

# International Association for Identification



## February 2010 – 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.

A snowy hello from the IAI Office here in Minnesota!!

### *Certification Board Chairs and Secretaries* *All IAI Certified Individuals*

Two years ago the IAI submitted an application for accreditation of our certification programs to the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB). Since that time the association has been in contact with the Application Review Committee (ARC) of the FSAB and provided numerous responses to their inquiries. The accreditation process became increasingly important after publication of the National Academies report on forensic science. That report strongly endorsed certification and noted that forensic science certification programs accredited by a reputable organization such as the FSAB were the only ones that should be recognized as legitimate, competency based programs.

FSAB standards require a number of things, most of them fairly transparent to the certificants. One item however is very important and will impact approximately 171 individuals certified in the Crime Scene Certification Program and 70 individuals certified in the Latent Print Certification Program. Effective immediately, anyone grandfathered into any IAI certification program will be required to take the test now in place for their level of certification when renewing certification. In the very early days of both the Crime Scene as well as the Latent Print Programs, certain individuals were grandfathered into the program without taking an examination. That was done in order to get the program off the ground. Now, some 33 years later for latent prints and 21 years later for crime scene, those grandfathered individuals will be required to test before recertification. Note that this **is not** the same as the proficiency test now required for recertification in both of those programs. The required test is the original entry test currently in place for latent certification or for the appropriate level of crime scene certification. Note that this testing requirement will be effective when renewing certification. Current certificants who are grandfathered do not need to be tested immediately, only when it is time to renew certification.

This will undoubtedly be a concern for some certified individuals but in order to meet accreditation requirements and to be fair to all those who have successfully tested in order to achieve their certification, this requirement has been put in place. The IAI’s board of directors affirmed this decision during the recent mid-year meeting in January.

Also, please note that the board did not take a position on eliminating the one-year grace period for renewal after the expiration of certification. That provision allows a certificant to apply for renewal of certification, without penalty, within one year after expiration of certification. Keep in mind that during that one-year period, the person is **not** certified and the renewal date will reach back to the expiration date of the certification.

If anyone has questions, please contact the appropriate certification board secretary or chair.

### ***Mid-Year Board Meeting***

The IAI's Board of Directors met for a day and a half in January in Orlando, Florida. A few of the highlights of that board meeting follow:

- Directed the Resolutions Committee to craft a resolution to change the terms of the Division Representative, International Representative and Sergeant-at-Arms from a one year term to a two year term.
- Develop a job description for a position of "IAI Website Editor". This person will be responsible for all content on the IAI's website. This is not a webmaster position but a person who will be responsible for science and practice information etc. on the site.
- Voted to extend the period of custodianship of the IAI's library collection at West Virginia University to at least 50 years and perhaps 99 years
- Discussed and endorsed the testing, at renewal time, of all grandfathered certificants in IAI certification programs
- Endorsed a name change of the Tenprint Fingerprint Certification Board to the Tenprint Identification Certification Board and reaffirmed the change of the discipline sub-committee to the Tenprint Identification Sub-Committee
- Discussed the 2015 Conference that will be the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the IAI. The conference will be in California as that was the state where the IAI was founded. Several cities are under consideration and will be researched by the IAI's Conference Planner, Candy Murray. The board endorsed preliminary planning for a large centenary celebration. A special committee has been formed to develop plans for that conference and centenary event.

### ***US Army Biometric and Forensic Summit Meeting***

I received this e-mail a few days ago along with a request to disseminate the information.

We are coordinating the upcoming **2010 Annual Biometrics and Forensics Summit** hosted by Major General Custer, US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, and Colonel Washington, TRADOC Capability Manager for Biometrics & Forensics, taking place in San Diego 30 March – 1 April 2010. The summit will assemble leaders, warfighters, and subject matter experts from across the Biometrics and Forensics community to discuss how innovative training and technology will collectively shape the future in a way that sets the conditions for success against any emerging threats at home and on the current and future battlefield.

More information on this summit can be found at the following website:

<https://www.ncsi.com/biometrics10/index.shtml> or by contacting the Project Manager, Kristin Maffeo at (443) 561-2446

### ***2010 Membership Dues***

Just a reminder that 2010 membership dues are now due. The first dues invoice was sent in mid-October and a reminder notice to those who have not paid will be sent later this month. If you have not yet paid 2010 dues, please do so as soon as possible.

***Joe Polski***