

for Board of Directors

Chris Van Vleet ★ 2018 IAAI Candidate



How long have you been a member of the IAAI? **23**

How many IAAI annual meetings have you attended?
12 Which years? **1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009-2011, 2014-2017**

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

List any offices held in your State Chapter. **Iowa Chapter - Director of Detection, 2nd VP, 1st VP, President and Life Member**

Please list any International offices held, special projects or Committee work, indicating years of service. **Current Board of Directors since 2015, Current Chairman Editorial Review Board since 2015**

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 have spent most of my professional career in the fire investigation field. I was certified by ATF in 1996 as a CFI and then by IAAI in 1997. I have successfully perfected numerous criminal cases against arsonist and now manage a business line responsible for Origin & Cause investigations for the private industry. I have taught at local IAAI Chapters, the ATF National Academy, The National Fire Academy and the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest, Hungry. I have been active in the Iowa Chapter since 1997 and have held several positions to include President.**

Why do you want to become a Director or Officer of the IAAI? **I am a strong supporter and advocate of the IAAI and believe that the Association has a lot to offer its membership. I would like to help ensure that the IAAI maintains its position as the premier organization not only for training, but for furthering the field of fire investigation. As such, we have a responsibility to provide the best possible training to our members to help them to make proper Origin and Cause determinations. As a director, I feel I can help the association continue on this path.**

What do you believe are your best leadership traits and how would you use them as a Director or Officer of the IAAI? **I like to lead by example. I feel I am a good listener and like to gather as much information as possible before I make a decision. I am not afraid to make a decision but also not afraid to change it when I am presented with new facts that show a change is necessary. I make a concerted effort to see all points of view and give the appropriate weight to varying opinions. I feel I am fair but strong when necessary.**

What steps do you believe should be taken to grow membership?
Continue to offer great training at a reasonable price, "be there" for the membership and chapters and be consistent in everything we do. We need to visibly be good stewards of the Associations funds and have open and transparent lines of communication at all times.

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the International and Chapters? **As I previously mentioned, the International needs to be consistent and transparent in everything they do. As best as is possible, the Chapters need to know what to expect year to year from the International. Chapter liaisons need to attend at least one chapter board meeting for each chapter each year to promote open dialog and offer International support.**

What are your recommendations for future funding of CFITrainer. Net? **I think the International should continue to partner with their supporters in the public and private sectors. The mission of keeping investigators up to the current "standards" of the industry should be everyone's joint goal. I also think we should explore a minimal yearly subscription fee for non-members. By not charging members, it gives a tangible example of the benefits of membership.**

Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI? **The IAAI is and should continue to be a strong united voice for excellence in fire investigations around the world. The knowledge, talent and experience within the International membership is amazing and needs to be used for the continued refinement of the field of fire investigation. Secondly, as a global organization, the ability to network and share thoughts and experiences is critical. The networking via the web as well as Chapter and International conferences is invaluable to investigators as they progress through their careers.**

