



The Fire Trailer News



Spring 2006

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Fire Trailer News

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Second VP: Zane Newman
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Phone: 229-924-4411

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Phone: 404-584-3786

Treasurer: Ed Canipelli
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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

I just want to start by telling all of the members of GFIA what an honor it is to represent the organization as President this year. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our members through instructing in the Basic and Advanced Arson Training programs at the GPSTC over the years.

Last year's 41st Southeastern Arson Seminar was a great success. I am looking forward to seeing all of you back at this year's seminar. The better our attendance, the better quality programs we will be able to provide.

Our T&E Committee did an outstanding job on putting together the Spring Seminar, but without the help of the members of the Henry County Fire Department we would not have been able to present the program in a quality manner as we did. I just want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for a job well done by all members of the Henry County Fire Department who were involved.

The T&E Committee has put in place

the instructors and material that will be taught at this year's Southeastern Arson Seminar. The pamphlets should be mailed out shortly.

As it appears right now we are looking at two sites for next year's Spring



Seminar; White County and Athens. Hopefully we will have more information by the Southeastern Arson Seminar.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the (continued on page 4)

District News

Metro District - The Metro Fire Investigator's Association meets every third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 at Manuel's Tavern located at 602 N Highland Ave., Atlanta.

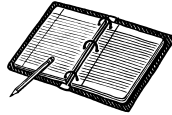
phopkins@fast-lab.com or 770- 449-4199.

Northwest District - Contact District VP Bruce Satterfield at 706-278-7363 ext. 223 or bsattrfld.fd@citydalton.net

The 2006 MFIA Officers are as follows:
President - Perry Hopkins - FAST - at

(continued on page 5)

Upcoming Events



August 21 - 25, 2006 - 42nd Southeastern Arson Seminar - Once again, this year's seminar will be held at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel in historical Savannah and will be hosted by the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association and the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's Office. **Registration brochures have been mailed and are available online at www.gfia-iaai.org.** Hotel Reservations can be made at the Marriott by calling 912-233-7722. **Please specify "Southeastern Arson Seminar" when making reservations.** Room rate is \$116 per night plus tax and includes onsite parking. Reservations at the Marriott Riverfront must be received no later than July 21, 2006. Reservations will be accepted after July 21, 2006 on a space-available basis and may be charged at the normal hotel rate.

For questions contact Susan Cunningham - 770-978-1251, April Hayes - 404-656-0533 or Laurel Waters - 770-982-0210.

CFI Trainer - CFITrainer.net is designed to bring the resources of the more than 8000 members of the IAAI together with highly experienced media professionals to provide up to date, high quality training directly to the fire investigators throughout the world. While CFITrainer.net will assist individuals seeking IAAI-CFI certification, or recertification, the program is intended for and available to all fire investigators regardless of their level of training or certification. Currently available courses include: *An Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire, The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation, Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling and Ethics and the Fire Investigator, MagneTek: A Case Study In The Daubert Challenge and Digital Photography and Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator.* Also, coming soon to CFI Trainer - *Fire Investigator Scene Safety.* **Visit www.CFITrainer.net today!**

Nominations for 2006-2007 GFIA Officers



Nominations are open for Officers of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. The election will be held at the Southeastern Arson Seminar in August. Please be advised of the following requirements, per the GFIA Constitution and By-Laws, **before** you submit your recommendations to the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Process. *Any person who has been an active member for three (3) consecutive years prior to the annual meeting may be nominated by another active member for the office of 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer (or 1st Vice President, should a vacancy exist). All nominations must be in writing and received by the nominating committee at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual election. All nominees must be seconded. The chairman of the nominating committee shall publish the committee's slate of nominees as well as all other qualified nominees in the third quarterly publication of the "Fire Trailer News," which shall be communicated to all current GFIA members by electronic mail, web page posting, or otherwise.*

Nominating Committee. *The nominating committee shall be appointed by the incoming president and their names published in the first quarterly issue of the "Fire Trailer News," or announced by special letter, electronic mail, or web page posting at least thirty (30) days prior to publication of the second quarterly issue of the "Fire Trailer News."*

The committee shall consist of five (5) members who are representatives of the insurance industry, civil authorities, the legal community and the private investigator profession.

The members of the Nominating Committee can be found on Page 4 of this issue of the *Fire Trailer News*.

Board Meeting and Membership Meeting Minutes

Special Called Board Meeting - March 23, 2006 - McDonough, GA

The following are the minutes, as recorded by Secretary Mangan, of the special board meeting called by President Barrett on March 23, 2006.

Members present: Bill Barrett, Zane Newman, Charlie Mangan, Thom Burruss, Sandra Van Landingham, Jane Cox, Perry Hopkins, Kevin Cunningham and Susan Cunningham.

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Barrett at 1:14pm.

President Barrett called for the reading of the minutes. Secretary Charlie Mangan stated the minutes from last year could not be found. Thom Burruss made a motion to accept the minutes per reclamation. Motion was seconded by Zane Newman. Motion passed without opposition.

Training and Education – Kevin Cunningham said the Spring Seminar in McDonough was the 2nd best attended Spring Seminar that the GFIA has hosted. There were 109 attendees.

Information on the Southeastern Arson Seminar that will be held in Savannah, GA August 21-25, 2006 is on the GFIA website. A flyer will be mailed out in April.

Athens Fire Dept. and the White County Fire Dept. have shown interest in hosting the 2007 GFIA Spring Seminar.

Negotiations for hotels in Savannah for the 2008 and 2009 Southeastern Arson Seminar will begin in the near future.

Approximate \$2500 was spent on new AV equipment. This new equipment will enable us to use our own equipment at the Southeastern Arson Seminar and not have to rely on the Hotels.

There will be no breakout sessions for training at the Southeastern Arson Seminar this year. Two screens will be used for better visibility.

There will be breakfast set up on two mornings, on lunch (Thursday), and one ice cream break for the Southeastern Arson Seminar.

There was a motion by Thom Burruss to have a President's Reception on Tuesday night at the Southeastern Arson Seminar, and to give out door prizes. Motion was seconded by Zane Newman. Motion passed without opposition.

Financial Report – not available since Ed Canipelli was not at meeting.

Membership – Jane Cox read the names of 31 new applicants. Charlie Mangan made motion to accept. Thom Burruss seconded the motion. Passed without opposition.

There will be a new membership directory printed for this year.

Old Business – none.

New Business – Kevin Cunningham expressed a concern about the membership renewals for the Metro Fire Investigation's Association being email out and not mailed. Perry Hopkins stated he would address this issue with the Secretary of the Metro Fire Investigator's Association.

Thom Burruss made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Zane Newman.

Committee News

2006 Nominating Committee

Dennis Ellerbee - Chairperson

email: FM113@bellsouth.net

Phone/Fax: 770-233-0121

Bob Holland

email: bhfire@aol.com

Phone/Fax: 770-979-1790

David Adams

email: dadams@co.henry.ga.us

Phone: 770-954-2280 Fax: 678-583-3538

Tony Nix

Phone: 770-593-6520 Fax: 770-593-6496

Mark Dietrichs

email: mark.dietrichs@swiftcurrie.com

Phone: 404-888-6124 Fax: 404-888-6199

2006 Finance Committee

Wade Crider - Chairperson

email: wade.crider@gwinnettcounty.com

Phone: 678-518-4892 Fax: 678-518-4891

Sandra VanLandingham

email: vs632.bellsouth.net

Phone: 770-461-0258 Fax: 770-719-9146

Troy Reynolds

email: fm311@earthlink.net

Phone: 404-656-2060

Tony Echols

Phone: 770-205-9459

Don Leasher

email: dleasher@unioncityga.org

Phone: 770-964-9934 Fax: 770-964-9908

President's Message (continued from Page 1)

present and past, the committee members, and especially the members of the T & E Committee for all of their dedication and hard work. You would not believe the time it takes to meet, plan and put together these seminars. As you know several of our officers and committee chairs have been involved in the organization for a number of years. I strongly urge the younger member of our organization to become more involved with all aspects of the GFIA. All it takes is to volunteer.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Southeastern Seminar.

Bill Barrett, President, GFIA

A Charlotte, North Carolina man, having purchased a case of rare, very expensive cigars, insured them against ... get this ... fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of fabulous cigars, and having yet to make a single premium payment on the policy, the man filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the man stated that he had lost the cigars in "a series of small fires." The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason that the man had consumed the cigars in a normal fashion. The man sued... and won!

In delivering his ruling, the judge stated that since the man held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable, and also guaranteed that it would insure the cigars against fire, without defining what it considered to be "unacceptable fire," it was obligated to compensate the insured for his loss. Rather than endure a lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the judge's ruling and paid the man \$15,000 for the rare cigars he lost in "the fires." After the man cashed his check, however, the insurance company had him arrested ... on 24 counts of arson! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used as evidence against him, the man was convicted of intentionally burning the rare cigars and sentenced to 24 consecutive one year terms!

2006 GFIA Officers and Directors

| Position | Name | Employer | Office | Fax | E-mail |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| President | Bill Barrett | Gwinnett County Fire Department | 678-518-4800 | 678-518-4891 | bill.barrett@gwinnettcounty.com |
| VP | Wade Crider | Gwinnett County Fire Department | 678-518-4892 | 678-518-4891 | wade.crider@gwinnettcounty.com |
| 2 nd VP | Zane Newman | Americus Fire Department | 229-924-4411 | 229-924-0430 | zane.newman@americus-online.com |
| Secretary | Charlie Mangan | AGL Resources, Inc. | 404-584-3786 | 404-584-3711 | cmangan@agresources.com |
| Treasurer | Ed Canipelli | Cunningham Investigative Services | 770-931-2963 | 770-931-2164 | edcanipelli@earthlink.net |
| Past President | Thom Burruss | AGL Resources, Inc. | 404-584-3785 | 404-584-3599 | tburruss@agresources.com |
| Director | Laurel Waters | Analytical Forensic Associates | 770-982-0210 | 770-982-0206 | laurel@atafabs.com |
| Director | Teresa McAfee | State Farm Insurance Company | 770-593-6548 | 770-593-6615 | teresa@gfia-iaai.org |
| MFIA VP | Ron Kibble | Georgia Farm Bureau | 706-937-7100 | 706-937-3153 | wrkibble@gfb.org |
| NW VP | Perry Hopkins | Forensic & Scientific Testing | 770-449-4199 | | phopkins@fastlab.com |
| NE VP | Bruce Satterfield | Dalton Fire Department | 706-278-7363x223 | 706-272-7107 | bsatterfd@citydalton.net |
| EC VP | Shawn Borders | Hall County Fire Department | 770-531-6838 | 770-531-6845 | not available |
| WC VP | Josh Martinez | Georgia Farm Bureau | 478-847-9189 | 706-568-1888 | jsmartinez@gfb.org |
| SW VP | Vernon Singley | Office of Insurance Commissioner | 404-656-0533 | 404-657-9831 | vernon.singley@mail.oci.state.ga.us |
| SW Representative | Paul McGahee | Georgia Farm Bureau | 229-388-0500 | 229-388-0500 | pmgahee@friendlycity.net |
| SE VP | Brian Clavier | Office of Insurance Commissioner | 404-656-0533 | 404-657-9831 | brian.clavier@mail.oci.state.ga.us |

2006 GFIA Committee Chairs

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Finance | Wade Crider | Gwinnett County Fire Department | 678-518-4800 | 678-518-4891 | wade.crider@gwinnettcounty.com |
| By-Laws/Legal | Jim Fisher | Hall, Booth & Slover | 404-954-5000 | 404-954-5020 | jhf@hbss.net |
| EP&G | Mark Dietrichs | Swift Currie, McGhee & Hiers | 404-888-6127 | 404-888-6799 | mtfd@scmhlaw.com |
| T&E | Kevin Cunningham | Cunningham Investigative Services | 770-978-1251 | 770-978-8782 | kevincis@comcast.com |
| | Susan Cunningham | Cunningham Investigative Services | 770-978-1251 | 770-978-8782 | cis1234@comcast.com |
| | Laurel Waters | Analytical Forensic Associates | 770-982-0210 | 770-982-0206 | laurel@atafabs.com |
| Nominating | Dennis Ellerbee | EFI | 770-233-0121 | 770-233-0121 | fm113@bellsouth.net.com |
| Editor | Laurel Waters | Analytical Forensic Associates | 770-982-0210 | 770-982-0206 | laurel@atafabs.com |
| Membership | Jane Cox | Office of Insurance Commissioner | 404-656-6879 | 404-656-7628 | jane.cox@mail.oci.state.ga.us |
| CFI Certification | Ralph Newell | Newell Investigative Services | 770-297-7138 | 770-297-9133 | nisi1@bellsouth.net |
| Web Master | Dana Mason | US Air Force | 678-471-6494 | 404-651-1681 | dana@gwinnettumpires.com |
| Chaplain | Bill Barrett | Gwinnett County Fire Department | 678-518-4800 | 678-518-4891 | bill.barrett@gwinnettcounty.com |
| Parliamentarian | Steve Sprouse | Office of Insurance Commissioner | 404-656-0543 | 404-657-9831 | steve.sprouse@mail.oci.state.ga.us |
| 921 | Brian Clavier | Office of Insurance Commissioner | 404-656-0533 | 404-657-9831 | brian.clavier@mail.oci.state.ga.us |
| Photography | Jane Cox | Office of Insurance Commissioner | 404-656-6879 | 404-656-7628 | jane.cox@mail.oci.state.ga.us |
| Sergeant at Arms | Marc Thomason | Gwinnett County Fire Department | 678-518-4800 | 678-518-4891 | marc.thomason@gwinnettcounty.com |
| Sergeant at Arms | Joe Jones | AGL Resources, Inc. | 404-584-3786 | 404-584-3711 | jhones@agresources.com |
| Awards | Harold Raines | RH&W Investigations | 404-316-5646 | 404-634-8006 | hraines@hotmail.com |
| Expert Testimony | Susan Cunningham | Cunningham Investigative Services | 770-978-1251 | 770-978-8782 | cis1234@comcast.com |

District News

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Southeast District - For information regarding the next district meeting contact District VP Brian.Clavier@mail.oci.state.ga.us or 404-656-0533.

Southwest District - For more information contact District VP Vernon Singley at 404-656-0533 or Vernon.singley@mail.oci.state.ga.us

Northeast District - Contact Shawn Borders at 770-531-6838.

West Central District - Contact District VP Josh Martinez jsmartinez@gfb.org or 706-568-1888.

East Central District - The EC District is currently inactive. If you would like to participate in it's resurrection contact Bill Barrett or Wade Crider.

Bob Gore & K.G. Davis Scholarships

The Georgia Arson Control Board is sponsoring the Bob Gore Scholarship to individuals who reside in Georgia and work in a public-safety-related field. The GFIA is sponsoring the K.G. Davis Scholarship to members of the GFIA who live in Georgia and work in a public-safety-related field. Applicants must mail, fax, or email a one-page essay entitled "**Why I Want to Attend the 42nd Southeastern Arson Seminar**", along with a completed SEAS registration form by July 21, 2006 to GFIA, PO Box 382, Snellville, GA 30078, Fax: 770-978-8782, Email: cis1234@comcast.net. The two winning essay applicants will receive complimentary registration fee, including one ticket to the Awards luncheon and four nights lodging at the Marriott Riverfront. Former scholarship recipients are ineligible to win.

Chaplains Corner

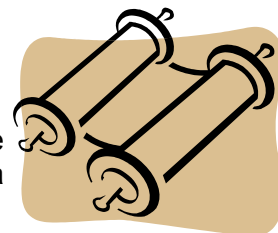
I know we all get caught up in our day to day living, and sometimes forget where the source of our strength comes from. I have personally experienced this year a reminder that every day is a gift and ultimately God is in charge.

If I may make a suggestion, take time each day to tell those you love how much they mean to you and live each day as if "this is the day you are going to face God".

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.'

Colossians 3:23

May God bless you all - Bill Barrett - Chaplain



US Consumer Product Safety Commission Recalls



Your Online Resource for Recalls

Product: Maxi-Heat™ Dream Tower Heater. **Units:** About 75,000. **Distributor:** King of Fans Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, FL. **Hazard:** The wires inside the oscillating heater can short circuit and spark, posing a fire hazard to consumers. **Incidents/Injuries:** 31 reports of heaters smoking or sparking, and one report of a house fire. No reports of injuries. **Description:** Recalled model is CH920. The ceramic portable electric heaters are the oscillating tower type. They are grey and have a control panel attached to the top of the unit. "Maxi-Heat™" is printed on the control panel. The model number is printed on the ETL label on the bottom of the back side of the unit. **Sold:** Wal-Mart stores nationwide from August 2005 through December 2005 for about \$40.

(continued on last page)

Membership Minutes

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Special Called Membership Meeting - March 23, 2006 McDonough, GA

The following are the minutes, as recorded by Secretary Mangan, of the special membership meeting called by President Barrett on March 23, 2006.

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Barrett at 4:30pm.

Motion by Thom Burruss to waive the reading of minutes since they could not be found. Motion was seconded by Joe Jones. Motion passed without opposition.

Training and Education – Kevin Cunningham said there were 109 attendees for the 2006 Spring Seminar.

Information on the Southeastern Arson Seminar that will be held in Savannah, GA. August 21-25, 2006 is on the GFIA website. A flyer will be mailed out in a few weeks.

We will use the GFIA-AV equipment at the Southeaster Arson Seminar and not the hotels. Also, we will use two screens for better visibility.

Negotiations for hotels in Savannah for the 2008 and 2009 Southeastern Arson Seminar will begin in the near future.

Athens/Clarke Co. Fire Dept. and the White Co. Fire Dept. have shown interest in hosting the 2007 GFIA Spring Seminar.

There will be a President's Reception on Tuesday night at the Southeastern Arson Seminar.

Financial Report – not available since Ed Canipelli was not at meeting.

Membership – Jane Cox -31 new members and a new membership directory will be printed this year.

Old Business – none.

New Business – none.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

THE GEORGIA FIRE INVESTIGATOR'S
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 382
Snellville GA 30078

Product Recalls

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Your Online Resource for Recalls

Product: HP Notebook Computer Batteries - **Units:** About 4,100 (about 15,700 batteries worldwide)
Hazard: An internal failure can cause the battery to overheat and melt or char the plastic case, posing a burn and fire hazard. **Incidents/Injuries:** HP has received 20 reports of batteries overheating, including two in the US. One minor burn injury has been reported. Eleven cases of minor property damage were reported, including one in the US. **Description:** The recalled lithium ion rechargeable batteries are used with various HP and Compaq notebook computers. The recalled batteries are a subset of those manufactured in early January 2005, and will have a bar code label starting with L3.

Product: Lasko, General Electric, Galaxy, and Air King Brand Box and Pivoting Floor Fans. **Units:** About 5.6 million. **Hazard:** Electrical failure in the motor can pose a fire hazard to consumers. **Incidents/Injuries:** 42 reports of fires possibly associated with motor failures, with seven reports of injuries, including burns and smoke inhalation. At least eight of the reported fires resulted in extensive property damage. **Description:** Recall involves various models of Lasko, Galaxy, Air King and GE fans manufactured between January 1999 and July 2001, and sold through February 2004. Styles and model numbers of recalled fans, which are either stamped or on a label on the bottom of the fans on www.cpsc.gov: Detailed information and pictures of affected models can be found at www.laskoproducts.com **Sold:** Discount department stores nationwide from September 2000 through February 2004 for between \$10 and \$25.