



# Spring 2009 Newsletter

**Next CCA Meeting:** Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. following the CCA Outreach Class in Buena Vista

Please let Chris Herndon (719-649-1865) or email her at [herschweer@msn.com](mailto: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:**  
[Coloradocoroners.org](http://Coloradocoroners.org)

## Presidents Message

We just received some much needed moist snow in Park County. I hope the rest of you that were experiencing dry conditions and wildfires also got a bunch of the wet stuff!!!!

Registrations are starting to come in for the April 16 and 17 Outreach meeting. Buena Vista is a lovely city and Randy Amettis, Chaffee County Coroner has put together a great package for us. You can't beat the price for one and one-half days training, CCA continuing education credit, POST credit, CCSTB continuing education credit and credit with ABMDI. Please be aware that CCSTB will only credit you for the first time you attend Outreach as the program is the same for each session. The other entities will give you credit for each time you attend, as the networking is always different.

Look for the new and improved by-laws for CCA in your mail sometime in May. Please take these seriously and read them as your county will be expected to vote on them at June conference. If you have questions or concerns about the new by-laws please contact me by phone at 719-836-4340 or e-mail [smorris@parkco.us](mailto:smorris@parkco.us)

Hope to see you at Outreach and/or June conference. Remember conference registration has been reduced by more than half as we know all counties are feeling the budget crunch.

Sharon Morris  
Park County

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## 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,

Our next outreach has been scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Buena Vista. You can check the web site for registration information and forms or call Chris.

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

We have scheduled the 2009 conference for June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly the Sheraton) in Colorado Springs.

We have some great presentations planned; Dr. Elizabeth Laposata from Rhode Island is going to talk about 2 mass disasters that she has handled, one before 911 and all the changes and one after. At the request of many of you Steve Ainsworth will be back! And more.

Several of you asked for more hands on stuff, like scenes to investigate. For that we suggest that you attend one of our Outreach Classes. Too many people attend June Conference to do scenes.

### Legislation Committee



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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.

There has not been any legislation directly involving Coroners this year. Our lobbyist, Peg Ackerman, has been diligent with keeping aware of legislation. Two bills involve us in only a peripheral sense. Those two are one bill allowing the military to assume custody and provide disposition for unclaimed military deceased. Another is a bill that defines certification for persons involved in the funeral preparation industry. The first bill has passed and awaits signing by the Governor. The other is working its way through the system.

## **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.

The team is working on re-vamping everything from the ground up. Every coroner will be receiving a request for information about what kind of supplies you have and how many people you would be able to supply if needed. When you get the form please fill it out and get it back to the team, it will help them get organized.

## **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.

Brenda wants to remind everyone that her address has changed and they need to make sure to send their info to the new address.

PO Box 828  
Kremmling, CO 80459  
970-724-0083 office  
970-724-0085 fax

Several people are up for renewal this year and will be getting email reminders from Brenda soon.

Brenda also got her County to cough up a new office for her that includes an autopsy suite and coolers. She'll send you pictures if you'd like.

## **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



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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.

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 next cycle for scholarship applications to one of the major death investigation schools will begin in the spring of 2009. The successful applicant will be announced at June conference. We have received one completed application and had requests for a couple of applications, it's time to finish them up and get them in.....

## Marketing

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

Sandy and Mike Graeff would like to hear from anybody who has any special requests or suggestions for items.

## Website

CCA has a new webmaster managing coloradocoroners.org . At this time, continue to route items for the website through Sharon Morris. Additionally, queries to the site will continue to be routed through Sharon for disposition to the appropriate person. Hits to the website continue at an average of 180 per week. Queries come from high school students and others wanting to know about employment in the field, from vendors, from other Coroners associations and from the public.

## “Green” Burials:

There is more and more momentum to have loved ones buried on personal property and in manners that do not require caskets, vaults, etc. Currently there are no state regulations regarding this practice. I would like to know what experience you have had with these newer practices. Additionally, I need to know if your county has addressed the issue in any way. My environmental health director is of the opinion that regulations regarding the reporting and location of such burials can be added to county land use regulations. Other Coroners have had locations of such burials added to land deeds and others have just specified that they be notified. It appears that some standardization may be needed so please, give me your opinion. [smorris@parkco.us](mailto:smorris@parkco.us) If this is not an issue in your county I also want to know that information.