

International Association for Identification



April, 2009 – IAI Monthly Update

FYI, this update is sent each month to all IAI board members, officers, committee chairs, regional representatives, division secretaries, certification board chairs and secretaries, division editors and IAI staff. This update contains information that is of particular interest to these groups. It is also available on the “Members’ Area” of the IAI’s website. Please see the last page of *Identification News* for login and password information.

Hello again from the IAI office.

ATTN: Division Secretaries – Tampa Conference

Each year many IAI divisions set up a display at the annual conference to sell merchandise advertise upcoming division conferences etc. Any division interested in obtaining display space at the Tampa Conference to set up a display, please contact the IAI Exhibit Coordinator, Jim Murray. Jim can be reached at (407) 568-7436 or by e-mail at conference@theiai.org

Tampa Conference Registration Information

Within the next week or so, the Tampa Conference registration booklet will be posted on the IAI’s website, www.theiai.org. As noted previously, the registration booklet is not going to be printed in hard copy this year but will only be available on the website. Registration will open at the same time the conference program is posted. A notice will be posted prominently on the home page of the IAI’s website when the conference information is available. In addition, I’ll send an e-mail message to all recipients of the *Monthly Update* with the same information.

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Recommendations

By now I’m sure you have all heard of the NAS report and its recommendations. Much is going on behind the scenes and the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) continues to be the voice of the forensic community on this matter. Numerous meetings have been held with the House and Senate as well as White House policy staff. The CFSO hosted a very productive roundtable on March 10th in Washington during which many forensic stakeholders discussed the NAS recommendations and shared initial reaction and positions. More meetings are planned in the weeks ahead. Ken Martin is the IAI’s representative to the CFSO, attends all the Washington events, and does a fantastic job of representing law enforcement forensic service providers. The CFSO was the driving force behind the NAS study and we again congratulate them for the successful achievement of this long sought study.

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

A number of IAI members serve on the Forensic Committee of the IACP. The committee is charged with representing and advising IACP leadership with respect to forensic matters. The

NAS recommendation that all crime laboratories and forensic service units such as identification units, fingerprint units, crime scene units, firearm/toolmark units etc. be removed from law enforcement management has captured the attention of the IACP. The Forensic Committee has been busy the past few weeks crafting a recommendation document for the IACP. I am chair of the subcommittee tasked with crafting that recommendation. A couple of days ago, I was notified that the IACP is having an executive and board meeting in San Antonio, Texas on April 17th and 18 and has added this matter to their board agenda. Walt McNeil, Third Vice-President of the IACP and liaison to the Forensic Committee and I will attend the meeting and make that presentation. Walt has been particularly interested in this subject and deserves much credit for bringing this matter to the attention of the IACP leadership.

It is expected that the IACP Board of Directors will endorse a position during that meeting. If that occurs is the case, I will pass that position on to all of you.

Possible Funding Source

This came via Peter Higgins from the Chesapeake Bay Division:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. This Act included \$4 billion to provide support to state, local and tribal law enforcement. Of this \$4 billion, \$2 billion has been allocated for the Byrne JAG formula grant program, \$225 million has been allocated for Byrne competitive grants and \$1 billion has been allocated for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring grants. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) will administer \$2.76 billion of this funding.

A PORTION OF THIS MONEY IS NOW AVAILABLE TO STATES, COUNTIES AND CITIES AND HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY SET ASIDE FOR IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY!!!!!!

For information on this program and to apply for the Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program (both State & Local) go to:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/recovery>

Applications must be submitted through OJP's online Grants Management System

2009 IAI Membership Dues

Per IAI by-laws, those who have not paid dues for 2009 will now be dropped from membership. In the next few days, postcards will be sent to those who have not renewed membership notifying them that their IAI membership has lapsed. It is possible to reactivate membership by paying dues for 2009. If there are any questions regarding 2009 dues, please call or e-mail the IAI office.

2009 Scholarship Applications

Each year the IAI accepts applications for scholarships and small research grants. Those scholarships and grants are funded from proceeds of the investment account for the Johnson-Whyte Memorial Foundation Fund. Due to the downturn in the investment market during the past year, there will be no scholarships awarded during 2009. We sincerely hope this situation will return to more normal times by 2010. A notice to this effect has also been placed on the IAI's website.

NIST/NIJ Human Factors Technical Working Group

The third meeting of the NIST/NIJ Technical Working Group regarding *Human Factors in Latent Fingerprint Identification* will be held in Minneapolis on June 1-3, 2009. More information on this important meeting will be provided in *Identification News*.

NIST/NIJ AFIS Interoperability Technical Working Group(TWG) Meeting

The next meeting of the AFIS Interoperability TWG will be held in Largo, Florida on May 4th and 5th. The subject of the meeting will be training, federal mandates regarding information sharing, qualifications of AFIS users and the NAS report. A synopsis of the meeting will be provided in future *Updates* or the *Identification News*.

AFIS Information

Peter Higgins sent the following information from NIST regarding AFIS technology:

We are pleased to announce the publication of the ELFT Phase II final report, (NISTIR 7577) "ELFT Phase II - An Evaluation of Automated Latent Fingerprint Identification Technologies" available at:

http://fingerprint.nist.gov/latent/NISTIR_7577_ELFT_PhaseII.pdf

The following information is from Austin Hicklin and, again, deals with AFIS matters:

Updated public version of Extended Friction Ridge Feature Specification (Draft version 0.3)

I am pleased to announce that the updated draft version 0.3 of the Extended Friction Ridge Feature Specification has been made publicly available:

<http://fingerprint.nist.gov/standard/cdeffs/>

The last public version was 0.2, in January 2008.

Many changes were made to this draft, in response to many comments, lessons learned in developing software to the specification, and in response to latent examiner feedback during the development of reference datasets.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) ELFT-EFS Public Challenge Problem

The information on the below link was received from the latent fingerprint standards group at NIST. It may be directed more toward vendors than the user community but if interested in this subject, please follow the link for more information.

http://www.theiai.org/nist_lp_challenge.pdf

As always, don't hesitate to contact the IAI office if there is anything we can do to assist you.

Joe Polski