

The Investigator



I.A.A.I. Illinois Chapter News

2010 Spring

www.il-iaai.com

President's Perspective

By Stephen M. Hoyle, IAAI CFI

Greetings,

I hope everybody is enjoying this great weather we have been experiencing early this spring. Your T&E Committee is hard at work putting the final touches on the 2010 Annual Training Conference; the line up of speakers should be excellent as always. I would like to personally thank all of the T&E committee members for all of their hard work. We will have a full schedule of training for our members this year.

The Northern Zone Training Conference was held on February 19-20, 2010 in Mokena, Illinois and it was a great success. The Southern Zone Training Conference will be held June 24-25, 2010 in Collinsville, Illinois. The 27th Annual Training Conference will be held September 13-17, 2010 in Champaign, Illinois. The IAAI Annual Training Conference will be held May 16-21, 2010 in Orlando, Florida. Check the training page on our website www.il-iaai.com for updates.

Voting has opened for the 2010 IAAI election; you have the power to determine the future direction of the IAAI and we urge you to exercise your right to vote. All you have to do is login at www.firearson.com and vote. Don't forget to vote for our very own Roger Krupp for Second Vice President. Last year the Illinois Chapter had the highest percentage of votes cast. Let's see if we can do even better this year; please get out the vote.

Every year at our Annual Training Conference we present awards to investigators, police, fire and prosecutors who have put together successful arson cases that merit recognition. If you know of someone, or an organization that should be recognized, please submit the information to the Awards Committee Chair Mike Deckelmann mikeoficfd@aol.com. Please get this information to Mike as soon as possible so that we can make to appropriate arrangements for the September conference.

Be sure to take advantage of the great training opportunities available free of charge online at www.cfitrainer.net. There are numerous courses available to you such as Post Flashover, Managing Complex Fires, Investigation Fatal Fires, Fire Dynamics Calculations and many more subjects. So check it out. Taking two tested courses through CFI Trainer is a new requirement for the CFI qualifications and recertification, so get ahead of the game and take some of these great online courses that are available to you.

We are always looking for suggestions for speakers and topics. If you have any suggestions, please forward them on to one of the board members or one of the T&E members. This organization needs dedicated volunteers to keep us strong and moving forward so look for ways to get more involved.

Let's all stay safe out there!

Northern Zone Seminar Recap



Fire Service Photography

Instructor - Scott Stewart

Scott Stewart is a third generation firefighter who has been in the fire service for over 30 years. He is currently the photographer for the Evergreen Park Fire Department and a member of the MABAS 21 Fire Investigation Team. Scott has been a full-time Staff Photographer for the last 20 years at the Chicago Sun Times Newspaper and he specializes in the photography of fire scenes. Scott is photographed above with his wife Cathy, who attended the seminar with Scott, and who also always carries a camera.

In this class, Scott touched on the basics and handed out more detailed literature for later reading. The class then viewed a slide show of remarkable photos Scott has taken over the years and he gave many helpful insights into the world of fire photography. Scott not only knows how to take a picture, but he used to sell them as well and knows a lot about cameras. So, before and after the class, Scott fielded many individual questions. And if you ever meet him, make sure he shows you what a Gary Fong is.

Scott believes the most powerful tool today is the camera and that you need to learn how to use your camera properly. He says to document, document, and document - No documentation, No Record, No Proof. Scott also says:

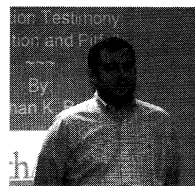
- Always carry a camera.
- Practice makes perfect.
- What you see in your viewfinder is what your camera takes.
- Once you are published, you are considered a professional.
- Anyone can take a picture with today's automatic cameras.
- Know your equipment.
- Keep the sun behind you.
- Develop your eye.
- Don't be afraid to take pictures with and without flash as well as at different angles.
- Don't shoot from one spot, walk around the building.
- And never delete!



Scott had all his cameras on hand and he and Cathy were eager to answer questions individually before and after the class.

Deposition Testimony: Preparation and Pitfalls

Instructor - Jonathan K. Barger, Attorney, Smith Amundsen.



Jon Barger is a graduate of Kent College of Law and is an associate attorney in Smith Amundsen's Insurance Services Group. His practice is focused primarily on property claims and related litigation. He provides investigative and other assistance to insurers with first party claims including arson; fraud or misrepresentation in the insured's claim may be suspected.

This class covered not only the legal terms below, but took the class through Deposition 101, preparing for your curriculum vitae (CV) and how it differs from a resume, preparing for a deposition, tips for being a good witness, trial testimony, and pitfalls in testifying.

Legal Terms

1. A document issued to a person notifying them that a legal proceeding has been started against him.
2. A writ commanding a person to appear under penalty of law.
3. The act (crime) of lying or making false statements under oath.
4. The obligation of a party on one side of a dispute or issue to provide sufficient evidence in support of their position.
5. A document outlining the cause of action against the defendant.
6. Placing the ultimate burden of responsibility on the party who should bear it.
7. A person who has first-hand knowledge of facts pertaining to an event.
8. The loss, destruction or alteration of evidence.
9. The crime of maliciously and intentionally starting a fire.

Answers: 1. Summons, 2. Subpoena, 3. Perjury, 4. Burden of Proof, 5. Complaint, 6. Subrogation, 7. Witness, 8. Spoilation, 9. Arson

In conclusion Jon gave this recap:

- **PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE!**
- **Dress - Look professional**
- **Organization - your file and your presentation**
- **Demeanor - Serious, no laughing, joking**
- **Confidence - You ARE the expert**
- **Eye Contact - Speak to the jury**
- **Terminology - Simple language, explain terms where you have to use them.**

