



FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • SUMMER 2024

IFMA Chapter Presidents Meeting—Orlando

More than 50 people representing 27 IFMA Chapters met during the NFPA Conference and Expo to share their collective wisdom on how to solve the fire safety and fire protection challenges we all face. While there were literally dozens of issues discussed, the top three were concerned with efforts to allow a single egress stairway from up to six story residential buildings, the legislating of building and fire codes, and how to better be engaged with or reengage the members of our chapters.

The Annual IFMA Membership meeting was also held in conjunction with the Chapters meeting. The annual elections were held with a new member of the Board of Directors being elected (page 6), and, there were a number of awards and recognitions passed out in that meeting to include the prestigious Percy Bugbee award (page 4), the inaugural Chapter Recognition Award (page 3), and a Meritorious Service Award (page 5).





President's Corner

The International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) 2024 Chapter Presidents/Executive Board Meeting at the National Fire Protection Association's Annual Conference, held at the Orange County Convention Center, was memorable and successful. Twenty-seven chapters of IFMA were represented, and forty-seven dedicated representatives were in attendance, so the energy in the room was unmistakable.

President Ken Tyree gave a robust review of our accomplishments over the past year, and included the significant progress made within the IFMA member section regarding the Strategic Plan. This was a testament to the tireless efforts of our Board members and NFPA's Robby Dawson. The meeting was a platform for vibrant discussions on pressing issues, such as single exit stairway legislation which is concerning to all of the state chapter representatives in attendance. Participants exchanged invaluable strategies to support local efforts and the breakout sessions engaged discussion that will result in actionable insights for our chapters and communities.

As your newly elected President, I am excited and optimistic as we continue moving IFMA forward in growth and action. Building on this momentum, I look forward to working closely with all our chapters and board members to advance our mission. The dedication and collaborative spirit we witnessed during the meeting highlighted our collective commitment to the National Fire Protection Association premiere member's section. It was also a joy to honor the outstanding contributions within our community, such as recognizing the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association and awarding Past President David Lynam with the IFMA Meritorious Service Award. And recognizing our own Board Member Ken Bush with only the 11th Percy Bugbee Award recognizing his significant contributions to the Fire and Life Safety Ecosystem.

I am eager for us to foster strong relationships with various organizations, such as the upcoming National Association of Fire Marshals conference, where we will have a board meeting and engage with all of the attendees. Together, we will navigate the challenges ahead and achieve our shared goals, significantly impacting our association and the communities we serve. Here's to a future filled with continued success and collaboration!

Laurie Christensen, IFMA President
Harris County, TX Fire Marshal

Awards and Recognitions—Chapter Recognition

In 2022, a group of Past Presidents recommended the IFMA Board recognize the work of our chapters with a “Chapter Recognition Award” at the annual meeting. This year the inaugural award was presented to the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association (Chapter 3), for their work in 2023. From President Tyree’s prestaton of the award:

The inaugural recipient of this award provided 164 classes and over 327 hours of programs to 6800 students and awarding nearly 14,000 CEU hours of credit to their members.

They also work very closely with an organization known as the “Joint Council” which is a collaborative of ten fire service organizations from across their state.

They also serve the state by providing non-binding code interpretations to the enforcement as well as construction communities.

Their Community Risk Reduction efforts span across all areas of the Fire and Life Safety Community and include a separate statewide conference focusing on Public Safety Education as well as their statewide conference which also serves all aspect of fire prevention community.

This chapter has always been an active participant in IFMA activities, and there have been several past members of the IFMA Board, including one past president, who have been members of this chapter.



Front row: FFMIA President Jeff Lucas (center with plaque) with L-R Past President Rick Butcher, Dave Woodside, and Executive Director Jon Pasqualone accept IFMA Chapter Recognition Award

The Percy Bugbee Award

The Percy Bugbee Award is in honor of a dedicated colleague who for more than 40 years gave of himself unselfishly in advancing and supporting the objectives of the International Fire Marshals Association and served as the Executive Secretary of IFMA from 1933 to 1942, and NFPA General Manager from 1939 to 1969 promoting the science and improving the methods of fire protection and fire prevention and establishing proper safeguards against loss of life and property from fire.

Ken Bush, Chief Fire Protection Engineer with the Maryland State Fire Marshals Office was selected as the 11th recipient of the Percy Bugbee Award because of his outstanding contributions to fire and life safety for the past 47 years at the local, state, and national level as an advocate for codes and standards and the processes involved to establish, update, and use codes to further fire safety. He is an educator, and mentor to others throughout the U.S. and internationally.

He has been involved with the NFPA Codes and Standards process as a member and chairman of many NFPA Technical Committees and has served as a member of the NFPA Standards Council and member of the IFMA Board of Directors.

As he closes in on his 50th year in fire protection engineering, fire safety advocacy, and leadership in all fields, please join us in congratulating the Chief Fire Protection Engineer for the State of Maryland and current IFMA Director, Ken Bush as the 2024 recipient of the Percy Bugbee Award.



Ken Bush (center) with Past Percy Bugbee Recipient in 2006 Ron Farr (L) and IFMA President Ken Tyree (R).

Meritorious Service Award

In 2000 the Meritorious Service Award was established to honor a member or members of the International Fire Marshals Association for notable and significant service in the public fire safety fields, including, but not limited to, fire prevention, fire inspection, fire safety education, fire investigation, fire code enforcement, and fire code development, in keeping with the highest traditions of the Association.

This year's recipient has gone above and beyond in service the profession the International Fire Marshals Association having served as President from 2018 to 2020. But that's not when his service to this association ended. He's gone on to be not only an advocate for the mission and values of the organization but continues to support that mission with his willingness to present programs on behalf of IFMA in support of our initiatives.

With this Meritorious Service Award, the Board of Directors wishes to thank David Lynam, Fire Marshal for Kitsap County, Washington and Past IFMA President for his leadership and support over the years. David is only the fourth recipient of this award.



Past IFMA President David Lynam with his Meritorious Service Award



Executive Secretary's Report

Summer in Orlando! What could be hotter? Not only was the NFPA Conference and Expo a tremendous success, the IFMA Chapter Presidents Meeting and the Membership meeting were as well.

The Board of Directors put a tremendous amount of thought and effort into making these meetings productive to the association and beneficial to those in attendance. I think they did just that considering the dialogue and sharing of ideas (including challenges and solutions) among the collective group of fire and life safety professionals gathered. And, the planning is already underway for an even better event in Las Vegas in 2025.

I look forward to working with our new slate of officers over the next year and expanding what IFMA does through our partnership with the National Association of State Fire Marshals at the first collaborative conference of its type in Kansas City, MO later this month. We look forward to seeing some of our IFMA membership there.

*Robby Dawson
NFPA SE Regional Director
IFMA Executive Secretary*

2024—2025 Slate of Officers

President: Laurie Christensen, Harris County, TX

First Vice President: Kevin Sehlmeier, Michigan State Fire Marshal

Second Vice President: Kip LaMotte, New Brighton, MN

Secretary: Justin Finan, Henrico County, VA

Director at Large: Nick Dawe, Cobb County, GA (two year term)

Director at Large: Byron Mathews, Wyoming State Fire Marshals Office (two year term)

Director at Large: Ken Bush, Maryland State Fire Marshals Office (term expires 2025)

Director at Large: Ariana Kistner, Rockwall, TX (term expires 2025)

Immediate Past President: Ken Tyree, West Virginia State Fire Marshal

IFMA's Newest Board Member

Byron Mathews is the State Fire Marshal and Director of the Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety for the state of Wyoming.

Mathews retired from Cheyenne Fire Rescue (CFR) after 24 years as Fire Marshal Division Chief. Mathews has worked through all the ranks at CFR, including Firefighter, Engineer and Lieutenant. In that position, he was responsible for overseeing staff dedicated to fire prevention and investigations. He is a certified Code Official through the International Code Council and a Fire Investigator and member of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Byron is the current Past President of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' association. Byron has an Associate Degree in fire science from Red Rocks Community College. Byron served on the Board of Directors for Laramie County Fire District #4, retiring after serving as the Board Chair. Byron was the City of Cheyenne liaison and Fire representative for the Wyoming State Capitol Renovation and Restoration. Byron is married to his loving and supporting wife Mary and has two beautiful daughters.

The Wyoming Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety was created in 1955. Its functions include conducting fire and electrical inspections for public buildings in the state; firefighter training; fire and safety education; fire investigations and conducting non-structural plan reviews on public buildings; and licensing of electricians in the state.

The IFMA Board welcomes Byron to this new position and looks forward to working together in advancing our collective missions.



In Memorial

Karl Keith Thompson
October 30, 1955—May 6, 2024



Karl Thompson, retired fire marshal and Fellow of the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association, passed away earlier this year. Even in his retirement, he was an educator and mentor to the fire prevention community and contributor to this newsletter sharing the history of the fire service and catastrophic events that shape fire prevention and the codes.

Karl's passion for continued learning allowed him to achieve multiple graduate and post graduate degrees while he served as a firefighter, paramedic, battalion chief, fire instructor and fire marshal. In retirement, Karl could be frequently found with the Florida R.E.T.R.E.A.D's (a group of fire service retirees) sharing his collected wisdom during his 50 years in the fire service with the younger generation.

Family has requested that those who wish to honor Karl make a donation in his name to any Parkinson's Disease organization or the IAFF Burn Foundation.

Rest easy Karl, We have the watch....

www.firefighterclosecalls.com/category/firefighter-history/



Announces the
34th ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY SYMPOSIUM
Kansas City, MO | July 29-August 1, 2024

2024 Theme
Bringing It All Together

Hosted by Missouri State Fire Marshal, Tim Bean, and the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office.

The complex block is a promotional poster for the 34th Annual Fire Prevention & Safety Symposium. It features the text "Announces the 34th ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY SYMPOSIUM" and "Kansas City, MO | July 29-August 1, 2024". Below this is a red banner with the "2024 Theme Bringing It All Together". At the bottom, there are three logos: the NASFM logo, the NFPA logo, and the Carbon Monoxide Safety Coalition logo. A small fire helmet icon is at the bottom left, and text at the bottom right says "Hosted by Missouri State Fire Marshal, Tim Bean, and the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office."

Codes and Standards Committee at Work

The IFMA Codes and Standards Committee is continuing to seek representatives for the NFPA Technical Committees listed below. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees to represent and communication with the IFMA Board, forward an email to IFMA@nfpa.org and let us know what committee interests you, and we will guide you through the application process.

This is not a guarantee that you will be selected to serve on a Technical Committee. The decision on membership to any NFPA Technical Committee rests with the NFPA Standards Council and will depend upon the current make-up and membership of that committee.

NFPA 3: Standard for Commissioning of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

NFPA 4: Standard for Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety System Testing

NFPA 30: Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code

NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code

NFPA 72: National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code

NFPA 88A: Standard for Parking Garages

NFPA 703: Standard for Fire-Retardant Treated Wood and Fire-Retardant Coatings for Building Materials

There is no financial support available through IFMA, however those who qualify can apply for funding through the Enforcer Funding Program.

Learn more about qualifications, expectations, and requirements for Technical Committee membership at www.nfpa.com/Codes-and-Standards

Important Dates and Meetings

July 28, 2024: Board of Directors Meeting, Kansas City, MO

July 29—August 1, 2024: NASFM/IFMA/NCOAA Fire Prevention and Safety Symposium, Kansas City, MO

August 20, 2024: Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)

September 17, 2024: Chapters Meeting (Virtual)

October 15, 2024: Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)

February 12-13, 2025: Board of Directors Meeting and CFSI Dinner, Washington, DC

June 15, 2025: IFMA Chapter Presidents Meeting (tentative), Las Vegas, NV.

Board of Director Meetings are open for IFMA Members to attend unless a closed session is declared. Contact the Executive Secretary via email at IFMA@nfpa.org for information on how to attend.

Chapter Presidents Meetings are exclusively for the President of an IFMA Chapter or their designee.

AS SEEN IN ORLANDO



Even Celebrities want to be part of the IMFA Board



IFMA Past Presidents (l-r) Chris Hiener, Steve Peavey, Ron Farr, Ed Altizer, Ken Tyree



IFMA President Laurie Christensen with NFPA President/CEO Jim Pauley

IFMA Executive Board

Laurie Christensen, President
Fire Marshal
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Ken Bush, Term Expires 2025
Chief Fire Protection Engineer
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Kevin Sehlmeier, First Vice President
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Kip LaMotte, Second Vice President
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Byron Mathews, 1st Term, Expires 2026
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Nick Dawe, 2nd Term, Expires 2026
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Ken Tyree, Immediate Past President
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Robby Dawson, Executive Secretary
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IFMA Chapters

- Fire Marshals Association of Alabama, Chapter 8
Arizona Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 5
Arkansas Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 26
California Fire Prevention Officers, Southern Div. Chapter 27
California Fire Prevention Officers, Northern Div. Chapter 28
Fire Marshals Association of Colorado, Chapter 20
Fire Marshals Association of Delaware Valley, Chapter 6
Florida Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association, Chapter 3
Georgia Fire Prevention Association, Chapter 35
Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, Chapter 15
Iowa Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 24
Fire Marshals Association of Kansas, Chapter 32
Kentucky Fire Inspectors Association, Chapter 31
Maryland State Chapter of IFMA, Chapter 36
Michigan Fire Inspectors Society, Chapter 1
Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota, Chapter 11
Fire Prevention Association of Nevada, Chapter 22
New England Association of Fire Marshals, Chapter 2
New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association, Chapter 21
New York State Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association, Chapter 4
North Carolina Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 12
Ohio Fire Officials Association, Chapter 25
Fire Marshals Association of Oklahoma, Chapter 7
Oregon Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 19
South Carolina Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 14
South Dakota Fire and Life Safety Committee, Chapter 33
Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association, Chapter 16
Texas Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 9
Fire Marshals Association of Utah, Chapter 17
Virginia Fire Prevention Association, Chapter 29
Washington Chapter, Chapter 18
West Virginia Chapter, Chapter 13
Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association, Chapter 23
Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals, Chapter 34

Fire Marshals Quarterly

The mission of the International Fire Marshals Association is to aid in the preservation of life and property by advocating, promoting and providing leadership in the prevention or mitigation of fire, explosions and other related hazardous conditions.

IFMA was incorporated in 1906.
In 1927, IFMA became a membership section of NFPA.

Published quarterly as a service to the membership of the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA).

The articles published in the Quarterly are the opinion of the authors and not necessarily the opinion of IFMA or NFPA.

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