



**Iowa Chapter  
International Association of Arson Investigators**

**MEETING MINUTES  
February 6, 2015**

- I. Call to Order- The monthly meeting of Officers and Directors of the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators was called to order at the Iowa DCI Lab in Ankeny, Iowa by President Grier at 10:07 AM.
- II. Roll Call- Board and Directors
  - John Grier – President –Present
  - Becky Nelson – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President –Present
  - Zach Spykerman- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Present
  - Paul O’Connell – Secretary/Treasurer - Present
  - Greg Siembieda – Director of Investigation - Excused
  - G. Terry Smith – Director of Insurance – Present
  - Kimberly Shepherd – Director of Prosecution – Conference Call
  - Jeff Haler – Director of Detection – Present
  - Jeff Hutcheson – Director at Large, West –Conference Call
  - Kurt Blackburn – Director at Large, East – Conference Call
- III. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report – Paul O’Connell
  1. Motion to accept previous minutes & post to website from the January 9, 2015 conference call by Director Haler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Smith. Motion passed.
  2. Finances: Checking \$36,256.47, Savings \$25, CD’s \$16,054.90, Paypal \$518.94. Motion to accept the financial report by Director Haler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Smith. Motion passed. Secretary/Treasurer reached out to Seth Delutri from Bradshaw Lawfirm and stated we will continue to file the same way. The change to the next step will be when the Chapter brings in \$50,000 or more a year and we are currently around the \$26,000 mark.
- IV. Officer & Board Reports
  1. President – John Grier: Attending ITC in Chicago in May. Wants to know if we should keep using the conference call program [www.800rollcall.com](http://www.800rollcall.com) for future Board conference calls. The cost is .03 a minute per person. Motion by Director Hutcheson to continue to provide ability to teleconference for Iowa Chapter Board meetings when necessary. 2<sup>nd</sup> by VP Nelson. Motion passed.
  2. 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Becky Nelson: Need articles for next Firefax from O’Connell, Nelson, Siembieda and Hucheson (from November) by February 27, 2015. Testified and qualified as an expert in State Court.
  3. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Zach Spykerman: Going to the ICAC in Florida this year instead of ITC in Chicago.
  4. Director West – Jeff Hutcheson: No report.



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5. Director East – Kurt Blackburn: Rich Wenger from Eldridge is hosting a Lunch ‘n Learn in April.
6. Director of Detection – Jeff Haler: No report.
7. Director of Prosecution – Kim Shepherd: No report.
8. Director of Investigation – Greg Siembieda: No report.
9. Director of Insurance – G. Terry Smith: No report.

### **V. Committee Reports**

1. Site Selection Committee – Clark/Nelson/Haler: Nothing new. VP Nelson will reach out to Past President Clark to start process for 2017 and 2018.
2. Financial Review Committee – Shepherd: No report.
3. Awards – Siembieda: No report.
4. CFI – Smith: Two Iowa Chapter members are eligible. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Spykerman may be applying.
5. Chaplain – Hartzler: no report
6. Historian – Clark: no report
7. Communications – Siembieda: “Members Only” page on the website is being worked on. O’Connell, Siembieda and Nelson working with Webspec in the process. Secretary/Treasurer O’Connell will add the link for the Iowa Fair Plan to the website. Director Shepherd is going to write an article for the Firefox involving selecting an attorney.
8. Constitution/Bylaws – Hutcheson: No report.
9. Ethical Practice, Grievance & Appeal – Shepherd: No report.
10. Membership – O’Connell: Three new members since 2014 Seminar. 47 member renewals for the year so far. Brochures have been sent out through the IFSTB and received already.
11. Nominations – Blackburn: No report.
12. Past President’s Council – Chapman: No report.
13. Scholarship – Haler: Called every Community College in Iowa and created a spreadsheet to keep track of those he spoke to or left a message with. There was a discussion about allowing students who are taking online college classes to be able to use scholarship money for that. Our organization does partner with Columbia Southern University and since it is an out of state school, scholarship recipients are not allowed to use it for that school or others for that matter. The Board agrees to get a larger pool of scholarship applicants, expanding the ability to use scholarship funds from the Iowa Chapter for online schools is appropriate since the technology is moving in that direction for education. Motion by 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Spykerman to draft a letter to the Past Presidents Council supporting the adjustment of the guidelines for the R.C. Hentges Scholarship to keep for Iowa



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residents and have the ability to use for Online College Learning and in State colleges. 2<sup>nd</sup> by VP Nelson. Motion passed. President Grier will draft the letter.

14. Training – Spykerman: No report. Still planning on doing another Expert Witness class.

### VI. Old Business.

1. 2015 Conference: (September 15-18, 2015 in Davenport) 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Spykerman to work on outline with Directors Shepherd and Blackburn. A class about lightning was made as a suggestion if needed to fill spots.
2. 2016 Conference: (September 20-23, 2016 in Council Bluffs).
3. Mission Statement: Discussion to keep it short and to the point. President Grier will revive the email chain.
4. Iowa Fire Investigator & IAAI CFI: No one has received a letter yet.

### VII. New Business

1. IFSTB Fire/Arson School assistance: Director Smith and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Spykerman will be helping. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Spykerman will talk to the class about the Iowa Chapter. VP Nelson will work on getting copies of the current application and brochure to Kenkel to get handed out to the class.
2. Fireworks Bill: Some discussion that the bill may be passed this year. Who will be responsible for enforcement?

### VIII. Good of the Chapter: Nothing new.

### IX. Adjournment

1. Next meeting will be Friday, March 6, 2015 at 10:00 am at DCI Crime Lab. O'Connell will send out a meeting invite.
2. Motion to adjourn at 11:12 am by Director Haler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Secretary/Treasurer O'Connell. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul O'Connell  
Iowa Chapter IAAI, Inc.  
Secretary/Treasurer

