



FIREFAX

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Edition 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to everyone, as we are in full swing already making sure everything is in order for the 2001 seminar, I would like to take a minute and thank everyone that gave graciously of themselves this past year. Our "2000" conference was a great success and without a lot of hard work from a lot of different people, it could not have happened.

It is very humbling and a great honor to be chosen to be the President of such a great organization. I hope that I can continue to provide the tremendous leadership that we have had in the past.

I would like to welcome all newcomers to the Iowa Chapter of the IAIAI, and also congratulate the current and new board members. Kevin Dunkin was elected the 1st Vice-President, John McMahon was elected the 2nd Vice-President, Kelly LaFollette was re-elected to the Secretary/Treasure position, Kelly has been doing a tremendous job at this position. Also re-elected to the board was Director of Detection – Chris Van Vleet, and newly elected, Director at Large-West, Mark Hanson.

Our "2001" Seminar will be held in Waterloo at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, September 18th through the 21st. This is a great opportunity for everyone to invite at least one new person to attend the Annual Seminar. We have a tremendous lineup of speakers and with the convention center we are going to have many different displays, including vehicles and equipment used throughout fire investigations.

My last item is to challenge the entire membership to promote the Iowa Chapter to others. Whether that is to volunteer fire departments, law enforcement agencies, insurance companies or others. Let them know what the Iowa Chapter can provide, and if you need help with this please don't hesitate to contact any of the board members. Remember this is your Chapter.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to repre-

sent the Iowa Chapter of the IAIAI as your President. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know.

Keep safe, Roger

Editors Message



First of all, I want to extend a thank you to the members for electing me to the office of First Vice President. I will work very hard to make sure that all of the membership is represented. If anyone has any questions or comments, please contact me.

The officers and directors have locked in the instructors for this year's annual seminar to be held at the Holiday Inn at Waterloo. The speakers and topics include: IAIAI past President Jerry Naylis/Human Behavior After a Fire. David LePage/Interviewing Techniques. Jack Sander-son/Fire Findings Research. Past President Dennis Chapman/Evidence Recognition. Assistant State Fire Marshal Jim Kenkel/Meth Labs.

This will be a very informative seminar. Please plan to attend.

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Former President's Farewell

Hello to all members,

I hope each and everyone of you were able to make the annual seminar. I think the officers and board did an excellent job. The theme was vehicle fires with both classroom and hands on training. A big thank you to Insurance Director, Pat Yates, for doing all that was needed for us to have a great learning experience with the live burns. How he was able to get the nice weather for us was unbelievable.

I would like to say it has been an honor and a privilege to have been the chapter president the last three years. I tried to represent each and every member as best I could at every function I attended. The good things that the chapter has done have happened because of the great support I had of the officers and the board. I can only see better things taking place in the future for the IA Chapter.

Take care,

Dennis

John McMahon Second Vice President

John was born in Boone, Iowa, and lived in Wyoming for several years before returning to Iowa.

He is a Vietnam veteran and was employed as a Sergeant on the Boone Police Department. While living in Wyoming, John served as Lt. Detective and as Police Chief. He also was an instructor on interview and interrogation techniques, preservation and gathering of evidence, crime scene management, and legal doctrines in the use of force for the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy.

John's career with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company totals over twenty years, with experience as a claims supervisor, agent, mutual adjuster and more recently, Manager for the Investigation Services Department.

Mark Hanson Director at Large-West

I joined the Sioux City Fire Dept. in 1973 as a firefighter.

I became an EMT-B in 1985 and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1986, where I served as company commander on an engine company.

I transferred into the Fire Prevention Bureau in

1995 as an investigator and code enforcement officer. I was named interim Fire Marshal in February 2000 and was promoted to actual Fire Marshal in March 2000.

I've held numerous officer positions in Local 7 of the International Association of Firefighters and was active in the State Organization as well. I've been a member of IAAI since 1995.

I currently oversee an office of 2 lieutenants, who serve as both fire investigators and code enforcement. Our office also does plan reviews for all new construction. We also have a firefighter who handles public information and public education on a full time basis. I remain on the call list for fire investigations as that is the best part of this job.

Officers and Directors Being Sworn In



The 2001 Officers and directors being sworn in by IA State Fire Marshal George Howe. L-R Mark Hanson, Director at Large West; Chris Van Vleet, Director Detection; Kelly LaFollette, Secretary/Treasurer; Roger Heglund, President; Kevin Dunkin, First Vice President; John McMahon, Second Vice President

Editor's Message (Continued)

The certificates that were handed out at the last conference had the wrong year. They listed 1999 instead of 2000. If anyone needs one with the date changed, we will be happy to do that.

On a personal note, I recently worked a fatal fire, and several agencies were involved including the State Fire Marshals office, the Union County Sheriff's Department and the Creston Fire Department. The cooperation between the investigators was very professional, and considerate. That type of working relationship is what this organization is all about. Thank you to Special Agents Hiles, Ticer and Linkletter, Fire Chief Nurnberg, and Sheriff Piel.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dunkin

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS – IOWA CHAPTER

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the General Membership

September 27 & 28, 2000

A regular meeting of the General Membership of the International Association of Arson Investigators – Iowa Chapter was called to order at the Starlight Best Western in Ames, IA at 9:00 a.m. on September 27, 2000 pursuant to the notice sent to all members in accordance with the bylaws.

Dennis A. Chapman, President, presided and Kelly D. LaFollette, Secretary/Treasurer, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

President Chapman explained the amendment to the bylaws that the membership would be voting on. It adds the position of second vice-president. After being second vice-president one year, that person becomes first vice-president. In the third year, the person becomes president.

Director of Prosecution Proctor read the amendment to the membership and briefly discussed it.

A duly made and seconded motion was made to accept the amendment. The amendment was unanimously passed by the membership.

Past President Robert Burns, Jr. took nominations from the floor for the position of President. Roger Heglund was nominated. A duly made and seconded motion to cease nominations was accepted.

Past President Robert Burns, Jr. took nominations from the floor for the position of First Vice-President. Kevin Dunkin was nominated. A duly made and seconded motion to cease nominations was accepted.

Past President Robert Burns, Jr. took nominations from the floor for the position of Second Vice-President. John McMahon was nominated. A duly made and seconded motion to cease nominations was accepted.

Past President Robert Burns, Jr. took nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Kelly LaFollette was nominated. A duly made and seconded motion to cease nominations was accepted.

This first portion of the meeting was ended at 9:26 am. on September 27, 2000.

A regular meeting of the General Membership of the International Association of Arson Investigators – Iowa Chapter was reconvened at the Starlight Best Western in Ames, IA at 10:45 a.m. on September 28, 2000 pursuant to the notice sent to all members in accordance with the bylaws.

Roll call of officers:

Dennis Chapman – President
Kelly LaFollette – Secretary/Treasurer
Jim Kenkel – Director of Investigations
Chris Van Fleet – Director of Detection
David Proctor – Director of Prosecution
Doug Duncan – Director at large – west
Steve Ryder – Director at large – east
Kevin Dunkin – Editor of FireFax

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in FireFax.

Dennis Chapman gave the Vice President Report for Roger Heglund:

- The auditor's report was read aloud to the membership.

Kelly D. LaFollette gave the Secretary/Treasurer report:

- 25 applications for new membership since the last meeting.
- 116 Attendees at the seminar.
- Checkbook balance is \$26,152.50. This does not include expenses of the seminar or Hentges Scholarship. In addition, it does not include deposits for dues paid at the seminar or "Candy Store" sales.

Chris Van Vleet gave the Director of Detection report and also Director of Investigations report for Kenkel:

An inquiry was made as to how the annual seminar was being received

- Comment that the conference room was too cold.
- Presentations were well received so far, good information.
- Request for reminders periodically about seminar locations and dates, possibly in FireFax or on the proposed Web Site.

An inquiry was made as to any information for the good of the order

- Director at Large Ryder commented that he has noticed a switch to the use of acid in the MacGyver bombs in his area.
- Director of detection and CFI Committee Chair Van Vleet encouraged participation in the IAAI CFI program.
- It was suggested that we consider checking into arranging a bus trip to a casino from the Waterloo motel.

The members were advised of the following information:

- Next years annual seminar will be held in Waterloo at the Holiday Inn, September 18 – 21, 2001.
- There are discussions about joining Nebraska and South Dakota in 2002 for the annual seminar.

Members were asked for possible topic ideas for next year's seminar:

- Appliance fires
- NIOSH speakers (they investigate all FF fatalities)
- NIST speakers (they have modeled several FF fatality fires)
- NFPA 921 update
- Interviewing
- Consensus that a variety of topics is preferred to one single theme, and centrally located in the State.
- Defense Attorney Tim Mullin as a speaker on how they attack us in court.
- NTSB

The Director of Detection position is up for re-election, Director Kenkel opened the floor for nominations. Lon Kopaska nominated Chris Van Vleet for the position, seconded by Paul Varner. A motion was made and seconded to cease nominations. Motion carried. A vote was called for and was unanimous for re-election of Van Vleet for Director of Detection for three years.

There was discussion about the bid process for the annual seminar and the membership was encouraged to submit suggestions as to locations where they would like to see the seminar held.

It was suggested that we consider giving incentives to those who recruit new members.

The idea of creating a Web page was well received.

Kelly LaFollette gave the Director of Insurance report for Patrick Yates:

- Cindy Nelson discussed the Fraud Bureau. They currently are working several property and casualty cases. They are giving law enforcement staged accident training.
- Discussed possible seminar topics:
 1. What the fraud bureau can do to assist insurance companies in fighting arson/fraud.
 2. Insurance company/law enforcement cooperation.
 3. Basic O & C for new people and those who want a refresher.
 4. Advanced topic for those who do not wish to take a basic course.
- Discussed a possible joint seminar with Nebraska and South Dakota chapters IAAI. Good opportunities to network, meet new people and exchange ideas. There was also a concern about the distance to Council Bluffs or Sioux City for many of our members.

IAAI Minutes Continued . . .

David J.W. Proctor gave the Director of Prosecution report:

- Activities center on consulting with IAAI members.
- He has been teaching at ILEA.
- Lack of interest for Prosecutors in the State. Suggested interested persons contact Van Vleet to enroll in the ATF Prosecutors school.

Steven A. Ryder gave the Director at Large – East report:

- He described the IAAI expert testimony course in Iowa City that was held in August. If anyone wants to host a similar event, please contact him.

Douglas D. Duncan gave the Director at Large – West report:

- He assisted three regional schools holding classes.
- Cleaning up clandestine methamphetamine labs.
- Ft. Dodge class is coming up in November 2000.

Kevin Dunkin gave the FireFax Editor report:

- Always looking for articles to print. Will accept letters to the editor as long as they are signed.
- Asked for people to submit info regarding “highlight” of a department etc.

Van Vleet gave the CFI committee report:

- Asked people to contact him regarding taking the CFI test. The LAM testimony course assists the CFI process.
- Garry Lee passed the CFI.

Robert Burns Jr. gave the Seminar site selection committee report

- Next seminar will be in Waterloo, Iowa September 18-21, 2001.
- The Waterloo convention center has space to display fire trucks, other items of interest that someone wants to show off.

Robert Burns Jr. gave the Scholarship committee report.

- Kevin Lees was the only person to apply for the scholarship.

Chapman gave the auditing committee report.

- He read the letter written by Lori Heglund.

Elections:

- Nominations for the following positions were announced:

President – Roger Heglund. A motion duly made and seconded to cease nominations was unanimously approved. There being no opposition, this nominee was elected to this position by unanimous ballot.

Vice President – Kevin Dunkin. A motion duly made and seconded to cease nominations was unanimously approved. There being no opposition, this nominee was elected to this position by unanimous ballot.

Second Vice President – John McMahon. A motion duly made and seconded to cease nominations was unanimously approved. There being no opposition, this nominee was elected to this position by unanimous ballot.

Secretary/Treasurer – Kelly D. LaFollette. A motion duly made and seconded to cease nominations was unanimously approved. There being no opposition, this nominee was elected to this position by unanimous ballot.

- No unknown bills against the association.

Old Business:

- None.

IAAI Minutes Continued . . .

New Business:

A duly made and seconded motion to compensate secretary/treasurer \$3.25 for each member at the time of this seminar was unanimously approved.

Dennis A Chapman gave the President report:

- Display board is at the Iowa Fireman's memorial
- Thanks to Roger Jensen for hosting the IAAI expert testimony class.
- He reminded the chapter of the scholarship opportunity for people pursuing our profession.
- Thanks to everyone who donated material for door prizes.

Good of the Order:

None.

The next meeting of the General Membership will be held in Waterloo September 18-21, 2001 at the next annual seminar. Times will be posted in the brochure for the 2001 Seminar.

There being no further business before the meeting, it was, in motion duly made and seconded, adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Kelly D. LaFollette

Secretary/Treasurer

Recall Round-up 2001 CPSC NEEDS YOUR HELP...

We need your help in reducing serious fire hazard related injuries and deaths among children. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) will be conducting a Recall Round-Up this spring to help reduce fire hazards from consumer products by encouraging consumers to remove hazardous products from their homes.

In the past four years, Recall Round-Up campaigns generated tremendous interest and media attention nationwide. Recall Round-Up is CPSC's single-most successful Federal-state-local partnership program. All 50 states, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia participated, as well as many local community organizations and national non-profit organizations.

Join us this year on April 17, 2001, to make this program the most successful ever!

Program 2001's New Initiative – Fire Department Involvement CPSC is requesting local fire departments and State Designee offices to establish collection sites for recalled products in firehouses throughout the state. Offer to host a collection site for one week starting April 17, 2001 and publicize it in your community.

Recall Round-Up Program Description

CPSC coordinates approximately 300 recalls of defective or dangerous products each year. Removing recalled products from the distribution chain is usu-

ally not difficult, but getting consumers to give them up can be.

Despite recall notices and public warnings, many old hazardous products are still in homes, flea markets, second-hand stores, and at garage and yard sales. The results? Deaths and serious injuries to children caused by recalled products still occur, and parents lament, "If only we'd known...." What can you do? CPSC, fire marshals, fire departments, state and local health, safety, and non-profit consumer agencies are collaborating in springtime community round-ups of recalled and other hazardous products to alert parents, children's care givers, and the general public to the hazards of selected consumer products and to encourage their repair, return, or destruction. We'd like you or your organization to join in this initiative. To kick off the nationwide Recall Round-Up campaign, CPSC will broadcast a video news release (VNR) by satellite to all U.S. TV stations on April 17, 2001. The VNR will describe the hazards of the selected products and product categories for the 2001 campaign. We will urge consumers to check their homes for these products and to call CPSC's toll-free consumer Hotline (1-800-638-2772) or visit its website, www.cpsc.gov, for more information. Our Hotline also will inform callers how to get a list from the Commission of other recently recalled products.

Some other suggested activities that fire marshals and fire departments can organize to further participate in the Recall Round-Up program: Organize local recall round-ups. Work with safety, health, consumer agencies, schools and other community

organizations for the central collection of recalled products.

Organize a local news conference at your Firehouse and promote media awareness. Inform local media in advance about the timing and use of your press conference and the CPSC video news release kicking off the nationwide Recall Round-Up campaign; issue a local news release; conduct TV and radio interviews.

Promote community awareness. Distribute CPSC's list of recalled products and poster [pdf] [pdf Spanish] to day care agencies, community and homeowner associations that sponsor yard sales or publish local newsletters and organizations; monitor local flea markets, secondhand stores, yard and garage sales for recalled products.

Involve your local Congressional representatives. Work with the congressperson in your district to host a press conference, issue a press release, and participate in an activity.

With your help we can reduce serious injuries and deaths among children. Please join us in this potentially life-saving project.

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IAAI Asserts Leadership Role in Supporting Proposed Edition of NFPA 921

The Board of Directors of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc. recently concluded their annual Mid-Year meeting in Orlando, Florida. One of the most important actions taken by the Board was to discuss the proposals to amend and modify the 1998 edition of NFPA 921, the Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations. The Board reviewed proposals listed in the NFPA's Report on Proposals and Report on Comments prior to making its decision to support passage of the document.

During the Board's discussions, changes to previously published modifications were recognized as improving the document. Specifically, the Board expressed that the new language dealing with the process of elimination as an investigative tool for fire investigators, and evidence spoliation, adequately addressed concerns identified by the membership at the IAAI's Annual General Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan in May of 2000. In recognizing the progress made using the NFPA's consensus process, the Board elected to have the association president, Gerard J Naylis attend the NFPA Fall Meeting also being held in Orlando to speak in favor of the proposed 2001 edition of NFPA 921 and recommend passage of the document as presented.

Mr. Naylis attended a meeting of the NFPA 921 Technical Committee held prior to the NEPA meeting and indicated his association's support for the document. He expressed the IAAI's position to continue supporting the NFPA consensus process and suggested that the IAAI was pleased to be demonstrating its leadership role in the field of arson and fire investigation having worked to achieve consensus on the proposal and supporting passage on the floor of the NFPA Fall Meeting.

The IAAI Board re-affirmed its long held position that the association recognizes NFPA 921 as a guide to assist investigators in the field of fire and arson investigation and that NFPA 921 is acknowledged as reference material for the association's certification program.

The IAAI is the world's largest professional organization dealing primarily with arson and fire investigation.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the IAAI or the Iowa Chapter IAAI.

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