



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



Greg Gorbett IAAI Candidate for the Board of Directors

In Ballot Order

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

My greatest assets as the Director of the IAAI are my deep scientific expertise, extensive field experience, and long-standing commitment to advancing the profession. With a Ph.D. in Fire Protection Engineering, decades of hands-on fire and explosion investigation, and a history of leadership roles on national and international committees including NFPA 921, NFPA 1033, and OSAC I bring a unique combination of academic rigor and practical insight. I've authored foundational research, developed curricula, and trained investigators worldwide. These strengths position me to help guide the IAAI in reinforcing science-based practices, enhancing education, and elevating the credibility of our profession.

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 IAAI, I will embody the principle of leading by example. Integrity, dedication, and professionalism form the foundation of effective leadership. By consistently demonstrating a strong work ethic and a commitment to continuous learning, I will inspire others to uphold the highest standards in fire investigation. My hands-on approach will promote teamwork, accountability, and open communication within our organization. I am dedicated to empowering members, encouraging innovation, and promoting best practices, ensuring that our association remains a respected authority in fire investigation worldwide.

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

To combat membership shrinkage, the IAAI should prioritize expanding science-driven engagement with early-career professionals and students. This entails integrating cutting-edge fire science such as fire dynamics and damage assessment into accessible training programs specifically designed for emerging investigators.

Partnering with academic institutions to create mentorship pipelines will foster a strong foundation in scientific methodology. Additionally, investing in digital platforms that provide interactive, evidence-based learning will appeal to the next generation. By emphasizing scientific rigor and career development, the IAAI can build lasting loyalty and attract members committed to investigative excellence.

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

To grow membership, the IAAI should prioritize global outreach and develop early-career mentorship programs. Expanding international chapters with culturally relevant, science-based training and translated resources will make the organization more accessible and appealing to a global audience. Supporting regional leaders in hosting training sessions, webinars, and events will foster stronger community engagement and visibility.

At the same time, establishing a structured mentorship program that connects experienced investigators with students and early-career professionals will foster meaningful, lasting engagement. Combining

mentorship with science-driven education and certification pathways will help nurture the next generation of investigators and enhance long-term membership growth and retention.

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

Enhancing relationships between the International and regional associations of the IAAI begins with consistent, structured communication and collaborative training efforts. Establishing regular virtual meetings, dedicated communication liaisons, and shared digital platforms ensures that regional chapters remain informed, feel heard, and are actively involved in shaping initiatives.

Joint training programs such as co-branded webinars, international speakers at regional events, and shared access to science-based curricula create alignment and mutual value. These initiatives foster a unified investigative approach grounded in best practices and scientific methodology while reinforcing a strong, connected community across all levels of the organization.

What is your vision for the future for the IAAI?

To lead the global advancement of fire and arson investigation through innovative scientific research and committed early-career mentoring, ensuring a new generation of highly skilled, ethical, and innovative investigators is equipped to address the evolving challenges of fire science and public safety.

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

Beyond training fire investigators, the IAAI plays a vital role in fostering collaboration among public and private professionals, advocating for strong arson laws and high ethical standards, and serving as a central resource for scientific, technical, and legal information. These elements promote professionalism and ensure that investigators have access to the latest knowledge and best practices, which are essential to the IAAI's mission of advancing the field of fire investigation and supporting justice in arson-related crimes. Mentoring fire investigators early in their careers helps promote the profession and maintain historical knowledge.

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

One of the challenges facing the IAAI is advancing the scientific foundation of fire investigations to meet increasing legal and professional demands for objectivity and reliability. As fire dynamics and material behavior become increasingly complex, there is a need to bridge the gap between research and practice.

To address this, I would focus on expanding science-based training, enhancing investigator access to current research, and encouraging the integration of validated methodologies such as fire modeling and damage analysis. By fostering a culture of scientific literacy and critical thinking, the IAAI can ensure that its members conduct investigations based on proven principles.