

January, 2007 - 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 sent by e-mail to all those for whom I have an e-mail address and by regular mail to the rest. **If you receive this by regular mail but have an e-mail account**, please let me know and I will add your e-mail address to the distribution list. It is much more efficient and cost effective to send it that way.

Hello again from the IAI office and Happy New Year!!!

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Forensic Committee

You are likely aware of the Committee established by the National Academy of Sciences to explore a number of issues relating to forensic science. The official name of the Committee is: *Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Science Community*. This Committee is made possible by an appropriation of \$1.5 million dollars by the last Congress.

For a number of years, it seems the only emphasis within forensic science has been on DNA. The President's DNA Initiative called for \$200 million dollars per year for five years to be dedicated to DNA related activities although Congress did not fully appropriate the \$200 million. A significant amount however, somewhere around \$175 million, has been appropriated annually toward DNA.

It has been the position of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) of which the IAI is a member and I am the Chair, that other forensic science disciplines have been largely forgotten in the rush to support DNA. The CFSO backed the idea of an NAS Committee to study the issues facing forensic science/forensic identification that stretch beyond DNA. That has now come to reality.

The NAS Committee members have been selected and are listed on the following website:

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/committeevue.aspx?key=48741>

We are quite disappointed however with the make-up of the Committee. There is representation from the crime lab community (Peter Marone, a crime lab director from Virginia), the medical examiner community (two representatives, Dr. Marcella from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the state of Virginia and Dr. Ross Zumwalt from the Office for the Medical Examiner of the state of New Mexico) but no representation from sector that represents a large number of IAI members, that of forensic units such as identification, fingerprint, pattern evidence, footwear/tiretrack etc. that are often found in law enforcement agencies but outside traditional crime laboratories.

Of course many IAI members do work in crime laboratories but a great many do not.

I strongly urge you to visit the above web page and near the bottom of the page is a place for comments respecting the committee make-up. Please write to the NAS and voice your displeasure – if you are so inclined – with the committee membership and the lack of

representation from the law enforcement forensic science sector. I believe that will make a difference and could result in a person from that sector being added to the committee.

I have been in contact with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and they seem interested in weighing in on this matter but so far have not taken any action. If someone from the IACP leadership speaks to this issue, I believe it will also have a large impact.

The committee's first meeting is on January 25 and 26, 2007. At that meeting, each CFSO member organization will be given the opportunity to make a presentation to the committee. That presentation will consist of an overview of the association, its history, composition, mission, programs etc. President Diana Castro asked me to represent the IAI at that meeting. To prepare for the meeting, representatives from the six CFSO organizations are participating in regular conference calls to coordinate the message we will be presenting. In addition to representing the IAI at that meeting, I will address the Committee on behalf of the CFSO and provide a background of that organization and its role in influencing the funding decision for the NAS Committee.

So I urge each of you to take a minute and visit the above website. The message does not need to be eloquent or long, just conveying to the NAS that there is a huge sector of forensic service providers not represented by the current committee make-up.

Thanks for your assistance and I'll keep you informed as this continues to develop.

Ken Luff

Many of you may remember Ken Luff who for many years was the IAI's regional representative for Great Britain. Ken died quite suddenly last March and was replaced in that position by Martin Leadbetter. Ken was a wonderful fellow who worked for many years in the fingerprint section of Scotland Yard. I had the opportunity as IAI President in 1994 to meet Ken in London at Scotland Yard where he gave my wife Linda and me a great tour of their facilities and was a most gracious host. He also was very active in the gala event in June of 2001 hosted by Scotland Yard/London Metropolitan Police celebrating the 100th anniversary of the use of fingerprint identification in Scotland Yard.

Karen Sampson, an IAI member from Florida, recently sent me this obituary for Ken. It appears to be written by someone in Great Britain who knew Ken well. Thought you might be interested.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN LUFF who died on March 21st 2006

Ken was the unlucky one in a million to have sporadic CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease). This is a very rapid and debilitating disease where the prions destroy the brain and the victim becomes paralyzed in a matter of weeks.

It was very sad to watch such a fine, apparently healthy, man go down day by day. It was agony for his wife Sigrid and son Matthew to see him almost daily and knowing that nothing at all could be done for him. There is no cure.

He will be sadly missed by so many people. He was known by so many stallholders at the Rock and Mineral Shows. He was Chairman of four Societies. He took an interest in SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) sites. Whenever representation was required he was there for our society SLMS (Society for Luminescence Microscopy and Spectroscopy) and presumably the

other bodies that he represented. Nowadays there is a lack of enthusiasm for volunteers to take on these onerous jobs. So Ken did them!

Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting

The IAI's Board of Directors will hold a mid-year meeting in San Diego on January 29th and 30th, 2007. If anyone has matters to be considered by the board at that meeting, please send them to Board Chair Joe Maberry or myself as soon as possible.

Division Secretaries Please Note

In order for the IAI to conduct its business in an orderly fashion, it is imperative that IAI divisions notify this office when changes occur with respect to the chairs of the division certification committees. Because the chairs of those division committees are the individuals to whom the certification and recertification applications are sent it is essential that we know who chairs those committees. We recently found ourselves in a situation where a number of crime scene certification applications had not been acted upon for several months...only to discover that the person to whom we sent the applications was no longer chair and apparently did not forward the material to the new chair.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Maberry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the main body of text.