

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

FARA InfoLink December 2016 Edition

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FARA Training Symposium



Embassy Suites Nashville at Vanderbilt Nashville, TN April 25 - 27, 2017



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Election 2017

By Brad Shipp, FARA

The following offices are up for election at the 2017 Annual Meeting:

- Vice President Electronic Security Currently held by Nadya Morgan
- Secretary Currently held by Sherry Couey
- Electronic Security Associate Director Currently held by Kristina Walker

FARA members, who have met the following requirements, can run for office: been in good standing for at least one year; and attended at least one FARA Annual Membership Meeting; and served on one or more FARA committees.

The Board may waive the requirements for candidates specified by a two-thirds vote if no candidates meeting the requirements come forward.

Members who are interested in seeking a position as an officer or member of the Board must submit, to the Executive Director, a request for consideration of candidacy for the particular office they are seeking along with a biographical resume no later than January 25, 2017.

The request for consideration of candidacy shall include a brief statement as to why they want to hold the office they are seeking.

- 1. If the Executive Director only receives requests for consideration of candidacy from one candidate for each position up for vote, then the Executive Director shall not be required to send absentee ballots to the membership.
- 2. In that case, the Executive Director shall, at the annual FARA Membership Meeting, declare that the nominee is elected by acclamation, and no vote of the membership will be necessary.

Nominations Needed for FARA Members of the Year!

By: Brad Shipp, FARA

The FARA Norma C. Beaubien Public Safety and W. Rex Bell Associate Member of the Year Awards are the highest honor FARA gives to deserving individuals, who demonstrate a significant commitment and contribute the most to their department or company, the community they serve and to FARA. Public safety and associate members can submit nominations for either category.

Please submit your written nomination by April 1, 2107 detailing the reasons you believe the individual nominated deserves such an award. Please limit your nomination to one (1) page or less.

Please submit your nominations to FARA c/o Brad Shipp at bradshipp@4yoursolution.com

Past recipients of the Norma C. Beaubien Public Safety Member of the Year Award are:

2016- Meredith Wivell & Nadya Morgan

2015- Sherry Couey & Roberta Smiley

2014- David Wilson & Shellie Reid

2013- Tammy Foxworthy & Kerri McDonald

2012- Debbie Hansen & Amy Lowe

2011- Stacey Peacock & Sue Clark

2010- Steve Heggemann

2009- Gerry Miller

2008- Natasha Pitts

2007- Christine Van Geest

2006- Brad Wahab

2005- Patty Bimonte

2004- Rick Moore

2003- Rex Bell

2002- Denise Shaw & Amy Lobdell

2001- James Cogswell

2000- W. Patrick Kenny

1999- Shanna Werner

1998- Patti Rea and Norma Beaubien

Past recipients of the W. Rex Bell Associate Member of the Year Award are:

2016- Sarah Salazar

2015- Not awarded

2014- Jordon Brown

2013- Jon Sargent

2012- Joe Carr & Cindy Smith

2011- Stuart Forchheimer & Kristina Walker

2010- Ben Binder

2009- Mary Galloway

2008- John Tierney

2007- Kelly Maceranka

2006- Chris Russell

2006- Chils Russ

2005- Pat Killian

2004- Tony Fague

2003- Not awarded

2002- Ron Walters & Brad Shipp

2001- Kathleen Schraufnagel

2000- Jennifer Gehring

1999- Susan Brenton

1998- Matt Wald

Nominations for FARA Achievement Awards Needed!

By Brad Shipp, FARA

Please send in your nominations for FARA's False Alarm Reduction Achievement Awards.

Feel free to nominate your own agency/company or others. Both public safety and associate members can submit nominations for any category listed below.

All submitted nominations will be provided to the attendees in Austin. All attendees will then cast a vote on who their favorite is in each category. So make the sale for your nomination by giving enough information to allow the voters to understand what the accomplishment is and how you were able to achieve it. You may use text, charts, graphs or any combination of the three.

Proud of your alarm management program?

Have a terrific success story to share?

Want the world to know about it?

Then tell us!

Please limit your nomination to no more than two (2) pages in length. The Achievement Awards will be presented during the training symposium.

- Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Achievement Award: This award is presented to the
 <u>public safety agency</u> that has an alarm management program, which has shown meaningful or significant reduction
 in the number of false alarms over a 3 to 5 year period.
- Industry False Alarm Reduction Achievement Award: This award is presented to an individual alarm company that has implemented and sustained an alarm management program, which has shown meaningful or significant reduction in the number of false alarms over a 3 to 5 year period.
- **FARA Achievement Award**: This award is presented to an <u>individual</u>, <u>company or association</u> that has demonstrated significant or meaningful contributions toward the FARA mission.

Nominations must be submitted on or before April 10, 2017 to be considered.

Please submit your nominations to FARA c/o Brad Shipp at bradshipp@4yoursolution.com or via fax at 301/519-9508.

FARA Membership Committee Developed New Flyer

The membership committee has developed a new flyer to help prospective members understand the benefits of FARA.

Please download it and pass it on to someone who should join FARA.

FARA Introduction for the first in the second secon

Amherst Strong-Arms False Alarms- Wins 2016 PDQ Award

10.6.16 - SSI - How appropriate that in the famously frigid locale of Buffalo, N.Y., a leading local security company is putting false alarms into deep freeze. Discover the commitment and techniques that allowed Amherst Alarm to break the ice and capture its first Police Dispatch Quality (PDQ) Award. More Info



What's Your IQ?

10.14.16 - SecurityInfoWatch - Industry statistics and internal data and research from Monitronics reveals that approximately 99 percent of alarm calls are false alarms. They are a major source ... The IQ Certification program was started by industry professionals in 1997 to help create a standard for best practices in the security industry. ...It is widely acknowledged that the major reasons for false alarms are user error and poorly installed or poorly designed systems. The idea is simple: Reduce the number of false alarms by addressing the main problems of poor installation and inadequate training. More Info



Mobile Video Puts Alarm Verification in Palm of Hand

10.27.16 -Security Sales & Integration - Mobile Video Puts Alarm Verification in Palm of Hand. With today's technology advances, failing to combine video surveillance with intrusion detection systems ...



As they say, "a picture is worth a thousand words," and when we look at the evidence, it's quite clear that "seeing is believing."

Although video verification is not new to the security market, mobile access to video clips that show before, during and after images is a relatively recent development. Images as well as alarm data are now pushed to the subscriber's mobile device, allowing them to view video direct from their place of business.

The same is true of residential clients who desire a level of security above the rest. In either case, the subscriber is able to advise central station operators as to whether the person onsite is authorized or not, thus enabling central station operators to act with certainty by advising the PD to either dispatch or stand down. More Info

The Truth Behind False Dispatch Rate

11.7.16 - Security Sales & Integration - The alarm industry and its dealers are often confronted by police or city officials, and even by our own leaders and publications, with a so called false dispatch ...



There may be, or may not be a high false dispatch rate and lack of effort, but the 98%-99% charge does not prove it. This is not a false dispatch rate. It does not measure false dispatches.

Using this method, a jurisdiction that has 1000 false dispatches and 10 burglary attempts would have a false dispatch rate of 99% (90 more burglaries and the rate drops to 90%). More Info

New NG911 mandate pushing modernization of emergency system for first responders

12.6.16 - SIW -

Today, over 240 million calls are made to 911 in the U.S. each year

Handling a simple 911 call involves many complicated steps, simplified here: A person with an emergency initiates an emergency call to a 911 center. The information about the call for service is inputted into the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. A dispatcher then receives the call information from the call-taker and dispatches the call using two-way radios to those responsible and available units based on the incident. Responders receive the incident information utilizing mobile data terminals (MDTs) or mobile data computers (MDCs). The communication and data are stored for further investigation, reporting or training purposes.

Emerging technology is providing the ability for municipalities to transition from out-of-date 911 systems to...

As of December 2015, the United States had more than 6,000 primary PSAPs (where the phone rings when you call 911) and secondary PSAPs (where a 911 call may be transferred to or from). In the next five years, we will see more and more PSAPs are being upgraded to NG911 under the umbrella of the NG911 NOW coalition. More Info

A quintessentially American crime declines: Robbing banks doesn't pay as it used to.

10.6.16 - Washington post - Such robberies have dropped nearly 60 percent over the past quarter century.

"Bank robbery is now largely a crime of the desperate," said Gerald C. Clark, a former FBI agent and now an assistant professor of criminal justice at Gannon University in Erie, Pa. Today's bank robber is "the person who needs money now or the drug user looking to get that instant high," he said.

The proceeds from bank robbery are now so low that British economists calculated that the average robber is earning little more than the minimum wage. More Info



FARA's Believe it or Not

By: Brad Shipp

- AK: Costumed thief escapes with stolen sword
 - 11.14.16 KTUU.com Though the police response to the store's tripped alarm was swift, the costumed thief managed to escape with the sword in hand. Employees at the store were ... More Info
- AZ: Burglary suspect leaves phone at crime scene, later arrested
 - 11.29.16 AZFamily The store's alarm went off and when the sergeant arrived, he found a cell phone near the broken window that belonged to Esparza, police said. While officers ... More Info
- CA: Cops responding to security alarm find world's cutest culprits: pupples
 CA: Cops responding to security alarm find world's cutest culprits: pupples
 - 10.19.16 SFGate Santa Clara County Sheriff's deputies responding to a residential home alarm system on Tuesday discovered two unusual perps: a couple of very fluffy, very ... More Info
- IL: Would be Robber Leaves His Own Money at the Store
 - 10.5.16 Wgnsradio An alleged robber did just the opposite and actually left money behind at the store he evidently intended to hit. Police responded to a panic alarm that was set off ... More Info
- MD: Deputies: Man attempts break-in after canceled Match.com date
 - 10.8.16 Frederick News Post Deputies were called back to the woman's home at 11 p.m. when the home's security alarm went off, according to the documents. Gift was arrested at gunpoint ... More Info
- NH: Police say teen pulled 12 fire alarms in 1 day in Manchester
 - 11.27.16 Concord Monitor A Manchester teen is accused of pulling a dozen fire alarms in one day on the city's west side. Police say the fire department responded to 12 false fire alarms ... More Info
- SC: Burglar alarm leads deputies to vandalized home, sleeping suspect
 - 11.21.16 WYFF Greenville A security alarm at a home in Oconee County led deputies to a suspect who was asleep in someone else's home and refused to get up, according to an incident ... More Info

Do you have any stories you would like to share about strange, unusual, or funny reasons for false alarms? How about outlandish things that happen in the course of your usual work day? I know we all have them, so let's share and give everyone a chuckle! Please forward your stories to bradshipp@4yoursolution.com and we'll put them in the next InfoLink for all to share!

News on Door to Door Sales

Courtesy of NESA

- Refund checks issued to alarm company victims
 - 12.9.16 Augusta Free Press In a Complaint filed with the settlement, Attorney General Herring's Consumer Protection Section alleged that Trio Alarm, in connection with its door-to-door ...More Info
- Door-to-door home alarm salesman accused of fraud
 - 10.18.16 KUTV 2News Brigham City, UT Back in August, Margie and Leon Jensen say a man knocked on their door claiming something was wrong with their home alarm .. More Info
- Man accused of defrauding nearly 30 alarm system owners in Box ...
 - 10.15.16 fox13now.com Box Elder County, Utah A man who went door-to-door in Box Elder County and told alarm owners he was there to update their system ... More Info

Public Safety Updates

Courtesy of NESA

- AB: Committee approves increased penalties for false alarms
 - 11.30.16 630ched.com A move to reduce the number of times Calgary police are called to 'false alarms' has cleared another hurdle. The community services committee has rubber ... More Info
- AZ: City will begin issuing fines for false alarm calls
 - 11.8.16 KYMA Yuma, Ariz. The city will begin issuing fines to businesses and residents who are responsible for false alarm calls starting December 1. Third-time offenders ...More Info
- AZ: Paradise Valley Town Council eyes future of alarm monitoring service
 - 11.21.16 Paradise Valley Independent If an alarm connected to the Paradise Valley alarm system is tripped, a call for service will ring directly into the department's dispatch center, town officials say. More Info
- BC: City of Kamloops to look at security alarm bylaw
 - 11.1.16 CBC.ca 1, 2016, Kamloops city council will be reviewing its Security Alarm Bylaw. It seems police are spending a lot of their time responding to alarms that have been set ... More Info

- FL: Jacksonville City Council tightens false burglar alarm penalties
 - 10.12.16 Florida Politics On Tuesday night, the Jacksonville City Council passed a bill increasing penalties for false residential and commercial burglar alarms. Of the 45,000 alarms in ... More Info
- FL: New smoke alarms required
 - 12.9.16 WEAR This is the time of the year when we're supposed to change the batteries in our smoke alarms. But what if the smoke alarm itself needs to be changed? More Info
- FL: Palm Beach Publix pays outstanding town fines
 - 11.1.16 Palm Beach Daily News The issue was over false alarm calls at the island's main grocery store. Owners are allowed two false alarms a year and fines begin on the ... More Info
- GA: Police in Georgia Ask Businesses to Participate in Voluntary Surveillance Program
 Police would be able to access security footage of criminal incidents to aid in investigations. More Info
- IL: Carbondale raising the fee on false alarms to police and fire ...
 - 10.15.16 The Southern A proposed ordinance approved by the Carbondale City Council on Tuesday delineates police and fire false alarm calls, and increase the fine for response to ... More Info
- IL: Elk Grove Village Eliminates Sliding Scale Alarm License Fee ...
 - 11.28.16 Journal & Topics Newspapers Online The new alarm fee calculation will set the renewal fee at \$25 and add new fines on businesses for responding to false alarms. The changes apply to both ... More Info
- IL: Schaumburg, alarm monitoring companies at odds over new law
 10.15.16 Chicago Daily Herald Private alarm monitoring companies are up in arms over a new Schaumburg law that directs all the village's approximately 1,200 businesses to ... More Info
- IL: Suburban Fire Alarm Issues Lead To Extra Fire Crews On Scene
 10.12.16 CBS Local Chicago Alarm Detection Systems was prompted Tuesday night to contact local fire departments after their radio network has been facing technical... More Info
- MD: More crimes to be held against property owners under new ordinance
 12.2.16 Frederick News Post The key goal of the amendment, according to Meredith Wivell, the police department's false alarm reduction coordinator, is to continually reduce recurring calls ... More Info
- MN: Harris City Council briefs
 - 10.31.16 ECM Post Review Miller pointed out that the bill that Gustafson paid was for a response to a fire alarm, not to a fire. In the past, the Harris Fire Department has not charged for ... More Info
- MO: Police, city officials looking to revise false alarm ordinance
 - 11.11.16 ABC17News.com Columbia, MO So far in 2016, the Columbia Police Department has responded to 3,736 home security alarm calls, but only 1.7% were considered valid. More Info
- NC: Johnston County, NC goes live with Automated Secure Alarm Protocol
 10.26.16 SecurityInfoWatch Pittsburgh Johnston County, North Carolina, is the latest municipality to go live with Automated Secure Alarm Protocol (ASAP), ... More Info
- NJ: Annual Alarm Registration Time Again
 - 11.28.16 TAPinto.net Springfield, NJ The annual registration of all burglar alarm systems will be due January 15, 2017. The Township Administrator Ziad Shehady reported in ... More Info
- NJ: Faulty Fire Alarm Offenders Will Have to Pay Up in Ship Bottom
 - 11.30.16 The SandPaper Ship Bottom is making it costly for business and residences that do not fix faulty fire alarms. An ordinance adopted last week by the borough council places such ... More Info
- NY: 911 centers call for funding
 - 10.12.16 News 10NBC That includes automated alarm systems that can stream video right into the 911 center and texting right to 911 something a lot of counties in our area have, but ... More Info
- NY: Suffolk votes to lower false alarm fees for security system owners
 - 11.23.16 News 12 Long Island Smithtown Suffolk lawmakers approved a measure Tuesday to lower its false alarm fees for security system owners by 50 percent. Legislator Kara Hahn ... More Info
- OH: Lakewood considers billing property owners for repeated false ...
 - 10.31.16 cleveland.com Lakewood city officials are considering a plan to measure to bill property owners for repeated false burglar alarms. More Info
- OK: New ordinance requires smoke alarms in every Oklahoma City home
 - 12.8.16 kfor.com Oklahoma City Homeowners in Oklahoma City now must have a working smoke alarm in their residence, according to a new city ordinance. The Oklahoma ... <u>More Info</u>
- TN: FOX13 Investigates: False burglary alarms in Memphis
 - 12.6.16 FOX13 Memphis "99 percent of those have been false, so that is 55,000 plus that have been false alarms, so that is 55-thousand plus times we traveled unnecessarily to a home ... More Info
- TN: Hamilton County Emergency Communications District Successfully ...
 11.30.16 Yahoo Sports On the horizon, Hamilton County is looking to implement the Automated Secure Alarm Protocol (ASAP) interface to automate the processing of information from ... More Info

- TN: Solution to Memphis' false alarm problem may be at hand
 12.9.16 The Commercial Appeal Reducing the number of false alarms on home security systems, which tie up police resources and cost taxpayers millions of dollars every year, is a fairly easy ... More Info
- TX: KFOX14 Investigates: City facing critical shortage of police officers
 11.30.16 KFOX El Paso The alarm company, ADT immediately notified El Paso police of a burglar alarm. A dispatcher assured the alarm company, they would be sending an officer out. More Info
- WV: Putnam County Commissioners look to curb 'false' emergency calls
 11.1.16 WSAZ-TV Commissioners in Putnam County are looking to cut down on the number of "false alarm" calls that are coming in to the county's dispatchers. More Info

Industry News

Courtesy of NESA

- The DIY Trend is Starting to Get Scary and it's Not All about Price
 - 9.30.16 CEPro Integrators like to think that consumers spurn custom solutions because they're cheapskates, but often they simply want the convenience of online shopping, the joy of... More Info
- SimpliSafe DIY Security System Investigation Yields Disturbing ...
 11.1.16 Security Sales & Integration SimpliSafe a DIY wireless alarm system that is shipped directly to consumers ranges in price from \$230-\$540 depending on the package and equipment. More Info
- Simply Not-So Safe?
 - 10.28.16 SSI Prominently marketing itself as the anti-alarm industry solution, DIY security systems provider SimpliSafe has quickly amassed a large customer base. However, an independent forensic analysis shoots holes in the company's model, claims and technology. More Info
- Nearly eight million property crimes occurred around the country last ...
 12.6.16 MyWabashValley "With DIY alarm systems, you don't have to get monitoring. If you want to use it as an alarm to scare off a burglar when they come through your front door, you ... More Info
- Why You Want Two-Way Technology in Security Sensors
 11.23.16 CEPro Wouldn't dealers and their customers want similar feedback for their alarm systems? When a door is opened, you want to make darn sure that the message is ... More Info
- Alarm grows as smart home technology and hacking risks proliferate
 11.5.16 CNBC On the global battlefield of cyberwarfare, there's a vast army of faceless foot soldiers and they've just been revealed as double agents. More Info
- Millions of smoke/CO detectors recalled due to alarm failure
 11.11.16 WPRI 12 Eyewitness News According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Kidde NightHawk alarms can fail to continue to chirp when it reaches its seven-year end of life if the .. More Info
- Apple to Make Smart Houses
 - 11.15.16 SIA Apple is teaming up with homebuilders to integrate its technology into new houses to boost its Home app that works with smart home goods like internet-connected doorbells, deadbolts and window blinds. More Info
- False sense of security: When security alarms fail
 - 11.15.16 KSDK.com ADT told us in a statement, "While ADT sympathizes with our former customer, please keep in mind alarm systems don't start fires and cannot prevent them from ... <u>More Info</u>
- Alarm Detection Systems Recovering From Catastrophic Network ...
 - 11.17.16 Security Sales & Integration Alarm Detection Systems Recovering From Catastrophic Network Failure. A corrupted data packet has forced ADS to replace transceivers in more than 10,000 ... More Info
- AES Tells How ADS' Mesh Network Failed
 - 11.23.16 Security Sales & Integration Alarm Detection Systems is headquartered in Aurora, III. ... approximately 10,500 AES-IntelliNet radio transceivers in order to return alarm signal transmission to ... More Info
- Angie's List: Alarm Systems More Affordable, Easier To Install
 11.29.16 CBS Local Philadelphia Home alarm systems can provide a sense of security for many homeowners, and now they're more affordable and easier to install than ... More Info
- How to Buy a Home Security System, From Cheap to DEFCON 1
 11.15.16 Realtor.com News If you adore your home and the contents in it, then it makes sense to protect it with an alarm system. Only which one? Whether you rent or own, want to go all-out ... More Info
- Home security systems 101: Things to consider
 11.21.16 Curbed Telguard and Alarm.com both work over cellular networks. If you want the best of both worlds,
 Ladd advises using a system that communicates over a cellular... More Info

- Sonitrol Releases UL-/ULC-Approved Glass-Break Analytics
 - 11.21.16 Security Sales & Integration The device features built-in diagnostics to efficiently test an audio sensor's ability to detect glass-break alarms during installation and service, according to ... More Info
- ADT Joins PPVAR to Support Video Verification for Security Alarms
 9.27.16 Security Sales & Integration ADT Joins PPVAR to Support Video Verification for Security Alarms. ADT's membership is expected to add credibility to PPVAR's dialogue with law enforcement ... More Info
- Comtronics switches monitored accounts to NMC
 - 11.14.16 Jackson, MI Company refocuses on offering new technologies; two-way voice, video verification. Earlier this year, Comtronics decided to move its monitored accounts to National Monitoring Center, based in Lake Forest, CA. More Info
- Select Security acquires three companies
 - 10.19.16 Lancaster, Pa.—Select Security, a super regional security company based here, recently completed the purchase of Owensboro, Ky.-based Level 5 Systems, Myrtle Beach, S.C.-based Sea Dog Security, and Charlotte, N.C.-based Guardian Systems, adding three new branch offices, and expanding into the North and South Carolina markets. More Info
- Monitronics Rebrands as MONI; Will Aim to Grow Direct-to ...
 - 9.30.16 Security Sales & Integration MONI will be individually branding its home automation and controls apps throughAlarm.com and Honeywell's Total Connect platforms. During the ensuing .. More Info
- Xfinity Home finds security in new market
 10.25.16 SIW Using its huge consumer base as its plat
 - 10.25.16 SIW Using its huge consumer base as its platform, Comcast advances reach in home security. More Info
- AFA Protective Systems acquires Pro-Tech Ltd.
 - 11.30.16 SecurityInfoWatch AFA Protective Systems, Inc. has acquired the alarm business assets of Pro-Tech Security, Ltd., Brighton, Mass., effective November 1, 2016. Among the assets ... More Info
- ADS makes sixth acquisition of 2016
 - 11.30.16 SecurityInfoWatch ADS opened its first branch in South Carolina in 2014, with the acquisition of American Burglar and Fire Alarms. "We are so excited to have Eric and his folks join ... More Info
- Burtel Security & Fire Systems Acquires in Washington D.C. Metro Area
 11.23.16 SSI Alexandria, VA Burtel purchased a mix of commercial and residential accounts from Solid State Security of Gaithersburg, Md. More Info

FARA Mission Statement

It is the mission of the False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA) to provide a forum for local government alarm ordinance professionals to exchange information on successful false alarm reduction programs, to serve as a clearinghouse for agencies seeking to reduce false alarms, and to foster an environment of cooperation among public safety, the alarm industry and the alarm users.

Contact Us

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Comments and suggestions regarding FARA's InfoLink are both encouraged and welcomed. If you would like to submit an article for publication, or if you have any questions or concerns about this newsletter, please contact us at 301-519-9237, or by e-mail at: info@faraonline.org

Please add FARA to your mailing list if you send out Newsletters or mailings with false alarm reduction information. Do you have a brochure that describes your ordinance or program? We would like to see it. Staff will review what we receive and share tips and information with your fellow members in later issues of this newsletter.

Submitted articles in this newsletter are the expressed opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Officers and Directors of FARA.