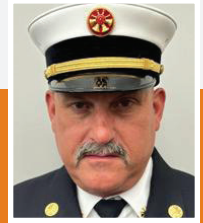




Election **2025** IAAI Candidates for Foundation Board of Directors



James (Jim) W. Gault (TN) IAAI Candidate for the Board of Directors

Elections will be open until noon (EDT) April 7, the results will be announced at the 2025 ITC General Meeting and on www.firearson.com.

In Ballot Order

How long have you been a member of the IAAI? 20 years

How many annual meetings have you attended; Which Years? With the exception of the COVID years (2020, 2021) I have attended each ITC/AGM beginning in Dover, DE in 2012 through the most recent meeting in Las Vegas, NV

What IAAI Committees Have you Served on; which years?
2022 - IAAI Strategic Planning Committee

Do you regularly attend your state/provincial chapter meetings and activities? Yes

Offices held state/province chapter?

- TNIAAI Director- Multiple Terms
- TNIAAI 2nd Vice President-2 Years
- TNIAAI 1st Vice President-2 Years
- TNIAAI Chapter President-3 Years
- TNIAAI Immediate Past President-2 Years
- TNIAAI Training & Education Committee, Chair-6 Years

Please list any international offices held, special projects or committee work, indicating years of service. 2022 - Association Options workshop to develop the Mission and Vision of IAAI along with the future strategic plan.

Describe, in 100 words or less, why you feel you are qualified for this position: My experience as a practicing Fire Investigator provides me a thorough understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our industry. I worked with the Strategic Planning Committee and helped to define the organizations long term vision and goals. I am dedicated to empowering the membership and elevating the profession by advancing the association's mission and vision. Our association is at a critical time of change and opportunity. I have a proven track record of leadership and demonstrated ability to collaborate with others. I welcome the opportunity to contribute my skills and passion to this important work.

What would you say your greatest assets are if you become a director or officer of the IAAI? As a Director, my greatest assets will be my strong leadership, collaborative skills, analytical thinking, and willingness to listen and consider the views of others. By leveraging these qualities, I can help guide the organization towards success and ensure effective governance.

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 leader who believes in empowering and respecting those who I lead. I am always willing to listen to both majority and contradictory opinions to collect all facts before making a decision. As a Director my integrity, work ethic and core values will allow me to build relationships and work with other members of the board to drive our organization into a successful future.

What steps do you believe the IAAI should take to reduce or eliminate membership shrinkage? The IAAI can improve member engagement and retention through identification of regions with high demand for fire investigation training and resources. The International can develop webinars, online courses and remote training opportunities to be delivered at the chapter level in order to enhance the membership experience.

What steps do you believe the IAAI should take to grow membership? Membership growth can be achieved through expanded outreach to associated professions, partnering with other professional associations and providing networking events, mentorship programs and career resources along with continued expansion of the student programs.

How would you propose to improve relationships and communications between the international and chapters? Dissemination of information from the International to the Chapters is critical. The Chapters Committee has been wonderfully successful in increasing communication. Continued strengthening of the committees functions will provide a sense of involvement and inclusion for the chapters were the largest portion of members exist.

What is your vision for the future for the IAAI? By expanding its outreach, growing its international footprint and enhancing member engagement, the IAAI can work to reverse the trend of membership shrinkage. These strategic steps will help the organization attract new members and retain its existing base of fire investigation professionals.

Other than training fire investigators, what two or three other elements do you consider as critical to the mission of the IAAI? Strengthening chapter level involvement, continued pursuit of international growth, support for members through career resources, certifications and professional designations and support of fire investigator health and safety.

What do you perceive is the biggest challenge facing the IAAI in the coming years and how would you address that challenge? Recruitment and retention of members is a huge challenge looking into the future. Continued strengthening of the IAAI's relationship with the fire service, law enforcement and insurance industries and pursuit of partnerships and collaboration with associations representing allied professions will expand the potential membership base.