



John McDermott (AB)

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

HOW MANY ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED; WHICH YEARS?

I have attended 7 Annual Meetings; 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

WHAT IAAI COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON; WHICH YEARS?

I sit on the following IAAI Committees:

921 Guidebook Committee (2015–Present) Education & Training Committee (2016–Present) Career Path Committee (2018–Present)

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

Yes, I regularly attend my Province's Chapter meetings and activities.

OFFICES HELD STATE/PROVINCE CHAPTER?

I have held the following offices at the Chapter level:

Past President (2019–Present) President (2017–2019)

1st Vice President (2015–2017) 2nd Vice President (2013–2015)

Training & Education Committee Chair (2010–2014)

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

In 2015, I was appointed to the 921 guidebook committee. Having been part of the process of updating and re-writing of sections of this text, it allowed me to collaborate with other investigators from across the globe to ensure a quality delivery of the fifth edition to the investigation community.

I have been the co-chair of the itc since 2017 in Las Vegas. Since being part of this sub-committee of the t&e committee, I have been afforded the opportunity to learn how to coordinate and facilitate on a global scale with IAAI staff and directors.

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

My experience as an investigator, educator and member of my Chapter Board and Executive have afforded me the experience needed to ensure a successful term. I feel that I will be a great representative of the international investigation community and will work hard to ensure that the needs of this community are met.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI?

As an international organization, I believe we need to have more international representation. I believe we have an obligation to ourselves to get out and interact and engage one another in a multitude of areas as they relate to our chosen field. I believe I have the necessary tools and resources to do so.

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

Active engagement with our international community. As a member of the IAAI Board of Directors, I will prove to be active in my engagement with as many of our international Chapters as I am able, bringing ideas, concerns and potential solutions to the Board.

WHAT STEPS DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GROW MEMBERSHIP?

I would suggest that more involvement in post-secondary schools internationally where those training in various vocations to become members of the fire and arson investigation community would be a great start. We have a great many within this great organization that would be outstanding ambassadors whom would represent the IAAI and legitimately generate positive growth in our membership.

HOW WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL AND CHAPTERS?

Again, I would have to say active engagement with our international community. Chapters outside the U.S. should not be left to feel like they don't have an ear or a voice to the parent International Board or their programs.

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

As much as users of this world-class resource may not want to see it, I would have to agree with our friend, Chris Lopez, from the Texas Chapter that a modest annual fee will eventually need to be charged. While it's always a great day when we are notified that our grant application has borne fruit and will provide the funding applied for, it is simply not a reliable – or sustainable – funding source.

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

Effective communication. Active engagement with the international investigation community. Further positive growth of the IAAI membership.