

for Board of Directors

Darryl D. Sanders ★ 2018 IAAI Candidate



How many IAAI annual meetings have you attended? **6**
Which years? **2011-2017**

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

List any offices held in your State Chapter. **Southern Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President.**

Please list any International offices held, special projects or Committee work, indicating years of service. **Board of Directors, IAAI Foundation Fund raisers, coin challenge, poker run, swamp rump, motorcycle raffle, promotional work for the good of the organization.**

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 am dedicated to fire, arson, and explosion investigation and prevention. To uphold the mission of IAAI, I understand it is essential to encourage and support and serve with the highest ethical standards. My ability to professionally engage individuals in diverse communities and professional organizations enables me to serve as a true resource to our members. I believe the leadership, managerial, and organizational skills I have acquired and demonstrated have prepared me to continue to serving as a director who is committed to aid IAAI in fulfilling its vision of serving as a global resource to fire and explosion investigators**

Why do you want to become a Director or Officer of the IAAI? **I want to be re-elected as a Director of the IAAI because of my dedication to fire, arson, and explosion investigation and prevention. In order to uphold the mission of IAAI, I understand how essential it is to encourage and support others in our profession and to serve with the highest ethical standards. My ability to professionally engage with individuals in diverse communities and professional organizations enables me to serve as a true resource to our members. I believe that the leadership, managerial, and organizational skills that I have acquired and demonstrated have prepared me to continue to serve as a director who is committed to aid IAAI in fulfilling its vision of serving as a global resource to fire and explosion investigators.**

What do you believe are your best leadership traits and how would you use them as a Director or Officer of the IAAI? **One of my greatest leadership traits is my ability to effectively communicate with other investigators, public officials, and the individuals that we serve. An effective leader not only lends his best work to accomplishing the tasks with which he is charged, but also possesses the ability to encourage others, share knowledge, and actively listen to others. I understand that a leader leads by being of service to others and this belief is ingrained in all aspects of my life. I feel that I embody the values that IAAI promotes and that my commitment to service, honesty, integrity, and my work ethic will help to ensure that I am an effective leader. I would continue to use my leadership traits as a Director of IAAI by actively engaging in training programs, promoting membership, supporting other professionals, participating in continuing education endeavors, and working with agencies and organizations to aid in advancements in our field.**

What steps do you believe should be taken to grow membership? **In order to grow membership, a focus on recruiting new members and retaining current members must be prioritized. First, it is essential to research what membership marketing techniques have been successful and which have not been successful. A thorough investigation of membership marketing strategies of IAAI and successful practices of other organizations may serve as a blueprint for membership acquisition. Another strategy that may help grow membership is to send annual brief electronic surveys to current members that ask members about their current thoughts and opinions about different aspects of IAAI, ascertaining not only what works well, but also areas in need of improvement. This may encourage interaction with members, allow them to feel that their thoughts and opinions matter to IAAI leaders, and serve as a mechanism for quality improvement within IAAI.**

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the International and Chapters? **In order to improve relationships and communications with International Chapters, I would hold regular online meetings or webinars. Face- to -face contact can be easily accomplished with the use of technological advances with relative ease and minimal expense. It also has the added benefit of helping to build rapport that can strengthen relationships. In the case of a language differential, offering webinars in different languages or developing and disseminating quarterly electronic newsletters, translated in appropriate languages, that share experiences and lessons learned of different Chapters may prove beneficial.**

What are your recommendations for future funding of CFITrainer.Net? **In order to secure future funding of CFITrainer.Net, it is essential to continue to seek grant funding from private and public funding sources. I believe it is a great service that we are able to offer CFITrainer.Net modules at no cost to anyone seeking to learn more about aspects of fire and fire investigation. One recommendation that I have is to offer trainings using a 2-tiered approach. The first tier could continue to offer a number of trainings at no cost. The second tier could consist of additional modules being offered for a fee. Changing the structure of membership dues has been an ongoing discussion to assist in funding online training, and this is also an avenue that needs to continue to be explored.**

Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI? **IAAI currently has three goals that are part of its strategic plan: knowledge, credibility, and commitment. Training fire investigators is inherent in IAAI's goal of providing knowledge, but it is also critical that we provide multi-level education and resources, meaning provision of education and resources to individuals, communities, businesses and organizations, and governmental agencies that influence policy. Credibility is critical because as global leaders in fire investigation, we must ensure that information that we disseminate and the practices that we endorse uphold industry gold standards. This will strengthen the foundation and growth of IAAI. Finally, commitment is also critical because the potential of fire hazards will never be eliminated, but they can certainly be ameliorated. Commitment of IAAI members to prevent potential fire risks and to stay abreast of advancements in fire investigation is crucial to continue the mission of IAAI today and in the future.**

