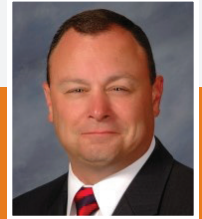




# Election **2025** IAAI Candidates for Foundation Board of Directors



## **Michael R. Roarty** (SC) 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](http://www.firearson.com).

### In Ballot Order

**How long have you been a member of the IAAI?** 30 Years (1995)

**How many annual meetings have you attended; Which Years?** 1990, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2013, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

**What IAAI Committees Have you Served on; which years?** IAAI-Standard Operating Procedures, IAAI-Awards

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

**Offices held state/province chapter?** *Michigan* 1995-1999 Director, 1999-2000 2VP, 2000-2001 1VP, 2001-2002 Chapter President, Past President and IAAI-MI Life Member. *South Carolina* 2017-2020 Director, 2VP 2020-2021, 1VP 2021 (Vacancy) Chapter President 2021-2022, Past President 2022-2023

**Please list any international offices held, special projects or committee work, indicating years of service.** IAAI-Director 2022 Present, facilitator IAAI-EWCT 20 Years, Regularly teach at ncetr for ewct, volunteer as instructor for many state and international chapters as an instructor. Enhanced Chapters committee task group. I enjoy working behind the scenes with many state and international chapter events, specifically to ensure the task(s) assigned to me are completed correctly for you the member(s).

**Describe, in 100 words or less, why you feel you are qualified for this position:** As an IAAI-Certified Fire Investigator, Certified Instructor, and 30 year IAAI member, my objective has been to assist the public/private sectors in advancing training and education for the membership of the IAAI. My experience in Law Enforcement, Fire Service and Insurance Investigation, has allowed me to encourage the young investigator and to assist the seasoned investigator in obtaining their personal goals. Being the President for two IAAI-Chapters has allowed me to continuously and professionally work behind the scenes to promote and foster the objectives of the IAAI. This personal work ethic has paid large dividends for you the Member(s)

**What would you say your greatest assets are if you become a director or officer of the IAAI?** It's difficult to write about yourself, but I guess my greatest assets for the IAAI and its members is my mindset for the IAAI. Since becoming a Director in 2022, every day I focus on the members, and the organization as a whole to ensure I am well-organized, energetic, and represent the Association and its members with dignity and respect.

**What type of leader are you, and how would you apply those leadership traits as a director or officer of the IAAI?** My leadership style is more participative than anything else. I offer guidance, encouragement, and possess the ability to listen to the needs of others. As a leader, I sometimes have to make tough decisions. Some that keep me up at night making sure I have weighed all the facts, both pros and cons before making a decision regarding our Association. Being a Chapter President of both Michigan and South Carolina has allowed me to work for a common vision! Working together with the membership of all our 83 Chapters, is crucial to chart a course of success for the prosperous future of the IAAI.

**What steps do you believe the iaaI should take to reduce or eliminate membership shrinkage?** As a Director it is my responsibility to grow the membership, through interest, involvement, and offering the best training opportunities to any of our 83 Chapters. Giving back to our members has been at the forefront of my mission for the IAAI. Educating our members through training opportunities not only inspires commitment to accomplish

the vision of the IAAI, but also allows me to hear from our members. Without you the Member(s) the IAAI does not exist.

**What steps do you believe the IAAI should take to grow membership?** Obviously, our certifications, professional development, and education opportunities are key to growing membership. In this economic situation, it is imperative to keep costs at a minimum and possibly research partnering with other organizations that can offer "IAAI Member Only" discounts on products, and services to benefit the member(s).

**How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the international and chapters? LISTEN TO OUR CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS!** The IAAI Chapters are the life blood of this association. Communication is key to the successful operation of any organization. One of my roles as a Director is "Customer Service". You the member are a customer and you allowed me to accept a leadership role in this organization to help meet your needs and the needs of the IAAI. Effective, open lines of communication, build positive relationships, and allows for clarity of thought, which helps both the IAAI and its Chapters better understand each other's priorities and points of view. This builds healthy, relationships for both and allows both sides to hear differing interests and needs.

**What is your vision for the future for the IAAI?** The IAAI is the "Global Leaders in Fire Investigation" One of the biggest assets is our training and educational opportunities. Profit sharing with our chapters that host a training and educational event, will build relationships and membership. Membership needs to be a key focus, but mentoring the up-and-coming new investigator needs to be addressed as well. This can be enacted by the utilization of CFTrainer.net, working together with either one-on-one mentoring or distance mentoring via Zoom or Microsoft Teams to facilitate knowledge, sharing investigative concerns, or safety issues.

**Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI?** As previously mentioned, partnering with other organization to offer "IAAI Member Only" discounts is something that I am personally working on to maintain membership retention and benefits for being an IAAI Member. Bolstering membership numbers by IAAI Directors or Executives hosting a networking event that builds awareness of the IAAI, promote and encourages members and non-members to attend a simple "bring a colleague or co-worker" event. Ensuring that the IAAI website is recent and user friendly. Our website is where members or potential members find ease in membership applications, recertification documents and certification documents. The IAAI website is the cornerstone for new members and current members.

**What do you perceive is the biggest challenge facing the IAAI in the coming years and how would you address that challenge?** There are so many challenges facing the IAAI in coming years, its difficult to pick just one single challenge. In my opinion, adapting to digital transformation, and artificial intelligence (AI). This transformation can be positive in many ways, and extremely dangerous in others. One example would be allowing a computerized or AI generated system to compose a Fire Investigative Federal Report for you. I've seen this done in a demonstration and felt troubled after seeing the final project. This is your report, and a computer cannot view or the fire scene or articulate the facts of the case. No one can express their findings better than you. If you did not write the report, you may face significant challenges when questioned on your opinion.