

# International Association for Identification



## March, 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.

Hello again from the IAI office.

### ***Accreditation of IAI Certification Programs***

Two years ago the IAI submitted an application for accreditation of our certification programs to the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB). Since that time we have been working to ensure that our Certification Board Policies meet the stringent FSAB standards. I’m happy to report that on February 21, 2010 the FSAB voted to accredit the seven certification programs of the association. More information on this very important accomplishment will be provided in the next issue of *Identification News*.

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

Final dues invoices were mailed a couple of weeks ago to all members who have not yet paid dues for 2010. Please note that those who do not renew for 2010 will be dropped from membership rolls on March 31.

Given the current economic times, we are aware that a number of agencies have withdrawn their support of membership dues. In these times of tremendous change, fueled by issues such as Daubert challenges, the National Academies Recommendations, innovations in technologies and techniques, it is more important than ever to stay current and connected with the forensics community. We hope that even if your agency stops paying your IAI membership dues, you will consider IAI membership a valuable resource worth continuing.

### ***Certification Program Information***

The board of directors recently enacted several changes of importance to all certification programs. Some are due to FSAB requirements and others to changes in policy.

In the February 2010 *Monthly Update* I noted that anyone who is grandfathered into any IAI certification program would, upon renewal, be required to take the test now in place for his or her

level of certification. That is not the same as the proficiency test now required by some certification programs but the test taken by any current new applicant to the program.

Another administrative change that will affect all certification programs is the elimination of the one year grace period to renew certifications after the expiration date of certification. This provision has been in place for many years but has now been eliminated. In order to provide due notice to those whose certifications may have lapsed but assume the one-year grace period is in effect, elimination of the grace period will not take effect until September 1, 2010. After that time, the following provision will apply:

At the expiration of certification in any IAI program, there will be a 90 day grace period during which certification may be renewed but an additional fee of \$50 will be assessed. At the expiration of that 90 day period, anyone who wishes to recertify will need to take the test then in place for any new applicant. In addition, the board asked that recertification notices be sent one year in advance to give applicants ample time to compile the required materials for recertification.

A notice to this effect has been placed on the certification section of the IAI's website and the respective website sections of each certification program.

Note also that the Certification Board Policy Manual has been updated and posted on the certification page of the website.

### ***2010 Spokane Conference – Registration Information***

The registration booklet for the upcoming Spokane Conference will not be printed and mailed to IAI members but will again be posted in a “digital magazine” format on the IAI's website. This format was tried for the first time last year and found to be very successful. The technology used to display the booklet is remarkable and should be very easy for any computer user to navigate.

Eliminating the printed registration booklet saves a considerable amount in printing and postage, both of which have risen a good deal in recent years. The conference program distributed to attendees at the Spokane Conference **will** continue to be available as a printed document.

As soon as the program is available on the website, I will send notices to all recipients of the *Monthly Update* so that information can be disseminated to all members and divisions.

### ***International Association of Chief's of Police (IACP) August Vollmer Excellence in Forensic Science Award***

Several years ago, the Forensic Committee of the IACP created the above award. Sponsored by Target Blue (a law enforcement cooperative sector of Target Corporation) and Bode Technology, part of Global Options Group, the award is presented in six categories of forensic science:

- Current or Past Contributions to Forensic Science by a Police Agency
- Current or Past Contribution to Forensic Science by an Individual
- Current or Past Collaboration between a Police Agency and a Forensic Science Provider
- Innovation in Forensic Technology
- Significant Investigative Value in a Major Crime
- Enhancement of Forensic Capability by a Forensic Science Provider

The winners of these awards will be flown to Orlando next fall to attend the award ceremony during the annual IACP Meeting. Each winner will be presented with a large, cast metal medallion of August Vollmer, often referred to as the “Father of American Policing” and a pioneer in utilizing forensic technologies for police purposes.

We all know someone or some agency that has done outstanding work in one of the above categories. Please take a few minutes from your busy day to nominate an individual or agency whose accomplishments are worthy of consideration in one of the above categories.

Submissions will be accepted through April 16, 2010.

For more information on this award, please visit the following website:

<http://www.theiacp.org/tabid/275/Default.aspx>

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

*Joe Polski*