



# IFE U.S. Branch Annual General Meeting

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

AUGUST 26, 2011, ATLANTA, GA

As out-going President of our organization, I proudly note our progress as an IFE Branch and ... enthusiastically highlight programs and activities we use to carry out our mission ... ***National in Service, International in Scope.***

The Institution of Fire Engineers is a global organization comprised of 41 Branches growing around the world. A Branch is British terminology for an organizational chapter of the IFE.

More than 12,000 members populate those 41 Branches around our world, ... bringing together professionals from all fields of fire engineering or fire service disciplines. The result is a robust array of knowledge and skill not offered by any other single source. That resource itself makes membership in IFE attractive and rewarding, ... all of it readily available via our global communication systems.

Formed in 1996, ... our U.S. Branch is one of the newer chapters in the IFE. Our steadily growing Branch includes more than 360 members located in 38 states, ... plus the District of Columbia, ... as well as four countries outside the USA. We are a diverse group coming together from varied



academic backgrounds, ... experiences, ... and fire service training, ... all with a strong commitment to professional development. This diversity is a key catalyst for this Branch's advances. However, ... the number of qualified colleagues who are not yet members, challenges us to continue our recruitment efforts ... and **YOU** are our best agents in that process.

If you are not a member, ... I challenge you to join us. Enrich your professional expertise and broaden your perspective through IFE membership. Contact a Branch Officer (point out officers present); ... or go to our exhibit booth – Number 19 – to sign up for an application packet. We will send it to you next week. Whether in this room or at the booth, ... be sure to ask questions; ... we want the opportunity to answer them.



## Key Programs / Activities

Your Branch Board undertook a process to outline Strategic Direction for the Branch over the next several years. As a result, I report to you our five goals arising from that planning effort (*reference handout*):

### *Branch Goals*

- I. Promote the mission of the IFE through greater awareness across the United States of America and increased involvement of U.S. fire service personnel at all levels – from student to senior executive – and in all functions.
- II. Engage and interact with the governing body of the IFE through appropriate participation in debate and decisions so as to strengthen the Institution and the U.S. Branch.
- III. Foster and facilitate a comprehensive national strategy for fire prevention by unifying fire prevention efforts through focused efforts to collectively and effectively address the fire problem in the United States.
- IV. Foster and facilitate research concerning technologies that prevent and suppress hostile fire; effect safe escape from hostile fire; and reduce the risk, workload, morbidity and mortality among fire combat personnel.
- v. Foster and facilitate the convocation of U.S. Branch members at least annually to disseminate information, debate issues, exchange ideas, and conduct the business of the Branch.



The U.S. Branch must also continue to enlarge our membership for programmatic progress and to maintain financial support.

### *Enlarging our membership:*

In 2007, ... we entered into an agreement with the Center for Public Safety Excellence ... for reciprocity between Chief Fire Officer Designees and IFE membership eligibility. Since entering this agreement, ... the U.S. Branch has welcomed 135 new members. In exchange, ... the CFO program recognized IFE members and awarded CFO designations. We have a similar agreement with the Pro Board recognition program, ... and also an initiative underway with SFPE (Society of Fire Protection Engineers).

### *Financial support:*

As noted earlier, our Branch mission statement is ***National in Service, International in Scope***. To fuel our national service efforts, we obtained significant grant funding to advance vital fire loss prevention initiatives. Since 2007, we have received a total of five grants from the American Fire Grant (AFG) program totaling almost \$2.6 million.



### *Effect progress:*

As we carry out our mission, ... we link the U.S. fire service to the global fire engineering community. This link is reflected in our day-to-day activities and our very successful Vision 20 / 20 program, ... which ties into proven international concepts. Your U.S. Branch provides the organizational underpinning for the Vision 20 / 20 program, ... which includes grant funding.

The most recent grant – more than \$949,000 – underwrites the Vision 20 / 20 initiative. Vision 20 / 20 fosters an integrated risk management program for local fire departments ... that is grounded in national consensus. Applying its five strategies nation-wide will reduce U.S. fire loss – saving lives, property, and resources – imposing a lasting influence on the U.S. Fire Service.

I want to especially make note of the recently released video advocating Fire Prevention. This 3+ minute media gem is an excellent tool for all to use in making the case for fire prevention. You can easily find it at the Vision 20/20 website... [www.strategicfire.org](http://www.strategicfire.org)

Vision 20 / 20 is led by U.S. Branch member Jim Crawford and you'll hear more from him in a few minutes.



### ***U.S. Branch on-going benefits:***

Members receive blast e-mails that reflect international activities, ... projects, ... and programs in place around the world. Through our calls for “International Mutual Aid,” ... we can learn by posing questions and participating in discussions among colleagues thousands of miles away. This ability reinforces the truly global nature of the IFE; ... and you and I get to be a part of all of it.

Members also note from time-to-time, names of your U.S. colleagues who author articles published in ***Fire Risk Management Journal*** – the international voice of the IFE.

Finally, as we look forward to the coming year, ... your Board seeks to enhance the stature and efficacy of the U.S. Branch through:

- Strategic participation in sound programs and projects;
- Tireless recruitment of qualified members; and
- Strengthened world-wide links to exchange ideas and experiences...

...all for you, the members of our U.S. Branch.

***National in Service, International in Scope.***

Thank you.