

# Chair Patterns

## Wisconsin Chapter 25

International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc

Spring 2009

### President

Don Henning

[E-mail President Henning](mailto:don@donhenning.com)

### 1st VP

Jeff Kubitz

[E-mail 1st VP Jeff Kubitz](mailto:jeff@kubitz.com)

### 2nd VP

Mike Rindt

[E-mail 2nd VP Mike Rindt](mailto:mike@rindt.com)

### Directors

#### District 1

TJ Johnson

[E-mail TJ Johnson](mailto:tj@johnson.com)

#### District 2

Dave Fladten

[E-mail Dave Fladten](mailto:dave@fladten.com)

#### District 3

Scott Pudil

[E-mail Scott](mailto:scott@pudil.com)

#### District 4

Greg St. Onge, CFI

[E-mail Greg](mailto:greg@stonge.com)

#### District 5

Mark Krueger, CFI

[E-mail Mark](mailto:mark@krueger.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Gene Brink, CFI

[E-mail Mr. Brink](mailto:gene@brink.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Scott Pudil

[E-mail Scott](mailto:scott@pudil.com)

### Historian

Charlie Sosinski

[E-mail Charles](mailto:charlie@sosinski.com)

Web Technician

Paul Hanson [E-mail Paul](mailto:paul@hanson.com)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Chapter 25 members. I hope that this finds all doing well and enjoying the best winter in WI can offer. As I write this, we have a lot of things happening within the chapter. First of all I am very excited to announce that our NEW website is up and running. Paul Hanson has put all of time and effort into the rebuilding of the site. He has put together a very user-friendly site. I would invite all of you to check it out and please be patient as it is work in progress but the main portion is complete. The site has a very professional appearance and will serve this chapter for many years to come. When you talk to Paul at the spring seminar, be sure to thank him for all he has done and continues to do for you and this chapter.

Greg Steenbock and the Seminar Committee have put together a first class training package for the spring seminar. They have all worked hard towards a great product and I know that you will enjoy the offerings. We have gone back to the break out sessions that offer a variety of classes and topics. In addition to the break out sessions, there will also be a JFS class and Basic Fire Investigation. I would encourage you all to try and attend this spring. As I announced previously, we will be at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point. This is a fairly new facility and the staff is working hard to make this a great success for all of us.

Rodney Pevytoe is a past president of this chapter and is currently serving on the International Board of Directors, as a Director. He is running for election to the position of 2nd VP of the International Board of Directors. I would like to personally endorse Rodney and encourage that those of you that are active members, cast your vote for Rodney. During his service on the board and as president he brought great financial stability and a positive future for this chapter. I was elected to the board as a director when Rodney was leading the planning for the ATC in Milwaukee. This was a very successful ATC and set the standard for many events to follow. He works very hard and has shared his expertise with many through his teaching and training. He is very dedicated to this profession and the ultimate success of the IAAI as a whole. He has been active in many chapters and would be a great asset to this organization and its chapters. On line voting starts in March and the final vote tally will be in Arlington TX at the ATC in May.

In regards to the ATC in Arlington TX, several of us will be in attendance. Secretary/Treasurer Gene Brink, 1st VP Jeff Kubitz and I will be traveling to TX for the ATC. We will have the opportunity to listen to a large variety of speakers and be looking for some potential future speakers for our seminars. We will be happy to share information about this opportunity. The board is also sending our directors to neighboring states conferences to look at their offerings and operation. The seminar chair will also be given the opportunity to attend neighboring states conferences. Our goal in all of this is to seek out quality training opportunities for you.

At the spring conference in June we have also added a speaker for our banquet. The speaker in June will be Mike Perry, author and speaker. Mike has written several books that are based around volunteer fire service and EMS that he is actively involved in. He is a dynamic speaker and will keep your interest with his humorous style and stories that we can all relate to. If you would like to preview Mike, his website is [www.sneezingcow.com](http://www.sneezingcow.com).

Also available at the spring conference are clothing and other items with our logo on it. Scott will be in attendance for the week and his quality products will be on hand.

I look forward to seeing you in Stevens Point. I would also like to remind you that we would like to see numerous nominations for awards and scholarships.

Don Henning  
President  
WI IAAI Chapter 25

---

## Last Call

In great sadness we report David A. Page, Stevens Point, died unexpectedly Jan. 13, 2009, at Saint Michael's Hospital Emergency Room. His family has requested that memorials be made to UWSP Foundation, to be used in sending children to summer camp. His family would also like to acknowledge that his tissue was used to help others keep fighting another day.

David was born May 6, 1942, in Janesville, to the late Jay and Enid (Young) Page.

In January 1964, David joined the U.S. Navy, and received an honorable discharge in December of 1969.

David married Nancy J. McGowan Aug. 10, 1966, in Janesville.

David began working for Sentry Insurance in 1976, retiring in 2002. He worked for the town of Hull Fire and Rescue for 35 years, serving as chief for 20 of those years. He was currently serving as safety officer and had responded to a fire call the morning of his death.

David was instrumental in helping start the Portage County Arson Investigation Taskforce. He served on the Wisconsin State Task Force organization and served a year as president.

David was a member of Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church and a church elder. He was also a member of the Stevens Point Country Club.

David will be missed by all.

---

## A Word from the Editor

This issue brings about many new and exciting changes within the chapter as President Henning stated in the Presidents Message. Please take a look at the Words of the Trades article as this will explain how to use the new website that Paul has put together for us.

Our Spring Conference has moved to a NEW LOCATION. Make sure you check out the

information on the new hotel along with the map to the hotel included with this issue.

I am also including articles from Rodney Pevytoe, George Coddling, and Ed Rostalski. These gentlemen are running for positions in the national chapter of the IAAI. The Wisconsin chapter is endorsing these individuals and we are asking that all **active** members vote for them either online or at the Annual ATC conference in Arlington. The online voting will begin on April 17<sup>th</sup> and run until May 19<sup>th</sup>. An active member is someone that belongs to the International chapter as well as our Wisconsin chapter. If you are an **Associate** member at this time you will not be allowed to vote. I would recommend and strongly urge you to join the national chapter and become an active member. The web address to vote is [www.firearson.com](http://www.firearson.com).

WIAC would also like to announce its grant program again this year. All information for this can be found on our website. An application is available for download from there. Please check this out if you are having difficulty in securing financing for the Seminar. This program will pay for you to go. Enjoy this issue and as always stay safe. See you in Stevens Point.

Scott Pudil  
Editor Char Patterns

---

## District Director Reports

### District 1

Nothing to report at this time.

T.J., District 1 Director

### District 2

As I write this report for the upcoming newsletter I can't help but hope that spring is finally set to arrive. Either I'm getting old or winters seem to hang around forever as of late. For the most part, we had had a relatively quiet winter in regards to fire investigations. Suddenly that changed and for the last month, we have been averaging 2-3 fires per week that our task force has been involved in investigating. With the current state of the economy, I fear that fire numbers will increase as people become more desperate. With that thought in mind, always remember that our number one goal should be to **ALWAYS GO HOME AT THE END OF OUR SHIFT.**

Plans are well under way for the Spring Seminar in June. Don't forget, the location has changed to the Holiday Inn at the south end of Stevens Point. The Board of Directors did a walk through of the facility at our January board meeting and we were

very pleased. I think the new site will be a good thing for us and hopefully increase our attendance. On another note, one of our very distinguished members and past president Rod Pevytoe is currently running for a vice president position on the International Association of Arson Investigators. The election will run for several weeks this spring prior to our June seminar. If you are a member of the IAAI (not just the Wisconsin Chapter), don't forget to vote. If you are not a member of the IAAI, I encourage you to join, not only for the opportunity to vote, but also because of the benefits offered by our parent organization. We have almost 500 members in Wisconsin Chapter 25 of the IAAI but only about 80 also belong to the International. Those 80 or so members are considered "Active" members and are the only ones allowed to vote, even at our chapter meetings. Everyone else is considered an "Associate" member and is not allowed to vote on issues that directly affect our Chapter. PLEASE consider joining the International.

I look forward to seeing many "old" faces in June and hopefully some new ones as well.

Dave Fladten, District 2 Director

### District 3

Once again we are through what looks to be the worst of winter and are once again headed into Spring. I was not able to get out into the district this last year like I had wanted but will make all attempts to this year.

Please have your ideas and comments ready for our District meeting at the Seminar so we can continue to bring the most valuable and up-to-date training to you.

From what I have heard it appears that some of us in our districts have been busy with fires while others have been quiet. Either way, lets hope that all our colleagues' have come home safely and continue to in the future.

With that said, I hope to see you all in Stevens Point this year to catch up with old friends, make new ones and most of all get together with people from District 3.

Scott Pudil, District 3 Director

### District 4

On Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>. Mike Rindt and I presented at a Fire Investigation Training class. The class was sponsored by West Central Wisconsin Fire Investigators Association (WCWFIA). This association consists of a group of fire investigators and interested persons from the Eau Claire area

and some of the communities that surround it. This class was part 2 of the class. The first part was presented about 1 year ago. This class consisted of an overview of the basic fire investigation, documentation and a table top scenario. There were about 40 attendees and the information was well received and stimulated very productive discussions. This was a 6 hour course that was presented at the CVTC Emergency Services Building. We have plans to continue this type of localized small group training and already have suggestions and requests for next years topic. I think that this type of small group training, within a specific geographic region, is an awesome way to get to know your neighbors and network.

Submitted by Don Henning

Greg St. Onge, District 4 Director

### District 5

Nothing to report at this time.

Mark Krueger, District 5 Director

---

---

## Seminar Committee Report

Greetings from the Seminar Committee!

The Seminar Committee is excited to announce some changes that are happening to the Wisconsin Chapter. In addition to a new hosting hotel and conference facility, a new website, and new faces on the committee, we are going to present a new method of delivery of our handouts and printed material. We have been listening to the comments received on the past evaluations and have addressed almost every concern.

We are bringing in some of the best instructors in the Midwest and the nation to the Stevens Point Holiday Inn Conference Center. Any police officer with two years experience in Wisconsin should recognize the endless efforts by Dave Perlman for almost two decades to assist (and entertain) law enforcement by teaching them what is and what is not allowed by the U.S. Constitution, state statute, and case law. From his Roll Call Law training videos to Dave's Legal Drawer email updates, Dave has consistently used information and humor to deliver his interpretation and opinion to help keep officers out of hot water. *Of course check with your local prosecutors for their opinion before proceeding.*

Mark Svare and his professional engineer associates from Minnesota have taught fire investigators at the international level and are now scheduled to teach here. His hands-on approach

and electrical experience places him as a world class instructor and court accepted electrical expert. Tim Poeschl's legal perspective from Minnesota will prepare investigators to what defense attorneys are currently using to trip up and attack their evidence and courtroom testimony.

Other instructors like Ohio's Genevieve Bures and Illinois's Steve Chasteen are joined by Tom Daley from the Washington DC area ATF, to provide some of the best instruction and information available. Add to that local talent like Scott Tebo from UIA, and Mike Rindt and William Boswell from the Wisconsin DOJ, and we will have a topic and instructor line-up second to none.

As your Seminar Committee for the Wisconsin Chapter IAAI, we will continue to bring the latest information from the top of the line instructors to give you the best seminar possible. We are confident that our final work product will be first class in both method and material. My team and I look forward to the opportunity to bring to you the best Spring Seminar possible. Looking forward to seeing you in Stevens Point!

Greg Steenbock  
Seminar Chair

---

## Juvenile Firesetters Committee

I am pleased to announce that we will have a great speaker at the Spring Seminar this year. You will also notice on the registration form that this speaker will be available for all attending the seminar and not just the attendees of the JFS program on Wednesday afternoon. The class will discuss the what and how of firesetting in juveniles with ADHD. Please feel free to step into this class to have your questions answered.

Janet Segelken  
JFS Committee Chair

---

## News From The Net

Hello All, some exciting news the new site is up and running, there are some small bugs to fix but I will be taking care of these as soon as I can, if you have time please let me know what you think [www.wiaai.com](http://www.wiaai.com), also if anyone has information that needs posting please let me know and I will take care of this. I will be adding things as time goes.

Please join us for the 2009 Wisconsin Chapter 25 IAAI Spring Seminar, information and registration has been posted.

At the Wisconsin Chapter 25 IAAI web site click this link to take you there [http://www.wiaai.com/spring\\_seminar\\_2009.html](http://www.wiaai.com/spring_seminar_2009.html) While you're there check out the New Chapter 25 web site, also check out information on the Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council SEMINAR GRANT!!!!

If you have any questions or need further assistance please contact us!  
We look forward to seeing you there!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A few more things, If anyone has information on anything in your district please let me know, if you would like to show off your Fire Investigation Unit or Arson Task Force I am more than willing to work with you in creating content for the District page. There will be more content coming as time passes, if you don't see something now check back and it may be there later, I will with the help of the committee heads creating content for those pages.

I would again like to thank the Membership & Board of Directors for assisting me with this project. I hope that you enjoy the new look and feel of the new site, it's up not only to the board but the Chapter membership to work on making this a web site a success, if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact at [support@wiaai.com](mailto:support@wiaai.com)

Paul Hanson  
Web Technician – Wisconsin Chapter 25 IAAI  
Phone – 920-889-1526  
Email – [wi25iaai@charter.net](mailto:wi25iaai@charter.net) or [support@wiaai.com](mailto:support@wiaai.com)  
Web Site – [www.wiaai.com](http://www.wiaai.com)

---

## Training and Education

Several years ago the WI IAAI Chapter 25, then under the leadership of Kathy Suehy, laid out the goals of the Training and Education Committee. The focus of the T&E Committee was to formalize the instruction of a Basic Fire Investigation Course and to provide instruction throughout the State of Wisconsin to Chapter 25 members.

Up to this time the Basic Fire Investigation Course was offered only at the Spring Seminar. It was important to the Chapter that we expand the opportunity for new and old fire investigators alike to receive Basic Fire Investigation Training.

Initially the course traveled across the state and training was provided in Fond du Lac, Winnebago, Sheboygan, Columbia, St. Croix, Marathon, and Iowa Counties. Classes were presented in each of the 5 Districts. The "Traveling Basic School" was a

success. However, costs associated with presenting a free 20 hour course caused some budgetary issues that were unforeseen.

As such it was agreed that instead of traveling throughout the state several times each year, we would offer the Basic Fire Investigation Course at the Fall Seminar as well as the Spring Seminar. Since the Fall Seminar travels to a different location each year we still have the opportunity to bring the course to your local District.

If you are new to the Chapter, or a new investigator, we encourage you to attend the Basic Course. The course is designed to give you the right tools in your investigative tool box to work the bulk of what you may be called to investigate. The material covered provides you with a basic foundation for conducting your investigation. Topics covered include Legal Aspects, Fire Behavior, Origin Determination, Accidental Fires, Incendiary Fires, Fire Death Investigation, Evidence Collection, and Scene Documentation.

If you have any questions about the Basic Course please contact me at [wjboswell@charter.net](mailto:wjboswell@charter.net) Hope to see you in June!

Bill Boswell  
Training and Education Committee Chair  
WI IAAI – Chapter 25

---

## Promotions for IAAI Candidates

Dear Fellow Members of the Wisconsin Chapter of the IAAI:

This May the IAAI will have its yearly elections to install new members of the Board of Directors and elect a new Second Vice President. For the past six years I have been fortunate to represent you on the International Board. My term will expire this May. While I support term limits they will prevent me from running for a third term. I still have a desire to serve our Association so I have chosen to run for the office of Second Vice President of the IAAI.

Over the past 27 years I have been a member of the Wisconsin Chapter and the International Association. It was my extreme pleasure to have served in the elected offices and as the Wisconsin Chapter President in 2002 when we hosted the International Meeting in Milwaukee, WI.

For the past six years with your support I have worked for you the Member through my participation on the Board of Directors. During the past years we have introduced the CFItrainer.net web site that provides free training. We have provided electronic voting to allow greater membership participation. The IAAI will bring out to

the member this May a new certification program for fire investigators who may not be able to achieve CFI status. These are just a few of the programs that I have been a part of as a Director. If elected to the position of Second Vice President I will continue to strive to offer value in International Membership and service to our profession.

All members of the **International Association** have the right to cast a ballot in this election process. Electronic elections start on April 17<sup>th</sup> and close May 17<sup>th</sup> 2009 and maybe accessed via the IAAI website at "firearson.com". You will need to have your international membership number to cast a vote.

I would appreciate your support and your vote in the election process. Thank you.

Sincerely: Rod Pevytoe

Dear Wisconsin IAAI Member:

I am running for a seat on the IAAI Board of Directors this year, and am asking for one of your votes.

Our organization is enjoying positive progress and energy at present, and this has inspired me to want to join the Board. Our executives and board have continued to find ways to improve and expand training both in the classroom and on the Internet. The management and administration side of the IAAI has steadily improved and the organization is increasingly responsive to its members. Our on-line training is expanding quickly. Still, there is more to be done.

I believe we are the most important source of knowledge and training in our profession. To maintain this position, we must streamline our processes and deliver as much quality training as we can, at all different levels. Further, while we have the most coveted CFI certificate in the business, we must also offer structured formation for beginning investigators.

I have been actively coordinating and developing International ATC training since 2005 and set up most of the courses for the 2007 and 2009 ATCs. As Director I would like to continue working in this important area. I also want to be part of our outreach to off-continent chapters and potential new members, and I would like to look at ways that people can get more value from their membership. As Colorado Chapter President I have been working to raise our numbers and improve membership benefits.

As Director I will bring a volunteer voice to the Board. In the fire service I am purely a volunteer, both as a firefighter and an investigator. My full-time job is as a state prosecutor managing a 14-member law enforcement unit that investigates complex health care fraud.

This is an exciting time for IAAI, I would like the opportunity to use my energy to continue to improve this organization. I am also very excited about the candidacy of Rodney Pevytoe, and hope you will vote for him for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Thank you, and I encourage you to contact me with any questions.  
Best regards, George A. Coddling

Dear Fellow IAAI Members:

***"Build It and They Will Come"***

I am writing to ask for your support in my bid for Director of the International Association of Arson Investigators. I have been informed the on-line election will commence on April 23, 2009.

My experience in the public and private sectors, combined with my experience on a chapter level and international level, provide me with the qualifications to represent you, the members, on the IAAI Board of Directors. Below is a synopsis of this experience:

31 years with the City of Edmonton Fire Department

16 years in the Fire Investigation Branch

8 years operating my own fire investigation company

17 years as a member of the IAAI

15 years with the Alberta Chapter Board of Directors

Alberta Chapter President from 1999 to 2001

6 years on the IAAI Membership Committee

3 years on the IAAI Awards Committee

3 years as a Director on the IAAI Educational Foundation.

I believe in the **TEAM** concept:

**Training** – Continue to provide world class training and look for ways to provide it to those who do not attend the IAAI Annual Training Conferences.

**Education** – Educate and train the members responsible for fire suppression how to preserve the fire scene with minimal damage, while still being able to do their jobs. Educate the insurance industry that a fire scene has a lot of information and evidence and that it can be processed properly to bring out this evidence. Educate the legal system that Fire Investigations is a legitimate field and that there are professionals working in that field.

**Affordability** – Promote reasonable and realistic membership fees and seminar fees. With today's economic woes, all employers are looking for a "bigger bang" for their buck. The IAAI can do that by making available quality speakers to the local chapters. Its affiliation with the ATF is invaluable in this regard. We also have to keep in mind our non-US members because of the different currencies and the exchange rates.

**Membership** – Encourage professionals in the Fire Investigation field to join the IAAI as it has many benefits, and I am not just talking about the Annual Training Conference. The networking that is accessible to all members is priceless and this is because of the pool of International resources available.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. Ed Rostalski.

---

---

## In The Spotlight

In the spotlight this issue is Terry Johnson (T.J.) District One Director. Make sure to stop him and say HI at the Spring Seminar.

I joined the fire service in 1979 in Mishicot, Wisconsin following in my father's footsteps. I am currently a Captain with the Silver Creek Fire Department in Manitowoc County. In addition to this position, I have been a member of the Haz-Mat Team in Manitowoc County for over twenty years, having joined in 1988. I have been in the Manitowoc County Fire Investigation Unit since its beginning in the 1980's and I currently serve as President. I am also a member of the Manitowoc County Firefighters Association, having joined in 1980. I have served as Treasurer of this organization for over twelve years. I am a life member of the Wisconsin Chapter of IAAI and I also maintain a membership in the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Outside of the fire service, I am a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 731 in Manitowoc and I serve on its Board of Directors. I am also a life member of the Mishicot Chapter of the VFW. I am an electrician and have been a member of the IBEW, Local #158 for over 30 years. I am married and am the proud father/grandfather of three children and five grandchildren. My wife and I enjoy motorcycling as a hobby and we look forward to traveling both on and off the bike.

---

---

## Words from the Trades

Hello from the Chapter 25 Web

If you haven't noticed the Old Chapter 25 web is now the New and improved Chapter 25 web, after 1 ½ years the New Chapter 25 web site has been launched and is much improved, I could bore you with all the technical details so I will just mention a few of the important ones.

1. The site is more secure than the old site.

2. The site now meets the new web standards set forth by The World Wide Web Consortium (this is always changing)
3. The site should load faster.
4. The text and content should be clearer.
5. There will also be a page providing information for deceased members or members retirement information, if you know of someone who has passed or retired provide me with a link to their obituary or information and I will post this on the site, just remember that I need a contact person (family member preferred who can authorize what I would be posting) this goes with any type of information of this sort.
6. Your internet browser may ask you to allow Active X control when viewing the site, it's ok to do this.
7. All documents on the new site will be in the PDF standard, you will have to click to download the forms and save them after they load in the PDF reader.
8. You will have to update your adobe ([www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) PDF reader as the documents & forms will require you to have reader 7 or above, if you are not able to open a document updating the reader should solve any issues you may have viewing a document.



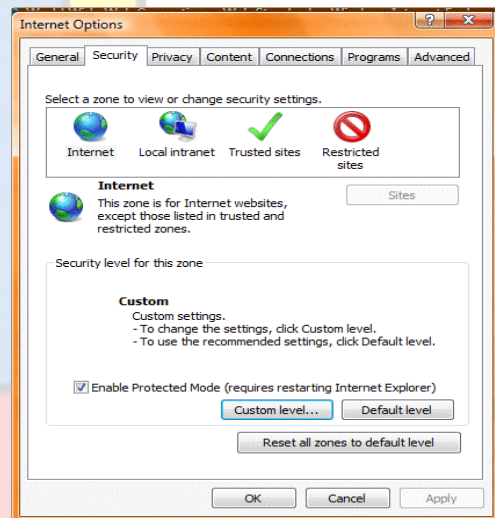
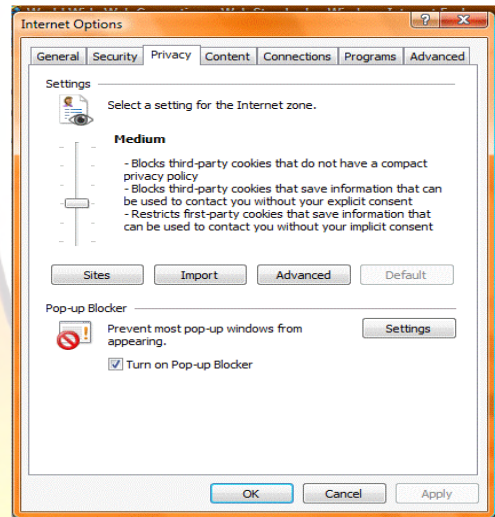
9. To view some of the content may require you to have flash installed on your PC, you can do this at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).



10. You may have to update your Internet Explorer, this is the version that you should have, you can do this at Microsoft's web site.



11. You may need to have the IE settings set different, I have included samples of how your settings should look.



12. Please note that you need to let Gene or myself know if your email address is not current so that we can change this, as not to far in the future we will be emailing you with member benefits and notices, if you do not have email and prefer to have benefits sent to you it is your responsibility to let us know.
13. The Chapter 25 IAAI forms will be changing to live active PDF forms in the near future, this means that you will be able to fill the information in right on the document and hit a print button, again I cannot stress enough to keep your PDF reader updated ([www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) and click get reader icon, you can also do this from the Chapter 25 web site as I have included the link just click the get reader button.
14. If the web site pages seem too large for your screen try adjusting your screen resolution this should make things look better.
15. If you encounter any problems please let me know (or your IT person), I cannot fix or

assist you with any issues if I am not aware of any.

16. Also there is a usage agreement for the new site please click the link and make yourself aware of the terms and conditions.

This should help everyone in getting the most out of our new website.

---

---

## 2009 Recalls and Product Safety News

A complete report on each product that has been recalled in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), can be found at <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

---

---

## 2009 Vehicle Recalls & Product Safety News

A complete report on each product that has been recalled in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) can be found at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

---

---

## Important Information

### **WAIC Scholarships are now available to help pay for attending the annual Wisconsin Chapter IAAI seminars.**

WAIC is seeing more support/visibility of the **WISCONSIN ARSON HOTLINE (800-362-3005)**, via our posters at arson fires, newspaper articles, TV broadcasts, etc. The Bad News is we are still seeing a number of arson fires. WAIC's most important objective is to support the Hotline.

As a reminder, the free posters and magnets with the HOTLINE number for you to post/give out at fires can be ordered from either Greg Peterson (State Farm Insurance) at 262-798-6234 (new number) or Tenley Boutelle (DCI Arson Bureau) at 608-267-8945. The posters are also available in Spanish.

WAIC is also working on door hangers and bar coasters to add to our group of materials available with the Hotline Number. Door hangers can be placed on door handles in the neighborhood surrounding an arson fire. Bar coasters can be

distributed to local pubs the same way the door hangers are for general distribution.

***The theme for the 2009 Arson Awareness Week campaign is Arson for Profit - Cashing in with Fire which takes place 3rd – 9th May. Hopefully you can forward the information below to IAAI members that could help out with 2009 AAW?***

With the recent downturn in the economy, I would like to hear about some arsons that you have investigated where people are burning possessions for insurance and/or to escape future payments such as cars, RV's boats, houses, etc.

I realize that you can only provide details on closed cases but removing identifiers from ongoing investigations would be helpful as well.

Of course, non-copyrighted photos would be appreciated immensely too. You would receive credit for photos as folks did in the Media Kit for the 2007 Arson awareness Week.

If you forward this request to investigators that you know or to an online arson investigators group or bulletin board, I would appreciate it.

Recent themes for Arson Awareness Week include 2005 School Arson – A Burning Subject; 2006 Wildfire Arson - Preparedness and Prevention; 2007 Vehicle Arson: Who Pays for this Crime? and in 2008 Toylike Lighters – Playing with Fire.

Arson Awareness Week is a national public education campaign. Arson Awareness Week creates a national recognition, awareness and understanding of the arson problem in the United States. Arson Awareness Week encourages communities to get involved in the dissemination of arson awareness information by creating a simple, identifiable and unifying message.

---

**Wisconsin Chapter, IAAI  
PO Box 389  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0389  
Member's who have changed their E-mail Address:**

We have noted quite a few members have changed email addresses over time. It may be due to retirement or just a change in Internet Service Provider. Maybe you change jobs or locations or the ISP goes out of business. Whatever the reason, it is each member's own job to get information to Gene Brink so he can enter it into our database. Any change in email address is important. Get your changes to Gene Brink's E-mail: **Gene3235@aol.com**  
Thanks!

---

---

## Brinksters Corner

### Cemetery Escort Duty

I just wanted to get the day over with and go down to Smokey's. Sneaking a look at my watch, I saw the time, 1655. Five minutes to go before the cemetery gates are closed for the day. Full dress was hot in the August sun. Oklahoma summertime was as bad as ever--the heat and humidity at the same level--both too high. I saw the car pull into the drive, '69 or '70 model Cadillac Deville, looked factory-new. It pulled into the parking lot at a snail's pace. An old woman got out so slow I thought she was paralyzed; she had a cane and a sheaf of flowers--about four or five bunches as best I could tell. I couldn't help myself. The thought came unwanted, and left a slightly bitter taste: 'She's going to spend an hour, and for this old soldier, my hip hurts like hell and I'm ready to get out of here right now!' But for this day, my duty was to assist anyone coming in. Kevin would lock the 'In' gate and if I could hurry the old biddy along, we might make it to Smokey's in time. I broke post attention. My hip made gritty noises when I took the first step and the pain went up a notch. I must have made a real military sight: middle-aged man with a small pot gut and half a limp, in marine full-dress uniform, which had lost its razor crease about thirty minutes after I began the watch at the cemetery. I stopped in front of her, halfway up the walk. She looked up at me with an old woman's squint. 'Ma'am, may I assist you in any way?' She took long enough to answer. 'Yes, son. Can you carry these flowers? I seem to be moving a tad slow these days.' 'My pleasure, ma'am.' Well, it wasn't too much of a lie. She looked again. 'Marine, where were you stationed?' 'Vietnam, ma'am. Ground-pounder. '69 to '71.' She looked at me closer. 'Wounded in action, I see. Well done, Marine. I'll be as quick as I can.' I lied a little bigger: 'No hurry, ma'am.' She smiled and winked at me. 'Son, I'm 85-years-old and I can tell a lie from a long way off. Let's get this done. Might be the last time I can do this. My name's Joanne Wieserman, and I've a few Marines I'd like to see one more time.' 'Yes, ma'am. At your service.' She headed for the World War I section, stopping at a stone. She picked one of the flowers out of my arm and laid it on top of the stone. She murmured something I couldn't quite make out. The name on the marble was Donald S. Davidson, USMC: France 1918. She turned away and made a straight line for the World War II section, stopping at one stone. I saw a tear slowly tracking its way down her cheek. She put a bunch on a stone; the name was Stephen X. Davidson, USMC, 1943.

She went up the row a ways and laid another bunch on a stone, Stanley J. Wieserman, USMC, 1944. She paused for a second. 'Two more, son, and we'll be done' I almost didn't say anything, but, 'Yes, ma'am. Take your time.' She looked confused. 'Where's the Vietnam section, son? I seem to have lost my way.' I pointed with my chin. 'That way, ma'am.' 'Oh!' she chuckled quietly. 'Son, me and old age ain't too friendly.' She headed down the walk I'd pointed at. She stopped at a couple of stones before she found the ones she wanted. She placed a bunch on Larry Wieserman, USMC, 1968, and the last on Darrel Wieserman, USMC, 1970. She stood there and murmured a few words I still couldn't make out. 'OK, son, I'm finished. Get me back to my car and you can go home.' Yes, ma'am. If I may ask, were those your kinfolk?' She paused. 'Yes, Donald Davidson was my father, Stephen was my uncle, Stanley was my husband, Larry and Darrel were our sons. All killed in action, all marines.' She stopped. Whether she had finished, or couldn't finish, I don't know. She made her way to her car, slowly and painfully. I waited for a polite distance to come between us and then double-timed it over to Kevin, waiting by the car. 'Get to the 'Out' gate quick. I have something I've got to do.' Kevin started to say something, but saw the look I gave him. He broke the rules to get us there down the service road. We beat her. She hadn't made it around the rotunda yet. 'Kevin, stand at attention next to the gatepost. Follow my lead.' I humped it across the drive to the other post. When the Cadillac came pattering around from the hedges and began the short straight traverse to the gate, I called in my best gunny's voice: 'TehehHut! Present Haaaarms!' I have to hand it to Kevin; he never blinked an eye--full dress attention and a salute that would make his DI proud. She drove through that gate with two old worn-out soldiers giving her a send-off she deserved, for service rendered to her country, and for knowing duty, honor and sacrifice. I am not sure, but I think I saw a salute returned from that Cadillac. Instead of 'The End,' just think of 'Taps.' As a final thought on my part, let me share a favorite prayer: 'Lord, keep our servicemen and women safe, whether they serve at home or overseas. Hold them in your loving hands and protect them as they protect us.' Let's all keep those currently serving and those who have gone before in our thoughts. They are the reason for the many freedoms we enjoy. 'In God We Trust.'

---

---

Yours in Fire Safety,  
Scott Pudil



**Wisconsin Chapter  
IAAI  
PO Box 389  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590**

**PRSRT STD  
US Postage PAID  
Sun Prairie, WI  
PERMIT NO. 35**



# Map and Driving Directions to Holiday Inn Stevens Point

## From the South:

From I-39 N take exit 158A (US-10 E) toward APPLETON/WAUPACA. Turn Right onto US-10E. Approximately 1 mile, turn Left onto Amber Avenue.

## From the North:

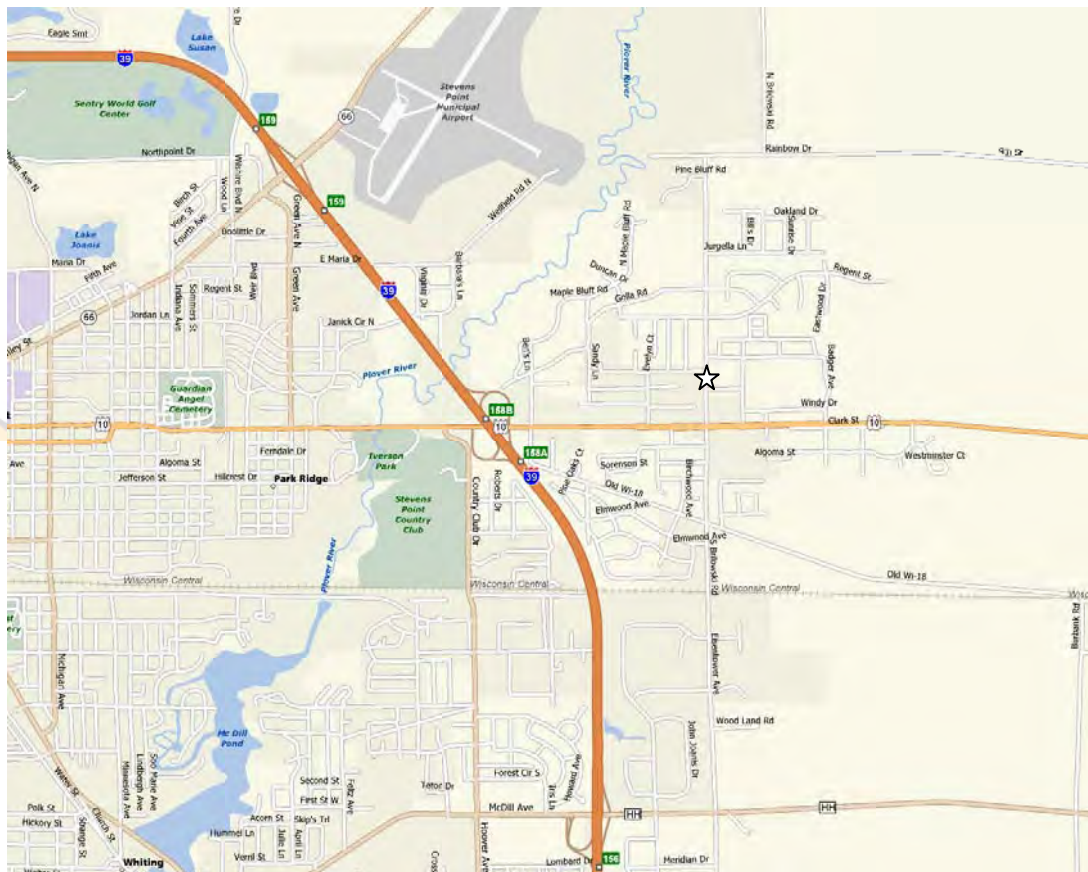
From I-39 S take exit 158 (US-10) toward STEVENS POINT/WAUPACA. Turn right onto US-10E. Approximately 1 mile, turn Left onto Amber Avenue.

## From the East:

Take US-10W to Amber Avenue. Turn Right onto Amber Avenue.

## From the West:

Take US-10E to Amber Avenue. Turn left onto Amber Avenue.



MAPQUEST.