

There are several reasons why the AIARE Advisory Committee believes AAA membership is relevant for AIARE members:

- Most professions have standards of professionalism that includes membership in independent associations and a process for continued professional development. Professional teachers are by circumstance informed role models. While AIARE provides a network of avalanche instructors the AAA provides potential interaction with the larger community of professional avalanche workers that includes researchers, guides, forecasters, educators and avalanche professionals in industry (highways, mining, forestry etc).
- The AAA is our national avalanche organization. It is the umbrella organization for all avalanche professionals in the US.
- If we are instructing/teaching avalanche courses we must be considered professional by the public. Since so much public scrutiny goes into who is instructing/teaching our courses, professional affiliations of our instructors is considered appropriate.
- By becoming a “professional member” of the AAA, it is not only AIARE that you have credentials from but also another professional organization which from a liability perspective is important for you, AIARE and the course provider you work with.
- Additionally as a AAA member you get the only avalanche specific professional publication, The Avalanche Review, quarterly. This publication is important reading for anyone in the avalanche education realm as it provides important industry updates on research, education and the avalanche community at large.
- In the case of an accident what would one say to the investigating prosecutor who could clearly identify the with only a few exceptions every professional Ski Patrol Director, Snow Safety Director, Avalanche Forecaster and Avalanche Consultant -- not to mention many avalanche control workers are members of the AAA?
- What would one say to the student who asks the professional avalanche worker why he wasn't a member of the national professional avalanche association?