



April 16, 2020

To all members and sponsors of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs of Illinois, I would like to bring everyone up-to-date with the association. First of all, I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy during these difficult times. It is safe to say that none of us has ever gone through the situation that we are facing and dealing with right now. It's an ever changing event with an unknown end in sight. All of us are doing things much differently than we ever have in our lifetimes and no one knows what our new normal will be or when we will get to that point. Like both President Trump and Governor Pritzker said, we are all in this together. The fire service has very resilient people and we do an incredible job making things work by thinking outside of the box and looking ahead and forecasting. By far, the Covid-19 Pandemic has pushed us to our limits of resiliency, but we are coping and working through it. In 2001, after 911 hit, the fire service and police agencies were the heroes and still are. With this Pandemic we now have more true heroes to honor and thank. They include all of the doctors, nurses and medical staff at every hospital and care center that are treating these patients, they include the grocery store workers, truck drivers and factory workers trying to re-establish our supply chain, they include all of the food service workers who are still open and providing food through take-out and delivery among other essential workers.

Due to the Pandemic and restrictions on social gatherings, social distancing and the stay at home order, we have been forced to cancel our annual Administrative Professional's luncheon. This is normally our time to honor those who provide all of the support to us fire chiefs and departments or districts. Without these great folks, it would make our job more difficult.

At this time we have also cancelled our May general meeting. Our Home Day is scheduled for June. We are in the processing of creating an alternative way to still host it, We don't know what it is going to look like yet, but hopefully the information will be coming out soon. I would like to

thank Paul Darley for his efforts and work on this project. We feel this is an important event especially now. More info to come.

The Executive board will continue to monitor the situation and discuss what our future meetings and events will look like. As we get more information on what opening our State might look like these restrictions will dictate our direction. We also know that these times will be creating financial difficulties in the very near future.

I want everyone to know that the Metropolitan Fire Chief's Association of Illinois is still here and very active. I, like all of you cannot wait for this to be over and to move on. I believe there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We will make it through this, especially if we all work together,

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Styczynski', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Styczynski, President