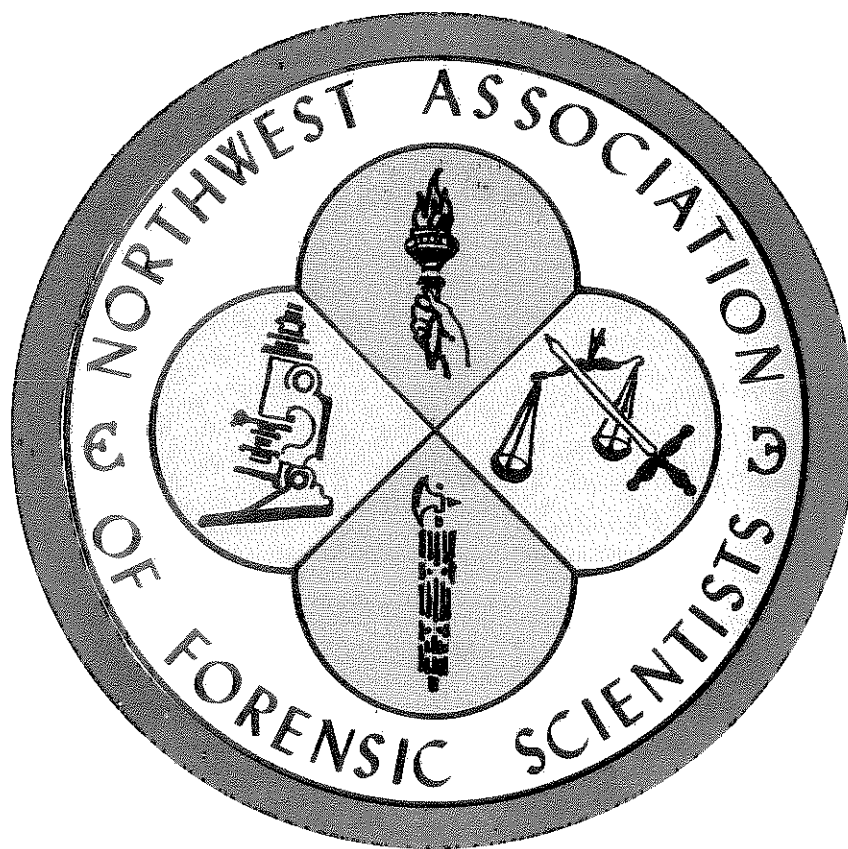


THE NEWSLETTER of



MARCH 1990

VOL. XVI, NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Greetings and Salutations."

Thus began that all important but dreaded letter from the local draft board. This simple letter received by thousands of young men changed their total outlook on living. Many even sacrificed their lives. The future plans for education, marriage and jobs were simply put on the shelf in order to answer the "call." No longer do the young men of our country worry about receiving such a letter.

In a similar vain, such a letter could come from the American Board of Criminalistics Credentials Committee.

"Dear Forensic Scientist:

You have failed your certification exam in serology (or arson, drugs, hairs, paints, etc.) and you are no longer certified. Better luck next time."

Don't think for one moment that your life might be changed with such a letter. "Hogwash," you say. "Couldn't happen in our country - to me." In this day and age, change is the watchword. We are on the very edge of having our profession and our of life changed. Will it be for the good or the bad?

Certification

As can be seen from the minutes of the December meeting of the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC), the incorporation meeting will be held in February (20-21) in Cincinnati. The board members consist of representatives of five regional forensic science associations, three members at large, serving staggered terms elected by the five regular board members. A call for nominations for members at large has been received by our Association. It seems to me that if our Association submits a nominee, we are supporting the ABC and certification. Of course, we in fact voted not to support it. On the other hand, it may be a way for our Association to be represented in a de-facto way. Any comments from you members?

The goals, as outlined by the ABC are also outlined in the minutes. These by themselves are worthy to strive for. Who can guarantee that certification will enable these goals to happen? The time to speak is now. Again, I encourage comments of the membership. Send your cards and letters to our worthy Newsletter Editor now!

Proficiency Exams

Look for proficiency samples to arrive in your lab soon. Whatever the sample, blood, drugs, hair, I'm asking that each of you who request these samples to not

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place them on the "I'll-get-to-it-when-I-have-time" burner. Seems to me that one should check his expertise prior to working on the real-world samples. Also, please report the results back to the sample preparer as soon as possible. Let's give Bob Thompson, the Technical Advancement Chairman, our fullest cooperation.

Spring Meeting in Jackson

Look for the details of the NWAFS spring meeting to be held in Jackson, May 8-11, elsewhere in the Newsletter. With so many interests and disciplines in our profession, it is difficult to put on a meeting and arrange a program. It would be nice to have something for everyone. Tilton Davis, Conference Chairman, has done an excellent job in this regard. What a feather in our caps if Drug Czar Bennett could be there!

Something new in Jackson will be a workshop on foot prints and tire treads. Many regional law enforcement offices have expressed interest in this and so a session will be offered to them for POST credits. I look at this joint participation of both officers and scientists as an effort to bridge the communication gap that sometimes exists. This may be the stimulus to expand the joint sessions in other areas such as drugs, and serology. As one local officer put it, "It's a way for you scientists to come down out of your ivory tower and talk English to us." Also in the planning will be a wildlife forensics section for plenary papers, we already have 4 or 5 papers promised in this area.

Ah, Spring - the elusive excelsior of life when all is green and growing, feelings of rejuvenation, the blood pumps faster and hotter. When a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of baseball, camping, and ... Forensic Science? Yes, the Jackson meeting will satisfy all the primal instincts and urges you are harboring during these cold, dreary winter months. Those high stress urges that are building up against case backlogs, the public defender, the down times on the GC/MS will all be placated by the Jackson meeting. Lay the proposed program on your supervisor and get approval to come. A sure way to increase your chances is to present a paper! Don't forget, we are offering a beautiful ready-to-frame print of the scenic Tetons to those who present a paper. Have a good New Year! See you in Jackson ...

Tommy D. Moore

REGIONAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

Canadian Society of Forensic Science

The Canadian Society of Forensic Science announces their 1990 conference to be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada during the week of October 1-5 at the Skyline Hotel. The theme of the conference is Forensics 90, and in addition to the scientific sessions and a poster session, an ambitious series of workshops in some of the following areas are being planned:

- DNA
- Blood splatter pattern analysis
- Fire investigation
- Polymers
- Document examination
- Thermography

The deadline for submission of scientific papers is June 1, 1990. Topics and abstracts should be forwarded to the program Chairperson, Dr. Marthe Dalpe-Scott at:

Canadian Society of Forensic Science
Suite 215 - 2660 Southvale Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1B 4W5
(613) 731-2096

Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists

The Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists are holding their 1990 meeting at the Holiday Inn North in Indianapolis, Indiana during the week of October 1-5. For information concerning the program, submission of abstracts and other meeting related topics, contact:

Jim Hamby, Local Arrangements Chair
Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic
Services Agency
40 South Alabama Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 236-3670

Forensic Drug Chemist

The Department of General Services of the Commonwealth of Virginia is seeking applicants to serve in the Western Regional Laboratory in Roanoke as a qualified expert in the discipline of drug analysis. Performs exacting analyses on controlled substances; provides technical advice and assistance to law enforcement officials; prepares written reports as to the results of laboratory examinations; and testifies as an expert witness in court concerning examination results. The position requires overnight statewide travel which may be frequent at times. Employee may be required to use personal vehicle. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in chemistry, forensic chemistry or related science. Equivalent education, training and experience may substitute for the degree. Good oral and written communications. Ability to perform laboratory analyses accurately. Knowledge of the operation and interpretation of results from laboratory instrumentation such as gas chromatography; mass spectroscopy; ultraviolet, and infrared spectrophotometry. Experience or training in forensic science application of concepts of analytical, organic and inorganic chemistry associated with analysis of controlled drug or an advanced degree is

JOB OPENINGS

preferred. Applicant must possess a valid driver's license.

Salary: \$24,458 to 33,407

For more information, contact:

Department of General Services
Bureau of Personnel
805 East Broad Street, Room 117
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-3910

Forensic Serologist

The Department of General Services of the Commonwealth of Virginia is seeking qualified applicants to perform serological examinations of criminal evidence related to rapes, homicides and other criminal cases using current state-of-the-art methodologies, techniques, and instrumentation in their Fairfax laboratory. Prepares reports of findings for use by the criminal justice system. Communicates with medical and legal officials on testing procedures and results, instructs law enforcement officials in handling of evidence, and testifies as an expert witness in a court of law. Requires some travel. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in chemistry, biology and or related natural sciences. Knowledge of forensic principles, procedures and rules of evidence; and laboratory safety procedures, QA/QC; various genetic marker systems in blood and physiological fluids; basic electrophoresis and identification of spermatozoa. Knowledge of DNA techniques and procedures preferred, but not necessary. Skills in effective oral and written communications. Ability to present and defend analytical results in a court of law. An equivalent combination of education, training and/or experience may substitute for degree. Applicant must possess a valid driver's license

Salary: \$29,230 to 39,935

For more information, contact:

Department of General Services
Bureau of Personnel
805 East Broad Street, Room 117
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-3910

SPRING MEETING IN JACKSON SHAPING UP

The Spring meeting of the Association is fast taking shape, according to meeting chairman Tilton Davis of the Wyoming State Crime Lab. The meeting is scheduled for May 8-11 at the Snow King Resort in Jackson, Wyoming and is being hosted by the Wyoming State Crime Lab and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

More detailed information on the meeting will be coming to you by mail very soon, but the program line-up for the week looks something like this:

Tuesday, May 8 - Workshops

Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP)
DNA-PCR Workshop
Foot Wear and Tire Tread Seminar (for police officers)

Wednesday, May 9 - Workshops

Package Tampering Seminar
IEF Workshop
Foot Wear and Tire Tread Seminar (for forensic scientists)
Analysis of Arson Evidence

Thursday and Friday, May 10 and 11

Plenary sessions
Vendor exhibits
Banquet
Business meeting

Please note some of these workshops have limited space available. So, register early to get the training session you need.

This notice is also the first call for papers for presentation during the plenary session. If you have an interesting case; new or modified technique for handling evidence; or if you have original research you'd like to present, be sure to contact Tilton at the address below for more information.

Room rate at the Snow King Resort is \$45.00 for a single or double room, and this price will carry over the weekend before and the weekend after for those of you who would like to take advantage of the beautiful countryside to do a little snow skiing, fishing, or simple sightseeing.

For more information, contact:

Tilton Davis
NWAFS Registration
Wyoming State Crime Lab
316 W. 22nd Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7607

The Fall meeting of the Association has run into some temporary scheduling problems. The Goodwill Games scheduled for Seattle in late summer 1990 have caused a shortage of rooms and conference facilities which leads to much higher prices. To avoid this increased expense, the planning committee is looking outside the immediate Seattle area for a site; or at the possibility of a later meeting date. At this time no commitments have been made; however, the

FALL MEETING INFORMATION

preliminary plans should be completed soon. Detailed information regarding accommodations, costs, workshops, etc. will be in the next newsletter. Until then, for more information contact:

Kay Sweeney
WSP Crime Laboratory
Public Safety Building
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 464-7074

THE WAY I SEE IT

Roger A. Ely
Editor

Strangely enough, the other day I was contemplating this current issue of the Newsletter when it struck me that this issue kicks off my fifth year as Editor.

It has been an interesting 5 years, to say the least. Looking at the appearance of the Newsletters over that time, I find it hard to believe I ever constructed the Newsletter using my old Kaypro 4 computer, WordStar (manually moving the columns side-by-side) and the old NEC thimble printer. While most of you are not in a position to notice, the early style of the Newsletter was quickly mimicked by some of the other regional Association publications. As I type this out on my 80386 IBM clone, piece the pages together with PageMaker 3.0 and print it out on a PostScript laser printer I am pleased with how things have gone so far.

The creation of the Newsletter is usually founded in the timely receipt of different kinds of information from a variety of sources: personal communications, written announcements, other regional newsletters, journals and sometimes some arm twisting and begging from members. I have yet to come into an issue feeling confident I will have enough material; however, I never seem to fail to fill these pages with information I hope is beneficial to the membership.

I have also fought with the feeling the information in the Newsletter is obviously slanted towards drugs and drug labs. The reason for this is actually two-fold. First, there is a great amount of interest nowadays about trends and safety issues in the seizure and handling clandestine laboratories. If you were to name an area of examination and response most laboratories have experienced the greatest increase, it undoubtedly would be in the area relating to clandestine lab examination and response. Oddly enough, our Newsletter is perhaps the only to give such coverage on clandestine laboratories, even when considering DEA's own publication, *Microgram*.

Secondly, this is what I do and this is where my interest is. Obviously, if I feel some type of information is vital to my peers, I will share it. Then there is the ominous feeling of not being able to fill a Newsletter at all. Scary feeling, actually.

With these prejudices in mind, I have enlisted the assistance of two of our fine members to help serve on the Publications Committee. The two, Ms. **Kathy Wilcox** of the OSP Crime Lab, Coos Bay and Mr. **Ray Kusumi** of the WSP Crime Lab, Seattle have graciously volunteered to help with the content of the

Newsletters. Their task is to provide information in the wide areas of criminalistics that would be of interest to all members. In this way, hopefully serologists, trace evidence examiners and firearms examiners may be more likely to see information useful to them. So, some of you may find yourself being pestered by either of these "stringers" for information and submissions to the Newsletter. Please oblige them when they come calling and help contribute to the content of the Newsletter. I would especially like to thank them for the fine job they did on their first outing. Thanks, guys!!

Birth Watch Concluded

Yes, folks, the birth watch for Mrs. Elizabeth Carpenter was concluded with the birth of a healthy, bouncy baby boy named Andrew on February 6. Not much more information is known about the blessed event at press time. However, Beth has promised to share with the members numerous photographs of her in a bikini around the Christmas tree in her eighth month of gestation. Word has it, the child was born with a spoon balanced on the end of his nose. Congratulations to Beth and Bruce ...

Media Helping to Create Epidemic

Well, the press is at it again - playing up the use of a drug nightly on the evening news, having special segments in television news magazines and in the print media and fueling the possibility of an epidemic. The drug this time is the large, crystalline form of methamphetamine called "ICE".

In some ways, the media fueled the crack cocaine epidemic with its relentless and neverending stories of how intercity blacks and affluent whites were burning their brains and ruining their lives smoke free base cocaine. The smoking of free base cocaine was not uncommon before the crack problem hit. However, with the media coverage, it piqued the curiosity of many who went on to at least try it.

And now we have ICE, the smokeable methamphetamine. First, some clarifications are in order. ICE methamphetamine is not to be confused with 4-methylaminorex, known on the East coast and in a couple of published papers as ICE and U4EUH. ICE methamphetamine is not a designer drug or any analog of methamphetamine. It is simply *d*-methamphetamine HCl that has been recrystallized from a heated, supersaturated aqueous solution in a refrigerator.

The formation of the large crystals can be likened to making rock candy with sugar.

The formation of the large crystals can be likened to making rock candy with sugar. The crystal size can vary from clear to white opaque nearly rhombic crystals ranging in size from 0.25 inches in length to nearly 1 inch in length. The

crystals are actually quite spectacular, and have an interesting resonance when linked together.

The problem is widespread in Hawaii, with most of the drug coming from the Far East and the Philippines. Some of the material has made it to the United States, generally through Seattle, Portland or Los Angeles. Recently, the first state-side ICE lab was seized in Sacramento. Also found in this lab were crystals appearing to be ICE, but were actually *l*-ephedrine HCl.

Some things that ICE is not:

- 1) It is not at all like crack cocaine. Crack cocaine is cocaine base. ICE is *d*-methamphetamine HCl, the hydrochloride salt. The only similarity between ICE and crack is the method of ingestion is smoking, a socially acceptable method of consuming drugs in many cultures.
- 2) It is the optically pure methamphetamine, synthesized from *l*-ephedrine either by the red phosphorus / HI method or the catalytic hydrogenation of the chloro- intermediate. The racemic modification does not form the large crystals.

ICE is not the only smokeable form of methamphetamine. In fact any methamphetamine, regardless of optical properties or salt form, is smokeable. There is information that many people have tried smoking regular methamphetamine and a copy-cat form called *California Glass*, but do not like it because of the harshness of the smoke. This is probably residual HCl from the over acidification of the methamphetamine during the powder out or other synthetic impurities.

At this time, there is no definitive test to distinguish ICE methamphetamine from regular methamphetamine.

There is information about the smoking of free base methamphetamine. This material, called SNOT because of its consistency, is prepared much like crack cocaine. However, the methamphetamine base floats on the surface of the water and eventually forms a "skin" which can be removed and used. If you should enter such an operation, remember methamphetamine base is volatile and is likely to

be airborne in the area of the conversion.

At this time, there is no definitive test to distinguish ICE methamphetamine from regular methamphetamine. The size of the crystals produced can depend on the solvent, the temperature during cooling and if the solution was disturbed during the crystallization process.

This, however, has not dashed the hopes of countless legislators and other do-gooders who would like to see enhanced penalties for the possession and sales of ICE. It seems these individuals learned their lesson from the crack situation and don't intend to just sit back and watch ICE spread throughout the land.

Unfortunately, I reiterate, there is currently no scientific definition of ICE nor is there a means to adequately identify a substance as ICE. The passage of such legislation is ludicrous due to the lack of a scientific method to validate the material or provide an adequate definition.

"How widespread is the media coverage of ICE?" you ask.

Check the February 1990 issue of Good Housekeeping magazine ...

Certification On A Roll

Provided for your reading enjoyment at the end of this issue is a copy of the minutes from a meeting of the minds of the ABC, or what will soon be the ABC. The first official meeting of the ABC, from what I gather, will be during the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting in Cincinnati during the third week of February. I suspect there will be more information forthcoming in future Newsletters.

The Association is one of the few forensic organizations in the United States that maintains its own reference library containing training materials, standards and a video record of some of the recent past meetings. These materials are available at no cost to any member of the Association on a loan basis. The Association even has a cassette tape recorder available if you don't have one.

Several of the most recent books dealing with topical material from Elsevier Press may be found in the library. These texts have been provided at no cost to the Association by Elsevier in return for a frank review to be published in the Newsletter. The newest addition to the library is Eckert and James text on blood spatter interpretation at crime scenes.

If you would like to borrow any of these materials from the library, contact Arnold Melnikoff at the WSP Crime Lab - Kelso (206) 577-2087 for more information.

Books and Manuals:

1. Christian, Gary D., and Epstein, Michael S., "Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy" - ACS Audio Course
2. DeJongh, Don C., "Interpretation of Mass Spectra" - ACS Audio Course
3. McNair, Harold M., "Basic Gas Chromatography" 2nd edition - ACS Audio Course
4. Colthup, Norman B., "Interpretation of Infrared Spectra" ACS Audio Course
5. Rodwell, Victor W., "Thin Layer Chromatography" - ACS Audio Course

NWAFS CONTINUING EDUCATION LIBRARY MATERIALS

6. Blach, Rodney J., "Standard Reference Collection of Animal Spermatozoa" Part I - MAC
7. Blach, Rodney J., "Standard Reference Collection of Animal Spermatozoa" Part II - MAC
8. Resource Manual "Glass" - Ca. St. Dept. of Justice, Bur. of Forensic Services
9. Tulloch, E.C., "Liquid Chromatography" Training Manual - June 1980
10. McClure, D.J., "IR Theory of Operation" Training Guide
11. Strelis, I. and Kennedy, R.W., "Identification of North American Commercial Pulpwoods and Pulp Fibers" U. of Toronto Press
12. O'Connor, John J., "Practical Fire and Arson Investigation" Elsevier
13. Goldstein, Seth L., "The Sexual Exploitation of Children" Elsevier
14. Geberth, Vernon J., "Practical Homicide Investigation" Elsevier
15. Perrin, Charles, "Probability and Statistics for Chemists" ACS
16. Eckert, William G. and James, Stuart H., "Interpretation of Bloodstain Evidence at Crime Scenes" Elsevier

Three black binder cassette holders each titled as follows:

- a. "Interpretation of Infrared Spectra"
- b. "Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy"
- c. "Interpretation of Mass Spectra"

Two plastic containers labeled as follows:

- a. Standard Reference Collection of Animal Spermatozoa - Part I
- b. Standard Reference Collection of Animal Spermatozoa - Part II

Video Cassette Tapes:

1. NWAFS - Fall 1989 - #1
2. NWAFS - Fall 1989 - #2
3. NWAFS - Fall 1989 - #3
4. NWAFS - Fall 1989 - #4
5. Frye Hearing (Texas v. Tyrone Fuller 88-059) - #1
6. " " " " - #2
7. " " " " - #3
8. " " " " - #4
9. " " " " - #5
10. "A Media Relations Briefing Tape"

Equipment:

1. Hitachi Tape Recorder - still in box
2. Hitachi Tape Recorder
3. Electric Cord
4. Headset

Miscellaneous:

1. Manila envelope containing misc. papers, magazines, etc.
2. Orange folder containing two letters.
3. Manila envelope containing "Check Out" slips.

The meeting was called to order by President Dale Mann at 4:30 pm with 27 voting members present. Minutes of the last business meeting in Ashland, Oregon were accepted as published in the Newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Robert Sager
(see December 1989 Newsletter for membership report)

Technical Advancement: Robert Thompson

This is a brief report of the results of the NWAFS Proficiency Testing program from October 1988 to July 1989.

Contact agencies: Seventeen (17) governmental agencies from the United States, including the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Hawaii, South Dakota, Utah, Montana, Idaho and Alaska; two (2) Canadian laboratories; and four (4) private forensic laboratories. The total number of crime laboratories responding to some degree to Proficiency Testing is approximately thirty (30) laboratories.

Drug Proficiency Test, October 1988

Prepared by: Criminalist Randy Wampler, OSP Crime Lab

Sample Sent: Prepared drug powder mixture of methamphetamine, cocaine and procaine (approximately one-third each).

Responses: 17 out of 37 samples sent responded. All responses were correct; however, some did not identify procaine.

Comments: Different kinds of samples wanted.

... fun.

unusual mixture

time consuming without GC/MS

Firearms Proficiency Test, November 1988

Prepared by: Criminalist Robert Thompson, OSP Crime Lab

Sample Sent: 1 pr. 9 mm Luger casings

1 pr 9 mm Luger bullets

Each fired through a 9 mm Glock 17 semi-automatic pistol.

Responses: 10 out of 20 samples sent responded. All responses correct. No incorrect identifications or exclusions. Most identified the Glock as the most probable weapon to fire the bullets/casings.

Comments: Bullets not identified, perhaps NAA would be helpful.

**MINUTES FROM
THE FALL 1989
BUSINESS MEETING
IN CONCORD**

by
Lionel Tucker, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

Need weapon and test firing for more conclusive examination.

Hair Comparison Proficiency Test, December 1988

Prepared by: Criminalist Cindy Jay, WSP Crime Lab

Sample Sent: 5 intact (three being heated) head hairs from Caucasian female
1 chest hair from Caucasian male
1 white and 1 brown beard hair from Caucasian male (different donor than chest hair donor)
2 beard hairs from Oriental male
5 mink guard hairs

Responses: 10 out of 25 samples sent responded
All found hair similar to target victim's sample. Generally need more review of racial and body area identifiers. Also more attention to heat effects. Some misidentification of mink hairs as cat (1) and rat (1).

Comments: PCR on root when standards are submitted.
"Willard" the rat is suspected of rape!

Shoeprint Proficiency Test, February 1989

Prepared by: Criminalist Gary Knowles, OSP Crime Lab

Sample Sent: 5 inked sole impressions, one of which was the inked print standard from "suspect's" shoes.

Responses: 16 out of 35 samples sent responded. All correctly excluded the suspect's shoes.

Comments: Some labs would still want to examine suspect's shoes for any potential further examinations / tests.

Serology Proficiency Test, March 1989

Prepared by: Criminalist Richard Berger, Washoe Co. Crime Lab

Sample Sent: 2 control blood stain samples from different people
2 stain samples for examination and comparison

Responses: 9 out of 34 samples sent responded. 3 were correct and thorough.

4 labs had errors:

- a) Incorrect PGMsub (2-1+ instead of 2+1+)
- b) Incorrect EsD (2-1 instead of 1)
- c) "Q2" stain called human and subsequently typed (actually bovine blood)
- d) One made no identification of blood but typed it in several systems anyway.

Fiber Proficiency Test, April 1989

Prepared by: Criminalist Dave Schmierbach, OSP Crime Lab

Sample Sent: Cloth from military anti-exposure coverall (flight suit) made up of inner and outer lamination of aramid Nomex cloth to a film of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or Gore-Tex. The unknown was a thread of the outer green layer of the standard.

Responses: 12 out of 27 samples sent responded. Most correctly associated the unknown fiber as coming from the standard; however, 8 made errors in identifying the generic class of the fiber (4 reported nylon or polyester and 4 reported the fiber as uniden-

tified).

Comments: DNA on fingernail scrapings.

Arson Proficiency Test, May 1989

Prepared by: Criminalist Dale Mann, WSP Crime Lab

Sample Sent: Solutions of diluted gasoline in water

Diesel on "Kimwipe"

Straight run gasoline ("Blazo" fuel) on "Kimwipe"

Design of the samples was to test detection limits of analyst's methods and instrumentation and to recover full range of commonly encountered volatiles at trace levels.

Responses: 14 out of 26 samples sent responded. No incorrect identifications.

Drug Proficiency Test, July 1989

Prepared by: Forensic Chemist Roger Ely, DEA Western Lab

Sample Sent: *d*-methamphetamine HCl (15%)

l-ephedrine HCl (15%)

chloropseudoephedrine (70%)

Methamphetamine synthesis via chlorination of *l*-ephedrine to pseudoephedrine, followed by the catalytic reduction of the chloro- intermediate to *d*-methamphetamine.

Responses: 16 out of 44 samples sent responded. 15 correctly identified methamphetamine; 12 correctly identified the synthesis route; and 1 incorrectly identified synthesis route as the red phosphorus / hydriodic acid reduction of ephedrine.

Comments: Difficult analysis potentially if using conventional instrumentation because the chloropseudoephedrine will follow methamphetamine during prep work.

Best key to synthesis route is presence of 1,2-dimethyl-3-phenylaziridine in GC screens, GC/MS or GC/IRD due to thermal decomposition of chloropseudoephedrine in injection port.

Continuing Education: Roger Ely for Arnold Melnikoff

Arnold has taken a job with the Washington State Patrol lab in Kelso, Washington and has moved the Association's library to that location. New materials added to the library include video tapes of Kelly-Frye hearings on DNA; a book on blood spatter interpretation from Elsevier (compliments of the author); and video tapes of papers presented at the Fall 1989 meeting.

Executive Committee: Dale Mann

The Executive Committee has recommended that a T-shirt be made for members present on the day of the earthquake. The Association will pay no more than \$500 of the total cost of the shirts.

Tommy Moore proposed the Association establish a \$250 award to be called the "Peer Group Award" to be presented to a member yearly. The recommendation

will come from the membership, with the President appointing a committee to review the nominations. Persons nominated will be published in the Newsletter, and voted on at the Fall meeting. The recipient will also receive a plaque.

The Executive Committee voted to offer a refund of workshop fees to any member who applies in writing who was unable to attend the meeting due to the earthquake.

The Executive Committee selected Mike Asselin of the RCMP Lab in Vancouver, BC as the recipient of the General Section Award for his work with the EMIT system.

Treasurer's Report: Lionel Tucker, Jr.

At the present time the Association has in its combined accounts a total of \$14,260.14. The Association's books were audited and found to be in order.

The following motions were passed:

1. Officers:

President:	Tommy Moore
President-Elect:	Gary Knowles
Member at Large:	Mike Howard
Secretary-Treasurer:	Lionel Tucker, Jr.
2. T-shirts
3. Peer Group Award
4. Fall 1990 meeting to be held in Seattle
5. Membership changes proposed by the Membership Committee

**TECHNICAL
ADVANCEMENT
COMMITTEE SEEKS
INPUT**

by
Robert Thompson
Chairman

Greetings from the Technical Advancement Committee!! Sorry not everyone could make it to the "Great Shake" NWAFS meeting at Concord this Fall. I felt the meeting was extremely worthwhile even though there were distractions every now and then from Mother Nature.

The results of the proficiency samples from October 1988 to July 1989 are contained in the minutes of the Fall business meeting. Basically, the Association did an average job in responding to the disseminated tests. However, the responses as a whole were excellent in reporting correct results for each of the tests.

The criminalists and the supporting agencies are to be commended for their interest in a working proficiency program. The volunteers who made the tests are to be applauded first for their effort in assembling the tests and, secondly, for their inspiration in making the proficiency test interesting and realistically challenging.

A new year of proficiency testing is before us and I will be contacting our member laboratories for an update on a number of topics:

1. What additional disciplines would you like to see covered in the testing?
2. Is there a different aspect of the current proficiency tests that you would see explored?
3. Do you, as a criminalist, have any recommendations to increase laboratory support and response that might be explored by this Committee?
4. Would your laboratory be interested in assembling a proficiency test this year?

I have found that many times the criminalist and the laboratory creating the proficiency problem benefit from their review of laboratory procedures and technical information in addition to gaining insight to a few novel and clever approaches some criminalists have in their problem solving.

The proficiency testing program of the Technical Advancement Committee will not be viable if the management of our member laboratories don't support this program and make the working of proficiency samples a priority in their laboratory quality assurance program. This is a valuable resource for our management to quickly assess the strengths and weaknesses in the tested laboratory's procedures, training and equipment.

The proficiency testing program ... will not be viable if the management of our member laboratories don't support this program ...

The backlog will always be there, but everyone will benefit by supporting the proficiency testing program.

For more information on the Proficiency Testing Program, contact:

Robert Thompson
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ALLSTATE IS TOLD TO PAY TO CLEAN HOUSE DAMAGED BY DRUG DEALERS

Wade Lambert
and
Richard L. Hudson
Wall Street Journal
November 24, 1989

In the first case of its kind, an insurer has been ordered to pay for the cleanup of a house damaged when it was used as an illegal drug lab.

In the past, claims for such damages have been rejected outright by insurers under their landlord policies' "contamination exclusion." But an Oregon state court judge ruled in a recent case involving a methamphetamine lab, that such damage was covered by an Allstate Insurance Co. policy and sent the case to trial. A jury this month awarded the property owners \$28,500 in damages for the cleanup, replacement of the house's contents and lost rental income.

The issue has important implications for insurers and landlords, as such makeshift drug labs have increased in recent years. The labs have increased in recent years. The labs are simple and cheap to set up because methamphetamine's ingredients are easy to come by. The "cooking" of the drugs leaves a sickly sweet smell that permeates the dwelling and is difficult to remove. Moreover, because of health concerns, the dwellings must be left uninhabited until chemical residues are removed. Methamphetamine, also known as meth, crank or crystal, is more common in the West, but drug officials have said it is showing up in other parts of the country.

The issue has important implications for insurers and landlords, as such makeshift drug labs have increased in recent years.

The insurance industry was closely watching the Portland, Oregon case, said M. Robert F. Smith, the attorney for Allstate, and similar cases are expected to be filed soon. "These little labs can be set up anywhere," he said. "It's such a new phenomenon that these cases are just starting to come down."

The Oregon case began in 1987 when a rental home was used, without the owner's knowledge, as a methamphetamine lab for one week. After the tenant left, the landlord claimed that vapors from the cooking of the drug had made the apartment uninhabitable and ruined much of the house. When Allstate, a unit of Sears, Roebuck & Co., refused to pay the claim, the landlord sued.

Allstate conceded in court that the home had been damaged, but it claimed that such chemical contamination isn't covered. The judge disagreed, finding the damage was from the smoke produced in the drug's preparation, and thus covered.

Mr. Smith said Allstate is unlikely to appeal the case. He said the Oregon case isn't a suitable one to test use of the contamination exclusion.

Robert E. L. Bonaparte, the attorney for the owners of the house, said the case has sparked interest among landlord groups in Oregon and other states. He said the Oregon house still has a strong odor that causes headaches and stinging in the eyes, nose and throat.

Observant Teller Foils Drug Trafficker

And from Rocky Mink of the OSP Crime Lab in Ontario, Oregon, comes now a story of bad luck and timing:

A Mexican male, in his early thirties, walks into a Nyssa, Oregon bank (population of about 2800) and lays out fifty \$100 bills. As he counts out the bills, a flaky white substance falls from them.

"Oh, my," he says laughingly as he brushes the flakes from the counter to the floor. "What can that be?"

The teller, a nameless but clever heroine, snags a flakes for the OSP Crime Lab. Within minutes of receiving the flakes, the material has been identified as cocaine.

A quick records check at the bank reveals the Mexican male has been depositing \$5000 cash weekly for several months. After each deposit, he returns in a few days to get a cashier's check. Authorities are continuing the investigation.

Poisoning Effective for Several Generations

The OSP Crime Lab in Ontario, Oregon also reports a possible 1080 poisoning. 1080 is an extremely water soluble rodenticide manufactured by Monsanto and is fluoroacetic acid and is known by its commercial names Compound 1080, 1080 and Fratel. In this particular case, a hunter's dog chewed on a dead coyote that had been killed by baited meat placed by a shepherd. The material is extremely dangerous with a lethal oral dose of 2-5 mg/kg body weight. More interestingly, it appears this poison can kill down several levels of the food chain.

Members of the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab in Seattle, Washington recently assisted in the seizure of a suspected methamphetamine laboratory in the Mill Creek area of Snohomish County.

The laboratory was located in a 6 bedroom residence where each room had been assigned a specific use: one room was used for chemical storage; one was used for a fractional distillation; one was used for the synthesis of phenylacetic acid by the acid hydrolysis of benzyl cyanide; one was used for the synthesis of phenyl-2-propanone via the phenylacetic acid, acetic acid route using furnace tubes packed with thorium oxide; one room was used for extractions; and the last bedroom was used as living quarters.

Other rooms of the house were used for the packaging of the methamphetamine for distribution. A sleep schedule was found so that production could proceed around the clock. Evidence at the scene indicate methamphetamine was

ODDS AND ENDS

by

Kathy Wilcox
OSP Crime Lab
Coos Bay, OR

**UNUSUAL
CLANDESTINE
METHAMPHETAM-
INE LAB SEIZED IN
WASHINGTON STATE**

by

Ray Kusumi
WSP Crime Lab
Seattle, WA

synthesized using the aluminum amalgam method and a Leuckart reaction.

The suspects had photocopied articles on the synthesis from the University of Washington Library and the Loompanics publication "Secrets of Methamphetamine Manufacturing" by Uncle Fester. Approximately 25 pounds of methamphetamine were seized in the raid.

Three furnace tube set-ups were found in the one bedroom. This particular method of synthesizing phenyl-2-propanone is infrequently encountered. Of the documented methods in the literature for synthesizing phenyl-2-propanone, this method is the highest yielding at around 80% conversion. The drawbacks, however, are that only about 100 grams of phenylacetic acid can be converted in a 15 - 18 period of time.

Care should be exercised in handling the thorium as it is naturally radioactive.

In the method, thorium nitrate is heated to form the oxide and is mixed with pumice and added to the furnace tubes. A solution of phenylacetic acid in acetic acid is added dropwise (12-15 drops per minute) to the furnace column heated to 400 - 450 degrees centigrade. As the drops exit the furnace through a condenser, the phenyl-2-propanone is collected in a flask. The thorium catalyst is reusable many time before it needs to be discarded.

Care should be exercised in handling the thorium as it is naturally radioactive. In this particular case, the thorium oxide was handling as radioactive waster. It also appeared several ether cans were oxidized, and were handled by a bomb squad.

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.

*California Dept. of Justice
Bureau of Forensic Sciences
Tie-Line
Volume 14, Number 2*

"Anabolic Steroids in Cross-Tops"

Johnson, Torrey and Bowden, John

Cross-top or mini-bennie style tablets have recently be seized in central and northern California which were found to contain methandrostenolone and 17-

alpha-methyltestosterone.

"ICE - A 'New' Form of Methamphetamine?"

Abercrombie, J. Thomas

A brief synopsis of what is currently known about ICE methamphetamine is presented.

"Notes from DEA Seminar on ICE"

Schoenlein, Kris E.

An outline of a special seminar held by the San Francisco DEA field office and the information presented there concerning ICE.

"Tar Heroin Extraction for FTIR"

Nelson, D.W.

An acid/base partition of heroin into hexane is presented which produces heroin base suitable for examination by FTIR.

"Blackened Bullets"

Armstrong, Scott

Smoking the surface of a bullet with the smoke from a wooden match removes shiny spots from the bullet surface; and makes it easier to see and photograph contour features of the bullet.

"Significant Fire Problem of Steel Core Bullets"

Libershal, Bob

A dramatic increase in fires in target shooting areas of the Angeles National Forest caused concern with investigators. Initially, these fires were blamed on shooters using tracer or armor piercing rounds. It was found that Chinese manufactured 7.62x39 mm ball ammunition contained a steel core which would spark against the rocks, causing the fire.

"Entry and Exit Bullet Hole Anomaly in Metal Revisited"

Springer, Faye

A gunshot hole in a vehicle exhibited unusual damage not commonly associated with projectile damage. Reference is made to an earlier paper entitled "Terminal Ballistics Effects Using Caliber .30 Military Ammunition", William C. Smith and Alfred A. Biasotti, Journal of the Forensic Science Society, 11-1(1971)

"An Automated System for the Accurate Determination of Refractive Index of Glass"

Ackrill, John

A review and evaluation of GRIM, the Glass Refractive Index Measuring equipment, for the determination of the refractive index of glass.

"Shoe Polish Dye Comparison"

Sham, Paul

The thin layer chromatographic examination of visible and fluorescent dyes in a shoe polish case is discussed.

"From Flame to Flashover - Fire Propagation in Structures"

DeHaan, John

Next to ignition itself, flashover is the most critical juncture of any fire. In its broadest sense flashover may be considered to be the transition from initial fire to full room involvement. If a fire fails to produce sufficient heat quickly enough to bring a room to flashover, chances are the fire will not do enough damage to warrant a comprehensive investigation. It is a phenomenon that plays a very important part in creating the fire indicators that investigators rely on for estimating fire origin, duration and direction. Yet it is largely an unknown process, and this lack of knowledge has bred misconceptions about how fires spread and led to erroneous conclusions about structure fire origins.

"Alcohol Correlation Study"

Horne, Michele

This report is from an alcohol correlation study performed in the Salinas laboratory in December of 1987.

"Fermentation of Alcohol in Urine Samples"

Montgomery, Renee

A urine sample was examined by head-space GC for the presence and quantity of alcohol present. The examination resulted in a BAL of 0.26% with extraneous, unidentified peaks. Because of the unidentified peaks, the sample was run again 5 days later, with a resulting BAL of 0.36%. Urinalysis was performed and yeast and glucose were found in the sample, found later to be a diabetic.

"Proof Spirit"

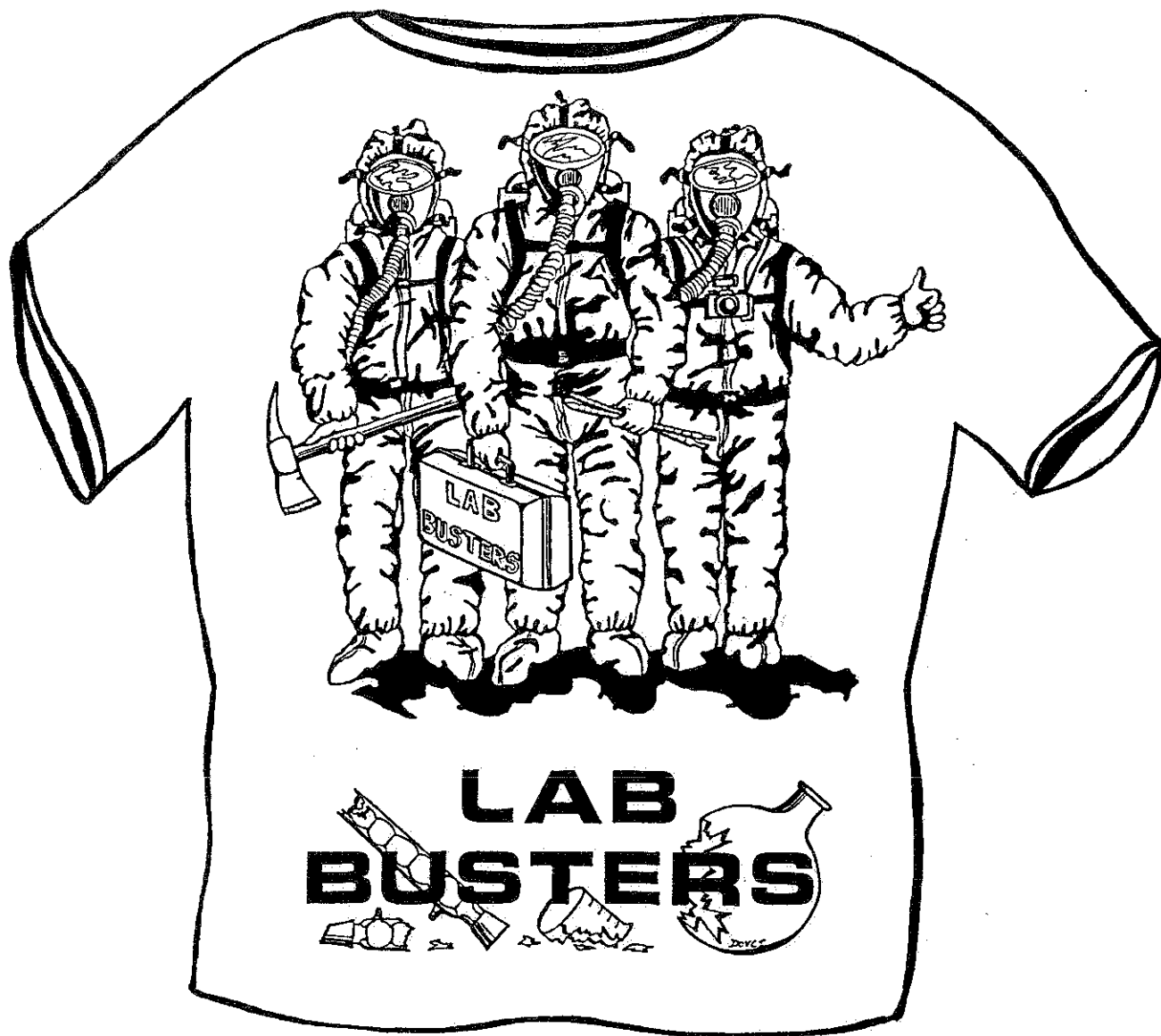
Nelson, Dean

A description and explanation to the terms "proof" for alcohol classification is presented.

**ABOUT THE
NEWSLETTER**

This issue of the Newsletter was composed using WordPerfect 5.0. Page layout and design was created using PageMaker 3.0, with a final printing on a NEC L-890 PostScript laser printer. Scanned images were via a Hewlett-Packard Scan-Jet, creating a .TIF graphics file format on an Apple Mac II. The graphics file was then transferred to an IBM disk format.

Deadline for the next Newsletter is May 15.



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CERTIFICATION
A MEETING OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

December 2, 1989

Hampton Inn at O'Hare (Chicago, IL)

I. Introductions

The certification representatives from the following regional associations agreed to meet in Chicago at the request of Rick Tontarski:

CAC	Greg Matheson
MAAFS	Rick Tontarski
MAFS	Susan Hart Johns
NEAFS	Al Stirton
SAFS	Jim Small

Also attending was Frank Schehr as an observer representing the AAFS Criminalistics section at the request of Howard Harris, Chair. The meeting room was provided by MAFS.

II. Election of officers

Rick Tontarski was selected as the chair for this group until the ABC is incorporated and officers can be elected. Susan Johns will serve as secretary pro tem.

III. Direction for certification group.

A. Incorporation

Rick explained that the articles of incorporation for ABC had been submitted by Tom Kubic to the state of New York. No notification of incorporation had been received. We had all received notification from SWAFS that they did not wish to be included in the Articles of Incorporation. The consensus agreement was to amend the articles, deleting SWAFS.

If the notice of incorporation is received in time, it was the agreement of this group that the incorporation meeting for ABC would take place at the AAFS meeting in Cincinnati in February. Rick explained that the mechanism would be that the individuals listed on the articles of incorporation for ABC would meet and vote either in person or by proxy to turn over the organization to us, the regional association certification representatives. Rick said he would make sure that those individuals listed on the incorporation articles for ABC were notified of the meeting and would be prepared to be there or have his/her proxy.

The group agreed to send a letter to the president of each regional organization announcing the meeting at the AAFS meeting in Cincinnati. Rick will send the letters as group chair.

B. Goal statement

The group discussed the question of providing a reason which was positive for people to pursue certification. Greg provided a brochure which contains CAC's statement. The following statement was agreed upon to answer the question on why we want to have certification:

Forensic Science has an obligation to itself to :

1. Establish minimum levels of knowledge, skill, and abilities.
2. Define a mechanism to achieve those levels.
3. Promote growth within the profession.

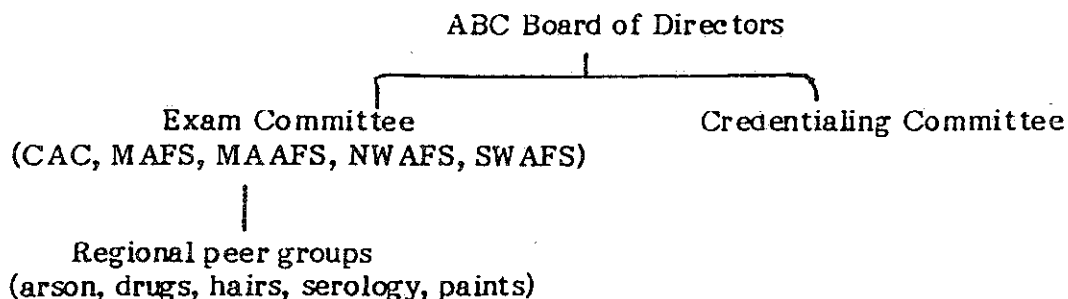
The American Board of Criminalistics is being formed by representatives of five regional associations to provide a means to achieve these goals.

C. Initial steps

There was agreement that we needed to develop KSA's (knowledge, skills, and abilities) for the disciplines. We can collect the "old" peer group data and used it as a resource. We will all check our files and bring the information to the AAFS meeting. After these have been determined, a bibliography can be made and questions for a written test will be written from that clearly defined body of knowledge.

IV. Organization of ABC

The organization of ABC was discussed. How would the input from the regional peer groups be obtained? Job duties for ABC committees were discussed. Greg Matheson agreed to write proposed tasks, duties, and objectives for the committees in time for the AAFS meeting.



A. Exam committee and exams

It was suggested that an exam committee be set up to write and administer the exam. It was agreed that the exam committee would be composed of one representative from each of the participating regional associations. The exam committee member would represent all of his/her organization's peer groups on the exam committee.

1. One representative from each ABC member organization would sit on the exam committee.

2. There would be one vote per member organization.
3. The exam committee should provide instructions to the regional peer group on how to write KSA's. Greg indicated that he has a packet of information on how to write KSA's. It was suggested that the Forensic Educator's Association be contacted for their input. They might be willing to provide assistance without having to pay for a professional testing service. Susan Johns will contact them and report at the AAFS meeting.
4. The exam committee would review and compile a composite KSA for each specialty using the KSA's submitted by the regional peer group. KSA's would provide a bibliography and serve as a learning resource. It will lead to the test questions. The KSA's would be determined by the committee on a national standard level and not on a regional standard.
5. The exam committee member would be chosen by the member regional association. He/she should be selected for their ability to compile a test. This person would also serve as the regional association's contact person to the exam committee.
6. The exam committee would supply the composite KSA to the regional peer group and request questions from the peer groups on the body of knowledge defined by the KSA. The exam committee would then collect and compile the test questions to make the test. It may be appropriate to publish a list containing all possible test questions and answers.
7. The exam committee would be responsible for administering the test. The test could be given regionally in conjunction with a regional meeting (the administration of the test would remain with the exam committee). The exam committee would determine the test parameters including the time, site, etc., for the test. A regional association could request that a test be given in conjunction with a business meeting.
8. The exam committee would work out the details and procedures to be followed to generate KSA's, test questions, test administration, etc., and submit a proposal to the Board for approval.
9. The KSA's would be based upon the type of evidence examined, not the test or examination performed.
10. The KSA's and tests would be modular. The modules suggested are: arson, drugs, hair, serology, and paints. In addition there would be a general module. Additional modules could be developed in the future. No tests will be given to duplicate an existing certification program, e.g., latent prints.
11. Each individual will be required to take the general test and at least one specialty. The general test taken as part of the CAC program may be substituted for the general portion of this test.

B. Regional peer groups

Peer groups can be established within each regional association. It will be up to each association to decide on how it wants to organize its own peer groups.

1. The peer group would write the KSA's for its specialty and submit it to their regional exam committee member. Once all KSA's have been submitted, the exam committee would compile all the KSA's for each specialty. They would send the compiled KSA to all the appropriate peer groups. Each peer group would be able to see and comment on all of the other KSA's for that specialty submitted by the other regional groups. They would provide their comments to the exam committee member from their association.
2. The exam committee would then produce a composite KSA which would represent a consensus of the regional peer groups. Once a composite KSA has been determined, the peer group would receive a copy and be asked to write questions on the body of knowledge defined.

3. The proposed exam questions would be handled in the same way as the KSA's were handled.

C. Board of Directors

The Board would be a policy making body. It would review proposals made to it by the exam committee. It would be the appeal body for anyone contesting the test or the certification recommendation. The board would provide direction to the exam committee. The structure of the board will be discussed later.

After later discussion, it was agreed upon that there needed to be additional board members because we currently have only 5 members. If any one or more of the member organizations would decide not to participate, it would be impossible to perform the tasks and duties necessary for ABC to continue.

1. Nominees for three additional members-at-large will be solicited.

Susan will draft a letter which will be sent to forensic science organizations requesting that they nominate up to three individuals for our consideration for members-at-large.

2. After incorporation, the member regional organization's representatives will review the nominees and select three members-at-large. These vacancies and all other member-at-large vacancies on the board will be filled by the vote of the member organization representatives. No member-at-large will vote for another member-at-large.

D. Credentialing committee.

This committee will be discussed later.

Later discussion lead to the following agreements on the credentialing committee:

1. This committee will be responsible for receiving test scores, reviewing applications, review proficiency testing proofs, and recommend to the board who should be certified.

2. They should write application standards - what do you need before you apply - and submit them to the board for approval.

3. Determine ethics guidelines.

4. Consider the articles on industrial hygiene as a good resource.

5. The committee should be a subcommittee of the board of directors - 5 members of the board would be chosen by the board to sit on this committee.

6. They will be responsible for reviewing (QC) the certification process.

Additional discussion on the credetialing committee with be held at the AAFS meeting.

V. Funding

A. It was decided not to have the regional societies fund the ABC at this time. We will try to develop resources other than just money. For example, whether it would be possible to have the FBI provide room and board at the academy for a meeting. Possible alternate funding sources were discussed to be used for covering test costs etc. when it comes time for the test. The following ideas were discussed:

NJ	grants
FEA	grants
	assistance writing tests
FBI	funds for specific activities
	training to make test
	use of facilities
ASCLD	funds
FSF	funds
Insurance companies	funds
Nat'l Fire Academy	housing
	meeting facilities
	training experience
CAC	current KSA's, tests
ABC	offer training courses

Susan will check into possible grants; Rick will try to find out about possible use of facilities; and Greg will draft a letter to potential donors who may be private or institutional. He will define sponsors. The letter will also define ABC.

B. Budget

Rick will develop a projected budget that can be used to seek grant funds to offset expenses. He will also project the meetings that will be required next year for the board and the exam committee so that regional associations and their representatives can plan and budget for them.

C. Costs

It was decided it was premature to know what the actual test costs will be. Every effort will be made to keep the costs at a minimum, getting volunteers and donations whenever possible.

VII. Proficiency tests

The group felt that participation in a proficiency testing program is necessary. A discussion followed concerning possible alternatives. It was felt that we did not have the resources to conduct proficiency testing ourselves. It was decided that the certification requirement might be successful participation in a program. Jim Small will work on drafting a definition on what constitutes an approved testing program, successful completion, and the documentation that would be necessary to prove successful participation.

It was suggested that regional associations could assist their members in obtaining proficiency tests for those members who have difficulty obtaining them; i.e., they might help their members find other members to collaborate with (like a matching service).

There would have to be a proficiency test successfully completed for each module for which certification was requested.

VIII. By-laws

Al Stirton volunteered to draft a set of by-laws for ABC. He will incorporate the changes decided upon at this meeting as well as those changes that were discussed at the last AAFS meeting by the regional association representatives and summarized in Tom Kubic's letter. He will also include liability indemnification concerns. The reference to sponsoring organizations is confusing and should be dropped.

IX. Additional topics

A. It was decided that the revision of the certification program should be addressed at the AAFS meeting.

B. Recertification.

Al Stirton will prepare a draft to be discussed at the AAFS meeting. This should address how to recertify as well as when (i.e., how long is the original certification good for).

C. The cost of applying for certification will be discussed at a later date. The group recognizes that it should be kept to a minimum.

X. Next meeting

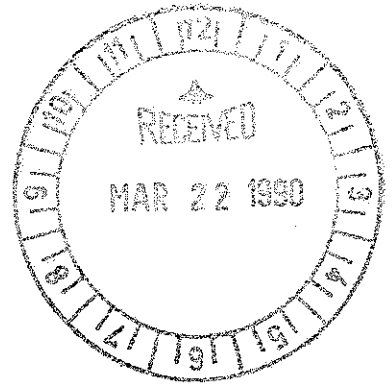
It was tentatively decided that the incorporation meeting should be held at 5 PM, Tuesday evening, February 20, 1990, at the AAFS meeting. Rick will work on the arrangements.

There is a need for a working meeting of the regional association reps. Susan suggested that as chair for the regional organization meeting, she place certification on the agenda for the regional organizations and use that time period.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Hart Johns
December 7, 1989



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- In This Issue of the Newsletter ...***
- Minutes from the Fall Meeting
 - Details on the Spring Meeting in Jackson, Wyoming
 - Oregon Court decision finds insurance company to pay for cleanup costs in drug lab
 - Association library inventory listing