



Iowa Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators

MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2016

- 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 by President Nelson at 09:39 am via conference call.
- II. Roll Call- Board and Directors
 - Becky Nelson – President –Present
 - Zach Spykerman – 1st Vice President –Present
 - Jeff Haler- 2nd 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 – Present
 - John Ticer – Director of Detection – Excused
 - Daniel Roberts – Director at Large, West – Present
 - Kurt Blackburn- Director at Large, East – Present
 - John Grier- Past-President - Present
- III. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report – Paul O’Connell via email
 1. Finances:
 - I. \$21,205.07 – checking
 - II. \$25.00- Savings
 - III. \$31,225.88 – CD’s
 - IV. \$57.66 – PayPal
 - V. \$63.97 – Joint checking account w/ NE IAAI for Joint seminar

A Motion was made to approve Secretary/Treasurers report by 2nd VP Haler, 2nd by Director Smith. Motion passes.
- IV. Officer & Board Reports
 1. President – Becky Nelson: No Report.
 2. 1st VP – Zach Spykerman: No Report.
 3. 2nd VP – Jeff Haler: No Report.
 4. Director West – Dan Roberts: Attended David May’s swearing in as judge.
 5. Director East – Kurt Blackburn: No Report.



Iowa Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators

6. Director of Detection – John Ticer: Report through an email-
 1. The arson proclamation signing with the governor went ok. We had a total of 14 people in attendance from every area we represent: Police, Fire, Prosecution and Insurance, which included 3 IAAI board members. The actual ceremony was not exactly what I expected, very short and impersonal, but we got it done. The proclamation itself was posted to the SFM twitter and Facebook accounts and I gave a recorded interview to Radio Iowa. When we originally came up with the plan I had envisioned everyone that was coming in for the signing getting together for lunch and kind of making a day of it. I felt bad for those who traveled any distance because of how short and non-interactive it was. A get together never materialized because of the time of the signing combined with several other events that I and other SFM staff had prior to the signing.
 2. The Department of Public Safety followed this up by doing a media release on Thursday that highlighted four open high profile arson events around the state. A summary of the cases were provided with contact names and numbers to call for anyone having information in those cases.
 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 /Haler: Five bids have come in. Board discussion on the five. Board asked Haler to look at the Urbandale Hilton, DM Embassy Suites and Ames Gateway Hotel. Haler will get in touch with Clark about visiting those sites and report back on dates for any others that may want to attend.
 2. Financial Review Committee – Shepherd: O’Connell emailed finances to Jon and also Spykerman. O’Connell will include Shepherd in the email too.
 3. Awards – Siembieda: No Report.
 4. CFI – Smith: One may take the exam in next month or two.
 5. Chaplain – Hartzler: No report
 6. Historian – Clark: No Report.
 7. Communications – Siembieda: No Report. O’Connell will get with David May about the Facebook page. Will add Dan Roberts as an administrator to the page. O’Connell will email the Board the schedule for Firefox.
 8. Constitution/Bylaws – Hutcheson: No report.
 9. Ethical Practice, Grievance & Appeal – Shepherd: No report.
 10. Membership – O’Connell: 83 total so far including 6 new members.



Iowa Chapter

International Association of Arson Investigators

11. Nominations – Blackburn: O’Connell will email out for open positions: Director East and Investigation, President, VP, 2nd VP and Secretary/Treasurer. Other chapters have ability to vote online. Ohio does it this way and will check with them how they do it. O’Connell will reach out with our webmaster for options with this. Table more discussion until next month.
12. Past President’s Council – Chapman: No Report.
13. Scholarship – Haler: No Report. O’Connell has received 2 applications so far. IAAI has a scholarship to help fund attending the ITC. The Iowa Chapter will continue to reach out to students for our Hentges Scholarship.
14. Training – Spykerman: Looking at October for Expert Witness, will speak with Kenkel. Blackburn is working on a class to have before seminar. Nelson spoke with Trace Lawless about have an Evidence Collection Technician class by the end of the year in Iowa. Roberts and Ticer working on a class in June on burn patterns. Another class will be later in the year up to the north in their territory.

VI. Old Business.

1. Director Ticer informed the Board regarding the Arson proclamation with the Iowa State Fire Marshalls office and the Governor’s office. See report above.
2. The following is a report from an email by Ticer regarding the Iowa Fire Investigator Certification:
 - i. FSTB Certification process. All of the board members should have gotten an email from both myself and FM Quigle concerning changes occurring at the FSTB which includes immediate moves to get the Fire Investigator Certification back on track. Letters have already gone out to anyone past due or coming up on recertification. They have asked that I be charge of reviewing those packets as they come in. Already we have received one packet for recertification and it has already been reviewed and approved. Applicants will now start receiving something in return that will show they are certified/recertified. There will also be a file that can be audited that will show what they submitted for certification/recertification, as well as, a form signed by me stating that they met the requirements for recertification, or if they do not, a short explanation of where they failed to meet and what they need to do to become recertified. The office is still working on finding someone to review the original certification packets. They had asked me to do that as well but I currently do not have the time to do both certification and recertification while doing my job as an investigator.



Iowa Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators

3. Board Shirts- Ticer and Nelson have theirs already. Siembieda needs to follow up with Smith on his size. Spykerman will follow up with President Nelson about forming a letter to send to Past Presidents about shirts and name tags.

VII. New Business

1. 2016 Conference: See minutes from joint IA/NE meeting
2. Vehicle Certification thru IAAI: this can be an add on to the FIT or CFI. Go to IAAI website for more information.
3. Iowa 2 week arson school: Spykerman mentioned that he is in talks with IAAI to see if Iowa 2 week school can be certified as FIT. Working with Lawless and Van Vleet to get the class certified, then can take the FIT test. Spykerman will Chair this project.
4. Electrical class: Kenkel wants to have a class, IAAI has curriculum. Spykerman is going to reach out to Van Vleet to see if ATF can send us an instructor for this. It is a 3 day intense class and will fill up.

VIII. Good of the Chapter:

1. Shirts for Life Members and Past-Presidents: President Nelson will draft a letter to have Secretary/Treasurer O'Connell mail out. Name tags will be included.
2. Todd Whitchelo from Davenport reached to O'Connell involving the retirement of Melaine's arson dog on July 1. O'Connell forwarded the email to the Board. Blackburn is going to reach out to Chief Hayman and have more info at the June meeting.
3. An email was sent thru the website about a fire that the sender believes was not investigated. O'Connell will send an email to the Chapter membership along with the verbage that the Chapter is not endorsing anyone who wants to contact the person in regards to the fire and email.

IX. Adjournment

1. Next meeting will be June 17, 2016 at 10:00 am at the DCI Lab in Ankeny. O'Connell will get room reserved and send out an invite.
2. Motion to adjourn at 11:25 am by Director Smith, 2nd by 2nd VP Haler. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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