



2008 Fall Newsletter

Committee Reports

La Junta Outreach Class has been canceled

Next CCA Meeting: Saturday September 20th at 11:00 a.m. at the El Paso County Coroner's Office

Please let Chris Herndon (719-649-1865) or chrisherndon@elpasoco.com know if you are planning to attend the meeting so she can order food for lunch.

Be sure to check our website for upcoming training and other great information:
Coloradocoroners.org

Presidents Message

Where did the summer go? It seems just days ago that my life was being timed by the period before conference and the period after conference.

There are exciting things on tap this fall. Hopefully we will see the completion of revised articles of incorporation, by-laws and a policy manual for CCA. Defining how the organization functions will be an asset to the current administration and those to follow. We have grown so one person no longer knows everything that is going on so a framework for getting our mission accomplished is important.

CCA has been asked to begin the development of a death investigator training course that will fulfill the state board requirements and offer another in-state training opportunity. More news on this soon!!!

Sharon Morris
CCA President

Education Committee

The Education Committee duties are to develop programs for the Outreach Seminars, June Conference and any other education programs offered by CCA. The Chair is Chris Herndon, El Paso County,

The next outreach had been scheduled for September 19th and 20th in La Junta. Unfortunately there were not enough registrations to make it feasible to do. The next outreach will be in April. If you would like to host the outreach in your area please let Chris know.

Mark the Date! (June 11, 12 & 13, 2009)

The 2009 June conference will be June 11th, 12th and 13th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly the Sheraton) in Colorado Springs.

The critiques from the 2008 conference provided some great ideas.

Case presentations are needed!!!! These are always the highlight of the conference. Call Chris if you have a case to present!

Update on new mailing address for the Colorado Coroner's Association

Bruce Zobel, who did an excellent job in handling the treasurer duties for so many years, retired last year. For those years, dues and financial items were mailed to the Colorado Coroner's Association / P.O. Box 1505 Clifton, CO 81520.

Due to the retirement; Steven "Steve" Stogsdill, D-ABMDI, Chief Deputy Coroner / Chief Investigator for Mesa County Coroner's Office became the new treasurer. With the change, a new P.O. Box was opened for the CCA. For mailings on dues or other financial items, please mail them to:

Colorado Coroner's Association
P.O. Box 40846
Grand Junction, CO 81504



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Legislation Committee

The Legislative Committee duties are to monitor legislation during the legislative session, develop legislation when needed, seek Coroner opinion on legislation, work with the CCA lobbyist on legislative strategy, and organize testimony on legislation when needed. Sharon Morris, Park County is the chair. No legislation is proposed at this time, however some ideas have been suggested.

Coroner Assist Team

The Coroner Assist Team coordinates requests for assistance and referrals from any Colorado County Coroner. The team maintains a list of available equipment, qualified personnel, and forensic specialists. The Coroner Assist Team is Co-Chaired by Darell Brenner, Washington County and Steve Stogsdill, Mesa County.

Luckily no one has had the need to call on the Coroner Assist Team so far this year.

Certification Committee

The Certification Committee is responsible for keeping the records of Certified Death Investigators, including new applicants and continuing education. Brenda Bock, Grand County is the Chair.

You can now check the status of certified investigators on our website in the Certification section.

CCA Representatives to other Committees

This committee coordinates representatives to: Donor Alliance, Child Fatality Review, GEERC, SEMTAC, and any other council that asks for or require a CCA representative. This committee is chaired by Sharon Morris, Park County.

Zane Laubhan, Gilpin County, is the Coroner representative to the state EMS committee

(SEMTAC) and the state all hazards committee (SAHAC). Much of the work of these committees was specifically related to the Democratic National Convention for the past few months. SAHAC has been working on streamlining the group by reducing the number of committees and consolidating duties. The SEMTAC medical task force, of which Laubhan is a member, has been dealing with the legalities of various types of advanced directives.

GEERC – this Governors Emergency Response committee also dealt with DNC issues. Dr. Doberen was not available for a report.

State Child Fatality Committee- no report, meetings will begin again in the fall

Ike Miller

The Ike Miller committee is responsible for managing the award process for the special award created by Dr. Ben Galloway, and any other awards that the Board of Directors deems appropriate. Dr. Robert Bux, El Paso County is the chair of this committee.

The Ike Miller scholarship was awarded to Steve Lance a deputy coroner from Ouray County. He will attend the St. Louis Medicolegal Death Investigation class in October. The next cycle for scholarship applications will begin in the spring of 2009. The successful applicant will be announced at June conference.

Marketing

This committee is responsible for the CCA website, providing information to the media and providing a selection of merchandise for members to purchase. This committee is comprised of: Mike Graeff, Elbert County is the Chair of this committee.

Sandy and Mike Graeff out did themselves with new stuff to have for sale at the Outreach classes and June Conference. They would like to hear from



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anybody who has any special requests or suggestions for items.

reporting of missing person cases. Cases of missing persons 18 years and younger must be reported, but adult cases are voluntary. Very few states require law enforcement to do adult missing person reports, which creates a low rate through NCIC.

Colorado Coroners Standards and Training Board

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

ALL *Coroners* are required by state statute to submit proof of 16 hours of continuing education, **each year**, to the CCSTB each year. If you attended June Conference you have completed your requirement. Other training you have gotten this summer may also fill your requirement. The CCSTB is quite lenient as to what training will qualify. As long as it benefits your office and how you do your job, the coursework will be approved.

Forms for submission of training hours are on the CCA website at coloradocoroners.org. Try to submit your training hours now rather than waiting until the end of the year.

Submit your completed hours along with certificates of completion to Janet Larson, CCSTB Training Coordinator, County Sheriffs of Colorado, 9008 N. U. S. Hwy 85, Littleton, CO 80125-9915.

Guest Column

The following information is from the Department of Justice on a database for missing and unidentified persons.

NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS (NAMUS)

In July 2007, The Department of Justice announced a new program being instituted that was going to be called "National Missing and Unidentified Persons" (NAMUS).

During research by the DOJ, they identified a problem in regards to the

(NAMUS) is a national online database for unidentified remains and missing persons. This database is designed to link records from the unidentified remains database with missing person records and to provide those records through a search and matching tool.

This program was designed to assist Law Enforcement, Medical Examiners, Coroners, Law Enforcement, Victim Advocates and the general public the ability to search the databases in an effort to solve missing and unidentified cases.

Status of the implementation:

Phase 1 (Completed)

- Complete creation of the National database of unidentified decedent records, which will allow searches based on characteristics such as demographics, anthropologic analysis, dental information, and distinct body features.
- Begin functional and technical design of the National online missing persons database.
- Finalize nationwide resources on missing persons, including a central access point for information on State clearinghouses, medical examiners' and coroners' offices, victims assistance resources, and legislation.
- Begin study to examine the legal ramifications of privacy laws and their impact on public access to information on missing persons.

Phase II (October 2007—September 2008)



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- Develop a national online missing persons database to enhance reporting, investigation and solving missing persons cases.

Phase III (2009)

- Complete integration of the two NamUs databases to allow simultaneous searching of missing persons records against cases in the unidentified decedents database to identify unidentified human remains and solve missing persons cases.

This database will improve the quality and quantity of missing person data and simplify the reporting and management of missing persons cases for the justice community and the general public.

Currently, the unidentified decedents database is searchable and available for medical examiners and coroners to upload their cases. The search capability of the missing persons database is in development; the site currently provides resources on State clearinghouses, medical examiners and coroners, law enforcement, victim assistance resources, and legislation.

COLORADO

For us in the State of Colorado, this issue was addressed in the Legislature as House Bill 1122, which became law.

Some key provisions of the bill included the following:

- GREATER cooperation between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies
- MORE comprehensive training and education for law enforcement agencies involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases
- MORE access to federal databases for medical examiners and coroners to upload and compare evidence

- CONTINUING federal funding for DNA testing and the combined DNA index system
- BASED on model State legislation
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/210740v2.pdf>

The State Clearinghouse for Colorado is the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

For more on the database, log onto <http://www.namus.gov>

If you listen to National Public Radio (NPR) you might have heard an interview with Dr. Robert Morrow the Baca County Coroner. If you missed it, you can listen to it on their website:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=94304421>