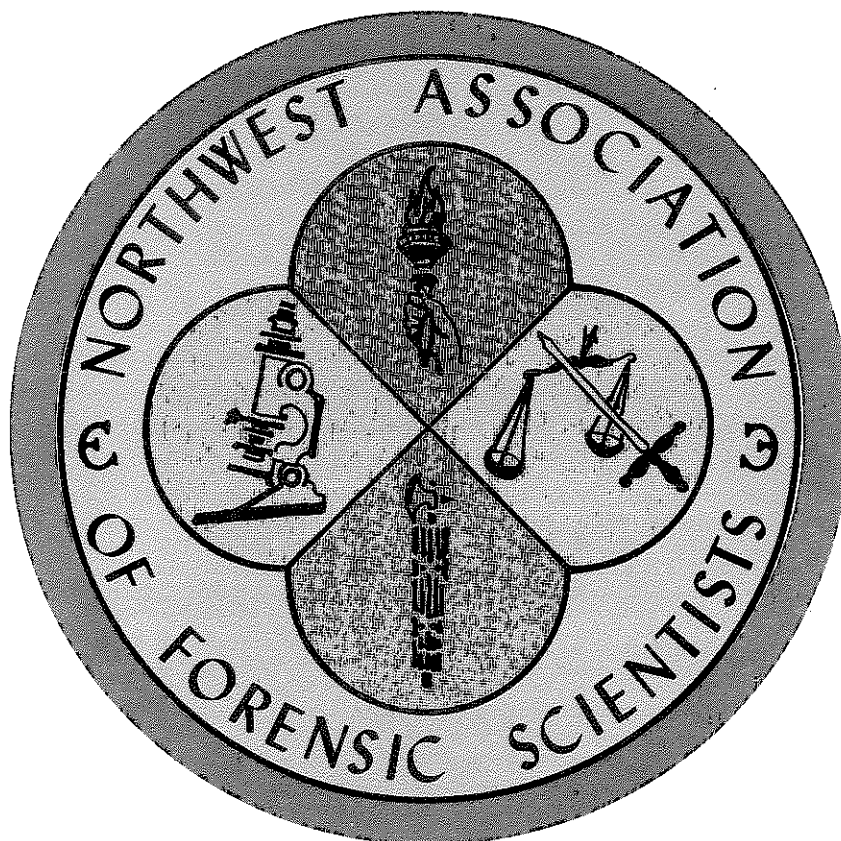


THE NEWSLETTER of



DECEMBER 1988

VOL. XIV, NO. 4

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IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>Editorial: The Question of Certification</i>	2
<i>Statement Against Certification</i>	4
<i>Association Meetings</i>	4
<i>Job Openings</i>	5
<i>Spring 1989 Meeting Plans</i>	7
<i>Technical Advancement Update</i>	7
<i>Portland Meeting Highlights</i>	8
<i>Minutes From Fall 1988 Meeting</i>	8
<i>CACLD DNA Guidelines Available</i>	9
<i>Association Membership Tops 215</i>	9
<i>Vendors at Portland Meeting</i>	10
<i>Abstracts of Papers Presented at Fall Meeting</i>	10
<i>Reference Abstracts</i>	12

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people responsible for the success of the Association meeting just completed in Portland. The hard work of meeting chairwoman Beth Carpenter and workshop chairman Mike Hurley and Dave Schmierbach was readily apparent. The technical program was outstanding and participation by the general membership was the best in years.

Workshops such as those sponsored in Portland are not free, however. These workshops, as well as special schools (such as the McCrone Microscopy School) have been offered often enough to exact a toll on our not-so-large financial reservoir. In response to this situation, the general membership voted to increase yearly dues from \$20.00 to \$30.00. A small price for technical excellence! Besides, the dues have not been increased since the mid 70's.

The standing committee appointments have been made for the new year and their reports and plans should be found elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. In particular, the Proficiency Testing Program has been resurrected and a testing schedule has been formulated. The initial proficiencies are due out

shortly. The success of this program is dependent on the degree of participation so I urge everyone to compete and return the work within the time frame outline for each test.

The recipients of two awards, both sponsored by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, were selected at the Portland meeting. The General Section Award, awarded for outstanding contributions to the field of forensics, was awarded to Andy Allen of DEA in San Francisco for his research in clandestine drug chemistry and assistance to regional laboratories dealing with clandestine drug laboratories. The Regional Award was given to Wayne Jeffery for his presentation of toxicological applications of GC/FTIR. His work will be presented at the poster session at the American Academy Meeting in February. I would like to thank both individuals for their contributions to the advancement of the Forensic Sciences in the Northwest Association. Congratulations to both.

The Spring 1989 meeting, sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory, is slated for April 3-7 in Ashland, Oregon. Preliminary details include workshops sponsored by a variety of instrument manufacturers and a tour of the new laboratory. Contact Ken Goddard at (503) 482-4191 for more information.

The issue of certification of individual forensic scientists has been raised again. Decisions which will affect each of us are likely to be made at the American Academy Meeting in Las Vegas in February at which time the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) hopes to incorporate and initiate their certification program. In light of the importance of this issue, a special certification newsletter will be published which will explain the current proposal and give each member an opportunity to respond in a survey.

I would appreciate a thoughtful, rapid response so that the membership can be accurately represented at the meeting in February.

I look forward to working with you during my time as President, I know this year will be productive and educational.

See you in Ashland

Dale C. Mann

EDITORIAL: RESPONSIBILITY AND THE QUESTION OF CERTIFICATION

I've been sitting here in front of the computer and on the couch seething over the snow job a few self serving individuals are trying to perpetrate on the general forensic community.

I've thought back several times to what my Journalist professor in college (yes, I was a lowly J-major before seeing the light of chemistry) Roger Tartarian would tell us about writing on issues we have heavy emotional feelings about. Tartarian, the former editor of United Press International, preached patience and numerous rewrites until you've written all of your emotions out of the piece, leaving the pertinent details you're paid to scribe.

Well, my buns have gotten sore from being patient, so let's give it a shot.

For those of you who missed a wonderful meeting in Portland, you missed a lively discussion and the news that after about 10 years of being dormant, the topic of certification for criminalists has raised its ugly head again. The bearer of this news was Kay Sweeney, of the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab in Seattle.

It seems that back in July, or so, Walt McCrone convened a group of people who were on the certification committee back in '78 or '79 to see if they

... group of individuals would be so pompous as to believe they could simply ram the certification issue down our throats.

felt it was worthwhile to resurrect this beast. Sweeney went to this meeting, without the knowledge or blessing of the NWAFFS Executive Board, since he represented us way back then.

The details of that meeting will hopefully be passed to each member in a separate mailing for your perusal. But the upshot of the meeting was that these individuals decided to go ahead and push the certification of criminalists now.

Spring it on us, is more like it. It is unbelievable that this group of individuals would be so pompous as to believe they could simply ram the certification issue down our throats.

After much lively discussion at the Portland meeting, an action was taken to have the Association represented at the next meeting (which, by the way, they want to ratify articles of incorporation and by-laws) to be held at the American Academy Meeting in Las Vegas in February 1989. The sentiment was not that the Association necessarily supports the certification process, but rather *we'd better have somebody there in case they try and do something.*

For those of you who know me, I don't care for cover-your-ass politics. I think it is totally disgusting that the Association should have to act in such a manner.

to protect the membership, rather than participating in a more constructive role. As it is, our membership dues went up this meeting to help build our coffers up to provide more and better workshops and seminars. But our involvement in the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) could be a horrible drain on our finances. We'd be better off burning the money.

... our involvement in the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) could be a horrible drain on our finances.

It's all too fast, too soon. The sad part is that we, the Association and the people who will be affected by this, are not fully informed and have not had any time to mull the issue over and decide what is best for us, individually or as an Association.

And the finger of blame must be pointed at no one but Kay Sweeney. Sweeney attended this meeting in July, yet never brought the matter before the membership until the general meeting in Portland. He had not even discussed the issue with the Executive Board until the Executive Meeting on Wednesday night before the general meeting. A Newsletter was published about one month after the meeting date, plenty of time to notify the membership as to the agenda of the meeting. But the information was held from us.

This has not been uncommon. I have heard of how the presentation from individuals of ASCLD to its membership followed much the same course. *What are they trying to hide from us?*

As I write this it is November 7. At the meeting in Portland, I asked Kay to write a pro-certification statement for the Newsletter, and Arnold Melnikoff to write a con argument. Both were to have their outlines to me by November 1, when they would be traded so that each could comment on the others stand. This would provide some uniformity to the arguments. As of today, I've had Arnie's comments for a week now, and nothing from Kay. And I don't expect I will get anything from him by the deadline for publication, November 15. Kay's last comments were that he was *busy*, as if we all aren't.

Certification of individuals shows competence in an area and a sense of responsibility in the job they do. But if the very individuals trying to do the certification can not be responsible enough to be up front and honest about the process, how can we trust these individuals to judge what is beneficial for us professionally?

When the summary of the proceedings from the meeting in July for certification reach you in late

December or January, I urge you to look very closely at what is proposed.

In this summary is a listing of the benefits of certification for many different individuals:

Public interest through ... improvement in administration and quality of civil and criminal justice ... progress toward nationwide equality in the examination, analysis and interpretation of physical evidence ... I am not aware of any studies were the present system is detrimental to the seeking of justice in either civil or criminal matters. As for meaningful standardization, it is unfortunate the ideological theory runs in to financial reality. We all know that crime laboratories rate rather low year after year in budgetary considerations. Do these individuals think certification will force the parent agency to cough up extra bucks for instrumentation and training when they feel new, unmarked patrol cars for the command staff is more important? Many agencies balk at the accreditation process of ASCLD because of the cost of aligning themselves with the guidelines set by ASCLD.

... benefits for the active practitioner are ... increased availability of training and educational opportunities ... definition of limits in capabilities of personnel and laboratories ... definition of acceptable level of professional competence ... If the agency doesn't provide the funds for the individual to receive advanced training, they are no incentives for the individual to pay the bill with the change in the income tax laws of 1988. Further, ABC is supposed to certify the practitioner, but they are already trying to determine if a laboratory is capable of a certain type of examination, clearly a duplication of the efforts of the ASCLD Accreditation process. Who, also, is going to determine what the definition of an acceptable level

... they are already trying to determine if a laboratory is capable of a certain type of examination ...

of professional competence? There are some major differences between those practicing on the West coast and those on the East coast. Who is right and who is wrong? Which philosophy do we align ourselves with? A real problem with the training issue is by what mechanism a training course will be considered "approved" to count towards the point system ABC has developed. This could have a tendency to thwart in-house training by very capable individuals, some who are recognized as leaders in their field.

... benefits to the laboratory ... providing justification for funds for training, equipment, increase salaries, and filling positions ... assuring the administrator that certification is done by active practitioners in

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Page 4

*criminalistics ... Whew!! Hold on a minute, this is supposed to be voluntary - where the hell do administrators get off evaluating me based on whether I decide to voluntarily participate in this program. Are they voluntarily participating in the ASCLD Accreditation program? Read this for what it is folks: This is not a program to help you better yourself!! This program, we now see, is for the administrators who are too stupid and lame to come up with coherent justifications for training, equipment and personnel. They'd rather have this so they can toss it in front of the people controlling the purse strings, and pout, hold their breath and have a tantrum. Imagine, your job, your evaluation, your promotion, *your chances of landing a job* might be tied to certification!! Scary thought ...*

There may be some merit to certification, but certainly not in the current proposal. The whole plan stinks, and is not designed with the interests of the individuals who will ultimately be accountable under the certification. It is designed to be another certificate on the wall, another in a long line of qualifications spewed off in court - a crutch for an ineffective manager to use to get the equipment and training he/she should be fighting for in the first place.

I say let's certify the lab managers and see if they are fit to manage. Then they can cast that first stone when they feel holy enough ...

The preceding is the opinion of the author, and does not necessarily represent the position or philosophy of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists.

STATEMENT AGAINST THE CERTIFICATION OF CRIMINALISTS

by
Arnold Melnikoff
Montana State Crime Lab

The following are my criticisms of the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) certification proposal:

1. ABC did not seek approval of the forensic organization's memberships which they are asking to be sponsors. By ABC becoming incorporated and approving its own by-laws before the peer forensic organization's memberships approve or disapprove support for ABC certification, the original organizers of ABC retain control of the direction and membership of the board of directors. It is in fact a private club.

2. The ABC certification requirements will, in effect, determine what the definition of "criminalist" is. There is no universally accepted definition of what a criminalist is. Is criminalistics really a separate science? Is a chemist not qualified to do a drug analysis because he is not a criminalist?

3. This definition of a criminalist can be self-serving for individual ABC board members who teach courses in forensic science and are consultants.

4. A private certification board is not in the best interests of those who would be interested in certification. The certification board should be composed of peer forensic organizations in the area of the forensic specialty to be certified.

5. Having the certification test composed of a general test on criminalistics and at least one area of specialization is not in the best interests of forensic scientists. The ABC proposal includes five areas of specialization: toxicology, firearms and toolmarks, serology, drug chemistry and trace evidence. A forensic serologist in a large lab has no reason to be concerned with drug identification, or a drug analyst with serology. Yet they will be expected to pass a test in which they must demonstrate knowledge in serology, drug analysis, trace evidence, toxicology and firearms and toolmarks. This general knowledge has nothing to do with their competence as a forensic serologist, drug analyst or trace evidence analyst.

6. There is nothing mentioned about passing proficiency tests in the areas where individuals will obtain specialty certification. I feel that this should be an integral part of the certification examination.

7. If ABC does not get support for their certification program from ASCLD, the certification will not accomplish anything since the crime lab director, control who is to be hired in the crime labs throughout the country. ASCLD will not have voting directors on the ABC governing board unless the ABC by-laws are changed.

8. Certification will not prevent dishonest individuals from testifying, or will it guarantee the competence of examinations by certified criminalists. It will only document that a certified individual is capable of performing a competent examination.

9. The cost of individual certification is not addressed in the ABC certification proposal. Before forensic organizations ask their respective memberships to vote on supporting the ABC certification proposal the costs of individual certification should be addressed.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS SPRING 1989 MEETING

A preliminary meeting site of Ashland, Oregon has been selected for the site of the Spring 1989 meeting of the NWAFFS. Ken Goddard, director of the new Federal Forensic Wildlife Laboratory, has graciously offered to be the host for the meeting. The date and topics of the meeting will be posted in later issues of

he newsletter. But keep this meeting in mind, it will offer an opportunity to see the new Wildlife lab that we've heard so many rumors about.

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS FALL 1989 MEETING

The Fall meeting of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists will be held at the Concord Hilton, in Concord, California. The meeting will be held October 17-20, 1989. Plans are in a very preliminary stage at this point. However, one workshop has been setup with Dr. Alexander Shulgin presenting a 4 hour session on the pharmacology of drugs. Cost of a room, single or double occupancy, will be \$56.00. The hotel is holding a block of rooms at that rate the weekend before and the weekend after the meeting for those who want to come down and enjoy San Francisco, the wine country or any of the other many attractions available. If you fly in, fly into Oakland International Airport. Shuttle buses are available for about \$20 one way to the hotel on a reservation basis. More information will be coming as the meeting gets closer.

For more information, contact:

Roger A. Ely, Program Chairman
DEA Western Lab
PO Box 36075
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 556-0951

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS SPRING 1989 MEETING

The Spring 1989 meeting of the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists has been set for May 4-6, 1989 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The theme for this meeting is "Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) in Forensic Science." This meeting will feature Dr. Robin H. Keeley, world renowned SEM expert as one of our plenary speakers. Dr. Keeley will also conduct a SEM workshop on May 4, 1989. We also plan to have SEM speakers from the FBI and other SEM users.

Dr. Robin H. Keeley is the SEM expert at the Scotland Yard laboratory in London, England. He has taught SEM course relating to Forensic Science and has spoken at many institutions around the world. He is willing to speak or teach an SEM course at your respective Association meetings that are in the same time frame as his visit to the SAFS meeting on May 4-5, 1989.

Dr. Keeley may be contacted at the following address and phone number:

Dr. R.H. Keeley

The Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory
109 Lambeth Road
London, England SE1 7LP
011-44-1-230-6355

For more information concerning the meeting, contact:

Lt. R. S. White
WV State Police Laboratory
725 Jefferson Road
South Charleston, WV 25309
(304) 746-2181

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES 1989 MEETING

The 1989 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences will be held at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, February 13-18, 1989. Room rates are \$65 for a single or double room. Several workshops and symposia are planned as well as 450 poster and paper presentations. More information will be coming from the AAFS.

For more information, contact:

Beth Ann Lipskin
Executive Director
American Academy of Forensic Sciences
PO Box 669
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0669
(719) 636-1100

JOB OPENINGS

Criminalist: The Oregon State Police Crime Laboratory Bureau is seeking qualified applicants with at least three years experience in serological or trace evidence examinations. Applicants must meet all the requirements of an Oregon State Police Officer and pass an extensive background investigation.

Salary: From \$24,000 to \$36,000 plus paid overtime and excellent benefits and retirement.

For more information, contact:

Major Roger Dingeman
Oregon State Police
Crime Laboratory Bureau
1111 SW 2nd
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 229-5712

Forensic Chemist III: The New Mexico Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Bureau is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Forensic Chemist III. The position requires a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in chemistry or biology, plus 4 years experience in controlled substance analysis, etc. Skill and ability to testify as an expert witness in a court of law, train law enforcement personnel and the ability to

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Page 6

communicate effectively orally and in writing is required. The position is located in Santa Fe, New Mexico at an elevation of 7,000 feet near the Sangre De Cristo Mountains.

Salary: \$28,808 per year FIRM

Forensic Serologist III: The New Mexico Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Bureau is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Forensic Serologist III. The position requires a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college of university with a major in chemistry or biology, plus four years experience in trace evidence analysis of hairs, fibers, paint, soil, glass, etc. Skill and ability to testify as an expert witness in a court of law, train law enforcement personnel and communicate effectively orally and in writing is required. The position is located in Santa Fe, New Mexico at an elevation of 7,000 feet near the Sangre De Cristo Mountains.

Salary: \$28,808 to 48,600 per year

For more information, contact:
Department of Public Safety
Personnel Management Bureau
Ms. Celine Miller
PO Box 1628
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1628
(505) 827-9046

Assistant Criminalist: The Oakland Police Department anticipates openings in its ASCLD-LAB accredited crime laboratory in the Fall of 1988. The position is a full time civilian position requiring a BS in criminalistics or a related science (e.g. chemistry). This is an entry level position. Although no prior experience is required, candidates with graduate work and/or training in either drug analysis or latent print examination will be preferred.

Salary: \$2699 to 2980 per month

Criminalist: The Oakland Police Department anticipates openings in its ASCLD-LAB accredited crime laboratory for a Criminalist in the Fall of 1988. The position will be a permanent full time civilian position requiring a BS in criminalistics or a related science (e.g. chemistry). This position requires two years of laboratory experience. Graduate work may be substituted for a portion of the experience requirement. Duties of the position include drug analysis in addition to firearms examination, trace evidence and/or other areas of criminalistics.

Salary: \$3239 to 3583 per month

For information on either position, contact:

Jan S. Bashinski
Laboratory Director
Oakland Police Department
455 Seventh St., Room 608
Oakland, CA 94607
(415) 273-3386

Criminalist II: The San Diego County Sheriff's Department currently has an opening for an experienced Criminalist II. A Criminalist II is a journey level professional who examines, documents and reports the more difficult case evidence without direct supervision. A BS in criminalistics, chemistry, biology or a related field and three (3) years experience in conducting forensic examinations including presentation of laboratory tests in court as an expert witness is required. Education must include eight (8) semester hours of general chemistry, three (3) semester hours of quantitative analysis.

Salary: \$31,886 to 38,750 per year

For more information, contact:
Dept. of Human Resources
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 207
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 236-2191

FORENSIC WILDLIFE LAB JOB OPENINGS TO BE OFFERED

The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, a new 23,000 square foot facility located in Ashland, Oregon, will soon be taking applications for several forensic scientist and technician level position. Persons who are interested in getting on the mailing list to receive additional information on the lab and specific job announcements (as the positions open) should write to:

Ken Goddard, Director
National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab
1490 E. Main St.
Ashland, OR 97520
(503) 482-4191

The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory is functionally organized into five sections: Criminalistics, Serology, Morphology, Evidence and Property Control and Technical Support (Photo/Video and electronics). While the specific duties and responsibilities of the Section Chiefs (GM-13), Unit Coordinators (GS-12), Forensic Scientists (GS-7,9,11) and Lab Technicians (GS-5,6,7) will vary considerably, depending upon the assigned Section and evidence categories, the primary task of the laboratory will be to examine, compare and/or identify the species - source of wildlife parts and products for law enforcement purposes, and to testify as to the examination results in State and Federal Courts throughout the United States in support of Federal and State wildlife law enforcement investigations.

IN performing this mission, we will be supporting the wildlife law enforcement efforts of our 200+ Special Agents throughout the United States, all fifty State Fish and Game Commissions, and approximately 97

foreign countries who have signed the United Nation's CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) Treaty.

Positions offered:

Supervisory Forensic Scientist GM-13 (Morphology)	\$41,121 - 53,460
Senior Forensic Scientist GM-12 (Criminalistics)	\$34,580 - 44,957
Senior Forensic Scientists GS-12 (serology, DNA analysis, mammalogy, herpetology)	\$34,580 - 44,957
Forensic Scientist GS-11 (all sections)	\$28,852-37,510
Forensic Scientist GS-9 (all sections)	\$23,846-31,001
Forensic Scientist GS-7 (all sections)	\$19,493-25,343
Lab Technician GS-7 (all sections)	\$19,493-25,343
Lab Technician GS-6 (all sections)	\$17,542-22,807
Lab Technician GS-5 (all sections)	\$15,738-20-463

PLANS FOR SPRING 1989 MEETING IN ASHLAND TAKING SHAPE

Ken Goddard

The plans for the Spring 1989 meeting are progressing. A CALL FOR PAPERS is now open. To get on the schedule, interested people should call or send their abstracts to:

Beth Ann Gilroy
Forensic Specialist
National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab
1490 E. Main Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520
(503) 482-4191

Beth Ann and I will be organizing the meeting, but expect to have help from Wayne Ferguson (Chief Serologist) and Kent Oakes (Chief Criminalist) when they arrive. People can reach me for information on the meeting at the same address and phone number above.

The meeting will be held April 3 through 7 at the Ashland Hills Inn, 2525 Ashland Street, Ashland, Oregon 97520 (503) 482-8310.

125 rooms have been set aside. They have more; it just depends on how many people register ahead. Cut off date for sleeping rooms is March 3. Room cost: \$39.00/night for queen singles and queen doubles. 6% city tax applies to room rate. Individuals are responsible for their own rooms, tax and incidentals. The hotel is approximately 1 mile from the lab, and transportation will be provided by the lab staff.

The general plan has meeting rooms set aside for April 4-6. Some limited space is available on April 7th. The actual meeting dates would be Tuesday-

Thursday, with Monday and Friday as possible workshop dates and time for organized tours of the new lab. We plan to use the new lab for the workshops, as the lab won't be fully operational at that time.

We have a tentative commitment from Nicolet to hold a workshop using our new FTIR. Hewlett Packard will host a workshop using the lab's 5988A GC/MS with HPLC Thermospray. We are hoping to get a workshop on our GATAN SEM.

TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE REQUESTS PROFICIENCY TEST USER UPDATES

The Technical Advancement Committee Chairman is requesting the membership's help in updating the list of laboratories interested in receiving proficiency tests. It has been approximately two years since the last group of samples were distributed to the NWAFFS laboratories. I am sure that we not only might have some additional laboratories interested, but also many laboratories might have "grown" to include additional disciplines in their normal casework.

As in the past, the design of each test distributed is to be straightforward, interesting and, hopefully, rewarding. Each test will be generally "typical" of encountered casework scenarios and not "trick" in nature.

*Each test will be generally
"typical" of encountered
casework scenarios and not
"trick" in nature.*

I'm requesting each laboratory or laboratory system to select a contact person to which the proficiency samples are to be mailed. It would also be necessary for that contact person to survey the laboratories for the number and type of proficiency tests needed. For the sake of manageability, the number of test samples will be limited to one per laboratory. Each sample can be shared within a laboratory.

Some of the disciplines to be covered by the proficiency tests in the future will be:

Firearm Identification / Comparisons
Toolmark Comparison
Serology (including speciation)
Physical match
Hair and Fiber Identification / Comparisons
Drug Analysis

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Page 8

Arson Analysis
Urine Toxicology
Footwear Comparison

As in the past, the only requirement for the receipt of these proficiency samples is that at least one person of the laboratory staff is a member of NWAFFS.

Please respond to this request as soon as possible so that this worthwhile service can get up to steam. Please also include any suggestions and ideas you may have to help make the NWAFFS proficiency testing program better.

Robert M. Thompson
OSP Crime Laboratory
1111 2nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 229-5017

PORTLAND MEETING BIG SUCCESS

The Fall 1988 meeting in Portland has come and gone, and if you missed it, you missed quite a meeting.

A big thank you is extended to Beth Carpenter and her crew of helpers for putting on one of the best meetings I can remember in my short tenure with the Association. The accommodations at the Portland Marriott were excellent, the program and workshops well planned, and all those other hundreds of details necessary to make a meeting a big hit were perfect.

The week was started off with two workshops on Tuesday. The first, a two day session on GC/MS and MS interpretation, was taught by John Hughes of Hewlett Packard. The course was full of good information to get you going and a little curious about those funny boxes attached to your GCs. This class pulled in approximately 35 people, including some from local clinical laboratories who were not members.

The second workshop that day dealt with blood spatter interpretation, and was held at the OSP lab. The program included some hands-on types of experiments. Good comments were heard about this class, too.

The excitement started Tuesday night with the alcohol absorption/elimination workshop. We all got to drink until 7:30 under very sociable conditions, and then were required to go down stairs and give some breath alcohol measurements. I felt pretty sloshed, but only blew a 0.11. I was, needless to say, a bit surprised. I thought I would be higher than that.

Wednesday morning saw the continuation of the GC/MS course, and a day long workshop on alcohol and its various legal aspects. An excellent workshop, I am told, with some rather strange new concepts concerning alcohol absorption in rather erotic ways. Past President Wayne Jeffery seemed anxious to get

back to the Motherland to try a few of these methods out ...

*... some rather strange new
concepts concerning alcohol
absorption in rather erotic ways.*

The plenary session featured papers given on the topics of DNA typing, knots, clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, chemical microscopy, a field trip to Russia, breath alcohol statistics, etc. The types of papers were nicely mixed and well done. Abstracts of most of the papers given are printed elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The Association's business meeting was held Thursday afternoon. The minutes of the meeting aren't ready yet, but look for them in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The evening was capped with our usual mad-capped banquet which featured the return of the man with the spoon on his nose, Brad Telyea. Brad, it seems, has not lost his touch when it comes to hanging a spoon off his nose. Robert Thompson, OSP Lab - Portland, attempted to keep his title of most spoons hung on the face. Unfortunately, this year Bob was disqualified from competition based on the Ben Johnson clause - he took steroids to puff up his face. Better luck next year, Bob!

A quite memorable end to the banquet was the impression of Dolly Parton, performed by Brad and Lionel Tucker for the benefit of Beth Carpenter. Yes, we had fun ...

This meeting was one of the best attended meetings in recent history. Nearly 70 people registered for the two day meeting - an excellent turn out!

Many thanks to Beth for all her work and organizing.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION IN PORTLAND

Lionel Tucker
Secretary-Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:30 PM. Minutes from the Spring 1988 meeting in Missoula were approved as printed in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account has \$2826.00, Dreyfus account has \$1993.40. The Association's books were audited and a \$20.00 discrepancy on the plus side was noted. I am still trying to locate the mistake.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee chose Andrew Allen as the American Academy award winner for this year from the NWAFFS membership. At this time, the Executive Committee voted to allocate \$500.00 for a desktop publishing program for the Newsletter. The following issues were discussed and presented to the membership for consideration:

1. Proposal to increase membership dues from \$20.00/year to \$30.00/year. m/s/p

2. Proposal to have the Fall 1989 meeting in Concord, California. Details of the facility for the meeting were given by Roger Ely of DEA. m/s/p

3. Election of slate of officers for 1989:

President: Dale Mann

President-Elect: Tommy Moore

Member-at-Large: Gary Knowles

Sec.-Treas.: Lionel Tucker m/s/p

Kay Sweeney presented to the Board information concerning the certification of criminalists. A motion was made for the Executive Committee to select a member from the Association to represent the Association at the ABC meeting in February. The role of this individual is informational, only. A questionnaire will be sent to the membership to poll them on their feelings on certification. m/s/p

Membership (Roger Ely for Bob Sager): A reading of the individuals applying to the Association for membership and individuals eligible for membership status change were read. (A listing of those individuals appears in this issue of the Newsletter.)

Continuing Education (Arnie Melnikoff): Within the last 10 months, only 5 requests for materials have been received. The most popular material being requested is on the topic of mass spectroscopy and infrared spectroscopy. There was one request for the tape on media relations. Three books from Elsevier Press were added to the library. A complete list of materials available for use will be published in the Newsletter.

Technical Advancement (Robert Thompson): The program is restarting in October 1988. There will be a request for updating the samples list in the next Newsletter.

Historical (Brad Telyea): I still need material of any kind. Adventures in the hot tub, photos, notes, et cetera that answers that often asked question "Are we having yet?"

New Business

The proposed change in the By-laws, as printed in the past two Newsletters, was brought before the membership for a vote, and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:45 PM.

CACLD DNA GUIDELINES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERSHIP

I have received a letter from Robert R. Stoinoff, Jr. of the California Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (CACLD) concerning their work with DNA typing. His letter is reproduced in part here:

The CACLD is an organization encompassing management from municipal, county, state and federal forensic laboratories throughout California and Nevada. Our mandate is improvement of forensic science through effective management.

To educate and inform our membership concerning the emerging field of DNA typing, I appointed a committee to examine the technology, develop an educational program, and make recommendations as to how our organizations may implement testing. Through the efforts of this committee we examined the capabilities of the major commercial labs performing DNA typing, furnished blind trial samples to test the methodologies of each, prepared a model set of "DNA Guidelines" and hosted a seminar on DNA in which all of the major researchers in the field were present.

There has been a great deal of interest in our test results and our guidelines. So that we can provide the greatest possible distribution of this data, I am providing you with a complete set of our reports and a set of the "DNA Guidelines". You may freely reprint these documents in your newsletter, or distribute them in any convenient manner to other interested individuals.

If you would like a copy of the material described, contact the Newsletter Editor. Please, only one request per laboratory system!!

ASSOCIATION'S MEMBERSHIP NOW TOPS 215

With the closing of the Portland meeting, the Association's membership roll has grown from around 187 paid members to a whopping 215, for a 15% increase. A listing of the actions of the membership committee are presented:

Removed from Membership

Susan Feller - Alaska DPS Crime lab, left field
Hank Chambers - Alaska DPS Crime lab, left field

Applicants for Provisional Membership

Candidates for Associate Status

Caroline Blachford - WSP Crime Lab, Everett
Wayne Leyten - Synthon Industries, Vancouver, BC
Lynn Kurtz - Montana State Crime Lab, Missoula

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Candidates for Regular Status

John Bowden - CA DOJ Crime Lab, Sacramento
 Shirley Chew - DEA, San Francisco
 Tilton Davis - Wyoming State Crime Lab, Cheyenne
 Elizabeth Dietmeyer - Wisconsin State Lab, Milwaukee
 Hayne Hamilton - Alaska DPS Crime Lab, Anchorage
 Kathy Hays - OSP Crime Lab, Portland
 Christine Smith - OSP Crime Lab, Portland
 Judith Hoffmann - Montana State Lab, Missoula
 Kevin Jones - WSP Crime Lab, Kennewick
 John Jolley - Wyoming State Crime Lab, Cheyenne
 Jerry Massetti - CA DOJ Crime Lab, Fresno
 Terence McAdam - WSP Crime Lab, Seattle
 Diane McGrath - DEA, San Francisco
 Roderick McNeil - McNeil Technologies, Polson, MT
 Karl Nichols - DEA, San Francisco
 Bradford Putman - OSP Crime Lab, Portland
 Kathryn Saft - Alaska DPS Crime Lab, Anchorage
 Moses Schanfield - Genetic Testing Institute, Atlanta
 Theresa Spear - Alameda Co. Crime Lab, San Leandro
 Nick Stahlke - Idaho State Crime Lab, Coeur D'Alene
 Leanne Strickland - Alaska DPS Crime Lab,
 Anchorage

Katherine Wilcox - OSP Crime Lab, Coos Bay

Upgrading of Membership Status

Provisional to Regular

Michael Asselin - RCMP, Vancouver BC
 Alex Beveridge - RCMP, Vancouver BC
 Charles Hall - DEA, San Francisco
 Debbie Price - WSP Crime Lab, Kelso
 Delmar Price - WSP Crime Lab, Tacoma
 Peggy Stevenson - DEA, San Francisco
 Brian Wainwright - RCMP, Vancouver BC
 Ed Formosa - WA State Toxicology Lab, Seattle
 Bruce Johnson - OSP Crime Lab, Springfield
 Richard Klocko - OSP Crime Lab, Bend
 Ruth Luthi - WA State Toxicology Lab, Seattle
 Randall Wampler - OSP Crime Lab, North Bend
 Egle Weiss - WA State Toxicology Lab, Seattle

Provisional Members with Unchanged Status

Joan Bryson - WSP Crime Lab, Everett
 Jacqueline Battles - CBI Crime Lab, Denver
 Dorothy Boyer - NIS Lab, San Diego
 Everett Clary - Alaska DPS Crime Lab, Anchorage
 Arthur Davidson - DEA, San Francisco
 Ton Hagney - Denver PD Crime Lab, Denver
 Terry Hanson - Washoe Co. Crime Lab, Reno
 Larry Lewman - OR State Med. Examiner, Portland
 Tom Netwal - CBI Crime Lab, Denver
 Nizar Shajani - RCMP, Vancouver BC
 Susan Swarmer - Contra Costa Co. Lab, Martinez
 George Taft - Alaska DPS Crime Lab, Anchorage
 Rico Togneri - Washoe Co. Crime Lab, Reno
 Richard Ulrich - RCMP, Vancouver BC

Corresponding Member

Kurt Scudder

VENDORS SHOWING AT THE FALL 1988 MEETING

The following vendors displayed their goods at the Fall 1988 meeting in Portland:

Anita Kelly
 Perkin Elmer
 6510 South Center Blvd.
 Suite 2
 Tukwila, WA 98188
 1-800-426-9905

Jill M. Bulls
 Cellmark Diagnostics
 20271 Goldenrod Lane
 Germantown, MD. 20874
 (301) 428-4877

Bill Johnson
 Hewlett Packard
 15815 SE 37th
 Bellevue, WA 98006
 (206) 644-3211

Bob Stout
 Bartels and Stout, Inc.
 PO Box 1994
 Bellevue, WA 98009
 (206) 453-1705

Michael Carrick
 Lightning Powder Co.
 1230 Hoyt St. SE
 Salem, OR 97302
 (503) 585-9900

Mike Minner
 Analect Inst. / Spectra Laboratory
 5013 Pacific Hwy. E (A-12)
 Tacoma, WA 98424
 (206) 922-5120

Alltech - Applied Sciences

Kinderprint

If you have questions about any of the products these vendors can provide you, please contact them directly. Support our vendors, their fees help pay for a large chunk of our meeting.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE FALL 1988 MEETING

The following are abstracts of some of the papers presented at the Fall meeting of the Association in Portland. Unfortunately, several of the authors did not feel it important enough to submit an abstract.

with their request to give a paper. So, many of the papers presented at the meeting will not have a description of their content. Once again, the inconsideration of others spoils it for the rest of us ...

"Non-isotopic / Non-toxic DNA Methodology"

Moses S. Schanfield, PhD.

The traditional technology for DNA RFLP analysis has required the use of radioactive isotopes and hazardous chemicals such as iso-chloroform and phenol. Recent developments have allowed for stable biotinylated probes and saturated salt solutions for simpler, less hazardous RFLP technology.

"A Visit to USSR Forensic Laboratories"

Kenneth D. McDermott

In April 1988, a delegation of 45 American Academy of Forensic Sciences members visited crime laboratories in five cities in the Soviet Union. A brief report is given regarding the findings of the visit.

"Clean-up of Biological Specimens for GC/MS Using ToxiLab and Microvets"

Julia I. Hinkley

A different adaptation of the ToxiLab system, and Microvets to yield a purified sample for GC/MS.

"Methamphetamine Synthesis - An Unusual Impurity"

John P. Bowden

Analysis of several reaction mixtures from a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory revealed the presence of significant amounts of an unusual impurity. The process used was the Phenylacetone / Methylamine / Aluminum synthesis. The impurity was the corresponding imine of methamphetamine. The presentation discusses the identification of the imine as well as other impurities.

"GC-FTIR in Forensic Toxicology Cases"

Wayne Jeffery

This will compare GC-FTIR to GC/MS in the analysis of biological samples. It will show GC-FTIR has many advantages over GC/MS in the analysis of biological samples.

"Blood Drug Analysis"

Jim Kay

Techniques are currently in use for the screening and quantitation of a variety of drugs in blood. Certain analyses can prove helpful in death investigations and DUI cases where other body fluids are not available.

"The Mathematical Analysis of Breath Alcohol Profiles"

Rod G. Gullberg

An individual's breath alcohol concentration is generated as a function of time within an infrared

breath testing instrument. Microprocessor based breath alcohol instruments are basically data acquisition systems. The data can be mathematically evaluated in many ways: function approximation, integration, differentiation, data smoothing, and fourier transform. The results can be statistically evaluated by t-tests or one way ANOVA. This information can give insight into the evaluation of different breathing patterns prior to breath sample provision.

"The Laser Murder"

Dr. William E. Alexander

This case relates to a homicide conviction matching traumatic facial patterns to a Crescent wrench owned by the assailant. It became known as the Laser Murder because the defendant testified he was "knocked out" by a bright laser blast and awoke lying on the body.

"Firearm and Toolmark Examination of Skulls"

Jon Spilker

Three homicides show how firearms and toolmark examinations assisted in clarifying the facts of the case.

"Lithium-Ammonia Reduction of Ephedrine to Methamphetamine: An Unusual Clandestine Synthesis"

Roger A. Ely and Diane C. McGrath

A suspected clandestine methamphetamine laboratory was seized in Vacaville, California. Ephedrine, a precursor to the manufacture of methamphetamine, was discovered at the site. However, the chemicals normally expected to be found at an ephedrine conversion laboratory were not recovered. Other chemicals found at the scene included tetrahydrofuran, ammonium chloride, lithium metal and anhydrous ammonia gas. Examination of the suspect's notes indicated several different common synthetic routes to methamphetamine; and a route utilizing a lithium-ammonia-ammonium chloride reduction. This type of reduction for ephedrine has not been found in the literature. The authors reproduced the suspect's reaction scheme and found the lithium-ammonia-ammonium chloride reduction of ephedrine to be a viable synthesis to methamphetamine.

"Applications of TLC/FTIR"

J.M. Kacsir, J.A. Herman and K.H. Shafer

An integrated and automatic accessory has been developed and described in a previous paper regarding the quick and easy identification of separated components with thin layer chromatography. This work will discuss and present examples of the use of this technique in a variety of analytical applications. The chromatographic separation, sample transfer and automated FTIR analysis of the transferred samples will be discussed. Optimization of both the chromatography and the FTIR conditions will be presented with respect to ease of use and elimination of potential interferences.

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Page 12

"Use of Multi-Locus and Single Locus Probes in Forensic Cases"

Cathy Sheridan

Application of molecular genetics techniques for the identification of forensic samples can be a useful tool in criminal investigations. Single-locus as well as multi-locus DNA probes are used in the testing of forensic evidence. The type of probe used depends upon the nature of the case and the amount and quality of the DNA extracted. We have investigated the effect of environmental conditions on the quality of DNA which can be extracted from blood stains, semen stains and hair roots. Suggestions for storage conditions will be made and examples of a range of cases will be discussed.

REFERENCE ABSTRACTS

The following abstracts were obtained from a variety of sources made available to the Association through the Newsletter Editor. If you would like more information on a particular abstract, or if you would like a copy of the item as it was published, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

"Ecstasy: The MDMA Story (Part Two of a Three Part Series)"

Bruce Eisner, *High Times Magazine*, September 1988, 64

"Ecstasy: The MDMA Story (Part Three of a Three Part Series)"

Bruce Eisner, *High Times Magazine*, October 1988, 64

The second and final installment of a summary of the history of the drug methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) and the DEA's move to place it on the controlled substance act. The series of three articles are excerpts from a book by Eisner by the same title. The book is available from Ronin Publishing, PO Box 1035, Berkeley, CA 94701.

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS JOURNAL SEPTEMBER 1988

"Analysis of Anabolic Steroids"

Burgess J.A. Cooke

Steroids are a group of organic compounds distributed in nature. Medicinal properties of various steroids make them useful as, among other things, anti-inflammatory agents, oral contraceptives, and male hormones (androgens). All of the androgenic steroids also possess anabolic (growth stimulating) properties, and are used by some athletes to increase their muscle bulk and competitive prowess. This use has recently

been outlawed by the Texas Legislature. Numerous (16) anabolic steroids are now proscribed by the Texas Controlled Substance Act. Methodology for the identification and differentiation of these steroids is presented.

"Cocaine Metabolites in Urine and Blood After Ingestion of 'Health Inca Tea'"

James C. Garriott, Robert G. Rodriguez, and Joe L. Castorena

Two cases have recently been referred to this laboratory involving detection of cocaine metabolites in urine of individuals who averred they had never used cocaine. In both cases, questioning revealed the use of "Health Inca Tea", which has been previously been shown to contain cocaine. We decided to investigate the time course of cocaine metabolite excretion. Two volunteers from our laboratory each consumed one cup of tea, made by steeping one tea bag of Health Inca Tea in boiling water for 5 minutes. Urine samples were then collected at intervals to 24 hours along with 2 blood samples at 1 and 7 hours. One Inca tea bag was analyzed, and was found to contain 5.0 mg cocaine, 0.45 mg benzoylecgonine, and 1.6 mg ecgonine methyl ester. This was somewhat different than ElSohly's results, in that he found 2.15 mg cocaine in the tea from one bag, and no metabolites.

"The Response of the Intoxilyzer 4011AS-A to a Number of Possible Interfering Substances"

J. Mack Cowan, Jr.; Rod McCutcheon and Alvin Weatherson

Five Intoxilyzer 4011AS-A's were tested for their response to eleven chemicals and one mixture of chemicals. Of the eleven chemicals and one mixture studied during this experiment, only three, isopropanol, toluene and methyl ethyl ketone could reasonably interfere with the test, and then only under unusual circumstances. Those circumstances being a slight additive effect to a breath ethanol concentration near the level required for prosecution.

MIDWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 1988

"Drug Inventory Using a Personal Computer"

Frank J. Palfi

The use of a computer and appropriate software to organize and account for an agency's collection of over 50,000 tablets and capsules in 2,200 containers is discussed.

"Identification of Amyl and Butyl Nitrites Using Gas Phase FTIR"

Mary G. Taylor

Since September 1987, a group of substances known as butyl nitrites has been listed as a Schedule II drug under the Missouri Substance Laws. A similar

Compound, amyl nitrite, currently a prescription drug used by angina patients, is not controlled. Methodology for the identification and discrimination of these compounds is presented.

"Forensic Glass Analysis and Frequency of Occurrence"

R. Meyer, et al

A computer generated report of the findings of over 910 glass examinations using refractive index.

"The Recognition and Analysis of Evidentiary Material From The Occult Crime Scene"

James M. Floyd

A small compendium of articles, signs and other oddities that can be expected to be present at crime scenes generated by occult worship.

The deadline for the next issue of the Newsletter is **February 15.**

This issue of the *Newsletter* was composed and laid out in its entirety using WordPerfect 5.0 and a NEC L-890 Postscript laser printer. All formatting, lines and type faces are standard with WordPerfect 5.0.

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER

- The Criminalist Certification battle heats up
- What you missed at the Portland Meeting
- Listing of New Members
- Minutes from Fall meeting
- Technical Advancement update
- Abstracts of some papers given in Portland

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