



Stephen Raia

Provide a short bio on your experience (1-2 paragraphs) and a link to your LinkedIn profile (if available).

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephenraia/>

I have been working in IT and security leadership roles for nearly twenty years, serving in Director, Vice President, and CIO positions. During that time, I have worked in multiple highly-regulated industries, including federal contracting, higher education, financial services, and manufacturing. I have also served as a volunteer on the boards of two non-profit organizations. My responsibilities have included protection of sensitive government data, student data, medical data, and company trade secrets. In each industry, I worked closely with other business leaders to find ways to protect critical infrastructure, systems, and data while helping ensure that the business could leverage its information assets to achieve its goals.

Why are you interested in serving on the InfraGard National Capital Region Board of Directors?

I have benefited from participating in a number of InfraGard sponsored programs over the past several years and would like to give back to the security community by helping InfraGardNCR and its members over the next two years by focusing on providing relevant, impactful, and timely information sharing.

Briefly describe a 'large scale' personal or professional initiative or program you have taken on in the past? How has that experience shaped you as a potential Board Member?

A few years ago, I took on a volunteer role on the board of a non-profit based in the DC area. My main responsibility during the years I served in this role was to help the organization re-think its IT strategy and re-position itself for a digital world. Working with the organization's staff, volunteers, and other members of the Board, I helped the organization create and successfully implement its new IT strategy. From this work, I learned how to work closely with other part-time volunteers and experts to achieve great results that positively impacted the organization's members. I also learned the importance of understanding the members' perspectives on the technology services we were providing. There are many places for people to volunteer their time or seek information, so it is essential that membership organizations stay laser-focused on meeting the needs of their members.

As a member of the board, how would you interact with our chapter's members to enhance InfraGard's mission?

As a board member, I would look for ways to increase bi-directional communication between InfraGard members and our FBI partners. I plan to attend as many events as possible to allow for face-to-face interaction, and I intend to look for opportunities to use social media and other technologies to interact online.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing InfraGard and how would you address this challenge?

In my experience, the biggest challenge facing InfraGard is the need to increase member engagement by ensuring that we are sharing relevant and impactful information with and among members. Engagement can be measured in multiple ways such as attendance at InfraGard events, use of the InfraGard website, and the applicability of InfraGard content to the practical issues that members are dealing with at work every day. I would reach out to members to learn more about where they and their companies are seeing value from their membership in InfraGard. Based on that information, I would try to find ways to provide valuable content to all members, including members who rarely or never attend events or read new InfraGard releases.