



# May 2011 Newsletter

## **Next CCA General Membership Meeting:**

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. during the Annual June Conference, there will be at least six (6) Board positions up for election or re-election. Anyone wishing to throw their hat in the ring needs to notify the Secretary, Chris Herndon, in writing by May 29, 2011. It's a great opportunity to add your voice to the future of CCA.

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

[Coloradocoroners.org](http://Coloradocoroners.org)

## **Presidents Message**

When I accepted the position as President last Summer I was full of energy and ready to go. I was ready to meet the challenges before me and devote time to helping an organization I believe in. The Colorado Coroners Association has always been dedicated to supporting and providing affordable education for Coroners and their staff throughout the state. CCA had put together guidelines for Coroners to follow as well as trainings throughout the year. I want to tell you I have learned more about our legislation process than I ever dreamed possible. Nevertheless, it was time well spent for a job I truly love.

Last year at the annual June Conference, the CCA members who were present at the General Membership meeting voted unanimously to pursue legislation for establishing Forensic Autopsy Standards in Colorado. The Board has been working hard trying to get legislation approved for this. This bill was proposed by the Board with the

intent to improve the quality of death investigations by Coroners' Offices throughout the state. On May 4, 2011, the Governor signed into law HB-1258. Attached is a copy of the bill. In summary, it is now law that you must at a minimum; follow the current NAME (National Association of Medical Examiners) Standards for Autopsy determinations and that you use a Forensic Pathologist to perform your autopsies. The bill also affected transferring jurisdiction on cases. If an incident happens in your county and the person is transported to a hospital in a larger county and then dies, you now have to take the case back.

I had always heard "I'm just a phone call away, if you ever need advice, help or someone to just listen". Many times this past year I did just that. I called my fellow Coroners and many of you called me. For the old and new Coroners, remember, you are not alone; help or an ear to bend is just a phone call away.

The Board is comprised of 12 individuals who listen to the whole membership and carry that voice forward. There will be six board members up for re-election in June. I encourage you to get involved. Either run for the CCA Board or get involved on a committee. You can make a difference. The Board needs people who are willing to work hard for something they believe in.

Anyone who is interested in running for the board this year must send an email of intent by May 28, 2011 to CCA's Board Secretary, Chris Herndon at [CHerndon@douglas.co.us](mailto:CHerndon@douglas.co.us) or Fax 303-633-0120.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Blackhawk next month!

Brenda Bock  
Grand County Coroner



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## CCA Board of Directors

Board members elected in 2009 are up for election in 2011. Our By-Laws state that anyone who wants to run for the Board must notify the Secretary no later than 10 days before the election. Send Chris an email by May 29, 2011 stating your intention to run. Anyone who is a member can run.

CCA Board of Directors				
Name	County	Executive Board	Committee(s)	Last year elected to Board
Brenda Bock	Grand	President	Legislative, Public Relations	2010
Patrick Allen	Larimer	Vice President	Legislative, Ike Miller	2009
Chris Herndon	Douglas	Secretary	Education, Public Relations	2009
Steve Stogsdill	Delta	Treasurer	Finance, Coroner Assist	2009
Sandy Graeff	Elbert		Marketing	2009
George Crocket	Jackson		Outside Committees	2009
Art Nordyke	Custer		Ike Miller	2009
Robert Fowler	Otero		Finance	2010
Stephen Lance	Ouray		Outside Committees	2010
Darrel Brenner	Washington		Coroner Assist	2010
Mike Graeff	Elbert		Marketing	2010
Bruce Campbell	Lake		Finance	2010

## 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. The Chair is Chris Herndon.

June Conference is quickly approaching. The conference is in the process of being approved for 18 hours of continuing education from POST, ABMDI and CCSTB.

I look forward every year to seeing all of you at June Conference. It's always a great time to get reacquainted and catch up.

We held our first Medicolegal Death Investigation Class (MLDI) in March 2011. It is a great 24-hour basic class. There were old and new Coroner's and Deputy Coroners from all over the State and a couple of people from Wyoming. The next MLDI class will be in Grand Junction on October 3 -5, 2011.

Chris Herndon

### Legislation Committee

The Legislative Committee duties are to monitor legislation during the legislative session, develop legislation when needed, seek Coroner opinion on legislation, work with the CCA lobbyist on legislative strategy, and organize testimony on legislation when needed. Brenda Bock, Grand County is the chair.

CCA successfully argued against HB 1108 which was killed in Committee. We proposed and worked very hard to get HB 1258 passed. If you want to be involved in or have questions about legislative issues, come to our meetings and talk to us.

### 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.

As the result of the last election, the State of Colorado now has a number of new coroners. With



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that we would like to familiarize everyone with the Coroner Assist Team as well as providing a review for our more seasoned coroners. It is quite possible that in the future some of you will find yourself confronted with some type of disaster. To some it may appear small while others may deem it too large to handle but no matter what, it will be your responsibility. You may find yourself asking, how do I know the difference between a large disaster or a small one. It can best be defined as *“Any situation which overwhelms the available resources.”* Obviously, this will vary from county to county. If confronted with a disaster many of you will rely on your neighbors in adjoining counties but if not the Coroner Assist Team is here to help you. The Coroner Assist Team is comprised of volunteers from the membership of the Colorado Coroners Association and the following are guidelines of the Team.

The Coroner Assist Team will only respond at the request of the coroner having jurisdiction over the disaster situation.

The Assist team will work as a mutual aid agency, under the direction of the coroner who has requested assistance from the team members. Team members will support the needs and statutory requirements of the requesting coroner and never take control of the incident.

The Team will respond to assist any Colorado Coroner at the level of assistance needed. The Team will assist the requesting coroner by providing certified death investigators and resources for duties relating to the Coroner’s Office only.

The Colorado Coroners Association will have regional contacts to expedite the response time to a disaster situation. The

Colorado Coroners Association will maintain a list of other statewide organizations and forensic specialists that can be available in a disaster situation.

For assistance or more information, please feel free to contact:

Co-chair – Eastern Slope Region  
Darrel Brenner  
Washington County Coroner's Office  
Eastern Slope Region  
970-554-0404  
[darrelbrenner@mac.com](mailto:darrelbrenner@mac.com)

Co-chair - Western Slope Region  
Steve Stogsdill, D-ABMDI  
Western Slope Region  
Delta County Coroner's Office  
970-201-9015  
[sjstogsdill@bresnan.net](mailto:sjstogsdill@bresnan.net)

The Coroner Assist Team will soon be sending out a questionnaire asking for information regarding what resources each county has available in the event of a disaster. This could prove very helpful for those needing help in the future. We would appreciate your prompt response.

## **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).



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GEERC – this Governors Emergency Response committee also dealt with DNC issues. Dr. Mike Dobersen, Arapahoe County, is the CCA representative.

State Child Fatality Committee - Dr. Amy Martin, Denver County, and Dr. Kelly Lear-Kaul were appointed by the Governor to be the Coroner representatives on this committee.

Legislative Salary Committee – Bob Fowler, Otero County, was appointed by the Governor to sit on this Committee as the Coroner representative. This committee has been meeting over the past year to compile salary recommendations for County elected officials. They are proposing a 3-year plan for giving elected officials a raise. Contact Bob for more information.

## **Ike Miller and Scholarship Committee**

Since there are a number of new coroners in the State, it would be a good time to educate all concerned about the history and nature of the Ike Miller Scholarship. Ike was a morgue deiner (autopsy assistant) at Denver General Hospital and assisted with autopsies for both the Denver Coroner's Office and in-house autopsies for Denver General (now Denver Health). Ike was instrumental in teaching numerous medial students, and pathology interns, residents and fellows the finer points of autopsy procedure that they would use throughout the rest of their careers as pathologists. Dr. Ben Galloway had a long working relationship with Ike and over the years, he and Ike became close friends. Dr. Ben has always said that Ike taught him more about forensic pathology than anybody else did.

After Ike's much too early passing, Dr. Ben wanted to do something to commemorate the many contributions Ike had made to the practice of

Pathology and started and initially funded the Ike Miller Scholarship. Donations to the Scholarship are now matched by CCA up to \$500. This scholarship is awarded annually to one coroner or deputy coroner whose office is a CCA member. The funding covers all expenses for one person to be sent to a nationally recognized (and approved by the CCA) one week course in death investigation (the most common one would be the St. Louis University Basic or Master's Courses), including tuition, transportation to and from along with lodging and meals.

Interested persons need to apply for this memorial scholarship. Contact Chris Herndon ([cherndon@douglas.co.us](mailto:cherndon@douglas.co.us)) to get an application. The applications must be received before Wednesday, June 8, 2011. All applicants are considered by the Ike Miller Scholarship Committee currently comprised of Dr. Bob Bux and myself, and the winner is announced during the dinner on June 9, 2011. *The successful applicant needs to make use of the funds by completing the course during the succeeding 12-month period.*

Dr. Pat Allen  
Larimer County Coroner  
CCA Vice President

## **Marketing**

WELL...It's that time of year we've been getting merchandise for the conference in June.

We hope to have an acceptable variety of clothing for everyone and we hope the selection will please everyone.

What we need are ideas for coroner specific items that we can have available at the conference.



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Again this year we will be giving away coroner response bags with the basic items need to go onto a scene and complete the investigation and recovery. These response bags are valued at about \$300.00 each. The CCA will be giving six (6) of these bags away, two each day of the Conference. If you'd like to buy one, we can make them up for you.

Again this year we have not forgotten about our friends in law enforcement. We will have drawings specific for them, gun cleaning kits. Steve Stogsdill is very instrumental in obtaining these kits and we thank him for his help.

If anyone has any ideas for items they would like to see available please contact us.

In the past, we have been asked for books about investigation assistance, when we find something they are priced way out of reason for the majority of the coroner's offices. Although if you have a special book you are looking for we will do our best to help you find it.

Feel free to call us at 303-646-5599 Elbert County Coroner's office. Or you can e- mail us at [mbsbs1@msn.com](mailto:mbsbs1@msn.com)

Mike and Sandy Graeff  
Elbert County

## **Website (coloradocoroners.org)**

The website continues to get many hits. Hopefully you are all using it to get information on training that is available, CCA meetings, etc.

Did you know that past Newsletters and Meeting Minutes are posted on the website?

If you have any suggestions of how we can improve the website please contact Brenda or Chris.

If you would like to contribute an article or have an idea for an article, we would love to hear from you! You cannot complain about the content if you are not willing to help put it together!