Brothers and Sisters,

A wise old firefighter once told me “Tom you gotta take care of yourself. This job is going to kill you fast or kill you slow, but either way it’s going to kill you. You need to train so it doesn’t kill you fast and take care of your health so it doesn’t kill you slow.” Thirty five years later I have learned how true and how wise those words from Mike Schenk, then President of Local 416, were.

In my Local we have a strong retiree presence. As a young firefighter, I could walk through the retiree meetings and pick out which individuals did all their service as a line firefighter and which spent the majority of their time in administrative positions. It was also clear that heart and lung diseases along with cancer, was part of the package in the fire and EMS service.

For the past fifty years, our union has been working to address our health and safety. Better training standards, safety equipment and wellness standards have made a difference. Of course, technology has been a huge factor in these improvements: Improved turnout gear, SCBAs and research on the long term effects of the stresses of the Fire and EMS service.

Due to a commitment from the IAFF and better research techniques, we are better able to prove the connection with our work environment and these diseases and work on how to better prevent them. From Project Fire in the 1980s which improved our turnout gears’ ability to withstand the fireground environment to the NIST Staffing studies to the Wellness Fitness initiative and the Cancer Whitepaper which identified chemical exposures, each of these have brought us closer to leading longer and healthier lives. The science is far from perfect, but our union, with the support of the rank and file, continues to push for the study of our work environment, even as it evolves and changes.

But even as we began to better recognize the dangers of the job to our physical wellbeing, we have been slower to acknowledge, intervene and treat our mental health challenges stemming from the job. Thankfully, the IAFF is on the forefront of research on how to best address our mental health. Visit www.iaff.org/behavioralhealth to learn more about the resources our IAFF offers.

Please, if you are struggling, know that it is not a weakness to ask for help. The PFFUI has been working to bring these resources of the International to Indiana. On February 20th and 21st we will host educational classes provided by the IAFF as part of their Partners in Education Program, followed by our annual legislative conference. We will offer three tracks: Affiliate Leadership, Politics and Public Relations, and Protecting your Membership.

The Thomas H. Miller Legislative Conference on the second day will allow our leadership to bring you the latest updates on our progress at the Indiana General Assembly and lobby your legislators directly on the PFFUI’s issues.

These classes are open to our affiliate leaders for very little cost. Please ask your Local officers if they plan to take advantage of this educational opportunity.

Please see Vice President Mike Whited’s article to read about our upcoming legislative agenda for the 2017 session. In addition to these issues we will, as always, be defending our pensions.

We had a good turnout for this year’s memorial which we did in conjunction with the PFFUI Fire Ops 101 class, hosted by Local 4416 in Hamilton County. Thank you to L4416 Director of Operations Colin Fogarty, President Tony Murray and all the L4416 and L4444 (Carmel) members who put in an incredible amount of
CONTINUED FROM THE COVER...

work to not only host a class for our leadership, but also host a Fire Ops 101 that included several state legislators.

I am grateful that at this year’s memorial we did not add any Line of Duty Deaths from 2016. We did however recognize several historic deaths and added those names. It’s important that we pay to tribute and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Particularly for the families that were in attendance, this long overdue recognition was deeply moving. Thank you to all the Brothers and Sisters that participated and attended.

The elections surprised many, including myself. I believe that nationally that the tone in Washington is going to change. Regardless, we will be present, involved and keep you informed. On a state level, there weren’t many changes. We have good relationships with all four caucuses in the General Assembly and look forward to continuing to work with our friends. Congratulations to Governor-Elect Eric Holcomb and Lt. Governor Elect Suzanne Crouch. We have worked with both of these friends over the last twelve years and I have every confidence that they will continue to be thoughtful listeners and consider our issues with the seriousness they deserve.

A special congratulations to Brother Randy Frye and Brother Dan Forestal on their successful reelection bids. We could not have better advocates than these two Brother Firefighters in the General Assembly.

**Vice-President Report**

MIKE WHITED

Brothers and Sisters,

After the 2016 General Assembly session ended, it was a busy summer and fall for President Hanify and myself. We started working on next year’s possible legislation, meeting with legislators, attending meetings and working to ensure our friends were elected this November.

First, I will address the PFFUI’s possible legislation for 2017:

We will be bringing back the bill for the disciplinary process for firefighters. This bill was held last session because we had push back from the Chiefs association. We have met this summer with the Chiefs explaining how this bill would be beneficial for both firefighters and management and I believe we may now have their support.

The next bill will be the firefighter notification bill. This bill was also held last session because of opposition from other associations. President Hanify and I have had several meetings this summer with the associations that expressed concerns and I believe we have worked out the issues and now have something that they can support or a least not oppose.

Next is a bill that will clear up an issue with being in the DROP and going off on a LOD disability, the PFFUI interprets the law one way and INPERS interprets it another way. This bill will clarify the law so we are all on the same page.

Second, President Hanify and I have attended all of the PMOC (Pension Management Oversight Commission) meetings at the Statehouse this summer. PMOC meets during the summer and makes recommended changes for pensions. I am pleased to report that there have been no changes coming out of PMOC about our pension. That doesn’t mean that we are in the clear as any legislator can still file a bill to make changes. One recommended change from PMOC, on behalf of INPERS, was combining the three different LODD accounts for public safety and other State workers into one. We spoke out in one of the hearings about a concern on how this account will be funded if we have a major event in the future like another 9-11, this was amended and it now addresses our concerns. We will watch this bill as it makes its way through the process.

Lastly, we started meeting with legislators soon after the session ended to educate them individually on our pension. President Hanify started doing this several years ago and since doing so we have had a measurable decrease in the number of bills filed that would make negative changes to our pension. This year we met with about a dozen legislators over the course of the summer. We talked about how our pension works and how cost effective it is for Cities and Towns.

Watching and protecting our pension is a full time job at the General Assembly for President Hanify and myself, which is why it is so important to have a full time presence at the Statehouse. But, equally as important is building relationships and earning the trust of these legislators that will make decisions about not only our pension but many other issues that can affect our jobs.

I hope all of you and your families had a safe and happy holiday season.
Brothers and Sisters,

Wow! Doesn’t it feel good to have the elections and all that finger pointing, mudslinging, negative campaigning behind us? Now we can finally relax, sit back, and enjoy the benefits of good government in action. Well, hopefully, but not likely. With the continuing GOP dominance in all branches of the state government we will need to be ever vigilant in monitoring legislation and educating elected and appointed officials of the uniqueness of our profession, the services we provide the citizens in our communities, and why we need and deserve their support.

We’ll strive to maintain that bipartisan support we enjoy with political allies across party lines as we continue to be advocates protecting and enhancing the benefits of firefighters throughout the state. But certainly, we could not have achieved this success without your important support. 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 Political Action Committee. Our goal of membership commitments equal to a minimum of one dollar per member per payday can make a tremendous difference and that’s all we are asking to assist us in our advocacy efforts.

We must be united as Brothers and Sisters in our efforts locally, regionally, and across the IAFF; and like it or not, the source of our strength and our successes will continue to stem primarily from our political strength. Support your Local Union. Support your Indiana Firefighters PAC and support your IAFF FIREPAC.

Our financial strength remains strong and our per capita dues remain reasonable and are the lowest, and I believe also the best value, among our neighboring associations in the IAFF’s 8th District. Our per capita dues will increase only slightly the first of the year from $4.18 to $4.22 per active member per month with the retired-active member rate equal to one-half that amount or $2.11. Our membership presently stands at 68 locals with 6,434 active members and 1,134 retired-active members.

Our Indiana Career Professional Firefighter Special Recognition License Plates remain available both for your vehicles and motorcycles. Your support of this program also greatly subsidizes our abilities to provide opportunities for your local representatives to increase their knowledge and experiences to better serve you. Please remember that authorization forms are not required and we encourage you and members of your family to obtain these plates demonstrating your pride in your career and in support of our programs.

As this year concludes we will continue to be busy preparing for next year’s legislative session and planning our own schedule of activities including a local affiliate leader political educational initiative and legislative conference, our annual convention, and other functions to represent you responsibly and to enhance your local leaders’ abilities to better serve your individual needs. All our programs are offered at minimal costs with reasonable time commitments to enable participation by all affiliates, small and large.

Also, as this year ends and a new one begins please remember to pay attention to the administrative and reporting needs of your own Local Union. Will you be electing new local leadership? Have you scheduled your annual Trustee’s review of the financial records? Please do not forget that no matter how small or how large your membership is, your Local must annually file some form of IRS Form 990 Income Tax Return or your not-for-profit status could be jeopardized. Please inform us and the IAFF of membership and leadership changes when they occur and please do not hesitate to contact us with questions on any subject we might be able to provide guidance upon.

I wish everyone a happy new year and I hope to see many of your representatives attending our functions in the year ahead.

From Portage Local 3151: For our new fire station we decided that we would never be able to purchase a table to fit in the dining room. The table is 5x10. The base of the table is made with a ladder and hose taken out of service from the FD. The top is made from the 1930s gym floor of Beverly Shores High School (Jeremy Himan’s grandfather obtained it many years ago). The 2x4 edging came from a barn that was over 100 years old located on Mike Laney’s property. The decals were made by the Portage High school print shop. We did purchase the corners, which are made from a fire engine. Table makers: Lt. Jeremy Himan, Mark Lewis, Joe Siegal, Chris Crail, Ray Blazek.
First District
JON PARKHOUSE- REGION TRUSTEE

Brothers and Sisters of the PFFUI,
First District Vice President Ed Lomeli asked me to take a moment to introduce myself before the district update. My name is Jon Parkhouse and I am excited to be in the position of First Region Trustee. I have been with Valparaiso Local 1124 for ten years now. I was part of the civilian PERF for a county ambulance ten years prior to that: Always being stepped on and never having a voice was tough and after landing in Valpo I quickly realized how important politics and togetherness really are. I quickly became involved with Local 1124 as Shift Rep, Secretary, Vice President, and ultimately President. I had an interest in our State Union as well. After attending any and all events, from the Memorial, Convention, the PEP and other educational sessions, I knew that the PFFUI was doing important work and I wanted to help in any way I could. I want to thank the previous trustee, Eric Newell of Schererville, for nominating me at our convention. It is a confidence booster when the current and outgoing Trustee nominates his successor. I look forward to working with all of the locals in our district. I can always be reached on my cell 219-898-8252 and my email lpcmedic@yahoo.com.

These have been some interesting times for all over the last few months. First, the Chicago Cubs won their first World Series in the last 108 years and a short time later we had a general election outcome that no one was predicting a year ago. Hopefully Cubs fans don’t have to wait another 108 year and we are able to educate and work with all our newly elected officials. Regardless of your political background we can all agree that if an elected person carries our message they are a friend to firefighters. I want to give special recognition to James Elliot from Mishawaka and his recent win as Coroner for Elkhart County. Congratulations James. Public service is never an easy task but taxpayers should be more at ease when a long standing member of public safety wants to venture down that pathway.

If any locals have upcoming elections of officers I want to wish all good luck. To any new officers that may be elected, welcome and get ready for a ride. Serving your local is not only a challenge but the rewards of representing your Brothers and Sisters are felt deeply. There is so much more to the fire service than fires, car wrecks, and EMS. Getting and staying involved with the politics of the job is not for everyone but important none the less.

Along with elections some of you may have new contracts. Remember, if you have changes to contracts email an updated copy to the PFFUI as well as the IAFF. If anyone has questions or needs help let me know. The PFFUI and its members throughout the state have a vast array of knowledge and the chances are that the question or problem you’re facing has been dealt with before.

Some information from the first district includes: South Bend is in the middle of a hiring spree and this recent round of applicants had several 18 year olds that went through the process which was new for them. President Weinberg said they tested well and were able to pass the CPAT without issue. Hobart and the hard work they have done with the city has largely opened up communications. Due to this the members will see a 5% pay increase for the next three years. Congratulations to a job well done by President St. Myers.

In closing I hope everyone had a good holiday season. It was a time to reflect on the past year, spend time with family, and hopefully you had low key days at the firehouse with your fellow brothers and sisters. However, the holidays often bring up stress and suicide rates among public safety personnel. Please look out for one another and if you or someone you know is having issues, seek help. We often overlook our own issues and try to keep pushing along in our jobs. But in order to take care of others, we must first make sure to take care of ourselves.

Second District
RON MEIKLE - VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to our Brothers and Sisters,
The following should make you uncomfortable and angry as you read this district report.

Kokomo firefighters L396 continue to deal with a Mayor and city administration that believe the fire department is nothing but a drain on the taxpayers of their community. After 8 years of cut-backs, lay-offs, attacks on their members and removing apparatus from the streets, L396 President Chris Frazier had enough.

Last fall, as President of L396, he exercised his constitutional right to inform the public of these bullying tactics by penning a letter that was published in the local newspaper. This letter simply brought forth issues to the public that jeopardized public safety and the safety of the Kokomo firefighters. This letter was not political, but merely emphasized the abuse of the fire department and union members. Mayor Greg Goodnight won re-election and the abuse ratcheted up immediately. Within a couple of days, President Frazier was notified of a disciplinary investigation pertaining to his critical letter of city administrators in the newspaper. Upon conclusion of an administrative investigation, President Frazier was suspended for 5 days without pay. He requested an appeal with the Board of Works (whose members are appointed by Mayor Goodnight) and was denied an audience. The PFFUI contacted the IAFF in Washington DC and immediately requested assistance through the IAFF Guardian Program, which provides legal assistance on 1st Amendment issues. A lawsuit was filed against the city of Kokomo and the Fire Chief on behalf of President Frazier. The case is still pending at this time.

During the investigation of President Frazier, clear evidence developed that the Kokomo Fire Department colluded amongst its administrative personnel to stack the board that decides guilt prior to President Frazier’s hearing. At this point, L396 Vice President
Jake Lipinski stepped in to present this evidence and immediately became the target of the Mayor and Fire Chief. As a result, VP Lipinski has been threatened and harassed with discipline and termination. He was eventually left with little choice but to accept 30 days of suspension without pay for questionable policy violations and has surrendered his recourse for appeal. Through this process, it has become clear that there are no checks and balances in Kokomo as it relates to the civilian oversight committee known as the Board of Works. Each board member works for city government in some capacity and is answerable to Mayor Goodnight. If any of these members disagree with the Mayor or rule against him, they will be the next people to feel the wrath of his office.

As a result of this pettiness, President Frazier and Vice President Lipinski have endured emotional, occupational and financial stresses that cannot be overstated. Because firefighters stand together with each other as a family, we will do so again for our brothers in Kokomo. The Professional Firefighters of Indiana will hold a fundraising event on the evening of Feb 20 in conjunction with our annual Partnership Education Program and the Thomas H. Miller Legislative Conference. It will be in Indianapolis at IAFF Local 416’s union hall located at 748 Massachusetts Ave from 6-8pm on February 20. Stop by to support these two brothers who are suffering at the hand of a tyrannical Mayor who seems to work through fear and intimidation.

Third District
MARK A. MASTISON - VICE PRESIDENT
Brothers & Sisters of the PFFUI:
Greetings once again from the 3rd District. With the elections behind us, it is time to move on and begin the focus on what is best for firefighters across the State of Indiana and nationwide. The PFFUI and the IAFF will be vigilant in scouring pending legislation to see how it affects us. Now more than ever, we need to push our members to participate in PAC at all levels-local, state and national. Our lobbyists need to have the tools to be a player in the game. Without our support, those involved in the decision making process will leave us and our needs out. One of my favorite political quotes has always been, “If you don’t have a seat at the table, you are probably on the menu” This is never truer than it is today.

Locals are surviving in the 3rd District, all dealing with issues of one kind or another. Some are dealing with issues with their administrations; others are dealing with member issues inside their locals. What helps all locals is strong leadership and support from the membership. Without both sides working together, it is hard for locals to get things accomplished.

Communication is always going to be the key. When discussions break down, and nothing get accomplished. As union members, we don’t always get the whole story or the facts from the administration. That is when our elected leaders must ask the questions, and membership must be supportive of their actions. We have strength in numbers, and we must use what we have to build on this. Be seen by those with decision making powers, so they know that every decision they make will be known by our voting members.

As firefighters, we accept the known danger of our profession. We prepare for the danger every shift. We wear the proper PPE, we try to eat healthy, and we educate ourselves on what is out there. But our fear has to be the unknown. The cancer causing agents, the stress on our bodies and especially cardiac system. Now, with PTSD coming more to the forefront, we have to learn more about the cause and how to help those who need it. Never be afraid to ask for help, or be willing to talk to those who need help. The PPFUI is always a resource for you to use. We host our PEP seminars and conventions which are a way for union leaders to meet and learn from one another. Your PPFUI Executive Board is always just a phone call, text or email away.

I look forward to seeing you at future events. We must always be Union Strong.
Greetings from the Fourth District,

We had a good summer with a lot of successes and activities. Local 416 was busy with the Easter Egg Hunt, St. Patty’s Day, FDIC, Mini Marathon, Family Night at the Indians Game, DNR Fish with a firefighter, July 4th Celebrations, a whole host of golf outings and so much more. These Family events really go a long way to keeping our families involved in what we do. Thank you to all the Districts and volunteers that make these events happen.

Local 416 and IFD hosted the fire ground survival training including Train the Trainer that the IAFF provides. The trailer provides training opportunities that cannot be accomplished by everyone and it is an honor for this resource from the IAFF to be in our area and available to be used by so many.

Indianapolis was the host city to the National Conference of Mayors and Local 416 was given the honor to host a Fire Ops 101 for many of the Mayors across the country and it was a resounding success. Everyone had a good time, stayed safe and has a newfound respect for our profession. These Fire Ops programs are making impacts all across the country. Thanks to IFD’s District President Hank Harris for heading up the event and making it a great day for all involved.

The DNR’s fish with a firefighter day went off without a hitch at the Indiana State Fair and gave many kids their first opportunity to fish. We had Fire trucks on hand and a lot of firefighters so the kids could have a good experience. This is a State event so if you or a crew are interested, let me know and I can get you involved. You will have a great time and make a big impact.

The PFFUI convention and Golf outing went very well and sounds like everyone had a great time. A special thanks to Local 416 and Mike Reeves for all their help in logistics and providing anything we needed. The only issue we had was getting Loviscek to the right golf course. We will keep a closer eye on him next year or should I say Muncie will need to keep an eye on him. There is always one.

Mike Reeves is heading for a well-deserved retirement starting the first of the year. He’s hanging up his Helmet and going to spend some quality time with family and friends. Even though he will be turning over the reins of Local 416 to a new President, he has always stated he will be here in any way to assist our Brothers and Sisters in the future. Mike has done so much for our Local in the past; his contributions are simply too long to list. On a personal note, he has always been there to help me through my Union journey and mentored me in so many ways. All I can say is “Thank You”, you can’t be replaced but we will try our very best to carry on what you have helped...
to build. Congratulations on all your accomplishments. You’ve left our Local in a far better spot than when you started and that’s success by any measure.

Speaking of Retirements, our own Tom Miller has also hung up his Union hat (at least officially), but I have no doubts he will always be more than willing to help and answer any of our questions. His Union career is a legacy that would be hard to match. I won’t go into great detail except to say there cannot be enough ways to show our gratitude, as a local, state and International Union. We had a celebration at the New Union Hall and everyone had a great time. Stories were told well into the night. Thanks to all that helped make it what it was. It was a great send off to an Epic Union Leader. Congrats Tommy!!

Our future is important; these Union Leaders have built so much through the years and it’s our responsibility to protect what they fought for and continue to make it better for those that we leave it to. With that said, always look out for the future Labor Leader in your organization. This is a tough business and you don’t always get to be the good guy but your Pensions and Benefits are something that MUST be looked after and that takes talent and commitment. Our Brothers and Sisters at Beech Grove wanted to say a special thanks to Ryan Maddigan for stepping up in a time of need and giving that extra effort for his union. He has accepted the position of Trustee, sometimes a thankless position but a critical one, none the less. There are so many of you that do the same. Keep up the good work.

Many of the departments are actively renegotiating their contracts as we speak, more on that in the next article when they get more formalized. Pike Township had a very successful negotiation and both sides worked together to get a Contract which recognized the Firefighters hard work and dedication to their Community. It’s our greatest hope that everyone will be under a contract by next year and make steps forward. The City of Lawrence had a tough political battle to get in a Mayor that was willing to work with them on getting a long deserved contract and we look forward to seeing the Mayor honor that commitment. Good luck to all the districts in Local 416 and as always, if you need any assistance, it is a phone call away. Be safe out there and look out for each other. Let go of the small stuff and enjoy the moment.

Fifth District

Tony Murray - Vice President

Locals in the 5th District and around the state have had a busy year working on pay, benefits and working conditions. I have visited with many locals and leadership over the last several months and locals in the 5th District are experiencing both challenges and progress. It appears that cities and towns are beginning to turn the corner with respect to the effects of the recession and property tax caps.

The PFFUI co-hosted, with Locals 4444 and 4416, a great Fire Ops 101 event for elected and appointed decision makers as well as representatives from Nationwide Retirement Solutions. Members of the General Assembly experienced first-hand the work that our members perform daily across this state. Thank you to State Representative Bill Fine and State Senator Karen Tallian for their participation and interest in what it takes to keep their communities safe.

As we near the end of 2016 the PFFUI is busy preparing for a new year. Last month the Executive Board met to discuss upcoming educational opportunities designed for locals in the coming year as well as the annual convention. Because it is never too early to plan I would like to remind elected local leaders to make time to attend or send a representative to these important meetings. The Indiana General Assembly will go back in session January 3rd and this year is a state budget year. As always, members are always welcome to visit the statehouse to learn what your PFFUI advocates are doing to help our members and to gain a better understanding of how lawmakers impact our profession and our members. President Hanify and VP Whited are in the halls of the statehouse every day during the session. Please contact the PFFUI office or me if you would like to spend a day or portion of a day at the statehouse. Registration of the IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Summit is now underway. Classes are scheduled in Anaheim, CA January 24-26, 2017. There are numerous first rate classes offered for the new leader to the most seasoned union leader. There is travel involved and this conference may be out of budget for many locals. That is why the PFFUI will again offer similar educational tracks at the PFFUI/IAFF Partnership Education Program in Indianapolis on February 20th and conclude with the PFFUI Legislative Conference on February 21st. This is a great opportunity for your local leadership to gain great knowledge to assist members at home as well as engage PFFUI Executive Board members on the latest news from the statehouse and information on bills affecting our members in the session. This training and conference is a great value to locals because it is an easy drive and the classes and hotel accommodations are heavily subsidized by the PFFUI. Don’t delay your registration. The annual PFFUI Convention will be held in Muncie beginning May 16th and conclude on May 18th. Local are strongly encouraged to send their delegates so that their voice is heard on matters impacting our profession and membership statewide. The 5th District will meet in caucus on day one of the convention in Muncie.

It continues to be my privilege to provide direct service to the members and locals in the 5th District and to be your representative on the PFFUI Executive Board. Please make it your goal to be involved in your local and your state union. If you are a voluntary contributor to the PFFUI Political Action Committee, thank you. If you have not contributed to PFFUI PAC, please consider a voluntary contribution this year. We are working to make better lives for our members and their families each day. Be safe and support one another.
2016 Indiana Fallen Firefighters Remembrance Memorial Names

John “Henry” Johnson
Evansville Fire Department
June 17, 1881

George Brack
Evansville Fire Department
January 5, 1887

Henry Kluke
Evansville Fire Department
October 24, 1911

James Clay
Evansville Fire Department
March 10, 1921

John Kotzer
Hammond Fire Department
June 12, 1922

John Ford
Evansville Fire Department
August 10, 1927

James Overby
Evansville Fire Department
January 17, 1936

Joseph Ribisky
Hammond Fire Department
December 19, 1942

Joseph Loesch
Evansville Fire Department
December 5, 1955

Theodore Lander
Evansville Fire Department
September 17, 1985

James Mastison Sr.
Evansville Fire Department
June 14, 1987
Sixth District

BOB LOVISCEK - VICE PRESIDENT

Greeting from the 6th District. With winter upon us, I for one am grateful to be able to take a little breather. Elections finally are over and we can finally stop being intruded upon by mountains of election mailers and those horrible commercials. Some battles were won and some lost. That being said, we can prepare to do what we do most effectively, reaching across both sides of the aisle and continuing to advance the agenda that helps our members. Each of us can help in that process by continuing to be active at the local and state level with our representatives.

In the 6th District, many of the local executive boards are currently negotiating their contracts with moderate successes. I hope that all memberships continue to support their respective leaderships and appreciate how hard of a job sometimes they are charged to do. I would like to convey my appreciation and respect for their continued work to enhance the lives of the membership.

Indiana was well represented at the IAFF Convention in July, and was very productive in setting the tone for the next two years. Ed Kelly assumed the position of General Secretary Treasurer that Indiana’s own Tom Miller had occupied for the last six years. Tom was also bestowed well deserved Emeritus status by the delegates in attendance. One of the most important issues addressed by the delegates was the formation of a Behavior Health Treatment Facility that will help firefighters from across the nation deal with the effects of PTSD. It is hoped that more of these facilities will be opened around the country in the future to help our members deal with behavior health issues. This once again demonstrates the IAFF’s commitment to help our own. The final night of convention honored Brother Miller for his years of service as a Labor Leader and firefighter. Tom had his family in attendance as a fitting tribute was delivered by the delegates and the IAFF. We continue to be proud of the way he has represented our state and wish him well.

On the 15th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Bloomington Local 586 dedicated its 9/11 Memorial. Special thanks are given to the Ivy Tech Bloomington Campus and Chancellor Jenny Vaughan who provided a fitting area in which the World Trade Center Beam rests. The Beam leans on a limestone pedestal, flanked by two limestone representations of the World Trade Centers on a pentagon shaped pad. Next time you are in Bloomington please take a few minutes to visit the site.

Looking forward on the calendar, attempt to make either the PFFUI PEP/LEG Conference in February or the IAFF Legislative Conference in March. Hope to see you there.

Finally, here is hoping your families and memberships enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. Until next time….Semper Fi.

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 and click on the link to update your contact information.
**Calendar of Events 2017**

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<td>JAN 24-26, 2017</td>
<td>IAFF ALTS CONFERENCE</td>
<td>Anaheim, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 19, 2017</td>
<td>PFFUI EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING</td>
<td>Indianapolis (Hilton)</td>
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<td>FEB 20-21, 2017</td>
<td>PFFUI PEP / LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS</td>
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<td>MAR 5-8, 2017</td>
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<td>MAR 18-24, 2017</td>
<td>IAFF POLITICAL TRAINING ACADEMY</td>
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<td>MAY 15, 2017</td>
<td>BRIAN REED MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING</td>
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<td>MAY 16-18, 2017</td>
<td>PFFUI CONVENTION</td>
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**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.**

**Sign Up Now!**

**Indiana Firefighters PAC Contribution Form**

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

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.
We’re working for you…