



Election **2026** IAAI Candidates for Board of Directors



David Michael Bannon IAAI Candidate for Board of Directors

In Ballot Order

What would you say your greatest assets are if you become a Director or Officer of the IAAI?

As a current Director of the IAAI, I remain deeply committed to advancing the Association's core mission of professional excellence, collaboration, and the continual evolution of fire investigation science. I believe my greatest assets in helping move the IAAI forward are rooted in three key areas: experience, leadership, and strategic vision.

What type of leader are you, and how would you apply those leadership traits as a director or officer of the IAAI?

As a director of the International Association of Arson Investigators, I strive to lead with integrity, accountability, and a strong commitment to collaboration. I believe effective leadership begins with listening—understanding the needs of our members and working closely with fellow board members to develop meaningful, forward-thinking initiatives.

What steps do you believe the IAAI should take to reduce or eliminate membership shrinkage?

Membership retention is vital to the sustained health and growth of the IAAI. As we continue to evolve as a global leader in fire investigations, it is essential that we take proactive and strategic steps to reduce membership shrinkage and increase long-term engagement.

What steps do you believe the IAAI should take to grow membership?

As we continue to evolve as a global leader in fire investigations, it is essential that we take proactive and strategic steps to ensure member recruitment, member engagement, while continuing to network and listen to our membership needs. Reducing membership shrinkage will require an ongoing effort, but with focused actions, we can reinforce the value of the IAAI membership.

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the International and Chapters?

Improving relationships and communication between the International Association of Arson Investigators and its individual chapters is critical for unity, consistency and long-term success. Key strategies to strengthen these connections through continued support of our Chapter Liaisons, zoom meetings, and conducting Chapter surveys.

What is your vision for the future for the IAAI?

My vision for the future of the International Association of Arson Investigators is to elevate it as a global leader in fire investigations excellence, innovation, and integrity while providing cutting-edge education and certifications. Thus, building stronger partnerships with fire services, law enforcement, insurance industry, and forensic science professionals.

Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider critical to the mission of the IAAI?

While training fire investigators is at the core of the International Association of Arson Investigators mission, we should also be advancing fire investigation science and standards, promoting integrity, ethics, and legal preparedness, and public education and arson prevention.

What do you perceive is the biggest challenge facing the IAAI in the coming years and how would you address that challenge?

The greatest threat is not just the rise of complex arson methods, but the lag in preparing investigators to meet them. IAAI's future success depends on closing the gap by making modern, science-based tools and training accessible to every fire investigator, everywhere.