Indiana Conference Reports

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IVFA 2017 Convention; Columbus, Indiana (June 15-17, 2017)
Attendance = 350

Attended the 2017 Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association (IVFA) Convention in Columbus, Indiana. This was a two-day convention that was held together with the IVFA Auxiliary (IVFAA) with a combined attendance of approximately 350 attendees. The convention was more of a family weekend, although both the IVFA and the IVFAA held separate business meetings. During my time at the convention I had the opportunity to hear Mr. Dave Vice, Executive Director of Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission, speak to the group about FirstNet. He is the SPOC for Indiana and was appointed to head the agency by then Governor Mike Pence. I also had some great discussions with Tyler Clements, Field Coordinator for Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission, about FirstNet and that Indiana has been doing talks around the state reference FirstNet. They are looking forward to seeing the State Plan next week and will be reviewing it with separate groups around the state over the next several months.

I should be honest that most of those attending this convention were the more senior volunteers, some having been a volunteer firefighter for more than 50 years. Their understanding of FirstNet was very limited and cost was a key factor since many of the departments had little or no budget. Fund raisers provided the biggest revenue for these department. The convention also included several vendors with small tables set up in the hall and some apparatus outside around the beer tent.

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