



The Fire Trailer News



Summer 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

To all members of GFIA,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you all what an honor it has been to serve as your President over the past year.

I would like to thank all of you for your support. When due to an unforeseeable illness I was unable to perform my duties as President, there were those who stepped up and did what needed to be done to make sure the order of things remained on course in GFIA.

I was unable to attend the IAAI seminar this year in Denver, Colorado, but 1st Vice President Wade Crider was able to attend the seminar in my absence. He said that GFIA was well represented at the seminar. He also had nothing but praise for the training offered at the seminar.

I also would like to tell everyone in the fire and law enforcement communities that Steve Sprouse and I have met with Lynn Purdue, Executive Director, Georgia Firefighter Standards & Training Council, concerning the 24 hours of compliance needed to receive the Fire Investigation Certification required by the state. We have expressed our concerns that there are a large number of investigators in the state who have not yet met the requirements set forth by the new law. There have been a number of suggestions made; one being to extend the compliance date until

January 1, 2007. This should give everyone the time needed to get the proper paperwork into the Firefighters Standards & Training Council to receive their compliance certifications.

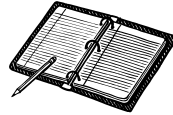
If you have any questions you can call Lynn Purdue, Executive Director,



Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council at 478-993-4521.

I do not know at this time if I will be retiring at the end of 2006 from the Gwinnett County Fire/Arson/Explosives Investigations Section. I am strongly considering this option. If I do retire, I am not sure of the extent of participation I will be having with the fire/law enforcement community after retirement. I may just go fishing. But, I do want all to know it has been my privilege to be associated with the men and women who investigate fires/explosions. This job can be the most satisfying and frustrating job in the world and it **(continued on Page 4)**

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 historic 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 the 21st on a space-available basis and may be charged at the normal hotel rate.

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

CFI Trainer - CFITrainer.net is designed to bring the resources of the more than 8,000 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, Ethics and the Fire Investigator, MagneTek: A Case Study In The Daubert Challenge. Digital Photography and the Fire Investigator and Fire Investigator Scene Safety.*

Visit www.CFITrainer.net today!

2006-2007 GFIA Officer Election Mail in Balloting Procedure



Election Committee Chair Dennis Ellerbee has reported that two individuals have been nominated for the office of 2nd Vice-President and two individuals for the office of Secretary. A brief biography of each can be found on the following pages of the *Fire Trailer News*.

The annual election will be held at the Southeastern Arson Seminar in Savannah on August 23, 2006. If you do not plan to attend but would like to vote, you can use the mail-in ballot on Page 5 of this issue of the *Fire Trailer News*. *Please follow the instructions carefully or your ballot will not be counted.*

Use the ballot to cast your vote ONLY if you will not be present to vote at the annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia on Wednesday, August 23, 2006.

1. Mark your choices for officers on the ballot in this issue of the *Fire Trailer News*. Only original ballots will be accepted - NO PHOTOCOPIES.
2. Place the ballot in an unmarked envelope (no logos or company names on the envelope)
3. Place the unmarked envelope in a second envelope
4. Remove the removable label with your name and address from this issue of the *Fire Trailer News* and place it in the return address section of the second envelope
5. Address the second envelope, affix postage and mail to:

GFIA, PO Box 382, Snellville, GA 30078

All mail in ballots must be RECEIVED by August 16, 2006 in order to be counted

2006-2007 GFIA Officer Nominees



Charlie Mangan - Nominee for 2nd Vice-President

Charlie Mangan is a candidate for the office of Second VP of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. He is the current Secretary of the GFIA. Charlie is employed by AGL Resources as Senior Investigator in the Corporate Security Department and he has been with AGLR for 20 years. Prior to his employment at AGLR, Charlie received a BS Degree in Criminal Justice from Armstrong State College and was a Chatham County Deputy Sheriff. Charlie is POST certified by the State of Georgia as an Arson Investigator and Law Enforcement Officer. He has been a member of the GFIA and IAAI for 14 years. Charlie is also a member of the American Society of Industrial Security International and the Georgia Sheriff's Association.

Charlie would like to ask for your support for the office of Second VP of the GFIA.

Marc Thomason - Nominee for 2nd Vice-President

I'm a Senior Investigator for Gwinnett County fire/arson and explosives investigations unit. I have worked for the Gwinnett County Fire Department since 1986, joining the investigations unit in 1999. Over the years I have worked closely with GFIA current president Bill Barrett. I have been a police officer since 1988, graduating from the City of Atlanta Police academy. Prior to that I graduated from DeKalb college emergency medical program as a Paramedic. I served on the line as a Paramedic Firefighter before coming into the investigation unit in 1999.

As far as classes and other training, I have attended the arson courses at the Georgia Police and Fire Academies, the National Fire Academy, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. I'm a certified instructor in both police and fire. I'm a Georgia Certified Fire Investigator.

If elected to the position of the office of the Second Vice President I hope to continue to maintain and improve the training offered to Investigators and do whatever I can to maintain and improve the organization as a whole. Thanks, Marc Thomason.

Doug Byron - Nominee for Secretary

Doug Byron is a nominee for the office of Secretary of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. Doug owns and has worked as the chief forensic chemist for Forensic & Scientific Testing, Inc., in Atlanta, since 1995. He has B.S. degrees in chemistry and biology from the University of Georgia. Currently he is a TWGFEX (Technical Working Group for Fire and Explosion) committee member, a committee member of the ASTM E-30 on Forensic Science. Other memberships include the American Academy of Forensic Science, the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association (GFIA), the Alabama Association of Arson Investigators (AAAI) and the Metro Fire Investigator's Association (MFIA). Doug is past President of MFIA.

Doug is asking for your support for the office of Secretary of GFIA.

Brian Clavier - Nominee for Secretary

Brian has been employed as an investigator with the Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office since 1997. Prior to joining the Fire Marshal's Office he worked for the Cordele Fire Department from 1991 to 1997, attaining the rank of Lieutenant. Brian is an IAAI Certified Fire Investigator, a POST Certified Peace Officer, Arson Investigator, and Instructor. Brian has instructed on fire investigation at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and several regional academies. Brian joined the GFIA in 1994 and the IAAI in 1997. He was a founding member of the Southeast Georgia Fire Investigators Association and is currently serving as president. He is also the GFIA Southeast District Vice President and has served on GFIA committees when requested, including chairing the 921 Committee this year. Brian has enjoyed his involvement with the GFIA and would like to become even more active, bringing the association to the next level by providing more services to its members.

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

doesn't matter if you are in the public or private sectors. What it does take is dedication and hard work to do the right job.

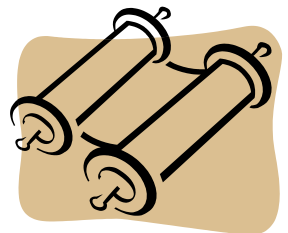
The thing about the GFIA and the people I have had the pleasure of working with in the organization is that their goal has been and remains to be getting the best training possible for its members. That has always been my goal for the GFIA and the GPSTC in Forsyth, Georgia. By not taking advantage of the opportunities to take part in the programs as an (active) member in the leadership roles.

With all of this said, I again want to thank each one of you for your friendship and the opportunity to serve as your President. Keep your priorities right and your conscience clean and you will have an honorable career.

God Bless,

Bill Barrett, President, GFIA

Chaplains Corner



There is a Pride which is good, for example that which you take in your work, your country or yourself (to a certain degree). There is also a Pride that leads to conceit, an overly high opinion of one's self. (Reference: Webster's II, New College Dictionary)

It was 26 years ago when I moved from fire extinguishment to investigations. I found very quickly that I needed a lot of help in the field of investigations. I was able to find good and knowledgeable people in the private and public fields to help me.

The number one suggestion that I can offer you in this job is to never become an island; a person who doesn't think anyone else can help or suggest anything of value.

If you need help, ask for it, and if you don't know, say "I don't know". It's when we take our self out of our field of expertise that we get into trouble.

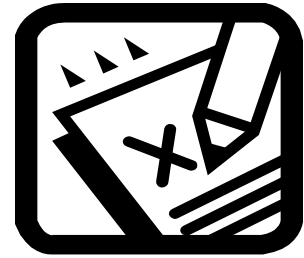
NIV Bible, Proverbs 16: 3, 18

³ Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.

¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall.

Bill Barrett, Chaplain, GFIA

Mail - In Ballot for 2006-2007 GFIA Officers



Mark and "X " beside your choice. To cast your ballot, follow the instructions listed on Page 2

Second Vice - President (vote for one)

_____ Charlie Mangan

_____ Marc Thomason

Secretary (vote for one)

_____ Doug Byron

_____ Brian Clavier

Treasurer

_____ Ed Canipelli

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Ohio Fireworks Importer Sentenced, Fined for Violations

CPSC Press Release: An Ohio fireworks importer was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine for criminal contempt related to violations of the terms of a May 2003 consent decree. Larry Lomaz, president of Midwest Fireworks Manufacturing Inc., of Deerfield, Ohio, was found guilty of nine separate violations.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) played an active role in the investigation of Mr. Lomaz's activities, which also resulted in Lomaz previously paying \$30,000 in forfeited profits from sales of illegal fireworks. U.S. District Judge James S. Gwin found Lomaz's business practices "reckless and unlawful" saying they "increase the likelihood that such illegal or unregulated fireworks will reach the hands of American consumers, including children."

The consent decree had ordered Lomaz to stop buying and selling banned fireworks. It called for Lomaz's future fireworks shipments to be tested by the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory prior to importation to ensure they comply with U.S. law, and stipulated that he inform CPSC of all of his imports of fireworks devices. In his ruling, Judge Gwin found, among other violations, that Lomaz knowingly imported 547 cartons of fireworks that were not tested in accordance with the terms of the consent decree.

"Consumers can be assured that we will track down and prosecute those who willingly violate the law," said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton. The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Consumer Litigation prosecuted the case against Lomaz.