

Chair Patterns

Wisconsin Chapter 25

International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc

Fall 2009

President
Don Henning
[Contact Me](#)

1st VP
Jeff Kubitz
[Contact Me](#)

2nd VP
Mike Rindt
[Contact Me](#)

Directors

District 1
TJ Johnson
[Contact Me](#)

District 2
Dave Fladten
[Contact Me](#)

District 3
Scott Pudil
[Contact Me](#)

District 4
Greg St. Onge, CFI
[Contact Me](#)

District 5
Mark Krueger, CFI
[Contact Me](#)

Secretary/Treasurer
Gene Brink, CFI
[Contact Me](#)

Newsletter Editor
Scott Pudil
[Contact Me](#)

Technical Support & Web Site Issues
Paul Hanson
[Contact Me](#)

Historian
Charles Sosinski
[Contact Me](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

I hope this finds all of you doing well and looking forward to the best WI can offer in cold and unpredictable weather. Fall is upon us, if we are ready or not. There are many activities that can occupy your time this fall. For those of you that hunt deer, waterfowl, upland birds, or any other game, this time of year is very exciting. In addition to all of your fall activities I hope that you can find time to join us in Rhinelander for the fall training conference. The main topic will be heavy equipment fires and subsequent investigations. We will also be offering the Basic Fire Investigation course. The training starts on Friday afternoon and concludes Sunday at noon. The dates are November 6th-8th. For more information please check out our website at WIIAAI.com.

The spring seminar went well and I think most of you enjoyed the new venue. As with any change there are some things that need to be worked on. We have had good discussion with the Holiday Inn Stevens Point and will continue to work with them to make your experience as good as possible. At the close of the spring conference the Board of Directors approved a three year contract with the Holiday Inn Stevens Point. We will evaluate the next three years and be able to make an informed decision in the future. There is a long term plan that the Spring Seminar will stay in the central part of WI. The fall seminar will continue to move around the state, district by district. If you know of a course and/or instructor that would benefit the training seminar attendees, please let us know. Please contact your district director with any thoughts or ideas.

I truly hope that we as, a nation, are working our heads above water and getting out of the recession mode. I hope that your case loads are not overwhelmed by this financial crisis. The financial status of many municipalities is grim at best. The public sector is at the mercy of administrative budget cuts and reductions in services. It is a reality that we will have to do more with less. We will have to be creative in the way we provide our services. Perhaps it is time to seriously get to know your neighbors and share services when you can. Predictions are that this will pass and the financial climate will improve. I hope that you strongly consider attending one of our upcoming seminars. We always try to offer top notch training at a reasonable cost. In addition to the training, the networking is very valuable as well.

As we move through the calendar, please start thinking about award nominations and scholarships. If you know a student that is enrolled in the Fire/EMS or Law Enforcement program, give them our web address and remind them to monitor the scholarship application information. When you are working in the field, take time to notice something or someone that is going above and beyond. Then I would ask that you submit a nomination for one of our recognition awards so that we can all recognize an investigator that stands out among their peers.

In closing, I hope to see all of you Rhinelander. For those of you that I do not see or talk to in the next couple of months, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

President Don Henning

**Wisconsin Chapter, IAAI
PO Box 389
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0389**

ATTENTION ALL

Renewal notices are out or will be soon. It is **imperative** that we have your correct information on file. Addresses, phone numbers, email, etc.

The US Post Office will begin charging us \$.60 per returned item. Paying these fees will only increase our costs and subsequently our dues.

**PLEASE SEND ALL CHANGES TO
Gene3235@aol.com**

Thanks!
Gene Brink, CFI
Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes and Meetings

WISCONSIN CHAPTER IAAI
BOARD MEETING
30 January 2009

On 30 January 2009 at 1100 Hours the Wisconsin Chapter IAAI held a board of directors meeting at Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI

Roll Call: President –Don Henning - Present
1st Vice President – Jeff Kubitz - Present
2nd Vice President – Mike Rindt - Present
Directors - District #1 – Terry Johnson - Present
District #2 –Dave Fladten - Present
District #3 – Scott Pudil - Present
District #4 – Greg St Onge - Present
District #5 – Mark Krueger - Present
Secretary/Treasurer – Gene Brink CFI - Present
T & E Committee Chair – Bill Boswell – Present
JFS – Jan Segelken
Past President – Rod Pevytoe
Star Promotions – Scott Rindt

President Henning called the meeting to order

President Henning announced that he had been informed by Bill Lundy that Dave Campbell had been in an accident and is expected to recover fully.

Bill Lundy also forwarded a request to the board on the status of the ethics committee. The ethics committee is only formed on receipt of a complaint.

Paul Hanson was unable to attend the meeting but he would still like input from individuals on committee, director, and officer responsibilities.

Jeff Kubitz made a motion to launch the website as prepared by Paul Hanson. The motion was seconded by Scott Pudil and carried unanimously.

The question has been raised whether there is a conflict between the board of directors and the seminar committee. The question was resolved. There is no conflict. Per the constitution, all committee assignments are made at the discretion of the president.

Rice Lake PD submitted a request for a donation to replace their K-9. After discussion, Pres. Henning made a motion to donate \$250 toward that effort. The motion was seconded by 2VP Mike Rindt. The motion was disproved 6-2.

Terry Johnson made a motion that Chapter 25 send one additional board member to the IAAI ATC to be selected by the president. The order of precedence to be 1VP, 2VP, then any board member. The motion was seconded by Dave Fladten and passed unanimously.

Dave Fladten made a motion to pay registration and \$200 toward expenses for the additional officer attending the ATC. The motion was seconded by Mark Krueger and passed unanimously.

Mike Rindt made a motion to send 2 individuals to annual seminars in adjoining states. Individuals are to be selected from the seminar chair or seminar committee and the 2nd individual is to be selected by the president. Motion seconded by Jeff Kubitz and passed unanimously.

Mike Rindt made a motion to reimburse actual expenses for individuals attending seminars in adjoining states. Motion seconded by Scott Pudil and passed unanimously.

Scott Rindt displayed several items to be used as gifts at the seminar. A consensus was reached on a tool bag. Terry Johnson made a motion to purchase 250 tool bags. The motion was seconded by Dave Fladten and passed unanimously.

Rod Pevytoe spoke to the board and requested their support and the support of the chapter in his quest for election to 2VP of IAAI.

The meeting was adjourned about 2:00 PM.

I certify that these minutes accurately reflect those actions taken at the meeting.

Gene Brink, CFI
Secretary/Treasurer

WISCONSIN CHAPTER IAAI
BOARD MEETING
1 June 2009

On 1 June 2009 at 1600 Hours the Wisconsin Chapter IAAI held a board of directors meeting at Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI

Roll Call: President –Don Henning - Present
1st Vice President – Jeff Kubitz - Excused
2nd Vice President – Mike Rindt - Present
Directors - District #1 – Terry Johnson - Excused
District #2 –Dave Fladten - Present
District #3 – Scott Pudil - Present
District #4 – Greg St Onge - Present
District #5 – Mark Krueger - Present
Secretary/Treasurer – Gene Brink CFI - Present
Seminar Committee Chair- Greg Steenbock -Present
T & E Committee Chair – Bill Boswell – Present
Webmaster – Paul Hanson
Suzanne Neumann
Mike Quick
Historian- Charles Sosinski

President Henning called the meeting to order.

President Henning read a letter of resignation from Seminar Chair, Greg Steenbock. President Henning then appointed Mike Rindt as interim seminar chair.

Greg Steenbock gave the seminar committee report and explained that the new 3-ring binders were provided and collated by West Bend Mutual Insurance.

Gene Brink gave the Treasurer's report and noted that there was approximately \$90,000 in the bank in checking and CD's with seminar liabilities outstanding.

After a discussion, Jeff Kubitz made a motion that out of state speakers at the chapter seminar be sent a gift package of Wisconsin cheese of about \$35.00 plus shipping. The motion was seconded by Mark Krueger and passed unanimously.

President Henning announced that Rod Pevytoe has been elected 2nd Vice President of the IAAI.

Mark Krueger gave an update on the Fall Seminar to be held in Rhinelander on 6-7-8 November. Mike Riegert will head up an instructor team and the theme will be Heavy Equipment fires.

President Henning gave an update on information received and his impressions from the IAAI-ATC. He also discussed future for our chapter being reproduced on CD or in digital format and discussed the future printing needs of our chapter.

Newly elected 2VP, IAAI, Rod Pevytoe thanked the chapter for their support in his election to 2 VP. He also explained the new Fire Investigator Technician Program (FIT).

Mark Krueger made a motion congratulating Rod Pevytoe on his recent election and thanking him for his contributions to Chapter 25. The motion was seconded by Greg St Onge and passed unanimously.

Paul Hanson explained the new website's capabilities and direction.

The meeting was adjourned at 1745 hrs.

I certify that these minutes accurately reflect those actions taken at the meeting.

Gene Brink, CFI
Secretary/Treasurer

WISCONSIN CHAPTER IAAI
BOARD MEETING
4 June 2009

On 4 June 2009 at 1345 Hours the Wisconsin Chapter IAAI held a board of directors meeting at Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI

Roll Call: President –Don Henning - Present
1st Vice President – Jeff Kubitz - Present
2nd Vice President – Mike Rindt - Present
Directors - District #1 – Terry Johnson - Present
District #2 –Dave Fladten - Present
District #3 – Scott Pudil - Present
District #4 – Greg St Onge - Present
District #5 – Mark Krueger - Present
Secretary/Treasurer – Gene Brink CFI - Present
T & E Chair Bill Boswell

President Henning called the meeting to order.

The sole topic for discussion was site selection for 2010 Spring Seminar.

Mike Rindt made a motion to negotiate and sign a 3 year contract with the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point to host Chapter 25's Spring Seminars. The motion was seconded by Mark Krueger and passed unanimously.

I certify that these minutes accurately reflect those actions taken at the meeting.

Gene Brink, CFI
Secretary/Treasurer

WISCONSIN CHAPTER IAAI
ANNUAL MEETING
2 June 2009

On 2 June 2009 at 1230 Hours the Wisconsin Chapter IAAI held its annual meeting at Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI

Roll Call: President –Don Henning - Present
1st Vice President – Jeff Kubitz - Present
2nd Vice President – Mike Rindt - Present

Directors - District #1 – Terry Johnson - Excused
District #2 –Dave Fladten - Present
District #3 – Scott Pudil - Present
District #4 – Greg St Onge - Present
District #5 – Mark Krueger - Present

Secretary/Treasurer – Gene Brink CFI - Present

Past Presidents:

Bill Lundy
Bud Eastman
Rod Pevytoe

President Henning called the meeting to order and called for the following reports:

Financial – Gene Brink reported \$90,000 in bank accounts with seminar bills to be paid

Membership – Gene Brink reported 525 current members in Chapter 25

District Reports – None

Sustaining Membership – Fred Haas reported that membership renewal letters have been sent out.

JFS – No Report

Char Patterns – No Report

T & E Committee – No Report

Seminar Committee – Reported attendance at 2009 seminar up 25%.

CFI Committee – No Report

Nomination Committee No Report – See Below!

New Business:

Dave Fladten made a motion to increase annual dues in the chapter from \$15 to \$25. The motion was seconded by Mark Krueger and passed unanimously by the membership in attendance.

The meeting was then suspended 1300 due to the training schedule and reconvened at 1520.

President Henning explained a proposed state budget item requiring an additional 5% cut in the State Justice Department budget in addition to already imposed state wide budget cuts. This proposed cut would result in the elimination of 3 Deputy State Fire Marshal positions.

President Henning announced that Dist 4 director Greg St Onge had fulfilled his term in office and that the position was now up for election. Mark Krueger nominated Greg St Onge to fill the position. Scott Tebo seconded the motion. No other nominations were brought forth and Greg St Onge was re-elected Dist 4 director.

The meeting was adjourned at 1530 hrs.

I certify that these minutes accurately reflect those actions taken at the meeting.

Gene Brink, CFI
Secretary/Treasurer

District Director Reports

District 1

Nothing to report at this time.

T.J., District 1 Director

District 2

Nothing to report at this time.

Dave Fladten, District 2 Director

District 3

I hope that this finds you all well and in good spirits. In this time of hardship it can be hard to keep your head up and looking on the bright side. It is also a time for some to be working harder than ever. As the burdens of the financial meltdown build we as investigators will be tested and put through the ringer. Always remember that every challenge that is given to us is done to make us stronger and more confident.

If you have not been to our website or the International website yet, I invite you to check it out. A new program has been introduced by the International and all the information is posted there. This new program fits in to that niche between a firefighter who investigates fires and a CFI. This is a tested program that will give the holder of the title some credentials in the fire investigation field.

Stay safe and I will see you in November in Rhinelander.

Scott Pudil, District 3 Director

District 4

Nothing at this time.

Greg St. Onge, District 4 Director

District 5

Greetings from District 5 in north central Wisconsin.

Fires have continued to burn through the summer and are destroying property well into the fall.

I want to stress at this time for everyone to make a serious effort to attend and be a part of the I.A.A.I.

Fall Meeting seminar being held in Rhinelander Wisconsin on November 6th, 7th, 8th, 2009.

This

one is going to be training that all of us in this industry are needing...Heavy Machinery Fires. Michael Riegert of West Bend Insurance and friends have a tremendous 20 hours of training planned for us.

Included in the training will be several hours we will have to climb around and get familiar with actual machines to see where the systems are, how to open and access these systems and problems encountered that have caused fires in backhoes, tree processors, bulldozers and more.

This is something we have needed for a long time. If you didn't get a registration mailing, please go to the WIIAAI web site and print it out and register now. Be safe! See you in Rhinelander!

Mark Krueger, District 5 Director

Awards and Scholarships

If you know someone who is in the Fire/EMS field or in Law Enforcement and will be going to school **PLEASE** do not forget to nominate them for one of our scholarships. These scholarships could be going to the next member of our organization and could help a young individual get the training to one day become a great asset to the teams they will be joining.

Please send all information to Todd Lavieri for review.

Terms of Endearment

Deposition - a statement made under oath in a legal proceeding in response to oral or written questions and recorded by an authorized party (i.e., a court reporter). The range of questioning in a deposition is often broader than will be allowed at trial.

Pugilistic attitude (posture) - The post-mortem, "boxer-like" body posture of flexed elbows and knees and clenched fists, caused by the shrinkage of body tissues and muscle due to dehydration caused by heating. The pugilistic attitude can be mistaken for a pre-death attempt to shield oneself from an attacker.

Cupping - A physical phenomenon often seen in wildfires where a burned tree trunk, stump, log, grass blade, or other vegetation will be curved inward, or cupped, on the side facing the fire. The sharpened point will be on the site away from the fire's approach, and thus the open cup will face in the direction of the fire origin.

In The Spotlight

This issue we will be spotlighting a newcomer to the organization. Her name is Molly Miller. Make sure to stop her and say Hi when you see her.

Molly came into the fire service in June of 2001. Originally joining the Town of Hull Fire and Rescue Department where she served as a member until 2007, after moving she joined the Amherst Fire District.

She joined the Portage County Task Force in May of 2002, and served as the Secretary from 2002 until January of this year when she became the Vice President.

Molly is a certified FF1, and currently pursuing a customized Associates Degree through Fox Valley Technical College as a Fire Investigator, hoping to become a CFI within 4-5 years.

Outside the fire service she works at the Veterans Assistance Program in King as a Case Manager assisting homeless veterans with finding jobs.

She has been a member of the Chapter since 2005, and recently became a member of the International Chapter. I look forward to serving the Chapter as a Seminar Committee member.

Words from the Trades

NFPA offers the following 10 general tips for fire safety:

Watch your cooking - Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.

Give space heaters space - Keep fixed and portable space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn. Turn off heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Smoke outside - Ask smokers to smoke outside. Have sturdy, deep ashtrays for smokers.

Keep matches and lighters out of reach - Keep matches and lighters up high, out of the reach of children, preferably in a cabinet with a child lock.

Inspect electrical cords - Replace cords that are cracked, damaged, frayed, have broken plugs, or have loose connections.

Be careful when using candles - Keep candles at least one foot from anything that can burn. Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Have a home fire escape plan - Make a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year.

Install smoke alarms - Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Interconnect smoke alarms throughout the home - when one sounds, they all sound.

Test smoke alarms - Test smoke alarms at least once a month and replace batteries once a year or when the alarm "chirps" to tell you the battery is low. Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.

Install sprinklers - If you are building or remodeling your home, install residential fire sprinklers. Sprinklers can contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive.

Public education with respect to fire safety is clearly needed to address all types of home fires. Active fire protection systems – like smoke alarms and residential sprinklers – and practiced escape plans can provide safety margins after a fire has begun.

Details from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NIFRS) show that in 2003-2006: Cooking was

the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries.

Smoking was the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths. Heating ranked second in home fire deaths overall, but was the leading cause in one- or two-family dwellings. 63% of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Roughly one-third of home fires and home fire deaths occur in December, January and February. 20% of reported home structure fires occurred between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM. These fires caused 52% of all home fire deaths. Home structure fires peaked around the dinner hours between 5:00 and 8:00 PM. Children under five and adults 65 and over face the highest risk of fire death. The two leading items in home fire deaths remain 1) upholstered furniture, first ignited in 21% of home fire deaths, and 2) mattresses and bedding, first ignited in 13% of the deaths.

Human errors are often involved. However, equipment and other product redesign, such as the "fire-safe" cigarette which stops burning if not actively smoked, or automatic shut-offs on heating equipment, cooking equipment, or irons can improve safety. Such changes may be the most effective and inexpensive approach to fire prevention. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issues safety standards and recalls of unsafe consumer products.

Source: *U.S. Home Structure Fires*, by Marty Ahrens, NFPA, Quincy, MA, January 2009

2007 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/>

2007 Vehicle Recalls & Product Safety News

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Sun Prairie, WI 53590**

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