



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS

Chapter 29 – Established 1977

WWW.PAAI.ORG

July 2021

Fellow members of the PAAI,

I hope that this message finds you and your family safe, healthy, and enjoying your summer.

I am happy to report that after many failed attempts, due to Covid-19, we were able to complete our Annual Training Conference and Annual General Meeting in State College, PA, on June 21-23, 2021. Thank you to those that made it possible.

- **Training Conference:** Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation presented by Electrical Engineer Michael Keller through the International Association of Arson Investigators.
- Twenty-four hours of tested training.
- 45 students attended
- It was comprised of classroom instruction, live demonstrations, and hands-on experiments.
- Photos are posted on the website.
- **Annual General Meeting:**
 - Elections were held with the following results:
 - President: David B. Klitsch
 - 1st Vice-President: Michael Drushel
 - 2nd Vice-President: John A. Weer
 - Treasurer: Nancy Love
 - Corresponding Secretary: Dennis Berty
 - Recording Secretary: Shawn A. Hilbert (appointed due to vacancy: J Weer)
 - Directors:
 - Greg Agosti
 - Craig Baer
 - Jay Bradish
 - Lisa Breneman
 - Donald Brucker
 - Jeff Crede
 - George Drees
 - Joseph Groff
 - John Henry (appointed to fill the vacancy created by M. Drushel)
 - Carl Richards
 - Michael Rugh
 - Roger Spadt
 - Photos are posted on website.
 - Congratulations to all, as I look forward to working with you.

- **Annual General Meeting:**

- Several months ago, an email survey was sent out to the membership seeking input on moving the annual training conference and general meeting from June to October. Over half of the respondents indicated a desire to move it to October. A motion was passed at the AGM to move it to October in 2022. **The dates for the conference will be October 24-26, 2022**, in State College, PA. The topic(s) are still to be discussed, and information will be posted to the website upon finalization.
- **Hero to Zero – Firefighter Arsonist Program:** the program has been updated and is ready for delivery to requesting agencies. We have chosen a virtual delivery platform that will eliminate the logistics of scheduling, equipment, locations, certificate generation, etc. and have partnered up with the Dane County Arson Response Initiative (DCARI) to host, monitor, and provide certificates for the program. DCARI began delivering high-quality fire investigations programs online in April 2020 due to covid. Since then, they have touched 49 US states, 14 different countries, and 5 Canadian provinces. The PAAI will own and control the Hero to Zero program, even though it is on their site. The DCARI website is www.dcarwi.org. This is a win-win situation for the PAAI and DCARI. Refer all inquiries to www.dcarwi.org for the program and testing.

We are looking at hosting the **IAAI-ECT practicum** in October 2021. This would be held at Insurance Evidence Services in Lehigh, PA. If you or someone you know would be interested in this event, please let me know as soon as possible. The application and information can be found at <https://www.firearson.com/Training-Credentials/Certifications-Designations/Evidence-Collection-Technician-IAAIECT.aspx>.

In closing, I want to thank Immediate Past President Kevin Pezzano for his leadership. I appreciate all his hard work and determination in carrying out the Mission of the PAAI, especially during the global pandemic period.

If I can be of assistance to any of you, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached at david@technicalfireanalysis.com or (570)657-0098.

David B. Klitsch – IAAI-CFI(V)
President (2021-2023)