



## Kevin B. Crawford Candidate for IAAI Board of Directors

**How long have you been a member of the IAAI?**  
11 – since 3/13/2007

**How many IAAI annual meetings have you attended? 9**  
**Which years?** 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2008, 2006

**What IAAI Committees have you served on; Which years?**  
Advocacy Committee 2016 - current;  
Health & Safety Committee (Chair) 2016-2018;  
Principles and Practices editorial committee 2017-2018

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

**List any offices held in your State Chapter.**  
Colorado Chapter; Training Chair, President, Treasurer

**Please list any International offices held, special projects or Committee work, indicating years of service. Board of Directors 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, as evidenced by past Chapter involvement and International Board attendance**

**Describe, in 100 words or less, why you feel you are qualified for this position.** I am qualified for this position because I have been in it previously. I understand the time and dedication required to work in the position. Being involved in my Chapter, teaching various Chapter and International courses and my past Board experience have given me the insight needed for this position. I have co-organized and led and been involved in several different avenues of the Chapter's and the International's projects, the last being resurrection of the Health and Safety committee. I am a leader who sees the need, builds the team, and then passes the torch off to other qualified personnel.

**Why do you want to become a Director or Officer of the IAAI?** I want to, again, serve the IAAI and the membership as a member of the Board of Directors because I have the capacity and ability to research and recognize the best path forward for the IAAI. Having served on the Board I have been able to see the activities where the IAAI has the opportunity to improve and continue to move forward as the Global Leaders in Fire Investigations.

**What do you believe are your best leadership traits and how would you use them as a Director or Officer of the IAAI?** My best leadership trait is the ability to listen to the membership and seek and apply the best solution to the situation. The best solution is not always the most popular solution, I am willing to extend myself into the areas of the unknown and apply the best solutions. I definitely try not to just follow the crowd because it is popular the thing to do. As a leader I'm willing to look outside the box for solutions, I have demonstrated my ability to lead as my former Chapter's (Colorado) Training Chair re-establishing our Chapter's annual Training Conference several years ago, now in its 10th year. I have also served as the President and the Treasurer of the Colorado Chapter and during my tenure in each position saw the Chapter grow in membership.

**What steps do you believe should be taken to grow membership?** The first and foremost step to grow the membership is to reach those who are not members and introduce them to the benefits of International membership. Some are not aware of the full benefits of belonging to the International, some have had less than expected performance from the International, some are simply not aware of the International and the separation between the International and the Chapters, others throughout the world are simply not aware of the IAAI.

Each of these groups needs to be approached differently. My greatest concern of the groups is the group which has received less

than expected performance from the International – what was not as expected? How can it be addressed? Those who have had a less than expected performance from the International need contact from the Executive Board and from the members of the Board of Directors, being willing to answer questions and fill in the gaps of information.

There are a vast number of chapter members who are chapter only members. With the correct approach from the Board of Directors and from the local Chapters' leadership, the benefits of joining the International can be shown and well laid out.

**How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the International and Chapters?** The most effective way to improve the relationships and communications between the International and the Chapters is to listen and communicate. The Executive Board and the Board of Directors need to be willing to participate in Chapter events, and as a good leader listen to the concerns and ideas the Chapters have and then show the solutions to those concerns. The International exists as a support for the Chapters. I fully believe each Chapter is capable of surviving on its own without participation from the International; however, by being a part of the International and with the International being a supportive and coordinating body for all the Chapters, both are able to effectively grow and function better. The International should exist to support the Chapters and not rule the Chapters.

**What are your recommendations for future funding of CFITrainer.net?** There has been much discussion during our International Board meetings as to the funding of CFITrainer.net. We have been fortunate in past years to receive grants to help continue the CFITrainer program; however, as much as we would like it to be, that grant money may not be available in the future. My personal ideas for the future funding of the CFITrainer program are for individual participation and contribution into the funding of the program. While many have very limited funding available to training and the currently free training provided through the program is exceptional, some user participation in the funding should be expected. Whether that funding should be per program or per certificate issued has been researched and is still a matter to be discussed further with member input. I believe that some form of participant participation should be required.

**Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI?** The training of fire investigators will always be the top priority of the International Association of Arson Investigators. We are the Global Leaders in Fire Investigation. In order to provide that leadership the IAAI needs to be involved in discovering what is the best science of fire investigation. This discovery is through cooperation, coordination and participation in the different science fields applicable to fire investigations. We need to identify the current gaps in the science of fire investigation and actively seek the knowledge to properly fill in those gaps. As the Global Leaders we should not be satisfied with simply training fire investigations but rather we should be seeking the best and most accurate science and data for fire investigations and then disseminating that cutting edge information to the membership. The IAAI does have great relationships with the ATF and NIST as well as others. We need to be supportive of joint efforts to step into the future.

I would also like to see the IAAI involved in efforts to literally put ourselves out of business. By that I'm considering that when we do have fires to investigate it means that something prior to the fire failed. We need to not only be leaders in fire investigations but we need to be leaders in fire prevention. We need to actively participate with fire prevention groups such as the NFPA and Fire Marshal groups. We need to adopt and support not just US based fire prevention but show our true International dedication by supporting organizations outside the US.