



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

ELECTION 2021

Candidate for IAAI Second Vice President

Chris VanVleet
(IA)



**Candidate for IAAI
Second Vice President**

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE IAAI? Since 3/31/1994

HOW MANY ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED; WHICH YEARS? 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

WHAT IAAI COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON; WHICH YEARS? Editorial Review Board Chairman, 2015- present

CFITrainer Committee Co-Chair, 2019 - present

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

OFFICES HELD STATE/PROVINCE CHAPTER? Iowa Chapter Director, 2nd VP, 1st VP, President

PLEASE LIST ANY INTERNATIONAL OFFICES HELD, SPECIAL PROJECTS OR COMMITTEE WORK, INDICATING YEARS OF SERVICE. Board of Director since 2015, Editorial Review Board Chair since 2015, CFITrainer Co-Chair since 2019

DESCRIBE, IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, WHY YOU FEEL YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION: I have been on the Board of Directors since 2015 and I have attended 14 ITCs over the years. I was the Iowa Chapter President after many years as a Director. I was subsequently awarded a Lifetime Membership Award by the Iowa Chapter. I am the Chair of the Editorial Review Board committee and the Co-Chair of the CFITrainer Committee, a IAAI CFI and a retired ATF CFI. I continue to work fire scenes as well as perform contract instructor duties for ATF.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI? After spending two terms as a Director, I wish to continue in my service to the members as their representative so that I can continue to move the Association forward.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE YOUR BEST LEADERSHIP TRAITS, AND HOW WOULD YOU USE THEM AS A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI? I believe that I can build consensus in the board room. When decisions are made, whether my position or not, we should move forward as a Board. I tend to be methodical in that I believe the Board should move in a deliberate path and at a pace that is most efficient for progressing the interests of the membership. I would also strive for professional, constructive discussions so that the best interest of the members can be represented.

WHAT STEPS DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GROW MEMBERSHIP? I believe that we should work towards enhancing the benefits of membership and be better at promoting our Association.

HOW WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL AND CHAPTERS? I believe that the relationships with our Chapters have improved, but that we need to continue our efforts in that area. We

need to ensure that the Chapter liaisons are effective and have good relationships with their respective Chapters. We need to continue with our Chapters Presidents conference calls and listen to and bring the Chapter President's concerns to the Board for consideration.

WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OF CFITRAINER.NET? The Board has had lengthy discussions on this topic. The general consensus is that we should use a two prong approach. One would be to actively seek donations or contributions from members/users and private industry. Part two would be some form of user fee. This portion is complex in that we have many different types of users, from individuals to Universities. I believe we could structure a minimal yearly fee for individuals, if we had to, and work out financial agreements with Colleges, Universities and Agencies that use our training platform.

OTHER THAN TRAINING FIRE INVESTIGATORS, WHAT TWO OR THREE OTHER ELEMENTS DO YOU CONSIDER AS CRITICAL TO THE MISSION OF THE IAAI? In conjunction with training fire investigators, the IAAI needs to promote and advance the profession of fire and explosion investigations. Therefore, we need to stay up to date on the latest research, science and legal issues related to our profession. The IAAI needs to promote, encourage and when possible, participate in research and testing. Due to our lack of physical testing capabilities, we need to partner and/or participate as much as possible.

This dovetails into a second part of what we can do as an organization. The IAAI should strive to be the conduit of all the most current and relevant information as possible to our membership. As a global organization of over 10,000 members, if we provide as much information as possible to our members, this can be the method for promoting our profession worldwide. The information we provide should be current and as accurate as possible, all the while keeping in mind that not everyone will agree with the information presented. Our members should have as much information as possible and then they will need to form their own opinion as to the value. We currently have an ideal method of conveying this information to our membership through the *Fire and Arson Investigator Journal*.