



# Arson NEWS



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.MICHIGANIAAI.ORG](http://WWW.MICHIGANIAAI.ORG) April 2009

## Lambertville teen found guilty in arson of two unfinished homes

■ **By Ron Whipple, Fire Inspector**  
BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

**A** Lambertville teenager who torched two unfinished homes and took an axe to a utility pole to make a statement against urban sprawl was convicted recently in Monroe County Circuit Court of an arson and malicious destruction of property.

The subject pleaded no contest to two counts of arson of real property for deliberately setting fires two days apart in March that destroyed homes under construction in Bedford Township. He also plead no contest to malicious destruction of police property for damaging his cell in the Monroe County jail in May.

The subject was arrested in March when he attempted to siphon gasoline from the unmarked vehicle of a sheriff's detective who was on surveillance in an effort to catch the arsonist. As the detective sat crouched down in the front seat of the vehicle near the subject's house the subject approached the vehicle with a plastic container. As the detective watched

the subject in his vehicle's mirrors the subject approached the vehicle from the rear and looked around the area to make sure no one was watching. He then began to siphon gas from the gas tank not knowing the detective was inside. As the gas was flowing he walked around the vehicle and saw the detective inside the vehicle. He began to run when the detective exited the vehicle drew his weapon and ordered the subject to stop.

The teenager confessed to authorities that he was responsible for the fire at an unoccupied condominium on Fountain Circle in Crystal Waters Villas on March 12 and the blaze two days later on Brenridge Lane.

At the time of his arrest, the subject told detectives he was an environmen-

Prosecutor Bill Nichols said the subject faces a minimum sentence of three to five years and the conviction carries a maximum punishment of ten years. The plea agreement also calls for the teenager to pay restitution to the victims.

One victim said, "We get a little nervous anytime that we smell smoke. It is something that will stay with you for the rest of your life." The teenage subject told detectives that he is tired of seeing forests being destroyed for the construction of new homes.

As I concluded my investigation one question kept nagging me, as our arsonist burnt down new homes in an effort to save the forests, where did he think the new construction materials would come from?

**Don't forget to make your reservations for ...**

MICHIGAN CHAPTER - IAAI  
**Annual Arson School - May 12-15**  
Comfort Inn • Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

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Working Together Successfully

MICHIGAN CHAPTER IAAI 2008-09

# Sustaining Members



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## THE ARSON NEWS

THE ARSON NEWS is the official publication of the Michigan Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators, and is published four times a year. The publication is solely an educational and advisory aid to Fire, Police, State Police, Sheriffs, Insurance Personnel and individuals working to suppress the crime of arson; and to assist them in making more thorough investigations. Opinions expressed in The Arson News are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official opinion of the IAAI or the Michigan Chapter.

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**I WANT YOU**  
to send me  
an article!

Your Editor, Rex P. Lewis

We are in need of some good articles for this newsletter. If you had an interesting fire that you would like to write about or if you find an article that would be beneficial to other investigators, please send the information to us.

The Arson News is published quarterly with issues in JANUARY, APRIL, JULY and OCTOBER. The deadlines are as follows:

January Issue ..... December 5th  
April Issue ..... March 5th  
July Issue ..... June 5th  
October Issue ..... September 5th

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### ***A Fireman's Prayer***

*When I am called to duty, God,  
 wherever flames may range,  
 give me strength to save some life  
 whatever be it's age.  
 Help me to embrace a child,  
 before it is too late,  
 or save an older person from  
 the horror of that fate.  
 Enable me to be alert and  
 hear the weakest shout  
 And quickly and efficiently to  
 put the fire out.  
 I want to fill my calling and  
 to give the best in me.  
 To guard my every neighbor and  
 protect his property.  
 And if according to my fate,  
 I am to lose my life,  
 Please bless with your protecting hand  
 my children and wife.*

## *Friends we'll miss ...*

The Michigan Chapter of IAAI lost two great members of the chapter.

### **Garth "Smoke" Meyer**

**May 28, 1927 - December 18, 2008**

Garth was a Past President of the Michigan Chapter 1981-82.

Garth resided in Roscommon after a career with the Michigan State Police 1951-1965 and was Sheriff at Roscommon Sheriff Department from 1971-1988. Garth and his wife always had invited and hosted a luncheon meeting (Michigan Chapter IAAI) for the new board of directors. Each year members would attend and have their first meeting as well as a great "home-made" lunch served by his lovely wife Pat. Garth served as volunteer firemen with Roscommon and Gerrish Townships.



### **Chief Paul Wilcox Almont Fire Department**

**May 13, 1942 - January 8, 2009**

One of the most unnoticed and dedicated advocates for fire investigators and the fire service passed on January 8, 2009. Paul was a member of the Almont Fire Department for 44 years. Paul attended more meetings in one year than most people attend in a career. You would always see Paul at different meetings and fighting for fire investigators and firefighters.

Paul ALWAYS looked at the whole picture not any special interest group. Paul was very active with the fire service on the local level in Lapeer County, Past President of the Michigan State Firemen's Association, joint council representative, Michigan Arson Prevention Committee, Southeastern Fire Chiefs, State of Michigan Fire Chiefs Association and a member of the Fire Safe Foundation. Paul will be sorely missed by all fire personnel throughout the State of Michigan.



## *On a personal note ...*

### **■ By Ruth Hannam-Fahrenbruch**

I want to take this moment to thank everyone for the wonderful honor bestowed on my father, George Plumer. It is a credit to all the personnel that my father has been associated with over the many years in the fire service. I want to say how proud I am of my mother and father for her support and his 60 years of dedication to the community.

He began his career as a Fire Fighter on a Tug Boat in World War II. He went on to become a Fire Fighter for the Lackawanna Steel Plant in Lackawanna, New York. When he was off from his duties at the Steel Plant, he dedicated his time as a Fire Fighter for the Lakeshore Volunteer Fire Department in Hamburg, New York (a suburb of Buffalo, NY). Over the years family plans were interrupted as the fire service required his attention. My mother would keep dinner warm, take care of family matters and never complain.

On February 21, 2009 my father was honored by his peers and received the first "George Plumer" Outstanding Service Award. This award will be presented annually to a deserving member of the Lakeshore Volunteer Fire Department. This will be an honor in his name for years to come.

My father has not been able to respond to any fires or other scenes in the last year due to being diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis and remains on oxygen 24 hours a day. He is 80 years young and misses being able to assist and lending a hand to help his fellow fire fighters. He is with them in spirit and prays for their safety each and every day.

I respect and love my parents for not only their dedication to the fire service, but for being mentors to their siblings. I have learned so much from them and will always remember their love and dedication to our family, friends, and community and especially to the members of the Lakeshore Volunteer Fire Department.

## President's Message



■ By Rocky Papalia

The Long winter is winding down and spring will be here soon. Along with that, our Annual School is just around the corner. All the finishing touches are being put on and it is shaping up to be an interesting one with many different topics for all investigators.

Regional training has been very well received, with the chapter going to areas we have not been in quite some

time. Canton hosted a training seminar on February 28. It was at a beautiful place which we will be going back to. With our working partners at M.A.P.C. the Port Huron regional was the largest I have seen in a long time. We will keep up our relationship with the M.A.P.C. and continue to co-host regional training and look for new ideas.

My term as president has gone by quickly. I started planning as soon as I was elected second vice-president. The ideas that I had have been turned into reality only because of the great team we have! The board we have this year has worked very hard on the assignments that were given to them. Our Treasurer David Teriaco has again done a super job, along with Secretary Craig Robertson. They have both made this year easier for me.

I have to thank Chief Jim Tuller of Traverse City Fire for heading up the regional training committee and the freshman board members Nicole Hamilton and Dan Terski has been unbelievable. I gave Dan some direction and turned him loose and he has reached out to his contacts in the state to get all the regional training going. This all from first year members! Also I need to thank past board member Ken Doroh for his help on the Westside of the state.

Gary, you have little to worry about. There is a **GREAT** team in place and I won't be just stepping into the background! Thank you all for the past eight years on the board. It has been rewarding and the highlight of my career.

Learn, Have Fun & Be Safe!

## PERSPECTIVES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Two-thousand-nine promises to be a year of expanding membership and chapter services from the IAAI.

Two-thousand-eight was a year of transition with efforts to introduce our new Maryland based staff to the traditions and expectations of the leadership and membership of the IAAI. Your staff is now in place and ready to implement expanded services.

The Board of Directors', at their Mid-year Board Meeting approved an action plan for 2009. There are a number of new initiatives that are overdue.

First there will be an expanded communications program from the IAAI, which will be designed to keep members current on new developments in the fire investigation field as well as with professional development opportunities.

- Beginning in December monthly pod casts will be available from CFITrainer.net. These will stress the most current information, which will also be available on our web site.
- Expanded resources on our redesigned web site for members and chapters with both a Member Resource Center and a Chapter



A.J. Wilson

Resource Center. We expect this to be available late spring 2009.

- An electronic newsletter available on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. This will be available starting in the spring of 2009.
- Expanded class offerings on CFITrainer.net.
- A regular communication to chapter presidents from the IAAI office.

Second, the Board approved the establishment of the Fire Investigation Technician program. This program, which will begin at the Annual

Training Conference meeting in May in Arlington, Texas. It will offer a basic professional recognition option for those who are new to the fire investigation profession or whose responsibilities focus on scene investigations and less on courtroom testimony. The Training and Education Committee will develop competency requirements and an easily accessible test will be developed and placed on the testing platform at the CFITrainer.net website.

Third, a new IAAI Foundation was established at the mid-year meeting, which will open up opportunities for fundraising and broad public offerings of training, research and professional development options for fire investigators.

Finally, IAAI is positioned to begin a much broader based program that will increase service IAAI chapters. You will be hearing about some new options for chapters to enhance their services to their membership. IAAI chapters serve more than 20,000 members whose affiliation with IAAI will be strengthened by this effort.

Two-thousand-nine promises to be a year of action.

# Modular Homes & Appliance Failure Fire Investigation School

(Sponsored by Michigan Arson Prevention Committee)



## June 8-11, 2009

Kettenun Center, Tustin, Michigan • Cost: \$425.00

In a continuing effort to provide quality training for individuals involved in fire investigation, the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee is sponsoring a Modular Homes & Appliance Failure Fire Investigation School. The school is designed to educate insurance, fire and law enforcement investigators who investigate modular home and appliance failure fires.

The school curriculum will consist of classes in: building construction; fire dynamics; origin and cause investigation; appliances and electrical.

Class size will be limited to a maximum of 35 students. The school is open to all police, fire investigators; CIS insurance investigators and adjusters.

This program will include hands-on training with live burn sessions. Please bring all investigative tools and clothing to do a thorough fire investigation during the hands-on training. Cameras are permitted and recommended.

**Minimum number of students is required to hold this school – please apply early!**

### SEND APPLICATIONS TO:

Michigan Arson Prevention Committee  
C/O James LaBuhn  
23 Old Course  
St. Clair, MI 48079

**Questions please call: (313) 877-7027 or (810) 326-1477**

### REGISTRATION FORM

#### MODULAR HOMES & APPLIANCE FAILURE FIRE INVESTIGATION SCHOOL

**June 8-11, 2009**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## *Arson a hard crime to solve, experts say*

■ **By Tom Infield**  
**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
 INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

**A**rson is a very hard crime to solve, experts say.

As authorities struggle to find the source of 14 deliberate fires in Coatesville since New Year's Day, they do so with the awareness that only 17 percent of arson fires are ever figured out.

The chances of making an arrest and getting a court conviction are even smaller - perhaps as low as 2 percent nationally, according to Doug Williams, arson-training specialist at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md.

"Short of someone witnessing the act and being able to identify [the arsonist] without a doubt, getting a conviction will be tough," Williams said yesterday.

Williams, who was familiar with news accounts of the Coatesville arson spree, which included the destruction of 15 rowhouses early Sunday, said investigators will have to look at many possible motives for the fires.

"Is it a bunch of kids thinking it's fun and cute? Or is it a serial arsonist? Is it drug-related? Is it gang-related?"

"You've got to ask all the right questions," he said, "and you've got to peel the onion to see what it might be."

In 2007, according to the National Fire Protection Association, 32,500 arson fires caused 295 deaths and \$733 million in property damage across the country.

The U.S. Fire Administration has said that arson is the leading cause of fires in America. After fires related to cooking and smoking, arson is the third-leading cause of fire-related injuries and deaths.

"Poorer neighborhoods experience 14 times the number of arsons as higher-income neighborhoods," the agency has said.

About half of all arsonists are juveniles.

Solving arsons requires the same police footwork that any crime requires, said J. Ronald McCardle, formerly of Chester County, who recently retired as principal arson investigator for the state of Florida.

"When you look at a series of fires, documentation is probably the hardest thing you have to do," McCardle said. "You have to start looking for consistencies. Sometimes it can be very frustrating and difficult."

As is typical in high-profile arson cases, state and local authorities have joined with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to form a task force to probe the Coatesville fires.

"Each of these people in the task force would bring a broad range of knowledge and expertise," McCardle said. "They complement one another. That's how it works."

Investigators have other tools, as well.

The state police have several crime labs for close examination of evidence. The ATF has experts in drawing up psychological profiles of particular arsonists. Investigators can even use dogs trained to sniff out inflammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene and diesel fuel.

"These are very time-consuming investigations," said Special Agent John Hageman, spokesman for the Pennsylvania ATF office in Philadelphia.

He noted that one thing that makes arson investigations so tough is that "often times the evidence may be burned in the fire."

In Coatesville, police already have arrested a 22-year-old man and charged him in connection with an arson fire that killed an 83-year-old woman on Dec. 7. The man reportedly was cooperating with officials in solving other arsons.

But the fires didn't stop.

Said McCardle: "You've got to make everything fit together like pieces in a big puzzle. You've got hundreds and hundreds of pieces out there, and you've got to start building up that puzzle."

### **The True Cost of Expertise**

**I**nurance companies who select origin and cause investigators and engineers based on their hourly rate get exactly what they deserve.

Consider that you might have fifty fires a year to investigate, and the average investigation takes twenty hours. If you hire an investigator who works for \$100 per hour rather than the investigator who works for \$150 per hour, you can save your company \$50,000 per year, (assuming that the \$100 per hour man doesn't stretch the time out to thirty hours per case.) If you only have ten fires a year to investigate, those "savings" fall to \$10,000.

One bad faith lawsuit will wipe out all of the "savings" on defense costs alone. One settlement of a bad faith claim will wipe out years of so called "savings". One missed opportunity at subrogation can do the same thing.

Check out the real bottom line. Find out what the average cost of an investigation is, rather than the hourly rate. And check whether the investigator or his company has been sued or caused their clients to be sued.



# MICHIGAN ARSON PREVENTION COMMITTEE

A COORDINATED ATTACK ON ARSON

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Detroit: (313) 877-7027  
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St. Clair: (810) 326-1477

## Structural/Mobile Property Live Burn Seminar

This one-day seminar is intended for insurance personnel, police and fire officials. It will focus on incendiary fires and accidental causes. There will be a live burn involving two vehicles in a garage structure; also we will have live burns involving a boat, camper, ATV, motorcycles and various motor vehicles.

Students should wear old clothes, boots, gloves, bring a camera or video (your discretion) and a lawn or bag chair (*no other seating available*).

**Friday, June 19, 2009**

**8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

**INSTRUCTORS:**

Walter Herndon and staff  
Herndon & Associates

**800-961-2909**

**LOCATION:**

Auto Salvage Auction  
5000 N. State Road  
Davison, Michigan 48423

**800-221-3707**



***Registration - \$75.00 fee - includes lunch (checks only)***

---

**Structural/Mobile Property Live Burn Seminar – June 19, 2009**

**Make checks payable to: M.A.P.C.**

**Tax ID #38-2623605**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to:* MAPC c/o Herndon & Associates  
36135 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48150

## THIS YEAR'S ARSON SCHOOL SEMINAR WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SPEAKERS:

### ■ **Bob Kramer**

#### **Financial Aspects**

*Retired ATF, Auditor – Cincinnati, OH*

This program will deal with the financial aspects of your investigation. Bob is past president of IAAI and has taught throughout the world including past Michigan Seminars. He brings a great deal of knowledge when dealing with "financial aspects". He co-authored the "Who's Minding the Store" Seminar and has assisted on many investigations in Michigan as well as throughout the US.

### ■ **Dan Marsano, CIFI-CFE**

#### **Linguistic Interviewing**

*Director, Special Investigations*

*Vice President, SIU Prudential Ins. Co.*

The ability to conduct a thorough and comprehensive interview is the most important skill an investigator needs. This session will provide a firm foundation for extracting maximum information during an interview process, while also exploring proven methods for the detection of deception and/or missing information. Utilizing linguistic analysis techniques, we will discuss ways to find the hidden clues in the subject's own language that present a clearer picture of what happened and what the subject really knows.

### ■ **Sgt. Scott LeRoy**

#### **Meth Labs, Important Information**

*"What Investigators Must Be*

*Aware of While Conducting a Fire Investigation?" MSP - FIU*

A member of the Meth/Response Team (Michigan State Police) Sgt. LeRoy will bring his experience and expertise when dealing with Meth/Labs. He has processed over 100 scenes with one-third of them being involved in a fire incident.

### ■ **Joseph P. Toscano, CFI**

#### **"Success in the Courtroom"**

*Fire Investigation & Litigation Support  
East Haven, Connecticut*

Joseph Toscano has been involved in all aspects of the field of fire investigation and case management for the past 30 years. He is an internationally known lecturer and author of effective investigative

techniques and solutions for the Insurance Industry, Law Enforcement, Fire Service and Legal Professions. His expertise includes Fire Origin and Cause, Large Loss Investigations Management, Curriculum Development, Claim Division and SIU Training, Subrogation and Fraud Investigation.

### ■ **Bill Proctor**

#### **"Media Relationships that Must be Established"**

*ABC-Channel 7 Detroit, News Reporter*

Mr. Proctor has taught at numerous law enforcement and fire seminars including Oakland County's annual seminar – "Staff and Command" and numerous others. Mr. Proctor will bring his expertise in supplying investigators with needed information to work with news media during any investigation.

### ■ **James Hewson**

#### **"How and Why Fire Investigators Must Work with the Civil Side"**

*Attorney - Hewson & VanHelleMont,  
Warren, Michigan*

Mr. Hewson will speak on how important it is for all governmental investigators to work with the civil side of their investigation. It is a team effort to seek all information and the importance of "information exchanges" that must take place. Mr. Hewson has taught at numerous fire/arson seminars, IASIU seminars and is well known for "getting" needed information from all persons involved.

### ■ **Al Norris**

#### **"What NICB Can Do To Assist in Your Investigation"**

*National Information Crime Bureau*

Information exchange is vital for a complete investigation. Mr. Norris will discuss what the NICB can provide to investigators. A great "source of information" for all investigators.

### ■ **Norm Reese**

#### **Electrical Engineer**

*"Electrical Fire Investigations"*

Norm has taught at numerous IAAI schools as well as MAPC seminars throughout the state. Norm brings a wealth of knowledge when it

comes to fire investigations. Norm is an electrical engineer who is also an adjunct professor at MSU and has testified in numerous cases. Norm will discuss electrical fire investigations and how they relate to both the public and private investigations.

### ■ **Mark E. Davison**

#### **Special Agent FBI**

*Clinton Township Office*

*Clinton Township, MI*

#### **"Agriculture, Chemical & Petroleum Industry Terrorism"**

Being first responders to all fire scene incidents Special Agent Mark Davison will discuss agriculture, chemical and petroleum terrorism. Although no solution counters the dangers we face as a nation from terrorists, developing working relationships among the emergency community and industry will foster cooperation and improve communications. Topics to be covered-Laws, Executive orders, threat overview, National response, triggers, communication process/flow and most importantly information exchange.

### ■ **Robert Shieko**

#### **Assistant/Special State Atty. General**

*Michigan Attorney General Office*

*Retired Wayne Co. Prosecutors Office*

#### **"RICO ACT"**

Bob will discuss the RICO Act and how it affects fire investigators and their investigations. Conspiracy and having the tools to work with when conducting such investigations.

### \*\*\*\*\* SPECIAL NOTE \*\*\*\*\*

#### **Great Lakes Loons baseball game set for May 13th in Midland**

Please be advised that the Midland "Great Lake Loons" are in during our week in Mt. Pleasant. It is a minor league team and very good baseball. We are asking if anyone is interested in attending a game on Wednesday night- we would rent a bus and go to Midland about 5:30 pm. Anyone interested please email Jim LaBuhn at jameslabuhn@comcast.net. Cost will be approximately \$30.00 per person which includes: ticket, bus ride and some refreshments on the bus. We need to support our vendors so we will have to get back and mingle prior to hospitality closing.



# MICHIGAN CHAPTER - IAAI

## 2009 Annual Arson School

### May 12-15, 2009



COMFORT INN • MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN

#### REGISTRATION FEES:

#### Before April 17, 2009

Member (weekly) ..... \$125.00  
 Non-Member (weekly) .... \$150.00  
 Member (daily) ..... \$ 35.00  
 Non-Member (daily) ..... \$ 45.00  
 Add'l Banquet Ticket ..... \$ 35.00

#### After April 17, 2009

Member (weekly) ..... \$150.00  
 Non-Member (weekly)... \$175.00  
 Member (daily) ..... \$ 45.00  
 Non-Member (daily) .... \$ 55.00  
 Add'l Banquet Ticket .... \$ 35.00

#### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

#### Comfort Inn

2424 South Mission  
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**(989) 772-4000**

ROOM RATE: \$69.00 plus tax  
 (Regular Room)

– NO REFUNDS after April 27, 2009 –

*Certified Fire Inspectors Points have been requested - and 302 funds - application for this school has been submitted.*

**FULL REGISTRATION INCLUDES:** The Banquet, Icebreaker on Tuesday evening and lunches on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Breakfast and dinner on your own. Banquet will be held Thursday after the annual meeting. Room rates at the Comfort Inn is \$69.00 per night. Reservations for the school must be made by the individual attendees directly with Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant at (989) 772-4000.

### SCHEDULE

#### Tuesday, May 12th

8:00-9:00 am – Registration  
 9:00-9:30 am – Opening Ceremonies, Welcome & Introductions  
 9:30 am-12:00 noon – Agricultural, Chemical & Petroleum  
 Terrorism – Mark E. Davison, Special Agent - FBI  
 12:00 noon-1:00 pm – Lunch  
 1:00-3:00 pm – Financial Aspects – Robert Kramer  
 3:00-5:00 pm – Meth Labs: What Investigators Need to Know –  
 Sgt. Scott LeRoy  
 6:00 pm – Hospitality Room

#### Wednesday, May 13th

8:00-10:00 am – Electrical – Norm Reese  
 10:00 am-12:00 noon – NICB – Al Norris  
 12:00 noon-1:00 pm – Lunch

1:00-5:00 pm – Linguistic Interviewing – Dan Marsona  
 6:00-9:00 pm – Vendor's Hospitality

#### Thursday, May 14th

8:00 am-12:00 noon – Success in the Courtroom – Joseph  
 Toscano  
 12:00 noon-1:00 pm – Lunch  
 1:00-3:00 pm – Media Relationships that must be Established –  
 Bill Proctor  
 3:00-6:00 pm – Annual IAAI Meeting; Business Meeting  
 6:30 pm – Hospitality  
 7:00 pm – Banquet-Awards Program

#### Friday, May 15th

8:00-10:00 am – RICO Act – Robert Shieko  
 10:00 am-12:00 noon – Litigation – Jim Hewson  
 12:00 noon – Dismissal/Certificates Testing

#### MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND FEES TO:

Michigan Chapter IAAI, 2009 Arson School, P.O. Box 187, Dimondale, MI 48821

*Make checks payable to "Michigan Chapter IAAI"*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Michigan IAAI # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_



# GOLF OUTING

**Monday, May 11, 2009**

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE • SHOT GUN START 9:00 A.M.

**BUCK'S RUN**

1559 S. Chippewa Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
(989) 773-6830

**SPECIAL NOTE: "Spikeless Shoes" must be worn.  
NO METAL SPIKES – NO BLUE JEANS  
and you will need a collared shirt.**

**\$80.00 per person**

INCLUDES: CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST; 18 HOLES OF GOLF WITH CART,  
HOT DOG AT TURN, GOURMET BURGER BAR, PRIZES AND AWARDS.

Please attempt to secure a foursome,  
BUT we will put individuals and other  
smaller groups together to make a foursome.

**Hole Sponsorships \$125.00**

A hole sign with the sponsor's name will be placed at tee-boxes  
throughout the course. (The hole sponsor monies are used to  
purchase the prizes and offset the cost for this event.)



**GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION FORM:**

Golfer #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Golfer #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Golfer #4 \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORSHIP FORM:**

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make all checks payable to: "MICHIGAN CHAPTER IAAI"**

SEND TO: James LaBuhn  
23 Old Course  
St. Clair, MI 48079

**Questions please call: (810) 326-1477**



# Canton Township Fire Dept. sponsors a Regional training day

■ By Nichole Hamilton

On March 28, 2009, IAAI along with Canton Township Fire Department sponsored a Regional training day. The location was the Cherry Hill Village Theater in Canton Township. The topics that were covered were; interviewing for Prosecution by Greg Townsend- Oakland County Prosecutor, SCAN by Michigan State Police Det./Sgt. Kenneth Walker, Report writing by Dave Row-Donan Investigation and Incident Debriefing by Gene Utke- Saint John Mercy Hospital.

We learned from Greg Townsend legal aspects for fire investigation, what exactly you need to obtain a warrant, what you need to get a conviction, purpose of police reports for your case, preparing to testify in court,

words to never say in court, what to wear and act in court and what each stage means to the case.

We learned from Det./Sgt Kenneth Walker about SCAN. This class taught us to really listen to what the person you are interviewing has to say. We were taught to recognize key words or phrases that will open up the dialog to further follow up questions, to never brush off a comment the person gives you as a "Freudian Slip". SCAN was developed by Mr. Avinoam Sapir developed SCAN, SCAN will help you to unlock the truth, how SCAN won't show the person is lying but how they recall this event from their memory.

We learned from Dave Row how to have a report that will stand up in court, how to present the information to our audience while following your

own departmental rules and regulations, how to start the report on paper just like you would be describing the scene when you arrived, start from the basics- how you were assigned to this scene, who was present when you arrived, the general scope of the scene, description of what you are investigating, synopsis of the people you interviewed at that scene, describing the area of origin and what was first ignited, how you eliminated the other possible sources of ignition, what you smells that you noticed and burn patterns you observed, use footnotes to describe any technical terms you might have used, use clear terms showing what you determined this scene to be- accident or arson while recapping the entire report for a detailed ending of the scene.

We learned from Gene Utke how to work with those involved in a tragedy. We learned how to speak to them in terms that a person could understand. Gene also explained how important it is that while talking to the person you should avoid statements like, "I know how you feel" by saying that, the person might shut down or become offended. Gene suggests that you ask the person to describe their feelings in tangible terms.

By doing this, you help the person to be more grounded and better able to focus their attentions to looking into the future and seeing past this part in their life. Gene also gave ideas on how we as fire investigators need to take care of ourselves. We need to make sure that we have the proper tools in our tool chest so that we will be able to cope when a horrific situation arises.

The IAAI and Canton Township Fire Department would like to thank all of you that attended this training and the trainers who volunteered their time. This was a wonderful and educational day for us. If you have any training topics you would like to have covered please email the board or give us a call.

## For the Fire Service Coalition:

■ By Paul Hufnagel

I sent a message to both the lobbyist for the Fire Service Coalition (no response) and then a message from Paul Hufnagel giving the decision to drop the MI IAAI from the coalition were:

IAAI's current status is that it is no longer a member of the Michigan Fire Service Coalition. This determination was made recently by the members of the Coalition when the IAAI failed to respond to a letter sent last fall (2008 - copy of letter in the attachment) to Mr. Robert Puddy, President, IAAI-Michigan.

This decision was based on several factors, two of those are:

- IAAI's inability to participate financially in the Fire Coalition's work at the State Capitol. All of the organizations participating in the Coalition contribute to our legislative efforts.
- IAAI includes private sector organization(s) in its membership. The Fire Service Coalition was formed to represent public sector organizations on issues affecting Michigan's fire service at the Capitol.

I know that you wish to continue participating in the Fire Service Coalition, but it's apparent that the executive board of the IAAI-Michigan does not have that same interest.

I want to thank you for your past participation on the Coalition, we valued your input on issues. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any of the representatives serving on Michigan Fire Service Coalition.

## **ATTN: TRAINING OFFICERS AND ALL INVESTIGATORS**

### ***Turn every investigator into a “walking polygraph”!***

**T**he LSI SCAN basic course and advanced workshop will be held in the Detroit, Michigan area on **April 20-23, 2009**. The course will be held at the Michigan State Police, Metro South Post #25 in Taylor, Michigan.

**SCAN by LSI**, sometimes referred to as “statement analysis”:

- is a unique, effective technique for obtaining information and detecting deception strictly by means of verbal communication.
- SCAN (Scientific Content Analysis) gives you the maximum information from every interview.
- in preliminary screening, SCAN eliminates individuals who are not involved, enabling you to concentrate on the real suspects.

- SCAN taps the most effective source of information - the person's own words!

**SCAN gives the investigator a major effective tool** for obtaining information and detecting deception from every statement. SCAN transforms the investigator from an ordinary "collector of information" into a "walking polygraph".

**SCAN will reduce the time of investigation** for your department; it will avoid costly unnecessary investigation, thus saving money, work time, and manpower; **and it will solve cases that otherwise would be left unsolved.**

Immediately following the basic course, The LSI SCAN advanced workshop will give the student hands-on guided practice in analyzing statements for various types of cases, enabling the student to utilize his/her knowledge of the SCAN technique in a more efficient and effective way.

### **Training your personnel in the SCAN technique will be the best investment in their law enforcement career.**

The tuition fee for the basic course is \$600 per student. For groups of two or more students, we offer a special rate of \$900 for two students, and \$450 for each additional student. The tuition for the advanced workshop is \$375 per student.

**Special discount package:** if a student registers for both the LSI SCAN basic course and advanced workshop, the total tuition fee for the two courses will be \$800.

Registrations may be paid by check (payable to LSI), credit card or purchase order. To register for the course or to request further information, please call us at the phone or fax number mentioned below.

### ***SCAN by LSI - the only way to “make a statement talk”!***

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

LSI, Laboratory for Scientific Interrogation  
P.O. Box 17286 • Phoenix, AZ 85011-7286

e-mail: [info@LSISCAN.com](mailto:info@LSISCAN.com)  
phone: 602-279-3113 or 800-727-3113  
fax: 602-277-7502

**[www.LSISCAN.com](http://www.LSISCAN.com)**



*In Cooperation with Isabella County Sheriff's Office*

*Presents*

## **37th Annual ORIGIN & CAUSE SEMINAR**

**DR. JOHN DEHAAN & DR. DAVE ICOVE**

Present selected topics on

**Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction**

**Thursday & Friday - April 30th & May 1, 2009**

**HELD AT: OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE AUBURN HILLS CAMPUS - BUILDING F**  
OAKLAND COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF ARSON AND FIRE INVESTIGATORS INC.

SERVING SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN-

*This Will Be A Tested Seminar*

Fire Inspector CEU Points and MCOLES Applied For

OAKLAND COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF  
ARSON & FIRE INVESTIGATORS INC.

### **- SEMINAR FEE -**

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>OCAAFII Members Seminar</b> .....        | <b>\$100.00</b> |
| <b>Non Members Seminar</b> .....            | <b>\$110.00</b> |
| <b>Fire Scene Reconstruction Book</b> ..... | <b>\$60.00</b>  |

*Fee includes seminar, handouts, and certificate, coffee and light refreshments in the A.M. and P.M.*

*Lunch provided both days.*

*Please indicate if you would like the book included in registration. The book will be reserved for you at the seminar.*

**Please reproduce and submit one copy for each attendee**

---

### **REGISTRATION FORM for 37th Annual Origin & Cause Seminar Thursday & Friday - April 30th & May 1, 2009**

Complete and return this registration form with your check no later than April 1, 2009.

Fill out your home address if you would like all mailings to go to that address.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENCY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BUS. ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE # ( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**O.C.A.A.F.I.I. MEMBER** YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

**FIRE SCENE RECONSTRUCTION BOOK (optional)** YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

#### **MAIL TO:**

**O.C.A.A.F.I.I. Annual Seminar  
P.O. Box 1904  
Royal Oak, MI 48068**

# Serving the public has always been top priority

Monday, January 12, 2009  
5:52 AM EST

## GUEST OPINION: Margaret Scott

In October of 1988, the Oakland County prosecutor was L. Brooks Patterson. His chief assistant prosecutor, Richard Thompson, was running for election as Patterson had decided to "retire" from office.

It was an office that ran based on a philosophy that we were the victim's lawyer. It was in October of 1988 that Patterson and Thompson gave me, a 25-year-old law school graduate from Green Oak Township in Livingston County, my chance to help others.

In 1988, there were no cell phones, voicemails, e-mails, faxes or laptop computers. We survived and thrived with typewriters, our co-workers and a great support staff.

It was my privilege to serve the people of the state of Michigan as an Oakland County assistant prosecutor under both Patterson and Thompson as well as David Gorcyca, when he beat out the Democratic candidate in a too close to call election in November of 1996.

From that October day in 1988 until Dec. 31, I was proud to represent the Oakland County prosecutor.

My 20 years as an assistant prosecuting attorney were spent as a trial prosecutor with the majority of my career spent as the chief of the Auto Theft Unit.

It was in that capacity that I learned to appreciate the value of a "beater" car owned by the single mom who, because of the criminal conduct of another, was not able to take her children to school or get herself to work.

I was faced with the ongoing fear of the victim of a late-night carjacking. I was brought to near tears by the testimony of a woman as she told a courtroom full of strangers how masked gunmen broke into her home, bound her with her own rope and threw her into a furnace room just to get her jewelry and motor vehicle.

I wish to thank Patterson, Thompson and Gorcyca as well as the too numerous to mention law enforcement officers, judges, members of the criminal defense bar and last, but certainly not least, all those whose misfortune lead to our meeting, the victims of crime.

I will always look back at my time with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office and remember the people who all came together to make our community a safer place to live, work and play.

I wish all the best to those who will continue to represent the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, who on a daily basis will start their day the way I started my days, with the following phase: "Margaret Scott on behalf of the people of the state of Michigan." To all of you, remember, you do God's work.

I will continue my legal career as an attorney with the law firm of Hewson and Van Hellemont in Oak Park, not far from where I first put my name on the record in the Royal Oak District Court.

I will still fight the good fight, and I still will be surrounded by great lawyers and I still will be able to work with law enforcement.

But I will leave a part of myself back at 1200 N. Telegraph.

Margaret A. Scott of Commerce Township is a former chief of the Auto Theft Unit of the Oakland County Prosecutor's office.

— Reprinted with permission from  
The Oakland Press

## Insurance Burn Training

■ By Dale L. Hardy

On October 4, 2009 a live house burn training was conducted in the Mio area involving the Tri-Town Fire Dept. Fairview Fire Dept., Greenwood Township Volunteer Fire Dept., Luzerne Volunteer Fire Dept., Rose City Fire Dept., the USFS Mio Station, District Judge Root and incoming Prosecutor Salomon.


An A-frame house was donated to the fire department for a local live burn training for the area fire departments. The certified asbestos inspection was donated by an area company and it did not show any asbestos in the structure. Several different sets were used in the training so the participants could see different burns and the resulting damage.

Everyone I talked with commented on the value of the training and benefit they received in viewing the set up and live burns. I had the chance to talk with the incoming prosecutor and Judge Root about the efforts of the firefighters and dangers in the extinguishment of the fires that need to be brought out in the arson trials, these are not just white collar crimes.

I want to thank the Chief Rom Bruner and the Tri-Town Fire Dept., Jim Maxwell, Garland Resort, Robin Bundoff and all those that donated supplies and their time to make this training a great success.

# REWARD

PUT THE ARSONISTS WHERE THEY BELONG  
The fires they set affect all of us!!



## UP TO \$5,000

FOR INFORMATION  
LEADING TO THE  
ARREST AND/OR  
CONVICTION OF  
ANYONE ON  
ARSON CHARGES

CALL "ARSON CONTROL"  
**1-800-44-ARSON**  
TOLL FREE

Funding provided by the Tobacco Institute. (AC-4S)



# MICHIGAN CHAPTER I.A.A.I. GENERAL STORE

## I.A.A.I. ITEMS FOR PURCHASE

### Hats

Baseball style cap with I.A.A.I. logo. One size fits all. Red, Blue, Black, White, Maroon, California Blue ..... **\$8.00**

### Pin

Item can be used as a lapel pin or tie tac pin. Approximately 5/8" x 5/8" with I.A.A.I. logo ..... **\$2.00**

### Window Sticker

Michigan I.A.A.I. approximately 3 1/2" x 4" with white background. Black lettering and red border ..... **\$1.00**

### Patch

Michigan I.A.A.I. approximately 3 1/2" x 4" with white background. Black lettering and red border ..... **\$2.00**

### Shirts

Golf style shirt, short sleeve with collar. I.A.A.I. logo. Available in: Blue, Black, Red, White and California Blue  
Large, XL **\$18.00** / 2XL and 3XL **\$20.00**

### 1/4 Zipper Sweatshirt

Dark Blue only ..... L - 2XL **\$30.00**

### T-Shirts

Short sleeve with I.A.A.I. logo. Blue, Black, Gray, Red and California Blue

Large and XL **\$13.00** / 2XL and 3XL **\$15.00**

Long Sleeve - Dark Blue only

Large - 2XL **\$15.00**

**"Fire Investigator Print"** ..... **\$20.00**

## MICHIGAN CHAPTER I.A.A.I. GENERAL STORE

### Order Form

#### For further information contact:

Gary Leirstein (734) 467-3251

#### Make Checks Payable To:

MICHIGAN CHAPTER I.A.A.I.

#### MAIL YOUR ORDER TO:

Gary Leirstein  
Westland Fire Department  
37201 Marquette  
Westland, MI 48185-3253

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION | SIZE | QUANTITY | PRICE EACH      | TOTAL |
|------|-------------|------|----------|-----------------|-------|
|      |             |      |          |                 |       |
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|      |             |      |          |                 |       |
|      |             |      |          | Shipping \$5.00 |       |

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COURTROOM TESTIMONY AND JUVENILE SCHOOL



### **JOIN TEAM ED!**

**“Build It and They Will Come”**

**T**raini**n**g, **E**ducati**o**n, **A**ffordabi**e**, **M**embership

***Experience:***

31 years in the fire service  
16 years in fire investigation branch  
8 years with private fire investigation firm  
16 years IAAI member  
10 annual training conferences

***IAAI Committees:***

Membership (2003 to present)  
Awards (2006 to present)

***Alberta Chapter:***

President: 1999 to 2001  
1st Vice President: 1998  
2nd Vice President: 1997  
Director: 1994 to 1997, 2005 to present



*“A man with a track record of commitment and integrity.  
A man who can help bring the IAAI closer to its vision of  
providing the best resources for you, the membership.”*

*Tom Littlechild, President  
ALBERTA CHAPTER*

**Vote ED ROSTALSKI for IAAI Director**

# Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

REPRINTED FROM *THE INVESTIGATOR*/JUNE 2008

■ By Noel Jarvis, MD, *Psychiatrist*

Aspects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are clearly defined by a veteran of 1969. At age 19 he had been a mechanic and rifleman in Vietnam. Veterans Affairs noted his six medals and other commendations. When I met him in 2002, he had completed a 12-step program and quit drinking for the first time in decades. He described his constant flashbacks after he was asked about slips in his speech during treatment for poorly defined anxiety and depression. His flashbacks included many corroborated details and his mental and physical stress responses were of someone undergoing a current life-threatening event. With both medical and mental components, and a diagnosis based partly on self-report, a thorough history taken by a psychiatrist with access to records is the best method of diagnosis.

Up to 90% of people experience at least one extremely traumatic incident. Most do not develop PTSD or suffer ongoing trauma, just as sunburn does not inevitably lead to skin cancer. It is generally accepted that 75% to 95% of individuals in traumatic situations will not develop PTSD and that more than half who do will recover. Those situations include violent assault, kidnapping, combat, severe accidents, diagnosis of a fatal illness, etc.

The normal stress reaction is a fear response by the amygdala that ends when the stressor is gone. The amygdala helps assess the level of danger and appropriate behavior with a dose-dependent 'fight or flight' reaction. Cortisol is released at the same time to help end this reaction.

Biologically, PTSD occurs when the normal response does not end. The veteran above had a resting heart rate of 102 early in treatment. It was called neurasthenia in the 1700s, soldier's heart in the Civil War and shell shock in WWI. Shortening the period of physical signs of stress after a crisis through rest and relaxation can help the normal stress reaction reassert itself.

In PTSD, the 'fight or flight' reaction is hyperactive. Cortisol levels may be below normal. Low cortisol levels can indicate prior traumas or even having a parent or twin with severe PTSD. Memories are partly formed by the arousal of enzymes that cortisol works to contain. Normal cortisol may explain why many survivors do not develop distressing memories.

Environmentally, learned coping mechanisms that predict a worse outcome include impulsive self-soothing behavior and social withdrawal. In a normal stress reaction, people show resiliency with self-awareness, impulse control, optimism, persistence and separating feeling from action. An environmental risk factor may be the event itself as one moves down the spectrum of horror, with purposeful violence such as torture implying more personal vulnerability and being less common than a car accident.

The basis of treatment lies in resumption of the ordinary rhythms of life – economic, familial, socio-cultural – that make the world intelligible and survivable. Cognitive behavior therapy and medications are usually indicated.

Take a look at the websites for more information regarding post-traumatic stress disorder:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-traumatic\\_stress\\_disorder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-traumatic_stress_disorder)

<http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/index.jsp>

The following website belongs to a local psychiatrist who is well known for his PTSD related work:

<http://ronalddturco.com/index.htm>

## 2008-2009 Committees

### Arson News

Lewis/LaBuhn/Weichert/Hamilton

### By-Laws/Ethics

Jenkinson

### Michigan Arson Prevention Committee

LaBuhn/Thomas/Papalia/Terski

### Certified Fire Investigators

Walker/Terski

### Legislative Joint Council

Kraai/Schrah

### Finance

Thomas/Teriaco

### General Store

Leirstein/Jenkinson/Kraai

### Membership

Teriaco

### Photo Contest

Walker

### Poster Contest

Robertson/Maxwell

### NFIRS

Ripke

### Regional Seminars

Robertson/Walker/Tuller

### Michigan Arson School

Papalia/Thomas/LaBuhn

Leirstein/Weichert

### Elections

Puddy

### Awards

Robertson

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### NFPA 1033/921

Ripke/Shinsky

### Webmaster

Turnquist

### Scholarship

Jenkinson/Tuller

### Display

Thomas/LaBuhn

### Fire Service Coalition

Hardy/Kraai

### Training

Walker/Ripke/Terski

**JOIN THE ANTI-ARSON TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS IN THE I.A.A.I.**

**REMEMBER THE THREE**

**R's**

- RECRUIT GOOD MEMBERS
- RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
- REVIVE YOUR INVOLVEMENT

We need dedicated members of the professional service of fire investigation. You will benefit by the informative, educational material published in **The Arson News**.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

**MICHIGAN CHAPTER - IAAI APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

New  
 Renewal

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL DATE OF BIRTH

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET

CITY STATE ZIP CODE


BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
AREA CODE AREA CODE

DEPT. OR COMPANY REPRESENTED \_\_\_\_\_  
(RELATED TO ARSON INVESTIGATION)

In What Capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

Are You a Member of IAAI? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you ever been convicted of a felony? \_\_\_\_\_

*I HEREBY MAKE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS AND AGREE TO BE BOUND THEREWITH.*



Send To:  
MICHIGAN CHAPTER IAAI  
P.O. Box 187  
Dimondale, Michigan 48821-0187

Enclose check payable to:  
MICHIGAN CHAPTER IAAI

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| SIGNATURE                              | DATE                 |
| RECOMMENDED BY MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING |                      |
| SIGNATURE                              |                      |
| Date _____                             | Membership No. _____ |

**Address Correction Requested**

**Are you receiving the Arson News regularly?** If not, please check your address label on this issue and fill out the change of address form below.

(ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**OLD** Address \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW** Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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