



Christopher J. Ward Candidate for IAAI Board of Directors

How long have you been a member of the IAAI?
 Illinois Chapter of the IAAI-26 years, IAAI- 22 years

How many IAAI annual meetings have you attended? 4
 Which years? 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018

What IAAI Committees have you served on; Which years?
 IAAI Insurance Committee 2015-Present, IAAI Social Media Committee 2016-Present, Appointed as 1st IAAI Attendee to NFPA First Responder Forum 2015-2018, IAAI Liason to the States Wisconsin & Michigan

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

List any offices held in your State Chapter.
 Training & Education Co-Chair, Training & Education Chair, Illinois IAAI Northern Zone Director, Illinois IAAI Vice-President, Illinois IAAI President

Please list any International offices held, special projects or Committee work, indicating years of service. IAAI Insurance Committee 2015-Present, IAAI Social Media Committee 2016-Present, Appointed as 1st IAAI Attendee to NFPA First Responder Forum 2015-2018

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 joined the Illinois IAAI 26 years ago and it has been a great journey working on behalf of our membership and now it's time to give back. I will be retiring from public service this coming year and I can now dedicate my time and efforts to work to benefit all members of our great IAAI association by bringing in fresh ideas and a strong work ethic. I will be an advocate for the membership and work with the board to continue to enhance and expand the IAAI into the True Global Leader in Fire Investigation!

Why do you want to become a Director or Officer of the IAAI? I began this journey in this great organization some 26 years ago by joining the Illinois Chapter of the IAAI and working my way up through the organization to President of the Chapter. During my tenure with the Illinois IAAI we have become the largest Chapter in the IAAI as well as 3rd in the number of certified IAAI-CFI's. In 2015, we were honored with the Chapter of the Year award. I have been active with the IAAI serving as Chapter Liaison to Wisconsin and Michigan as well as serving as the original Co-Chair of the IAAI Insurance Committee. In 2015 I was appointed by then IAAI President Heenan as an inaugural member of the NFPA First Responders Forum representing the IAAI. I would like to bring my background, experience, and work ethic to enhance and expand the IAAI as the Global Leader in Fire Investigation.

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 some of my best leadership traits are my work ethic, my communication skills, and building trust with others. I believe in leading by example and dedicating the needed time and effort into accomplishing the IAAI goals. Working with others for a common goal and success of OUR organization is paramount to the success of OUR organization.

What steps do you believe should be taken to grow membership? By partnering with other public fire service and law enforcement organizations we can reach key segments and explain the benefits of joining the IAAI. In the private sector, we need to enhance our relationships with private sector organizations in the insurance industry such as IASIU, NASP, NSPII.

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the International and Chapters? The Chapters and their members are the foundation of the IAAI. Many of the State Chapters members are not members of the IAAI. We need to expand our efforts of working with the Chapters to explain the benefits to all State chapter members. We need to improve the lines of communications with the Chapters and ensure the individuals assigned as Chapter Liaisons are given clear directions and information to be passed along to the Chapters and are doing their job to promote the IAAI.

What are your recommendations for future funding of CFITrainer.Net? In order to secure future funding of CFITrainer.net, it is essential to continue seek both public and private sources of grant both in the United States as well as Internationally. We should also look to partner with the insurance industry to sustain and expand the program. If colleges are using the CFITrainer program for their curriculum, we need to look into charging a user fee to those colleges that can be built into the student's tuition.

Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI? The IAAI needs to be a leader in advancing the science related to fire investigation worldwide. The IAAI needs to look at partnering with ATF, NIST and UL labs and the international community to continue the research and testing associated with our profession. We should continue and enhance our work on the health and safety front for all professionals both in the public and private sector working fire scenes to educate them on the associated health risks, dangers and safety requirements.