

FIRE FAX

VOLUME 30

DECEMBER 2017

ISSUE 3

FROM THE DESK OF



Melaine Whitchelo

EDITOR

DIRECTOR AT LARGE –
EAST

The 2017 Iowa Chapter, IAAI Annual Training Seminar was held September 12 – 15th at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, Ames Iowa with 77 participants. This venue will also be home to the 2018 Iowa Chapter Annual training seminar, September 11th-14th.

A Huge Thank You to the retiring President Zack Spykerman. Your dedicated years of service are greatly appreciated!! Welcome to the newly appointed Secretary/Treasurer, Mark Dooley.

The 2018 Board of Director's are as following:

President:
Jeff Haler

1st Vice President:
Greg Siembieda

2nd Vice President:
Paul O'Connell

Secretary/Treasurer:
Mark Dooley

Director of Detection:
John Ticer

Director of Investigation:
Brian Greer

Director of Prosecution:
Kim Shepherd

Director at Large—East:
Melaine Whitchelo

Director at Large—West:
Daniel Roberts



Swearing in of New Officers (Left to Right):

(G. Terry Smith – Director of Insurance,

Paul O'Connell – 2nd Vice President,

Greg Siembieda – 1st Vice President,

Jeff Haler – President,

Kimberly Shepherd – Director of Prosecution)

FROM THE DESK OF



Jeff Haler
PRESIDENT

I would like to take this time to thank all of our members for your support of me to act as your president for this coming year. I believe that this up-coming conference will be as good as all those we have had in the past. We as a board are working hard to put the 2018 conference together. If anyone has any ideas that they would like to see presented please contact any of our board members so we can proceed in attempting to present it.

Again I know I might sound like a broken record but we need for all of our members to advertise our scholarship. We have gotten some good applicants in the past but I just hate to see those we know not applying.

With the weather turning cold, icy, and snowy we all need to be cautious. We all know how things can turn bad quickly. Structures damaged from fire and the water freezing and snow can add much more weight to the damaged structure possible making it structurally unsafe.

Please stay safe and keep warm.

FROM THE DESK OF



Greg Siembieda
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

In this day and age it is very important as investigators that we take the proper respiratory precautions when working our scenes. It is very important to know your scene and the possible hazards that you might be facing prior to exposing yourself to life threatening hazards. By utilizing proper ventilation techniques and checking air quality on a regular basis, this will help make your scene safer but will not totally eliminate all the dangers. This is when it is our responsibility to protect ourselves by using the proper respiratory protection.

With the increasing amounts of toxic gasses and hydrocarbons being produced in fires, we cannot be too careful. Exposure to these by-products of fire can result in both short term and long-term effects. Short term effects can be anything from lightheadedness, dizziness, irritation to the eyes and nose and coughing. As soon as an investigator begins to experience these effects they need to exit the area and check the air quality. Long term effects include lung ailments such as COPD, emphysema, asthma and some cancers when exposed to certain carcinogens and certain chemicals. The number one respirator is the SCBA (self-contained

breathing apparatus). By wearing the SCBA, we are breathing fresh air from the pack and not from our immediate environment. Second to the SCBA is the APR (air purifying respirator) these are a lot more comfortable to use and wear because they don't have the cylinder to deal with. Unfortunately, they have limitations on what contaminants they are able to filter out. APR filters are not good for all the different chemicals and gasses that we might encounter on a fire scene. Both of these respirators require a proper fit test and a medical exam prior use to insure they will provide the proper protection.

If you are unable to identify the hazards of your scene then default to the highest protection available, which should be the SCBA. Another important step in the process is making sure your department has a proper policy and training program in place to insure that everyone is using the equipment in the correct manner. Decontamination is very important. Follow the manufactures procedures when cleaning your equipment to ensure that contaminants don't get transferred from scene to scene. Also follow the manufactures guidelines for proper maintenance on the equipment.

I found most of this information on the CFITrainer.net, Fire Investigator Scene Safety under Respirator Protection. I strongly recommend that you check out this training program if you haven't already. It is full of valuable information to keep you safe on you fire scene.

FROM THE DESK OF



Paul O'Connell

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

I would like to say, "thank you" to the Iowa Chapter members in placing their trust in me to serve you as 2nd Vice President. Serving the last five years as your Secretary/Treasurer has given me many opportunities to meet new people and connect with each and every Iowa Chapter member. When I joined the organization back in 2006, I really wasn't sure what I was getting into. As time has gone on, I have met some great people throughout Iowa whom have become wonderful friends and look forward to connecting with and meeting more.

The Iowa Chapter's main goal is educating and continuing to enhance our members in the discipline of fire investigations. We continue to see many changes throughout the fire investigation field and it is one of my goals to help our membership learn about those changes. I am committed to helping bring the best training opportunities to our members and to work with the rest of the Iowa Chapter Board in doing so. One of my continued roles as a Board member is to keep the website updated. If you have any training ideas or opportunities that come up you feel would be beneficial for the rest of the membership, please let me know and we can get that information on

the website and emailed out to the rest of the members. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year and at next year's annual seminar in Ames. Please have a safe and happy holiday season and New Year.

FROM THE DESK OF



Kim Shepard

DIRECTOR
OF PROSECUTION

Greetings to my fellow members of the Iowa IAAI Chapter! To those members who are new, welcome! I am honored to have been nominated once again to be part of the Iowa IAAI Board of Directors, and to be continuing in my service for a second term as your Director of Prosecution. We are planning many great events for the upcoming year. On Wednesday, March 7th, I will be speaking on the topic of "Arson and the Mentally Ill" with Mike Walton, the Scott County Attorney, at a lunch and learn in Davenport. We have been seeing an increase in fires, with both juveniles and adults, which are being set by individuals who are suffering from various forms of mental illness. Please plan to attend the lunch and learn and join in the discussion about how to best address this growing problem.

In addition to the lunch and learn, Mike and I will be continuing our annual tradition of presenting on the topic of "Legal Aspects of Arson Cases" at the Fire Service Training

Bureau two week fire investigation school on March 22nd. I am also looking forward to attending the IAAI seminar this fall, being held for the second year in Ames, the home of my alma mater. We are currently in the process of recruiting other prosecutors to join us at the seminar on September 12th for lunch and the afternoon session. Please encourage your local prosecutors to attend. As always, feel free to contact me by phone or email in the Scott County Attorney's Office with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the next several months. Wishing you all the best in the New Year!

IN MEMORIUM

**IOWA CHAPTER
LIFE MEMBER**

MICHAEL HAYMAN



The Iowa Chapter says good-bye to Life Member Mike Hayman. Mike became a member of the Chapter in 1993, supporting the Chapter in training in the Davenport area and by sending his investigators to the Chapter's training. Mike received the Chapter's most prestigious award, the Life Membership Award in 2013. Chief Hayman passed away on October 12, 2017. You will be greatly missed Mike!

FROM THE DESK OF



John Ticer

DIRECTOR OF DETECTION

Upon reviewing the July 2017 addition of the Fire & Arson Investigator magazine I wanted to point out an item that caught my eye in the "Washington Wire" update (pg.34). Senate file S829 is legislation reauthorizing the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants. Specifically, the AFG helps support training for the nearly 1.1 million first responders throughout the United States. In Iowa, the AFG has provided money to not only local first responders for training but has assisted the Fire Service Training Bureau in purchasing the arson trailer, Hazardous Materials prop and most recently the burn trailer. The current grants expire on January 2, 2018. The new legislation would extend the grants until fiscal year 2023.

One of the programs many of us utilized for free that is significantly funded by the AFG is CFITrainer.net. A link is present at the Internationals web site www.firearson.com that provides a sample letter that you can utilize to send to your senator asking for their support of S829. Once on the site, go to the "about IAAI" tab, and click on "committees" and then on "advocacy committee". I would encourage each of you to take the five or ten minutes it would take to

adapt the form letter specific to you and your senator and mail it out. I think 100 plus letters from our state on this matter would certainly get the attention of our senators who have already been strong supporters of first responders.

On a different subject, each year the Governor's Office recognizes individual's associated with the fire service for their exemplary performance that contributes to the safety and protection of their communities. One of these awards is the Arson Investigator of the year. That award which is presented at our annual conference recognizes the individual from the fire service, law enforcement or insurance industry who either through a single case or culmination of several cases shows an exceptionally high level of performance in the field of fire investigation. The last award occurred in 2015. For the past two years no applications have been received for this nomination. I believe that it is not necessary to have a nomination every year as sometimes when awards are automatic, it can lessen the significance of the award. With that said, I also know that there are excellent investigators throughout our state who are doing great work towards suppressing arson in Iowa.

The deadline for this year's award is August 1. I would like to encourage the membership over the next year to look at those you work with who will make a significant impact on the fight against arson in Iowa, and when you see it, send something in. Don't wait. If you are like me, you see and acknowledge it today but a few months later you start to forget as our lives get busy with new things.

Finally, in addition to the annual conference, your board is taking seriously the need for continued education. We have committed our resources towards bringing area Lunch and Learns to each side of

the state. I would encourage each of you to try and attend at least one Lunch and Learn in the coming year. "Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death." – Albert Einstein.

FROM THE DESK OF



Melaine Whitchelo

DIRECTOR OF LARGE – EAST

The summer heat and the cooler autumn days and nights have passed, however it won't be long until spring and this will lead into increased bon fires, recreational fires, and burning leaves. Each city may impose its own ordinance for burn regulations and bans that follow county and state laws and guidelines. Chapter 23 of the Iowa Administrative Code outlines the Emission Standards for Contaminants and Open Burning. Burning leaves can be hazardous for many reasons including

Health:

Dangerous emissions, pollutants, poisonous chemicals, and toxic ash that can be hazardous to humans and animals and can cause cancer, respiratory problems, developmental issues, and birth defects.

Safety:

Disregard for proper burning regulations such as fires too close to structures and vehicles, wind conditions, lack of water source to extinguish the fire, unattended fires, lack of supervision of children or responsible adults.

In my city and region, burning leaves, rubbish, and trash have led to structure fires involving homes, garages, sheds, and vehicles. Often times the burn piles are left unattended or are attended by responsible persons. Davenport does impose a ban on burning leaves and trash and we have a 'burn day' recorded message that informs the public about daily burn days according to current weather conditions. Investigating fires of this nature

Consider jurisdictional open fire and burn regulation pamphlets outlining specific definitions of open

fires, cooking fires, and recreational fires as well as prohibited materials that may not be burned. Prohibited materials can include leaves, yard waste, building construction material, trash, or rubbish. The pamphlets can include Open Fire Regulations such as locations (private property vs. public lands), distance from structures, hours of burning, attending the fire (competent adults), weather related hazardous conditions, nuisance fires, and clearing land for development without proper permits.

The pamphlets can be distributed to the public or to individuals at the time of the burn complaint call for service. In this way, the public is made aware of the regulations as well as a establishing a basis for habitual offender or nuisance cases. Habitual offender and nuisance cases are included as one of the duties of a fire investigator in

many jurisdictions in Iowa. Unattended fires or illegal burning have led to the fires involving nearby structures, property, or vehicles. Fire Investigators must remember that although there may not be criminal intent for the progression of the fire, criminal (reckless use of fire, etc.) and civil actions may ensue due to the negligence or actions of the involved individuals.

For more information on open burning, or burn bans, contact the following resources.

Iowa DNR:
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Air-Quality/Open-Burning>

Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office regarding burn bans:
<http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/main/burnbans/index.shtml>

2017 SEMINAR

Below: International IAAI Board of Director Jim Kuticka with South Korean Fire Investigator:



Above: Past President Zack Spykerman with the Iowa Chapter's newest Life Member, Becky Nelson.

Below: Past Director at Large East Kurt Blackburn being recognized for his service to the Chapter's Board of Directors.



R.C. HENTGES SCHOLARSHIP

In 1997, the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators created the R.C. Hentges Scholarship Program in honor of Reynold C. Hentges, the 1st President and Life Member of the Iowa Chapter when it was re-organized in 1983.

The program is funded by the Iowa Chapter and is awarded to a student that is entering an accredited college within the State of Iowa that is majoring in the Fire Service, Law Enforcement, Legal (prosecution), Fire Protection Engineering, Fire Protection Technology or Insurance (investigation) professions.

***Don't Let This Money
Go To Waste!***
***Please Have Your Scholar
Apply Today!***
***Applicant Does Not Have
To Be A Member Of The
Iowa Chapter IAAI Inc.***

The 2017 recipients of the R.C. Hentges Scholarship are Aaron Mack, Davenport Fire Department. (pictured) Aaron is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Protection Administration from Eastern Kentucky University. Walker Wilson received the award also. He is Attending Iowa Western Community College.



FREE LUNCH AND LEARN

The IAAI Iowa Chapter along with Davenport Fire Department will be hosting a Free **Lunch and Learn** at the Mark Frese Training Center, 4241 W. 83rd St., Davenport on March 7th, 2018. The presentation will address Arson and the Mentally Ill. Michael Walton is the Scott County Attorney and Kim Shepherd is the IAAI Iowa Chapter Director of Prosecution and Assistant Scott County attorney. A synopsis of the presentation is as follows:

ARSON AND THE MENTALLY ILL

Presenters: Michael Walton and Kimberly Shepherd

We are seeing an increase in fires that are determined to have been set by an individual who may be suffering from a mental illness. The decision concerning whether to charge arson, reckless use of fire, or nothing at all in these types of situations can be a difficult decision for an investigator. This class will outline the issues and concerns surrounding investigating cases and filing criminal charges against individuals suffering from mental illness. We will discuss possible options for charging and explain what happens in the court system when an individual who is suffering from a mental illness is charged with a crime.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS IOWA CHAPTER

MEETING MINUTES

Annual Meeting of the General Membership September 13, 2017

The annual meeting of the General Membership of the International Association of Arson Investigators – Iowa Chapter was called to order at the Gateway Hotel and Conference

Center, Ames, Iowa at 08:30 AM on September 13, 2017, pursuant to the notice sent to all members in accordance with the bylaws.

Zack Spykerman, President presided and Paul O'Connell, Secretary/Treasurer, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Roll call of officers:

Zack Spykerman – President
Jeff Haler – 1st Vice President
Greg Siembieda – 2nd Vice President
Paul O’Connell – Secretary/Treasurer
Brian Greer – Director of Investigations
John Ticer – Director of Detection
Kimberly Shepherd – Director of Prosecution
G. Terry Smith – Director of Insurance
Daniel Roberts – Direct at Large – West
Melaine Whitchelo – Director at Large – East

The first order of business was from the nomination committee. Director’s Roberts and Greer took nominations from the floor as well as nominations sent via e-mail.

For the position of President. Jeff Haler was nominated.

For the position of 1st Vice President. Greg Siembieda was nominated.

For the position of 2nd Vice President. Paul O’Connell was nominated.

A nomination for the Life Member award was made for Past President Becky Nelson. All members present voted in favor of Becky Nelson receiving the Life Member award.

A motion duly made (Past President Hutcheson) and second (Member Whitsell) to cease nominations until the meeting reconvenes September 14, 2017 was accepted at this time. The meeting was recessed at 09:00 AM on September 13, 2017.

The annual meeting of the General Membership of the International Association of Arson Investigators – Iowa Chapter was reconvened at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, Ames, Iowa at 11:12 AM on September 14, 2017, pursuant to the notice sent to all members in accordance with the bylaws.

Roll call of officers:

Zack Spykerman – President
Jeff Haler – 1st Vice President
Greg Siembieda – 2nd Vice President

Paul O’Connell – Secretary/Treasurer
Brian Greer – Director of Investigations
John Ticer – Director of Detection
Kimberly Shepherd – Director of Prosecution
G. Terry Smith – Director of Insurance
Daniel Roberts – Direct at Large – West
Melaine Whitchelo – Director at Large – East

Paul O’Connell gave the Secretary/Treasurer report:

- 182 members of our association at present time, 15 Life Members
- Checkbook balance is \$8001.39, Seminar Checkbook balance is \$11,333.46, US Bank Savings is \$10,000.53, \$31,428.56 in CD’s, \$25 in Savings and \$1,215.87 in PayPal. Motion made (Director Roberts) to approve Financial report and seconded (Director Ticer). Motion passed unanimous.
- Motion made (Past President Grier) to approve 2015 AGM Minutes as printed in Firefax and posted on website and seconded (Member Abbott). Motion passed unanimous.
- 11 New members for 2016
 - Brett Herbold – LeMars FD
 - Kevin Bolton – LeMars FD
 - Paul Koenig – Cedar Rapids FD
 - Mark Weidman – State of Iowa DPS
 - J. Maulsby – Lake City FD
 - Blake Boyle – Clive FD
 - Andrew Giere – State of Iowa DPS
 - Joel Schabilion – Newton FD
 - David Allen – ATF
 - Robert Martin – Council Bluffs FD

Zack Spykerman gave the President report:

- Attended the ITC Annual conference in Las Vegas Thank the membership for sending me.

Every year the Iowa Chapter sends the President to represent.

- Want to thank Jim Kenkel and the IFSTB for the audio/visual equipment again this year.
- The chapter put on three Lunch ‘n Learns this year and a burn cell demonstration in Orange City.
- The next Iowa Chapter Seminar is September 11-14, 2018 back here at the Gateway.
- Please bring any training topics or ideas to the Board.
- Already looking for host venues for 2019 and 2020. The Gateway has been great with everything for this year.
- I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to be your President. Have been on the Board for 12 years.
- I was asked to be the Sergeant of Arms for the 2018 ITC.
- I want to also thank our new Facebook and Social Media administrator, Cory Bengel to the team. Please send him anything you think should be posted on FB.

Jeff Haler gave the 1st Vice President report:

- I would like to thank everyone for attending a great conference and the Board for finding great speakers.
- We had 4 scholarship applications and are giving away 2 scholarships.

Greg Siembieda gave the 2nd Vice President report:

- I attended most Board meetings and conference calls.
- Worked on ordering of awards for the 2017 Seminar.
- As Chairman of Communications, worked with Paul on the website.

Brian Greer gave the Director of Investigation report:

- Thank everyone for helping with my 1st year on the Board.
- Very few stayed for Sectional meetings. We need to know

how to make this organization better and need to know topics and speakers for the future.

G. Terry Smith gave the Director of Insurance report:

- Thank everyone for re-electing me to the same position.
- Remember, we are all working for the same reasons. Please let us know what topics you would like for next year.
- One person is in the application process for the IAAI CFI.
- Be sure to keep a seminar brochure with your certificate to prove what classes you took for the hours. We are putting the 1033 hours on the back of the certificates.

Melaine Whitchelo gave Director at Large East report:

- Planning a Lunch 'n Learn in Eastern Iowa. Looking for topics wanted and a location to host.

John Ticer gave the Director of Detection report:

- Had a Lunch 'n Learn in NW Iowa this year. Working to have one in Council Bluffs in November.
- Working to help get the Iowa CFI program updated and re-evaluating it.
- The IFSTB and Jim Kenkel is going to help keep track of Lunch 'n Learn training hours for those that attend.

Daniel Roberts gave the Director at Large West report:

- Was gone for the 1st quarter of this year due to being in Canine School.

- Been involved with Board meetings and decisions for the Conference.

Kimberly Shepherd gave the Director of Prosecution report:

- Presented at a conference for Attorneys in June with Ticer and Walton.
- Please contact me if you need any help in working with local prosecutors.
- Reviewed the financials for the last year and all is good.

Elections:

Nominations for the following positions were announced:

President – Jeff Haler.

1st Vice President – Greg Siembieda.

2nd Vice President – Paul O'Connell.

A motion duly made (Member Kurt Blackburn) and seconded (Member John Bostwick) to cease nominations was unanimously approved.

A motion duly made (Past President Becky Nelson) and seconded (Past President Jeff Hutcheson) to have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the uncontested positions. Motion unanimously passed.

Director of Insurance was held in sectional meeting with G. Terry Smith being re-elected to the position.

Director of Prosecution was held in sectional meeting with Kimberly Shepherd being re-elected to the position.

The Secretary/Treasurer position has one year left on the term. The position will be appointed by the Board.

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

- Past President Jeff Hutcheson made a motion to grant Gidong Song an honorary membership. Chief Song and his wife came to the conference from South Korea. The motion was seconded by Member Craig Fraser. The motion passes. Jim Kuticka also stated that Chief Song is applying to be an International member as well.
- A motion made (1st VP Greg Siembieda) to pay Secretary/Treasurer's membership stipend at \$5.00 per member and seconded (Past President Sam Reaves). Motion unanimously passed.
- Life Member Jim Kenkel passed on there is an NFA class on Juvenile Fire Setting Manager Program in Ames on March 3 and 4, 2018.

The next meeting of the General Membership will be held at the next Annual Seminar, at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, Ames, Iowa, September 11-14, 2018. Times will be posted in the brochure for the 2018 seminar.

There being no further business before the meeting, it was, in motion duly made (President Jeff Haler) and seconded (Member Bostwick), adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Paul O'Connell
2nd Vice President
Iowa Chapter IAAI Incorporated

2018 Iowa IAAI Fire Investigation Seminar & Annual Meeting

September 11 – 14, 2018

Gateway Hotel & Conference Center in Ames, Iowa

The Brochure will be out soon!

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the IAAI or the Iowa Chapter IAAI. Please, if you have any suggestions for improvements or changes to the newsletter send me an e-mail at:

Becky.Nelson@grinnellmutual.com or Melaine Whitchelo at f555@ci.davenport.ia.us

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