



“We Are Truth Seekers, Not Case Makers”
OREGON CHAPTER 31
International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2023

3rd Quarterly Board Meeting
Redmond, Oregon

Meeting called to order by President Rich Stenhouse: 10:06 am

Present:

- President Rich Stenhouse (2024)
- 1st VP Virginia Chapman (2024)
- 2nd VP Miguel Bautista (2024)
- Director Mark Shay (2023)
- Director Shannon Miller (2024)
- Director Joseph Feland (2025)
- Director Kevin Schummer (2025)
- Director Travis Neubauer (2023)
- Director Tom Mooney (2023)
- Immediate Past President Ralph Sartain
- Secretary/Treasurer John Wolff (appointed)

Absent/Excused:

- 2nd VP Miguel Bautista (2024)

Introduction of Guests: Ryan Fields, Oregon Chapter 31 Past President

Minutes of Last Meeting (March 2023) – Motion by Director Feland to accept the minutes with amendments to attendance records, 2nd by Director Shay. Motion to accept revised minutes passed unanimously.

President’s Report: Rich Stenhouse – President Stenhouse thanked the board for supporting him & handling the business of the association during the first few months of 2023 while his son was recovering from a car accident.

Staff Report: Jessica Carpenter reported on status of conference planning, tax filing, upcoming social media efforts to promote awards, scholarships, and conference.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Wolff & Staff: Treasurer Wolff reviewed the provided financial reports. Motion by Director Shay to accept the reports as presented, 2nd by 1st VP Chapman. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Vacant Director Position – President Stenhouse asked to have it officially noted that he has appointed Tom Mooney, Redmond Fire, to complete the remainder of the term vacated by the retirement of

Debbie McDermott in December. Tom accepted the appointment and will finish the term through September 2023. Director Mooney will need to run for election at the seminar if he wishes to continue being on the board. Staff will add Director Mooney to the email group list.

New Business:

- Expert Witness Class – Professional Development Committee members are working on potential dates in October for an Expert Witness Class in partnership with Thenell Law Office. They will provide an update when the dates and availability of the law team are confirmed. Staff have started a list of potential students and will reach out when dates are confirmed to determine their availability/interest in the class for those dates. The board discussed the registration fees and agreed to keep them the same this year (\$500.00 for Oregon Chapter members/\$650.00 for non-members). Registration cost will be non-refundable and only transferrable with sufficient time for the new student to complete the pre-reqs required.
- Arson Award/Reward Poster – Director Neubauer was contacted recently by Gresham Fire & Ron Smith with a request for posters to put up for a suspected arson fire at a local school. The school's insurance policy provides for a reward, up to \$10K, so no funds would be requested of Oregon IAAI, but the posters may help in obtaining tips. Director Neubauer confirmed the number on the posters goes to OSP and set up information with them to accept any tips that may be submitted. The board discussed the history of the posters and agreed that it would be worth re-visiting the creation of new posters with some revisions and clear procedures in place. Travis used the last two posters available for the Gresham school fire. Director Neubauer volunteered to work on some ideas for this program and bring them back for future discussion.
- Conference Swag Voting – a form was shared with potential conference swag items – 4 votes have been submitted. Staff will send a reminder for those who have not yet weighed in and will provide a deadline to cast votes. Staff will order the item that the majority select. Staff will also work on finalizing the new challenge coin designs and place the order for coins to be ready for the September event.

Committee Reports

Membership Report: Chair 2nd VP Bautista, Director Schummer, Staff

- Current active membership is 229. Membership renewals will be due Sept. 1, 2023, and Wild Apricot will begin to send reminders a few weeks before Sept. 1 to encourage the renewals.

Budget/Finance: Chair Treasurer Wolff & Staff – no additional report.

Training/Education Report: Chair President Stenhouse, 1st VP Chapman, 2nd VP Bautista, Director Miller, Director Shay, Director Feland

- Monday – Jason Anderson with Arson Dog
- Monday - Oregon State Crime Lab Evidence Collection
- Tuesday - Gas and Wood Stove Fire Investigation with Dale Feb
- Wednesday – ATF – Lithium Battery/Electric Vehicle
- Thursday – ATF Internet of Things - using smart devices in fire investigation/being finalized
- The 40-Hour Investigation Course that was being discussed in partnership with OSFM has been put on hold this year. The logistics and timing are not ideal, but we will share information when other 40-Hour Classes are being offered.

- The seminar schedule has been posted on website, staff will schedule additional email blasts, and social media posts to promote the event, the classes, awards, and scholarships.
- Speaker agreements are not finalized yet, staff will continue to work on this, but registration is open and a discount code for board members has been provided.
- Vendor/Sponsor – first sponsor has signed up – staff will be promoting sponsor/vendor opportunities to past companies and online. 1-800-BoardUp requested to secure the Wednesday Reception sponsorship and staff made this reservation.
- Staff will review requests for partial registration and determine a reasonable cost as needed.

Conference Site Committee Report: 1st VP Chapman, Treasurer Wolff

- Discuss potential future seminar locations:
 - 2024 Seminar will be held at Wild Horse Casino in Pendleton
 - 2025/2026 proposals have been obtained from Eagle Crest, Best Western Agate Beach, and Running Y Ranch. John Wolff is going to follow up on Riverhouse as well, they have not replied to staff outreach so far. A decision will be made following this attempt to get a proposal from Riverhouse.
 -

Constitution/Bylaws/Legislative: Past President Sartain – no report

Ethics/Grievances Report: 1st VP Chapman – nothing to report.

Awards Report: Chair 1st VP Chapman, Director Miller – links to award nominations are on the website and have been shared in an email. Staff will continue to promote via email and social media posts to encourage nominations by the August 15 deadline.

Website/Social Media Report: 1st VP Chapman, Staff – staff continue to work on keeping the website current and active. The board is encouraged to review it occasionally and share if any information needs to be removed, updated, or added.

Professional Development Report: Ryan Fields, President Stenhouse – discussed under new business.

Oregon Fire Marshal Association Report: Representative – Jessica reported on the recent OFMA Conference in Newport May 22-25, 2023. Record attendance and the association will be going to Eagle Crest for the 2024 event.

District Reports:

- **Portland:** Chairperson Gert Zoutendijk or designee – John Wolff reported that meetings are being held monthly, still at Busters BBQ.
- **Lane:** Chairperson Charles Douglass or designee – Group is meeting, no direct representative was present to report additional information.
- **Rogue Valley:** Chairperson Mark Shay or designee – Mark reported that RV District is meeting regularly with hybrid option and would welcome members from other areas to participate. The board discussed having staff work on monthly outreach to districts to find out about upcoming events and promoting those to the full membership. Mark shared that RV has decided to make a \$500.00 donation to support CFITrainer and asked if the board would entertain matching this donation. At this time, the board agreed to have staff share information on social media about how members can donate directly and re-visit

a possible donation from Oregon IAAI following the seminar and review of finances. Staff will share information online about making direct donations and will add this to the September agenda for further discussion.

- **Central:** Chairperson – Tom Mooney or designee – Tom reported on the activities of this district, meeting every other month with a variety of training opportunities including a recent presentation from Deschutes County DA.
- **Eastern:** Chairperson Scott Goff or designee / Board Liaison Past President Flowerdew – no report

Comments from the Floor/Guests:

Director Neubauer, 1st VP Chapman, and Past President Flowerdew attended the ITC in April 2023.

Past President Sartain shared information on recently approved budget and new positions that will be available through Ashland Fire. He asked the board to share with interested parties.

2nd VP Bautista was not able to join the meeting, but provided the following report:

- I am currently working on a field test for an exposure device, called the Canairy, to gather exposure data from fire suppression and post-suppression environments. Our goal is to determine if this device would be useful for fire investigators and firefighters as a method to capture exposures from the job. This device was originally a haz mat device and is being applied to our field. I will have a few more devices to field test and maybe reaching out to organizations to broaden the scope of the data collection. We are excited to begin this work. Our hopes are the data will help inform our efforts to improve the Oregon Presumptive Cancer Legislation.
- I have reached out to State Rep Grayber about the Oregon Presumptive Cancer Legislation in April and copied my Fire Chief and President Stenhouse. I have not heard back since my attempt in April. I also reached out to Karl with the Oregon State Firefighter Council to set up a meeting to discuss efforts to improve the legislation and add verbiage that includes all public fire investigators in the coverage, which is lacking at the time. I have received personal calls from colleagues who have had their claims denied or met with serious resistance about coverage. (e.g., deputy fire marshals not being “firefighters”). The coverage also doesn’t cover diagnosis after 7 years, which could be improved upon.
- The FI-210 course was completed in May and was attended by Washington and Oregon agencies.
- Scappoose is hosting the IAAI Marine Fire Investigation course June 27 - 30, 2023. There is still room to register. We are excited to host this course.
- Scappoose is starting an Introduction to Emergency Services and Emerging Technologies (STEM) program at the Scappoose High School this fall. This course will incorporate UAS and robotics being used in the fire service. Students will come out with their UAS pilot license and up to 7 college credits. This program was funded by a federal grant.

For the Good of the Order:

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2023, at 9am – before the seminar begins at Hallmark Resort in Newport, Oregon.

Adjournment 11:22 am

