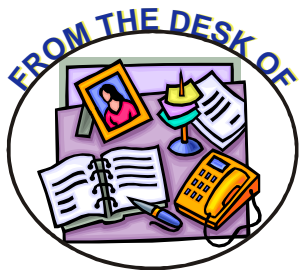


FIREFAX

VOLUME 23

August 2010

ISSUE 3



Becky Nelson
SECRETARY/TREASURER
FIREFAX EDITOR



and Seminar, feel free to nominate the person during the general meeting.

Please remember that we have a full selection of Chapter Apparel, which will be available during the seminar. Please contact Director Spykerman, if you wish to order apparel and will not be able to attend the seminar at zspykerman@gmrc.com

Lastly, be sure to go and check out the rebuilding of the Chapter's website at <http://www.iowaiaaichapter.org> for all the latest up to date information.

One indicator of a vibrant, growing organization is the commitment of its members to continually improve the organization. Our organization is comprised of many talented and resourceful individuals, many of whom could be a valuable asset to the Iowa Chapter. As you prepare for the upcoming seminar and general meeting, please consider nominating someone who could bring new thinking and experiences to our organization's leadership.

The following positions will be elected at the upcoming seminar:

- President
- First Vice-President
- Second Vice-President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Director of Investigations
- Director at Large – East

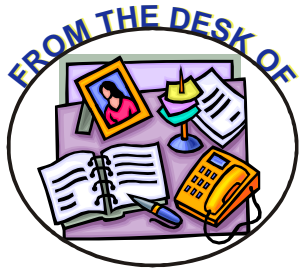
I encourage each of you to consider candidates who would be strong additions to the above positions.

You may e-mail your nominations for candidates to me or if for some reason you are not able to submit the nominations before the Annual General Meeting

**Mark Your Calendar
& Don't Miss It!**

**28th Annual
Fire Investigation Seminar
and
Annual Meeting
September 21-24, 2010**





Chris VanVleet
PRESIDENT



Hopefully this finds everyone well and staying cool. It seems that it has been unusually hot and humid this summer (or I'm getting older and less tolerant). Aside from that your Chapter Officers and Board have been working hard to keep things moving forward with the chapter. A lot of work has gone into the upcoming seminar as Becky has addressed in this edition as well as the 2011 seminar. Thanks to the work of the board and past president Clark, we have secured the West Des Moines Marriot again for that year. The rates are great and attendance good. Second VP Dunn is working on an agenda for 2011 and hopefully we can announce next year's conference topics at this year's seminar. We are striving to have everything planned a year in advance to help the membership plan ahead for the next year. With tightening or decreasing budgets, hopefully this will help when going to your budget holders for funding to attend the upcoming seminars!

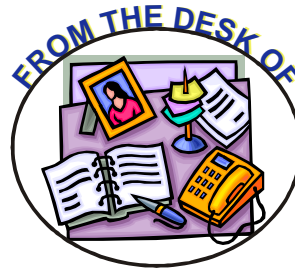
To go along with that we are always interested in ideas or suggestions for seminar topics. We are almost done with 2011, but 2012 is wide open. Case studies always seem to be well received so if you have a case that you would like to present that the group would find helpful, contact one of your officers.

You may have noticed that our website has been down for a couple months. We were the victim of the "Jolly Joker" who hacked our website. We have no indication that any sensitive information was accessed, but we decided to take the site down and rebuild it. Hopefully you will see the new site up very soon and with any luck it will be up by the time you receive this issue. It has been quite a process and we have learned a lot. We think you will like the "new and improved" website. The new software being used should greatly enhance the security and is "upgradable" to keep up with ever changing threats. Stay tuned.

We have also been able to put on several "Lunch & Learns" around the state and the responses from the attendees have been very positive. We would like to put on more, so if you would like to host one, at no cost to you or your organization, contact us. We would like to put on one a month and we have several different topics, so give us a call or email.

Congratulations go out to Past President Hutcheson on his election to the IAAI Foundation at the AGM in Orlando!

Hope to see everyone in West Des Moines in September!



Ray Reynolds
IOWA STATE
FIRE MARSHAL



This month I was asked to write an article for the newsletter of IAAI. I thought I would take this time to tell you about the State Fire Marshal commitment to fighting arson in Iowa. I also wanted to tell you about our future plans and long term strategies in targeting arson.

As I write this letter, our office is working an investigation with our partners at the ATF involving a serial arsonist that is believed to be connected to 30 arson fires in Iowa. We have designated this case priority #1 for the State Fire Marshal Division. The good news is the person is in jail. The bad news is it is costing a lot of money to conduct this investigation and keep them in jail. However, if you were to add up the number of lives affected and the dollars lost as a result of this person's acts, it would be absolutely staggering.

The State Fire Marshal Division produced a poster during Arson Awareness Week this last year involving our accelerant canine with the slogan, "If you commit arson in Iowa, our dogs make house calls." Speaking of dogs, we are in the process of researching the purchase of additional accelerant dogs to be positioned throughout the state. In addition to canines, we have re-vitalized the Arson Award program

to pay up to \$15,000 for persons that do the right thing and prevent an arson or provide information that leads to a successful prosecution. This is not a program intended on paying informants. This program is for good Samaritans. The Arson Award committee just met and awarded rewards in two cases. Our office is very involved with and supports MAFIT. MAFIT is the Metro Area Fire Investigation Task Force. The MAFIT task force is a group of 30 investigators (to include one lawyer) that can be called out in a major fire or arson case to multiply resources. I regularly attend the meetings and believe it takes an army to put away arsonists in Iowa.

Where would I like to see us go? We need to be more vocal and visible to the public. We need billboards and public service announcements to fight arson. In a bad economy, now more than ever our efforts should be doubled. If your agency or organization would like to help sponsor an electronic billboard, let me know and we will make it happen.

IN MEMORY

Kendal R. Kempenaar
April 30, 1952 – June 25, 2010



Long time Iowa Chapter member Ken Kempenaar died at the age of 58 on June 25, 2010 at his home in Newton, Iowa. He is survived by his wife Jane, five children and seven grandchildren.

Ken was born April 30, 1952 in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He was a graduate of Central College in 1974 and the Iowa Law Enforcement academy in 1975. Ken was a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and an IAAI Certified Fire Investigator (CFI). Ken was a member of the Iowa Chapter IAAI, International Association of Special Investigation Units, Former President of the IA/NE IASIU, former board member and editor for the Iowa Chapter and a member of the Kansas City Arson Task Force.

He was an Adjunct Instructor for the Des Moines Area Community College since 1996 and a member of the Jasper County Auxiliary Deputy Sheriffs.

Ken worked for the Grinnell Police Department from 1974 – 1975, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company

1975 – 1981, Associate Director/Coordinator of Special Investigations for Nationwide Insurance 1981 – 2004. He owned SIU Consulting LLC from 2004 – 2009.

Ken was a regular at the annual seminar and training conference.

Fire Service Training Bureau Update:

Randy Novak
Bureau Chief

**Governor's Award
"Arson Investigator
of the Year"**



The Fire Service Training Bureau and State Fire Marshal's office are pleased to announce the opportunity to nominate one of your peers for the Governor's "Arson Investigator of the Year" award. The criteria for this award are: An arson investigator who has made, through their involvement in arson investigation, a significant contribution to the suppression of arson in the state of Iowa. The nominee must, at the time of the act or acts resulting in the nomination, have been a member in good standing of a fire service, law enforcement or insurance agency within the state of Iowa and charged with the investigation of arson. The nominee must, through either the work on a single case or a culmination of cases, have demonstrated an exceptionally high level of performance in the field of arson investigation.

This award will be presented at the annual conference of the IAAI - Iowa Chapter.

Nominations for this award are normally due by August 1st each year. This year the nominations period will be extending to September 7th. Nominations are to be submitted to:

Governor's Award Nominations
Attn: Randy Novak, Bureau Chief
Fire Service Training Bureau
3100 Fire Service Road
Ames, IA 50011-3100

These nominations will be reviewed by a peer review panel. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 888-469-2374.

2011 IOWA CHAPTER IAAI FIRE PHOTO CONTEST

The Iowa Chapter is again sponsoring a fire photo contest for its members. First and second prizes will be awarded in each of two categories: **Best Photo Representing an Arson Origin** and **Best Photo Representing an Accidental Origin**.

Photos will be judged on content, technique, and composition. First prize will be \$25 and the second place winner will receive an IAAI T-shirt. In addition to first and second place awards, winners' names will appear in the *FireFax*. Photos will be displayed at the Annual Seminar in September 2011.

PHOTO CONTEST RULES

1. Photo competition is open only to members in good standing of the Iowa Chapter IAAI.
2. All photos entered must be the work of the person entering and must have been taken within the preceding 24 months.
3. There are two categories for competition:
Category 1 is for arson photos.
Category 2 is for accidental fire photos.
A maximum of 5 photos may be submitted by any one entrant in each category.
4. Photos may in color or black and white.
5. Prints submitted must be in 8" x 10" format. No identification marks of any kind may be placed on the front of the print. A designation of the appropriate category and a brief explanation of the subject of the photograph must be sent with each photo.
6. **The following information must be placed on the back of each print:**



Name
Mailing Address
Telephone Number
Department or Company Name
Date Photo was Taken
Location of Photo Scene
Number on the Back of the Photo to Correspond
with Photo Description in Rule 5 Above



ALL PHOTOS WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE IOWA CHAPTER.

ANY ENTRY NOT COMPLYING WITH THE RULES WILL BE ELIMINATED.

ALL PHOTOS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE FIREFAX EDITOR OR SUBMITTED AT THE SEMINAR NO LATER THAN NOON ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2011.

Send photos to:

**Becky Nelson
Iowa Chapter IAAI Inc.
PO Box 177
Malcom, IA 50157**

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON investigators
IOWA CHAPTER**

MINUTES

July 26, 2010

I. Call to Order:

A regular meeting of the Officers and Directors of the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators was called to order at the Iowa DPS Lab, Ankeny, Iowa, pursuant to the notice given to all officers and directors in accordance with the bylaws.

II. Roll Call

Roll call of officers and directors

Chris Van Vleet - President

Denis Chapman – 1st Vice President

Jess Dunn – 2nd Vice President

Becky Nelson – Secretary/Treasurer

John Kraemer – Director of Investigation –
Excused

Tony Collins – Director at Large, West –
Excused

Zack Spykerman – Director of Insurance

Mark Crooks – Director at Large, East – Excused

John Grier – Director of Detection

Sean O'Brien – Director of Prosecution

Chris Van Vleet, President presided and Becky Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

III. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

1. Motion by Director Spykerman for minutes from May 2010 meeting to be accepted as printed, 2nd by Director Grier. Motion unanimous.

a. Chapter's finances:

- 1) Checking account balance
\$11,092.46
 - a) Bills paid still outstanding are \$518 for insurance and \$111.30 for the 2010 membership cards.
- 2) 6 Month CD matures 11-8-10
\$3,025.45
- 3) 12 Month CD matures 5-11-11
\$3,550.17

4) 12 Month CD matures 1-29-11
\$7,518.11

5) 6 Month CD matures 7-30-10
\$1,401.78

b. Chapter's financial records were audited by Vice President Chapman and Director O'Brien and found to be in order. An annual audit will continue to be done after each AGM with an outside audit being conducted upon the appointment of a new Secretary/Treasurer.

IV. Officers and Board of Director's Reports

1. President Van Vleet

a. Attended the IAAI AGM, also in attendance were Director Spykerman, Director Grier and Past President Hutcheson.

b. Past President Hutcheson voted onto IAAI Foundation Board – there was discussion on Iowa Chapter possibly pledging funds for the Foundation – will have Past President Hutcheson bring the information to the Board.

2. 1st Vice President Chapman

a. Working with Director Collins on the new banner. Will get an example and e-mail it to the board.

3. 2nd Vice President Dunn

a. Working on Firefox.

4. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson – NA

5. Director at Large, West Collins – NA

6. Director of Insurance Spykerman

a. Attended IAAI AGM – liked the vehicle fire class with Steve Mackaig.

b. Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company is hosting burn cells in Centerville, as well as they hosted burn cells in Minnesota.

7. Director of Detection Grier

a. Iowa City Fire hosted 1 ½ day class on PATC with over 20 in attendance.

8. Director at Large, East Crooks - NA
9. Director of Investigation Kraemer
 - a. Have NFPA 1033 manuals for seminar attendees.
10. Director of Prosecution O'Brien - NA

V. Committees

1. Auditing
 - a. 1st Vice President Chapman and Director O'Brien will audit the books as soon as their schedules allow.
2. Awards
 - a. 2nd Vice President Dunn will award appropriate awards to be presented at AGM.
3. Scholarship
 - a. Has one scholarship application to date.
 - b. Changes in scholarship application are with Director O'Brien waiting on legal to approve the changes.
4. Communications
 - a. Website is still being built by new web master.
5. Constitution & Bylaws
6. Nominations
 - a. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will post positions for election in Fairfax.
7. Training
 - a. Possible class on Courtroom Testimony is still being worked on by Director Spykerman.

VI. 2010 Seminar

1. Vice President Chapman will work on getting the speaker's hand out information, test questions and bios.
2. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will send out invites to life members for the banquet.
3. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will send out invites to opening speakers.
4. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will contact State Patrol to see if they will present the colors with their honor guard.
5. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will send out letters to potential vendors.

6. PS3 that the Chapter obtained will be raffled during the seminar and the winner will be drawn during the banquet. Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5.
7. President VanVleet will ask Past President Hutcheson if he will provide the gifts for the speakers.
8. Board agreed to provide Pyr-Tech Inc. a free vendor table as they purchased the lanyards last year.
9. Coffee break sponsors will be \$250 for a sponsorship and if they wish a table in the display area it will be \$350.

VII. 2011 Seminar

1. The dates for the 2011 seminar are September 20, 21, 22, 23.
2. Potential classes Appliance fires with Jack Sanderson, polygraph, vehicle fires.

VIII. Good of the Chapter

1. Suggestions for 2012 seminar are Advanced O & C and Arson/Accidental fires.
2. President Van Vleet will find out what Chapter owes Past President Hutcheson for his ad in IAAI Fire Arson Magazine for his election to the IAAI Foundation.
3. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson will place an ad in Fairfax to see if anyone is interested in doing photography for the Chapter for the seminar.
4. Discussion on a photo contest was tabled.

IX. Adjournment

1. Next board meeting at DCI on August 6, 2010 at 10:00 AM.
2. Motion by Secretary/Treasurer Nelson to adjourn at 12:05 PM, 2nd by 2nd Vice President Dunn. Motion unanimous.

Becky Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the IAAI or the Iowa Chapter IAAI.

Please, if you have any suggestions for improvements or changes to the newsletter send me an e-mail at: bnelson@gmrc.com.

Printed by Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company

Fire Investigation Seminar and Annual Meeting (Cont'd)

Friday, September 24, 2010

- 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Media Relations & Needs During Investigations, Jessica Lown, Public Information Bureau, Iowa Department of Public Safety
- 10:00 a.m. - Noon Case Study – Newton Fatal Fire Panel Discussion
- Noon Seminar Test
- 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting



**Reminder - Thursday
Hawaiian Shirt Day!**

OFFICERS

Chris Van Vleet – President
Dennis Chapman – 1st Vice President
Jess Dunn – 2nd Vice President
Becky Nelson – Secretary/Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Sean O'Brien
Tony Collins
John Grier
Mark Crooks
John Kraemer
Zack Spykerman
Todd Hartzler, Chapter Chaplain

DOOR PRIZES

Door prizes will be presented during the entire seminar.
You must be present to win.
**The Board has the right to substitute similar prize based on availability.*

Please complete your membership renewal and submit your registration form.

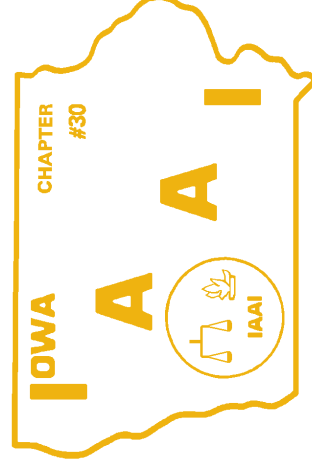


The opinions expressed by the Speakers are not necessarily those of the International Association of Arson Investigators or the Iowa Chapter of the IAAI.

28th Annual

FIRE INVESTIGATION SEMINAR *and* ANNUAL MEETING

September 21 - 24, 2010



**Iowa Chapter International Association of
Arson Investigators, Incorporated**

28th Annual Seminar will be held at the West Des Moines Marriott



Register Today!

West Des Moines Marriott
1250 Jordan Creek Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Make your reservations – Ph: 800-228-9290 OR 515-267-1500 (Single – \$94 + tax)

The room block will be held until **September 1, 2010**

Registration for Iowa Chapter members is \$250.00 prior to August 15, 2010. This includes a one year Chapter Membership; noon meal on Wednesday and Thursday; BBQ Wednesday night; and the banquet Thursday night. After September 1st, the price increases to \$280.00. One-day registration is \$100.00 and **does not** include Thursday evening banquet. Extra BBQ and banquet tickets may be purchased for \$35 each.

Please send registration form to:

Becky Nelson, Iowa Chapter IAAI, Inc., PO Box 177, Malcom, IA 50157.

All seminar attendees are required to wear their name tags at all seminar activities.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND/OR SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print or Type

Name: _____
Address: _____
Employer: _____
Telephone: Home # _____ Work # _____
E-mail: _____ IAAI Member? Yes No
Membership Renewal Only \$20: _____
Seminar Registration \$250 (Includes membership): _____

ELECTIONS

The Chapter has the following positions open for elections.

- President
- Second Vice President
- Director at Large – East
- First Vice President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Director of Investigation

Fire Investigation Seminar and Annual Meeting September 21 - 24, 2010

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

- 1:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. Registration/Display room set-up
- 5:00 - 6:45 p.m. Early Registration
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Computer Forensics (Cyber Investigations) – Matt Sauer, Special Agent, IA DCI

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

- 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Opening Ceremonies – Chris Van Vleet, Iowa Chapter IAAI President and Guests
- 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Nominating Committee Report
- 11:00 a.m. - Noon Legal Up-dates – Scott Brown, Special Assistant Attorney General and Division Director, Area Prosecutions Division, Iowa Attorney General's Office

- 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Insurance Needs – Sean O'Brien, Attorney, Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor & Fairgrave, P.C.
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

- 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. NFPA 1033. G. Terry Smith, CFI, Fire/Arson Program Instructor with College of DuPage & Fire Investigator with EFL Global

- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Sectional Meetings
- 6:30 p.m. BBQ

Thursday, September 23, 2010

- 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. Arson/Bombing Profiling, Ron Tunkel, Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- 11:00 a.m. - Noon Annual Meeting
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Cont'd) Arson/Bombing Profiling, Ron Tunkel, Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Bar)
- 7:00 p.m. Banquet