

March, 2008 - 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.

2008 Membership Dues

Final dues invoices were recently sent to all members who have not yet paid their 2008 dues. Due to a printing error, the dues amount is incorrectly listed on that form. The correct annual dues amounts are as follows: US Members, \$70; Non-US Members, \$60 USD; US Student Members, \$35; Non-US Student Members, \$30 USD.

We apologize for the confusion this has created and are working with the printing company to arrive at an appropriate solution.

Next Generation IAFIS Update

A few days ago I received the following information. This does not bode well for the timely completion of this new and all-important information system.

IBM Protests Lockheed's FBI Win

The FBI's \$1 billion system to upgrade its fingerprint database is on hold.

IBM Corp. has filed a protest with the Government Accountability Office against the bureau's award to Lockheed Martin Corp. GAO has until June 4 to make a decision. The FBI's report on the protest is due March 26, according to GAO.

Neither IBM nor Lockheed would comment on the protest, referring questions to the FBI which would not comment either.

The FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system, an upgrade to the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, will collect photographs and palm prints and will make it easier for the FBI to share data.

The contract will include engineering support, software and hardware support, an interstate photo system, advanced fingerprint technology and palm-print biometric identification. It might be expanded to include facial recognition and iris scans.

The protest and delay is troubling for the biometric industry, which sees the contract as a boon for business. The contract is particularly important to biometric players Cogent Systems and L-1 Identity Solutions, Grant said, because the companies are expected to compete against each other to be the primary technology provider for the project.

The project was expected to be completed in late this year but is likely to be delayed until 2009.

National Academy of Sciences Report – National Database of Ballistic Images

For some time now there has been discussion about the advisability of establishing a national database of ballistic images, essentially a national AFIS type registration of all firearms. Arguments for and against this proposal have surfaced with seeming merit to both sides.

In order to bring a scientific perspective to this decision, the research arm of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, undertook a study of the matter and just recently issued a report. That report can be found at:

www.theiai.org/current_affairs/firearms_database.pdf

Please visit the above site to read the entire report.

2008 IAI Annual International Educational Conference

It's not too early to begin thinking about this summer's conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The dates are Sunday, August 17th through Friday evening, August 22nd. Please visit the conference page of the IAI's website (<http://www.theiai.org/conference/2008/index.php>) for complete conference and hotel information. The Hyatt Hotel has completely booked its rooms for the conference but rooms at the Marriott are still available. Educational Program Coordinator Jim Gettemy notes that he has received over 120 workshop submissions and applications to present workshops are now closed. He is still accepting lecture submissions however so anyone interested in presenting a lecture at the Louisville Conference is encouraged to submit an abstract to him using the submission form found on the IAI's website at:

<http://www.theiai.org/conference/presentations/callforpapers.php>

Recent conferences have been absolutely outstanding and this one promises to continue that tradition of excellence.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Meeting

As has been customary for a number of years, in February, IAI President Ken Martin and I attended the Annual Meeting of the AAFS held in Washington, DC. As usual, AAFS staff provided the IAI with a highly visible location to set up our display. We passed out a great deal of IAI literature, sample copies of the JFI and information about IAI certification programs. Several AAFS attendees submitted IAI membership applications and others who were already members paid their 2008 dues.

The AAFS Meeting is also the venue for several meetings of other forensic organizations. Those specifically affecting the IAI are the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) and the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO). Both hold their annual business meeting during the AAFS Meeting.

Pat Davis, Chair of the IAI's Certification Quality Assurance Committee and also a member of the FSAB's Board of Directors, submitted to the FSAB an application to have the IAI's seven certification programs accredited by that board. The FSAB appointed an Application Review Committee (ARC) that will now begin to review the application, perhaps request further information and ultimately make a recommendation for (hopefully) accreditation. That process will take some time.

Monthly Update on the IAI's Website

Please note also that this Update is sent directly to those listed above. It is also available to all members on the IAI's website by following these instructions (these instructions are also printed in each JFI):

On the bottom right of main page of the IAI's Website is a link titled *Monthly Update*. Click on that link to get to the login page for the *Updates*.

Enter the following information to get to the *Monthly Update* page:

User Name: update

Password: 357cwv

Please note that the password **is case sensitive** therefore it must be entered in all small letters just as shown. After the name and password have been entered, the *Update* screen will appear.

Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO)

After serving on the CFSO Board of Directors since its inception in 2000, I decided to step down from that position. IAI President Ken Martin will replace me as the IAI's official representative to the CFSO. I have been privileged to serve the IAI and the CFSO as a representative, Treasurer and for three years, its Chair. It was a wonderful experience and an unparalleled opportunity to see this nation's legislative system in action. In addition the opportunities to network with other forensic organizations through CFSO activities was invaluable both in developing personal connections and with bringing the IAI's name, membership issues and positions to bear with CFSO deliberations and strategy.

For example, when the CFSO began, forensic science at the national level was concerned with crime laboratories...period. In numerous discussions with folks within governmental organizations, I reminded them over and over again that a great deal of forensic work is not performed in crime laboratories but rather in entities such as identification units, fingerprint units, crime scene units etc. found in law enforcement agencies. Today the common jargon in Washington when talking about forensic science always includes the term "...crime laboratories and other forensic service providers..." It takes a while to change attitudes and points of view but it can be done.

Just a couple of items of information from the CFSO Meeting:

- It appears that the Coverdell Grant Program will again be funded somewhere around \$18 million dollars. That funding can be used for any forensic purpose and not confined to a single discipline such as DNA. Applications for that funding should be available sometime in the next six weeks or so. Watch the NIJ website for further information.

The CFSO and NIJ are working with Congress to make minor changes in the Coverdell legislation that will slightly alter the certification requirements for applicants. That certification addresses the requirement for an applicant agency to certify that some entity is in place to handle allegations of misconduct, mistake or other problem with the forensic entity being awarded Coverdell Grant funding. Be sure to read the application and instructions very carefully.

- There will again be sizeable funding for DNA. Watch the NIJ website for application information for those funds.

I will miss the CFSO activities but I'm very confident that Ken Martin will do a fantastic job of representing the IAI as our CFSO representative.

Joe Polski