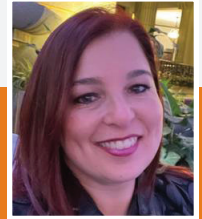




Election **2025** IAAI Candidates for Foundation Board of Directors



Grettel Meng Sapper (Guatemala) IAAI Candidate for the Board of Directors

Elections will be open until noon (EDT) April 7, the results will be announced at the 2025 ITC General Meeting and on www.firearson.com.

In Ballot Order

How long have you been a member of the IAAI? 7 years

How many annual meetings have you attended; Which Years? 3: Las Vegas 2024, Cherokee 2023 & Jacksonville 2022

What IAAI Committees Have you Served on; which years?
Chapters: 2023-2024

Do you regularly attend your state/provincial chapter meetings and activities? Yes

Offices held state/province chapter? Treasurer, Secretary, 2nd VP, 1st VP, President

Describe, in 100 words or less, why you feel you are qualified for this position: I have been involved in the IAAI since 2017, taking an active part as a Chapter Liaison and helping my fellows from Hispanoamerica getting involved not just in the 79 Chapter, but also in the IAAI and achieving their certifications. In these 6 years I have been leading and working actively in all the board positions of the chapter, organizing trainings, monthly meetings and 3 annual meetings in Chile, Argentina and Guatemala this year. I hope to contribute to the IAAI in the same manner I have worked for the chapter.

What would you say your greatest assets are if you become a director or officer of the IAAI? In my professional and personal life I have demonstrated to be a successful project manager, with problem solving abilities, assertive communication, and responsibility to complete the tasks and goals set by the organization. I am a visionary and always in the disposition to serve others as I have demonstrated over 27 years of volunteer firefighting service.

What type of leader are you, and how would you apply those leadership traits as a director or officer of the IAAI?
As a leader, I like to be democratic, enhancing everybody's participation and listening to the different points of view, I think it is important for the team to have a vision in mind, so we can achieve the goals together, including the benefit of all people involved and, searching the organization's growth.

What steps do you believe the IAAI should take to reduce or eliminate membership shrinkage? Some of the strategies to reduce shrinkage of the membership could be to be more proactive with the communication and use of newer technologies in social media to have better and more constant publications and forms of information exchange. Members need to feel more part of the organization and receive constant feedback on the projects and achievements of the IAAI. We also need to make it more available to non-english speakers and for people in other countries that find it difficult to travel to the USA.

What steps do you believe the IAAI should take to grow membership? The IAAI should be more inclusive with the offshore chapters, facilitating communication and documentation in other languages, as Spanish, French, German, Mandarin, etc.,

and promote more activities like simulation exercises, trainings, conferences and certifications for the countries outside the USA, to enhance the participation of the people from all 5 continents.

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the international and chapters?
The communication between the IAAI and the chapters should be with written or video posts or bulletins published on the social platforms and the web page of the IAAI, so it does not depend on the liaison or the attendance of the meetings. The social media platforms are a great way to enhance member's participation in the projects carried by the IAAI.

What is your vision for the future for the IAAI? My vision for the future is to have a really international association, where all the languages and nationalities feel like they are part of the organization, to have more international speakers in the conferences, more international FIT, ECT CI & CFI's, and with the common goal of getting more knowledge and seeking the truth in the fire investigations.

Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI? To validate new technologies and procedures that are emerging for the use in fire investigations, and to continue to reinforce the safety procedures of fire investigators so we are aware of cancer or other illnesses that can affect us.

What do you perceive is the biggest challenge facing the IAAI in the coming years and how would you address that challenge? The biggest challenge for the coming years is for fire investigators to adapt to modern technologies and the use of artificial intelligence, also to involve younger and more female fire investigators from all the countries so the association can continue growing with people from all over the world.