

# International Association for Identification



## June, 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.

### ***Tampa Conference General Information***

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](mailto:conference@theiai.org)

As in previous years, a meeting of all certification board chairs and secretaries will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday morning of the conference week. It is particularly important that all certification board leadership attend this meeting to hear an update on accreditation of IAI certification programs by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) and discuss any required operational changes required by the FSAB.

On Wednesday morning, August 19<sup>th</sup>, a breakfast meeting will be held for all division presidents, secretaries and regional representatives in attendance at the conference. This annual event is an excellent opportunity for division leadership to discuss pertinent issues with IAI leadership and network with leaders of other divisions. A sign-up sheet for this breakfast will be posted in the conference registration area. Please sign up if planning to attend.

### ***Tampa Conference Hotel Information***

The Marriott and Embassy Suite hotels are now full so please contact the overflow hotel, the Westin, if you need a hotel room for the conference. Complete information about hotel registration can be found on the 2009 Conference web page at:

<http://www.theiai.org/conference/2009/index.php>

***Tampa Conference Presentation – National Academy of Sciences (NAS)  
Report/Recommendations***

One of the hottest topics in the forensics community these days is the NAS Forensics Committee report and recommendations. In order to better acquaint IAI conference attendees with this subject, a panel discussion will be held on Friday morning, August 21 from 9 a.m. until noon. IAI Board Chair Ken Martin will moderate the panel with members representing various points of view with respect to the recommendations. Panel members include Ken Melson, Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives (ATF&E) speaking from the prosecutor's perspective, Dr. Anne-Marie Mazza, chief NAS staff member to the Forensics Committee, will provide an overview of the NAS process, Dr. Robert Shaler, an NAS Committee member, speaking from the academic perspective, Marvin Schecter, an NAS Committee member and defense attorney from New York speaking from the defense perspective and IAI President Bob Garrett who will present the IAI's point of view. This discussion will provide an opportunity to hear firsthand from these individuals, each of who played an important role in the NAS Committee and its report.

***2009 IAI Membership Dues***

Per IAI by-laws, those who have not paid dues for 2009 have now be dropped from membership. Postcards have been sent to those who have not renewed membership notifying them that their IAI membership has lapsed. Those who were dropped can reactivate their membership by paying 2009 dues. If there are any questions regarding 2009 dues, please call or e-mail the IAI office.

***NIST/NIJ Human Factors in Latent Fingerprint Identification Expert Working Group***

This expert Working Group that deals with the latent fingerprint identification process, errors and potential errors in that process held another meeting June 1-3, 2009 in Minneapolis Minnesota. During that meeting, the group broke down into sub-groups, each to explore a particular area of the latent print identification process. Those groups included Management Issues, Testimony and Reporting, Process Improvement, Quality Assurance/Quality Control, Interpretation, Methods, Techniques and Technologies, Education and Training and Work Environment Factors. The bottom line is to develop a report that is all encompassing of the above aspects with recommendations for improvement in the process.

In previous *Identification News* columns I listed the members of this working group, many of whom are also IAI members.

The interesting and exiting aspect of this group is its composition: latent fingerprint examiners, academics, researchers, attorneys, law school staff, association leadership, experts in human factors and staff from NIJ and NIST. Strong views on all sides lead to spirited discussions of issues but the process results in a better understanding between these disparate groups, all of whom are stakeholders at some level or other in forensic science.

***AFIS Interoperability Technical Working Group (TWG)***  
***ATTN: Latent Examiners and AFIS Personnel***

As you know, the National Institute of Justice along with the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) is sponsoring an AFIS Interoperability Working Group. This group has been meeting for about a year now and is making real progress. During the last meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida, it was decided to try to get information about fingerprint cases where AFIS interoperability between state and/or local systems would have prevented criminal activity or other case information where the ability to search AFIS systems, if they were interoperable, would have significantly assisted in an investigation. If you have such a case or anecdotal information regarding AFIS interoperability, please forward that to me at [joseph.polski@theiai.org](mailto:joseph.polski@theiai.org). This type of case information will be extremely helpful to augment the argument for interoperability.

***National Forensic Technology Center (NFSTC)***

During the annual Members Meeting of the NFSTC in May, three new board members were elected along with board officers for next year. I'm pleased that the board re-elected me to serve as Chair of the Board and President of the corporation. The NFSTC has been very active in supporting many areas of forensic science and during the past few years, been instrumental in obtaining NIJ funding to offer latent fingerprint and footwear training. That training grant has been extended for another year and will provide another round of badly needed training for entry-level latent examiners. The training is provided by instructors from RS&A under a contractual agreement between NFSTC and RS&A. The IAI strongly supports this training opportunity and thanks NIJ and NFSTC for their efforts to sustain that training.

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

***Joe Polski***