



2009 Fall Newsletter

Next CCA Meeting: Friday, October 2nd, 2009 at noon, following the conclusion of the Outreach Training in Montrose

Please let Chris Herndon (719-649-1865) or herschweer@msn.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:

Presidents Message

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as your President this year. Sharron Morris has done a terrific job as president and consensus builder on the Board of Directors and will be a hard act to follow. We have two important issues facing us at this time.

First of all I was invited to a legislative hearing on Hospice Care in late July and testified in Denver regarding Hospice care and how it impacts the local Coroners. It is apparent that we have some kinks to work out so that we have a best practice that takes into account the varied responses of each of our county offices to these kinds of death. Since that time I have met with the Executive Director of the Colorado hospice organizations to further discuss the issue and I am confident that we can work out a best practice both for the CCA as well as the Hospices organizations throughout Colorado without having the legislature involved with any legislation. There is a wide range of how hospice deaths are handled and what information is requested by each of our offices. In addition there are two other related problems in Hospice deaths, namely what to do with invalidating the drivers licenses and also with disposal of scheduled medications principally narcotics. I have appointed a committee which will meet in the near future to develop a best practice for the CCA and also to make sure that on the other end that each County

Coroner's Office has the necessary information provided by the treating Hospice in order to properly investigate these cases.

Our second issue deals with Green burials. I presented this issue in late August in Littleton to the MACC (Metropolitan Area of County Commissioners) and they are in favor of getting legislation passed this session to deal with this issue. No opposition at this meeting surfaced. Peg Ackerman, our CCA lobbyist has already lined up sponsors for this legislative effort. In the near future the Green burial committee of our organization will be coming forth with specific points on how best to take care of this potential growing problem. I look forward to speaking with each of you at our upcoming Coroner Outreach in Montrose, Colorado on October 1st and 2 on these issues or any other concerns that the Colorado Coroners Association can assist you in the performance of your required duties.

Robert Bux, MD
El Paso County Coroner

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. The Chair is Chris Herndon, El Paso County,

The next Outreach Training is October 1st and 2nd, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose. The registrations have been flowing in and it looks like we will have around 70 people in attendance.

Mark the Date! (June 10, 11 & 12, 2010)

The 2010 June conference will be June 10th, 11th and 12th at the DoubleTree-World Arena Hotel n Colorado Springs. The critiques from the 2009



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conference provided some great ideas. And we've already got some great speakers lined up!

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

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. Bob Bux, El Paso County is the chair. It's that time of year when thoughts turn to legislative issues, if you have ideas please contact Dr. Bux at 719-390-2450.

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 Darrel Brenner, Washington County and Steve Stogsdill, Mesa County.

The Coroner Assist Team is working on re-organizing and gathering information.

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.

We have 119 active certified death investigators as of September 15, 2009. Over the years we have had over 270 people that have certified. Some have since retired, changed professions or let their certificates expire. Remember that in order to stay active; you have to keep up your continuing education and stay employed with a coroner's office. Also if there have been any changes in

your current information such as address, phone, place of employment, email address, you need to let Brenda or Chris know so we can change your information. You can also check out your status on the web site. Go to CCA certification; then go to the link at the bottom of the page that says: [COLORADO CORONERS ASSOCIATION DEATH INVESTIGATORS CERTIFICATION STATUS](#). If you have any questions please let me know.

For those of you that have just re-certified you will notice that your certificate comes with your Colorado Certified Death Investigator (CCID) number on it. Also it has the date on which you were first certified. For those of you with lower numbers, that is something that you can be very proud of. It shows that you have been very dedicated to this organization and also in helping to bring the standards of our profession to a higher level.

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 requires 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. Dobersen was not available for a report.



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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 Carlette Brocius a deputy coroner from Fremont County. She will attend the St. Louis Medicolegal Death Investigation class when she gets it scheduled. The next cycle for scholarship applications will begin in the spring of 2010. 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.

The Marketing Committee would like to thank everyone for making the June Conference such a success. The sales are up since we started using the credit card machine. We are still asking for suggestions for items for next year's conference. Thank you to Bob Dempsey who always has good suggestions and lets us know what he would like to see us sell. With the credit card ability we would also be willing to process orders for anything that we have by either e-mail or phone orders as long as everyone is aware that we would have to charge shipping fees. We also need your suggestions for the yearly awards that we present during June Conference. Call us anytime with your suggestions. 303-646-5599.

Website

We have a new Webmaster who has been wonderful at putting stuff on the website as soon as we send it to him. If you have any ideas for something that should be on the website let Brenda Bock or Chris Herndon know.

Colorado Coroners Standards and Training Board

Each Coroner is required by state law to complete 16 hours of continuing education each year. These hours can be such things as CCA conference, any other applicable training that enables a Coroner to do that particular job better, other trainings in other states, ICS training, etc.

These 16 continuing education hours are mandatory by state law. Some Coroners have not done training in 2008 and need to note that training hours accumulated in 2009 will be applied to 2008 FIRST.

The Board decided in 2006 that coroners would get credit for CCA's Outreach Training classes only once unless there was a substantial change in topics from year to year. There are only six coroners, who have been given credit for the outreaches so far.

These trainings are not to be confused with the requirements for certification as a death investigator through CCA. Many courses will apply to both the state requirement and the CCA requirement but must be submitted to BOTH entities.

If you have questions contact the Coroner Standards and Training Board. The coordinator is Janet Larson 720-344-4615, the chairman is Wes Riber, 303-814-7150 and the Vice chairman is Mike Rogers 719-589-4271.

The REQUIRED forms for submitting the continuing education hours are on the CCA website under CCSTB. They may be filled out online and then printed and sent to CCSTB, with documentation of



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the course such as a completion certificate. The address is Janet Larson, Education Coordinator CCSTB, 9008 N. Hwy 85, Highlands Ranch, CO.

The San Miguel County Coroner, Bob Dempsey summed it up really well in an email that he sent to us and we cut and pasted it to the CCA website on the CCSTB section.

New Coroners in 2010

Any Coroners not planning to run for another term...it would help if you let CCA know. It appears that there will be quite a few not running and your advance notice will help CCA and the Coroner Standards and Training Board plan and budget for new Coroner training. Just let Chris know. We can keep this confidential if you like, just need numbers. Contact for Chris is 719-649-1865.

There's a new Doc in town!

From Dr. Pat Allen: There is a forensic neuropathologist that has recently moved in to the area from California. She is living in Cheyenne, WY and is taking brain cases for consultation: Dementias, Child abuse, shaken baby, etc, etc, and any neuro cases that may need the attention of a forensic neuropathologist. We have used her on a number of cases and she is very meticulous and writes a good report. She moved to Wyoming to semi-retire with her husband but still wants to do consulting. She practiced forensic pathology in Los Angeles at the ME's office for a number of years before sub-specializing in forensic neuropathology. She still travels to southern CA every six weeks to cut brains and write reports. She has also co-authored a textbook- Forensic Neuropathology, c. 2007. She is boarded in AP, CP, FP and NP.

Her name is:

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