

June, 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.

San Diego Conference

The San Diego Conference is rapidly approaching. By now all IAI members should have received the registration booklet. Complete information including the program is also available on the IAI's website (www.theiai.org).

Note that the Board of Directors will meet just prior to the conference. If anyone has items to be considered by the board, please forward them to the Board Chair, Joe Maberry at joemaberry@hotmail.com or to this office.

IAI Newsletter

At last year's Boston Conference, the Board of Directors approved the establishment of a committee chaired by JFI Editor Alan McRoberts to explore the possibility of creating an IAI newsletter. The newsletter, to be published bi-monthly in the months when the JFI is not published, would contain articles of interest to the members, committee information, messages from the president, the board chair etc. and other items of general interest. It would not in any way replace the JFI but would allow the JFI to expand the number of technical articles in each issue and the information that is typically in the last section of the JFI would be moved to the newsletter.

The committee was also authorized to solicit the membership to identify individuals who might be interested in serving as editor of the newsletter if the Board approves the concept in San Diego. Below is an announcement from the last JFI regarding that editor position:

During the January Mid-year Board of Directors' meeting, the Board expressed its intent to pursue the concept of developing an IAI newsletter. The Newsletter Study Committee will present a committee report and hold an open meeting and discussion during the IAI conference in San Diego. Topics to be presented and discussed will include suggestions for a name, cost, format and publication content. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate in this meeting.

After the open meeting, the Board intends to make a final decision whether to approve the creation of an association newsletter. If the newsletter concept is approved, it is anticipated that the Board of Directors will conduct interviews for the position of editor. Any member who is interested in the position of editor should prepare an appropriate resume and be prepared to interview for the position during the conference.

For further information or to provide suggestions and comments please contact:

Alan McRoberts, Committee Chairman
IAI Newsletter Study Committee

PO Box 893789
Temecula, CA 92589-3789
Phone: (951) 587-8337
E-mail: jfieditor@theiai.org

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Meeting – April 23, 2007

The second meeting of the NAS Committee charged with exploring issues relating to forensic science met on April 23rd in Washington, DC. Among the presenters at that meeting were IAI Board Member Steve Meagher and Ed German, also an IAI member and a highly respected fingerprint examiner. Below is an excerpt of comments to SWGFAST members from Lenny Butt, Chair of SWGFAST and is reprinted from Kasey Wertheim's *Weekly Detail* Newsletter.

The National Academy of Sciences Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Science Community met on April 23rd and 24th. This was the second of five scheduled meetings. The NAS committee has been tasked with an overwhelming responsibility to be completed in a minimal amount of time. The entire forensic community is depending on their ability to successfully identify all of the issues that should be considered, assemble and review all of the associated data relating to those issues, and finally access what actions, if any, should be recommended to address the issues. They have to be feeling the heat.

At the invitation of the committee, SWGFAST members Ed German and Steve Meagher both made presentations during the meeting. Introductory comments by Co-chair, Judge Harry T. Edwards, emphasized that this was an information gathering session only, and that no one should assume that any decisions have already been made.

During the proceedings the invitees gave their presentation and the committee then followed-up with questions. In listening to the questions, I found myself becoming increasingly concerned that the scope of what could be accomplished by this study has the potential of being limited. This was, in part, due to the level of attention that the committee had to give to current criticisms. I hope that I am wrong in this assessment. There were no surprises in the terms that were repeated throughout the meeting: blind verification, contextual bias, error rate, and probability models. All, deserving of consideration, but certainly not representative of the complete forensic science picture as it currently exist.

Many presentations were scheduled for the 1.5 days that were open to interested parties. The ambitious schedule left minimal opportunity for additional comments or questions. Surprisingly, during Steve's presentation he was asked if SWGFAST would be able to consider some additional questions and report back to the committee. While presentations were made regarding forensic examinations involving: arson, DNA, drugs, firearms, odontology, and trace evidence/hair none of the other participants had the same invitation extended to them. It should be noted that several critics were also asked to present commentaries at the meeting and they too were not asked to consider follow-up questions.

Yes, the fact that SWGFAST alone has such an offer may be considered as being a "bad" thing. Personally I believe that, considering the manner in which it was presented and the scope of what they are asking, this is a positive sign. This provides the fingerprint community with an opportunity to highlight points, which may otherwise be lost simply due to the limited opportunity for direct communication to the committee, the amount of information that they have to consider, and the distractions presented by the present criticisms.

There are six questions that SWGAFST has been presented with. So that the NAS committee can have it in time to review prior to their final scheduled open meeting, responses will have to be completed in the July/August time frame.

Lenny

For a complete listing of topics from the April 23-24 meeting, please visit the following website:

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/meetingview.aspx?key=48741&MeetingId=1846>

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Meeting – June 5, 2007

The third meeting of the NAS Committee was held on June 5th. Among the presenters at that meeting which considered the issue of AFIS Interoperability was Peter Komarinski, Chair of the IAI's AFIS Committee, AFIS consultant Peter Higgins and John Onstwedder from the Illinois State Police in Chicago. I'm told the information was very well received.

For a complete listing of topics from the June 5-6 meeting please visit the following website:

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/meetingview.aspx?key=48741&MeetingId=1848>

News Article – Government Computer News

Below is a link to an article in the publication *Government Computer News*. The article deals with the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system and is quite informative.

http://www.gcn.com/print/26_12/44345-1.html

FBI CJIS Division Training Opportunity

The FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division will be hosting the next Tenprint and Criminal History Training and Testimony (TRTT) Group Chat Conference on Law Enforcement Online on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, at 2 p.m. (EST). The topic will pertain to Missing vs. Amp Stamps.

The TRTT training staff will moderate the session. For questions regarding the content of the chat conferences, please contact Nikki Hermosilla at (304) 625-3541. For help setting up chat or connecting to the conference, please contact the LEO Help Desk.

Please disseminate this email to additional persons within your agency that may benefit from participating in the chat conference.

Thanks

Kathy Oldaker
Management and Program Analyst
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Criminal Justice Information Services Division

