



David Cheers (FL)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE IAAI? Since 2006.

HOW MANY ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED; WHICH YEARS? 10, 2010 - 2019

WHAT IAAI COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON; WHICH YEARS?

Chairman, nominations committee 2016 and 2018. Site Selection 2011-2019 (9 years)

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

OFFICES HELD STATE/PROVINCE CHAPTER? NE Director, 1-year. Chapter Secretary 2 years (Florida Chapter)

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

Chairman, nominations committee 2016 and 2018. Site Selection 2011-2019 (9 years)

DESCRIBE, IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, WHY YOU FEEL YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION:

With my dedication to the standards and the professionalism of the industry of fire investigation since 1994, as well as my involvement in the inner workings of our great association since 2011, I feel that I can be a positive influence on the direction that our industry takes over the coming years. I further feel that sharing my knowledge with others who are just beginning their investigation career can have a positive influence on the type of investigator that we will see around the world in the future.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI? As each of us began our careers in the profession of fire investigation, we were most likely mentored, trained, or influenced by those who came before us. Some were industry leaders, some were local professionals, and some were our peers or co-workers. But each of them offered something to us that we could use, good or bad, to shape us into the investigators we are today. Not all of them were involved or even interested in our great association, and quite frankly some of them even showed us the type of expert we definitely did not want to be, but a handful stood out to us and those were the individuals who dedicated their time and knowledge to help the industry by serving on our Board of Directors and/or progressing through the chairs to become the President and face of our organization.

After 25 years in the field of fire investigation, I feel that it is my time, and even my responsibility, to be a part of that handful to share my time and knowledge to help shape the future of fire investigation. I began this journey in 2011 when I was first appointed as a member of our site selection committee and by showing commitment, was appointed to Chairman of our nominations committee where I served two years. I now believe that I can share my time and talents as a member of our Board of Directors.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE YOUR BEST LEADERSHIP TRAITS, AND HOW WOULD YOU USE THEM AS A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI?

Great leadership is best exemplified by being able to not only listen, but to actually hear the concerns of others. My ability to engage those who are affected by the decisions made by our board is the best leadership trait that I can bring to the table. This coupled with my commitment to want what is best for our profession shows exceptional leadership.

WHAT STEPS DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GROW MEMBERSHIP? Soliciting new professionals will increase membership one-by-one, but engaging each of our current members to be ambassadors and recruiters themselves should be undertaken to exponentially grow membership

HOW WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL AND CHAPTERS? Having board members who understand that our success as an association is only as good as each of our chapters, will result in better communication at the chapter level. I would like to see our board members take an active role in the concerns at the chapter level and engage the very people who cast votes in the process of decision making at the international level.

WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OF CFITRAINER.NET?

We all know by now that national grant funding is not a guarantee, only a request that may or may not be approved each year. I believe we should explore public and private partnerships to exist as backup or additional funding sources in the years when grant monies are not approved.

OTHER THAN TRAINING FIRE INVESTIGATORS, WHAT TWO OR THREE OTHER ELEMENTS DO YOU CONSIDER AS CRITICAL TO THE MISSION OF THE IAAI?

As a truly international organization, we should exist to serve the needs of all and to build bridges across the profession of fire investigation worldwide. Secondly, we should identify more members to serve as representatives of our organization at the Federal, State, Provincial, and Local levels to emphasize the importance of proper fire investigations.