



2019 Meet the CANDIDATES



Gary Hodson Candidate for 2nd Vice President

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

How many IAAI annual meetings have you attended? 14
Which years? 2002 thru 2005, 2009 thru 2018

What IAAI Committees have you served on; Which years? 2004-2009 Investigator Safety Committee; Transportation subcommittee, Training and Education Committee; 2011-Present Application Review subcommittee, CFI Committee; 2015-present Chapters Committee; Principles and Practices, NFPA 921 & 1033 Committee; 2016-present Health and Safety Committee

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

List any offices held in your State Chapter. Director, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President, Past President, Sergeant-At-Arms

Please list any International offices held, special projects or Committee work, indicating years of service. 2014-Present Director; 2004-2009 Investigators Safety Committee; Transportation Subcommittee, Training And Education Committee; 2011-Present Application Review Subcommittee, CFI Committee; 2015-Present Chapters Committee Chair; Principles And Practices NFPA 921 & 1033 Committee; 2016-Present Health And Safety Committee

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 in fire investigations for over 27 years, both in the public and private sector. I have served in leadership positions in my local chapter. I have served the IAAI as a director since 2014, and as a committee chair since 2015. I am passionate about the mission and members of the IAAI. I have a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. I have the education, experience, and motivation to serve the IAAI and its members in a continued leadership positions. I will seek first to understand, then to be understood.

Why do you want to become a Director or Officer of the IAAI? I have served as a director for the past five years and believe I still have a lot to offer to the organization. I have experienced increased growth and knowledge through my membership. I am a hardworking, dedicated,

reliable person and I am passionate about the IAAI and the members. I have the integrity and capability to continue my service as a member of the executive team. I want the IAAI to continue to be "The Global Leaders 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? One leadership trait is to lead by example. Also, to seek to understand, then to be understood. Maintaining an open mind and listening to the thoughts of others is important to the overall success of an organization. It has been said, many hands make for light work. I would encourage each and every member to strive for success, excellence, and professionalism.

What steps do you believe should be taken to grow membership? We need to retain the members we currently have and understand why they may let their membership lapse. We need to provide additional information to chapter-only members for them to understand the benefits of belonging to the IAAI. Are we meeting the expectations of the member? Can we do better? We need to act on the feedback from our current members. We need to actively seek new members from allied programs and companies.

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the Internationals and Chapters? The relationship between the chapters and the IAAI have improved during the past few years. The quarterly chapter president conference calls have helped improve the relationships and communications and they will continue. We need to be willing to listen and seek continued ways for improvement.

What are your recommendations for future funding of CFITrainer.Net? We need to continue obtaining grants when they are available. Grants can no longer be our only source of funding and we need to seek partnerships with insurance and restoration companies. We need to establish an affordable subscription fee for CFITrainer.net.

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 establish long-term partnerships with allied organizations, including, but not limited to ATF, ASTM, NFPA, and institutions of higher learning. We need to stress the need for professionalism as a fire investigator and provide opportunities for the members to achieve that level. We need to provide opportunities for the success of the members.