

OAPFF Affiliate Leadership,

As you know, on March 12th, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH has signed an order to prohibit mass gatherings in the state of Ohio. Mass gatherings are defined as any event or convening that brings together 100 or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, theater, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. This order took effect immediately and will remain until the state of emergency declared by the Governor has been rescinded or modified. On March 15th, ODH Director Acton issued an order restricting the sale of all food & beverage to carry-out and/or delivery only. This order too remains in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Director or Governor of the State of Ohio. Nationally, just today the Centers for Disease Control released recommendations against gatherings of fifty (50) or more.

The Executive Board of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters is considering all aspects of how the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is impacting our affiliates operationally, their health & safety as well as the potential impact on their collective bargaining agreements. You've received updates from Director of Health & Safety, David Bernzweig, and will soon be receiving a bulletin from OAPFF General Counsel Henry Arnett regarding contractual matters local affiliates should be discussing with their employers.

This correspondence will address Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters operations at this time.

OAPFF Office – the offices in Columbus are closed until further notice. We can certainly be reached via email and the phone system at the office has been set to forward calls to principle officers, directors and staff.

OAPFF / IAFF Peer Support Class – the IAFF Peer Support training that was scheduled for April 28th – 29th in Akron has been canceled. The rescheduling of this training is being coordinated with the IAFF.

Political Fundraiser for Representative Brian Baldrige – the fundraising event scheduled for April 28th at the Columbus Fire Fighters Hall, St.67 has been postponed. Brian is a member of Anderson Twp., IAFF Local 3111 and serves in the Ohio House of Representative from the 90th District (Adams, Scioto and Lawrence counties).

IAFF Resiliency Training – the first ever IAFF Resiliency Training which was scheduled for June 2nd in Columbus has been canceled. The rescheduling of this training is being coordinated with the IAFF.

OAPFF District Meetings – in a move that we don't ever recall taking place, District Meetings have been canceled / postponed until further notice. With the orders from the U.S. Center for Disease Control, Ohio Department of Health and the Governor prohibiting gatherings of over fifty (50) people, holding District Meetings would clearly violate those directives. Therefore, the following meeting have been canceled;

- ~~1st District – Toledo – 04/07~~
- ~~2nd District – Cleveland – 04/14~~
- ~~3rd District – Warren – 04/14~~
- ~~4th District – Beavercreek – 04/15~~
- ~~5th District – Columbus – 04/28~~

Our sincere thanks to those Locals who have worked to put these meetings together, only to have them canceled. We appreciate your willingness to host our affiliate locals and we hope to re-schedule soon.

OAPFF 52nd Biennial Conference, May 18-21, 2020, in Toledo, Ohio – active discussions with the Renaissance Hotel in Toledo regarding the recent public health directives and how they may impact our convention are underway. While we understand the importance for our affiliate leadership to participate in the exchange of ideas, meaningful debate and setting the direction of the organization, we also find ourselves in uncharted waters. A sudden compression of available dates, previously scheduled events coupled with the uncertainty of continued or increasingly restrictive public health directives has greatly reduced available options. While we continue to work to find a solution, we ask our leadership to be as flexible as possible in accommodating whatever contingency plan(s) that may be required.

Finally, we will continue to monitor information from the IAFF, the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health and the Governor's office as we determine what we feel will be the best course of action moving forward. Updates can be found on www.oapff.org

Practice a safe social distance and wash your hands.

Fraternally,

Mike Taylor, President

Bill Quinn, Secretary-Treasurer