



VOTE 2023 Elections

IAAI Candidates for Board of Directors

Elections will be open until noon (EDT) April 24, the results will be announced at the 2023 ITC General Meeting and on www.firearson.com.

In Ballot Order



David Cheers (FL)

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

HOW MANY ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED; WHICH YEARS? 11, 2010 - 2022 (except for the two cancelled due to COVID)

WHAT IAAI COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED

ON; WHICH YEARS? Chairman, nominations committee 2016 and 2018. Site Selection 2011-2022 (12 years). Budget and Finance 2021 and 2022.

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. SAME AS NUMBER 4 ABOVE.

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? After 28 years in fire investigation, and three successful years on The Board of Directors, I feel that it is my responsibility, to continue to share my time and knowledge to help shape the future of fire investigation. I began this journey in 2011 when I was appointed a member of our site selection committee and by showing commitment, appointed to Chairman of our nominations committee where I served two years, progressing to Chairman of Budget and Finance in 2021. I believe I have been a positive impact on our organization, wishing to continue a second term serving our membership.

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. Since serving on the Board of Directors, we have developed unique methods of growing new members including actively recruiting at each function we attend to encourage younger or newer fire investigators to be a part of such a great organization.

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. A recent board initiative of conducting Board of Director meetings in conjunction with State Chapter Annual Training Conferences and allowing board members to interact with the local membership has been instrumental in fostering relationships.

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.