



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



Chris Elrod 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?

I have been serving on the Board for the past 3 years. My asset of continuing to be a member of the Board is my experience and input that I have added to the operation of this organization as well as changes that have been made in dealing with the training and certification process that is now more streamlined than in the past.

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

I have been a fire service officer in my prior employment and responsible for the operation of the same. As a member of the board of directors, I utilize my experience and leadership experience to interject into the operation of the decision making of the IAAI. I have been effective with my input in training and education and will continue to be an effective leader in that area to update and make sure that the training is current and relevant to the need of the membership.

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

The importance of the representatives of especially the board, to both be ambassadors to the local chapters and be able to universally explain the importance to local chapters of what advantages it is for the local members to be a member of the IAAI and what the IAAI provides for them.

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

Growing membership relies on the fact that many members are from the public sector as with my origination. Being able to offer discounts on products that may be of assistance to investigators in the performance of their duties in the fire investigation field. This would be relying on teaming with companies that could offer discounts on tools, equipment, and materials at a discount rate if you are a member of the IAAI.

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

The biggest issue is transparency of the operation of the IAAI to the local chapters. Being available to answer questions, clear confusion and be very forthcoming in changes that may be occurring that will affect them at the local level. A

board representative should be always available to answer questions from chapters and give them prompt and clear direction for issues that would directly affect the operation of the local chapters that support the IAAI. A suggestion is for the IAAI president to issue a quarterly letter to all chapters of current operations, changes that may be on the horizon as well as training opportunities.

What is your vision for the future for the IAAI?

The future for the IAAI is expansion into more contact and training offered to off continent chapters. Continuing to create, update and provide quality, current and new programs of training, education and certification credentials and continuing to update our testing to accommodate all chapters internationally.

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

Other than education and training the elements that are critical to this organization are promoting and retaining membership, transparency of the administration of the organization to chapters and membership and efficiency in providing for the needs of the chapters and the individual members of the organization.

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

The challenge is multi-faceted. To keep training and education current and continue to explore subjects that are relevant to the membership with the always changing technology. To keep membership engaged and to keep it economically affordable to organizations. As a member of the board, I will continue to be engaged in the training and education responsibilities that I have been assigned to. To promote the fact of public sector members being able to attend these offerings of training with a monetary incentive that will possibly reduce the amount or cost associated with obtaining that training to be able to benefit their organization.