

# 2018 IAAI Candidates

## 2018 IAAI Candidate ★ Robert Rullan



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

How many IAAI annual meetings have you attended? **6** Which years? **2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.**

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

List any offices held in your State Chapter. **I am a member of the Board of Directors of the California Conference of Arson Investigators. At CCAI I serve as the social media coordinator, where I actively engage with the CCAI community via social media channels. I also serve on the Finance and Marketing committees. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of the Hispanic American Chapter, in which I serve as the Director of Communications and Historian.**

Please list any International offices held, special projects or Committee work, indicating years of service. **I currently serve on the IAAI Board of Directors, to which I am honored to have been nominated for reelection. At the IAAI I chair the Social Media committee, focusing on communication amongst the chapters and with IAAI HQ. I have also been involved with training IAAI staff in the use of social media as an effective communications and marketing tool. In 2011 and 2012 I presented a class at the ITC on the effective uses of social media as an investigative tool. At the time, this was not a common tool and one that many investigators were not familiar with. As a Director with a strong interest in modern communications tools, I have been in contact with various IAAI chapters as we strive to increase chapters' reach and communication. For the past 2 years I have also had the privilege of representing IAAI at the NFPA Responder Forum, a 3-day annual event hosted by NFPA where emerging trends in the fire service are discussed. During these events I have focused on data, and how the proper collection and use of data in today's modern world can be a powerful tool for the fire industry. I have also had the honor of representing the IAAI abroad, as we meet with Fire Chiefs and Fire Training Officers from South America (via the Organization of American Firefighters, OBA) to establish a standard curriculum based on the accepted methodology and NFPA 921. The partnership between OBA and IAAI promises to open exciting roads into Latin America.**

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. **I continue to develop myself to be the best leader possible. Preparation for leadership is a continuous effort. My experience as a police officer, firefighter, EMT, and fire investigator allow me to practice these skills daily. I'm a Combat Veteran, and proudly served our country as an enlisted person in the US Marine Corps and Army National Guard. I have been acquiring skills that I use every day to lead others. I believe in the power of professional development to make our organizations better. I'm a multidiscipline, multicultural, bilingual, dedicated professional who excels at bringing people, ideas, and actions together.**

Why do you want to become a Director or Officer of the IAAI? **As a reelected director I would like to continue to proudly carry the IAAI banner across the globe. I want to show fire investigators around the world the benefit and power that comes from working together, towards a common goal. I have already seen some of the success of these efforts, and will continue to work hard to achieve maximum reach of our strategic plan.**

What do you believe are your best leadership traits and how would you use them as a Director or Officer of the IAAI? **My ability to continuously work to achieve greater efficiency in our efforts, using the best technology available, while creating an international network of peers, is one of my best leadership traits. I have been educated in international relations, and the IAAI provides a platform that allows us to cross cultural borders to get our message across the globe. I want to give it all I have to continue the dissemination of that message.**

What steps do you believe should be taken to grow membership? **We must reach out to fire departments in financially challenged jurisdictions, so that they can benefit from the services and certifications we provide. We must also continue to reach countries where membership is low or non-existent, so that they too can develop their fire investigation units and see the benefits of this global community.**

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the International and Chapters? **Modern communications tools such as social media have worked extremely well in the recent past. Many interested individuals are finding out about training and networking opportunities via our social media channels. We also need to continue to encourage directors and IAAI representatives to visit local work groups in communities not commonly visited.**

What are your recommendations for future funding of CFITrainer.Net? **A small fee for the use of the site is practical. Funding from non-US based grants should also be sought, so that foreign languages can be a part of the CFITrainer.net program. We are missing out on a huge market due to the lack of translation into foreign languages.**

Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI? **Communication throughout the world. A foreign services liaison, akin to the US State Department, should be established. The purpose of this position would be to systematically engage with foreign countries to establish exchange programs, at the direction of the IAAI. • An established mentoring program. The field of fire investigation is a difficult one to navigate. Young professionals, or those seeking information about the field, should be able to contact IAAI HQ and be connected with individuals who are willing to "show them the way".**