

# Summer 2017 Newsletter

Since January 30, 1988  
[www.coloradocoroners.org](http://www.coloradocoroners.org)  
[coloradocoroners@gmail.com](mailto:coloradocoroners@gmail.com)  
970-628-5151



## ***A Letter from Our President:***

Wow, how time flies. It seems like we were just working on the 2017 June CCA Conference, now it is already the beginning of August.

Speaking of the 2017 Conference, I would like to thank everyone that attended, gave a presentation or two, the vendors, the CCA Board, and of course Jen Vien. There were numerous people that came up to me and said that this was one of best conferences they had attended. A big thanks to Jen!

Jen is now working on the Fall Conference that will be held in Grand Junction in October and is looking for speakers. If you would like to give a presentation or know of someone who would, please give Jen a call.

If you didn't attend the General Membership Meeting, you missed the opportunity to be informed and to also have your voice heard. There was discussion on conference costs, food, legislation, future legislation, and many other items of interest.

The election of the CCA Board is also held during the General Membership Meeting. Six board seats are up for election every year. This year Emma Hall and Brian Cotter were elected to the Board, replacing Art Nordyke and Donna Taylor. **Thank you Art and Donna** for your service on the Board, it was greatly appreciated. Also, thank you Brenda Bock for the time that you have served as the President of this organization. You have been a great asset for CCA.

If you have suggestions for conference speakers or topics, please contact Jen. I have heard and seen comments on the evaluation sheets that state "I have suggested speakers before, but have never seen one speak". The reasons that you may not have seen that speaker is because they are too expensive, or not available at the time of our conference. We look at every evaluation form that is received and utilize that information to plan the future conferences. The CCA Board is committed to providing the Colorado Coroners and their offices continuing educational training that will be useful and accepted by ABMDI.

The Fall Conference is just around the corner and I hope to see you there.



# Announcements

## 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

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 October, 2017.

**Many, many thanks.**

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](mailto:coloradocoroners@gmail.com), or fax it to 719.309.6625

If you would like to be on our CCA Members email list, please send an email to [Coloradocoroners@gmail.com](mailto:Coloradocoroners@gmail.com) and specify that you want to be on the CCA Members list.

The next CCA Board Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at the

**DoubleTree by Hilton**  
**743 Horizon Drive**  
**Grand Junction, Colorado 81506**  
Meeting minutes are posted on our website.

**NEW!!!**



Online payment and registration for Conferences and Trainings is up and running. Visit our website and give it a try!



Online payment will also be available for Dues payments beginning January 1, 2018.

**In order to be a Member of CCA,**  
**Dues are DUE and PAYABLE**  
**by April 1, 2018.**

**Dues notices will be sent in December**

## KUDOS Corner

A great **BIG** thank you goes out to our CCA Secretary, George Crocket, for all his support, efforts and leadership. He is an integral part of our Conferences and Trainings, as well as in our Marketing and Promotions, and especially our Scholarships.

THANK YOU GEORGE!!!!



# Education and Training

## Colorado Coroners Association Practical Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course

Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

DoubleTree by Hilton

743 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

970.241.8888

Registration forms and online registration and payment are available on our website.

To receive the negotiated room rate of \$109 (plus tax) per night,  
you **MUST** make your reservation by **SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>** at:

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/G/GJTDTDT-2CA-20171003/index.jhtml>

Your Tax-Exempt certificate needs to be submitted to the DoubleTree Hotel 30 days in advance

## Conference Scholarships

The Colorado Coroners Association will be awarding 2 scholarships to the October 2017 Training.

If you or someone in your office is interested in applying, please visit our website at

[Coloradocoroners.org](http://coloradocoroners.org) and complete the application.

Scholarship applications are due by **5:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.**

Fax or email them to Jen Vien at 719.309.6625 or [coloradocoroners@gmail.com](mailto:coloradocoroners@gmail.com).

Beginning June, 2018, the Ike Miller Scholarship will be awarded every three years, for a maximum of \$2,500. Any remaining balance will be the responsibility of the recipient and/or their office.



# June 2017 Conference Recap

We have been told that our June 2017 Conference in Colorado Springs was a unique and successful one. We had some great speakers and presentations, and a record number of vendors in attendance. This year's Banquet Dinner was a luau theme, and enjoyed by many.

The election of Board Officers was held at the General Membership meeting. Emma Hall (Boulder County Coroner) and Brian Cotter (Pueblo County Coroner) are now part of the CCA Board of Directors. When you get the chance, please give them a warm welcome. You can find a directory of our Board Members on our website.

There were a lot of great ideas, suggestions and comments on the evaluation forms that we received. In summation:

- ❖ A number of our attendees thought it would be in our best interest to cut back on and/or eliminate the food and beverages that we provide at our Conferences and Trainings to save on expenses. While this initially may sound like a good idea, it would cost us – **and your county** - more in the long run.
- ❖ We carefully negotiate with the hotels for our meetings, and in the spirit of negotiation, it is always a “package” deal. We guarantee that we will spend a certain amount on food and beverage in exchange for the meeting space provided, as well as receiving lodging rooms at an affordable rate. If we eliminate the food and beverage guarantee, we pay a rental fee for the meeting space, lose all negotiating power over the cost of the lodging rooms, and your price rises. This means that your county would pay a higher rate for your hotel room, and you would pay individually for meals. Because we pay a rental fee on the meeting space, we would not be able to lower the registration fees. There are these and other aspects taken into consideration when we negotiate and enter contracts with hotels. Moreover, by using the same hotels regularly, we gain even more bargaining power. With the ever-present fact that prices rise, it is imperative that we maintain the relationships we have, so we can continue to offer our members the most cost-effective options.
- ❖ The majority of our attendees like and appreciate the Case Studies, and ask for more during each Conference or Training. If you have a case you would like to present, please let us know.
- ❖ The speakers and ideas you suggest for upcoming Conferences and Trainings are always considered. If you don't see your suggestions being used, it may be that the speaker is 1) too expensive; 2) not interested in speaking to our audience; 3) not available during the dates we need them; 4) We cannot find anyone who is able/qualified to cover the topic.
- ❖ Restaurant and Gift Cards are wonderful gifts, and everyone appreciates getting them. However, we need assistance in getting such cards. The items we give away during our meetings are either free to us, or deeply discounted.
- ❖ Each Conference/Training brings requests for more/longer breaks. We provide 20 hours of ABMDI accredited Continuing Education Units. ABMDI requires those 20 hours be learning time, and they do not include breaks and lunches as part of the total. More/longer breaks will extend the amount of time we spend in class each day.

We are looking forward to the October 2017 Training in Grand Junction, and next years' Conferences in Fort Collins and our October Training possibly in Crested Butte. Regardless of where we meet, we will provide you with educational opportunities above and beyond previous gatherings!



# From Our Sponsors



Donor Alliance is pleased to announce the launch of our new website layout, which includes a centralized Coroners link in the Professional Partners section. To assist in facilitating communication and collaboration with our Coroner Partners, the following resources are available:

## [Coroner Donation Toolkit](#)

**Coroner Support via Coroner Liaison**

**Donor Information Line answering service**

**Educational Programs**

**Coroner's Corner Perspectives Newsletter Articles**

**Community Outreach**

**Workplace Partnership for Life**

The *Coroner Donation Toolkit* is a password protected link which includes handouts and literature regarding organ and tissue donation information and processes. Please contact Raeann Brown, Coroner Liaison at [rbrown@donoralliance.org](mailto:rbrown@donoralliance.org) to receive the password to access the *Coroner Donation Toolkit*.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and partnership in saving lives through Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation.

Best Regards,

Raeann Brown  
Coroner Liaison



## 173,487,878 Reasons to Learn More About the Eye Donation Process

Without coroners, law enforcement would never be able to get to the bottom of the unknown or suspicious cause of a person's death. Cases would go unsolved and distraught families would never have closure. This alone, is a great public service, but at the eye bank, we are aware of yet another critical role that coroners have – as public health officials in the organ and tissue donation process.

Last year alone, not only did Colorado coroners play a part in helping to restore sight to 2,371 cornea transplant recipients world-wide, they helped save the American economy and tax payers potentially tens of millions of dollars. Corneal blindness accounts for 12 percent of all blindness in this country, and 70 percent of the blind in the United States are unemployed. A 2013 study by the Eye Bank Association of America concluded that the 2,070 corneas transplanted by the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank that year have an estimated lifetime value of \$173,487,878 to the recipients. The study compared the medical cost of transplant procedures to the direct and indirect lifetime cost of the alternative – living with blindness or severe vision impairment. It's not hard to imagine what that dollar figure might be for 2017.

We would wager that this wasn't the first benefit to society that you thought of when giving pre-autopsy release for an eye recovery. It probably isn't far-fetched to say that there are a few more things that you might not know or understand about cornea transplantation, or more importantly, how eye tissue recovery affects the coroner investigation.

We encourage you to visit the eye bank's website for a wealth of information specifically collected to help coroners understand what the eye bank does and make your role in the donation process as easy as possible. We especially recommend that you watch a webinar on how eye donation affects the death investigation that we recorded with Samantha Wetzler, MD, a medical examiner in Virginia and a chair with the National Association of Medical Examiners.

Go to [www.corneas.org](http://www.corneas.org) and click on "Professionals" and then "Coroners" to access these resources.



Colorado Coroners Association

# Colorado Coroners Association Board Members

## Executive Directors

President – Randy Gorton, Kit Carson County

[rgkcoroner@gmail.com](mailto:rgkcoroner@gmail.com)

Vice President - Randy Keller, Fremont County

[randy.keller@fremontco.com](mailto:randy.keller@fremontco.com)

Treasurer - Mike Graeff, Elbert County

[mbssbs1@msn.com](mailto:mbssbs1@msn.com)

Secretary - George Crocket, Jackson County

[gcrocket@centurytel.net](mailto:gcrocket@centurytel.net)

## Directors

Thomas Canfield, MD, Montrose County

[coroner@montrosecounty.net](mailto:coroner@montrosecounty.net)

John Graham, Jefferson County

[jmgramham@jeffco.us](mailto:jmgramham@jeffco.us)

Sandy Graeff, Elbert County

[mbssbs1@msn.com](mailto:mbssbs1@msn.com)

Dr. Michael Burson, Larimer County

[specializedpathology@me.com](mailto:specializedpathology@me.com)

Brenda Bock, Past President, Grand County

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Emma Hall, Boulder County

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Robert Glassmire, Garfield County

[rglassmire@garfield-county.com](mailto:rglassmire@garfield-county.com)

Brian Cotter, Pueblo County

[cotterb@pueblocounty.us](mailto:cotterb@pueblocounty.us)

Jen Vien

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