapolis.

IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger addressed the delegates regarding numerous national issues including the politically directed attacks on collective bargaining, pensions, and public employee labor groups across the nation.

IAFF General Secretary-Treasurer and PFFUI President Emeritus Thomas Miller sent his regrets in missing his first Indiana convention in thirty plus years as he was in attendance representing the IAFF at the NCPERS conference.

IAFF 8th District Vice-President Paul Hufnagel spoke of the continuing battles being fought in cities and in the legislatures of our neighboring states of Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, and Illinois.

Secretary-Treasurer Mike Pinkham presented detailed financial reports on Union and PAC finances and the Regional Trustees reported that the audit review was completed satisfactorily. The organization enjoys a solid financial foundation and is able to meet all current and projected needs in the near future.

The membership presently stands at 67 locals with 6,220 active members and 1,155 retired-active members and per capita rates increased with an 11 cent cost of living adjustment on

January 1st to \$4.05 per active member and \$2.02 per retired member. Scott Township Local 4915 is the most recent new addition to the PFFUI affiliating in January of this year.

Secretary-Treasurer Pinkham also reminded delegates of our organization's goal of achieving affiliated membership contributions equivalent to \$1.00 per member per paycheck to benefit our Indiana Firefighters PAC and strengthen our abilities to compete successfully in the Indiana General Assembly. While participation has significantly increased, not all affiliates have established a local program yet.

Vice-President Mike Whited summarized the recent legislative session, noting our representatives tracked nearly 100 bills during the session, many with potentially undesirable outcomes had they moved during the legislature, and reported a successful session with detailed information posted on our web site at [www.pffui.com](http://www.pffui.com).

In the wake of recent attacks, or reforms as our opponents would phrase the actions, against public employee pensions in numerous states, including just south of us in Kentucky, Vice-President Whited also presented considerable information demonstrating the adequate funding and conservative nature of our own pension system in Indiana.

Numerous friends from the Indiana General Assembly, including Representatives Randy Frye, Dan Forestal, Peggy Mayfield, and Senator Mark Stoops, addressed the delegates and praised the efforts of our lobbyists and the respect they have achieved in the General Assembly.

District Vice-Presidents Ed Lomeli, Ron Meikle, Mark Mastison, Bonnie Hensley, Tony Murray, and Bob Loviscek all spoke, informing delegates of the achievements as well as the struggles Locals in their Districts are experiencing.

Tony Murray presented a detailed briefing regarding EMS certification changes and other issues of importance in the EMS field

in Indiana and this information will also be posted on our web site.

In addition to the Executive Board Officers' reports, delegates also were informed of other important issues in presentations from IN State Fire Marshall James Greeson, IN Dept of Homeland Security Director John Hill, IN State AFL-CIO President Nancy Guyett, and IAFF Financial Corporation representatives.

Tim McDonnell, Local 416, discussed the Firefighter Cancer Support Network and additional information can be obtained at their web site at [www.firefightercancersupport.org](http://www.firefightercancersupport.org).

State Legal Counsel Leo Blackwell led off a series of presentations from a number of colleagues regarding legal issues affecting our membership including disciplinary matters, retirements, disabilities, death, divorce, and social networking.

President Hanify and Alex Lopes, CEO of Action Eagle, discussed a pilot program the firm is conducting with seven (7) affiliated Locals to enhance political action marketing effectiveness to citizens through social media campaigns to increase the relevancy of the Local in the decision making processes of elected officials in their communities. A report on the program will be presented at next year's Legislative Conference.

Tom Barfield, MDA Regional Coordinator, and MDA representatives from around the state visited with attendees, co-hosted a hospitality function, and expressed appreciation for firefighters' outstanding efforts participating in 'Fill-The-Boot' campaigns on behalf of MDA. Counselors are still needed to volunteer to make summer camp programs successful.

The PFFUI Principal Officers and the District Vice-Presidents are available to attend affiliate meetings and assist local officers in communicating membership understanding of our issues of importance and our resources available for assistance, and the necessity of political involvement and support our efforts by contributing to the Indiana Firefighters PAC.

## Have you moved?

**Be sure to let us know!  
You are welcome to mail, phone  
or E-mail your new info to us.**

**Please contact:**

**Secretary-Treasurer, Michael Pinkham  
P.O. Box 15735 Fort Wayne, IN 46885  
260-414-6889**

**Secretary@pffui.com**

**OR**

**Go to [www.pffui.com](http://www.pffui.com) and  
click on the link to update your  
contact information**



## Act 1325 becomes law

Governor Michael Pence signed House Enrolled Act 1325 into law. The bill addresses mobile disaster relief funding. It was authored by State Representative Randy Frye, a member of Indianapolis Local 416.

This bill helps pay overtime for the emergency personnel called out to statewide disasters. When the tornadoes hit Henryville

in March 2012, firefighters from around the state responded to the scene and local departments had to absorb the cost of paying the firefighters and their backups for their overtime work. The bill creates the State Disaster Relief Fund and will be used to pay first responders. The legislation also provides funds for local departments to bring in backup firefighters to replace those who responded to a disaster.

## First District

**ED LOMELI - VICE PRESIDENT**

### **Hello from the 1st District,**

This past April, brothers and sisters from the 1st District got together for our annual spring district meeting in Michigan City. Fourteen of the eighteen 1st District Locals were in attendance. Also in attendance from the PFFUI Executive Board, were President Tom Hanify, Vice-President Mike Whited, and Secretary-Treasurer Mike Pinkham. Each Local was given the opportunity to share what was going on with their members and in their Locals. One of the big topics during the meeting was the trend of private EMS providers trying to take over EMS for the fire departments in our cities and towns, such as East Chicago, Hobart and Chesterton. Another topic was how vital a Local Option Income Tax (LOIT) was for funding Lake County's public safety.

In the first part of May, the Lake County Council passed, by a vote of 4 to 3, a 1.50% LOIT. Even though Lake County was the only county in the state of Indiana without a LOIT, there was a strident and animated anti-LOIT contingent. Of the 1.5%, .25% of this tax will go to greatly improve the situation of public safety in Lake County. I, along with the rest of the PFFUI Executive Board, hope that our members have the opportunity to talk to their administrations and decide how to best utilize this public safety money.

At this year's PFFUI convention, in Bloomington, Indiana's 1st District was well represented with fourteen Locals in attendance for the week's events.

Local 586 Bloomington did a great job hosting this year's annual convention. When delegates were not in session, Local 586 made sure that there were plenty of things to do and see. Delegates and guests were treated to a good old-fashioned fish fry outside one evening after convention business was over. It took a lot of members from Local 586 to put on this event and even Fire Chief Roger Kerr, a member of Local 586, helped out to make sure everyone was having a good time!

I hope everyone has a happy and safe summer season with their families and friends. Please make sure to contact the PFFUI office if you're having a fundraising event (Golf Outing, Music Fest, etc.) and we will get it on the website. Good luck to everyone and I hope you all have a great summer!

## Second District

**RON MEIKLE - VICE PRESIDENT**

### **Brothers and Sisters,**

The 2nd District always finds ways to keep things interesting and this spring has no exception. We have had our fair share of both frustrations and successes.

Anderson had eight firefighters laid off in January but one has returned to work due to a vacancy that occurred. A SAFER grant application has been submitted to get the others back to work and they are hoping to include over 20 new firefighters in the application. On a positive note, Anderson firefighters filed a grievance against the city dealing with vacation time and back pay and they were victorious in this fight.

New Castle has been on a 9 year run without a raise. As you could imagine, this has caused hardships for these members. Additionally, instead of calling in additionally needed off-duty firefighters, New Castle was first calling volunteers to the scene in an attempt to save money. They were also able to find success in the grievance process and this practice has been discontinued.

Auburn is taking advantage of the Meet and Confer legislation. They have meetings scheduled to discuss insurance cost concerns, a vacancy that has not been filled, and other short staffing concerns.

Alexandria has a contract that has been written and agreed to through 2014 but seems to be held up by the Board of Works. Hopefully this will be resolved soon.

Logansport has been reaping the rewards of political activity at the polls and now have a good relationship with their Mayor and Fire

Chief. Their first ever contract is currently being proposed and things are looking positive that it will be signed soon. They are also making efforts to begin contributions into the state PAC with the goal of 100% participation.

Monticello reported recently that they have a city clerk who has discovered a way to save all kinds of money by diminishing hours worked by firefighters, thus avoiding FLSA laws and overtime pay. Apparently, this clerk has neglected to calculate what it costs to pay overtime on 40 hours of work on 8 or 12 hour shifts. The IAFF is directly assisting Monticello officials in their educational efforts to understand firefighter work schedules.

Muncie held the public grand opening of their new Union Hall & Museum on May 18, and it was well attended by the community. The people of Muncie are excited to have our Brothers and Sisters anchoring a key building in the heart of downtown and want to see the firefighters museum thrive and grow. The 2nd District will be looking forward to attending a fall meeting to see all of the progress. President Mike Whited has stepped down as President of L1348 after a long run and is giving the reigns to Mark Adams who has been the VP.

Marion is dealing with financial issues and is utilizing borrowed cash to get them through for the short term. Firefighters have been threatened with massive layoffs if they can't get their cash flow problems figured out. A short term solution seems to have bought them a bit more time. They have also had upheaval at the top of the fire department and are working with new leadership at the position of Fire Chief. New president Jordan Lamb is doing his best to navigate L676 through these choppy waters.

Ft Wayne L124 is facing local city ordinance changes that could potentially gut the collective bargaining process that is currently in place. These changes would only allow for the negotiation of wage packages, and all other articles enjoyed by both sides of the contract would be dictated by the

city. Budgetary constraints and political motivations seem to be the motivators for these proposed changes. President Jeremy Bush is diligently working to find alternative solutions and is currently in active negotiations to resolve these proposed changes and he has already begun to reinforce PAC strength for the upcoming election process.

As you can see, there is no rest for firefighters across the 2nd District. The summer may bring the opportunity for some to enjoy the lazy, hot days of the season but for the firefighters of northeast Indiana, there will be no rest.

## Third District

**MARK A. MASTISON - VICE PRESIDENT**

### Brothers & Sisters of the PFFUI:

Greetings once again from the 3rd District. As we gathered in Bloomington for our convention, we looked back on what has been a somewhat successful year for firefighters across the state. I say this knowing that not all Locals are doing well. Many are struggling with poor working conditions, hostile administration and no pay raises for several years. But our brothers continue to work every day, protecting the citizens and towns in their area. They continue to do the best they can with whatever circumstances they are put in. The years has to be called a success when, thanks to President Hanify and Vice President Whited, we survived with no changes at the state level to our pension system. With what is happening in other states, we know we must remain vigilant to attacks. President Hanify has done a very good job of explaining the difference between defined benefit and defined contribution systems to our members and reps throughout the state. Our pension is much more than just a pension, but it takes work to educate our political leaders. This is one of the reasons why PAC is so important. Through PAC, we have the tools to make a difference, to have our voices heard on issues which affect our jobs. With your support, we can continue to fight the good fight.

I was fortunate this year to have the opportunity to represent the PFFUI at the IAFF Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. The delegation from Indiana did an outstanding job of lobbying our nine Congresspeople and two Senators. The idea behind the seminar is to give our members the opportunity to meet with politicians and lobby our issues. I would like to thank all of our PFFUI members who made the trip and represented us so very well.

The 3rd District of the PFFUI has managed

to remain consistent during the past year. Leadership has remained strong in our locals, with little turnover at the top. This consistency has helped the PFFUI with the ability to educate and communicate with our locals.

Our annual Remembrance will be held in September at the memorial site on the grounds of the Statehouse. This service pays tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and reminds their families that they have not been forgotten. I look forward to seeing you there and at other future PFFUI events.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Brother John Dohrn, President of Boonville Local #4850. Brother Dohrn was selected VFW State Firefighter of the Year for 2012. This year he was also selected as VFW Regional Firefighter of the Year and in the final three for the National Recognition. We wish him the best of luck.

## Fourth District

**BONNIE HENSLEY - VICE PRESIDENT**

### Greetings from the 4th District to our Brothers and Sisters:

Inside the 4th District, we have had our share of highs and lows so far this year. In February two of our newest union members, Tim McCormick and Cody Medley of Indianapolis EMS, were killed on-duty in a tragic accident with a distracted driver. Local 416 and the IEMS District saw them off with honors that their families appreciated and will not forget. This summer we will send representatives to Colorado Springs to join the families in honoring them at the IAFF memorial. They will be added to the state memorial in 2014.

FDIC was once again a huge success. L416 hosts an open house and pumper pull competition on Friday each year. Mark your calendar for April 11, 2014 if you would like to join us.

Progress continues in our districts, with the Telecommunicators and IEMS continuing the slow but steady march toward a contract. Efforts to address staffing issues and shortages are being pursued in most districts. L416 is working with the city of Lawrence to find positive alternatives to layoffs. Beech Grove recently secured a contract.

Our districts of Wayne, Decatur and Pike have joined in a shared hiring process with a few other neighboring departments. The process has closed to applications and is ongoing.

Mark your calendars for August 8th from 8:30am-12:00pm to help at the Indiana State Fair "Fishing with Firefighters." Contact me or L416 President Mike Reeves if you would

like to help. Firefighters from around the state are welcome.

At the convention I spoke to the delegates about the Wellness/Fitness Committee of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association and Public Safety Medical. They have applications for their LIFE (Leadership In Fitness Excellence) Award out, with a deadline of Wednesday, July 24. This award has categories for Career and Combined/Volunteer Departments. If your department has put into practice an exemplary effort to improve the wellness and fitness of your personnel, please consider applying. Winners can receive prizes along with public recognition for best practice and model programs. Email me for a nomination form. Yes, you can nominate your department if your administration did not get it done. All you need is your chief's signature. If your department does not have any exemplary efforts, then this is an opportunity for growth. The Wellness-Fitness Toolbox is free to all. The purpose of this document is to provide our fire administrations and labor leaders with program ideas they can implement to improve the wellness and fitness of their personnel. Email me at [bonnie.hensley1@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.hensley1@gmail.com) for either the LIFE Award app or the Wellness-Fitness Toolbox.

With the PFFUI Convention just behind us, I will close by thanking Bloomington for a great job hosting again. The effort and planning that went into putting it all together was obvious to all, and the fish fry was definitely one to beat. It is good to see old and new faces from around the state and hear firsthand what is going on. Stay safe.

## Fifth District

**TONY MURRAY - VICE PRESIDENT**

The 37th Annual PFFUI Convention recently gaveled out in Bloomington. Thank you to Local President Bob Loviscek and members of Bloomington Metro Firefighters Local 586 for all their work in making us feel welcome in the home of IU. This convention provided information on several topics important to our members across the state as well as to assist local leadership. Important information concerning the recent legislative session may be found in VP Whited's report. A full summary of the convention is available in Secretary-Treasurer Pinkham's report.

This summer I will be working on developing a Labor Management Initiative workshop to be held in the fall. This workshop would replace our fall district meeting. The vision is to create a one day

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workshop for local presidents, executive board members, and fire chiefs from the same department to attend together. The point of the workshop is to utilize common interests that are important to every level of the fire service to determine a unified path forward for both labor and management. Among other things, the workshop will include a panel discussion made up of union officers, chiefs, and executives. I truly hope your local president and department chief will attend. More information will be sent later this summer.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service at the public safety memorial behind the state capital. September 20th at 11am we will pause to remember those we have lost and take time to demonstrate our respect to those in our service that have recently been lost in the line. This is an important event that is held each year. Please be sure you and members of your local attend.

The summer is a busy time of year for our members and our locals. I understand there are several events hosted by locals all across the state for a variety of great causes. Please be sure the PFFUI is aware of your event and send information to me or Kara and we will make sure it is posted on the website or forwarded via email. Also, I am always happy to stop in and visit your local's event or meeting.

Work will begin this summer to build the agenda for the next session of the General Assembly. If there is a legislative issue affecting your local please contact me or any of the principal officers so that we understand your local's issue and can investigate a potential remedy. Please let us know if you are attending an event with your state representative or state senator in your area and would like PFFUI there with you. This is always a great time to discuss issues important to you, your family and firefighters throughout the state.

Please have a great summer and be safe.

## Sixth District

**ROBERT LOVISCEK - VICE PRESIDENT**

Greetings from the 6th District.

**BEDFORD-** Everything has been flowing smoothly at the Bedford Fire Department. They received a 2% raise across the board, the first in 3 years. A new E-One Typhoon pumper was purchased and placed in service and a new Rescue/Pumper that will be delivered later this year. They had two personnel retire this year with a combined 68 years of service and have hired two new

recruits. For the first time, members were able to give input for the hiring process as well as the design of the new apparatus. There has been extensive remodeling of the Headquarters Station with a new kitchen and living areas. On a sad note, Bedford's department worked a traffic accident in which multiple fatalities including children were involved. Bedford wants to thank Indianapolis President Mike Reeves for contacting Chief Wagner and getting the critical incident response team to offer guidance through that difficult time.

**COLUMBUS -** During this past year, and with the election of a new Mayor, Columbus Fire Department had four Chief's in a 4-month time span. They are working with the current Chief Dave Allman and are reviewing all SOG/SOP's within the Department. They held their first Fire Ops 101 Class and it was a huge success. Local union leaders also had direct input with the Mayor in the selection of the Chief, which is a first and much appreciated.

**SEYMOUR -** Local 577 is currently working with a one-year contract that saw firefighters receive an across the board 2% raise, their first in several years. They look to have some retirements in the next few years and have a crop of new hires that are working out well. They will soon be putting into service new MSA Firehawk SCBA's this month from a grant Seymour received. Bargaining for 2014 will start in late summer.

**JEFFERSONVILLE-** The Local is in the middle of a contentious contract negotiation and could possibly be heading for arbitration. They will have a new website up and running soon, and pressuring the administration to update SOP's. They are also waiting for final touches on union hall and to get the Certificate of Occupancy.

**NEW ALBANY-** Since the last convention Local 410 has been faced with some difficult decisions, but the membership of the Local worked hard and came together, making some changes in the contract to help the City of New Albany while creatively finding ways to benefit the Local as well. Some notable improvements were better retiree insurance, a match on deferred comp contributions, and an increase in minimum staffing. Currently the Local is working with the chief's office in hope of adding another station and engine company. They are excited to see their union moving in a good direction and look forward to what the rest of this year will bring. Local 410 was also granted training by the IAFF and strongly encourages all locals to tap into this valuable resource.

**CLARKSVILLE-** They are still currently

negotiating their contract with the town. They have been working off of their last contract since December 31st of 2012 and are currently asking for parity with the local police salaries. It has been a long and difficult process. They have just recently elected a new Union President, Brandon Skaggs, a lieutenant on the department. They have ramped up their training and are currently putting together a local haz-mat team for Clark County along with Jeffersonville.

**BLOOMINGTON-** Local 586 is currently in a negotiating cycle with the city. The Local, Chief's office and City Administration continue to foster an outstanding relationship and hope that continues into the future. Although the city has experienced some budget difficulties, the Mayor's office has assured us that Public Safety cuts will be a last resort and are not on the table. There are plans for another Station and another 15 firefighters within the next five years. The Mayor has also committed a million dollars for a heavy rescue truck and all the training for Bloomington to become a certified rescue team.

Lastly, Bloomington Local 586 was proud to host the 2013 convention. My Executive Board and the membership put in countless hours to make the delegates experience here in Bloomington a fun one. They did an outstanding job and I am very proud of my Local. It was an honor to host this year's convention, and I count each and every one of you as my Brother or Sister.

Semper Fi.



**Check us out on facebook to keep up on events around the state and connect with your other Brothers and Sisters!**

# Around the PFFUI

## News from Carmel Professional Firefighters Local 4444:

Carmel Local 4444 hosted their first WPE 101 on May 10th. This event was attended by several local physical therapists and a knee surgeon. Each attendee went through the Work Performance Evaluation course in order to familiarize them with our job functions. Understanding exactly what we do will enable them to design the best physical therapy for getting L4444 firefighters back on the rig.

## Jeffersonville Local 558

**MATT MCDOWELL**  
**PRESIDENT, JEFFERSONVILLE LOCAL 558**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past month a fellow brother, from Jeffersonville Local 558, had a fire in his home and it was a total loss. Brother Dickey and his 11 month old child went to the hospital for smoke inhalation and were later released with a clean bill of health. Brother Dickey's wife was at work during the fire, at central alarm, and handled the dispatch. They were pretty rattled from the affair and their family is putting their life back together one piece at a time.

I attended the state convention for the first time this year and mentioned the recent loss to fellow brothers during "discussion hours." It was recommended that we "pass the boot" during the meeting in order to help Brother Dickey. In a matter of two minutes, the representatives of the 67 Locals of Indiana gave over \$1,400.00 out of their own pockets. We were completely blown away. I would like to thank all of the representatives and all of the members who elected such stand-up representatives. This fraternal spirit is the backbone of the IAFF and the core of what we do. I have never been so proud to be a part of an organization as I am right now. Thank You PFFUI and all Locals.



**PFFUI President Tom Hanify swore in new Richmond Local 1408 Members Kyle Evans and Nate Ginley.**



**Richmond L1408 President Mike Seal and Secretary Tim Clark presented a 20 year service watch to Lt. Jeff Gindling.**



**Scott Township Local 4915 had a great day helping with a Special Olympics event.**

## Recognition Dinner

Brazil Local 1453 recently held a Recognition dinner to honor the active firefighters and recognize those retirees that paved the way. Fire Chief Jake Bennett presented ribbons to active firefighters for longevity and uncommon valor, along with medals for events during the year. It was impressive to see the plaque with the name of every retired firefighter from Brazil, and to realize that over 1/3 of these brothers were in the room for the dinner. Chief Bennett took the time to recognize each one by name and talking about their time served and careers. It was equally impressive when Brazil Mayor Wyndam spoke about his appreciation for the firefighters that protect him and his citizens. He spoke of personal experiences with the fire service, and reminded everyone that Chief Bennett runs the department and he believes almost all decisions should be made by him. This statement made in front of his department will go a long way to continue the support he gets from the firefighters of Brazil.



The ribbons that Chief Bennett presented to the active firefighters were impressive in that they covered not only acts performed while on duty, but also those performed off duty helping the citizens of Brazil. So many worthwhile deeds are done not on the clock, but because the firefighter is in the right place at the right time to help. These rarely get recognized because no one ever knows. Congratulations to all those that were recognized at this ceremony, and I look forward to the next one.

- Mark Mastison, 3rd District Vice President

# 2013 PFFUI Convention



**IDHS Director John Hill**



**Local 416 Brother Firefighter and State Representative Randy Frye spoke about his statehouse experiences and enjoyed Bloomington L586's hospitality.**



**Local 416 Brother Firefighter and State Representative Dan Forestal attended convention and shared stories about being a freshman legislator.**



**Anderson Local 1262 thanked Jeffersonville L558 and New Albany L410 for their help with an injured member**



**State Representative Peggy Mayfield**



**State Senator Mark Stoops**



**IAFF 8th DVP Paul Hufnagel with Bloomington Deputy Mayor Maria Heslin and Chief Roger Kerr**



**IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger with Bloomington Local 586**

# 2013 IAFF Legislative Conference

**JAMES P. ELLIOTT, PRESIDENT  
MISHAWAKA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS'  
UNION LOCAL 360**

I would like to thank the PFFUI for allowing me the opportunity to attend the IAFF Legislative Conference March 18-21 in Washington, DC. I had always thought this conference sounded interesting but never had the opportunity to attend until I was awarded a scholarship by the PFFUI. After attending and being able to see how our government operates and participating in lobbying for firefighter issues, I will make every effort possible to attend this conference again.



**James Elliot and Mark Mastison**

The first two days of the conference were spent listening to guest speakers explain what issues firefighters are facing on a national level. For those of you that are not familiar with the issues firefighters are facing on a national level, they include: Taxing of our health benefits, Mandatory contributions to Social Security, Funding for SAFER and FIRE grants, and Federal Firefighters being allowed to trade time. All of these issues were explained to us in detail and we were instructed on how to discuss these issues with our members of Congress. The Firefighter Issues Book can be downloaded from the IAFF website.

The third day was the highlight of the conference. We had appointments with each Senator and Representative from Indiana. With having a large delegation from Indiana attend this conference, we split these appointments between us so we all could attend several appointments. There were budget debates going on so I was only able to speak with the congressional aides until the end of the day. My final appointment of the day was with my local Congresswoman, Rep. Jackie Walorski. She was not in her office when we arrived but had directed her aide to bring us to a separate meeting area near the floor of Congress. She was able to leave the floor to meet with us. She was very receptive to our issues and we were very appreciative of her for making time to meet with us.

In closing, I would again like to thank the PFFUI for awarding me a scholarship to attend the IAFF Legislative Conference. For those of you who have thought about attending this conference I urge you to do so, you will not be disappointed.



**Congresswomen Jackie Walorski and Susan Brooks met with the attendees.**



**Congresswoman Susan Brooks**



**Firefighters from the PFFUI's District 1 and District 5 with Senator Joe Donnelly**



**The Indiana attendees with IAFF General President Schaitberger and General Secretary Treasurer Thomas H. Miller**

# Indiana Fallen Fire Fighters Annual Remembrance



**Friday, September 20, 2013  
11:00 AM**

**Indiana Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Memorial  
West Side of the Indiana State House  
Corner of Government Way and Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana**



**R. Tiny Adams Fallen Firefighters Motorcycle Ride  
Police Escort Leaves At 9:45AM Sharp  
from  
CARMEL FIRE DEPARTMENT HQ  
2 Civic Square  
Carmel, IN 46032**

**RIDE IN EARLY FOR COFFEE AND DONUTS  
FREE FALLEN FIREFIGHTER T-SHIRT**

**Contact Ron Meikle at (260) 433-2269 for more information**



Please visit our web site at [www.PFFUI.com](http://www.PFFUI.com)  
for more information  
about these events.

# Calendar of Events 2013



**AUGUST 21-23, 2013**    **IAFF REDMOND / EMS**  
Denver, CO

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2013**    **INDIANA FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS  
MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE**  
Indianapolis, IN

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2013**    **PFFUI NEGOTIATIONS WORKSHOP**  
Indianapolis, IN

**FEBRUARY 10, 2014**    **IAFF PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2013**    **R. TINY ADAMS MEMORIAL RIDE**  
Carmel, IN

**FEBRUARY 11, 2014**    **THOMAS H. MILLER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**  
Indianapolis, IN

## Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC

**The Political Action Committee of the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana desperately needs your support.**



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

Elected officials at the state level of government have the ultimate 'say-so' in the statutes governing virtually every aspect of our careers, particularly our disability and retirement benefits. The state officials we lobby with cross all party lines and we are totally bipartisan in our support of those elected Representatives who support professional Firefighters. These are the individuals who control your disability, retirement, and survivor benefits, and who write the statewide statutes governing merit systems, collective bargaining, residency requirements, disciplinary procedures, and countless other issues affecting you and your family as an active or retired Professional Firefighter .

The Indiana Firefighters PAC relies solely upon voluntary contributions. The PFFUI is requesting each member dedicate a minimum of \$1.00 per paycheck to build an effective political action committee.

**To find out how your Local can start a PAC, contact your District Vice-President.**

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

### Sign Up Now!

cut here

#### Indiana Firefighters PAC Contribution Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Mail to:*

Indiana Firefighters PAC

P.O. Box 15735

Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46885-5735

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)

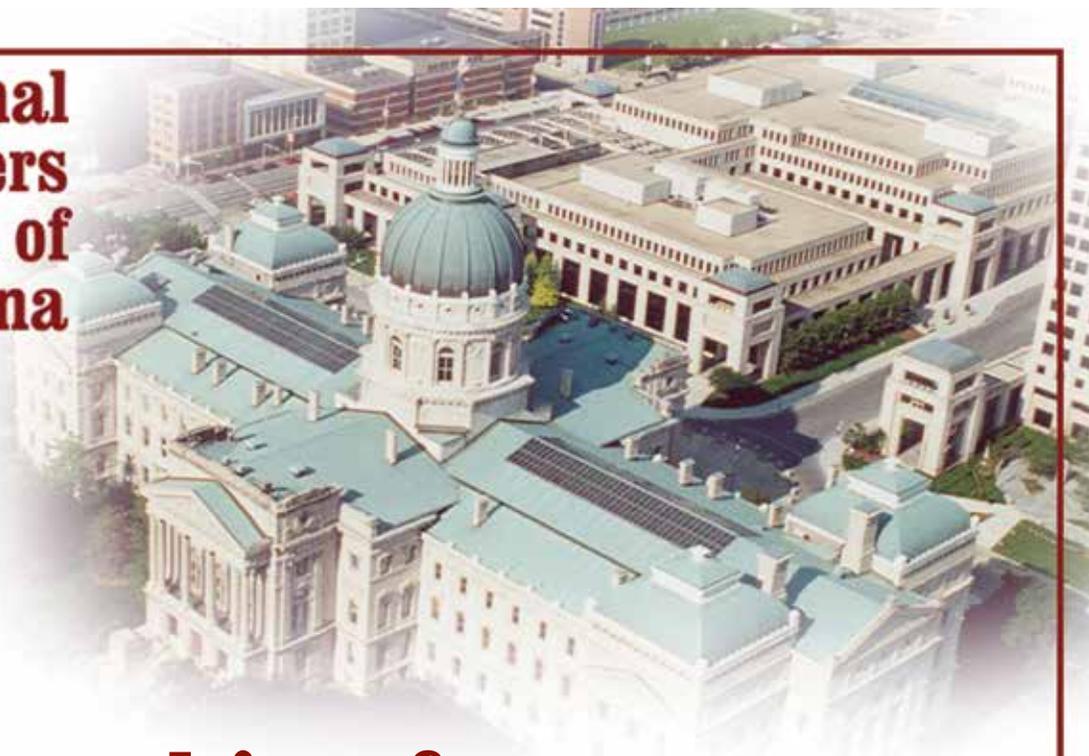
Receive an

Indiana FIREPAC Car Decal

• Photo courtesy of: Nancy Flanigan



# Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana



## We're working for you...

 **Summer 2013**  
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