



# Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association of Illinois

May 5, 2016  
Historical Presentation

## History

The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association was born during a meeting (discussion) of Chief Robert Kraft, LaGrange FD, Chief Ed Gorniak, Brookfield FD, Chief Mike Puntillo, Addison FD, Chief Leo Musch, Hinsdale FD, Chief James Cote, Broadview FD, and Chief Earl Vogelsanger, Oak Lawn FD.

This group met numerous times in the late 1960's to discuss the need for a new defined type of organization as experienced by certain major suburban incidents that had taken place in collar counties and had overwhelmed the resources of the West Suburban Firemen's Association.

After numerous meetings and discussions, it was decided to form a more formal organization and Chief Kraft was selected as the first unofficial president of the group. He was to spearhead the discussions and information to be disseminated to the fire organizations in Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane and Will Counties.

There was numerous gatherings during the latter part of 1968 and early 1969 and committees were formed to prepare by-laws and operation procedures in preparation of a formal election to select the first official elected officer group and board of directors. At this time additional Chiefs had started attending the informational meetings and Chief Elmer Hecht, Bartlett FD, Chief George Hamby, Northlake FPD, and Chief William Vrtis, Forest Park FD joined the group to start formalizing and register the organization in the latter part of 1972.

A formal posted meeting was called for the first Thursday of November 1969 hosted by Chief Henning of McCook with Chief Robert Kraft of LaGrange at the Millionaires Club on North Avenue in the Winston Plaza in Melrose Park. The attendance was overwhelming and copies of the proposed by-laws and a roster of officers for the formal organization was brought forward, discussed and approved to be placed on the agenda for the December meeting to again be held at the Millionaire Club in Melrose Park.

In December 1973, the official first elected board of the organization signed the original application of Articles of Incorporation. It was signed by President Chief Earl Vogelsanger, Oak Lawn FD, Vice President Chief Elmer Hecht, Bartlett FPD, Secretary Chief Leo Musch, Hinsdale FD, Chief Mike Puntillo, Addison FPD, Chief George Hamby, Northlake FPD and James Cote, Broadview FD. The actual first Certificate of Incorporation was issued by the Secretary of State, Michael Howlett on January 18, 1973. This allowed for formal mutual aide agreements to be considered and provided official recognition of the organization by the State of Illinois, the various county governments and the local jurisdictions.

As time went on each individual county formed their own Fire Chiefs Organizations to allow for better understanding on a county basis. Things moved forward now on a more stable basis for training and in 1979, the Board of Directors in conjunction with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association it was decided to plan an annual Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association symposium for those that were not able to attend the IFCA annual symposium held in Peoria in the spring of each year. It was decided to hold the first Metropolitan symposium in the fall and the first

one was held at the Elmhurst Holiday Inn in the fall of 1979. Attendance was overwhelming and far exceeded expectations. The conference was scheduled for 2 days, Thursday and Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm with scheduled speakers in the morning, then lunch was served and then open forum in the afternoon with the morning speakers available for questions and discussion.

In early to mid 1990 discussions were to place the Northeastern Fire Chiefs Association as members as participation at their monthly meetings was dwindling tremendously and in discussions with their President, Tim McGrath and Board of Directors, it was decided that they would discontinue the Northeastern Fire Chiefs Association and all of those members would then become Metropolitan members. This was done at a meeting held on or about 1998 in Mundelein at a joint meeting. After a detailed discussion, a vote was taken and by a unanimous vote it was decided to dissolve the Northeastern Fire Chiefs Association.

In the early 1980's it was determined that it was time to move forward some type of financial assistance for advanced education for firefighting personnel. This led to the creation of the annual Golf outing.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE



To all to whom these Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

Whereas, Articles of Incorporation, duly signed and verified, of

METROPOLITAN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

have been filed, in the Office of the Secretary of State, on the 18th  
day of January A. D. 19 73, as provided by the "GENERAL NOT  
FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ACT" of Illinois, approved July 17, 1943, in force  
January 1, A. D. 1944;

Michael J. Howlett

Now Therefore, I, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Secretary of State of the State of Illinois,  
by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby issue this Certificate of  
Incorporation, and attach thereto a copy of the Articles of Incorporation  
of the aforesaid corporation.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereto set my hand, and cause to  
be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Illinois,  
Done at the City of Springfield, this 18th  
day of January A. D. 19 73, and  
of the Independence of the United States  
the one hundred and 97th



Michael J. Howlett  
SECRETARY OF STATE

(Note: Any special provision authorized or permitted by statute to be contained in the Articles of Incorporation, may be inserted above.)

(INCORPORATORS MUST SIGN BELOW)

Carl Vogelbein  
Leo H. Muech Secy  
Mike S. Puntello  
George W. Hamby  
Elmer Heckert  
James G. Cote, Jr. 1st. of Comm.

Incorporators

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ILLINOIS,

County of DeKalb

ss.

I, Ellen B. Mooney

a Notary Public do hereby certify that on the

9 day of November, 1977,

Carl Vogelbein, Leo H. Muech,  
(Names of Incorporators)

Mike S. Puntello, George W. Hamby, Elmer Heckert and James G. Cote, Jr.

personally appeared before me and being first duly sworn by me severally acknowledged that they signed the foregoing document in the respective capacities therein set forth and declared that the statements therein contained are true.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

PLACE  
(NOTARIAL SEAL)  
HERE

Ellen B. Mooney Notary Public

FORM NP-29

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
under the  
GENERAL NOT FOR PROFIT  
CORPORATION ACT  
of

FILED  
JAN 13 1978  
Notary Public

(These Articles Must Be Executed and Filed in Duplicate)

Filing Fee \$25.00

Rev. 2, 11-65

(44550-20M-8-72) 10

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
UNDER THE
GENERAL NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ACT

(These Articles Must Be Filed in Duplicate)

(Do Not Write in This Space)

Date Paid 1-18-73
Filing Fee \$ 25.00
Clerk [Signature]

To Secretary of State, Springfield Illinois.

We, the undersigned, (Not less than three)

Table with 6 columns: Name, Number, Street, Address City, State. Rows include Carl Vogelsang, Dr. Leo H. Munsch, Elmer Hecht, Mike S. Puntillo, George W. Hamley, James G. Cote Sr.

being natural persons of the age of twenty-one years or more and citizens of the United States, for the purpose of forming a corporation under the "General Not For Profit Corporation Act" of the State of Illinois, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation:

- 1. The name of the corporation is: METROPOLITAN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS
2. The period of duration of the corporation is: Perpetual
3. The address of its initial Registered Office in the State of Illinois is: 25th. AVENUE & 14th STREET
4. The first Board of Directors shall be 6 in number, their names and addresses being as follows:

Table with 6 columns: Name, Number, Street, Address City, State. Rows include Carl Vogelsang, Dr. Leo H. Munsch, Elmer Hecht, Mike S. Puntillo, George W. Hamley, James G. Cote Sr.

5. The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

It is the intent and purpose of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association of Illinois to generally improve the fire service, to establish a communications network between the area fire chiefs, and to work toward the betterment of member departments.

| <b>President's Name</b>  | <b>Fire Department Name</b> | <b>Year Served</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Chief Fred Friedl        | Gurnee                      | 2016               |
| Chief Randy Deicke       | Batavia                     | 2015               |
| Chief Mike Kuryla        | Hillside                    | 2014               |
| Chief John Christian     | Grayslake                   | 2013               |
| Chief Tom Sashko         | Mundelein                   | 2012               |
| Chief John Tierney       | Broadview                   | 2011               |
| Chief Phil Dimenza       | Winfield                    | 2010               |
| Chief Sean Maloy         | Bedford Park                | 2009               |
| Chief Tom Deegan         | Schiller Park               | 2008               |
| Chief William Doherty    | Roberts Park                | 2007               |
| Chief Don Mobley         | Grayslake                   | 2006               |
| Chief Richard McKeon     | North Palos                 | 2005               |
| Chief Jerry Kleinwachter | Warrenville                 | 2004               |
| Chief Dave Schumann      | Schaumburg                  | 2003               |
| Chief John Tierney       | Broadview                   | 2002               |
| Chief Fred Friedl        | Gurnee                      | 2001               |
| Chief Frank Benak        | Western Springs             | 2000               |
| Chief Mark Bodane        | Carol Stream                | 1999               |
| Chief Phil Burns         | Rolling Meadows             | 1998               |
| Chief Jim MacArthur      | Elk Grove Village           | 1997               |
| Chief Shayne Ryerson     | Forest Park                 | 1996               |
| Chief Bill Darin         | Batavia                     | 1995               |
| Chief Steve Twining      | Worth                       | 1994               |
| Chief Dave Fleege        | Wheaton                     | 1993               |
| Chief John Davis         | Oak Park                    | 1992               |
| Chief Terry Droogan      | Bolingbrook                 | 1991               |
| Chief Ralph Blust        | Addison                     | 1990               |
| Chief Ken Ryndak         | Franklin Park               | 1989               |
| Chief Gary Hopkins       | Rosemont                    | 1988               |
| Chief John Wander        | Downers Grove               | 1987               |
| Chief Jame Miller        | Lockport                    | 1986               |
| Chief Warren Richardson  | River Forest                | 1985               |
| Chief George Schlanger   | Elmwood Park                | 1984               |
| Chief James Clark        | Oak Brook                   | 1983               |
| Chief Walter Siwek       | Schiller Park               | 1982               |
| Chief Richard Swanson    | Elmhurst                    | 1981               |
| Chief William Clark      | Westchester                 | 1980               |
| Chief Lucien Bond        | Norwood Park                | 1979               |
| Chief Richard Vachata    | Pleasantview                | 1978               |
| Chief Harvey Koehn       | Bloomington                 | 1977               |
| Chief Martin Hienricks   | Bensenville                 | 1976               |
| Chief Charles Williams   | Bedford Park                | 1975               |
| Chief Elmer Hecht        | Bartlett                    | 1974               |
| Chief Mike Puntillo      | Addison                     | 1973               |
| Chief Earl Vogelsanger   | Oak Lawn                    | 1972               |
| Chief Ed Gorniak         | Brookfield                  | 1971               |
| Chief Ed Gorniak         | Brookfield                  | 1970               |
| Chief Robert Kraft       | LaGrange                    | 1969               |





|      |                  |              |      |                 |                |
|------|------------------|--------------|------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1969 | Robert Kraft     | LaGrange     | 1976 | David Henricks  | Bensenville    |
| 1970 | Edward Gorniak   | Brookfield   | 1977 | Harvey Koehn    | Bloomington    |
| 1971 | Edward Gorniak   | Brookfield   | 1978 | Richard Michata | Pleasantville  |
| 1972 | Earl Vogelsanger | Oak Lawn     | 1979 | Lucien Bond     | Northwood Park |
| 1973 | Mike Puntillo    | Addison      | 1980 | William Clark   | Westchester    |
| 1974 | Elmer Hecht      | Harbott      | 1981 | Richard Swanson | Elmhurst       |
| 1975 | Charles Williams | Bedford Park | 1982 | Walter Siwek    | Schaumburg     |

### METROPOLITAN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION PAST PRESIDENTS

The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Incorporation Meeting was conducted on November 6, 1969 and hosted by Chief Henning of McCook with Chief Robert Kraft of LaGrange being appointed as Acting Chairman. When formal incorporation took place in 1970, Chief Edward Gorniak was named President.

|      |                   |               |      |                |             |
|------|-------------------|---------------|------|----------------|-------------|
| 1983 | James Clark       | Oak Brook     | 1990 | Ralph Blust    | Addison     |
| 1984 | George Schlanger  | Elmwood Park  | 1991 | John Davis     | Oak Park    |
| 1985 | Warren Richardson | River Forest  | 1992 | Terry Droogan  | Bolingbrook |
| 1986 | James Miller      | Lockport      | 1993 | Dave Fleege    | Wheaton     |
| 1987 | John Wander       | Downers Grove | 1994 | Steve Twining  | North       |
| 1988 | Gary Hopkins      | Rosemont      | 1995 | Bill Dann      | Batavia     |
| 1989 | Ken Ryndak        | Franklin Park | 1996 | Shayne Ryerson | Forest Park |

### CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

This Bell was Cast and Machined by the Craftsmen of the Chicago Fire Department Repair Shops. Material used to Create the Bell was obtained by re-melting of obsolete Brass, Bronze Hose Couplings, Fittings, and Tools used by Firefighters to Combat Fire in Previous Times. Hence the Voice the Bell Carries, with it, The Inherent History and Spirit of the Fire Service.