

**Texas Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators**  
**Annual General Business Meeting**  
**March 24 2009**  
**SouthPark Omni Hotel**  
**Austin, Texas**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Alan Finke called to order the Annual General Meeting of the Texas Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators at 5:00 p.m., welcomed all members and guest and announced that the minutes of this meeting will stand as recorded.

**2. INVOCATION**

Invocation was given and President Finke welcomed attendees and recognized past presidents Gerald Brown, Gary Nabors, Ben Kennedy, and Ken Finley in attendance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

President Finke called for a roll call of Officers and Directors by Secretary/Treasurer Deborah Johnson. All elected Officers were present and all Directors were present, except for Kurt Harris, who retired, Chad Weldon and Ricardo Torres, who were both called out to fires, and Brad Beauchamp, who resigned. Absent Directors were excused. A total 29 members were present for the meeting.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Finke called for corrections to the minutes; Ben Kennedy made a motion to approve as written, which was seconded by Ken Finley. The motion carried and President Finke ordered the minutes stand as written. Minutes had previously been made available at conference registration and Chapter table throughout the week and made available at the meeting.

**5. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORTS**

Secretary/Treasurer reported that as of February 28, 2009, the Chapter checking accounting had \$6,605.58 and the money market account had \$21,047.78, for a total of \$27,653.36. David Barnes made a motion to accept the report and Paul Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried and the report was accepted for filing.

**6. IAAI ACTIVITY REPORT**

Ken Finley provided an update on the upcoming IAAI Annual Training Conference (ATC) in Arlington in May with expected attendance and topics to be offered.

**7. ATC COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE**

First Vice President Paul Cunningham advised that he attended two planning sessions in Arlington and he was getting Sheriffs' groups to greet attendees on horseback. They are also planning to have cattle there and a gun fight with a staged kidnapping. He advised that the Board of Directors voted last year to purchase shirts for Board and Officers to wear at ATC and make available to others for purchase. He is also purchasing 700 small branding irons with IAAI logo, ATC 2009 and the state of Texas for each attendee. First VP Cunningham reported that he had \$3002.44 in logo items purchased to take to ATC. Cunningham stated that they would need help and President Finke asked that those interested to sign up after the meeting. He informed the group that booth set-up is Monday morning and the booth runs Monday day and night and Tuesday until about 2:00 p.m. Discussion was had regarding apparatus set-up and Pres. Finke will confirm date and time. He further stated that the branding irons are being co-sponsored by the South Texas Fire Investigators Association, Tarrant County Fire & Arson Investigators Association, and the

North Texas Fire Investigators Association and advised that we are still accepting sponsorships.

## **8. REPORT ON DIRECTOR VACANCY**

President Finke informed the members that Director Brad Beauchamp reported to him that he had resigned as Travis County Fire Marshal and from the Chapter Board of Directors. Beauchamp stated he is getting out of the fire service, which is a positive move for him. His resignation means there will be four positions to fill.

President Finke recognized out-going Board of Directors David Barnes, Kurt Harris, and Chad Weldon, for their service to the Chapter for the last six consecutive years.

## **9. ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

President Finke called for Past President Gary Nabors to take the floor. Nabors reported that three full Board of Director positions were open and that one un-expired two-year term was open. The top three vote-getters will be elected to the full terms and the top fourth vote-getter will fill the un-expired term. The candidates were announced and given an opportunity to speak. All spoke, except for Buddy Rice, who was not in attendance. There was a call for questions. Discussion was had, ballots distributed and then collected by Past Presidents Gerald Brown, Ben Kennedy, Ken Finley and Gary Nabors for tabulation.

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Budget & Finance

Paul Cunningham, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, reported that an audit was conducted, all was in order and accounted for.

### Constitution & By-Laws

Gary Nabors, Past President, had nothing to report.

### Ethics/Grievances

Don Jansen, Director, had nothing to report

### Nominating

Gary Nabors, Past President, deferred to later in the meeting.

### Membership

Kurt Harris, Director, was not present, but Director Charlie Ashburn advised he would provided an update when he gives his report.

### CFI

President Finke reported that there was a class in 2008 in Fort Worth lead by Kenny Wilson. Finke plans to assign a co-chair to the committee in the upcoming year. Finke has been working with others to get the course in more than one place; he is currently working with Don Moser and Ric Torres

### Training/Education – Report on SouthTX Conference

David Opperman, Director, reported on the attendance of the CFI class and the South Padre Island Investigation Conference. Information of the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Conference was deferred to Deborah Johnson. Johnson reported that conference proceeds will be \$2,068.67 (over two fiscal years), and that proceeds from the conference Casino Night totaled \$1574.31, which was split between Camp David (Texas Burn Survivor Society) and Camp I-Thonka-Chi (Parkland Burn Camp). Johnson thanked and named the burn-camp benefit sponsors, both individuals and area investigators associations. Pres. Finke

then reported on the South Texas Conference in the absence of Ric Torres, President of South Texas Fire Investigators Association (STFIA). Finke reported on the success of the conference and the positive relationship between the Chapter and STFIA in this co-sponsorship. Jim Allen was the presenter, who did a great job. The Chapter realized \$1329.75 and STFIA realized \$3102.75 from the conference.

Pres. Finke stated he would like to look at helping others develop training, to assist financially and to increase Chapter membership.

#### Juvenile Fire Intervention

Report was provided under Training/Education.

#### Media Committee

In the absence of Joel Moore, Chairman, Pres. Finke explained that Moore is doing the Chapter Web work for no money and that Finke plans to work with him.

At this time, President Finke turned the floor over to Gary Nabors to report on the election results. Jody Henry, Robert Baker, and Henry Lopez were elected to the Board of Directors for full three-year terms, expiring in 2012. Because of a tie, there will be a run-off for the two-year term. Ballots were distributed, a vote had and the Committee retired to tally votes.

President Finke then called for the Legislative report from 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Stacy Singleton.

#### Legislative

Stacy Singleton, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, reported on proposed legislation that may effect the fire service. He noted a few: SB 1511 on Sprinklers, HB 90 on Novelty Lighters, and HB 3224 on the Punishment of Arson from 3<sup>rd</sup> degree to State Jail Felony.

At this time, President Finke the Committee Reports to hear the election results.

### **11. ELECTION/BALLOTING RESULTS**

President Finke called Gary Nabors back to report the election results. Donald Moser was elected to fill the Board of Director term expiring in 2011. No one received "no votes." Sneed recognized with appreciation the service of the retiring directors.

Past President Gerald Brown requested approval to destroy the ballots. First Vice President Cunningham made a motion and it was seconded by Director Ashburn. President Finke called for questions, comments, and discussion. Vote was had and motion passed.

President Finke took this time to advise the Board of its first meeting on Friday morning at 6:30 a.m.

President Finke then called for the Merchandise Report.

#### Merchandise

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Cunningham reiterated the amount spent and advised that the Chapter would not be doing a silent auction at the conference, but will conduct a live auction at the banquet on Thursday night. He announced a silent auction at the ATC in Arlington, with proceeds going to IAAI Foundation to support scholarships to college students and education.

#### Awards Committee

Jody Henry, Chairman, reported that nominations were received and he is pleased to announce the Sneed, Rauch, Lifetime and Photo awards at the banquet. He encouraged members to send in nominations for next year.

## Regional Associations

Harvie Cheshire, Director, had nothing to report.

### **12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Director Ashburn gave a report on the hiring of a management firm, Professional Association Management Services. He discussed the process of seeking 3 bids, of which one was too expensive and one withdrew. He further explained the services they are providing. He informed the membership that the firm is sending notices and blasts via email. He also gave an update of current membership since the firm started. He asked all to write down the email address – [TXIAAI@ProfessionalAMS.com](mailto:TXIAAI@ProfessionalAMS.com) – and to send an email and let the firm respond so each person's system will recognize and receive Chapter emails.

President Finke advised that further discussion was had by some of the Board members regarding the joint-association Donnie Teague Scholarship proposal and he stated that he would like the Chapter to fully or solely support this program. Discussion was had regarding criteria to qualify and Finke offered to appoint a committee. Committee appointed and Paul Cunningham to chair.

### **13. NEW BUSINESS**

1. President Finke received a request from Jody Henry of the Texas Fire Marshal's Association for \$400 to support the Fire Marshals' Conference. A motion was made by Paul Cunningham to support and seconded by Gary Nabors. A vote was had and the motion carried.
2. Director Ashburn reported on a study of bank charges to the Chapter if we accepted credit cards. There were two options, which were briefly explained. He concluded that the Chapter does not have enough profit margin to enter into contract. David Barnes suggested a questionnaire regarding acceptance of credit cards.
3. President Finke announced that the conference attendance is 262 and encouraged attendance at the banquet.
4. President Finke called for any other business; there being none, entertained a motion to adjourn

### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Cunningham and seconded by Stacy Singleton. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Deborah Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer