

Winter 2016 Newsletter

Since January 30, 1988
www.coloradocoroners.org
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970-628-5151



In Memoriam

By: Dianne Fairman



Dr. Patrick Allen
1947 - 2016

Dr. Allen had an incredible gift to see potential in people. He looked beyond credentials and certificates and degrees, and could see hidden qualities like integrity, work ethic, and motivation. He pretty much took a chance on many of us who have told me the same thing: Dr. Allen gave a lot of people starts in their careers for coroners' offices, labs, etc., encouraging them and guiding them to be the best they could be.

Dr. Allen LOVED being the Coroner of Larimer County, and he loved it for his entire 35-year tenure and beyond. He ran his office with his own high standards of professionalism, ethics, and perfectionism. He required his staff to abide by those standards and consequently, he built an office where professionalism came first and "doing the minimum" was not even an option!

A few years ago, he became an active member, and then President, of the Colorado Coroners Association, and his reason for doing so was that he empathized with the smaller Coroners' offices and wanted to extend a higher level of professionalism, better training, and better tools to all the coroners in the state, regardless of the size of their counties. He was one of the primary forces behind new legislation to improve and modernize the old Coroner statutes which dated back a century.

Anyone who knew him knows this: He could strike terror with a look, but could also twinkle at you over his reading glasses across a morgue table and you knew you were part of the inside joke and he wouldn't have to say a word.

His mentoring always pushed you outside your comfort zone, but also made you a better person. He was incredibly wise and intuitive, and seemed to know when to push you, how far, when to encourage, and when to just let things alone.

He was as loyal as the old dogs he loved to rescue. He could be made totally happy with a bowl of coffee ice cream (we always kept some handy)!

His legacy will certainly live on in the Larimer County Coroner's Office and in each one of us that knew him.

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 26th, 2017. Elections will be held at the General Membership meeting on June 8th, 2017.

There are seven (7) positions up for election this year, and the terms are for 2 years.

Contact Jen Vien 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, January 18, 2017 at the

Jefferson County Coroner's Office
800 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, Colorado
Meeting minutes are posted on our website.

Speakers/Presenters Needed for June Conferences and October Trainings

Thank you all for your comments, suggestions and recommendations for speakers at our events. Many of you want more case studies, so the CCA Board is asking you to volunteer to give a case presentation. Some of the topics mentioned are drug related deaths, deaths that appear to have more than one manner, and "lessons learned" cases. We are also looking for speakers to present on the following topics:

- Coroner's Inquest – the How and Why
- Fire/Arson
- Knots
- Ethics
- Working with the media
- Water rescues
- Respiratory protection/airborne hazards
- Transfer of jurisdiction
- Handling and disposing of prescription drugs

If you have experience and/or knowledge, or know someone who does, please contact Jen Vien (970.628.5151) so we can get the presentations scheduled for June and October, 2017.

Many, many thanks.



The October, 2016 Training was held at the Millennium Harvest House in Boulder, Colorado. We had 83 participants in attendance, and enjoyed some dynamic speakers.

The June 2017 Conference will be in Colorado Springs at the DoubleTree Hotel. (Details on the next page)

We hope to see you there!

Welcome New Coroners!!!!

We would like to welcome Carl Blesch - Weld County; Chris Hagemenn - Clear Creek County; and Lance Boren - Delta County.

When you see them at our Conferences or Trainings, please be sure to give them a warm, CCA welcome!

We wish Mark Ward, Don Allan and Kevin Lucy all the best in their new endeavors.

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

Conference and Training Locations

This past June, we revised the evaluation forms in an effort to gather more information from our participants so that we could design and deliver better conferences and trainings. So far, they have been very helpful in giving us ideas for speakers and topics.

Many of you have requested that we hold the events in a variety of areas such as Montrose, Durango, Pueblo, Alamosa, Denver and Loveland. Unfortunately, we are unable to do so for many reasons, some of which we will try to explain in this article.

Participation in our Conferences and Trainings has grown over the years, and we have outgrown many venues that we utilized in the past: Durango, Montrose, Silverthorne, Pueblo and Alamosa.

Two of the major factors are:

- We need a meeting room that is large enough to accommodate 90 to 120 participants (depending whether it is June or October), along with refreshments, the CCA Store, and all of our supplies. Many of the past venues mentioned above cannot accommodate this need.
- The majority of our participants want their hotel room in the same location where the Conference or Training is being held. This means that the property must also have enough sleeping rooms to hold everyone. Many properties may have the space for our meeting, but cannot accommodate our required number of sleeping rooms.

By using the same properties over and over, we are able to better negotiate sleeping room rates and food and beverage (F&B) rates, based on participation. Increased participation gives us better rates, so we are focusing our efforts on participation.

We have been told by the properties we are currently using that F&B costs will be increasing again in 2017 by 25%, as will room rates. Because we sign contracts a year or two in advance, we have contracted our events at lower rates and we will continue to get good deals for the next year. We are currently negotiating with venues for 2018.

When costs go up our participation drops, and we are all impacted. The CCA does not want to increase registration fees, mainly because if registration fees increase, there are several counties that will be unable to attend. If we utilize hotels with higher room rates, even more counties will be impacted.

We will be facing higher rates in the next few years. That will open up discussions with other large properties, and hopefully give us some bargaining room when negotiating rates. Unfortunately, that leaves the smaller/rural properties out of our negotiations.

We will bring the matter up at our General Meetings, which are held at the June Conferences. Our goal is to increase participation AND keep our events affordable.

We welcome your suggestions and ideas.



Education and Training

Colorado Coroners Association

29th Annual 3-Day

Practical Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course

Wednesday, June 7th through Friday, June 9th, 2017

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton

1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80906

719.527.4601

Please visit our website at www.coloradocoroners.org

for the agenda, registration form and the scholarship applications.

http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/COSP-DT-CCA-20170605/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Conference Scholarships

In addition to the Ike Miller Scholarship, the Colorado Coroners Association will be awarding 4 scholarships to the June 2017 Conference.

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 7th, 2017.

Fax or email them to Jen Vien at

719.309.6625 or coloradocoroners@gmail.com.

Continuing Education

The CCA will accept up to 16 hours of approved online course credits.

Approved continuing education activities include courses accredited by: CCA, ABMDI, American Medical Association, American Nursing Association, American Bar Association, Peace Officer Standards Training (or equivalent) and post-secondary institutions recognized by national educational accrediting agencies (accredited college or university). Classes must relate to the area of Death Investigations (or a closely related subject). If you have any questions about whether the class will be accepted or not, please check with the CCA Board or the Certification Chairperson. All requirements are subject to change or alteration upon consideration and voting of the Colorado Coroners Association Executive Board.



Colorado Coroners Association

Colorado Coroners Association Board Members

Executive Directors

President - Brenda Bock, Grand County

bbock@rkymtnhi.com

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rgkccoroner@gmail.com

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Jen Vien

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