



David Bridges (MN)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE IAAI?
Since 2010.

HOW MANY ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED; WHICH YEARS? Six (6) – 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, & 2019.

WHAT IAAI COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON; WHICH YEARS?

- Training & Education (T&E) Committee (2012-Present)
Co-Chair (2017-Present)
- International Training Conference (ITC) Committee (2015-Present)
Co-Chair (2016)
Chair (2017-Present)
- Expert Witness-Courtroom Testimony (EWCT) Subcommittee (2013-Present)
- Insurance Training & Membership Advisory Committee (2014-Present)
- Editorial Review Board (2016-Present)
Legal Subcommittee Chair (2016-Present)

DO YOU REGULARLY ATTEND YOUR STATE/PROVINCIAL CHAPTER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES? YES

OFFICES HELD STATE/PROVINCE CHAPTER?

- Training and Education (T&E) Committee (MN Chapter, 2016-Present)
- Training and Education (T&E) Committee (NC Chapter, 2008-Present) Board of Directors (NC Chapter, 2010-2015)
- Expert Witness-Courtroom Testimony Committee (NC Chapter, 2013-Present)
- Accelerant Detection K-9 Committee (NC Chapter, 2013-Present)
- Life Member (NC Chapter, 2015)

PLEASE LIST ANY INTERNATIONAL OFFICES HELD, SPECIAL PROJECTS OR COMMITTEE WORK, INDICATING YEARS OF SERVICE.

- Board of Directors (2017-Present)
- Liaison to Insurance Training & Membership Advisory Committee (2017-Present)
- Liaison to Constitution & Bylaws Committee (2017-Present)
- Liaison to Ethical Practices & Grievances Committee (2019-Present)
- Training and Education (T&E) Committee (2012-Present)
Co-Chair (2017-Present)
- International Training Conference (ITC) Committee (2015-Present)
Co-Chair (2016)
Chair (2017-Present)
- Expert Witness-Courtroom Testimony (EWCT) Subcommittee (2013-Present)
- Insurance Training & Membership Advisory Committee (2014-Present)
- Editorial Review Board (2016-Present)
Legal Subcommittee Chair (2016-Present)

DESCRIBE, IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, WHY YOU FEEL YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION: The IAAI is committed to helping public/private sector professionals become their best selves – to become qualified, certified, and competent. Our aim is preparation. Preparation means being committed to its frontline Chapters and members, and dedicated to meaningful training progress. For someone like me who has served as a public sector investigator, testifying subject matter expert, and technically trained attorney handling fire/explosion matters nationwide, I offer extensive experience in the forensic investigation/litigation arenas, a tireless work ethic, and an uncompromising commitment to uphold the public trust, all of which make me the ideal candidate to continue managing the IAAI's corporate business.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI? On April 16, 2019, I was honored to be nominated by my dear friend and mentor, Randy Watson, current IAAI- Director and Chair of the National Fire Protection Association's Technical Committee on Fire Investigations, to serve a second term on the IAAI Board of Directors. The successes of my first term have been powered by the IAAI's frontline Chapters', and their members' support. As an IAAI-Director, I have taken a proactive role in helping manage the IAAI's corporate business. Also, as Co-Chair of the IAAI's Training & Education Committee, I have worked with current IAAI-Director and T&E Chair, Trace Lawless, to identify, develop, and implement training programs, policies, and practices that meaningfully prepare our Chapters and members to face challenges to their qualifications, methodology, and opinions. Nonetheless, we have much work ahead. If fortunate enough to be elected to a second term, I will continue fighting to address the challenges ahead in the fire- and explosion- investigation and litigation professions.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE YOUR BEST LEADERSHIP TRAITS, AND HOW WOULD YOU USE THEM AS A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI? Elections and appointments rarely make leaders. It's really about doing. My roots run deep in the IAAI's work, beginning first at the frontline Chapter level, continuing into several current IAAI Committee assignments, and now as an IAAI-Director. Through these lenses, I have examined the challenges facing our Chapters and the fire- and explosion-industry as a whole. I believe the IAAI must tirelessly work with its frontline Chapters and its members to better identify, develop, and empower them to face challenges to qualifications, methodology, and/or opinions. In short, I'm a candidate that's committed to Chapters and its members, and dedicated to meaningful training progress.

WHAT STEPS DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GROW MEMBERSHIP? Before the IAAI focuses on expanding its membership, it should first work to identify and implement strategies to stop membership loss/shrinkage. Next, the IAAI should strive to provide more value added benefits to its existing membership.

HOW WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL AND CHAPTERS? There's always room for improvement. For starters, the IAAI needs to ensure its frontline Chapters and members are heard and supported. From there, we should respond accordingly to those organizational and training needs to better prepare all of our fellow public and private sector professionals are ready to face the challenges of tomorrow.

WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OF CFITRAINER.NET? CFITrainer.net has, and will, be an invaluable training tool for public and private sector professionals in the fire- and explosion-industry. While we have benefited over the years from governmental grant funding, we should anticipate that such funding may likely run out, and faster than expected. We need to explore contingent funding sources for CFITrainer.net to make sure we can continue to identify, develop, and implement these meaningful training modules at the time that such governmental funding ends. Those sources could include industry-specific partnerships and individualized membership user fees that are not cost-prohibitive. We should also explore the feasibility of individualized user fees structured to provide discounted rates for IAAI members.

OTHER THAN TRAINING FIRE INVESTIGATORS, WHAT TWO OR THREE OTHER ELEMENTS DO YOU CONSIDER AS CRITICAL TO THE MISSION OF THE IAAI? Simply put, the IAAI's aim is to identify, develop, and provide meaningful education, training, professional development, certification, networking, advocacy, and other resource support to the forensic fire- and explosion- investigation and litigation professions.