



COLORADO CORONERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010

Presidents Message

Can you believe this year is almost over? I hope everyone is enjoying a nice holiday season and your workload isn't too overbearing.

WOW. With the elections over many Coroner offices are experiencing change. I just finished attending the New Coroners Institute in Littleton meeting all the new coroners. Give them a warm welcome and lend a hand to: Al Born-Teller County, Randy Gorton-Kit Carson County, Mike Graeff-Elbert County, John graham-Jefferson County, Emma Hall-Boulder County, Colleen Hollenbeck-Ouray County, Monica Broncucia-Jordan-Adams County, David Kintz, Jr.-Park County, Dr Albert Kruger-Rio Blanco County, Kevin Lucy-Delta County, Richard Martin-Conejos County, Dr Kirk McKey-Moffat County, Kevin Rogers-Alamosa County, Emil Sante-San Miguel, Lora Thomas-Douglas County, Dominic Verquer-Las Animas, Sherrie Vigil-Costilla County.

Coroners that were appointed during the last 4 years and then elected or re-appointed this year are: Dr. Amy Martin- Denver County, Rusty Strohmayer -Rio Grande County, Jimmy Brown-Kiowa County. Dr. James Wilkerson will be appointed in Weld County in January. Please help me in welcoming them as they are re-sworn into office on January 11, 2011.

On behalf of the Colorado Coroners Association I would like to send best wishes to the Coroners leaving office. Thanks you for your dedicated years of service and may your new adventures bring you much happiness and fulfillment: Earl Byrne, Anthony Olaiz, Sandy Graeff, Katherine Loughrey-Stemp, Tom Faure, Gary Miller, James Hibbard, Sharon Morris, Ran Cochran, Chalmer Swaim, Leslie Salazar, Owen Grant, Mike Rogers, Bob Dempsey, Wes Reiber, Rob Buckovich, Weylen Vigil.

Brenda Bock, Grand County Coroner
CCA President

Next CCA Board of Directors Meeting:

Saturday January 15, 2015. In Glenwood Springs. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.

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

coloradocoroners.org

The Pitkin County Coroner, Dr. J. Steven Ayers, needs some help. If there are any Counties who currently have written agreements or policies with law enforcement agencies that covers how scenes will be investigated by both the coroner and law enforcement would you please contact him. He'd rather not re-vent the wheel if someone else already has.

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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. We are proud to have trainings approved for continuing education credits both locally and nationally.

2011 June Conference:

Mark the Date! Wed 6/8/11 – Fri 6/10/11. At the last CCA Board meeting the Board voted to increase the cost of June Conference to \$250 for CCA members and \$350 for non-members.

Reminder - This is very important!

You have to reserve your room no later than **May 11, 2011** or I can't guarantee you a room. It's better to reserve one and not need it than to scramble around trying to find one at the last minute. In the past I've been able to help the procrastinators, but I won't be able to this time.

You can make your reservations one of two ways:

The first option is by calling 720.946.4000 and speaking with one of our Guest Service Agents at the front desk. Give the group code **GCCAF11** with group name **23RD ANNUAL DEATH INVESTIGATION CONFERENCE.**

The second option is to go to Ameristar.com. Once you have reached the home page you will click on the 'Reservations' tab at the top. Then select 'Black Hawk' and then 'Reserve now'.

This screen will also have a calendar and a few pictures to reference room types. In the 'Special Offer Code' slot you will enter the group code **GCCAF11**. At that time you will be able to make their reservations.

New Coroner Institute:

The CCA Board of Directors was invited to attend the New Coroner's Institute. Brenda and Chris have been able to attend the entire class; Pat, Darrel, George and Bruce have been able to attend parts of the class and the dinner with the new Sheriff's. The topics have covered a wide range of topics and have been very informative. We got lots of ideas for future classes and enjoyed getting to know the new coroners that we haven't met before.

This was the second class since the statutes were set mandating specific training for new coroners. There seems to still be a lot of confusion between the roles of CCA and CCSTB. CCA was established in 1987 and our main mission is providing training and support for all Colorado Coroners. In 2003 we proposed, helped draft and then financed the campaign to change the State Constitution and establish the CCSTB. CCSTB is the Colorado Coroners Standards and Training Board and is mandated to put on the 40 hour New Coroner Institute and then act as an oversight Board that monitors the required continuing education for all Coroners and are the ones who can send the letter to your Commissioners telling them to withhold your paycheck if you haven't met the statutory requirements for training and becoming a certified death investigator through CCA or another agency who certify death investigators (such as ABMDI or New Mexico OMI).

Outreach Training: We will not be doing any Outreaches in 2011 because the CCSTB has asked us to do the MLDI training.

Medicolegal Death Investigation Training (MLDI):

The first MLDI course will be Monday March 7, 2011 through Wednesday March 10, 2011 at the Doubletree Hotel in Colorado Springs. The second MLDI course will be Monday October 3, 2011 through Wednesday October 5, 2011. The cost to attend the class will \$350 per person, the hotel will cost \$98 per night. All new Coroners who attended the New Coroner Institute are eligible for scholarships. The CCSTB is requiring all new Coroners to attend a 24 hour MLDI course. A continental breakfast breaks and lunches will be served every day.

Anyone can come to the MLDI courses. We will present topics on Basic Death Investigation. It will be a great course for new deputies and a good refresher for us old timers. A schedule of topics and registrations forms will be sent out to everybody on our email list in January for the March class and in August for the October class.

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 website is updated as needed with phone numbers of the Assist Team and Forensic Experts.

Certification Committee

As many of you know, our new certification standards will take effect in January 2011. The new forms are on the web site and can be downloaded from there. If you have any problems with that, please contact Brenda and she can send it to you directly.

Coroners only will be re-certified for a one year period. Proof of 16 hours of continuing education every year must be submitted every year to CCA. **Deputy Coroners/Investigators** will be re-certified for a 4 year period (ending in election years) and will need 64 hours of continuing education during those 4 years.

There is also a new form to apply for a **NEW CERTIFICATION**. On the new forms you have to have a CCA certified death investigator sign off on your investigations. So make sure you get the new form. Again, if you have any questions don't hesitate to call Brenda.

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 2010 winner was Jennifer Nestor, the Lincoln County Coroner. She will be attending the St. Louis class sometime in 2011.

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!

The next cycle for scholarship applications to one of the major death investigation schools will begin in the spring of 2011. The successful applicant will be announced at June conference. Contact Chris Herndon to get an application if you need one.

Legislation Committee

The Colorado Coroners Association is proposing two pieces of legislation for 2011, both of which were unanimously passed by the CCA board and approved without comment by the general membership at the annual meeting held during June conference in Colorado Springs. They are:

1. Legislation requiring that all forensic autopsies in Colorado are performed by a board certified/eligible forensic pathologist. A "grandfather" allowance to be made for any physician currently recognized as being in full time practice as a forensic pathologist.
2. Legislation regarding standards/guidelines for performing forensic autopsies for all coroners' offices in Colorado.

The bills have not yet been written. We are still in the first steps in formulating the wording of the bills.

Contact Brenda Bock, Dr. Pat Allen or Dr. Bob Bux if you have questions or comments regarding these proposed bills.

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.

If you have ideas for the newsletter or would like to contribute please let Chris or Brenda know.