



It's time to vote. Voting starts on February 23. Election to be held at ITC 2021.

ELECTION 2021

Candidates for IAAI Board of Directors

Vote



Ricardo Damian Torres (MX)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE IAAI? I have been a member for 16 years

HOW MANY ANNUAL MEETINGS

HAVE YOU ATTENDED; WHICH YEARS? I have attended the ITC and annual meetings since 2010.

WHAT IAAI COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON; WHICH YEARS? Training and Education, Chapters, and CFI.

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

OFFICES HELD STATE/PROVINCE CHAPTER? Chapter Liaison, Training and Certifications.

PLEASE LIST ANY INTERNATIONAL OFFICES HELD, SPECIAL PROJECTS OR COMMITTEE WORK, INDICATING YEARS OF SERVICE. I served as Director of the IAAI from 2012 through 2016.

DESCRIBE, IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, WHY YOU FEEL YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION: I am qualified to serve as Director of the IAAI because of my previous experience as a Director and my involvement with the expansion of our global footprint into Central and South America. I have the experience and will hit the ground running as we continue to deal with the challenges of a pandemic and the continuous need for training and educational programs for our members globally. We need to increase our efforts to include fire investigators worldwide into our organization and cement our status as The Global Leaders in Fire Investigation.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI? I want to serve the Association as Director and continue to contribute to the expansion efforts of our association into other parts of the world. I also want to update our requirements for candidates who seek election into the Board of Directors. We need to do more to prepare our candidates for their election into a governing body that has many complex components and functions instead of learning it as you go.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE YOUR BEST LEADERSHIP TRAITS, AND HOW WOULD YOU USE THEM AS A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI? In my experience, I have learned to have open communication with others when dealing with issues that are important to our members. Issues like training and credentialing of our members and advancing our profession in forensics and engineering fields.

WHAT STEPS DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GROW MEMBERSHIP? In order to grow our membership at the international level, we need to find solutions for our colleagues in other countries where their currencies and incomes are disproportionate to the US Dollar and economy. In the US, we can increase our membership by continuing to increase the accreditation component of our certifications, so it becomes the gold standard for fire investigators in the US.

HOW WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL AND CHAPTERS? We need to continue to promote participation with our Chapter leaders and members who want to actively participate in the growth and development of our association. We need to identify key issues that are important to all our members and actively work to resolve those and provide direct feedback to our members on the actions taken by the International.

WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OF CFITRAINER.NET? Although we have received funding for our CFITrainer.net, we need to prepare for the future if the grants we receive are discontinued. Finding funding sources in other countries would be a good start. We know that there are a lot of guests from other parts of the world who actively take advantage of this free training.

OTHER THAN TRAINING FIRE INVESTIGATORS, WHAT TWO OR THREE OTHER ELEMENTS DO YOU CONSIDER AS CRITICAL TO THE MISSION OF THE IAAI? Accreditation and improving our professional standards for certification as a Fire Investigator should be considered. We should explore the addition of a practical component to our CFI program to ensure that all CFI's are performing the Job Performance Requirements as outlined in NFPA 1033.