

# Candidates for IAAI Second Vice President



## Gary Hodson (UT)

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE IAAI?** 19 years

**HOW MANY ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE YOU ATTENDED; WHICH YEARS?** 15, 2002, 2003,

2004, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

**WHAT IAAI COMMITTEES HAVE YOU SERVED ON; WHICH YEARS?**

2004-2009 Investigator Safety Committee; 2004-2009 Transportation subcommittee, Training and Education Committee; 2011- present, Application Review subcommittee, CFI Committee; 2015-present Chapters Committee; 2015- present Principles and Practices, NFPA 921 & 1033 Committee; 2016-present Health and Safety Committee

**DO YOU REGULARLY ATTEND YOUR STATE/PROVINCIAL CHAPTER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES?** Yes

**OFFICES HELD STATE/PROVINCE CHAPTER?** Trustee (Director), 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President, Past President, Sergeant-At-Arms

**PLEASE LIST ANY INTERNATIONAL OFFICES HELD, SPECIAL PROJECTS OR COMMITTEE WORK, INDICATING YEARS OF SERVICE.** 2014-2019 DIRECTOR; 2004-2009 INVESTIGATORS SAFETY COMMITTEE; 2004-2009 TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE, TRAINING AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE; 2011-PRESENT APPLICATION REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE, CFI COMMITTEE; 2015-2019 CHAPTERS COMMITTEE CHAIR; 2019 CHAPTERS COMMITTEE CO CHAIR; 2015-PRESENT PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES NFPA 921 & 1033 COMMITTEE; 2016- PRESENT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

**DESCRIBE, IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, WHY YOU FEEL YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION:** I served in all facets of public safety for over 34 years and have been involved in fire investigations for over 28 years, both in the public and private sector. I have served the membership of the IAAI at the local level and on various committees. I served for five years as a director and understand the complexities of the IAAI. I am passionate about fire investigations and the mission and members of the IAAI. I have the education, experience, and motivation to serve the IAAI and members at the executive level. I will serve each member of the IAAI .

**WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI?**

I have a strong desire to continue to serve the membership as an officer of this great organization. I am passionate about fire investigations and the mission of the IAAI and have a strong desire to provide the members and allied organizations up-to-date, cutting edge training and networking opportunities. I will maintain an "open door" policy to communicate with the members and gain their insights, concerns, and ideas for the betterment of the IAAI.

**WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE YOUR BEST LEADERSHIP TRAITS, AND HOW WOULD YOU USE THEM AS A DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE IAAI?**

Managers manage programs and leaders lead people. The IAAI has excellent people in place to manage the various programs of the IAAI. One leadership trait I have is to lead by example. I will not ask someone to do something I am not willing to do myself and providing opportunities for

others to have personal growth and success. Another is being open minded and seeking available information prior to making decisions. Once the information is received, moving forward with decisions, some of which may not be popular. I believe other leadership traits include honesty, integrity, and accountability. I strive to always maintain those traits and hold others to the same traits.

**WHAT STEPS DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO GROW MEMBERSHIP?** While the IAAI has experienced growth in the last few years, we can continue to grow the membership by providing information to our chapters and allied organizations explaining the value of being a member of the IAAI. We should continue to discount the first year membership dues for new members joining during a chapter's annual seminar. That program could be expanded to provide a discount to new members attending any IAAI training offering.

**HOW WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL AND CHAPTERS?** In a word, COMMUNICATION. Communication with the chapters has improved during the past few years with the quarterly chapter president conference calls, although it can still improve. Communication is the two-way exchange of information. It cannot take place if the information is not being provided to the right people. Relationships with the chapters can be improved by having IAAI representation at any chapter function to provide information and assistance to attendees. The IAAI representative could communicate with the chapter leadership as well and report the information to the IAAI board and executives.

**WHAT ARE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OF CFITRAINER.NET?** CFITrainer.net is a valuable platform for providing training to the members and every effort should be made to maintain the platform as a member benefit at no cost to the members. There are numerous costs that go into the production of training modules and maintaining the platform itself. Additional grant sources need to be explored and applied for. Donations and/or sponsorships should be sought from private corporations, which may include allowing the corporation to provide ads on the platform. Institutions of higher learning and technical colleges utilize the training modules within their programs and require their students to take the modules during their course work. A user fee for the colleges and universities ought to be charged for their use of the platform.

**OTHER THAN TRAINING FIRE INVESTIGATORS, WHAT TWO OR THREE OTHER ELEMENTS DO YOU CONSIDER AS CRITICAL TO THE MISSION OF THE IAAI?** The current mission statement of the IAAI states: "The IAAI shall provide active support to fire, arson, and explosion professionals through leadership in education, training, professional development, certification, networking, advocacy, and the provision of resources." Networking and the sharing of information is critical to the mission of the IAAI. Communication regarding lessons learned during fire investigations could be a benefit to other investigators and others within the industry. We are, and should continue, being advocates for the health and safety of our members and others within the industry. More information should be shared with others not directly involved in investigations.