

Brother and Sister Members of the NJ Chapter;

Having just returned from the 2010 IAAI Annual General Meeting in Orlando, FL, I have had time to reflect on what took place as well as the progress we have made in the past year. I am very excited to report to you that there have been many developments that continue to solidify the IAAI's commitment to you, the member. I will outline some of those developments here:

1. The following are the results of votes cast. Note that many voters chose not to vote for candidates or amendments.

For 2nd Vice President (running unopposed):

Roger Krupp 766

For IAAI Director:

(three-year term)

Dan Heenan 528

Peter Mansi 528

Mike Dalton 506

Gene Pietzak 448

(Since Roger Krupp moved up, the next candidate receiving the most votes fulfills his unexpired two-year term)

Rob Rush 447

Not elected was Jim Kuticka (381)

For Foundation Director:

William Schmitt 614

Pam Graham 490

Jeffrey K Hutcheson 475

Not elected was

James L. Cabbage, Jr. (452)

All of the Amendments to the Constitution passed by wide margins.

Section 1-Active Membership Amendment 751 to 46

Section 2- Associate Membership Amendment 680 to 65

Section 3-Student Membership Amendment 717 to 69

Section 4-Life Membership Amendment 728 to 50

Section 5-Corporate Members Amendment 684 to 81

Section 6-Personal Qualifications Amendment 759 to 24

Section 7-Retired Membership Amendment 722 to 49

Section 8-Membership Approval Amendment 695 to 29

Section 9-Incomplete Membership Applications 724 to 35

Section 10-Termination Amendment	735 to 32
Section 11-Sanctions Amendment	739 to 24
Section 12-Reinstatements Amendment	739 to 22

Congratulations to all those who were successful in seeking office.

2. Chapter charter number 72 was awarded to the France chapter
3. Several new categories of membership were approved. Categories for Retired member and Student member were added. These membership levels will allow those members either still in school or who have fully retired from active fire investigator to be members of the association for a cost-effective price.

In addition, several levels of Corporate membership were announced. This program will allow corporations who currently pay separately for multiple memberships will now be able to write a single check and enjoy added benefits.

Details on these programs will be announced in the near future.

4. Extensive discussion as held regarding some remaining glitches with the membership database. Overall, the database is working well. There are still some sporadic issues with data integrity. An effort to review each membership individually is currently underway. If you have problems with your membership and do not get satisfaction from the IAAI office, please contact me directly at wendtcfi@optonline.net.

5. As a new member benefit, the IAAI will now offer Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance to each IAAI **Active Member**. The policy amount is \$10,000 and is offered at no charge. The insurance will be underwritten by Provident Life Insurance. Designation of beneficiary instructions will be sent out soon.

6. The Training and Education Committee announced a joint program with University of Maryland. A three-tier certificate program on Fire Dynamics will be held. The first tier will be a competency course that will be held on CFI Trainer. The second tier will be an intense 12 week online course "Principles of Fire Behavior" will be taught by Dr. James Quinter. The third tier will be a 1-2 week residential course at the Univ. of Maryland and the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute. This component will be a team taught course involving small and large scale live fire experiments in a laboratory-type setting. An announcement for the Tier II course will be made soon. It will be offered in the Fall 2010. The cost will be \$775 for IAAI members and \$925 for non-members. The session will have a 50 student limit, but additional simultaneous sessions may be added if there is sufficient demand. Plans for Tier III will be announced following the initial Tier II offering.

The T&E Committee will be offering two other projects this upcoming year. They have developed a First Responder Arson Awareness DVD. The previews of this program show a dynamic and very upscale approach to this issue. There is also a dashing young man

featured on the DVD that looks an awful lot like a certain NJ Chapter President. This DVD will be provided to all IAAI Chapters and associated organizations when final editing is complete.

Also, the committee has developed an Evidence Collection Practicum. Essentially, this will be a performance-oriented test that will be designed to evaluate the skill of the student. This will be used to satisfy the CFI Trainer grant requirements to develop a means of assessing the students' practical skill levels. Info will be announced on the IAAI website.

7. The Communications Task Group, of which I am a member, will be re-convened to explore the use of social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.) to increase our means of communication with our members. There are already IAAI groups on Facebook and LinkedIn, although they are not active. Stay tuned for details on this project.

8. The Chairman of the NFPA 921 Technical Committee, Randy Watson, announced that the Report on Comments for the 2011 edition will be out in late summer. He also announced that the NFPA has agreed to include color photographs in the 2014 edition.

9. The [Institution of Fire Engineers](#) and its [United States affiliate](#) has entered into an agreement with the International Association of Arson Investigators to provide reciprocal credit to those individuals holding the IAAI-CFI as well as a **National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board NFPA 1033 certification**. This will allow that person to apply for membership in the IFE. Membership normally requires an extensive application and testing process. With the reciprocity agreement, IAAI-CFI's are required only to complete the application process. Most IAAI-CFI's will qualify at the "Member" level.

The Institution of Fire Engineers was founded in 1918 in the United Kingdom by a group of eight British chief fire officers. Membership in the IFE is viewed very highly internationally, with a growing importance in the United States. The IFE has approximately 12,000 members in over 60 countries. They offer professional recognition, development opportunities and an international technical network of fire protection professionals. The IFE member will also be authorized to use the professional post-nominals designating membership in the IFE. This is an exciting opportunity for those holding the IAAI-CFI designation.

The major difference between this process and the IAAI-CFI process will be that you are writing a narrative demonstrating your competency instead of taking a written exam. **I want to stress that this opportunity is only available to those IAAI-CFI's who have also obtained National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board NFPA 1033 certification.** The paperwork to obtain the Pro Board certification is included with each IAAI-CFI certificate and re-certification. If you need this paperwork, please contact the IAAI office.

I have attached an introductory letter from the IFE-USA, the application and the application instructions. I am in the process of putting my application together. If you

have any questions, I'll do my best to answer them, but I am also on the learning end of this subject.

10. The IAAI has once again received a Fire Grant to sustain development of the CFI Trainer program. There are several modules in various stages of development. If you are not availing yourself of the fantastic training opportunities on CFI Trainer, you are cheating yourself. Check out the best fire investigation training site in the business at www.cfitrainer.net.

11. The 2011 IAAI Annual General Meeting and Training Conference will be held May 1 through 6, 2011 at the Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. The training program is being developed now and will be announced shortly. Every effort is being made to contain the cost to the membership.

12. The IAAI membership census shows that the NJ Chapter has the largest number of IAAI members in the entire association; 328 members! I look forward to working with the NJ-IAAI Officers and Directors to leverage this distinction for the mutual good of the NJ Chapter as well as the IAAI.

I would like to remind all IAAI members that **it is your responsibility to make sure your information is up to date**. Please go to the members-only section of the [IAAI Website](#) and update your profile information.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve you as an IAAI Director. If you have any issues or problems, please contact me at wendtcfi@optonline.net or 973-727-5397 and I will do whatever I can to help you.

Respectfully submitted;

George A. Wendt, IAAI-CFI