

IFA VOICE

WINTER 2022



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

IFA VOICE



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

Winter 2022

John Gullion

PRESIDENT

4111 John Adams Rd
Lafayette, In 47909
jcgff11@gmail.com
765-474-4121
765-427-7858

Larry Robbins

TREASURER

1745 East 47th
Anderson, In 46013
indfa@aol.com
765-356-4168

Mike Connelly

VP/SOUTHWEST

1927 North Dexter
Evansville, in 47711

Jeff Steele

VP/EAST CENTRAL

1501 Norriston Dr
Indianapolis, In 46280
317-416-4295

Rev John Lefler

CHAPLAIN

429 E Main
Plainfield, In 46168
jalefler47@gmail.com
812-457-6314

Judy Kracy

RECORDING SECRETARY

9677 S Armstong Pl
Terre Haute, In 47802
Judykracy@aol.com
812-240-0635

James Martin

BOARD CHAIRMAN

730 East Auman Drive
Carmel, In 46032
acjkmartin2@aol.com
317-846-6347
317-370-6437

Jay Massa

DIRECTOR

8655 Lake Hills Dr
St Johns, In 46373
chiefmassa@gmail.com
219-682-5160

Jerry Reynolds

DIRECTOR

978 Southernview Drive S
Lafayette, In 47909
mg54tf47@yahoo.com
765-427-4719

W Butch Kracy

DIRECTOR

9677 S Armstong Pl
Terre Haute, In 47802
b.kracy@aol.com
812-243-9342

Joseph Davenport

DIRECTOR

7533 Geist Estates Drive
Lawrence, In 46280
boatsbm3@comcast.net
317-823-4418
317-989-5061

Dan Sink

DIRECTOR

54866 Shorelane
West Elkhart, In 46514
574-533-7878

2022

IFA OFFICERS



NOVEMBER 2022

HELLO TO MY FELLOW FIREFIGHTERS AND I.F.A. MEMBERS,

ON NOVEMBER 13TH HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING THE LOCAL 758 RETIREMENT DINNER. THIS YEAR IT WAS HELD AT THE OHIO BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN TERRE HAUTE. WE HAD 3 FIREFIGHTERS RETIRING THIS YEAR. DAVE SIMPSON, JEFF HODGES AND RUSS FEUGUAY. IT IS ALWAYS NICE TO SEE AND VISIT WITH RETIREES AND SHARE MEMORIES OF THE PAST YEARS.

ONE OF THE GUEST SPEAKERS WAS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF INDIANA FIREFIGHTERS UNION, TONY MURRAY. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO HAVE HIM IN ATTENDANCE.

DON SEPRODI HAS FOR YEARS, TAKEN CARE OF THE RETIREMENT DINNER. SEEING TO THE CATERING, DOOR PRIZES, AND SPEAKERS. WE ARE SORRY TO SAY THAT THIS IS HIS LAST YEAR DOING THIS, AS HE TOO WILL RETIRE IN APRIL 2023. DON, YOU WILL TRULY BE MISSED. YOU HAVE ALWAYS DONE SUCH A GREAT JOB.

TERRE HAUTE ALSO LOST THREE PAST RETIREES. DON PRUETT ON 2/3/22, RALPH SERVIE ON 3/24/22 AND PAUL SWIGER 10/1/22.

HOPING YOU ALL HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

SINCERELY,

WARREN BUTCH KRACY

DISTRICT DIRECTOR.

If you cant find your dog, open the fridge

He's standing right behind you



WINTER HOLIDAY FIRE FACTS



- Between 2015-2019, U.S. fire departments responded to an average 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of two deaths, 12 injuries, and \$10 million in direct property damage annually.
 - Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in almost half of home Christmas tree fires. Nearly one in five Christmas tree fires were started by decorative lights.
 - In nearly one-fifth of the Christmas tree fires, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.
 - One in five Christmas tree fires were intentional. These fires were more common in January.
 - Roughly three-quarters of Christmas tree fires occurred in December or January.
- Almost two of every five home Christmas tree fires started in the living room.

A live Christmas tree burn conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) shows just how quickly a dried out Christmas tree fire burns, with flashover occurring in less than one minute, as compared to a well-watered tree, which burns at a much slower rate.

- and \$291 million in direct property damage.
 - On average, 20 home candle fires were reported each day between 2015-2019.
 - Three of every five candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.
 - Candle fires peak in December and January with 11 percent of candle fires in each of these months.
- Christmas is the peak day for candle fires with roughly 2.5 times the daily average.

Holiday decorations

- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 790 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2015-2019. These fires caused an annual average of one civilian fire death, 26 civilian fire injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage.
- One in five home decoration fires occurred in December.
- The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in more than two of every five incidents.



Candles



- Year-round, more than one-third of home decoration fires were started by candles. Cooking started 19 percent of decoration fires, 12 percent involved electrical distribution and lighting equipment, heating equipment was involved in 11 percent, 8 percent were intentionally set, and smoking materials started 7 percent.

Candles caused 45 percent of home decoration fires in December. Between 2015-2019, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 7,400 home fires that were started by candles. These fires caused an average of 90 civilian deaths, 670 civilian injuries and \$291 million in direct property damage.

- On average, 20 home candle fires were reported each day between 2015-2019. Three of every five candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.
- Candle fires peak in December and January with 11 percent of candle fires in each of these months. Christmas is the peak day for candle fires with roughly 2.5 times the daily average.

Holiday cooking

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

Cooking equipment was involved in one of every five (19%) of home decoration fires. This can happen when a

decoration is left on or too close to a stove or other cooking equipment.



A Proclamation On National First Responders Day, 2022

+

On National First Responders Day, we honor the bravery of our Nation's heroes who put their lives on the line for their fellow Americans each and every day — from law enforcement officers who keep our streets safe and firefighters who rush into burning buildings, to relief workers who care for our families after natural disasters and EMTs, paramedics, and other public health workers who provide life-saving emergency care at a moment's notice. When tragedies strike, these women and men are always there to help us, and we thank them for their extraordinary service to our country.

I have witnessed up close the courage, character, and valor of first responders across the Nation. In Florida, Puerto Rico, and Kentucky, search and rescue teams swooped in to save lives in the aftermath of Hurricanes Ian and Fiona and historic flooding. In Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, and California, firefighters battled raging wildfires, even when some of their own homes had been destroyed. In Buffalo, New York, a retired police officer lost his life protecting his community from a mass shooter. Living a life of service and sacrifice is not just what first responders do — it is who they are.

We ask more of our first responders today than ever before. Being a police officer not only means keeping our communities safe but also acting as a counselor and a social worker. Being a firefighter means not only combatting fires in homes and businesses but also suiting up to fight raging wildfires made more frequent and ferocious by the climate crisis. Throughout the pandemic, medical teams and community health workers have been on the frontlines, working around the clock to save lives. Yet, even when first responders are stretched thin, their courage and commitment to service never wavers.

That is why my Administration's American Rescue Plan committed over \$10 billion in funds for public safety and violence prevention, including billions of dollars to recruit and retain first responders, avoid public safety layoffs, and purchase emergency vehicles and other equipment to keep our communities safe. We increased Federal funding for State and local law enforcement by almost 30 percent last year. With my Safer America Plan, I am asking the Congress for additional funding to provide our law enforcement officers with more mental health and wellness resources and to recruit and hire 100,000 more police officers who are trained in safe, effective, and accountable community policing. When it comes to strengthening public safety, the answer is not to defund the police: It is to provide them with the tools, training, and support they need to fight crime and build trust with the communities they are sworn to protect.

The same goes for fighting fires, which is why I, in partnership with the Congress, substantially increased wages for Federal wildland firefighters, implemented new programs to support their mental and physical health, and created a wildland firefighter job series to improve recruitment, retention, and professional opportunities. The American Rescue Plan and the 2023 Budget include combined increases of \$320 million for Federal firefighting grants, helping to fund 1,200 more local firefighters, hundreds more emergency response vehicles, and thousands of protective gear sets. In addition, I signed into law the Protecting America's First Responders Act, reducing red tape for firefighters and other first responders with disabilities to qualify for critical benefits and extending benefits to surviving families of firefighters who lost their lives in training. Because cancer is a leading cause of death among firefighters, my Administration created a special unit at the Department of Labor to help process cancer claims, and I am calling on the Congress to pass the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act to ensure cancer patients and their families get the compensation they deserve.

Today and every day, America's first responders remain on alert and on call, always there for us when we need them. As we celebrate these patriots who have answered the call of duty, we honor the memory of the heroes we have lost. They are woven into the fabric of our national character

embodying the extraordinary selflessness, rare commitment to others, and remarkable bravery that has inspired us for generations. Our first responders remind us that we are a great country because we are made up of good people. Let us renew our commitment as a Nation to standing by them and their families just as they stand by us, shaping a stronger, safer, and more resilient America.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 28, 2022, as National First Responders Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to honor our brave first responders and to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
twenty-seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two





Butch & Judy Krazy,
Jerry & Janet Reynolds,
Rev John Lefler & wife Sandy.
Jay & Pat Massa,
and Jim Martin
attending the 2022 IERC Convention

Last Alarm Ceremonies

Happy Holidays!

It is my privilege to introduce the new Carmel Clay Community Building located at 210 Veterans Way in Carmel, Indiana. This state-of-the-art building will be home to Carmel's Fire Buffs Museum, Stay Alive Family Education (SAFE House), Carmel Fire Department administrative offices as well as offer community meeting spaces.

This location is incredibly special to Carmel firefighters as it was home to the first fire headquarters and fire station in Carmel. Our volunteers pooled their money earned from responding on runs to pay for the building supplies and personally built this structure by hand in 1950. Unfortunately, due to the age and cost to upgrade, the original 70-year-old cinder block building had to come down. The Carmel Fire Buffs Museum has been designed to look just like the original building which CFD firefighters responded out of until 1987. From 1987 until 2019 the Carmel Fire Buffs and IFA Chairman of the Board, Chief Jim Martin occupied this building and helped preserve our history. We are honored to return to this sacred ground where some of our earliest roots of the CFD began.

The first floor of the new Carmel Clay Community Building will house the Carmel Fire Buffs Museum and the SAFE house education facility. Our partnership with the Carmel Clay Schools will allow field trips to our facility for educational programming. Our educational outreach will include engaging history in the fire museum, immersive learning in the SAFE house and hands-on classroom fire, EMS and safety education. The second floor will be home to the CFD headquarters and administrative offices. The third floor will have a community room available for gatherings as well as rental space. The fourth floor features a rooftop garden that affords beautiful views of Carmel's Midtown area and the Carmel Arts and Design district which will be available for rental for community gatherings.

We are grateful to the Clay Township government and the City of Carmel government for collaborating on this unique partnership. The ground was owned by the City of Carmel and Clay Township generously provided the funding for the building. This building will become the permanent home of the Carmel Fire Department Headquarters, Carmel Fire Buffs museum, and the S.A.F.E. house for the next 100 years.

We anticipate having our grand opening celebration and public dedication ceremony in early spring 2023. A save-the-date announcement will be forthcoming. We hope you will join us for this event.

Be healthy and well,

Dave Haboush
Fire Chief
Carmel Fire Department



ABOVE—FIRE STATION FOR THE TRUCKS

BELOW —FUTURE HOME OF THE MUSEUM OFFICES

HAD TWO MAKE TWO PICS AS STREET VERY NARROW
AND COULD NOT GET A GOOD TOTAL PIC



Terre Haute Fire Department Chili Cookoff returns after two-year hiatus

The parking lot at the Meadows Shopping Center was filled with dozens of hungry Hautians on Saturday, as the Terre Haute Fire Department's chili cookoff fundraiser returned. The event helps raise money for charities like 14th and Chestnut to provide Christmas gifts to those in need, according to firefighter Wesley Key. "We typically serve between 250 and 300 kids every year.



It started out as a way to help out our community, and bring camaraderie between all the firefighters, and 11 years later it's grown into the event it is today," he said. About 16 different teams were participating in the competition. For attendees, a sample cost 25 cents and a bowl cost \$2. The chili wasn't the only attraction— there was also a stage set up for local bands to play as the event went into the evening.

Look At This 1934 Beauty



After it was rebuilt in Washington state, a 1934 Seagrave fire truck will arrive in Beverly on Wednesday and be prepared before it comes home to Ipswich, completing an almost 90-year journey that saw it owned by people in Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, and Washington.

The truck was recently purchased by Ora CEO Stuart Abelson, who wants the rig to go on display in Ipswich rather than get stored in a garage somewhere.

The owner before Abelson was James Sullivan, a middle-school STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) teacher in Brier, Washington

SEAGRAVE 1934

Sullivan said his purchase came about as a reaction to COVID and a separate health issue.

“When the pandemic hit, I talked to my wife and said, ‘What am I going to do? Everything’s closed,’ I don’t idle well,” Sullivan said. “I need to get hooked on something.”

He went on to tell his incredulous wife that he wanted to buy a fire truck. A teacher at Brier Terrace Middle School in the suburbs of Seattle, “It became the best classroom element I could have ever imagined,” he said.

Sullivan said, “My brother, Mike, and I have always been in to old fire trucks.” Mike was working on one from 1953 a couple of years ago, and James had also just suffered a heart attack.

After coming out of the hospital, one day he said to himself, “‘You only live once — let’s go get that truck.’ It was probably the healthiest thing I’ve ever done.”

Sullivan said he “bought” the rig from the Ferndale Fire District Retired Fire Fighters’ Association in 2020. That was located in Custer, Wash., further north on I-5 and just a stone’s throw from the Canadian border.

The charge to take ownership was a \$500 donation on condition he do his best to get it running and that he didn’t strip it for parts (some of them, such as the bell and lamp, are worth up to \$3,000 each).

Back in Brier, the truck’s new home was in Sullivan’s garage. “Using it as a classroom prop in my garage for COVID teaching, I began to restore it to full driving and functionality while remote teaching,” he said.

Holding class over a video link with his students, Sullivan said every Friday became “Firetruck Friday.” The truck had been sitting outside under a tarp that had been slowly disintegrating in the elements, Sullivan said.

It had old gas in the tank, the water tank had rusted out, and the bed was painted with lead paint. But on the whole, “It stayed in pretty darn good shape.”

The key to getting it running again was the carburetor, which had been incorrectly installed by a previous owner, he said.

The class, teacher, and helpers disassembled it, and with the help of plans found on the internet, milled three brass parts and reassembled it.

After it was back in the truck, Sullivan was able to turn the engine over for the first time in 30 years.

“Students learned about the truck but also scoured the internet, finding history on different parts and even past owners of the truck,” he said.

However, one missing owner baffled the class for a while. “We *all* had time to spare,” Sullivan said of that period of COVID. But the missing information turned up right under their noses.

“We were surprised to find the missing link from 1979, written behind the seat back, while restoring the seat,” he said.

A full list of owners has now been recorded back to 1934, when the truck was first bought by the Ipswich Fire Department.

In class on Zoom with his students, Sullivan said blue and red lights would flash while he told them something new about firetrucks. The sessions wrapped up with the truck’s siren wailing.

As time went on, Mike and James would get together and work one weekend a month in an effort to get the truck ready for its future return to Ipswich, he said.

“Rule number one of buying a fire truck is having an exit strategy on how you are going to get rid of it,” Sullivan laughed.

“We’ve always seen ourselves as caretakers,” he said. He hammed it up on video to try to drive up interest in Ipswich to find a buyer.

In summer of 2021, the brothers took the truck to Portland, Ore., to the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America’s national conference.

“The rig was now a star!” Sullivan said in an email of the experience. “Lots of rides, car shows, and kids have sat in that new seat since July 2021. A garage full of trophies from car shows, always winning People’s Choice or Best of Show.”

He said he wanted the rig to return to its original home and made several appeals in the last couple of years for buyers.

Jim Foley in Ipswich saw the posts and has been in touch since, Sullivan said.

He put around \$16,000 into the truck and sold it for \$13,500. He said Abelson then had to pay for shipping cross-country, which he estimated to be half as much again.

“Truth be told, I had another person who really wanted the truck and was scheduled to come by in a couple weeks to purchase it,” he said.

But his real goal was to return the engine to where it started. “For us, this is an absolute best-case scenario. It’s sad to lose it, but it’s the best.”

The last call for this truck in Ipswich was to help with a forest fire in Manchester in 1957. Despite being over 20 years old at the time, it pumped 1000 gallons a minute for seven days, Sullivan said.

“The engine blew up on the drive home” and was towed into Ipswich.

In 1964, the engine went to Swampscott for its auxiliary fire department before it was sold into private use 15 years later.

“It had a long history — ’34 to ’65 almost — and a second life in Swampscott,” Foley noted.

He said George told him that as a young man he remembered a fire on Little Neck in the 1950s. Two of the town’s three Seagraves were there first.

“That truck saved all the surrounding houses,” Foley said. “I really wish Bill was here to see that truck arrive, because he would have loved it.”



ABUNDANCE

“Abundance” is an interesting word. It is a pleasant word and a wonderful concept. We know it to mean that we have an ample supply, that we have “plenty” enough. It is always good to know we have enough. We are in a season where we celebrate our abundance. We are Harvesting the crops, preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We celebrate that we have enough; enough to spare, enough to share, and we are indeed thankful people. We have an abundance.

Recently our town had an auction to get rid of some of their abundance. They were happy to share items that they no longer needed, but was still valuable.

I have an abundance of leaves I will share with anyone who needs more – that’s a story for another time. I’m sure you have some to share also.

I wonder if the invention of “garage sells” came from the idea of abundance?

What if we looked at our abundance through the eyes of thanksgiving? In a recent article in the Morgan County business Leader, Ryan Goodwin said that “Abundance is the acknowledgement of what we already have.” That is to say, most of us have enough, most of us have an abundance.

During this season, let us share some of our abundance with others. That way we all receive a big blessing.

John Lefler
IFA Chaplain

IFA
1745 East 47th
Anderson, In 46013

PRSRT. STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Fort Wayne, IN
PERMIT #774

