

Robert Cabral Candidate for IAAI Foundation Board



What is your vision for the IAAI Foundation for the next five years?

The IAAI Foundation is an essential part of the IAAI organization. By providing a pathway to raise money for the membership's needs as well as the industry, it allows for research, training and support that in this day and age is hard to acquire. I see a Foundation that supports the Fire Investigator on the job. I have been letting members know that I am running for the Foundation Board and a common comment is "What is the IAAI Foundation?". I believe that there is a disconnect between the membership and some of the benefits of being a member. I would like to see the Foundation directly in contact with the membership and promotion of the benefits that the Foundation offers to those members. Whether it is grants for training or scholarships to attend the ITC, letting the membership know what's available is important to the success of the organization. In order for the Foundation to be successful, the membership must value it. The support of the members is what drives the Foundation, so having the members believe the Foundation is truly there to support them is most important.

I am a IAAI Member that is still on the front line. I still work the public side and believe that the IAAI is one of the most important relationships an investigator can make. I have always perceived the Board of the Foundation as people who have held leadership positions in the IAAI and then transition into the role of Board Member for the Foundation. The experience that those members bring to the Board is very important. The mix of the Board needs to also include the average IAAI Chapter member. By mixing the Board with experienced IAAI Leadership and those who really need the support of the Foundation, the Foundation will be more of an asset to the membership.

I see the Foundation becoming a more common, accessible organization in the next five years. I see a mix of Board Members representing the body as a whole. I see an increase in support directly from the interpersonal contact of the Board and the education of the membership on the benefits offered by the Foundation.

What positions have you held in your local Chapter?

I have been a member of the Ohio Chapter of the IAAI for over 25 years. I have been on the Board of Directors and held the position as Legislative Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair, Award Committee Chair and Constitution and By-laws Chair. I have served as Chapter President for three terms. The Ohio Chapter has a session system. So I served in the role as 2nd VP, VP, President the Past President three times. I am currently in the position of Past President.

What positions have you held in IAAI?

I am currently a Life Member of the IAAI and serving as a Committee Member for the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.