

IFPA Meeting Agenda October 18th, 2016

Underwriter's Laboratories

333 Pfingsten Rd. Northbrook, Illinois

11am- Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Vincent Rodriguez

Meeting was called to order by The President Vincent Rodriguez at 11:55AM

All attendees introduced themselves. A special thanks to everyone who decided to come out today.

President thanked Frank Calabrese, Chris Gates of Underwriters Laboratories for opening up the doors to our group and allowing us to not only hold our October meeting here but also for providing us with the opportunity to tour their facility.

Frank and Chris of UL shared rolls at Underwriters Laboratories?

Last Month's Meeting Minutes were read by Vincent Rodriguez

Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes by: **Dave Baron**

Second by: **Don Teske**

IFPA Treasurer's Report – Zach Burgeson

BELOW IS BASED ON MAY of 2016 Mick to confirm if others need to be added

DUAL: 6

Apex

Global

Century

HSA

Victaulic

Fox

SINGLE: 12

F.E. Moran

Liberty

Cybor

Shambaugh

WJE

From Tragedy to Triumph

MVP

Chicago Technical Sales

Industrial Pipe

Chicago Backflow

A&A Sprinkler

AON

Cash on hand - \$15,452.81 (includes \$100.00 in Paypal) **Based on today's accounts**

Paid members – 24

Motion to Accept Treasurers Report by: **Dave Cobian**

Second by: **Tim Turbak**

NFPA 14 (Brian Conway)

NFPA 20 (Vince Rodriguez) – SUBJECT: NFPA 20 First Draft Meeting (A2018 cycle)

Date(s): October 4 – 6, 2016

Shared some information regarding a recent trip to Florida to participate in The NFPA 20 First Draft Meeting on The edition of NFPA 20 2019 Edition (Steve Holzkopf our Alternate on NFPA 20 also added some information on this trip).

There were over 280 Public Inputs submitted. All ballots will be posted on 1.25.17 and will need to be returned by 2.15.17.

Go to The IFPA website under NFPA 20 to view the information discussed in the said meeting. Feel free to comment on any of the Public Inputs shown on the website.

We might want to consider these date when scheduling the January and February meetings.

NFPA 24 (Jimbo Shifiliti)

NFPA 25 (Rich Ray)

IFPA Annual Golf Outing Update – Zach

The golf outing brought in a total of \$15, 996.10 and our costs totaled 13, 329.97 which gave us a total profit of \$2, 666.13

Next IFPA meeting is our Holiday Dinner and it will be held on November 8th. As for the time and location we will send something out to the membership here in the next week or so with all of the details.

Potential Guest Speakers:

We asked that the members please be sure and let others know that anyone that attends an IFPA meeting when there is a guest speaker they will receive 1 contact hour (0.1 CEU) for attending the meeting. (Cocktails begin at 6 and the meeting begins at 7pm).

We are always looking guest speakers for our meetings and would like to ask the membership to please continue to assist us with this by providing topics for our guest speakers. With these topics we can locate the best speakers for presenting on such topics. Right now we are in need of a speaker for our January, February, April and October meeting for 2017.

So if you have heard a guest speaker elsewhere and you find that our group would benefit from having that individual speak at one of our future meetings then please see if you can get their contact info and pass it along to our Board Members then we will take it from there.

Guest speaker – N/A

Guest Speaker – N/A

Questions from the floor?

New Business –

1. The By-Laws have been amended to reflect Section 1A which states the following: **An officer cannot serve in the same position for more than (2) consecutive terms.** I have a copy here so everyone can view the updated version. (Copies were on hand to pass) Vince has put in a request for having the New By-Laws uploaded to the website.
2. Because this is an election year we took a moment to ask all members in attendance to please consider taking on a position as a Board Member.

We have made many changes to the organization and all of that can continue with bringing in New Board Members, New Ideas as this equals change and change is good.

3. Earlier this year Vince mentioned that he had the opportunity to sit in on an awards ceremony that Tragedy to Triumph put on for their 2016 Scholarship recipients. And wow what an eye opener. To hear some of the testimonies given was nothing short of a blessing for him. We think we have it bad in our day to day activities when things go wrong.

Copies of the recipients were handed out and some information regarding how Dahlia Aguilera was injured in a fire was shared with everyone in attendance.

FTTTF has handed out 59 scholarships to date and has never turned down a single child yet. They have handed out approximately \$185, 000.00 in scholarships to date.

Vince made a motion to have The IFPA donate \$3, 000.00 to Tragedy to Triumph Foundation. **Dahlia Aguilera** - **Copies of event handouts to pass**

Motion accepted by: **Steve H.**

Second by: **Zach B.**

4. Just an FYI that we will begin working on a proposed budget for the year of 2017. This budget will be a determining factor on how much we will set aside for the Product Show, President's Night Out, Golf Outing, Holiday Dinner as well as Sponsoring any and all Foundations such as Tragedy to Triumph. Danielle will be working with our Treasurer to establish this budget so thank you Dani for your continued efforts in assisting our association.
5. **With this being an election year** at this time we would like to open up the floor to nominations for the Board of Directors for the 2017 & 2018 Term. We currently are in need of nominees for the following positions:

Secretary, Treasurer, and President. Tim Turbak is unsure if he would like to continue on and become the President of The IFPA.

So if any of you are interested in this position or would like to nominate someone for this position please raise your hand now.

Vince Rodriguez nominated Zach Burgeson as Secretary

Dave Cobian nominated Gen Cobian as Treasurer

Because we had at least 10 active Members (Dave Cobian, Gen Cobian, Brian Conway, Vincent Rodriguez, Steve Holzkopf, Dave Baron, Tim Turbak, Don Teske, Zach Burgeson, Mike Jordan, Mike Polich) in attendance shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of official business of the Association including motions, nominations and elections of officers.

Voting – Each Member or Associate Member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote, either in person or by proxy.

Nominations names:

Treasurer – Gen Cobian

Secretary – Zach Burgeson

Vice President – Mick Bradford our current Secretary would become the Vice President

President – We would require an Interim President if Mr. Turbak does not take on the position. Dave Baron showed some interest.

If there has been more than one person nominated we will vote at the next monthly meeting. Please keep in mind that the bylaws state that you have to be a member in good standing in order to hold an elected position.

Mick The IFPA Secretary will send out an email to “All” IFPA Members in good standing informing them of the opportunity to become a Board Member.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Vince Rodriguez

Motion accepted by: Dave Cobian

Second by: Tim Turbak!

See copies of handouts below

Amended By-Laws

By-Laws of the Illinois Fire Prevention Association

Most Recent Amendment Published October 2016 Voted on May 2016 Meeting

Article I – Name/Title/Definitions

The name of the association is Illinois Fire Prevention Association

This Association shall be incorporated in the state of Illinois with renewals thereof as may be necessary to maintain the corporation in good standing at all times

The location of the principal office of the association shall be within the state of Illinois.

The word “Association” and/or “General Association shall mean all active members and Officers.

The word “Membership” shall mean all active members.

Article II – Objectives

The association is organized for the following purposes and objectives:

- A. To promote fire prevention and fire protection
- B. To bring the matter of adequate and approved fire prevention and fire protection practices to the attention of the proper State and Municipal authorities, the industry, and the general public. The word “approved” shall mean according to the Rules and Regulations of the National Fire Protection Association.

- C. To cooperate in the enforcement of state and municipal codes and enactments for fire prevention and fire protection.
- D. To collect and disseminate information useful in the education of fire prevention and fire protection and current events in the industry.
- E. This association shall be conducted not for profit.

Article III - Members

Section 1 **Classification of membership shall consist of Active Members, Associate Members, Honorary Members and Lifetime Members.**

Members in Good Standing shall be defined as parties that have been dues paying members for a minimum of 1 year, are current in their payment of said dues and any other outstanding fees and have attended a minimum of 5 meetings during the previous IFPA calendar year.

Section 2 **Eligibility and qualifications for Membership:**

- A. **Active – Those eligible to active membership shall be individuals, partnerships, associations and corporations who shall be of good standing and business repute in the fire protection industry.**
- B. **Association – Individuals employed by or associated with an active member in a junior or subordinate position may be eligible to associate membership.**
- C. **Honorary – The membership may nominate such persons for Honorary Membership in accordance with the following:**

Honorary Membership is defined as “An individual who has had a significant impact on or in the fire prevention field, or who has shown sincere devotion to the life safety field, or an individual who would not normally join the IFPA, that the current membership would deem beneficial to the organization.

The individual shall not be affiliated with any past or current IFPA Member or Associate Member.

The Honorary Membership shall not be used as a vehicle for recruitment into the organization.

Members shall be inducted at the January IFPA Meeting. Candidates shall be nominated by a current IFPA Member or Associate Member only. Nominations shall be accepted at any regularly scheduled meeting throughout the year.

The IFPA Member or Associate Member making the nomination will be

required to submit a brief but detailed written nomination for review by the Honorary/Lifetime Membership Committee as well as one of the IFPA Board of Directors/Officers. The result if the review will be presented at a regularly scheduled IFPA Meeting.

The IFPA Membership shall vote on the candidate at a regularly scheduled IFPA Meeting. A majority vote of a quorum is required. The Honorary Membership shall begin on January 1st of any given year and last for a total duration of one (1) IFPA calendar year. Honorary Members shall be inducted at the January IFPA Meeting.

The Honorary Member shall receive one (1) year membership to the OFPA free of fees as determined by the Board of Directors, as well as one (1) year subscription to the IFPA monthly newsletter.

The Honorary Member shall not be entitled to voting privileges on general IFPA business. The Honorary Member shall not be eligible to participate in or on any OFPA Committees.

D. Lifetime – The membership may nominate such persons for Lifetime Membership in accordance with the following:

Lifetime Membership is defined as “An individual (regardless of age), who has devoted at least 25 years of continuous active service to the IFPA, and is no longer representing a Member or Associate Member of the IFPA”.

The individual does not necessarily need to be retired; however the individual eligible for Lifetime Membership cannot be representing any past or current Member or Associate Member.

Eligible candidates will be required to submit a resume’ of his/her history for review by the Honorary/Lifetime Membership Committee as well as the IFPA Board of Directors/Officers. The result of the review will be presented at a regularly scheduled IFPA Meeting.

Candidates shall be nominated by a current IFPA Member or Associate Member only. Nominations will be accepted at any regularly scheduled IFPA Meeting throughout the year.

The IFPA Membership shall vote on the candidate at a regularly scheduled IFPA Meeting. A majority vote of quorum is required. The Lifetime Membership can begin at any time during the year, regardless if the IFPA calendar year.

The Lifetime Member is entitled to receive an indefinite membership, free of fees as determined by the Board of Directors, as well as indefinite subscription to the IFPA

monthly newsletter. Lifetime Members are required to pay for all IFPA social events at the same cost as the general membership. The Lifetime Member is entitled to all voting privileges on general IFPA business and is also eligible to participate in or on and IFPA Committee if elected in accordance with the IFPA By-Laws.

Section 3 Enrollment of Members – All applications for membership shall be submitted to the Secretary with full payment of yearly dues as determined in Sections 6 and 7 of this article. Upon receipt of an application, the Secretary shall add the new member's information to the IFPA roster (database), which will begin the applicable membership, mailings, e-mails and all other correspondence.

Section 4 Rights of Members – Only active members in good standing, or an employee of an active member holding the proxy of this active member, shall be entitled to vote on Association issues presented to the membership.

Section 5 Resignations and Disciplinary Actions

- A. Any member may be suspended or expelled from the Association at any time by majority vote of a quorum at any regularly called meeting after such member having been advised at least 30 days previously of such intent. Any and all rights or equity in the assets of the Association shall be forfeited by an expelled member.
- B. Any member may resign at any time, but so long as such member remains indebted to the Association, the Association shall have the right to defer or reject his/her resignation.
- C. Termination of membership in the Association for any cause, including resignation, terminates all interest in the property and assets of the Association, unless otherwise provided in special cases by majority vote of a quorum at any regularly called meeting.

Section 6 Annual Dues – Each member shall be assessed a pro-rated share as dues for the conduct of the Association. Each assessment shall be paid by March 1st of any given year before being removed from the official roster of membership. Assessments may be established, increased, reduced or discontinued by majority vote of a quorum at any regularly called meeting of the Association. Honorary Members and Lifetime Members shall be exempt from payment of dues and assessments.

Section 7 Current Dues – The current dues for the calendar year 2009 is \$265.00 for a Single Membership and \$450.00 for a Dual Membership. A Single Membership includes one dinner at each regularly scheduled IFPA Meeting, one mailing to any address approved by the subscriber and unlimited e-mail addresses for electronic information. A Dual Membership includes two dinners at each regularly scheduled IFPA Meeting, two mailings to any address approved by the subscriber and unlimited e-mail addresses for

electronic information. Additional dinners can be purchased at any IFPA Meeting at costs of \$40.00 per seating.

Section 8 **Penalty – The failure of any member to pay the dues assessed herein shall be sufficient cause for discipline at the discretion of the Board of Directors, who may suspend or expel the delinquent member and deprive him of the rights and privileges of the Association. A member will be considered to be no longer in good standing if annual dues are not received by the Association in accordance with Section 6 of this Article.**

Section 9 **Liquidation – Upon dissolution or liquidation of the Association, the property or its proceeds shall be governed by the Association Administrator and IFPA Association.**

Article IV - Officers

Section 1 **Officers – Officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Association Administrator who shall be elected by the membership and serve a two (2) year term beginning in January and continuing for the next consecutive twenty four (24) months without interruption. The officers shall serve without salary.**

Section 1A **An officer cannot serve in the same position for more than (2) consecutive terms.**

Section 2 **Duties of the Officers**

Section 2A **President – The president shall be chief executive officer of the Association.**

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Members of the Association or of the Board of Directors.

The President shall see that the Bylaws and Regulations of the Association are enforced, and shall perform all other duties that may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

The President should sign all written contracts and obligations of the Association, however, any officer may sign such documents with the consent of the President.

With the consent of the Association, the President shall make appointments to new and/or established committees as the Association may authorize.

The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

The President is expected to perform other duties which include, but is not limited to; preside over the monthly IFPA meetings, selection of the monthly meeting location(s) and menu(s), schedule and chair officers meetings, initiate, schedule and chair mid-summer yearly budgeting meeting, forward any and all information and documentation of official IFPA business to the Secretary for permanent file and provide for the storage of all IFPA inventory (files, apparel, supplies, etc.).

Section 2B Vice President – In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall have the powers and duties of the President, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2C Secretary – The Secretary shall keep record of the proceedings of the Association and of the Board of Directors.

In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Secretary shall have the powers and duties of the President.

The Secretary is expected to perform other duties which include, but is not limited to; keep accurate meeting minutes of each regularly scheduled meeting (and Officers meetings), publish the aforementioned minutes in a timely manner (not later than two (2) weeks prior to the next meeting), mail, fax, post on the IFPA website and/or e-mail meeting minutes and invitations to the membership (or Officers), keep an accurate record of attendees at all IFPA meetings, receive all membership applications for processing, keep an updated and accurate roster of the IFPA membership, receive and distribute all official IFPA business to the appropriate Officer(s) or Committee Chairperson(s), assist the Treasurer with invoicing members for dues, dinners, golfing and special events and, if necessary, assist the Treasurer with the balancing of the checkbook and tracking late payments from invoices. The current secretary shall also be designated as the IFPA Website Administrator. The Website Administrator is responsible for managing website changes and working with internal web development procedures in order to support new or changing website efforts. The secretary is involved in website page development, design and providing new layouts, when applicable.

The current Secretary must be able, willing and available to assist the newly elected Secretary to perform the duties described herein, including assistance in software applications and transferring of all recorded information.

Section 2D Treasurer – The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the monies of the Association.

The Treasurer shall deposit all monies in the name of the Association in a bank approved by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer shall pay all bills of the Association upon the signature of the officer or committee having authority to make such expenditures.

The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Association balanced and accurate, showing all receipts and disbursements current within a thirty (30) day period. This account balance shall be forwarded to each current IFPA Officer every thirty (30) days. These records shall be open to the inspection of members of the Association at all times.

The Treasurer is expected to perform other duties which include, but is not limited to; Take meeting minutes at regularly scheduled meetings in the absence of the Secretary, provide and publish monthly Treasurer's Report, invoice IFPA Members for dues, dinners, golf, and/or any other IFPA events requiring special costs, keep track and follow up on such invoices and work closely with the Secretary on all financial issues concerning receipt and disbursement of funds.

The current Treasurer must be able, willing and available to assist the newly elected Treasurer to perform the duties described herein, including assistance in software applications and transferring of all recorded information.

Section 2E Association Administrator – The Association Administrator is solely responsible to keep an updated and accurate record of:

Insurance Policies

Tax Records

Federal, State, County and Local Association filing and charter information

The Association Administrator is responsible to keep updated and accurate record of all past and current IFPA Committee members and Officers.

Section 3 Removal – Any officer / NFPA Committee Members / NFPA Committee Members Alternate may be removed by majority vote or a quorum at any regularly called meeting of the Association, after such officer / NFPA Committee Members / NFPA Committee Members Alternate having been advised at least thirty (30) days previously of such intent. Should we consider allowing the membership 30 days notice prior to vote / quorum at the next meeting?

Article V - Committees

Section 1 The President may with the approval of the Board of Directors, establish, initiate and/or create a special committee with a motion from the membership, as deemed necessary to enhance, assist or continue official IFPA business in excess of normal operations.

Section 2 **Membership of Committees – Any current IFPA Member of Associate Member shall be eligible to perform on any given committee. All committees shall act under the general direction of the Association, and unless otherwise provided, shall report in writing to the General Membership when called upon to do so by the President or the Membership. Any committee may make a special report to the Association at any time on its own motion.**

Section 3 **NFPA Committee Members /Members Alternate and Reports – The IFPA currently holds several seats on NFPA Standard Committees. Only current IFPA Members in good standings, Associate Members and/or Lifetime Members may hold seats on NFPA Committees as a Primary or Alternate Member. The representative (Primary or Alternate) must be nominated, reviewed by the membership and voted on at a regularly scheduled meeting. These representatives (Primary or Alternate) shall serve on the NFPA Committee(s) until it is deemed necessary to remove, replace or eliminate the representative (Primary or Alternate) by the representative himself/herself, a motion by the Membership or dissolution of the NFPA Standard. This representative understands that the position is strictly volunteered and the duties are performed without salary.**

The Representative (Primary or Alternate) is responsible to attend Committee meetings as called by the NFPA. The Representative (Primary or Alternate) must also make regular reports to the IFPA Membership and Officers on a quarterly basis, even if no action has taken place on behalf of the NFPA Standard. This report must be submitted to the current Secretary for publication in the IFPA Newsletter. The Representative (Primary or Alternate), should attend IFPA meetings regularly to give verbal reports. Article IV, Section 3 applies to any and all NFPA Standard Committee Representatives (Primary or Alternate).

Article VI – Meetings and Voting

Section 1 **Regular Meetings – A regular meeting of the Association shall be held on the second Tuesday of each of the following months; January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November unless circumstances dictate otherwise.**

Section 2 **Special Meetings – A special meeting of the Association shall be held at any time upon written call of the President. Notice of such special meeting shall be mailed (e-mailed, Faxed, etc.) to all members at least one (1) week prior to the date thereof.**

- Section 3** Place of Meeting – The Association shall establish meeting locations with due notice to members on a regular basis.
- Section 4** Voting – Each Member or Associate Member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote, either in person or by proxy.
- Section 5** Quorum – At least 10 active Members in attendance shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of official business of the Association including motions, nominations and elections of officers.

Article VII – Elections

- Section 1** Procedure – A nominating committee consisting of at least three (3) active members shall be chaired by the Vice President throughout his/her term. This committee shall present to the Membership at the October meeting a list of nominations for all officers and vacancies to be filled. Additional floor nominations may be made at this meeting by any Member or Associate Member provided a second to the nomination is received, the nominee is a “Member in Good Standing” and the nominee is agreeable to accepting the position. Nominations will be accepted via US Mail, Fax, Phone or e-Mail as long as the nomination is received by the IFPA nominating committee, is given adequate notice if such correspondence, and it can be presented at the October meeting for discussion on the floor. **ALL NOMINATED CANDIDATES MUST BE PRESENTED WITH THESE BY-LAWS UPON NOMINATION, READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE BY-LAWS AND AGREE IN WRITING TO UPHOLD THESE BY-LAWS IF ELECTED TO OFFICE.**
- Section 2** Time of Election – The nomination of Officers shall be held at each regularly scheduled October meeting of an even numbered year. The election of Officers of the Association shall be held at the regularly scheduled November meeting of the same year.
- Section 3** Election Procedure – All voting for Officers at an election shall be by a “show of hands, motion to accept, second and all those in favor – all those opposed”
- Section 4** Taking Office – New Officers elected shall be inducted at the close of business and before adjournment of the January meeting following each election.

Article VIII – Rules of Procedure

- Section 1** Requirements – The Association requires that all Officers of the IFPA be familiar with the latest edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order”
- Section 2** Procedure – “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall govern all meetings.

Article IX – Amendments

These Bylaws may be repealed, modified, altered, amended or new Bylaws adopted, at any regularly called meeting of the Association by majority vote of a quorum.

Scholarship Recipients

Tragedy to Triumph Foundation 2016 Scholarship Recipients

The 2016 Barbara Letenser memorial scholarship award winner, **Jessica Herrejon** was scalded with boiling water at just five years old. Although dealing with severe burn injuries as a child wasn't easy, Jessica considers her injuries a blessing in that they have made her a unique, strong and open minded young woman. Jessica has been attending Camp I Am Me since the age of eight and now has become a junior counselor to give back to young children like her. An excellent student, Jessica Herrejon is entering her second year at Western Illinois University where she looks to gain the skills and the knowledge to become a project manager in the field construction management.



Amari Smith unfortunately landed himself in the hospital for nine months because he was too young to appreciate the dangers of playing with fire. During that time away from school, Amari found himself falling behind the curve. Not only did he have the burn injuries to deal with but now having to make up for lost time during his education. Amari caught up though and then some, using his burn injury experience as motivation to excel in school. This has led Amari to create one of his life's greatest accomplishments: a non-profit art and fashion showcase called "Keep Ya." Amari will continue staying active with the endeavor while attending Morehouse College in Atlanta pursuing a degree in business and political science.

Rubi Miramontes, 2016 recipient of the Jorge Mijares memorial scholarship, was burned at the age of seven. Holding a pot of hot chicken soup on her way to see her cousins, someone ran a red light and hit their car from the side. Rubi eventually recovered enough to attend Camp I Am Me where she gained the confidence in herself to completely overcome her injuries. Rubi now enjoys working with babies and infants, having worked at a YMCA preschool and then with infants at a day care facility. Rubi plans to graduate from Rock Valley College and become an obstetric sonographer because she finds it fascinating to picture a little baby growing in his/her mother's belly.



Jackie Bafaro, recipient of the 2016 Kelly Skiles memorial scholarship, has only really ever known being a burn survivor after being scalded with boiling water at only the age of three. Thanks to a neighbor that heard her screams, she was able to get the care she needed for her 3rd degree burns covering 33% of her body including her face and chest. Jackie has attended Camp I Am Me for fourteen years now and is currently in the process of becoming a nurse by enrolled in the surgical technology program at Elgin Community College. Crediting the nurses that helped treat her as the motivation to help others once like her, Jackie strives to convince young burn survivors once like her that they can still do anything they want in life.

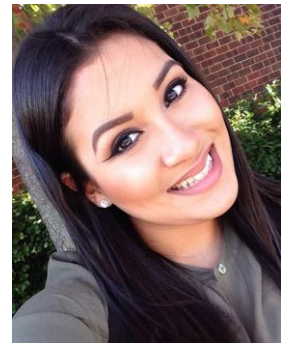
Tragedy to Triumph Foundation 2016 Scholarship Recipients

Hasan Hadid was burned at the age of 9, along with his brother, when a gasoline can exploded and set the house on fire. Hasan bravely helped get his family out of the house and helped to put the flames out that engulfed his mother. After that event, Hasan taught himself how to cook, clean and take care of the house in the wake of his mother's extensive injuries. It has led Hasan toward a career in Hospitality Management with an eye toward working for high-end hotels, cruise lines and restaurants. The recipient of the 2016 Alex Collazo memorial scholarship, Hasan is pursuing his degree at Kendall College in Chicago while gaining valuable experience working as a front office agent at the Trump Hotel and Tower in Chicago.



Marissa Finley, an avid golfer from Plainfield, had her senior year of golf taken away from her in the summer of 2015. Giving her small cousins a ride on a golf cart, one of the children turned the wheel too quickly, causing the golf cart to flip and land on Marissa, causing extensive burns to her legs. Unable to walk for quite a while, Marissa was still there cheering on and helping her teammates through her senior year of school. An honor student at Plainfield South High School and the 2016 recipient of the Tim Miller memorial scholarship, Marissa will now embark on a collegiate career at the University of Illinois pursuing a degree in psychology hoping to specialize in criminal justice.

Dianeli Gutierrez, 2016 recipient of the Dan Yost memorial scholarship, never thought that shortly after graduating from high school and attending a bonfire with other students, she would have her life changed forever. Someone threw gasoline on the fire, causing an explosion that gave Dianeli 2nd and 3rd degree burns to her face and legs. Her injuries have been tough to deal with, preventing her from enjoying many of the summer activities she planned on before starting college, but Dianeli is positive thinker who knows she'll get through it and still chase her dreams. After her experience as a burn survivor, Dianeli is even more determined now to start her college career at Elgin Community College studying Dentistry.





Dahlia Aguilera, a recent high school graduate, unfortunately was burned right alongside her friend Dianeli. It was a trying experience for her and the road to normalcy is long but Dahlia is thankful for her friends that were right there alongside her, supporting her and cheering her along to recover as best possible. She's spent plenty of time volunteering to do community service work through the "Pay It Forward" tour through her high school and also through her church youth group, so it's no surprise that Dahlia is setting a course to become a nurse. This fall, Dahlia will become the first in her family to attend college when she starts at Elgin Community College.

Breanna Bates-Gray is a determined young woman entering her third year at Robert Morris University majoring in pre-medicine with the dream of becoming a doctor, helping to save lives. This dream and the drive to fulfill it comes from the outstanding Dr. Gamelli who treated Breanna for her extensive burns. As a child visiting her grandparents for the 4th of July, a terrible accident with gasoline set Breanna on fire and all she remembers is her family screaming in reaction to seeing her injuries then blacking out on the operating table. But after attending Camp I Am Me for many years, Breanna has turned her terrible experience into a positive by setting out to become a doctor.

