

for Board of Directors

Richard Jones ★ 2018 IAAI Candidate for 2nd Vice President



How long have you been a member of the IAAI? **19 years**

How many IAAI annual meetings have you attended?
6 Which years? **2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017**

Do you regularly attend your State/Provincial Chapter meetings and activities? **Yes**

List any offices held in your State Chapter. **Board Member – 2 terms Secretary President – 2 terms**

Please list any International offices held, special projects or Committee work, indicating years of service. **Board Member 2008-2014 Committee Chair for Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and 1033 for the 2014 Edition and 2017 Edition Director at Large IAAI Foundation, 2016-Present Member of Diamond Club IAAI Fire Investigation Standards Committee Member 2013 – Present CFI committee member Strategic Planning Committee Member 2012 – Present ITC Training Committee Member Editorial Review Committee for the Fire and Arson Investigator Journal 2016 – Present Firearson.com Website Content Review Committee Facilitator for IAAI ECT program Facilitator for IAAI EWCT program 2017 IAAI Certified Instructor Lecturer for IAAI programs at 3 ITC offerings.**

If you are elected, will you take an active role in the IAAI, and with your present position, attend all annual meetings and board meetings during your term of office? **Yes**

Describe, in 100 words or less, why you feel you are qualified for this position. **The IAAI leads the profession of fire investigation in training, certifications and advancing the science of fire investigation. As the owner of a fire investigation company, I have a unique perspective regarding the energy and enthusiasm necessary for the continued success of the organization. My commitment to the IAAI through previous work as a board member and continued work on committees provides me with first-hand knowledge of IAAI's inner workings, giving me a unique perspective on future organizational growth. I feel that my leadership style, combined with my ideas and approach will allow the organization to continue to thrive.**

Why do you want to become a Director or Officer of the IAAI? **“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that this impact lasts in your absence” (Harvard Business School). As a young fire investigator, I was given an opportunity to be mentored by a senior investigator, whose wisdom made a lasting impact on the individual that I am today. As an officer of the IAAI, my goal is to share my experience and wisdom with the members of the organization while continuing to advance the profession. As a member of the Executive Team for the IAAI, I will have the ability to influence growth and development of the organization. By working together with the membership, officers, and the IAAI staff, I am confident that we can take our profession to heights we have yet to even imagine and create an organization of professional fire investigators in which all others are measured by.**

What do you believe are your best leadership traits and how would you use them as a Director or Officer of the IAAI? **Leaders build relationships based on communication and trust. The best traits I bring are my ability to communicate with other investigators and professionals, especially at the Chapter/local level. I am able to engage people in the profession across the world by developing relationships built on trust and open communication. Additionally, my experience and reputation as a fire investigation professional increase my leadership abilities. Since I do the job, in the field, every day, people are able to relate to me, communicate with me, and trust me. They understand that the decisions I would make for IAAI will not only affect them, but affect me as well. As an Officer of**

the IAAI, I would use these traits to continue unifying the membership and provide a forum for people of different opinions to share, express, and discuss critical issues facing the fire investigation profession.

What steps do you believe should be taken to grow membership? **Membership could be grown by developing and advertising relationships with organizations including the AAFS, ACFE, IAFC, and IAFF. Additionally, advertising in publications related to the fire service may grow membership. Finally, the possibility of two annual awards could be considered. The first would be for the Chapter (over five years old) with the largest growth in numbers. The second could be the Chapter (over 50 people) with largest percentage growth of membership. Recognition of growing membership must be provided. Additionally, personal contact with non-members who utilize CFITrainer.net could be made in an effort to recruit those individuals as members.**

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the International and Chapters? **The answer to this question, is in the question—communication. The International must more openly communicate with the local chapters. International must be present or play a role in chapter conferences so the local chapters can see and communicate with the International. Also, International must provide benefits directly to the chapters. This could be in the form of providing speaker resources or reduced-cost training. If every board member, and officer took 5 (or less) chapters, each chapter could be personally contacted EVERY Month by a leader of the IAAI. That's a start. Let's start making our chapters feel they are being heard and given the opportunity to speak rather than waiting until they contact us.**

What are your recommendations for future funding of CFITrainer.Net? **One of the great accomplishments of the IAAI is the CFITrainer learning platform. As an organization, we must do all that we can to continue this world class program. CFITrainer.net could be partially or wholly funded through subscription fees. Either annual fees for unlimited course access or a per course fee could be collected. Another option is to keep the training free, but charge for a certificate for users that are not IAAI members. This could also increase membership, as an accumulation of training hours could cost more than annual membership fees.**

Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI? **IAAI must be a leader in advancing the science related to fire investigations. Discussions must be had to advance education and research to better understand the science of fire investigations and disseminate that information to members of IAAI and the profession. As the demand on experts increases, IAAI must grow the number of certifications and people becoming certified. Additionally, the certifications must be constantly reviewed and updated to ensure the most rigorous certification requirements in the industry., Another mission of the IAAI should be providing resources to agencies that don't have fire investigators. This can be done by building a list of investigators willing to assist volunteer departments in their area, etc. Using this service will also afford the IAAI an opportunity to recruit members, offer training and improve investigative quality. Also, a significant mission for the IAAI would be taking a more active role in utilizing the news media. EVERY time there is a fire event that comes across the internet, television, etc., IAAI should be blasting out press releases with information associated with large events and the importance of investigating these losses to prevent them in the future. An approach such as this, will place a positive spotlight on IAAI and have the media coming to IAAI looking for talking points related to current events.**

