



Randy Watson (GA)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE IAAI? 35 Years

HOW MANY ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED; WHICH YEARS? 14 (1997, 2008, 2009,

2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

WHAT IAAI COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON; WHICH YEARS?

Public Agency Advisor Committee (Chairman) - 2013 to Present

Tagline Adhoc Committee (Year unknown, Possibly 2013) Executive Director Vetting Committee (2018)

Budget and Finance Committee (Chairman 2019, member 2017 to Present) CFITrainer.net Steering Committee – 2012 to Present

CFITrainer Adhoc Committee on Funding (2019) Board of Directors (2014 to Present)

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

OFFICES HELD STATE/PROVINCE CHAPTER? SC Chapter – Board of Directors 1990 to 1992

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

NFPA 921 Technical Committee – Chairman 2008 to Present, Member 1992 to Present NFPA 1033 Technical Committee – Alternate 2009 to Present

NFPA Professional Qualification Correlating Committee – Principle 2017 to Present NFPA Fire Investigation Units Technical Committee – Chairman - 2018 to Present

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) Principle 2015 to 2019, Affiliate member 2019 to Present

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

I have spent the last 42 years involved in fire investigation in the fire service, law enforcement and private sector. I have investigated thousands of fires and testified dozens of times as an expert witness in local, state, and federal jurisdictions all over the country. In addition to conducting fire investigations, I have dedicated my career to the furtherance of professionalism, science, and the use of proper methodology. Serving the last 5 plus years on the IAAI Board of Directors has provided great insights into the organization. I would like to continue using these leadership skills and experience for the IAAI.

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

Just over 42 years ago I was bit by the fire investigation bug. 42 years later, I have investigated thousands of fires and testified as an expert witness numerous times in local, state, and federal jurisdictions. Giving back to this association was the primary motivator when I was first nominated for the Board in 2013 by Past President Rodney Pevytoe and continues to be my motivator today.

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

A leader must possess and demonstrate vision, fairness, integrity, and a strong work ethic. Using all these qualities, a leader must build a consensus to accomplish the vision. During my 27 plus years working with committees and organizations, I have used this inclusive leadership style and look forward to using these qualities as Second Vice President.

WHAT STEPS DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GROW MEMBERSHIP? Non-international members within our chapters are a major avenue for growth. We must communicate the value of the International to these dedicated chapter-only members. This begins with the leadership communicating the tremendous value of the association. We instituted a 50% first-year membership discount for new members, which has been a great success. The second avenue is involvement with organizations and associations of similar interests. We should actively be seeking partnerships with these organizations.

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

We must be actively communicating with and listening to the needs of our chapters. That active involvement begins with the leadership. If the leadership is actively involved, then the bond with the chapters and members is strong. The relationship and communication begin with the leadership.

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

As long as we can receive federal grants, we should continue to apply. No mechanism explored can replace the money the grant provides. However, we must implement a plan so that in the event obtaining the grant is no longer feasible or we have not obtained the grant in two years, a fee structure can be implemented. A reasonable subscription fee must be considered. In addition, seeking additional sponsors or individual grants for module development should be explored.

OTHER THAN TRAINING FIRE INVESTIGATORS, WHAT TWO OR THREE OTHER ELEMENTS DO YOU CONSIDER AS CRITICAL TO THE MISSION OF THE IAAI? The mission of the IAAI is to provide leadership in education, training, professional development, certification, networking, advocacy, and the provision of resources. While training, personal development and certifications are a focus of the organization, we must work harder on the remaining parts of our mission.

Advocacy and providing resources should be emphasized to address issues important to fire investigators worldwide. Advocating and providing resources for safety should continue to be strongly emphasized. The increase in incidents of cancer and other health related issues facing our membership must be addressed.