



COLORADO CORONERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

Presidents Message

Mark your calendars, plan your vacation and come to the 20th Annual Colorado Coroners Training conference, June 12, 13 and 14, 2008. This conference has something for everyone. You asked for basic equipment information. You got it and there will be more basic equipment for sale!!!! You asked for more and more case presentations. Over half of the conference will be case presentations from forensic pathologists and your fellow Coroners. Presentations range from the bizarre cases to the puzzling is it accident or ? You will also get a chance to test your knowledge with Coroner Jeopardy. Meet the brave souls that started CCA 20 plus years ago. It is two and one-half days packed full of information and interaction.

Cripple Creek is a great place to begin a real Colorado vacation. After conference at the NON-SMOKING Double Eagle Casino and Conference Center you can travel down the scenic Phantom Canyon to Canon City and Royal Gorge. From there you can head west to Salida and Gunnison to Black Canyon National Monument or east to Colorado Springs for a tour of the Air Force Academy. Get out your maps and plan a trip starting in Cripple Creek and see Colorado.

Conference flyers will be mailed the middle of April. Conference continuing education credits are offered by ABMDI, POST and the Coroner Standards and Training Board.

See you in June!!!!!!!

Sharon Morris
CCA President

Next CCA Meeting:

April 18th, 2008 following the CCA Outreach Training Class at the Holiday Inn in Grand Junction.

Please let Chris Herndon (719-649-1865) 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

Committee Reports

Education Committee

The Education Committee duties are to develop programs for the Outreach Seminars, June Conference and any other education programs offered by CCA.

CCA is proud to have trainings approved for continuing education credits both locally and nationally.

The next outreach will be Thursday and Friday April 17th and 18th, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Grand Junction, hosted by the Mesa County Coroner's Office. Approved by POST, ABMDI and CCSTB. June conference approval has been submitted and confirmation is expected shortly.

If you'd like us to bring an Outreach Training to your area please let Chris know. A location has not been selected for the fall outreach class.

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.

Three bills of interest to Coroners are going through the legislative process at this time.

HB1199, Concerning updating the tuberculosis statutes to reflect current public health practice is awaiting the Governors signature. The first draft of the bill required that Coroners furnish records that we do not normally release to the Department of Health. The bill was changed to reflect current law.

HB1123 Concerning the regulation of the funeral industry. It does not deal with the part of the industry that Coroners normally interact with such as death certificates, but deals with the actual providing and standards of service. It has been amended and approved by the appropriations committee and the House. It will now go to the Senate.

HB 1056 Concerning the emergency contact information in the drivers license database. Passed the House 62-0 and will be assigned to Senate Transportation committee.

This has been a quiet legislative year, with bills of interest having little actual impact on Coroners. Potential legislation to look at basic qualifications for metro area Coroners was not considered by legislative leadership.

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.

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

CCSTB

Beginning January 1, 2007, **ALL** Coroners are to complete 16 hours of continuing education **each year** and register the CE credits with the Colorado Coroners Standards and Training Board. The 16 hour requirement is for elected or appointed CORONERS only. The law does not apply to death investigators or deputy coroners

To date, only 15 Coroners have sent in their CE's to the CCSTB. To send in your credits, go to the CCA website at coloradocoroners.org. Under training you will find a link to the forms. Try to fill the forms out on-line because of the space limitations. After completion, mail, fax or e-mail the forms to the CCSTB at jlanson@csoc.org. or Janet Larson, % CSOC, 9008 N. Hwy 85, Littleton, CO 80125. The telephone number is 720-344-2762 and the fax number is 720-344-6500. Deadline for completion of 2007 credits is June 30, 2008. You also have to have 16 hours for 2008 completed by Dec. 31, 2008.

The Outreach Class in Grand Junction will give you 12 credits and June Conference 22 credits again this year.

Sixteen credits are not difficult to obtain. If you attended June conference in 2007 you have your credits (22). Outreach training in 2007 will yield 12 credits. On line courses in such areas as incident command are easy to complete. Visit the ABMDI website for other on line coursework. Think of the many trainings you may have attended in 2007. Hazardous materials, management, mass disaster, epidemiology, tabletop exercises – all these could qualify for continuing education credits. The CCSTB recognizes that different areas of the state need specialized training. The members have acknowledged that they will accept any training that enhances how you do your job, as continuing education credits.

Coroners throughout the state fought for legislation to require a certain standard of training for Coroners. It is now up to us to follow the legislation and show that we are professionals that continually update our training.

Continuing education credits for CCSTB are not to be confused with CCA death investigator credits. Proof of continuing education must be submitted to both groups. They may be for the same course work but are submitted to each organization separately.

If you have questions about trainings and whether it will be accepted for CE's, contact Janet Larson at the above e-mail. Additionally, the entire bill

establishing the CCSTB and the training requirements is published on the CCA website.

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 deem appropriate.

This special funding has paid for training, room and board at the medicolegal death investigation classes in either St. Louis or New Mexico. This funding is available again this year. Applications were sent out with our last newsletter and so far nobody has applied for this opportunity. Don't let this pass you by! Contact any of the Board members to get an application if you need one.

Marketing

This committee is responsible for the CCA website, providing information to the media and providing a selection of merchandise for members to purchase.

Just wait until you see all the new stuff we have for sale at the Outreach classes and June Conference.

Donor Protocols

In December all Coroners were sent copies of the Donor Protocols for signature by each Coroner and their respective District Attorney.

Approximately 1/2 of those protocols have been signed and returned. It is essential that we follow current law and get these agreements signed. If you have not signed your protocols, please do so and send them on to your district attorney. If you have sent them to your DA, please check to see that they were sent on. If the delay is with your district attorney, please contact Sharon Morris at smorris@parkco.us and she will have a member of the District Attorney's Council make contact.

According to the new law, if protocols are not signed then the Coroner must view the deceased before donation or denial can occur. For many smaller counties this could entail a trip to one of the metro areas.

If you no longer have your copies of the protocol, contact Sharon Morris at the above e-mail for a duplicate. Additional contact numbers are 719-836-4340 (work) and 719-836-2847 (fax). The mailing address to return the signed protocols to is

Park County Coroner Sharon Morris, POB 1742, Fairplay, CO 80440.

Guest Column

(We need some help from all of you; send us some ideas for guest columns!!)

Other Information we've come across:

FEMA has published new firefighter autopsy guidelines for 2008. Most of the information applies to forensic pathologists, however, included is a great deal of background information and scene information that death investigators need to provide to the pathologist. The whole protocol is long, 165 pages, so you may want to scan it for information appropriate for death investigators. You can copy and paste these links:

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/firefighter_autopsy_p

See following links for the established Federal guidelines for disposal of medicines for the general public.

http://www.oncdp.gov/drugfact/factsht/proper_disposal.html
http://www.oncdp.gov/drugfact/factsht/proper_disposal.html>

Already available in PDF format:

http://www.oncdp.gov/publications/pdf/prescrip_disposal.pdf
http://www.oncdp.gov/publications/pdf/prescrip_disposal.pdf>

From the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Office of the State Registrar and Vital Statistics

Annual Training Conference (April 25, 2008) includes formal training presentations, speakers, and panel discussions for our constituents throughout the State of Colorado. This year we have placed special emphasis on issues relevant to funeral directors and coroners, bringing in Dan Marion, forensic artist (working with unidentified remains), a member of the American Association of Suicidology and Founder/Director of HeartBeat, a representative from the Mexican Consulate, as well as a consultant on Latin American funeral customs.

Along with our sessions on death and fetal death certificate completion and EDRS (Electronic Death Registration System) updates, we are so excited to offer three amazing sessions that we hope will be high on your list to attend. Late word that Dan Marion, a favorite speaker of CCA's will be giving a lecture.

Registration Information:

Registration forms and conference information is available by contacting Renee Bear at renee.bear@state.co.us or by calling 303-692-2179.
