

November 08, 2003

**Missouri Chapter  
International Association of Arson Investigators**

**Board Meeting  
Lake Ozark, MO  
November, 08, 2003**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Absent:</b>
Dave Nichols, President Jim Kuticka, Vice-President Bill Doss Dave Gyger Lou Hecht Tim Medlin Bruce Vanderhoof Bruce Shatto, Past-President Mike Huffmon	Steve Russell, Treasurer - Excused Tim Cudd, Secretary - Excused Jim Lynch - Excused Lee Johnson - Excused Butch Amann - Unexcused

**Vice President's Report:**

Jim Kuticka - nothing to report

**Secretary's Report:**

Tim Cudd - no report, reading of minutes waived

**Treasurer's Report:**

Steve Russell reports as of 11/8/03 we have a total of \$21,754.31 on hand. Expenses totaled \$1,879.76. Income totaled \$1,521.70, leaving a balance of \$21,396.25.

**Education Committee:**

Bill Doss, seminar chairman, reports the 2004 seminar is progressing well. Saturday and Sunday is set for automobile fires, instructor is Mr. Herndon from Michigan. Friday afternoon is filled with an insurance program. Attorney Steve Mann is preparing a class. Friday morning is still open and work is being done to fill that block. Brochure is planned to go out around the end of December of 2003 or first of January of 2004.

### **International Liaison:**

Bruce Shatto discussed the International mid-year meeting in St. Louis, Saturday November 15, 2003. Bruce requested anyone that has contacts in Arkansas, one of the states he is liaison; need help in finding someone he can contact to see how they are doing. Jim Kuticka says he is a member of the Arkansas Chapter and will see if he can get Bruce a contact name and phone number.

### **POST Committee:**

Butch Amann - no report

### **Membership Committee:**

Mike Huffmon reports membership is at 502 at this time. Discusses that we have several members who have not renewed for three years he is taking off the roster. Board consensus is that if they do not renew after the first notice and a second is sent out and still do not renew that they should be dropped from the roster. Reports that Chuck Knife has just renewed but he is a life member that we had not heard from for awhile. Discussion as to adding telephone contact numbers to the membership roster, plan is to start adding them as the renewals are sent out and received back. Huffmon will add that request to the renewal form.

### **Legislative Committee:**

Jim Lynch - no report. President Nichols reports that through his attendance at the Fire Service Alliance meetings that the attempt to get training money for the State Fire Marshal's Office trying to find some alternate method of funding. The chapter's bill for licensing of private fire investigators, state mutual aide contract as to Federal money reimbursement on large disasters. Personal property tax bill, fire departments for non-emergency transport bill.

### **Awards Committee:**

Steve Russell - nothing to report

### **CFI Committee:**

Butch Amann - no report. President Nichols reports Dennis Drozkowski from Maryland Heights Fire Department, Steve Russell with Kuticka Fire Investigations, and Lou Hecht with the Fenton Fire District have been approved to take the CFI exam.

### **Attendance Prizes:**

Bruce Venderhoof reports that he has one and is working on more. Reports that in the Kansas City area it is tough due to the commitments people have made to the Kansas City Task Force seminar.

### **Equipment:**

Steve Russell, reports that Russell has purchased most all of the equipment for the Expert Testimony Course. Medlin reports that the repairs of the wireless microphones are being worked on, but that the problem has not been identified at this time.

### **Promotional Items:**

Steve Russell is checking into items that we may sell at the 2004 International in St. Louis this year. Russell is considering a white shirt with the chapter logo on it for those who work registration and board members/officers. Shatto suggests that we distinguish officer and board members on the shirts.

### **Nominations:**

Mike Huffmon - nothing to report

### **Newsletter:**

Jim Kuticka reports that the second newsletter is on the Web Site and that the next is planned around January 2004. He has one article on an arson conviction and would like more articles submitted.

### **Website:**

Jim gave Steve's report - Steve Russell reports that he has talked to our Webmaster Marsha about the Chapter taking over the changes in the Web page, that Marsha is okay with that and agrees to continue on as a manager of the Chapters address and to assist the Chapter where needed. Medlin reports that he has a person that will assist Tim Cudd, who is working on learning for the Chapter as to how to do the changes, with getting up to speed on learning the procedures for making changes.

### **Hospitality:**

Tim Medlin - nothing to report

### **By-Laws:**

Jim Lynch - no report. President Nichols reports that his review of the By-Laws have some language that is outdated and recommends that we put together the necessary language to bring them up to date in time to post notice and address them at the next Chapter General Meeting in 2004.

### **Historical:**

Butch Amann - nothing to report

### **Arson Awareness:**

Bruce Shatto - nothing to report

## **Fire Marshal's Office:**

Nothing to report

## **Registration:**

Lou Hecht - nothing to report

## **Court Room Testimony:**

Lou Hecht Reports that we have eight people set for the November class, that most are from out of state. We have six set for the next class planned for the end of February 2004, or first part of March 2004. Non-members out of state are \$400 dollars registration and members are \$300 dollars. Discussed how some out of state people are wanting to become members so that they will not have to pay the \$400 dollars. Discussion is that they have to be a current paid member of the Chapter, and has at least renewed once before they will be accepted under the membership fee of \$300 dollars. The Chapter recognizes the potential to bring income to the Chapter presenting these programs because very few states are presenting the Court Room Testimony Class. There was a discussion concerning the Chapter getting more instructors to present the class and the expenses that a member has to absorb to become an instructor for the Chapter. Requirements are that they have to be an IAAI CFI, have an instructor 1 certification, have completed the courtroom testimony class, and have to have at least testified twice in a deposition or trial before they can qualify. There was discussion as to the Chapter reimbursing the instructors expenses to become an instructor. The chapter would like to get four members to become instructors. Motion by Mike Huffmon that the Chapter will pick up the expenses of the instructor once he has completed and received his International Certification and taught his first class, Seconded by Bill Doss. Motion Passed. Kuticka reports that the student books have been printed for the November class and that a master of the student and attorney book has been printed so that the masters can be used to print further books. Lou Hecht reports that he is working on a place to print the books up in bulk.

## **Old Business:**

President Nichols reports that we have a letter of understanding from the International as to the AGM in St. Louis. They will pay the Chapter \$2000 dollars for handling the registrations at the AGM. We will receive 6 VIP seminar registrations, which will be addressed to those who will be working the registration booth. Chapter computers, Steve Russell reports he has been researching the expense of updating and repairing the present Chapter laptop computers. This appears to be an expense that will cost nearly as much as the Chapter purchasing new ones and that the updates will not achieve the status of new ones and that they will still be old units. He recommends that the Chapter purchase a new laptop to replace the Treasures laptop and that the Treasures laptop pass to Lou Hecht to be used for registrations. In review of the cost of new laptops Mike Huffmon makes a motion for the Chapter approving up to \$2,300 dollars for the purchase of a new computer for the Treasurer, Bruce Vanderhoff seconded the motion. The motion passed. President Nichols reports that Jim Avery, state representative, has agreed to sponsor and back the Fire Investigators Bill and will submit it to the Legislature. The Fire Alliance has reported that they will make it a priority bill for their support.

## **New Business:**

Next meeting is tentatively set for January 31, 2004, 10:00 am at the Holiday Inn, Lake Ozark. Board member Hecht suggests we check into Internet access at the Hotel and see what the possibility if a videoconference would be available for those who are not able to physically attend the meetings. Vice President, Kuticka will check on these possibilities before the next meeting with the motel.

Motion to adjourn by Huffmon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hecht, approved.

President Nichols thanks all officers and board members who were able to attend the meeting and those who were not able to attend, who notified him prior to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.