



ARSON HOTLINE

January 26, 2011

President's Message

The theme for the articles in this newsletter is "**Protecting Structures from Arson**".

I would like to thank Cudahy Fire Chief Daniel Mayer for his excellent presentation on the Patrick Cudahy fire at our annual meeting in September.

WAIC has been working on establishing a fund to help offset fire investigation costs such as digging out a basement with heavy equipment. WAIC welcomes any input you may have.

Remember, WAIC's main purpose is to provide the **WISCONSIN ARSON HOTLINE (800-362-3005)** for an anonymous arson fire tip leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist.

William Schultz,
President
Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council

**WAIC Board Meeting
November 17, 2010**

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES: March 17, 2010, May 19, 2010, August 24, 2010 and September 21, 2010. Approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beginning Balance (May 19, 2010)	\$14,891.38
Income (9 sustaining memberships & 1 general)	1,815.00
Expenses (2 scholarships & a bank fee)	<u>510.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$16,196.38

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

REPORTS:

Awards: Tips have been received but no rewards have been requested as of yet.

Membership: No Report

Sustaining Membership: 9 sustaining members

Publicity: Website (needs updating including inclusion of recent newsletters)

Newsletter:

Theme: Compact fluorescent lights.

Timetable: Within the next two weeks.

OLD BUSINESS:

Business Cards: Randy will work on it.

Loss Investigation Grants: See Attachment

Training meeting in March: State Farm Offices. (9 AM –11 AM) Forensic Accounting

NEW BUSINESS:

Scholarships announcement for June IAAI seminar: Barry will send a reminder to the IAAI to include the WAIC scholarship information.

WAIC name/phone number in newspaper/radio/TV news: Address the issue of the media not stating the reward is "up to" \$5,000. They are currently misrepresenting the WAIC reward system.

Next Meeting: January 19, 2011

Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council – Equipment Grant Program

Proposal: The Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council (WAIC) may provide public sector agencies with funds to help offset expenses related to heavy equipment used during the course of fire investigations if certain criteria are met.

Criteria: In order to receive funds from WAIC, the following criteria must be met:

- The fire investigation must be of no known accidental cause
- Applications must be submitted through the State Fire Marshal's Office by an agent of DCI
- When supportive resources are not readily available
- Funds must be used for heavy equipment with an operator
- Funds may not be used for site cleanup or contracting investigative services
- The funds must be for non-insured properties only
- The funds are subject to availability which is determined by the WAIC board

Procedure: The need must first be met using the above criteria. The DCI agent in charge of the scene shall call the main office located in Madison and request assistance. It is up to the main office to contact the representative/s of WAIC for approval.

**Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council
SEMINAR GRANT APPLICATION**

For attending the 2011 Wisconsin Chapter IAAI Spring Seminar
June 7-9, 2011 in Stevens Point, WI

Applicant's Name _____ Member of WAIC? _____

Employer/Agency _____ Job Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email Address _____

Application Date _____ Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Authorized Official _____

An Authorized Official may be a fire or police chief, training officer, or person responsible for supervising the applicant in performance of his/her fire investigation duties

The Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council will award up to two (2) Seminar Grants to active law enforcement or fire service personnel. The WAIC will reimburse the grant recipient up to \$250.00 for costs associated with attending the 2011 Wisconsin Chapter IAAI Spring Seminar in Stevens Point, WI

This grant will reimburse the attendee up to \$250.00 for the seminar registration fee and lodging expenses. Included in the grant amount is a \$20.00 meal stipend. The total amount of the grant, including the meal stipend will not exceed \$250.00. In order to receive reimbursement the student receiving this grant must provide the WAIC Board of Directors with a "Tested" Certificate of Attendance, and receipts to account for registration and lodging expenses.

In the area below please explain the financial need for this grant. If you need additional room please attach a separate piece of paper. Please note if you have asked for, or received any other funds for this seminar.

The WAIC Board of Directors must receive the Seminar Grant application by April 15, 2011

**Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council
2011 Seminar Grant Application
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- First consideration will be given to members of the Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council.
- **Applicants must be active law enforcement or fire service personnel.**
- Recipients will be determined by the WAIC Board of Directors.
- Application must be received by the WAIC Board of Directors by the close of business day on April 15, 2011
- Applications received after the deadline will be automatically excluded from consideration
- Incomplete applications will be disqualified from consideration
- Applications not signed by an "Authorized Official" will be disqualified from consideration
- A separate grant application is required for each individual applying for this grant

All travel and seminar arrangements are the responsibility of the grantee agency; the WAIC will not make travel or hotel reservations, or register attendees for a seminar. The WAIC will not reimburse late registration fees.

The WAIC will not pay for additional costs that may be incurred by the traveler over and above the original grant award unless that cost has been specifically approved by the WAIC Board of Directors in advance.

The WAIC staff may request additional information, documentation, or clarification on individual grant applications.

The final decision on all grant awards and allocations rests with the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council.

Please return this form and any attachments to:

**Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council
P.O. Box 751
Brookfield, WI 53008-0751**

Or Fax to (262) 796-2599

**If you have any questions about this grant application please contact Rick
Crouse at (262)796-2580**

PROTECTING STRUCTURES FROM ARSON

F.E.M.A. National Arson Prevention Initiative

ARSON FACTS: Arson is the leading cause of property loss due to fire. Over a half million arson fires, including 100,000 building fires, cost our nation more than \$2 billion annually and kill over 700 people. It costs our communities so much more! One fourth of all fires are arson and over one half of them are set by juveniles.

ILLUMINATE EXTERIOR AND ENTRANCES: Install lights covering all sides of the building including the parking lots. Motion activated lighting, which is very inexpensive, should be placed near the entrances. Don't advertise that the building is empty. Interior lights on timers give the illusion that the building is occupied.

PAINT BUILDINGS A LIGHT COLOR: Arsonists work mostly at night. Buildings with a dark exterior provide many hiding places for arsonists.

INSTALL BURGLAR AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS THAT TRANSMIT A MESSAGE: Alarm devices can be inexpensively wired through the telephone circuits to transmit an alarm to the police or fire department. Check the cost of contracting with a security firm for response to alarms.

HAVE YOUR HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS CHECKED SEMI-ANNUALLY: Ensure that your electrical service is adequate for current demands.

TRIM, OR REMOVE SHRUBBERY AND SIGNS THAT OBSTRUCT THE VIEW OF THE BUILDING FROM THE STREET: Make sure that nothing blocks the view of the building. During the growing season, bushes and trees may need to be trimmed frequently.

KEEP DOORS LOCKED AND BOLTED WITH HINGE-PINS ON THE INSIDE: Most buildings have too many keyed doors. Reduce the number of keyed doors and keep a record of who has a key. If you don't know who has a key to your building, change the locks. If a key is lost, change the locks. It is generally not necessary to have more than one or two doors with key locks. All other doors should be equipped with dead bolts or, in assembly areas, panic hardware that will permit exiting when doors are locked.

KEEP WINDOWS LOCKED, BARRED OR PROTECTED WITH WIRE SCREENS: The hardware used to lock windows can sometimes be easily forced with a credit card or other tool. The best type of window hardware has spring-loaded bolts that insert through the window frame into the wall frame. If bars are used on windows in congregation areas, make certain they can be released from the inside, in the event the window is needed as an emergency escape.

RESTRICT ACCESS TO THE ROOF AND UPPER FLOORS: Nothing is gained by protecting windows and doors at ground level if trespassers have easy access to upper floors. Install fire escapes or stairs that cannot be accessed at ground level. If an exterior stairway exists, close the property with a fence and locked gate.

CONSIDER FENCING THE PROPERTY: Churches and public buildings generally provide an open welcoming facade, but it is not necessary that the back and sides also provide easy access. Privacy fences provide arsonists privacy. Woven wire fences with locked gates are a better choice.

DESIGNATE A LIAISON TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES: Initiate a fire reporting procedure. Post names and telephone numbers of contact persons on or near the door for use by the fire or police departments in the event of a break-in or fire. Involve the police and fire departments and your insurance agent in your arson prevention activities. Call your local police and fire departments to request a fire prevention and security evaluation. This may result in a reduction of your insurance premiums.

BE WARY OF STRANGERS: Ask strangers to identify themselves – the innocent will not mind. Register guests and remove the registry from the building each night. Check the credentials of service personnel asking permission to enter. If in doubt, call their company to verify their identity. After many arson fires, neighbors remember that they were suspicious of a person or car but did not know what to do, or whom to call. Educate residents and neighbors regarding suspicious activity and what to do if they have concerns. Encourage them to make a record of the suspicious activity including: the date and time; a description of vehicles, license numbers, and persons; and immediately call the local police.

ESTABLISH A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM: The probability of arson increases during exciting holidays or celebrations as f Halloween, 4th of July, New Year’s Eve, and major athletic events, as well as during periods of social unrest. During these events, there is a need for heightened awareness and surveillance. A rotating schedule of volunteer members to either stand watch, or provide irregularly scheduled patrols can be very effective.

CLEAN HOUSE: The boiler room or heating room of many public buildings is a storehouse of unused and unneeded paper, trash, cleaning supplies, partial cans of paint and other materials that make a bonfire of the structure when arranged by the arsonist. Store all flammables, paint, gasoline, mowers, etc. outside in a locked storage building.

MAKE A MEDIA EVENT OF YOUR EFFORTS: Arsonists seldom strike facilities that are ready for them.

ARSON PREVENTION CLEARINGHOUSE: To request additional information or publications call the National Arson Prevention Clearinghouse toll-free 1-888-60.-3100. To report an arson fire call your local fire and police departments. To provide information or to request an investigation of a suspected arson fire, call the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms 1-888-ATF-FIRE. Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Arson Prevention Clearinghouse, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

WAIC Membership Form Membership fee: \$15/annually

Send to:
WAIC C/O Allmark Services
P.O. Box 751
Brookfield, Wisconsin 53008-0751

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

TITLE _____ PHONE _____
(_____) _____

STREET
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

FAX NUMBER (_____) _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Membership dues to W.A.I.C. are Tax-Deductible

ARSON HOTLINE
Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council Newsletter

Paul Hansen, Editor
Engineering & Fire Investigations