

International Association for Identification



February, 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.

2009 Tampa Conference – Special Notice

The registration booklet for the upcoming Tampa Conference will not be printed and mailed to IAI members it has been in the past. This year the booklet will be posted in a “digital magazine” format on the IAI’s website. The technology used to display the booklet is remarkable and should be very easy for any computer user to navigate. In the next month or so, a postcard will be sent notifying members of this change. Notices to this effect will also be placed in *Identification News* and the *Journal of Forensic Identification*.

This change will save a considerable amount in printing and postage costs, both of which have risen a good deal in the past several years. The conference program distributed to attendees at the Tampa Conference **will** continue to be available as a printed document. We welcome your feedback on this process as we strive to provide services to our members, take advantage of new technology and be good stewards of the association’s funds.

As soon as the program is available on the website, I will send notices to all recipients of the *Monthly Update* so that information can be disseminated to all members and divisions.

Conference Registration Rates

During the recent mid-year meeting, the Board of Directors authorized an increase in conference registration rates. Complete information will be listed in the registration booklet but below are some of the rate changes:

IAI & AAFS Members Pre-registration:	From \$275 to \$295
IAI & AAFS Members On-Site Registration:	From \$325 to \$345
Spouse/Guest of Member Pre-registration	From \$150 to \$170
Spouse/Guest of Member On-Site Registration	From \$175 to \$195

AFIS Interoperability Working Group

The third meeting of this Technical Working Group was held on January 27-28, 2009 in San Diego, CA. As I have previously reported, this is sponsored through a joint effort between the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLEES).

The meeting was extraordinary in that representatives from five major AFIS vendors attended the two-day event. Those attending represented Printrak/Motorola, Cogent, NEC, Sagem-Morpho and L-1. On the first day each vendor was given the opportunity to make a presentation outlining their efforts regarding interoperability and their views on the subject. That resulted in an extended question and answer session with the vendors. It became very clear that interoperability between AFIS systems is badly needed by the latent fingerprint community and that technology is available to make that happen. Because this is one of the bullet points mandated for study by the National Academy of Sciences Forensic Committee, this TWG takes on even greater importance in light of the upcoming recommendations from that committee.

I will have more information about this in my next *Identification News* column.

Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

On January 12 and 13th, 2009, the IAI's Board of Directors met in Orlando, Florida. A few highlights of that meeting include:

- Awarded Distinguished Membership to Michael Perkins, Debbie Leben and Dr. Tony Cantu
- Decided not to change the requirements for Student Membership in the IAI
- Received information that the Crime Scene Reconstruction Certification Program is on track and a sample test is being created by the Crime Scene Certification Board; that program should be at or near completion by the Tampa Conference.
- Discussed the accreditation of IAI certification programs by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) and the changes required in the IAI's Certification Policy Manual as a result of that accreditation application
- Heard a presentation by Marla Carroll respecting the Forensic Video Analyst Certification Program. The board endorsed Marla's efforts as chair of the study committee dealing with this matter and asked her to continue development of an examination. The Board will consider in Tampa officially creating that new program.
- Candy Murray discussed future conference sites. The board endorsed Providence, Rhode Island as the site for the 2013 conference and Minneapolis, Minnesota as the site for the 2014 conference. Both decisions are contingent on negotiating appropriate agreements for hotels, convention center use etc.
- Approved an increase in conference fees. See separate item above for more information.

NIST/NIJ Human Factors Technical Working Group

The next meeting of the NIST/NIJ Technical Working Group regarding Human Factors in Latent Fingerprint Identification will be in Las Vegas on February 26-27, 2009. More information on this important meeting will be provided in *Identification News*.

International Association of Chief's of Police (IACP) August Vollmer Excellence in Forensic Science Award

Several years ago, the Forensic Committee of the IACP created the above award. Sponsored by Target Blue (a law enforcement cooperative sector of Target Corporation) and Technology, part of Global Options Group, the award is presented in six categories of forensic science:

- Current or Past Contributions to Forensic Science by a Police Agency
- Current or Past Contribution to Forensic Science by an Individual
- Current or Past Collaboration between a Police Agency and a Forensic Science Provider
- Innovation in Forensic Technology
- Significant Investigative Value in a Major Crime
- Enhancement of Forensic Capability by a Forensic Science Provider

The winners of these awards will be flown to Denver next fall to attend the award ceremony during the annual IACP Meeting. Each winner will be presented with a large, cast metal medallion of August Vollmer, often referred to as the "Father of American Policing" and a pioneer in utilizing forensic technologies for police purposes.

We all know someone or some agency that has done outstanding work in one of the above categories. Please take a few minutes from your busy day to nominate an individual or agency whose accomplishments are worthy of consideration in one of the above categories.

Submissions will be accepted through April 17, 2009.

For more information on this award, please visit the following website:

<http://www.theiacp.org/tabid/275/Default.aspx>

On a related note, I'm happy to announce that IAI Board Chair Ken Martin was recently appointed to the IACP's Forensic Committee. Ken's appointment brings to the committee critically needed representation from the law enforcement forensics community. We congratulate Ken on that appointment.

FBI Publication

The January 2009 issue of *Forensic Science Communications* has been posted to the FBI's Internet site at <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/fsc/current/index.htm>. If you have trouble accessing the issue via the link, go to the FBI's home page and access "Reports & Publications" on the left-hand side. *Forensic Science Communications* is listed under law enforcement services.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Meeting

Later this month President Bob Garrett and myself will attend the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Denver, Colorado. As has been our custom, we will set up the IAI's display and distribute information about the association, certification programs etc. In addition, Board Chair and CFSO Liaison Ken Martin will attend the CFSO Meeting to be held in Denver during the AAFS Meeting.

Many other groups also meeting during the AAFS Meeting. Those include the Annual Business Meeting of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO), the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) and others. The FSAB will consider the IAI's application for

accreditation of our certification programs during their meeting in Denver. Having served on the FSAB in its early years when the accreditation standards were developed, I was asked to represent the IAI at the FSAB meeting where the application for accreditation of our certification programs is reviewed. Lets hope that process goes well.

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

Joe Polski