

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Since January 30, 1988
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From The President

Happy Spring!

I think that it has finally arrived up here in the mountains. I hope you all survived the winter without too much hassle. It was long and cold up here in Grand County.

I'm really excited about our 28th annual conference in June. Don't forget about our General Membership meeting on the 8th. This is the time we talk about legislation for the next legislative session. As Board members, we work for all the Coroners in the state. That is why the input from all of you is so valuable. This is also a good time to let us know any suggestions or concerns you might have. I want to encourage you to take an active part in our meetings. And if you have some spare time and would like to get involved, submit your letter of intent and run for the board. Every year there are 6 positions open. We always appreciate any offers of help.

I would like to fill you in on the Legislation that our Lobbyist (Steve Balcerovich and Kathy Oatis) have been working on this year.

[SB16-025](#) End-of-life Options for Terminally Ill Individuals (02/03/2016 Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Postpone Indefinitely)

[HB16-1406](#) County Coroners Reimbursement by DOC (Expected to pass as of 4/4/16) – **PASSED 4/7/16**

[SB16-034](#) Tampering With a Deceased Human Body (03/30/2016 Signed by the Speaker of the House)

[SB16-037](#) Public Access Digitally Stored Data under CORA (2/24/16 Postponed Indefinitely)

[SB16-088](#) Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets (3/20/16 Signed by the Speaker of the House)

[HB16-1051](#) Forms to Transfer Vehicle Ownership upon Death (03/23/2016 Governor Signed)

If you are interested in more details on these items, you can find it on the CCA website under the Legislation link as "Current Legislation".

<http://www.statebillinfo.com/SBI/index.cfm?fuseaction=Public.Dossier&id=21836&pk=44&style=pinstripe>

I look forward to seeing you all in June. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the board members listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Brenda Bock

CCA President

Grand County Coroner



Colorado Coroners Association

Announcements

Colorado Coroners Association Board Elections

Anyone interested in running for the Board needs to submit, in writing, a letter of intent along with an application, by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 27th, 2016. Elections will be held at the General Membership meeting on June 8th.

Contact Jen Howe at coloradocoroners@gmail.com for the application. If you have any questions, please contact any of the current Board members.

The next CCA Board Meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 20th at the

Jefferson County Coroner's Office
800 Jefferson County Parkway, #1000

Meeting minutes are posted on our website.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is responsible for monitoring the population health effects of marijuana use in the state.

As part of these ongoing efforts, **we request that Coroner's report possible marijuana-related deaths, especially, unexpected or unexplained deaths with a history of recent marijuana (MJ) exposure.**

Examples of unexpected or unexplained cases of interest (if there is also a history of recent MJ exposure) include, but are not limited to:

- Acute cardiovascular deaths in younger adults
- New onset seizure-related deaths
- Non-DUI, trauma deaths
- Possible pesticide/chemical exposure deaths
- Other unexplained deaths

Note: we are NOT interested in marijuana-related DUI deaths.

To report these cases, please call Elyse Contreras at: 303-692-6455



Hopefully all the Coroners have all had the chance to respond to the Donor Alliance survey that was sent out last month. Your input is very valuable to Donor Alliance. They have heard from the majority of coroners in Colorado and Wyoming and are hoping to include your opinions as well. All of your responses will be kept strictly confidential and will be only used for the purposes of this study. Nothing in the survey will be linked to your name.

If you have any questions, you may call them at 720-836-4772. Please ask for Mollie or Gregory if you call. They are still happy to setup a time for a full interview.

You can also call the CCA/Donor liaison, Raeanne Brown at (303) 329-4747.

rbrown@donoralliance.org

Raeanne is a great resource for any information related to Donor Alliance.

If you have an article or idea you would like to share or see in our newsletter, please send it to Jenny Howe at: coloradocoroners@gmail.com, or fax it to 719.309.6625

As a respiratory therapist in Montrose County, Colorado for 25 years doing home therapy across the Western Slope, I have developed concerns regarding more viral and bacterial diseases entering the area. Colorado flight alliances have done a great job of bringing in skiers from all over the world, but with them come infectious diseases.

From Thanksgiving to Easter, people come from many countries to ski Telluride. As many as 1200+ people will be in the Montrose Regional Airport terminal at one time. This is a small airport. There will be as many as 17 flights a day, served by numerous airlines.

Flights from Newark bring passengers from Europe and points beyond, as do New York and East Coast flights. Chicago flights transport Canadian passengers. The major hubs bring in passengers from many different cities: Dallas; Fort Worth; Houston; Atlanta; Phoenix; San Francisco and Los Angeles. Many of these people and their children arrive coughing, sneezing, and are febrile.

In the last few years the transportation vans and buses stop at local stores – Wal-Mart, Target, liquor stores, and grocery stores in order for people to shop much cheaper than they can in Telluride. This year the planes have been larger than previous years.

Currently there is no way to measure the full impact of increase or severity of the illnesses. I wanted to inform you of the possibilities of more infectious disease issues.

*Sincerely,
Pat Blackwelder*



Education and Training

Colorado Coroners Association

28th Annual 3-Day

Practical Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course

Wednesday, June 8th through Friday, June 10th, 2016

Hilton Hotel, Fort Collins

425 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526

970.482.2626

**Please visit our website at www.coloradocoroners.org
for the agenda, registration form and the scholarship applications.**

Conference Scholarships

The Colorado Coroners Association will be awarding 4 scholarships to the June 2016 Conference, along with 1 Ike Miller scholarship.

If you or someone in your office is interested in applying, please visit our website at Coloradocoroners.org and complete the application.

Scholarship applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 1st, 2016. Fax or email them to Jenny Howe at 719.309.6625 or coloradocoroners@gmail.com.



Colorado Coroners Association Board Members

Executive Directors

President - Brenda Bock, Grand County

bbock@rkymtnhi.com

Vice President - Randy Gorton, Kit Carson County

rgkccoroner@gmail.com

Treasurer - Mike Graeff, Elbert County

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Patrick Allen, MD, (Past President), Larimer County

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Mark Ward, Weld County

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Donna Taylor, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties

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Jen Howe

Executive Secretary/Conference Coordinator

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