

VOTE 2023 Elections



IAAI Candidates for Board of Directors

Elections will be open until noon (EDT) April 24, the results will be announced at the 2023 ITC General Meeting and on www.firearson.com.

In Ballot Order



David Brannon (TX)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE IAAI? 10 years

HOW MANY ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED; WHICH YEARS? 5 as follows:
2009 Arlington, TX, 2018 Frisco, TX,
2019 Jacksonville, FL, 2020 Las Vegas, NV,

2021 Atlantic City, NJ, 2022 Jacksonville, FL

WHAT IAAI COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON; WHICH YEARS?
None

DO YOU REGULARLY ATTEND YOUR STATE/PROVINCIAL CHAPTER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES? Yes

OFFICES HELD STATE/PROVINCE CHAPTER? Director, Second Vice President, First Vice President, President

PLEASE LIST ANY INTERNATIONAL OFFICES HELD, SPECIAL PROJECTS OR COMMITTEE WORK, INDICATING YEARS OF SERVICE.
None

DESCRIBE, IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, WHY YOU FEEL YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION: As the Chief Fire Marshal for the City of Pasadena, Texas and Presiding President of the Texas Chapter of IAAI, I wholeheartedly agree with and support the vision of the IAAI as a global resource to both the public and private professional fire investigators. I want to become a Director or Officer so I can continue to make certain that the Vision and Mission of the IAAI, its founding fathers, and current members does not falter but remains strong and strengthens globally as time moves on.

With that said, if elected I will be dedicated to the IAAI mission and continue to bring the energy, passion, and dedication that is required to help move the organization forward.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI? As the Chief Fire Marshal for the City of Pasadena, Texas and Presiding President of the Texas Chapter of IAAI, I wholeheartedly agree with and support the vision of the IAAI as a global resource to both the public and private professional fire investigators. I want to become a Director or Officer so I can continue to make certain that the Vision and Mission of the IAAI, its founding fathers, and current members does not falter but remains strong and strengthens globally as time moves on.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE YOUR BEST LEADERSHIP TRAITS, AND HOW WOULD YOU USE THEM AS A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI? I believe my best leadership trait is not thinking I am better than anyone else and providing the best possible equipment and training opportunities to my staff. I believe that to be a leader you need to learn to lead by example. I would not ask my personnel to do anything that I would not do myself. I would use my leadership traits to endorse and promote the IAAI Mission and build on what the IAAI is committed to globally. I'd like to think my office motto sums things up, "A few helping many through dedication, education, and enforcement."

WHAT STEPS DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GROW

MEMBERSHIP? I believe to grow our membership we need to get the word out about our organization. Some steps I believe would grow membership are;

- Commercial podcast.
- YouTube Commercials.
- Advertisement in public sector periodicals.
- Advertisement in private sector periodicals.
- Advertisement through the National Fire Academy.

These are all steps that can be taken and with today's workforce the World Wide Web is a key factor.

HOW WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL AND CHAPTERS?

I would propose that the International and the Chapter Presidents meet on a quarterly or bi-annual basis to discuss concerns or issues that may have arisen within the chapter and are in need of guidance. This can be accomplished by TEAMS or ZOOM meetings or even at an annual IAAI event. The ability to get questions answered or even present ideas in group form would promote a more conducive questions and answer session for all.

WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OF CFITRAINER.NET?

My recommendation for future funding of CFITrainer.net is to continue to apply for grant funding through FEMA AFG and other grant sources that may be available. If grants fall to the wayside, then I would suggest soliciting corporate insurance sponsors such as, State Farm, AllState, Aetna, Progressive, etc. The last option would be the IAAI fund CFITrainer.net and assess membership dues increase at the chapter and individual level or institute a monthly users fee to offset the cost.

OTHER THAN TRAINING FIRE INVESTIGATORS, WHAT TWO OR THREE OTHER ELEMENTS DO YOU CONSIDER AS CRITICAL TO THE MISSION OF THE IAAI?

Other elements I consider critical to the mission of the IAAI;

- 1) As a facilitator of the Expert Witness and Courtroom Testimony class in Texas, I have found it to be imperative that you include your prosecutors, judges and court staff in the process of executing the class. I feel this not only affords the student a true realistic testimony but it also adds some comfort to the prosecutors as to the knowledge base of arson investigators and their dedicated and scientific approach to their field of expertise. This cohesive interaction between investigator and prosecutor is one way to continually strive to eliminate factors which interfere with the administration of justice.
- 2) We must strive to work closely with our judicial system especially our prosecutors in making them comfortable in accepting and prosecuting arson crimes. We need to teach them what we do and how we investigate and come to a conclusion scientifically. We need to eliminate terms such as "Junk Science" and not reference the term in any treatise dealing with the investigation of fire.

continued on page 16