



The Fire Trailer News



Fall 2006

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Fire Trailer News

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The Fire Trailer News is the official publication of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association and is published four times a year: Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring. Views and opinions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the officers or membership of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. Articles, manuscripts and photos are solicited for this publication. No payment is made for contributions. Submissions should be sent to the editor. Appearance of advertisements in the Fire Trailer News does not constitute endorsement by the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. Advertisers shall not use the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association name or image in its commercial activities in any manner.

President's Message

Some fear change and others ignore it. This year has brought many changes, both personally and professionally. After 27 years of service with the Douglas County Fire Department, I retired and accepted a position as an investigator with Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services. Not only did I change employers, I also uprooted my family and moved them into a new home as well. The decision to make these changes was difficult. In my previous position, I was content, but my future was uncertain. I looked at my options, discussed it with my family, and we decided that change would be good for all of us.



We have all witnessed numerous changes within the fire investigation profession over the years. Decisions concerning the origins of fires and what caused them to occur are more closely scrutinized than ever before. Fire investigators must persuade the courts based on their education and experience to be recognized as an expert witness so they can testify in such areas as product subrogation and arson. If the fire investigator has not been willing to or has not kept up with changes in our profession they will be subject to having their testimony suppressed. If this occurs the case will be open for dismissal. The answer to this problem is training and education. It is my goal to find and offer quality educational opportunities for the members of the GFIA.

The Training and Education Committee met in October to prepare and plan for the upcoming 2007 GFIA Spring Seminar in Athens and the 43rd Southeastern Arson Seminar in Savannah. Suggestions provided by GFIA members, feedback from past seminars, and current issues affecting fire investigations were used to determine the training needs for our members. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those who are serving on the 2007 Training and Education Committee. They are Co-Chairs Kevin & Susan Cunningham, Co-Chairs Dana & Laurel Mason, April Hayes, Steve Sprouse, Bill Barrett, Bob Holland, Rod Sanders, Joe McKinnon, Jerry Wainwright, Joe Jones, Steve Pate, and Dan Guinn. The efforts put forth by the T & E Committee, both past and present, have been outstanding. I challenge each of you to get involved in your organization for the benefit of all.

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President's Message *(continued from Page 1)*

In May of this year I attended the IAAI Annual Training Conference in Denver. I represented the Georgia Chapter on behalf of President Bill Barrett who allowed me to attend in his place. We had a large Georgia contingent there. The conference allowed many of us to meet and fellowship with IAAI members from around the world. I encourage anyone who has an opportunity to make a future IAAI ATC to do so.

Please stay active in your Districts. Networking within your Districts can net you a wealth of information. As scheduling permits I will be traveling to as many District meetings as possible. If you have a future District meeting planned and would like me to visit, call me at 678-518-4892.

Be safe and I look forward to seeing you at our next seminar.

Wade Crider, President, GFIA

How successful is the Georgia Arson Control Program in Fighting Arson?

Since its inception in 1979, GAC has approved 454 rewards totaling \$1,228,850. The average reward paid is \$2,707 (as of 04/21/06). Total property damage from arson fires that resulted in rewards since 2004 is approximately \$3,172,900.

Upcoming Events



March 13-16, 2007

The Georgia Fire Investigator's Association Spring Seminar

Hosted by the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association and the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department.



April 29-May 4, 2007

International Association of Arson Investigators 58th Annual Training Conference and General Meeting. Located in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.



August 6-10, 2007

The 43rd Annual Southeastern Arson Seminar

Hosted by the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association and the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John W. Oxendine

Memories of the 42nd Annual Southeastern Arson Seminar



Savannah Fire Chief Charles Middleton addresses Seminar attendees



2007 Officers sworn-in

Memories of the 42nd Annual Southeastern Arson Seminar



Shun Borders (Hall County Fire Services) receives Bob Gore Scholarship Award



ATF Special Agent John Paul receives Investigator of the Year Award

Board Meeting Minutes – August 22, 2006

The following are the minutes as recorded by Secretary Mangan of the Board Meeting called by President Barrett on August 22, 2006 at the Southeastern Arson Seminar in Savannah.

Members present: Bill Barrett, Kyle Hendrix, Brian Clavier, Wade Crider, Kevin Cunningham, Daniel Gwinn, Sandra Van Landingham, Paul McGahee, Perry Hopkins, Ralph Newell, Bruce Satterfield, Steve Sprouse, Jane Cox, Dana Mason, Laurel Mason, Ken Grosch, Ed Canipelli, Charlie Mangan and Thom Burruss.

Meeting was called to order by President Barrett at 4:15pm.

Financial Report – Treasurer Ed Canipelli stated that as of June 30, 2006 the GFIA has total assets of \$31,039.02. For the past year, total income was \$6,932.39 and expenses totaled \$4,056.81 for a profit of \$2,875.58.

Membership – Jane Cox stated there are 457 members of the GFIA. Jane read the names of 22 new applications for membership and Kevin Cunningham made a motion to accept them. Laurel Mason seconded the motion. It passed without opposition.

Training and Education – Kevin Cunningham said there were 244 attendees at this year's Southeastern Arson Seminar.

Athens is being looked at for the Spring Seminar.

Tires on the trailer are dry rotted and need to be replaced.

New Business – Don Carlisle sent a note of appreciation to the GFIA for the contribution to the American Heart Association in the name of his deceased wife.

Bill Barrett said the President of the GFIA or a representative appointed by the President of the GFIA will sit on a Fire Fighter's Standard Training Council Committee to review applicants that want to become certified Fire Investigators in the State of Georgia.

District News:

Northwest District – Bruce Satterfield stated they meet bi-monthly. They have 27 members.

Northeast District – Ken Grosch said they meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month. They have 24 active members.

Metro District – Perry Hopkins said they meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The elections for officers are now held in August at the same time of the Southeastern Arson Seminar. They have 40 members.

East Central District – Dan Gwinn said he just sent out a mass mail out to try to get people to join.

Southwest District – Paul McGahee said they meet every 2 months and they have 26 members.

Southeast District – Brian Clavier said they meet every 2 months.

Ed Canipelli made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Thom Burruss.

Membership Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2006

The following are the minutes as recorded by Secretary Mangan of the Membership Meeting held on August 23, 2006 at the Southeastern Arson Seminar in Savannah.

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Barrett at 5:00pm.

Motion by Thom Burruss to waive the reading of the minutes. Zane Newman seconded. Motion passed without opposition.

Financial Report – Treasurer Ed Canipelli stated that as of June 30, 2006 the GFIA has total assets of \$31,039.02. For the past year, total income was \$6,932.39 and expenses totaled \$4,056.81 for a profit of \$2,875.58.

Membership Meeting – Jane Cox stated there are 457 members of the GFIA. Jane read the names of 22 new applications for membership and they were accepted at the board meeting.

Extra membership directories can be purchased for \$10.00.

Training and Education – Kevin Cunningham said there were 244 attendees at this year's Southeastern Arson Seminar.

The tires on the trailer are dry rotted and are being replaced today.

Athens is being looked at for the Spring Seminar.

New Business – Bill Barrett said the President of the GFIA or a representative appointed by the President of the GFIA will sit on a Fire Fighter's Standard Training Council Committee to review applicants that want to become certified Fire Investigators in the State of Georgia.

Election Results –

Charlie Mangan was elected Second V.P.

Doug Byron was elected Secretary.

Ed Canipelli was elected Treasurer.

Thom Burruss made a motion to destroy the ballots. Zane Newman seconded motion. Passed without opposition.

District News:

Northwest District – Bruce Satterfield stated they meet bi-monthly. They have 27 members.

Northeast District – Ken Grosch said they meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month. They have 24 active members. Brian Smith will be President next year.

Metro District – Perry Hopkins said they meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Elections for the Metro District will now be held in August. They have 40 members.

East Central District – Dan Gwinn said he just sent out a mass mail out to try to get people to join. He is trying to set up a meeting in October.

Southwest District – Vernon Singley said they meet every 2 months and they have 26 members.

Southeast District – James Ashdown said they meet every 2 months.

Bob Doran thanked the membership for the condolences sent for his father and also asked the membership for their support in his upcoming election for the IAAI Board.

Rob Rush also asked the membership for their support in his upcoming election for the IAAI Board.

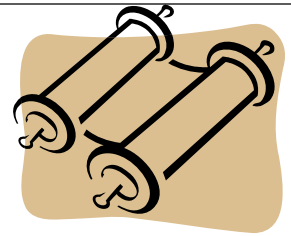
Thom Burruss made a motion to adjourn and Kevin Cunningham seconded the motion.

Chaplains Corner

Psalm 15

A psalm of David.

- 1** LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary?
Who may live on your holy hill?
- 2** He whose walk is blameless
and who does what is righteous,
who speaks the truth from his heart
- 3** and has no slander on his tongue,
who does his neighbor no wrong
and casts no slur on his fellowman,



I don't know about you guys but **Psalm 15:1-3** is a lot harder to do than it sounds. It is amazing to me that the same tongue we use to tell our family how much we love them, and to talk with God, is the same tongue used to say hurtful and spiteful thing about those we work with, associate with, and even go to church with.

We all should stop and think about what we are going to say before we say it. If everyone did this at work and home, can you imagine the stress we could avoid in our lives?

Proverbs 10:14 has summed it up for us;

14 Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.

Your Brother in Christ,

Bill Barrett, Chaplain



Your Online Resource for Recalls

NEWS from CPSC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2006

Release #06-091

CPSC Approves New Flammability Standard for Mattresses Federal standard could prevent 270 deaths each year

The new mandatory flammability standard for mattresses is the first major regulation passed by the CPSC in the agency's history. A major rule is one that has more than a \$100 million annual impact on the economy. When fully effective, CPSC estimates the new mandatory standard for mattresses is likely to save as many as 270 lives, preventing 78 percent of the deaths, and 1,330, or 84 percent of the injuries currently occurring every year.

"Consumers who purchase a new mattress that meets this standard will add an important layer of fire safety protection to their home," said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton. "Lives will be saved as a result of this standard, as it requires new mattresses to limit the spread and intensity of a mattress fire, which will give people more time to escape from their residence."

The mandatory standard addresses mattress fires ignited by open flame sources, including matches, candles, lighters, and other related scenarios. The test protocol was developed in coordination with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). "NIST's contribution to CPSC's development of this standard was invaluable," said Stratton.

Under the new mandatory federal rule, mattress sets must meet a performance standard. The CPSC does not specify how manufacturers are to design their mattresses to meet the standard. The new federal standard for mattresses goes into effect on July 1, 2007. In the performance standard, the peak heat release rate is limited to 200 kW during a 30 minute test. The total heat release is limited to 15 MJ within the first 10 minutes of the test.

Cigarette ignition is covered by a separate mandatory standard. That standard, 16 CFR Part 1632, has been in place for more than 30 years during which deaths and injuries from mattress fires caused by smoking materials have fallen dramatically.

THE GEORGIA FIRE INVESTIGATOR'S
ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 382
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**The Georgia Fire Investigator's Association
Spring Seminar**



March 13-16, 2007

Hosted by
the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association
And the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department