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# The International Councilor

## President's Message

BY Brian D. King, CII, CFE

Firstly, as you read this issue I want to start by wishing everyone around the world a very special best wishes for the New Year in 2012.



Despite that there seems to be continued challenges in the world financial markets primarily due to such situations and events as the ongoing debt crisis in Europe, political uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East and Japan's devastating earthquake and nuclear disaster, I am seeing and hearing good things about our industry in the investigation and risk mitigation profession throughout the world as our colleagues businesses continue to maintain and flourish.

My experience over my many years is that the world is made of two types of people, the ones that see doom & gloom when looking into a corner and those people that see sunshine and rays of hope when looking into exactly the same corner. My job as your President is to ensure that you all of our members see the sunshine and rays of hope when looking into their corners.

We are now all coming off our Winter Holidays and

typically the spring months are extremely busy for your volunteer executive board members who have to ensure recruiting and membership renewals continue, regional meetings are planned and held, budgets are prepared and the AGM planning is complete for the fall. This year the AGM is being held in South Africa and is being hosted by 1st Vice-President Eduard Sigrist of The Netherlands. If you haven't already, please go the CII website and register for what is truly going to be a meeting of a life time which will be held on the game preserve at the Kwa Martane Bush Lodge in Pilanesberg National Park.

I should point out that several members seem to have missed the renewal notification and remind everyone to quickly go into the CII website and ensure your membership is renewed as if you miss the upcoming deadline our bylaws require you go through the entire application process again.

Over the next several weeks you should be hearing from the executive team on the exciting and much need changes that will be introduced to our By-laws and Rules & Regulations that were ratified in principal at our AGM in 2011 and which we will attempt to roll

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## Feature Articles > What does a PI and fly fishing have in common? **The answer: Frank Wake.**

By Lois Colley

One of CII's newest member's is Frank Wake of Anchorage, Alaska. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Alaska, it's a remote state in the U. S. that is 1.7 Million kilometres or 663,268 miles squared. If you locate 63° 35' N / 154° 29' W on a world map and put your finger on that spot, you will be in Alaska. And yes, Alaska is dissected by the Arctic Circle and borders the Canadian province of British Columbia and Canada's Yukon Territory.

Frank's investigative interest was spawned in the military, after being certified as a cryptologist during a stint with the U.S. Air Force. After returning to civilian clothes, Frank graduated from college with a bachelors' degree in Psychology. Frank spent a few years working as a teacher before joining the investigative staff at the Franklin County Public Defender in Columbus, Ohio in 1976.

While working for the government, Frank noted a potential niche available in the private sector as a private investiga-



tor. Three years later, Frank founded his own PI firm in 1979 known as Inquiry, Inc. Even though PI's are common place nowadays, Frank was ahead of the curve in recognizing the need for quality investigators in the private sector. As Ohio revised the death penalty during the late 1970s and early 1980s, a need arose for investigative and mitigation services and Frank answered the calling.

As we all know, owning your own business can be trying, and as some of us know, Ohio is boring, so in 1987, Frank flew the coup to Alaska where he took a position as the chief investigator for the Alaska Public Defender Agency in Anchorage. In 1996, Frank acquired a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice in 1996 and then after thirteen years with the state, he took a job with the Federal Defender for the District of Alaska. Keeping in mind this size of Alaska, Frank was one of only two investigators responsible for investigations.

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### President's Message

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out over the next several weeks for the membership to approve and vote on at the next meeting.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that if you have any issues or matters of concern with CII and or membership not to hesitate myself or any one of the executive team as we are here to serve you for the better of the Council.

All the best!

Brian D. King, CII, CFE 

Frank's love of business brought him back to the private sector in 2007 when he not only formed another PI firm, but he set out on a pilgrimage that led him to open a Fly Fishing Business. Yes 2007 was the year when Frank set out on a mission to fly fish his way through the Lower 48 states in the U.S. Inquire minds are uncertain whether or not he threw his rod in every state, but upon his return, he established Fly Fish Wild Alaska, LLC. Since that time, Frank has been working as a PI while designing custom fly fishing expedition for visitors to Alaska.

In 2011, Frank was accepted as member of CII. He is excited to meet other members with whom he shares a professional interest in investigations as well as those members who love to fly fish. He encourages those who would like to travel to Alaska to contact him. He is happy to suggest places to visit and must see Alaska vistas the regular tourist might miss. Frank can be reached at POB 101691, Anchorage, AK 99510, phone 907.223.4864 or [fwake@gci.net](mailto:fwake@gci.net). 



## Maurice Amres, CEO of GEB Security Services Inc

ADAPTED BY CII FROM AN ARTICLE  
BY Michelle Gonsalves appearing in ICON

In the late 50s, a teenager by the name of Maurice Amres entered the field of Electrical Engineering associated with Oscar Green Electrical Contractor and Sandbach Parker UK Limited. Not long after, Amres, who already had a family decided that the job didn't pay enough, so he became a Sales Representative for Grell and Company (Guyana) Limited.



It wasn't long before the dynamic and ambitious young man was upgraded to General Manager where he held this position between 1962 to 1964 until a fortuitous chain of events and a grander opportunity presented itself. After a 90 day strike that virtually closed everything, Grell Trinidad & Tobago owners in Trinidad & Tobago decided to throw in the towel and call it a day.

Shortly after, Amres was called to the Head Office by the Managing Director, Mr Cecil De Caries, where he was told that there was bad and good news. The bad news was that Amres was out of a job, but the good news was that the company was selling him their assets. A flabbergasted Amres countered that he had no money to do so, but was told by Mr De Caries that as a reward for his "brilliant" service, he could have the company's desks and cabinets for a dollar. So Amres got the company and 250 cartons of Budweiser beer, which Grell had in stock at the time.

Amres told me that every morning there were lines outside his office with people waiting for him to arrive, and he would ration out the beer at a new higher price as money did not seem to matter. The beer proved to be his lifeline until the strike ended. Subsequently, in 1968 he established the Guyana Employment Bureau (GEB), then an employment agency, as an

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alternative business. According to Amres, the GEB venture did fairly well, particularly since there were overwhelming requests for watchmen.

Provided with this insight, Amres proceeded to review the needs of the security industry. At the time, Guyana had no organized private security guard company, so he conducted investigations in Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and England through the British Board of Trade on the operations of established security companies. During his research, Amres discovered that the security companies he visited used no firearms. They used canines while transporting billions of pounds of sterling throughout London.

Responding to the demand for security personnel, GEB soon evolved into Guyana's first organized guard service. Fully operational since 1969, the company's new Head Office is located in Providence, East Bank Demerara. GEB also have an office at Lot 2 Strand, New Amsterdam, Berbice. GEB now provides service through six divisions: Baton, Mobile/Cash-in-Transit, Armoured Division, Armed Guard Division, K-9 Division, Marine Division, Special Operations Division Agents (SODA) who provide VIP Protection and surveillance and also the in-demand Electronic – CCTV Division.

The number of accolades received by GEB is impressive, as can be seen on a walk through the building. The framed certificates and letters come from the Bank of Nova Scotia, Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry, Republic Bank, the Canadian High Commission, the Ex-Soldiers Benevolent Association (for employing the highest number of ex-soldiers) and a host of other organizations.

A man who humbly accepts his success as it comes and has no desire to flaunt it, Amres told GEM during the interview, "I don't want anything too braggy, braggy please." But his contributions must be acknowledged nevertheless. The CEO of GEB is also the Director of Timberhead Eco-Resort and the Managing Director of Security Management Services Limited – a security guard training company. His impressive Curriculum Vitae shows that he was the first president, (a position he held for three years) of the Guyana Association of Private Security Organizations (GAPSO). This organization, founded in 1996, has a current membership of 17 major private

security companies in Guyana who monitor, guide, maintain standards and represent all the member companies of the association.

Amres is also a Correspondent/Manager of the American Institute of Marine Underwriters (AIMU) based on Wall Street in New York. AIMU corresponds with 176 insurance companies, mainly Marine Insurance Surveys and Claim Assessors for damaged or lost shipment of merchandise. They also conduct criminal overseas investigations with Guyanese implications with particular emphasis on Life Insurance Fraud. Other memberships include being a Certified Member of the Council of International Investigators (CII) – that boasts membership of private investigators in 84 countries with Annual General Meetings (AGM) held around the world where Amres was appointed Regional Director for the Caribbean and South America, a Fellow of the Institute of Directors (London) - Business Procedures and the American Society for International Security (ASIS) – Criminal Procedures.

Amres is affiliated with or is a member of several local organizations such as the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, the Georgetown Club, the Guyana Manufacturers Association, Santa Mission School Activity Board, Guyana Canoe Federation, and the Vice Chairman of the Guyana Relief Council.

When not working hard, our Icon has a great interest in sports, particularly water skiing. He is a regatta organizer for the Swims Club on the East Bank. One of his greatest pleasures was flying the Puma Skiing kite, donated by Peter D'Aguair, a water skiing enthusiast himself.

Amres has a funny story to go with the ski kite as related to him by his mother Veronica; one Easter Monday, a mother and son flying a little kite suddenly saw Amres' ski kite take off by the seawalls and the woman exclaimed "OH GAWD, LOOK A KITE GAHN WID A MAN."

Another funny incident of particular interest is during his annual Christmas boat trips to villages in the Demerara River and Santa Mission. While approaching Sandhills, a river bank village which has a noticeable high sand hill with a church on top of the hill, the children all gathered to welcome

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**Maurice Amres**  
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Santa Claus which Amres played the role of Santa. Santa turned over control of the boat to his friend Jonathan from the UK, a boat novice. As Santa stood up on the bow holding the bow rope with one hand and waving to the multitude of children on the hill HO! HO! HO! Jonathan suddenly stopped the moving boat and knocked Santa into the Demerara River in full costume including long boots that immediately filled up with water. The Teachers thought Santa had in fact drowned until Armes appeared at their school house soaking wet. Nevertheless, the gifts and kids remained and Santa carried on with the role in the school house.

Amres currently resides at Courida Park, East Coast Demerara and is happily married to Chandra Amres. 📧

## Member News >

### ONLY ONE CLUE

Can you identify this CII member by this photo? The clue is — IT'S A MALE. Now stop complaining and get on with making an identification. The first correct answer gets a free business card size advertisement in the Councilor. And if no one guesses, the answer will still appear in our next edition of The Councilor. Submit your own photo to: [editor@cii.2.org](mailto:editor@cii.2.org) 📧



## Welcome to CII New Members:

Donald Amaeshi  
Lagos Nigeria

Thomas Daly  
Massachusetts, U.S.

Rusu Dan Ion  
Romania

Daniel Draz  
Illinois, U.S.

Andrea Galli  
ZH Switzerland

Thomas Hawkins  
Georgia U.S.

Winston Hayles  
St. Mary Jamaica

James Holohan  
New York U.S.

Tony Imossi  
United Kingdom

Thomas Jaeb  
Minnesota U.S.

Melissa Kelley  
New York U.S.

James Klingensmith  
Massachusetts U.S.

Richard Quinn  
Ontario Canada

Jennifer VanderWier  
Ontario Canada

## Regional News >

### Mid Year meetings are shaping up around the world.



■ The CII Asian Regional meeting in New Delhi India is being hosted by Pawanjit and Bunty Ahluwalia. This meeting is scheduled for February 9-11, 2012.

■ Pascal Mignot will host a meeting in Switzerland on 25 - 27 May, 2012.

Geneva Attendees: Members need to respond/make a reservation as soon as possible for the Friday meal and Saturday boat trip.

Both meetings are an opportunity to introduce CII to prospective members from a wider world. CII needs new members and we need to encourage our existing members to help promote CII. Non-Members are very welcome!

■ Don't forget the AGM in South Africa from October 8 through October 13, 2012. See details on page 6!

## AGM in South Africa

Dear CII Colleagues,

The bookings for our 2012 South African adventure are coming in. Be sure to check the website to see who of your friends and colleagues have signed up. The meeting is schedule for October 8 through October 13, 2012.



If you haven't already signed up, please do so to ensure that you receive your 10% early bird discount (ends 31 January 2012). A South African Safari experience will make an unforgettable gift for you, your partner, or your family.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured our first speaker for the conference, Ian Thomas. Ian is a sought after speaker in South Africa and has been

invited to many countries to tell his inspiring story. He draws on his knowledge of and direct experience with wild animals to provide new insights into owning and managing a business, particularly in difficult times.

Here is some background on Ian:

While working as a guide at Londolozi, a game lodge in South Africa, Ian and his tracker Phineas faced a life threatening situation wherein they were tasked with tracking an extremely aggressive lion on a daily basis. Initially, they were in crisis mode, but then made some crucial decisions that were rapidly implemented. This changed everything and Ian, Phineas, and the lodge went from strength to strength.



Ian has a business degree and believes that within this story there are many powerful lessons that businesses caught in the current financial crisis could learn and thrive on. His experiences have resulted in a presentation that is content driven, but also contains humor, stunning photographs, threatening growls, and a story telling style that is so physical that he is forced to warm up before he starts.

I am sure that his spellbinding account of life in the bush will inspire many new ideas in us about how we can ensure the success of our businesses in these interesting times, and I expect some good laughs along the way.

You can also visit Ian's website at <http://www.ianthomas.net/> to find out more.

We will be filling in more of the detail of the conference, and we will keep you updated on what you can look forward to. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the conference, or South Africa, or you need some advice on planning your trip, please contact me. Jené and I will do our best to assist or forward you to someone else who can help.

Eddy and Jené Sigrist

Aristeed B.V.

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## NCISS Update — December 2011

**A**s usual, the NCISS Legislative Committee is hard at work protecting our industry with proactive measures to restore and protect PI access to various resources.

NCISS has written Ancestry.com's President and Chief Executive Officer urging him to restore the display of Social Security Number information to the site's Death Master List data. Several websites have stopped displaying Social Security Numbers upon request from four US Senators who asserted that criminals use the information to commit identity theft. The reality is that professional investigators utilize this service for legitimate purposes such as confirming the death of a missing person, locating heirs, and verifying that credit applicants aren't assuming the identifiers of a deceased person.

Several bills are pending in the U.S. Congress that would limit access to the Death Master List. NCISS will work with congressional sponsors of the pending legislation in an effort to maintain access to this valuable investigative tool. Congress is currently in recess. The Senate returns on January 23 and the House a week earlier. Cheers to our NCISS leaders on the Hill and thank you for all your hard work! ☐

## TALI International Conference of Investigative Associations planned for August 2–4, 2012

**T**ALI is hosting the "International Conference of Investigative Associations" or ICIA on the famous River Walk in San Antonio Texas from August 2-4, 2012. Each day will be comprised of half day general session presentations and the other half of the day the attendees can select from one of four tracks of seminars. The tracks consist of Forensics, Business Operations, Investigations and Experts. Making this even more unique is the ICIA conference will be vendor driven. The majority of the presentations will be conducted by vendors who will demonstrate interesting products that attendees desire training in or have a need for in their businesses. Get more information at [www.TALI.org](http://www.TALI.org) ☐

## Note from PR Committee

### *The Councilor needs you*

**T**he Councilor needs you to provide news of interest to our CII membership. If there is an upcoming issue or event that you want to share with our membership, please do so. *We would love to hear from you!*

Please submit photos, anecdotes, hot topics or other member news to [editor@ci2.org](mailto:editor@ci2.org) or directly on our website at [www.ci2.org](http://www.ci2.org)

This is your newsletter and we need your input. Thank you!

Best wishes to all,  
Sheila Ponnosamy, *Chair*

*PR Committee with*

Joan Beach  
Lois Colley  
Ken Cummins  
Ed Henry  
Ruth Hoffman-Sales  
Debbra MacDonald  
Kelly Riddle ☐