



Claire Mansi Candidate for IAAI Board of Directors

How long have you been a member of the IAAI? 13 ½ years

How many IAAI annual meetings have you attended? 15

Which years? 2004 St Louis, MO, 2005 Washington DC, 2006 Denver, CO, 2007 Victoria, Canada, 2008 Denver, CO, 2009 Arlington, TX, 2010 Orlando, FL, 2011 Las Vegas, NV, 2012 Dover, DE, 2013 Orlando, FL, 2014 Las Vegas, NV, 2015 Chicago, IL, 2016 Orlando, FL, 2017 Las Vegas, NV, 2018 Frisco, TX

What IAAI Committees have you served on; Which years? EP&G between (I believe) 2012 – to date.

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

List any offices held in your State Chapter. Board of Directors and Director of Administration in UK AFI (formally IAAI-UK)

Please list any International offices held, special projects or Committee work, indicating years of service. IAAI Re-Branding Committee 2015-2016

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 been involved with the running of the UK Chapter since 2003, involved with the IAAI since 2004, facilitated the development of other international chapters, organized and facilitated training events in the UK and other European countries and have been an active IAAI member since 2005. I have been a member of the EP&G Committee for the last 6 years, sat on the IAAI re-branding ad-hoc committee and have a thorough understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the position of a Director of the IAAI Board. I have the appropriate skills and personal attributes to fulfill this role.

Why do you want to become a Director or Officer of the IAAI? As a strong supporter of the IAAI, I want to actively and positively contribute to our association at Board level, which over the past 15 years, has given me world class fire investigation training. I hope to seamlessly continue participating in discussions and decisions from the 'International UK and European perspective. I will endeavor to promote the expansion of Chapters' memberships from around the globe, encouraging members to attend our ITC, to not only meet and share each other's skills and knowledge but have the invaluable experience and training provided by the 'Global Leaders in Fire Investigation'.

I will not make statements that I cannot back up or promises that I cannot either keep or control, therefore I want to be part of the team, the elected IAAI Board, to contribute to the continued improvement of our association. One of my drives would be to improve the historically poor voting numbers when the IAAI elections take place; as I believe that the elections give 'ownership' of the IAAI directly to the members.

What do you believe are your best leadership traits and how would you use them as a Director or Officer of the IAAI? Confidence, integrity, honesty, compassion and professionalism.

Before joining a busy private fire investigation company 6 years ago, I worked in the London Fire Brigade's Arson Task Force within some of the most deprived areas of London. Working closely with the Metropolitan Police Service, probation service, judicial and local authorities, including members of the public, has demonstrated my skills and abilities to effectively listen, understand and communicate across the range of key partners; traits that I can bring not only to the board, but also to the membership.

I have strong organizational skills, having arranged or been part of a team that has facilitated many UK and International fire investigation conferences and training events. The conferences have brought together various disciplines from across the fire investigation field, which have also been very successful over the last 15 years in getting new members to join both the UK Chapter and the IAAI. As a Director of the Board, I believe I can continue this contribution to the IAAI at a higher level.

If I am elected to serve as one of your International Directors, I will attend Board meetings, any other events required of me and I will be committed to the content, discussions and debates that take place, for the benefit of the IAAI and its members. I will be an active voice and not just an attendee. I am far from being, as we say in the UK, a 'wall flower'!! I am a confident speaker and am capable of expressing my opinions, or those of others that have asked me to represent them, in a dignified, reasonable and professional manner.

I have always and will continue to stand for integrity, honesty and professionalism; qualities that should reflect in all of our IAAI members, whatever their gender, ethnicity, beliefs or position. As a Director of the Board, I will promote and support these qualities at every opportunity and level.

What steps do you believe should be taken to grow membership? The IAAI are the 'Global Leaders in Fire Investigation' and should be using that mantra more widely as it explains in simple words what the Association is all about. There are non-members, companies and countries around the world that hear about the IAAI, but are unaware or unsure of the benefits to them, we need to reach out, fill them with enthusiasm, 'light the fire' within the organizations' budget holders to invest in their people; to join, support or contribute to the 'Global Leaders in Fire Investigation'.

IAAI accreditations, certifications and qualifications supported by tested training are key to members' professional integrity.

I would like to encourage the certifications and accreditations that the IAAI offer more actively promoted within the chapters so that every chapter member is aspiring to be, at the minimum, an IAAI-FIT. There should be more encouragement by the IAAI and chapters for members and non-members to aspire to higher standards by ensuring they all have the certifications and accreditations appropriate to their positions, whether it is IAAI-FIT, IAAI-CFI, IAAI-CFI(V), IAAI-ECT or IAAI-CI. When members see their peers 'leading the way' then the norm will be to acquire appropriate qualifications, which by default of the price points of attaining and maintaining them, will encourage more non-members to join.

I would also like to see the accreditations that we have in place expanded, for example they could include the marine specialists, IAAI-CFI(M) and the Wild Land specialists IAAI-CFI(WL).

The IAAI President, Board of Directors and Executive Director should stress at each of the quarterly Chapter Presidents' teleconferences, the internally and more importantly, the externally recognised professionalism of practitioners within our fire investigation discipline when they acquire those accreditations.

The 'professional' culture needs to continue so that every practitioner within our Chapters joins the IAAI and attains the standards required to take the tests for their continuing professional development.

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the International and Chapters? I am aware that the quarterly Chapter Presidents' teleconferences are a great success and have heard very positive feedback from several Chapter Presidents since their introduction. However, this should expand to enable a closer support network for newly appointed Chapter Presidents.

In my experience, the International assume that a Chapter President and his/her Board of Directors have the necessary skills and knowledge available to implement and conduct the day-to-day running of that Chapter. It is also assumed that there is a successful 'handover' between Presidents, which does not always happen. I would propose a communications mechanism in place that allows contact and guidance with newly installed Chapter Presidents (and their Board of Directors) and providing an 'IAAI Chapter President's guide book' on the fundamentals of successfully setting up and running a Chapter, that would be invaluable. Not all Chapter Presidents can attend the Chapter Presidents' lunch or the Chapter Presidents' orientation input at the ITCs. A phone call to all newly appointed Presidents asking in person their needs and concerns, would be a welcome step forward in relations between the International and Chapters. This positive and effective communication support would then filter down from the board to the chapter members, harmonizing the IAAI more positively with those chapters.

I also think that the introduction of a dedicated overseas chapter liaison officer(s) who can more easily and/or logistically attend those overseas chapter conferences would improve the relationships. They could provide both feedback to the Board and the entire membership via the Fire & Arson Journal. Where this has occurred, it has been a huge success; for example when the IAAI Board visited the UK.

What are your recommendations for future funding of CFITrainer.Net? If CFITrainer.net certificates were a member benefit, whereby certificates were produced for a nominal fee to members only, with an enhanced cost to non-members, then it would have a two-fold effect. The first would be a revenue stream to help fund the CFITrainer.net programme and the second would be an increase in the IAAI membership.

The training could still be free if it is tied in with grant funding, which may or may not prohibit the charging of training, but the certificates could be charged separately.

It appears that when grants are available, there is no problem with funding, but when those grants are not available, then the fire investigation practitioners that use CFITrainer.net should be prepared to pay towards it. Those users would make a financial contribution, as they know the true value of this exceptional online training tool. This coupled with commercial sponsorship should assist its continuing growth and global success.

Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI? 1: To be open, transparent and professional to the communities we serve.

2: To use the knowledge, experiences and data that fire investigators gather from the training received through the IAAI and its chapters, to input into public and private forums to help prevent future fires. The IAAI should be seen as a valuable knowledge pool and resource for all things that cause and spread fires and should be more vocal and improve its representation at those forums.

3: Better communications with all the IAAI members via short, regular and relevant contact, which could include emails as well as social media. These should be short, sharp and snappy! Not everyone uses social media and most are inundated with emails, so consideration must go into every communication sent and each contact should be replicated through the various media options. Using modern methods of communications, we could find innovative solutions to get our members voting.