

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The 1996 Seminar was a success with approximately 100 members in attendance. The theme of "Back to Basics" was very well received. I want to welcome the newly elected officers and directors, and would also like to thank the outgoing officers and directors for all of their hard work to keep this an active chapter.

I always enjoy watching the person who is about to be presented with the Life Membership. They always are trying to figure out who the presenter is talking about, and then when they realize that it is them, the look on their face tells the story. Congratulations to this year's recipients, Ted Strait and Roger Heglund.

Also, congratulations to Lori Heglund and Jennifer Beck, who were given plaques in recognition for their hard work behind the scenes.

A little friendly competition has started to supply us with plenty of door prizes. We had a fantastic response this year, and I would like to thank all who donated.

I do have to admit that I was disappointed that there were no entries in the photo contest. Only two photos were submitted, and they did not meet the criteria. When I gave my report to the membership, I asked for a show of hands for anyone that was interested in continuing the contest, and there were many hands raised. That means that we should have several entries for next year. The contest rules are printed in this issue. It is NOT TOO EARLY TO SUBMIT!!!

The banquet speaker was Ames Police Chief Dennis Ballentine who was very entertaining. Chief Ballentine was very "UNDERSTANDING"?? when he heard of Alan Clark's temporary amnesia. I also understand that there is a collection being taken to help buy Past President Sam Reaves a laptop computer with LARGE PRINT. (Of course this is only a rumor).

On behalf of the officers and directors of the Iowa Chapter, we wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Kevin Dunkin

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS!

Wreath and etc. will go here in red. I put it on with the header.

Thank You
Paula

With Christmas just around the corner, what could be better (or easier) than a gift from the Iowa Chapter's 'Candy Store'? Get your wish list together and contact Roger Heglund to receive your merchandise in time for Christmas.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Curt Stowell, President

Dear members and supporters of IAAI:

Another year has passed us by, along with a great seminar.

I would like to express my appreciation to the membership for allowing me to serve you as President for the coming year.

This is an honor that I will do my very best to sustain, and continue the leadership, that helps make this organization a viable leader in the fight against the crime of Arson.

The 15th annual seminar is coming along nicely, with many of the speakers already confirmed.

Please note and mark your calendars for September 16-19, 1997 at Ames, Iowa.

Pursuant to the comments on the evaluation sheets, we are trying to strive to bring you the topics you desire, as instructors are available.

Membership could use a little push, so as you talk to your various contacts, if you find that membership cards are needed for any departments or agencies throughout the state, please get in touch with Roger Heglund and he will provide them to you.

Please call me at any time with comments and/or suggestions for the betterment of this, your organization.

Thank you again for your trust;

Kind regards,

Curt Stowell, President

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL

The Officers and Directors have just completed the Mid-Year meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Board handled a full agenda in a very efficient manner.

A few of the major issues that may be of interest to the membership include the following:

- Starting in 1997 the annual directory will be published (with state, regional or country headings at the top of each page) in loose leaf, three-hole punched form and packaged in shrink wrap. Members can then place these in three-ring binders for their convenience. In 1998 and 1999 revisions or supplements will be sent to all members. An all new directory will be published again in 2000. This will save the Association thousands of dollars and will help keep dues at the current rate.

- The Chapters Committee meeting held in conjunction with the annual conference will have a major format change. This year Committee Chairman I.J. Kranats will hold a forum on major issues that impact our chapters. Included in the topics will be a discussion on chapter members voting on chapter issues and whether we should continue to have in the Constitution and By-Laws the requirement that to vote an individual must be an IAAI member.

Chapter presidents or their representatives should come prepared to discuss their chapters' stand on these issues. Chapters are encouraged to meet and discuss their stand now so their voice can be heard in May.

More on this will be covered in letters to Chapter Presidents by Chairman Kranats.

- The Board approved the two CFI Committee TIAs as published in the last Fire and Arson Investigator magazine.
- Authorization was given for Executive Director King to sign a one year contract with AT&T on long distance at a reduced flat rate.
- Ratified the memorandum of understanding between the IAAI and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Received mid-year reports from various committees on activities during the past six months.
- Approved the budget for 1997.

- Awarded 1999 seminar and annual general meeting to the Nevada Chapter. The 1999 conference will be held in Las Vegas.

Overall the IAAI has had an excellent six months with your Association receiving a great deal of publicity in relation to juvenile arson prevention, church arson prevention, and the memorandum of understanding with the CPSC. Another area where the Association has excelled is in the area of the Educational Foundation, under the direction of Foundation President David Sneed. Grant moneys have been issued for arson training, arson prevention, audio/visual equipment for training, juvenile firesetters treatment, and the fallen firefighters memorial.

Hope each and every one of you have a great holiday season and, as always, if you have any questions please contact 2nd Vice President Judy Maydew, 1st Vice President Phil Horbert, any member of the Board, or myself.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan L. Clark, President
International Association of Arson Investigators

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS

Reprinted from Fire Service Information, May/June 1996.

The Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) was founded in 1964 with a development of a charter. The first recorded president was Sid Skidmore representing Sioux City, and the first vice president was Dean Bebee representing the Iowa City Fire Department. Among a few of the luminaries were names like Simmins, Nelson, Royer and Mac. All were totally dedicated to the betterment of the Fire Service in Iowa and the nation. A large percentage of the instructors at summer and winter fire schools held in Ames are members of the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors. They also serve as instructors and coordinators at the many regional fire schools in Iowa. The Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors has been extremely active in mini conferences in Iowa and the Midwest. Members are active in the course development field and certification qualification areas of the fire service. One group of its members is known and respected nationally for their innovative instructive techniques.

The initiation by these and other visionaries of the Iowa fire service planted the seed that grew to be

the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI). The ISFSI also grew to become The Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management.

The Alliance is a network of individual member associations, each dedicated to the needs of a particular special interest group. The Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management includes: The Fire and Injury Prevention Association; The Fire Department Safety Officers Association; The Fire Officers Association; The Hazardous Materials Responders and Educators Association; The Professional Emergency Educators Association; and the International Society of Fire Service Instructors which acts as the controlling organization.

At this time the Alliance is developing a standard process that will be directed toward volunteer firefighters and their departments.

The Alliance has been a breath of fresh air to the fire service because of its ability to allow specialty groups to be represented in the International forum.

The Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors publishes a quarterly newsletter which keeps its members informed about new, changing and challenging training areas and ideas. The newsletter also informs members about upcoming events of interest.

Until 1993, the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors held annual conferences at the ISU Fire Service Institute building. At that time the ISFSI became the first group in the nation to offer a conference by way of fiber optic network. This venture and its success is a tribute to the president, Larry Dickey, and his cutting edge attitude for progress.

Along with the usual conference amenities, Dickey has been able to get the most up-to-date and knowledgeable presentations available.

Currently the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors has nearly 400 members. Anyone with instructor or training responsibilities can belong as an active member. Associate membership is open to anyone. Active members have voting rights and can hold office positions. Any member either associate or active can serve on committees and have input into the organization. Dues are \$10 per year paid to the secretary: Bob Guthrie, 3811 Brookdale Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010.

If you want to become part of an organization who is looking to the future of training and preparedness in the fire service, this is your opportunity to become involved.

HEGLUND AND STRAIT HONORED WITH LIFE MEMBERSHIP



Roger Heglund



Lewis (Ted) Strait

Roger Heglund and Lewis (Ted) Strait received the honor of Life Membership to the Iowa Chapter during the 1995 annual meeting and seminar.

Roger started as a volunteer firefighter with the Willmar, Minnesota fire department in May 1974.

He worked his way through the ranks of firefighter, engineer, lieutenant and captain. In 1980 he was hired as a full-time firefighter in Willmar. In 1984 he came to the Ankeny Fire Department as a Captain/Training Officer. In 1986 Roger joined the Iowa Chapter and was elected to the Prevention Section (now Director at Large - West) in 1988. In 1991 he became Secretary/Treasurer for the chapter, a position he still holds.

Ted joined the Des Moines Fire Department on March 16, 1961 as a firefighter. In October of 1977 he was promoted to the position of Fire Inspector and was again promoted in December of 1982 to Senior Fire Inspector. From October 1992 until his retirement in January of 1994 Ted served as lead investigator. He presently is employed as a fire investigator with Leuwerke and Associates. Ted continues to serve the Iowa Chapter in the capacity of Chaplain, as he has for a number of years. Ted comes from a background rich in firefighting experience. His father, Louis Strait, was with the Des Moines Fire Department for twenty-seven years; and his brother, Richard Strait, served on the Des Moines Fire Department for thirty-one years.

The Iowa Chapter congratulates our two most recent Life Members!

LETTER FROM TED STRAIT

Thank you to the Iowa Chapter for awarding me the life membership. As I listened to the presentation, I was very surprised to realize that Past President Reaves was talking about me, as there are others I feel are more deserving.

I have enjoyed fire investigations for many years and I do appreciate this honor.

LETTER FROM ROGER HEGLUND

I want to thank the entire chapter for bestowing upon me a great honor, that is the life membership award. I was so shocked I couldn't think of anything to say at the banquet, and you know me, I'm never lost for words. I have been involved in giving this award to many deserving people and never dreamt that I someday would receive it.

I would like to make sure that a couple of people know that without their support I probably would not be able to fulfill the duties of Secretary/Treasurer, it's a lot of fun but does take a lot of time. Those people are my wife, who puts up with me being gone to meetings and spending a lot of time at home working on minutes and dues and registration packets. She assists me with a lot of different things that go along with the position. And my boss, Fire Chief Tom Strait, without his support it would be very hard to get everything done that needs to be done.

Many people have given me a lot of support and guidance through the years and I only hope that I can give something back in return. Again, thanks to everyone.



FIRE DEATH TOLL IN 1995: BOTH GOOD AND BAD NEWS

Reprinted from Fire Service Information, November/December 1996.

While the number of U.S. fires and related injuries declined in 1995, fire deaths and property loss increased according to a report released recently by the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This mix of good and bad news in 1995 serves as a reminder that America's progress in fire safety isn't always steady. Amidst the details were some troubling developments, including an increase in the arson problem.

The full findings of the NFPA's report on fire loss in the United States, released in the September/October issue of NFPA Journal, shows that in many respects, the fire problem continues to decline. In 1995, 1,965,500 fires were attended by public fire departments, which represents a 4.3 percent decline from the year before and a 39.8 percent decline since 1977 (the earliest year for which comparable figures are available). The 1995 total also included 573,500 structure fires, a decline of 6.6 percent; 406,500 vehicle fires, a decrease of 3.7 percent; and 985,000 outside fires, a drop of 3.2 percent. The estimated 25,775 civilian injuries due to fire represented a 5.4 percent decrease and the lowest total NFPA has ever recorded.

However, the report also reveals that U.S. civilian fire deaths rose 7.3 percent to 4,585. More than a third of the overall increase was attributable to the death toll from the office bombing in Oklahoma City, OK, which also more than doubled the fire death toll in non-residential structures and contributed to a one-third increase in fire deaths due to arson. Additionally, direct property damage from fire increased by 9.4 percent to \$8.9 billion.

"In eight of the last nine years, at least one fire or explosion has caused enough property damage each year to rank among the 20 costliest incidents of all time in the U.S.," says Dr. John R. Hall, Jr., NFPA assistant vice president for Fire Analysis and Research. "These recent huge-loss incidents represent a disturbing trend that we have yet to come to grips with."

The number of arson fires increased by 8 percent to 90,500 fires in 1995, reversing about half of the decline from 1992 to 1994. Only a small percentage of this total involved arson-related church fires, a 1995 trend that received much attention this year. "Arson in general -- and church arson fires in particular -- are additional examples where the long-

term trend shows substantial progress, but the 1995 arson fire statistics reminded us that the problem is far from over," Hall said.

As usual, most fire deaths occurred in homes, a total of 3,640 in 1995, which represents a 6.3 percent rise over the year before. One reason for this may be complacency. As NFPA's 1996 National Fire Safety Survey revealed, Americans believe they're safest from fire in their homes, ironically the place of greatest risk from fire by far.

"The 1995 fire death toll is a sobering reminder that we as a nation are in no danger of becoming too safe," concluded Hall. "We hope and expect that the long-term favorable trend in fire deaths will resume, but it won't happen unless people take the steps necessary to make it happen."

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 1996

The annual board meeting was called to order by President Bill Hanson at 9:00 AM on September 18, 1996. Officers and board members present were President Bill Hanson, Vice President Curt Stowell, Secretary/Treasurer Roger Heglund, and Directors Steve Ryder, Jim Kenkel, Roger Furrow, Chris Paine, Dennis Chapman and David Proctor.

The invocation was given by Vice President Curt Stowell.

Welcoming comments were made by Chief Dennis Ballentine of the Ames Police Department, Captain Phil Harris of the Ames Fire Department, and IAAL President Alan Clark.

The floor was then opened for nominations by John McMahon, filling in for the Nominating Committee. Positions open for the elections are President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Director at Large - East, and Prosecution.

The nominations received are as follows:

President – Curt Stowell

Vice President – Dennis Chapman and Darren Brown

Secretary/Treasurer – Roger Heglund

Director at Large (East) – Steve Ryder and Mike Collins

Prosecution – David Proctor

Sam Reaves moved that nominations for President be ceased, seconded by David Proctor. Motion car

ried. Alan Clark moved that the ballot of Stowell for President be cast unanimously, seconded by Douglas Brown. Motion carried.

Those nominated for Vice President were Darren Brown and Dennis Chapman. A motion to cease nominations was made by Steve Ryder, seconded by Sam Reaves. Motion carried. A secret ballot election was held, with Dennis Chapman being voted in as Vice President. A motion was then made to destroy the ballots by David Proctor, seconded by Sam Reaves. Motion carried.

Alan Clark moved that Roger Heglund be re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Dennis Chapman. Motion carried. A motion was made by Dick Johnson to cease nominations, seconded by Chris Paine. Motion carried. A motion was made by Dennis Chapman to cast a unanimous ballot, seconded by David Proctor. Motion carried.

Nominations were received for Steve Ryder and Mike Collins for Director at Large (East). Dan Branstetter moved that nominations cease, seconded by Kevin Dunkin. Motion carried. Mike Collins then withdrew his name from nominations. Motion made by Dennis Chapman, seconded by Roger Furrow to accept this withdrawal. Bob Burns then moved that nominations cease, seconded by Dick Johnson. Motion carried. Mike Collins moved that the ballot be cast unanimously, seconded by Alan Clark. Motion carried.

September 19, 1996

The annual business meeting was reconvened at 10:15 AM.

A motion was made by Bob Burns to accept the annual minutes as posted in Fairfax, seconded by Douglas Brown. Motion carried.

Nominations were then taken for life membership. Dennis Chapman moved that life membership be bestowed upon Ted Strait, seconded by Roger Heglund. The motion passed unanimously.

The secretary/treasurer's report was then given by Roger Heglund. He stated that including pre-registrations and walk-ins, this year's seminar attendance was at 97. The membership currently stands at 393 members. He further advised that the checkbook balance, not including seminar costs, is \$13,745.

Curt Stowell of the Audit Committee reported that the books were audited and no problems were found. He further advised that the books had been approved and accepted by the Audit Committee.

Dennis Chapman of the Detection Section and Jim Kenkel of the Investigation Section reported that the following topics had been discussed by their section members: upcoming classes, automobile fires, photography, NFPA 921 and seminar locations.

Roger Furrow of the Insurance Section apologized for the mix-up with the speaker this morning. He then introduced Larry Wyatt, the new director for the Insurance Section. Topics that had been discussed in their sectional meeting included NFPA 921, the Oklahoma City bombing, and automobile fires.

Kevin Dunkin, Fairfax Editor, gave an overview on Fairfax, the Iowa Chapter photo album and the seminar photo contest. He told members that photographs of past seminars would be welcome additions to the photo album.

Steve Ryder, Director at Large (East) reported that he would like to hear from members from the east side. He mentioned that if anyone has any specific needs or ideas, to contact him. He also encouraged recruitment of new members.

Chris Paine, Director at Large (West) reported and echoed the comments of the other sections.

David Proctor of the Prosecution Section reported on increasing arson awareness.

Sam Reaves moved that the Secretary/Treasurer receive \$3.00 per member, seconded by John McMahon. Motion carried.

President Hanson announced that the site had been chosen for next year's seminar. The 1997 seminar will be held at Starlite Village in Ames.

The meeting was then opened up for comments from the floor.

It was announced that Barker Davie had passed away. It was decided that the Chapter would present a memorial of \$25 to the scholarship fund.

Dick Johnson, IAAI Director, Past President of the Wisconsin Chapter and Iowa Chapter member, commended the Iowa and Wisconsin chapter secretaries for turning in their reports to the International in properly, and in a timely fashion.

Chuck McDonald moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Bob Burns. Motion carried. The meeting was then adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Heglund, Secretary/Treasurer
Iowa Chapter IAAI

IOWA SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS PRESENTS: FIBER OPTIC III

The first week of January 1997 ISFSI will again offer the fire service community a first-time educational opportunity. In conjunction with the National Fire Academy we will present an Educational Symposium. This program will be taught by Dr. Burton Clark and Mr. Charles Burkell, M.D.A., of the National Fire Academy. Dr. Denis Onieal, the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, will be the keynote speaker.

As always, the conference can be attended at any I.C.N. classroom statewide. All community colleges and virtually all high schools in the entire state are on the state's fiber optic network. Check with your local educational facilities for availability.

ISFSI strives to provide the fire service community of Iowa with educational programming and direct participation at the community level. Conference registration is approved for reimbursement from the Iowa Volunteer Firefighters Fund. This education will be presented as four separate and distinct modules. The student may take any number of modules they wish. Four C.E.U.'s will be available for each module. Students completing all four modules will be eligible for one hour college credit from

Kirkwood Community College Fire Service Program. To open a location in your home town call or fax (319)355-7207.

There are now 350 fiber optic locations on line statewide. For more information on this program, contact Larry Dickey, President of the ISFSI.

WELCOME THE NEW MEMBERS!

The following individuals have joined the Iowa Chapter since our last newsletter:

Steven Boka, Ames IA
Elizabeth Nigut, Des Moines IA
Roger Jensen, Iowa City IA
Thomas Sheston, Centerville IA
Rick Appleby, Manchester IA
Bernie Miller, Spirit Lake IA
Laurel Waters, Norcross GA
Rick Sieverding, Bellevue IA
Vern Foughty, Des Moines IA
Cynthia Hurley, Des Moines IA
Ronald Landers, Des Moines IA
Lisa Ferguson, Grinnell IA
Don Gauger, Ames IA
Roger Knight, Sr., Coralville IA
Patrick Yates, Des Moines IA

CURRENT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President

Curt Stowell
Pocahontas IA

Secretary/Treasurer

Roger Heglund
Ankeny IA

Director at Large (East)

Steven Ryder
Muscatine IA

Director, Investigation Section

Jim Kenkel
Denison IA

Director, Insurance Section

Larry Wyatt
Grinnell IA

Chapter Chaplain

L. Ted Strait
Runnels IA

Vice President

Dennis Chapman
Elkhart IA

Director, Prosecution Section

David J.W. Proctor
Des Moines IA

Director at Large (West)

Chris Paine
Spencer IA

Director, Detection Section

Douglas Duncan
Spencer IA

Firefax Editor

Kevin Dunkin
Chariton IA