



Spring 2010 Newsletter

Next CCA Board of Directors Meeting:

Thursday April 15th at 6:00 p.m. during the CCA Outreach Class in Loveland.

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

Coloradocoroners.org

In two weeks we will be having our Coroner outreach in Loveland, Colorado hosted by Dr. Patrick Allen. The dates are April 15 & 16th. I hope many of you in neighboring counties will take the time to attend the training.

June is also fast approaching so please save dates of June 10th -12th for our annual CCA conference which will be held in Colorado Springs. I look forward to seeing all of you then.

Bob

Robert Bux, MD
CCA President
El Paso County Coroner

Presidents Message

Over the last three months my focus has been on getting our Burial registration bill through the legislative committees successfully. Our House Bill 1275 has been voted out of the House and is now in the Senate. Last week the Senate Local Government and Energy committee met and approved the legislation sending it to the full Senate for final readings. At this point it has passed the first two readings and has one more before it can go to Governor Ritter for his signature. We are hopeful that the Senate will approve the bill on the third reading and send it to the Governor for signature. We are hopeful that the Governor will choose to sign this bill into legislation.

In the last month House Concurrent Resolution 1001 has been introduced as a concurrent resolution. A concurrent resolution takes a two thirds majority in order to pass as it requires a Constitutional change which requires Colorado voters to vote approval before it can become law. This resolution has been introduced a number of times in the past and either killed in House committee or died in the House. This resolution does away with the current salary commission that our organization has lobbied so hard for and against all of the hard work of Wes Riber and Bob Fowler who have been our salary commission representatives.

Committee Reports

Legislation Committee

House Bill 1075 – Burial Regulations

House bill 1075 was passed on 4/5/2010 in the Senate at 34-0 for passage. The bill is on the way to the Governor. Hopefully he will choose to sign it.

HCR 1001 – Regarding Salaries being set by Commissioners

Committee killed HCR 1001, 4 ayes in favor of sending this to the House to 7 nays against. This piece of legislation is done. Also Representative Paul Weissmann, who has introduced this bill multiple times, serves as the House Majority Leader and represents Boulder County, is term limited. He will be out of office in January 1011.

On 4/6/2010 testimony was heard before the House Local Government Committee on HCR 1001 regarding placing before the voters a Constitutional



Spring 2010 Newsletter

change allowing the BOCC to set our salaries and also doing away the Salary Commission. The CCI which represents the county commissioners has come out against this resolution as have all the county wide elected associations, clerks, treasurers, assessors, surveyors, and sheriffs.

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, Washington County,

Our next outreach will be April 15th and 16th, 2010 in Loveland. So far we have close to 100 people registered! You can check the web site for registration information and forms or call Chris.

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

We have scheduled the 2010 conference for June 10th, 11th and 12th at the Doubletree-World Arena in Colorado Springs; it's just across I-25 from where we were in 2009.

Brochures will be mailed out soon, and more information posted on the website.

We need some case presentations! Please let Chris Herndon know if you have an interesting case or two that you'd like to present.

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 has been meeting and is working on re-vamping everything from the ground up. Last year we mailed to every coroner a request for information about what kind of supplies you have and how many people you would be able to supply if needed. We only heard back from a few so we are making phone calls and reaching out by email 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.

There are 110 certified Investigators through CCA. You can check the status of certified investigators on our website in the Certification section.

Colorado Coroners Standards and Training Board (CCSTB)

Brenda Bock and Darrel Brenner have been attending the quarterly meetings of the CCSTB and have been trying to work with them about the confusion around CCA certification and what CCSTB has to enforce. We are trying to work together to make things less confusing. Brenda would like to get input from the Coroners and deputy coroners in the next week, so we can talk about it when the CCA Board meets in Loveland on the 15th.

•Coroners (not deputy coroners) are required by the CCSTB statute to have 16 hours of continuing education yearly.

•Right now, CCA requires 35 continuing education hours in a 3 year period for everybody.

•We're thinking of changing the certification to 4 years instead of three and having the certificates expire on election years.



Spring 2010 Newsletter

Should Coroners and deputy coroners have different criteria through CCA to certify?

I would really appreciate hearing from each of you and any ideas on how you think we can simplify the process.

Email me at: BBock@rkymtnhi.com
Or call me: 970-724-0083 or 970-531-0323.

Thanks,
Brenda Bock-CCA Certification Chair

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.

Zane Laubhan, Gilpin County, is the Coroner representative to the state EMS committee (SEMTAC) and the state all hazards committee (SAHAC).
GEERC – this Governors Emergency Response committee. Dr. Mike Dobersen is CCA's representative.

State Child Fatality Committee- Funding has run out for this committee.

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.

The 2009 winner was Carlette Brocious, a Deputy Coroner from Fremont County. She will be attending the St. Louis class in April.

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. Don't let this pass you by! Contact any of the Board members to get an application if you need one.

The next cycle for scholarship applications to one of the major death investigation schools will begin in the spring of 2010. The successful applicant will be announced at June conference.

Marketing

This committee is responsible for providing a selection of merchandise for members to purchase during our conferences. Mike and Sandy Graeff prepare all year, finding new things for you. If there is anything that you think would be beneficial for other Coroner's to have please let them know.

Website

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. We are posting training announcements as we get them so check the website frequently.

Election News

Are you running for election or re-election? You need to re-file your fingerprints with CBI.

You have to have the 10 print card properly filled out:



Spring 2010 Newsletter

APPLICANT		LEAVE BLANK		TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION	
SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED <i>John L. Doe</i>		LAST NAME DOE		FIRST NAME John	
RESIDENCE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED 111 4th Street Anywhere, CO 12345		ALIASES AKA		G R I	
DATE 3/12/10		SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING FINGERPRINTS <i>Shim Reaper</i>		CITIZENSHIP US	
EMPLOYER AND ADDRESS County Clerk & Recorder PO Box 1234 Anywhere, CO 12345		YOUR NO. OCA C00250000		SEX M	
REASON FINGERPRINTED Coroners Candidate CBI/FBI 003850 30-10-601.5 CCR		FBI NO. FBI		M W	
		ARMED FORCES NO. MNU		CLASS	
		SOCIAL SECURITY NO. SQC 123456789		REF	
		MISCELLANEOUS NO. MNU			

You also must enclose a Money Order, not a check

In the Employer and Address field you must put your County Clerks address.

In the Reason Fingerprinted you must put:

Coroners Candidate
CBI/FBI 003850
30-10-601.5 CCR

You must send a letter to CBI that says something like:

*John Doe, Coroner candidate
PO Box 5678
Anywhere, CO 12345
(970) 123-4567*

*Colorado Bureau of Investigations
690 Kipling Suite 3000
Denver, CO 80215-5825*

I am running for _____ County Coroner and was told to submit a set of fingerprints to you as per C.R.S. 30-10-601.5 My fee of 38.50 is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please give me a call. The county clerk for _____ County is listed below and my address is above.

County Clerk & Recorder
P.O. Box 1234
Anywhere, CO 12345

Thank You,

John Doe

We strongly advise you to make copies of it all and mail this as a certified letter so that you have a paper trail.

Other News

Bode Technology has received funding through the National Institute of Justice grant, **“Using DNA Technology to Identify the Missing.”** Using the NIJ funding, Bode is able to accept unidentified human remains and family reference samples from state and local agencies and process the remains to develop both a nuclear (STR) and mitochondrial DNA profile **at no charge.**

Bode is ASCLD/LAB and ISO 17025 accredited and the only private DNA laboratory participating in this NIJ funding opportunity. The funding allows Bode to assist the efforts of Medical Examiner’s Offices and law enforcement agencies across the country to generate DNA profiles that will be uploaded into the **FBI’s National Missing Persons DNA Database.**

If your agency has unidentified human remains cases that you would like us to consider please contact us at (866) 263-3443 x787. **There is no charge to your agency** for the DNA testing or upload of the unidentified remains and/or family reference samples into the National Missing Persons DNA Database through this grant program.

For additional information on this project, please visit [Missing Person Identification](#) at



Spring 2010 Newsletter

www.bodetech.com. Or contact us and we will be happy to answer any questions you have regarding this project and its benefit to you.

Susan Bach
Technical Services Manager
Bode Technology
(866) 263-3443 x787
susan.bach@bodetech.com
www.bodetech.com

Professor pitches “body farm”

Mesa State may build a research site for students to study decomposing corpses.

1/30/2010 Denver Post By The Associated Press

Grand junction» A “body farm” of decomposing human corpses could be headed to Mesa State College.

Criminal science professor Michael Bozeman has proposed building the mountain West’s first “body farm” to help forensics students prepare for criminal investigations. Body farms are research sites where people who have donated their bodies to science are left so scientists can study how human bodies decompose.

Bozeman hasn’t named a specific site for Mesa State’s body farm but conceded the grisly research site would leave many unsettled.

“I hope the citizens of Grand Junction understand it may be a controversial topic and a bit squeamish for some, but it should help put Mesa State on the map,” Bozeman told The (Grand Junction) Daily Sentinel.

A handful of research body farms are scattered across the country all affiliated with forensics programs. The first body farm in the United States was built 38 years ago at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Other farms followed at Texas State University-San Marcos and Sam Houston State in Texas as well as Western Carolina University in North Carolina.

Bozeman said Mesa State’s would be the first body farm in dry, high-altitude conditions. Bozeman said corpses decompose differently in the high country than they would in humid conditions such as those in Tennessee.

“Heat and humidity, particularly humidity, causes more rapid decomposition because of moisture,” Bozeman said.

Humidity also attracts different bugs to the corpses. Entomology is important to forensics because different bugs appear on bodies at different times and have different effects on decomposition.

Mesa State’s body farm could be started as soon as this spring.

One of its first researchers would be Mesa State senior Amanda Borman, who plans to graduate with a psychology major and a criminal justice minor in May.

Borman said the farm would help make classroom lessons more realistic.

“We’re going to have an experience other graduates won’t have had. We’ll already know what we’re getting into,” Borman said.

New Report Shows Slight Decline Over Past Decade in Colorado’s Suicide Rate; Overall, Rate Remains Above National Average

Preventing Suicide in Colorado - Progress Achieved & Goals for the Future was issued jointly, in 2009, by The Colorado Trust (<http://www.coloradotrust.org/>) and Mental Health America of Colorado (<http://www.mhacolorado.org/>). The report is an update to the state’s 1998 Suicide Prevention and Intervention Plan (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/suicide/suicideplan.pdf>) to address Colorado’s historically high suicide rate, as well as The Trust’s 2002 report Suicide in Colorado



Spring 2010 Newsletter

(<http://www.coloradotrust.org/publications/view-all?filter=Date&pagenum=13>), which documented the problem of suicide across the state and identified suicide-prevention resources. The newest report details key facts and figures about the suicide rate in Colorado, notable prevention achievements in the past 10 years and provides recommendations to strengthen current and future suicide prevention and awareness efforts. The report shows that while Colorado's average suicide rate has declined by 6.5 percent in the past decade, our state still has the 9th highest suicide rate in the nation. Indeed, mortality statistics shows more lives are lost each year in Colorado to suicide – 805 – than in motor vehicle accidents or from illnesses such as diabetes, pneumonia or breast cancer. And sadly, suicide remains the second leading cause of death among teenagers and young adults in Colorado. The impact of lives lost is a social, emotional and economic burden for our state and its residents, and the loss of lives is preventable.

A PDF copy of the report is attached.

CLOSE TO HOME By John McPherson



Brenda quickly began to loathe her date with the county medical examiner.

We are always looking for things to put in the newsletter. If you have something you think would be of interest please email Chris.

See you all in June!