



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



Gregory Whited 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 Director, my greatest assets would be my wide-ranging experience in fire investigation, my commitment to mentorship, and my collaborative leadership approach. With decades of operational, instructional, and administrative service, I bring a balanced perspective that supports both new and seasoned investigators across public and private sectors. I value integrity, transparency, and evidence-based practices, and I am passionate about advancing our profession through education, innovation, and partnerships that strengthen our collective impact.

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

I am a servant leader who values collaboration, accountability, and continuous growth. I lead by example, prioritizing ethical standards and empowering others through mentorship. As a Director, I would apply these traits by fostering inclusive dialogue, promoting professional development, and building consensus around key initiatives. I believe effective leadership comes from listening, learning, and leading with purpose—values that align with the IAAI's mission to educate, innovate, and uphold investigative excellence.

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

Clearly articulating and delivering the value of membership is the most effective way to retain current members. We must ensure that the resources and opportunities we offer—training, certifications, networking, and tools—are regularly updated, promoted, and made easily available. Periodic evaluations of our programs, along with strong member engagement, help reinforce the return on investment and maintain relevance in a rapidly evolving profession.

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

The IAAI is widely recognized as the leading resource for fire investigators. To grow membership, we must prioritize removing barriers to entry for new investigators. Expanding first-year discounts and exploring bundled membership options for departments or agencies would help. Outreach at the fire academy and regional training levels can also spark early interest and commitment from the public sector.

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

Language differences and time zones challenge live interaction, but we can support locally led follow-ups to live interaction that would be guided by the International. Working with chapters to perform translations with oversight may help us meet regulatory requirements while expanding access. Strengthening regional liaisons and virtual engagement opportunities will also improve collaboration.

What is your vision for the future for the IAAI?

I envision the IAAI expanding globally, becoming a truly international organization. Overcoming language and logistical hurdles will take time, but it will allow us to learn from global advancements in fire investigation research. Increased international presence means we become both contributors to and beneficiaries of diverse research, practices, and innovations in the field. These opportunities will further increase our perceived value to the prospective member and profession.

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

Beyond training, 1) IAAI Certifications, 2) IAAI's networking opportunities, and 3) resource-sharing are invaluable. IAAI Certifications are viewed as the premier fire investigation credentials and are the ones sought out by prospective employers. Lifelong professional connections have strengthened my work, offering access to experienced opinions from around the world. Additionally, access to standardized forms, reports, and best practices has improved investigation outcomes. These 3 benefits are often under-communicated, and we must highlight them more effectively when promoting membership.

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

The economic strain that the public or private investigator sector is experiencing is our biggest challenge. Rising costs and slow-moving pay adjustments limit support for certifications and memberships. We must continue to adapt and deliver value while being mindful of costs. Supporting public agencies and advocating for recognition of IAAI credentials will further demonstrate our value.