



PRESIDENT'S  
PERSPECTIVE  
EXECUTING  
EXCELLENCE:  
PUTTING  
PREPARATION  
TO WORK.



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As we step into 2026 and reflect on the close of the 2025 holiday season, the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc. ("IAAI") continues to focus on a clear purpose: preparing public and private sector fire and explosion investigation professionals to become their best selves—to become **qualified, certified, and competent**. While many organizations wind down at the end of the year, **the progress made this past quarter shows that the IAAI's work did not slow—it accelerated**.



That acceleration is clearly visible in **Membership**. Your IAAI Board of Directors has approved yet another new IAAI Member benefit effective January 1, 2026: the **New IAAI-Member Momentum Training & Education Discount**. The discount permits each new IAAI Member joining the IAAI on or after January 1, 2026 to enroll in one IAAI course of instruction at a 40% discount, provided the registration occurs within the first year, or 365 days, of membership. Instead of waiting for engagement to develop over time, **this benefit jump-starts the fire and explosion investigation professional's journey by immediately connecting them to meaningful lecture and hands on training, certification pathways, and administrative support**. Complementing this initiative, the IAAI-Membership Committee and IAAI-Training & Education Committee are **working with identified practitioners to develop instruction concerning The Benefits of Errors & Omissions ("E&O") Insurance for Fire & Explosion Investigation Professionals—giving IAAI Members from the public and private sectors clear, practical instruction on a subject vital to protecting their work and profession**.



Just as the IAAI has shifted from welcoming members to actively preparing them, we have also moved from training development to delivery under **Training and Certification**. The IAAI's new **Evidence Identification, Preservation, & Collection** residential course of instruction was not only completed—it was delivered ahead of schedule, in December 2025, in Irvine, California. **The IAAI has expanded its training course offerings in non-U.S. countries, too, reflecting a broader reach and a stronger international presence**. At the same time, the shift to online initial and renewal certification/endorsement credential applications is no longer an anticipated improvement; it is a measurable one. **Processing times for initial and renewal certification/endorsement credential applications are now**

significantly reduced. Evaluation workflows are streamlined. Antiquated barriers once accepted as inevitable have been replaced by accessible digital pathways that directly support credentialing. Recent and upcoming training, education, and outreach initiatives with the IAAI's frontline Chapters, including IAAI-Chapter 24, North Carolina, IAAI-Chapter 33, South Carolina, IAAI-Chapter 79, Capitulo Hispano Americano, IAAI-Chapter 9, Florida, and IAAI-Chapter 42, Louisiana, private sector organizations, including International Consumer Product Health & Safety Organization, and academic institutions, including Eastern Kentucky University, to name a few, further illustrate that **preparation is no longer a goal to work toward—it is happening.**

To support these advancements, **Organizational Excellence** has moved from conversation to implementation. The IAAI Administrative Staff continues modernizing operations to support better communication, stronger governance support, and alignment with IAAI Members and Chapters alike. During the IAAI Board of Directors' November 2026 Mid-Year Meeting with **IAAI-Chapter 10, Missouri**, strategic alignment was not just discussed—it was reinforced through collaborative planning for the 2026 IAAI-International Training Conference and beyond in ways that will strengthen IAAI Chapter support and unify shared goals. These improvements are not internal adjustments for administrative benefit; they are deliberate steps that allow the IAAI to deliver better training, streamline certification and credentialing, and enhance membership value. **Each organizational adjustment is made by the IAAI Board of Directors and IAAI Administrative Staff with one question in mind: *Does this strengthen preparation for those the IAAI serves?***

As this New Year begins, it is appropriate to express gratitude for the progress behind us and the work ahead. We are thankful for the IAAI's Chapters, IAAI Members, for the volunteers and administrative staff who serve them, and for the opportunity to support public and private sector fire and explosion investigation professionals who uncover the truth when lives, property, and justice are at stake. We now step into 2026 with the same focus that carried us through the past year—preparation that leads to competence, competence that leads to credibility, and credibility that makes the world safer.

**Executing excellence means turning preparation to action—and we are just getting started.**

In truth and service,

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IAAI President 2025-2026

