



1949 - 2024



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Years!!!!**

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This program was a collaborative effort of several dedicated individuals of the IAAI membership. The information pertained within was provided by IAAI members, Past Presidents, current Board of Directors and Executives. The information contained within was collected with as much historical accuracy as possible.

Special recognition is due to the 50th Anniversary Committee for their exceptional work on the 50th Anniversary Program of which the information covering the years of 1949 to 1999 was used in this publication. The 50th Anniversary Committee members were Robert Doran, Chair; Weldon Carmichael, Co-Chair, Jean-Claude Cloutier, Ben Cypher, Dean Price, Peter Sloan, Pam Craig-White, and Jack Yates. Thank you all for your dedication to the accurate recordation of the history of the IAAI.

The 75th Anniversary Committee:

Greg Trosper  
 Robert Schaal (President, 2009-2010)  
 Dan Heenan (President, 2015-2016)  
 Jeff Pauley

Every effort was made to produce accurate historical information regarding the IAAI. If any inaccuracies are included with this recordation, please contact: [iaai-expo@firearson.com](mailto:iaai-expo@firearson.com) with the proposed change and include all historical documentation.

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# Tradition, Responsibility, Servanthood...



2007 ITC



2011 ITC



2012 ITC



2013 ITC



2014 ITC



2015 ITC

...formed in 1949 and continues today.



2016 ITC



2017 ITC



2018 ITC



2019 ITC



2022 ITC



2023 ITC

# President's Message

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Chris Van Vleet, 2023-2024

Ladies and Gentlemen of the IAAI, Greetings!

2023 -2024 has been an eventful year for the IAAI. It started with the Executive Director's resignation at the 2023 ITC and never let up from there. We immediately started the search, not only for a replacement Executive Director, but for how we could use this unforeseen challenge to move the association forward.



The IAAI has come a long way since its inception. From an Arson Training Conference at Purdue University to an office building in St. Louis, to an office in the Washington DC area with eight employees; the IAAI has continued to grow and strive to provide the best possible service to our members.

In August of 2022, the Board of Directors adopted a Strategic Plan as a guide to move our Association forward. One of the four pillars of our Strategic Plan is Operational Excellence. With that in mind, the Board of Directors took on the task of looking into how we could position the IAAI for the best customer service possible. We quickly realized that we could not afford to bring on all the staff needed to support over 11,000 members worldwide. We had outgrown our capabilities.

As the Board searched for a new Executive Director, and with the Strategic Plan in mind, we also looked for potential solutions for our administrative issues. This led to the discovery of the association management concept. Association management groups provide nearly limitless professional management resources and technologies, while at the same time offering the IAAI potential long term financial savings.

In August, the Board of Directors unanimously selected Stringfellow Management Group, an Accredited Association Management Company, to assume our operational functions. The Board will still develop and direct all policies and procedures while our association management partner carries out the mission under the Board of Directors' oversight.

February 1, 2024, marked the first day under the new structure. We now have over 13 people working at various levels within our office structure and we are already receiving positive feedback on operational improvements.

On February 12th, after a rigorous selection process, the Board voted unanimously to hire Anne Stone as our new Executive Director. Anne is a Certified Association Executive and brings a great deal of experience in association management with her. Her first day as our new Executive Director was March 1, 2024, and she hit the ground running.

I believe that the IAAI is now in a much better position to grow and continue with our mission. I see nothing but good things happening under incoming President Lawless and those that follow! None of this would have been possible without all the hard work of the dedicated members of your 2023- 2024 Board of Directors. Well done!

I must also thank you, the membership, for your support throughout my time on the Board of Directors and as President. It has been an honor!

Sincerely,

Chris Van Vleet  
President, 2023-2024

# Executive Director's Message

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Dan Heenan, Interim Executive Director, 2023-2024  
Past President, 2015-2016



Seventy-five years! That's quite an accomplishment. In 1944, a group of individuals came together at Purdue University to hold the first known arson seminar in the United States. This seminar was held annually for the next five years. In 1949, a group of participants at the seminar made a decision to form an Association for fire investigators and established the IAAI and elected George Parker as our first President. I can't believe that that group would have envisioned how important the Association would become and how different it would look. They may not have even thought that the IAAI would still have existed this far into the future.

In 1949, the Association consisted of 268 members. These one-week seminars were the first of their kind and were to become the harbinger of the IAAI Annual Training Conference. Initially, the IAAI held its conference annually and called it the ATC since the IAAI was solely a US based organization. Now, we have chapters in every State in the US, as well as many International Chapters, for a total of 83 Chapters.

Training was the key reason for the establishment of the IAAI and was the primary reason for our initial existence. That hasn't changed much, but, in 1949, the training consisted solely of a single week-long training event. The IAAI, in 2024, now has an entire catalogue of training classes that we provide to both members and non-members. These courses are offered any time throughout the year. We still have the annual training conference, now called the International Training Conference (ITC), but instead of having 268 attendees, we annually have around 800. Another major change is how we provide the training at the ITC. I was the Chairman of the Training and Education Committee for the Nevada Chapter at the 50th ATC. At that time, the Chapters provided the training for the conference. The International T&E Committee assisted but it was up the Chapters to identify topics and instructors. Now, the International T&E oversees all the training aspects. This has created the ability to provide an overall better training experience for our attendees. Not only do we have more attendees, but we have different training tracks now at the ITC. This allows an attendee to choose his/her class of preference to better allow them to fill the knowledge gaps that they have identified in their learning.

I think the biggest change...other than the fact that we now have over 11,000 members versus the 268 that existed in 1949...is our certifications programs. Who could have envisioned that the success of our training efforts has led to our establishment of all of our certifications. Firstly, we have the IAAI-Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI). This is arguably the most recognized fire investigator certification throughout the world. It is so valuable that many private companies in the US mandate that their fire investigators have the IAAI-CFI to work for them. We've also created the IAAI-Fire Investigation Technician (IAAI-FIT), IAAI-Certified Instructor (IAAI-CI) and the IAAI-Evidence Collection Technician (IAAI-ECT). Each of these certification/designations identify fire investigators who have taken the additional step to demonstrate that they have the knowledge to become certified. We've also created endorsements to these certifications that indicate specialized training in areas like vehicle fire and marine fires.

I'm sure that those members who gathered in 1944 would be amazed by how our Association has grown and how respected it has become. Here's to the next 75 years and the growth and steps we might be shocked to see.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Heenan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dan Heenan  
Interim Executive Director, 2023-2024

# Executive Director's Message

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Anne Stone, CAE



Greetings IAAI Members,

I cannot begin to tell you how honored I am to have been chosen by the IAAI Board of Directors to serve as your executive director, particularly as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the IAAI.

I bring 17 years of non-profit leadership experience to the organization and firmly believe in the power of a servant leadership mindset. I am committed to supporting your Board of Directors as they drive forward IAAI's strategic objectives.

As we move forward, you will be supported by an incredible, professional staff who are committed to enhancing your member experience. The IAAI team has been hard at work deploying technology enhancements and system efficiencies that will enable us to achieve excellence in all four areas of our strategic plan—training and certifications, membership, brand promotion and operational excellence.

My commitment to the Board and to you, the members, is to spend my first ninety days as your executive director listening, learning, and leaning in to ensure I develop a deep understanding of the needs, priorities and challenges required to make a safer world by serving as the resource for the fire and explosion investigation community. Here is to achieving that vision together!

Thanks,

Anne Stone, CAE  
IAAI Executive Director

## IAAI New Association Management:

The IAAI has partnered with an accredited Association Management Company to provide strategic administrative staffing and expertise. The IAAI's new 12-member team provides credentialed management, training, and certification resources to better serve our members' needs.

### Targeted Email channels:

Membership: [IAAI-membership@firearson.com](mailto:IAAI-membership@firearson.com)  
Training & Education: [IAAI-training@firearson.com](mailto:IAAI-training@firearson.com)  
ITC Conference: [IAAI-ITC@firearson.com](mailto:IAAI-ITC@firearson.com)  
Chapters: [IAAI-Chapters@firearson.com](mailto:IAAI-Chapters@firearson.com)  
IAAI-CFI: [IAAI-CFI@firearson.com](mailto:IAAI-CFI@firearson.com)  
IAAI-FIT: [IAAI-FIT@firearson.com](mailto:IAAI-FIT@firearson.com)  
IAAI-ECT: [IAAI-ECT@firearson.com](mailto:IAAI-ECT@firearson.com)  
IAAI-CI: [IAAI-CI@firearson.com](mailto:IAAI-CI@firearson.com)  
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The Right People in the Right Places;  
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**OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE**



*Global Leaders in Fire Investigation®*

# The World in 1949

- Harry S. Truman begins his term as the President of the United States.
- The first ever President of Israel, Chaim Weizmann, begins his first term.
- The B-50 Super Fortress 'Lucky Lady II' lands in Fort Worth, Texas under Captain James Gallagher. It had completed the first ever non-stop around-the-world airplane flight, refueling four times.
- The former British colony of Newfoundland and Labrador joins Canada as its tenth province.
- Creating the NATO defense alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty is signed in Washington D.C.
- The Kingdom of Jordan emerges; formerly 'Transjordan'.
- Cambridge University makes history, running a program on the first ever stored-program computer.
- George Orwell's book "Nineteen Eighty-Four" is published.
- Albert II becomes the first primate to enter space on a US rocket.
- The State of Vietnam is announced.
- The Soviet Union's first atomic bomb is tested.
- The People's Republic of China is officially proclaimed.

The International Association of Arson Investigators was created.



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

IAAI 75th Anniversary Program

## **The International Association of Arson Investigators, 75 years and counting.**

The International Association of Arson Investigators was formed in 1949, just four years after the conclusion of World War II. The organization was formed to address four primary objectives: to coordinate investigative activities; to assist in securing adequate laws and their enforcement; to furnish technical advice; and to act as a clearinghouse or a disseminating agent for the membership. Three-quarters of a century later, the IAAI still professes and acts upon those original objectives.

### **The Few Became the Many**

In 1944, Professor J.L. Lingo, Director of the Safety Institute at Purdue University, organized the first known arson seminar. With its success, the seminar became an annual event. At the seminar five years later, in 1949, a group of individuals decided to form an organization. After deliberation, they voted to adopt our organization's current name. Elections were held shortly after that, and the IAAI had its first set of officers and directors.

President: George Parker, Kentucky Inspection Bureau

Vice President: Thomas W. Baldwin, Fire Chief East Orange, New Jersey

Vice President: Charles L. Haggerty, Detective Sargeant, Buffalo Police Department

Secretary: Roderick Goeriz, Detective Inspector Arson Squad, Detroit Fire Department

Treasurer: S.T. Sides, Lieutenant, Arson Investigation, Columbus Fire Department

Director: A. Bruce Beilaski, Assistant General Manager, The National Board of Fire Underwriters

Director: Charles S. Morgan, The National Fire Protection Association

Director: Dr. R.C. Steinmetz, Chief Special Agent, Mutual Investigation Bureau

Director: Lawrence L. Priar, Sergeant, Pennsylvania State Police

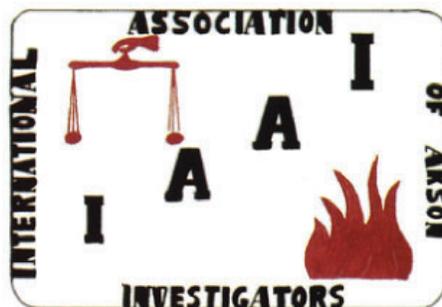
Director: William J. Davis, Assistant Manager, National Automobile Theft Bureau

Director: Professor J. L. Lingo, Purdue University

Director: Professor Fred Inbau, Northwestern University School of Law

Director: George W. Clough, Fire Marshal, Mineola New York

These thirteen founding members recognized the opportunity to form the IAAI, but they were soon to learn how many others were eager for such an organization to exist.



## More Than Just a Club

The IAAI was originally chartered as a nonprofit organization in Louisville, Kentucky. The demand for the IAAI was evident soon after its creation with membership exceeding 750 members within a few months. Over 50 of those members resided outside the United States, reinforcing the international reach and need for such an organization. By the end of its first year, the IAAI had grown to 1,008 members.

William Martin was appointed as the first chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and drafted the first Constitution and Bylaws in 1950, adopted the same year along with a motion to incorporate in the state of Kentucky. Membership dues and application fees were \$1.00.

At the organization's conference in 1950, a motion was made for an official emblem for the IAAI. The motion stated the emblem must include the scales of justice and flames. While minor changes to the IAAI emblem have occurred, 75 years later, the IAAI still honors the original motion.



Late in 1950, the IAAI created the Advisory and Planning Committee, the sole purpose of which was to plan the annual investigation seminar. Seminar registration was \$10, with the entire conference operating on a \$2,000 budget. Seminar sessions ran from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and the expectation was to learn at the seminars, but social events were soon to appear.

### Current IAAI Leadership:



Top Row (L to R):  
Chris Van Vleet, Trace Lawless, David Bridges, Randy Watson, Joe Herzberg, Keith Paffrath, Stephn Rinaldi, Rose Rozmiarek

Second Row (L to R):  
Devin Palmer, Mike Roarty, Dan Rottmueller, Chris Ward, David Brannon, David Cheers, Corey Cunningham, Chris Elrod

## Not Just for Fire Investigators, Origins of the Guest Program

With a training schedule consuming thirteen hours of the day, there was not much time for anything other than education. Spouses were not prohibited from attending, but they were not really encouraged either. No events were planned for spouses, nor was there any time to fit a social event into the schedule. That is until the IAAI met Thelma Cobb.

Thelma is recorded as the first spouse to regularly attend the annual seminar as she would accompany her husband, Samuel Cobb (President, 1962-1964). Thelma's attendance spurred more spouses to attend throughout the 1950s. This group set up hospitality areas during the conference and hosted meet-and-greet events during the days and evenings. This group, led by Thelma, generated the need for and usefulness of an annual banquet and a spouse program, with the first banquet held in 1952. Over 70 years later, Thelma's tradition continues.

The Guest Program has flourished in the 21st Century. Past President Tom Fee's (2006-2008) partner, Kathryn, led the program from the early 2000s to 2022. She handed the reins to Christine Cheers in 2022. Christine has continued and expanded this tradition, providing exciting new excursions and fellowship amongst the group.



2013 ITC Guest Program



2017 ITC Guest Program



2019 ITC Guest Program



2018 ITC Guest Program

The annual banquet, which started in 1952, is still a tradition of the International Training Conference. The banquet has transformed into a formal evening dinner held during the conference and used to recognize specific achievements of IAAI members. Presentations of Hall of Flame recipients, Investigator of the Year, and the Photograph Award winners are recognized during the banquet.

It is also a time when new directors and executives are sworn into their service and responsibilities for the IAAI. The torch is passed from the outgoing president to the first vice president/incoming president. All IAAI Chapters are recognized, some with great flair and showmanship.

The Master of Ceremonies leads the evening, invites special guests, and does their best to keep the affair moving along. For the past decade, the IAAI has benefited from the exceptional talents of David Cheers (Director, 2019-2026), serving in this role.



2011 ITC Banquet



2019 ITC Banquet



2019 ITC Banquet



2023 Swearing In Ceremony



ITC Master of Ceremonies - David Cheers

## Growth and Grassroots

With the unpredicted growth the IAAI experienced in its first few years, something had to be done to manage the influx of new members. The decision was made to put in place a series of state vice presidents appointed by the president annually. These new roles would take on the responsibility of vetting new member applications. This program was instituted in 1951 and would be the predecessor to having the State Chapters.

In 1953, Ohio became the first chapter granted a charter by the IAAI. Soon after, others would follow Ohio's lead. Kentucky, Texas, Tennessee, and Michigan would join the IAAI as its first five chapters. The IAAI's fifteenth chapter was the first non-US-based chapter, with British Columbia, Canada, receiving its charter in 1973. Newfoundland, Alberta, and Ontario would follow less than a decade later in 1981, 1982, and 1983, respectively. The IAAI would expand into Oceania in 1983 as New Zealand became the forty-fifth chapter of the IAAI. New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland would follow across the years of 1985 to 1993. Sweden became the sixty-first chapter in 1961, the Republic of Georgia in 2001, South Africa in 2002, and the United Kingdom in 2003.

By 1999, after 50 years, the IAAI had grown to 63 Chapters worldwide. Today, there are chapters in all 50 states and 33 additional chapters throughout the world.



## More Members, More Growth, Time for May-Days

While the IAAI was formed on four tenets, it was not understood that one of those would push and promote the other three. Technical training, investigative coordination, and advocacy of arson laws were the primary goals in forming the IAAI, and the membership continued to push the IAAI to excellence. In the first 24 years, the IAAI would impact state laws, Federal agencies, and their international counterparts. Out of necessity, in 1973, the IAAI hired a full-time staff member to manage the day-to-day operations.

Former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, Supervisor with the National Board of Fire Underwriters, and former State Fire Marshal of Illinois, Robert E. May, was engaged as the secretary of the IAAI. For the next 14 years, Bob May welcomed the IAAI into his life and home, literally. The first office of the IAAI was established in Springfield, Illinois, in May's home. In 1977, May moved to Marlboro, Massachusetts, and the IAAI office followed.

At a time when it was needed most, Bob May and his wife, Elaine, stepped in to lay the foundation of the IAAI's full-time office staff. Both Bob and Elaine received Life Membership awards from the IAAI.

### IAAI on the Move

When Bob retired in 1987, the IAAI office was moved to Louisville, Kentucky. After six years in Kentucky, the IAAI office moved to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1993. With membership growing, advocacy efforts increasing, and the IAAI's global reach, the IAAI moved to a four-unit freestanding industrial complex purchased by the IAAI Educational Foundation in 1999 during Judith Maydew's presidency (1998 – 1999, First Female IAAI President). Past Presidents Clark and Doran were instrumental in the acquisition of the complex, the IAAI's new headquarters in the St. Louis metropolitan area.



Bob May



Elaine May

As the IAAI's influence in Washington, D.C., grew, so did the necessity to have a physical presence there. At the recommendation of Director of Government Affairs Chair Steve Austin, the IAAI began looking for offices in the greater D.C. area. Under Kirk Hankins' presidency (2005-2006), the IAAI moved its headquarters to Crofton, Maryland, initially sharing offices with the National Fallen Firefighters Association.

In 2020, after ten years in Crofton, the IAAI moved again to Bowie, Maryland. At the direction of President Rick Jones (2020-2021), Past Executive Director Scott Stephens led the relocation efforts to find a more modern and efficient workspace.

## Leaders in Fire Investigation

In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon appointed the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. This commission consisted of twenty members and aimed to determine effective measures for reducing the destructive effects of fire. This commission established the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations, of which the IAAI was a charter member. It also created the National Professional Qualifications System.

Robert Carter (President 1968-1970) served as the chairman of the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations. He met with President Gerald R. Ford at the signing of the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration appropriations bill. These organizations and actions would later become part of the National Fire Protection Association and its standard-making process. IAAI Past Presidents Carter, Bob Weatherington (1975-1976), H. Ray Vliet (1977-1978), Steve Austin, and Bob May were instrumental in creating the Fire Investigator Professional Qualification Committee (NFPA 1033). Austin would serve as Chairman of the NFPA 1033 committee from 1990 to 2000.

In 1986, the IAAI partnered with Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA 7th Dist.) to organize the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI). The IAAI was appointed to the CFSI National Advisory Committee. A standout success of this committee's work was the passage of the 1993 Benjamin Franklin Memorial Fire Service Bill of Rights, which allotted \$225,000 to the IAAI Educational Foundation for arson control projects.

## IAAI Inside the Beltway



IAAI President Robert Carter (1968-1970) with President Gerald Ford.



US Representative Curt Weldon, Vice President Al Gore, IAAI President Robert Whitemore (1993-1994), US Representative Steny Hoyer and US Representative Paul Sorbaine. (Left to Right)



IAAI President Alan Clark (1996-1997) with President Bill Clinton.

In the 1990s, the IAAI took a lead role in President Bill Clinton's Church Arson Initiative by providing arson prevention education throughout the United States. The CFSI provided special accommodation to the IAAI for its work on this issue.

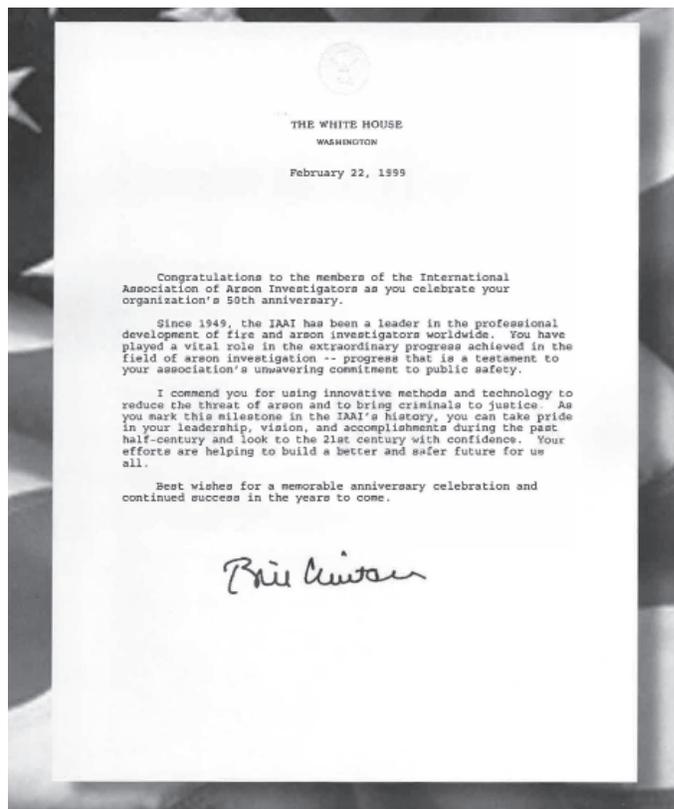
Also, during the 1990s, the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations dissolved, leaving the Pro Board to land with the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. This "new" Pro Board provided accreditation to states and organizations as well as the IAAI Certified Fire Investigation Program. IAAI Members Steve Austin and Benny King would go on to serve on the new Pro Board. For over twenty years, the IAAI led the charge in establishing professional qualifications for the fire service. By the mid-1990s, it spread to both the public and private sectors.

In 2000, during his term as First Vice President, Jerry Naylis worked to register the trademark Certified Fire Investigator as the property of the IAAI. CFI committee Chair Kirk Hankins made application to the US Patent Office which resulted in trademark protection for IAAI-CFI® and the certification logo. The trademark was approved and issued in 2000.

Also in 2000, the IAAI partnered with FEMA and the Consumer Products Safety Commission, with grant assistance from the U.S. Fire Administration, to develop the Abandoned Buildings program. The project was a web-based anti-arson tool dealing with abandoned buildings, made available to all fire department and code enforcement personnel responsible for inspecting vacant buildings.

Not all the IAAI's initiatives took flight. Regardless of the convenience to the fire investigation community and hard work by IAAI members, the IAAI was not successful in promoting and creating a national investigator's license in the U.S. Despite the hard work by several IAAI members, the majority of U.S. states wanted control on the issuance of these licenses.

In less than 50 years, the IAAI had already established itself as the Leader in Fire Investigation. Throughout Its 75 years, it would continue by reaching cooperative agreements or memorandums of understanding with the United States Fire Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Consumer Products Safety Commission.



## IAAI in the 21st Century – More Certifications, New Technologies

### Certifications

Proposed under President Bob Kramer’s tenure (1999-2000) and approved during President Jerry Naylis’s term (2000-2001), the Training and Education Committee under Chairman and Past President Bill Buxton, developed and beta tested the initial Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony (EWCT) course in St Louis, MO. The CFI committee made suggested additions to the core curriculum to reflect NFPA 1033 JPRs. CFI Committee Chair Kirk Hankins recommended the Board of Directors approve the course as meeting the “testimony” requirements of the CFI application. This is still a strong program for the IAAI and is being offered during our 75th Anniversary International Training Conference.

In the early 2000s, the concept of a Fire Investigator Technician certification began to gain traction. In 2006, Dan Heenan (President, 2015-2016), as chairman of the Training and Education Committee, worked with Bobby Schaal (President, 2009-2010) to make the concept a reality. Heenan and Schaal laid the framework and began to write the supporting documents. During President Fee’s second term (2007-2008), the IAAI officially created and offered the Fire Investigation Technician certification.

Heenan did not rest on the success of the FIT. He continued his work by developing the concept of practical application for evidence collection. He and CFITrainer Committee Chair Kirk Hankins formulated the idea of the Evidence Collection Technician certification. Heenan mirrored the Army’s “Expert Infantry Badge,” in which a soldier must demonstrate his knowledge of various infantry concepts in front of an instructor by being given the task, the materials to complete the task, and the time frame within which to complete it. Heenan, working with Schaal and Past President Kirk Hankins (2005-2006), developed task sheets for ECT and had them reviewed by forensic lab personnel to ensure they were correct. In 2009, the IAAI held its first ECT practical examination.

Schaal identified a need for Certified Instructors to teach the various courses that the IAAI was creating. This was similar to the fire department’s reliance on NFPA 1041, which is what the IAAI-CI was patterned after. The original intent was that anyone who instructed our courses would have to be an IAAI-CI. The Board of Directors approved the Certified Instructor program in 2010.



## **Technologies**

In July 2000, then-President Naylis informed the IAAI Board that Firehouse.com would be the association's webmaster for the IAAI website. In 2002, under Presidents I.J. Kranats (2001-2002) and Lloyd Johnson (2002-2003), the IAAI contracted Albanese Consultants to create the new website, www.firearson.com. The new iteration had a members-only section and the ability to process new membership applications and seminar registrations. Today, we continue to call www.firearson.com our internet home. Stonehouse Media maintains the site and is currently working on a significant facelift.

President David Sneed (2003-2004) and Chairman Steve Austin applied with the U.S. Fire Grant Program for funding to underwrite the IAAI's Internet Distance Learning platform. This grant would fuel one of the founding tenets of the IAAI to furnish technical advice to fire investigations worldwide. This action in 2003 was the beginning of what we now know as CFITrainer.net. Due to its extreme importance to the IAAI and fire investigation community, this program has a focused article starting on page 29.

In 2008, the IAAI would host its first podcast via CFITrainer.net. The podcast featured Christmas tree fires, economic conditions impacting residential fires, and wind effects on structure fires. This concept would blossom into multiple podcasts over the past 16 years, covering an array of topics and interviews with IAAI members and reaching beyond the IAAI to the entire fire investigation community.

## **March to 100**

As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we have also been focusing on our next 25 years. We continue to bring in new fire investigators from new corners of the world. Our training programs are offered frequently with subject matter experts covering the latest topics in fire science. Our relationship with NFPA, specifically the 921 and 1033 technical committees, remains strong, including our presence on the new 1321 committee. As technology for the fire investigator advances, the IAAI is keeping in stride.

11,000 Members, 83 Chapters, 75 years! We are the Global Leaders in Fire Investigation.

***Global Leaders in Fire Investigation®***

# Past Presidents of the IAAI

George H. Parker, 1949-1950  
Roderick K. Goeriz, 1950-1951  
George W. Clough, 1951-1952  
William L. Martin, 1952-1953  
Charles L. Haggerty, 1953-1954  
Lawrence L. Priar, 1954-1955  
Richard C. Steinmetz, 1955-1956  
Samuel T. Sides, 1956-1957  
Edward J. Desjardins, 1957-1958  
Glenn D. Bennett, 1958-1959  
William D. Rossiter, 1959-1960  
Willis S. Peterson, 1960-1961  
Samuel S. Cobb, 1962-1964  
Patrick J. Collins, 1964-1966  
John E. Stuerwald, 1966-1968  
Robert E. Carter, 1968-1970  
James L. Smith, 1970-1972  
Dan Econ, 1972-1974  
Wilbur R. Johnson, 1974-1975  
Walter E. Weatherington, 1975-1976  
William R. Rucinski, 1976-1977  
H. Ray Vliet, 1977-1978  
William G. Earle, 1978-1979  
Weldon C. Carmichael, 1979-1980  
Jack S. Bennett, 1980-1981  
Daniel B. Lemieux, 1981-1982  
Louis H. Taranto, 1982-1983  
Robert J. Doran, 1983-1984  
James A. Gamm, 1984-1985  
William N. Buxton, 1985-1986  
Thomas R. Brace, 1986-1987  
John H. Primrose, 1987-1988  
Donald "Ben" Cypher, 1988-1989



# Past Presidents of the IAAI

David M. Smith, 1989-1990  
Jack L. Sneed, 1990-1991  
Jack A. Ward, 1991-1992  
Jean-Claude Cloutier, 1992-1993  
Robert B. Whitemore, 1993-1994  
John S. Barracato, 1994-1995  
Jack V. Yates, 1995-1996  
Alan L. Clark, 1996-1997  
Philip R. Horbert, 1997-1998  
Judith E. Maydew, 1998-1999



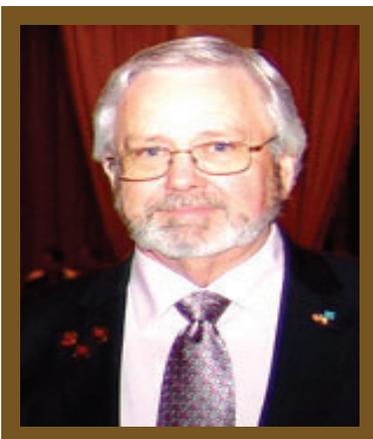
Robert R. Kramer  
1999 - 2000



Jerry Naylis  
2000 - 2001



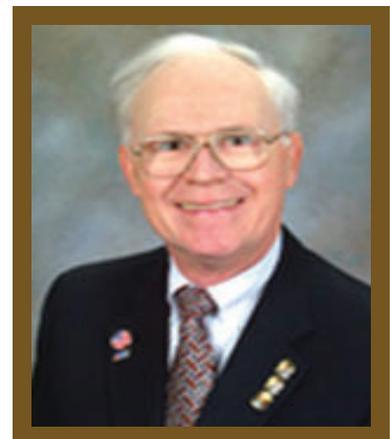
I.J. Kranats  
2001 - 2002



Lloyd Johnson  
2002 - 2003

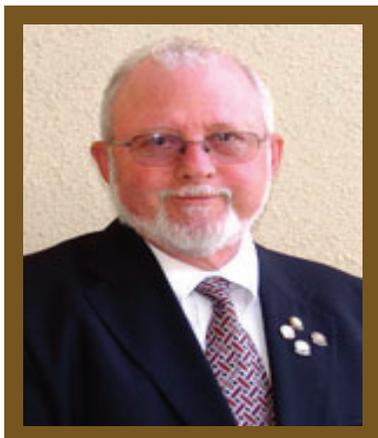


David Sneed  
2003 - 2004



Michael Schlatman  
2004 - 2005

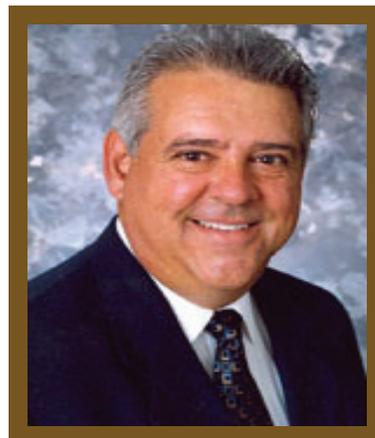
# Past Presidents of the IAAI



R. Kirk Hankins  
2005 - 2006



Tom Fee  
2006 - 2008



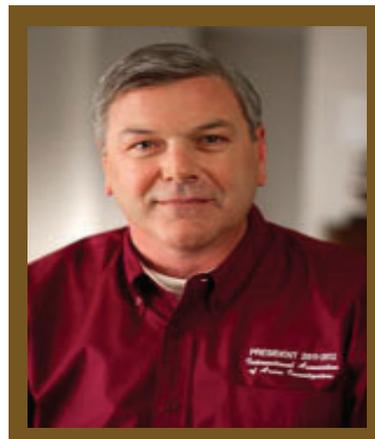
Ken Finley  
2008 - 2009



Robert J. Schaal  
2009 - 2010



Dave Nichols  
2010 - 2011



Rodney Pevytoe  
2011 - 2012



Roger Krupp  
2012 - 2013



Rob Rush  
2013 - 2014



Peter Mansi  
2014 - 2015

# Past Presidents of the IAAI



Dan Heenan  
2015 - 2016



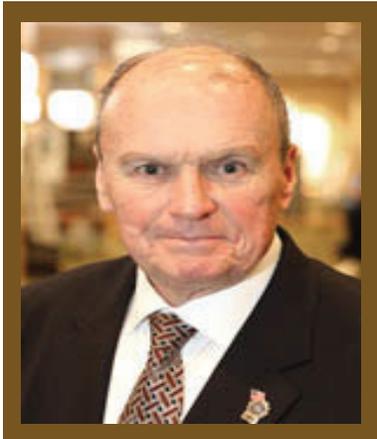
George Coddling  
2016 - 2017



Scott Bennett  
2017 - 2018



Bumper Moylan  
2018 - 2019



Barry M. Grimm  
2019 - 2020



Rick Jones  
2020 - 2021



Robert K. Toth  
2021 - 2022



Randy Watson  
2022 - 2023



Chris Van Vleet  
2023 - 2024

# 75 Years, 75 Conferences

As Johnny Cash would say, "I've traveled every road in this here land, I've been everywhere, man." So too has the IAAI....

## IAAI Annual Seminars & General Meetings

1949 – 1964: Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana

1965: Ann Arbor, Michigan

1966: College Park, Maryland

1967: Columbus, Ohio

1968: Virginia Beach, Virginia

1969: Austin, Texas

1970: Norman, Oklahoma

1971: Portland, Oregon

1972: Cocoa Beach, Florida

1973: Des Moines, Iowa

1974: Austin, Texas

1975: Lincoln, Nebraska

1976: Indianapolis, Indiana

1977: Ann Arbor, Michigan

1978: Anaheim, California

1979: Williamsburg, Virginia

1980: Austin, Texas

1981: Cherry Hill, New Jersey

1982: St. Louis, Missouri

1983: Tucson, Arizona

1984: Clearwater Beach, Florida

1985: Vancouver, BC, Canada

1986: Atlanta, Georgia

1987: Las Vegas, Nevada

1988: Buffalo, New York

1989: Clearwater Beach, Florida

1990: Dearborn, Michigan

1991: New Orleans, Louisiana

1992: Minneapolis, Minnesota

1993: Auckland, New Zealand

1994: Biloxi, Mississippi

1995: Los Angeles, California

1996: St. Louis, Missouri

1997: Toronto, Ontario, Canada



1998: Portland, Oregon  
 1999: Las Vegas, Nevada  
 2000: Grand Rapids, Michigan  
 2001: Atlantic City, New Jersey  
 2002: Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
 2003: Reno, Nevada  
 2004: St. Louis, Missouri  
 2005: Washington D.C.  
 2006: Denver, Colorado  
 2007: Victoria, BC, Canada  
 2008: Denver, Colorado  
 2009: Arlington, Texas  
 2010: Orlando, Florida  
 2011: Las Vegas, Nevada  
 2012: Dover, Delaware  
 2013: Orlando, Florida  
 2014: Las Vegas, Nevada  
 2015: Chicago, Illinois  
 2016: Orlando, Florida  
 2017: Las Vegas, Nevada  
 2018: Frisco, Texas  
 2019: Jacksonville, Florida  
 2020: Virtual AGM  
 2021: Virtual AGM  
 2022: Jacksonville, Florida  
 2023: Cherokee, North Carolina  
 2024: Las Vegas, Nevada



## Congratulations to the IAAI on 75 Years!!!

FEC is proud to support such a great organization.

Special Thanks to Past President Bennett and new Past President Van Vleet on your exceptional service to the IAAI.

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# A History of the IAAI Health & Safety Committee

By Jeff Pauley, Committee Chair, (2018-2024)

In earlier years, the IAAI had an Occupational Health and Safety Committee. This group developed the first safety-related modules on CFITrainer.net, gave several safety presentations at ITCs, and piloted a HAZWOPER course from DuPont, among other things. For unknown reasons, its activities lapsed.

The current iteration, the Health & Safety Committee, was established in 2016 by President George Coddling. He appointed Kevin Crawford as the chairman. The committee had 24 members, including the executive director, a board of directors' liaison, and some non-IAAI member advisors. It was divided into several subcommittees, each with a lead person. There was no co-chairman.

At the 2018 International Training Conference (ITC), President William "Bumper" Moylan appointed Jeff Pauley chairman and Past IAAI President Peter Mansi co-chairman with instruction to move the committee in a new direction. The committee was restructured and reduced in size. The September 2018 Executive Board Resolution documented the committee's foundational direction. This was the first time in recent memory that a resolution like this was adopted by the IAAI leadership, and it signified the importance of the Health & Safety Committee's work. This resolution is still the primary guidance for our organization on the important subjects of fire investigator health and safety.

Whereas, the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) was established, in part, to inform and educate its members on the latest research and information relevant to efficient and effective fire investigator practices;

Whereas, the Health and Safety Committee of the IAAI, was established to promote health and safety knowledge, awareness, discussion, and action among the members of the IAAI and the fire investigation community in general by providing health and safety information and best practice guidelines;

Whereas, it is the duty and responsibility of the IAAI to inform and educate its members regarding health and safety information and best practices; and

Whereas, the executive board of the IAAI supports a culture change initiative regarding better fire investigator health and safety, now, therefore, be it Resolved, that the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI):

1. Adopts a position of supporting, enhancing, and educating its members regarding the latest research information and best practices regarding fire investigator health and safety matters throughout all its activities, efforts and publications;
2. Urges every committee to incorporate, where practical, health and safety awareness through their publications and activities utilizing information provided by the IAAI Health and Safety Committee and approved by the executive board.
3. Urges each chapter to embrace and educate its members on fire investigator health and safety matters through their activities, efforts, and publications, utilizing the educational materials approved and provided by the IAAI; and
4. Urges every member to follow the health and safety best practices information provided by the IAAI.

Since 2018, this committee of dedicated members and subject matter expert advisors has taken the field of fire investigator health and safety to new heights by encouraging and participating in critical new post-fire research and increasing awareness of the health and safety issues associated with the post-fire environment through training, published articles and papers, and interacting with many associated groups.

In 2022, under President Randy Watson, the Health & Safety Committee was elevated to a standing committee, signifying the importance of the committee's work.

Committee milestones and achievements since 2018 include:

- A membership survey to assess the current member environment regarding health and safety.
- Publishing three editions of Fire Investigator Health and Safety Best Practices.
- Developing and publishing multiple resource materials focused on specific health and safety issues.
- A health and safety article in each Fire and Arson Investigator issue.
- A health and safety article in each New York Chapter's The Fire Scene issue.
- Post-fire scene health and safety-related articles published in Fire Engineering, Engineers.

# A History of the IAAI Health & Safety Committee, cont.

- Post-fire scene health and safety-related articles published in Fire Engineering, Professional Safety Journal – a publication of the American Society of Safety Professionals, Subrogation – a publication of the National Association of Subrogation Professionals, and International Fire Professional – a publication of the Institution of Fire Engineers.
- Working with the University of Miami to adapt their Personal Exposure Reporter (PER) app to include fire investigators and developing the Accident and Near-Miss Reporting module within PER.
- Working with NIOSH and the University of Arizona to facilitate the inclusion of fire investigators into the federally funded Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study research project.
- Giving 53 in-person and virtual health and safety training presentations, reaching over 5,300 attendees across the US and beyond, including several ITC presentations.
- Developing the blueprint for a member behavioral health program.
- Developing and implementing the Fire Investigation Safety Officer course.
- Working with the University of Miami to develop a fire investigator-specific research project for submission to AFG. This was then modified to become a pilot project in Florida first to support a future AFG request.
- Working with the CFITrainer committee to develop five new or updated health and safety modules.
- Multiple members participating in the complete rewrite of the 2024 edition of NFPA 921, Chapter 13, now called Fire Investigator Safety, Health, and Wellness.
- Serving as an information and advice resource for agencies and companies looking to improve their equipment and practices.

Have you seen our Multi-Program Certificate on Fire Investigation Safety?

Available on CFITrainer.net. It includes the following 9 Modules:



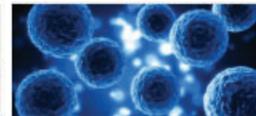
Electrical Safety



Fire Investigator Scene Safety



The HAZWOPER Standard



Preventing Occupational Exposures to Carcinogens at the Fire Scene



Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction



Site Safety Assessment



Vacant and Abandoned Buildings: Hazards and Solutions



Personal Protective Equipment for Post-Fire Scenes



Photovoltaic Cells & Systems

- Advocating for the development of fire investigator-specific research and serving as technical advisors to the research projects once funded, including
  - The Fire Protection Research Foundation/NC State University multi-year study of fire investigator apparel ensembles and the effectiveness of decontamination wipes.
  - The London South Bank University analysis of respirator filter effectiveness. Unfortunately, the COVID outbreak killed this effort mid-project.
  - The UL Fire Safety Research Institute study of post-fire gas and particulate levels.
  - The Duke University/NC State University North Carolina Firefighter Cancer research project; part of the Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study.

Committee members have also worked to broaden the understanding of fire investigator health issues by representing the IAAI and the fire investigation community as a member of other groups, often serving as the only voice for fire investigators, and giving presentations at some their meetings and events to advocate for and on behalf of fire investigator health issues. These groups include:

- The Oversight and Planning Board of the Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study National/International Firefighter Cancer Symposiums hosted by the University of Miami;
- The US Fire Administration’s Fire Service Cancer Workgroup;
- The Firefighter Cancer Support Networks rewrite of their 2013 document Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service;
- The National Firefighter Registry for Cancer, which includes fire investigators;
- Florida Firefighters Safety & Health Collaborative’s National FACE Team (Firefighters Against the Cancer Epidemic);
- First Responder Center for Excellence;
- University of Miami’s Firefighter Cancer Initiative National Advisory Board;
- Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance.

In January 2024, the committee’s leadership was passed to a new generation, with Tom Mooney becoming chairman and Mike Brewer co-chairman. As the committee moves forward, it will look at new and different methods for getting information to the membership and to continue the important work of this committee to improve fire investigator health and safety.

For more information, or general inquires, contact the Health & Safety Committee at: [iaai-safety@firearson.com](mailto:iaai-safety@firearson.com)

# IAAI CHAPTERS

1	Ohio	40	Mississippi
2	Kentucky	41	Colorado
3	Texas	42	Louisiana
4	Tennessee	43	Nevada
5	Michigan	44	Arkansas
6	Alabama	45	New Zealand
7	Kansas	46	West Virginia
8	Georgia	47	New South Wales, Australia
9	Florida	49	Connecticut
10	Missouri	50	Utah
11	Virginia	51	Rhode Island
12	Illinois	52	Nova Scotia, Canada
13	Nebraska	53	Maryland
14	Indiana	54	Saskatchewan, Canada
15	British Columbia, Canada	55	Wyoming
16	Minnesota	56	Idaho
17	New Jersey	57	Israel
18	South Dakota		
19	Oklahoma		
20	Massachusetts		
21	Washington		
22	California		
23	New York		
24	North Carolina		
25	Wisconsin		
26	Montana		
27	Delaware		
28	Arizona		
29	Pennsylvania		
30	Iowa		
31	Oregon		
32	New Mexico		
33	South Carolina		
34	New Hampshire		
36	Alaska		
38	Alberta, Canada		
39	Ontario, Canada		



# IAAI CHAPTERS

- 58 Victoria, Australia
- 59 Queensland, Australia
- 60 Maine
- 61 Nordic Chapter (formerly Sweden)
- 62 Hawaii
- 63 Vermont
- 64 North Dakota
- 65 Georgian
- 66 South Africa
- 67 United Kingdom
- 68 Ireland
- 69 Quebec, Canada
- 70 Northwest Mexico
- 71 Italia
- 72 France
- 73 Korea
- 74 Bulgaria

- 75 Netherlands
- 76 Taiwan
- 77 North Mexico (Norte de Mexico)
- 78 Finland
- 79 Hispano Americano
- 80 Brazil
- 81 Central European
- 82 Chile
- 83 Gulf Association of Fire Investigators

# 75<sup>th</sup>



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# 2003 Initiative: Internet Distance Learning Platform

## The History and Future of CFITrainer.net

Robert Schaal, Past President 2009-2010

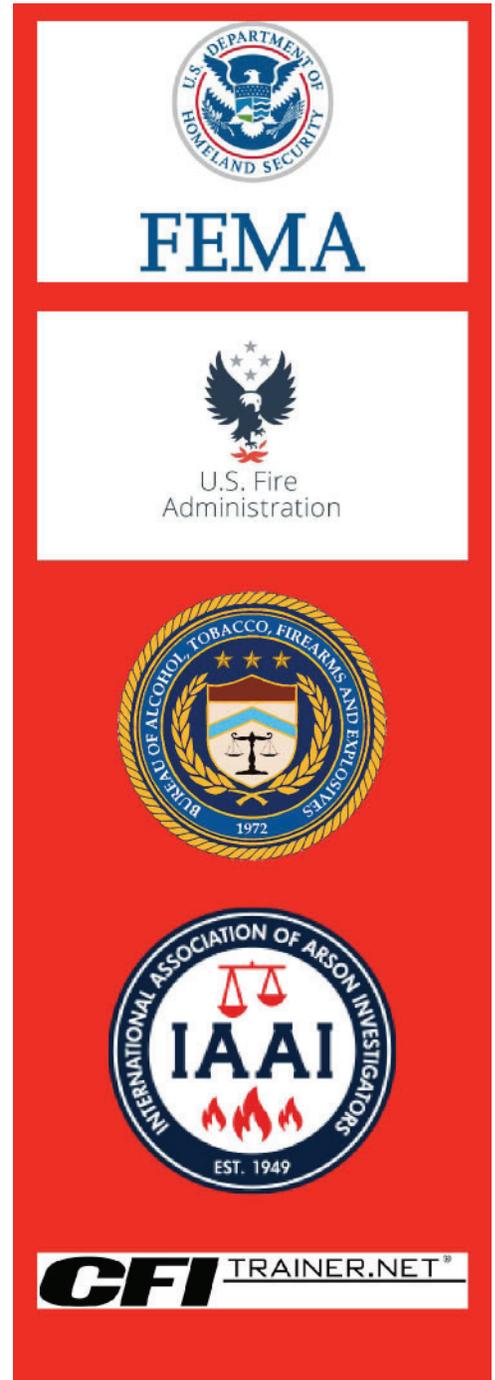
As the IAAI reaches its 75th anniversary, the CFITrainer.net Distance Learning platform is entering its twentieth year of training fire investigators throughout the world. The concept of an online distance learning platform was originally conceived under the leadership of President David Sneed who was approached by Director of Governmental Affairs Steve Austin with the idea of applying for a Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Assistance to Firefighters, Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to develop a training solution for fire investigators. While this was a novel concept, time was of the essence and there was no time for drawn out discussion and analysis. President Sneed made a bold decision and authorized a team to apply for this grant on behalf of the IAAI. Members of the executive team, including Mike Schlatman and Kirk Hankins worked with subject matter experts to outline a grant proposal for the development of an online distance learning portal that would provide fire investigation training based on the job performance requirements of NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, and consistent with the technical knowledge outlined in NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations. To help facilitate the preparation of the grant submission documents, the IAAI team partnered with Jon Jones, who had experience in grant writing, and Rod Ammon, who's company Stonehouse Media previously worked with the IAAI in the development of the Interfire VR (Virtual Realty) training project. The initial grant performance objectives included the goals of developing training modules that would be available for on demand delivery to the fire investigation community, as well as hosting live "Webinar" events on topics of interest.

After a painstaking wait, the IAAI learned that their application had been to receive a grant of approximately \$500,000 with a 12-month performance period and the real work began. In addition to identifying topics and developing the modules, the team had to build out the hosting platform and find a hard cash match in the amount of \$25,000. Fortunately, solutions to all these challenges were quickly identified. Rod Ammon and Stonehouse Media stepped up as a developmental partner, serving as the designer/developer/host of the learning management system platform as well as serving as the production team for all module content. The IAA Foundation, who had just received a contract from the then Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to develop training content, stepped up to offer the funding for the hard cash match, which was a grant requirement at the time.

Having these challenges solved, the team quickly moved forward with working toward fulfilling the grant performance objectives with Kirk Hankins serving as the Chair of the CFITrainer.net Steering Committee and Jon Jones serving as the Project Manager. Other representatives on the Steering committee included representatives from IAAI partner organizations, including ATF, National Institute for Standards and Technology, Insurance Committee for Arson Control as well as representatives from industry and academia and from select IAAI committees.

The steering committee hosted a meeting to discuss a priority for module development and to outline a developmental module for use in the design and delivery of this training. It was determined that all modules would be linked to the various job performance requirements and requisite knowledge points outlined in NFPA 1033 and that each module would include a team of subject matter experts who would assist with the development of the module focus and monitor development from treatment through production. The CFITrainer platform was open for registration in February of 2005, with an Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling being the first module released. This was followed quickly by Ethics and the Fire Investigator, and The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation. The team also hosted two successful webinars, including MagnaTek: A Case Study in the Daubert Challenge, and Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator.

Encouraged by the initial success, subsequent Boards authorized the CFITrainer.net Management Team to continue to pursue grants through the Fire Prevention and Safety Program, with a focus on continued expansion of the CFITrainer.net library of modules. Over the years to follow, the team built on their success and continued to add three to five modules a year to the available inventory of distance learning modules. To date, there are approximately eighty-eight modules hosted on the platform.



## CFITrainer.net, cont.

As the usage of CFITrainer.net increased over the years, so did its integration into other training, education, and professional development arenas. Topical modules became course prerequisites for programs hosted by the IAAI, ATF, and the National Fire Academy. Additionally, academic institutions began utilizing modules in their curricula and Certification Programs incorporated module completion into their core requirements. Additionally, the CFITrainer.net project team saw the need to address training solutions for evidence collection as a core competency for fire investigators. This led to the development of the Fire Scene Evidence Collection Guide, which built off Interfire VR and outlined the proper protocol for the collection of distinct types of evidence from fire scenes. The team also worked on a testing and evaluation program that became the Evidence Collection Technician program. This program involves the user demonstrating the proper evidence collection procedures while being evaluated according to a grading rubric. To date, this program has been well received, with the Evidence Collection Technician Practicum being delivered throughout the world.

The team also looked to address other topics of interest, specifically including the nationwide program of abandon buildings. A toolbox was developed that would assist users in addressing the problem locally and presenting information on the issues and hazards associated with such buildings so local communities could work together to develop a solution that are appropriate for their community. A training module was also developed to further support the end user in understanding the issues and hazards associated with abandoned buildings, enabling them to be better prepared to present the toolbox material within their community. One of the first needs identified was a

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comprehensive program for the investigation of fires involving motor vehicles. This led to the development of two foundational modules that served as a prerequisite for a comprehensive three-day motor vehicle training program. Additionally, the IAAI Vehicle Fire Endorsement arose out of this, allowing fire investigators to obtain professional recognition

of their competencies in investigating motor vehicles. In addition to program development, beta testing or pilot delivery of the program was conducted prior to inclusion in the IAAI training catalog. Subsequent grants focused on the development of a Youth Set Fire Program, the Investigation of Solar Fires, and a refresh of the IAAI Fundamentals of Fire Investigation residential training programs. As was done with the initial Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires, support modules were developed with the goal of presenting foundational knowledge to users prior to attendance at the residential program.

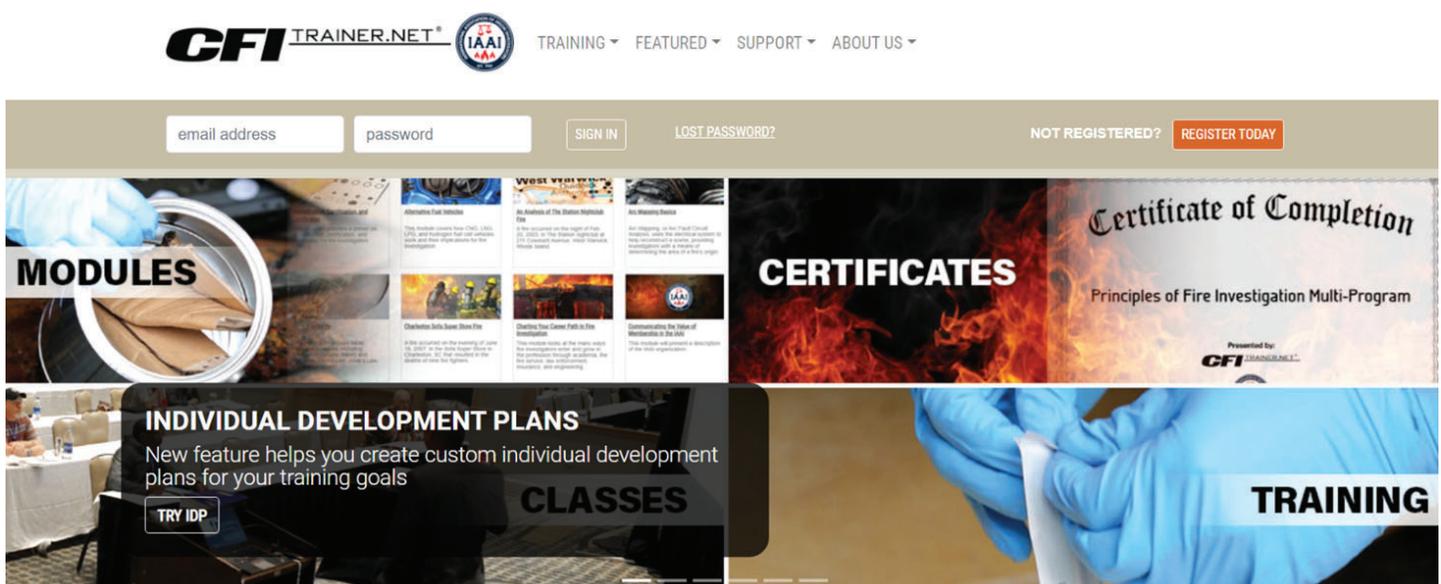
As the CFITrainer.net program continued to grow and expand to reach investigators throughout the world, the team saw a need to develop other supporting resources and training solutions. One of the first initiatives was the addition of topical podcasts which are typically released monthly. These podcasts reach approximately three thousand users per month and routinely cover current events or topics of relevance in interviews with subject matter experts or individuals involved in a particular incident. Indices of how the CFITrainer.net modules relate to performance standards such as NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, NFPA 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualification, NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, and NFPA 1037 Standard on Fire Marshal Professional Qualifications were developed that help tie the core job performance requirements of these various standards to particular modules within the CFITrainer.net library. Additionally, program filters were added that also help the user identify modules that would assist with expansion of knowledge in a particular area. To further expand on this, Multiprogram Certificates were created for various topic areas, including Fire Investigation for Fire Officers, Fire Investigation for the Insurance Industry, Fire Investigation Safety, and Principles of Fire Investigation. These multi-program certificates grouped courses that were designed to provide a broad prospective of foundational knowledge in a specific topic area. The multi-program certificate program has been well received, with over 15,000 uses to date.

Recent grants continue to expand on the types of training solutions that might benefit the fire investigation community and outlined a goal of developing job aids on specific topics. The goal of these job aids was to provide useful information in a format where a long-term training course may not be needed. The initial Photography Job Aid was released in 2022 and was well received. Subsequently, a form fillable Fire Scene Safety Checklist was developed and other visual products and form fillable solutions are in development. We have also worked to expand the evidence collection toolbox with additional visual demonstrations and developed a video/mini module focusing on Personal Protective Equipment.

# CFITrainer.net, cont.

As the CFITrainer continues to expand, we continue to work to fulfil the needs of our users. We have continued to improve the platform to allow better filtering of programs and better usage of the transcript feature with availability of an official transcript and through filtering and date sorting. Additionally, we have added Spanish language to select modules and have added closed captioning to all modules.

As we close out this first twenty years, we have approximately 170,000 users located in 187 countries throughout the world. We have issued over 1.1 million certificates, representing approximately four million hours of training. While extraordinarily successful beyond our wildest dreams, we continue to grow at a pace of approximately forty users per day and approximately five hundred modules are passed daily. We continue to work to expand our library of modules and continue to work with the IAAI TE committee to identify training needs within the fire investigation community. As we reflect on the past and the achievements we have made, we also look to the future and being a valuable part of training the fire investigator of the future.



# CFITrainer.net - At A Glance

170,000 users

187 Countries

85 Training Modules

## 4 Multi-Program Certificates

### MULTI-PROGRAM CERTIFICATES



#### Fire Investigation Safety

This multi-program certificate covers core safety aspects of fire scene investigation.



#### Fire Investigation for Fire Officers

This multi-program certificate covers core skills needed by fire officers who are tasked with initial origin and cause investigation responsibility.



#### Fire Investigation for the Insurance Industry

This multi-program certificate covers issues of particular interest to insurance personnel who process fire claims.



#### Principles of Fire Investigation

This multi-program certificate covers essential fire investigation knowledge and skills.

## Insightful Podcasts

### Other Episodes

2023	<u>2022</u>	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
2010	2009	2008										

[A CONVERSATION WITH SPECIAL AGENT ADAM ST. JOHN AND CAPTAIN CRAIG MATTHEWS](#) - Today, we're taking a deep dive into fires where the ignition was associated with CSST — that's corrugated stainless steel tubing.

[Laboratory Analysis of Fatty Acids, Oils, and Alcohols with Laurel Mason and Doug Byron](#) - Today, we're talking about using a lab in your investigations. More specifically, we are going to talk to two experienced forensic scientists about analysis of fatty acids, oils, and alcohols.

[The Role of Metallurgical and Materials Science in Fire Origin and Cause Determination](#) - We've got something new and pretty interesting for you today — a closer look at the role of metallurgical and materials science in fire origin and cause determination. Our guide into this world is Larry Hanke.

[What's new at the National Fire Academy](#) - A conversation with Kevin Oliver on what's new at the National Fire Academy.

[2022 IAAI Investigator of the Year](#) - Today we're talking with Fire Arson Investigator Nicole Brewer of Portland Fire and Rescue in Oregon. Investigator Brewer was named the IAAI Investigator of the Year in 2022

[Multi Unit Multi Fatality Fires](#) - This month, we're tackling a tough topic on the CFITrainer.Net podcast.

## IAAI Code of Ethics

All IAAI Members agree to abide by the Association's Code of Ethics.

- I will, as a fire/arson investigator, regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession.
- I will conduct both my personal and official life so as to inspire the confidence of the public. I will exhibit professionalism and integrity in all aspects of the performance of my duties.
- I will not use my profession and my position of trust for personal advantage or profit.
- I will regard my fellow investigators with the same standards as I hold for myself. I will never betray a confidence nor otherwise jeopardize their investigation.
- I will regard it my duty to know my work thoroughly. It is my further duty to avail myself of every opportunity to learn more about my profession.
- I will avoid alliances with those whose goals are inconsistent with an honest and unbiased investigation.
- I will make no claim to professional qualifications which I do not possess.
- I will share all publicity equally with my fellow investigators, whether such publicity is favorable or unfavorable.
- I will be dutiful to my superiors, to my subordinates, and to the organization I represent.
- I will utilize electronic media and other communication technologies in a professional manner that does not exhibit, dishonor or demean my profession or the International Association of Arson Investigators.
- As a fire/arson investigator, I am first and foremost, a truth seeker.

Approved by the IAAI Board of Directors - 10.10.2020



The advertisement features the LOGOS IMAGING logo on the left, which includes a stylized sunburst. In the center, two black portable X-ray units are shown. To the right is a gold laurel wreath with the number '75' and the IAAI logo inside. Below the units, the text 'Simple • Effective • Economical' is displayed in white on a dark background.

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# The International Association of Arson Investigators

Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Generational

11,215 Total Members

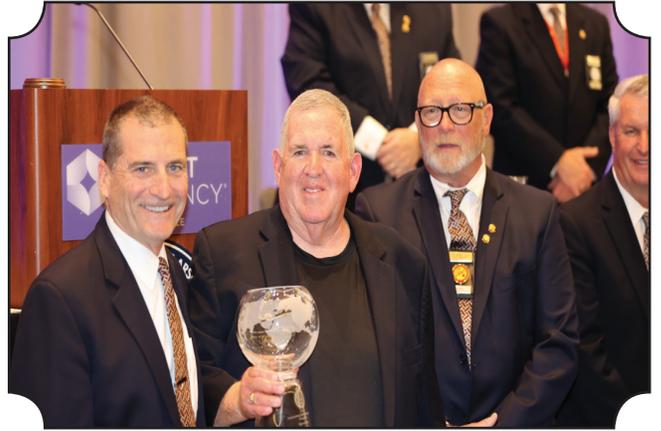
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128 Members with 40+ Yrs of Membership

71 Student-Members

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William Alvine	Richard Dyer	Dan Lemieux	John Primrose
Ted Anderson	Joseph Ellington	Richard Lengel	David Reiter, P.E.
Andrew Armstrong	Thomas Fee	William Lilly	Paul Richards
Steve Austin	James Finneran	Raymond Lonabaugh	Kenneth Riddleberger
James Bales	Glenn Gibson	Hal Lyson	William Rucinski
Stuart Bayne	Hugh Graham	Kim May	Jack Sanderson
Scott Bennett	Charles Graham	Judith Maydew	Peter Sarellana
Randall Bills	Ronald Hamm	Alan Mayfield	J.Paul Schaetzle
Gene Bishop	John Hanko	James Mazerat	Michael Schlatman
Art Black	Harry Hatch	Joseph Mazzone	Thomas Schneiders
Thomas Brace	Gerald Haynes	William McAllister	Michael Schulz
Larry Brown	Michael Higgins	Kirk McDaniel	David Smith
Terry Brown	Jesse Hodge	James McMaster	Timothy Smith
Gene Bullington	Charles Hoffman	Dennis Merkley	Dennis Smith
Genevieve Bures	Ronald Hopkins	John Mertens	Brian Smith
Steven Chasteen	Don Horaist	Richard Meyers	David Sneed
Terry Christensen	Philip Horbert	Charles Millar	John Stanko
Robert Ciasca	Robert Hotmar	Glen Miller	John Stillwagon
Alan Clark	William Hurteau	Carl Mindler	Mervin Stringer
Stephen Claytor	Jack Hyde	Roger Muller	Thomas Tilley
Vance Cooper	Roger Iapicco	Patrick Murphy	Joseph Toscano
Tom Copeland	Lloyd Johnson	Arthur Murphy	Wayne Tyson
Jeffrey Corey	Kenneth Johnson	Keith Naeve	Thomas Vroman
James Cubbage	Gary Jones	Michael Nastoff	John Walker
Kevin Cunningham	Knowles Jones	Gerald Naylis	Jack Ward
Lynn Davis	William Kelly	Richard O'Neill	Charles "Randy" Watson
Mike Davis	David Kircher	Edward Ozog	Robert Whitemore
Keith DeLorenzo	Robert Kramer	Donald Peak	Peter Willse
William Dewald	I.J. Kranats	Donald Perkins	Jean Wypier
Bob Doran	Bernard Kromenacker	Rodney Pevytoe	Paul Yarborough, Jr.
William Dresback	George Lander, Jr.	James Pharr	Jackie Yates





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# Incoming President's Message

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Trace Lawless, 2024-2025



Fellow Members,

As I began this adventure in 2016 when elected by you, the IAAI Membership, to the Board of Directors, I would never have imagined that in 2024 I would be the IAAI President. This is truly a pleasure to serve each one of you, along with it being the 75th Anniversary of the IAAI. With many more years of dedication to education, networking, and professionalism for IAAI members.

I have been asked many times by members, directors, executives, past presidents, and staff what are you going to do during your Presidency. The answer has always remained the same "Further the Mission of the IAAI." "Inspiring the international fire & explosion investigation community to achieve excellence" was adopted by the IAAI in 2022 as the Mission Statement. This statement reflects each one of us day to day and year to year. The IAAI must achieve excellence in the four-topic areas of the strategic plan "Training and Certifications, Membership, Brand Promotion, and Operational Excellence."

During the 2023-2024 year, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to move the administrative operations of the IAAI to Stringfellow Management Group. They were selected as the Accredited Association Management Group to assist in move the IAAI into the future. I have personally worked directly with this staff for over 9 months improving, modifying, and enhancing our operations to better serve the membership and association. At the same time working directly with the Board of Directors and staff management in planning ahead for the database and website changes soon.

Technology changes are needed within the IAAI to enhance the membership benefits of networking, communicating and education, while maintaining the premium services of CFITrainer.net. By improving these areas, we will be able to reach each other internationally, educate and train internationally and provide resources to each member of the association.

It has been wonderful and truly rewarding serving on the IAAI Board of Directors with so many professional peers and partners. I look forward to advancing the IAAI forward during my short year as President, but can only make those strides with your support and communications. I believe the Board of Directors, membership and fire investigation community believes in the IAAI Vision: "Making a safer world by serving as the resource for fire & explosion investigation community."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trace Lawless". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Trace L. Lawless  
IAAI President, 2024-2025

# A LOOK AHEAD....

2025

Atlantic City

April 6 - 11  
Harrah's Resort Atlantic City

2026

St. Louis

April 23 - 30  
Union Station Hotel

2027

Reno

April 22 - 30  
Peppermill Resort Spa Casino



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

IAAI 75th Anniversary Program

**75<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

