



THE EXAMINER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Part of my self imposed role as President of this Association is to quietly monitor high profile cases around the state and observe how other members of our organization deal with the rigors of death investigation. In the day and age of death by media it has become an almost daily event of one of us conducting an interview with realization that our friends in journalism land are there primarily to create news not just report it. Often times the message given is not the message received resulting in a contentious communication. What's a person to do?

Your first thought is to remain quiet....don't give them anything. If you don't share your information they can't possibly attack you. It doesn't work! Your next plan of action is to give out the bare minimums; just enough to get them off your back which is similar to feeding a hungry bear just a little food thinking that it won't eat you. Or you can simply open your case file up, throw it out on the table and proclaim "there you go, figure it out". Hopefully you recognize that none of these are considered to be the proper way of providing the public with the information that they so crave.

I have found that being open, honest and prompt are three good traits. Be open and tell them what you can while maintaining the integrity of the investigation. First and foremost you must protect evidence and your information is evidence. Be honest by admitting that you don't have all the answers but instill upon them that you know someone that does. Perhaps most important is promptness. Keeping the media waiting despite the fact that you have something to share can be disastrous as it gives the perception that you don't know what's

going on. On long tedious cases schedule weekly or bi-weekly updates perhaps with law enforcement, to keep them apprised of the situation. This will lead to good working relationships which may pay big dividends in the long run.

Have a wonderful fall, remember to register early for the January conference and if you get a chance to give a reporter the time of day do it.....but off the record!

AI

CONGRATULATIONS TRACI

Traci England has been named as the Medical Examiner for Oneida County. She took over as head of the department on August 21. She served as chief deputy for the past 5 years. She is D-ABMDI. Traci has been associated with the WCMEA for seven years, and did serve as President recently. She currently is on the Board of Directors as past-President. She also is the Education Chairperson and is responsible to handle arrangements for our conferences. She oversees five deputies. Diane Brunk is her chief deputy.



*Diane Brunk,
Oneida County*

Traci replaced Ron Koth, who had served the residents of Oneida County for 25 years.

THANKSGIVING OBSERVANCE ENCOURAGES DONATION DISCUSSION

The eighth observance of “ThanksGiving Day – Give Thanks. Give Life.” will be acknowledged this year as Americans gather with their families to celebrate the traditional fall holiday.

Established Thanksgiving Day 2000, “Give Thanks. Give Life.” encourages a short family discussion during the Thanksgiving holiday about the importance of the gift of life. In addition, family members’ wishes can be shared so everyone is aware of their donation commitment.

“More than any other day of the year, Thanksgiving is a time when we gather with our families to count our blessings, and it presents an ideal occasion for raising the importance of donation,” says Beverly Bliss, Vice President of RTI Donor Services. “This campaign is designed to encourage Americans to talk to their loved ones about donation. Unfortunately, it is a discussion that all too often never takes place.”

In addition to the family holiday discussion about donation, Wisconsin residents may also commit to donation by indicating their wishes on driver’s licenses, state identification cards or donor cards. Donation wishes may be updated by visiting www.wisconsinonor.org.

RTI Donor Services is a not-for-profit tissue recovery network dedicated to serving donor families and the donation community in perpetuating the circle of life. In addition to offering families the option of tissue donation, RTI Donor Services supports their wishes as a responsible steward of human donated tissue gifts, and provides family services, as well as community information and awareness. RTI Donor Services may be accessed through the Internet at www.rtidonorservices.org.

“LEN BIAS” LAW

Kelly McAndrews, Washington County Medical Examiner

In June 2006, my office investigated the death of an 18 year-old male found down in his residence. Evidence of illegal drug use was found at the scene and an autopsy was performed. Toxicology results were not surprising, heroin (6-monacetylmorphine) and cocaine were present.

After confirming the cause of death, law enforcement was able to track the source of the heroin, and made an arrest. The district attorney charged an individual with first-degree reckless homicide under WI Stat. § 940.02, a law most commonly referred to as the “Len Bias” law.

Len Bias was a 22 year-old University of Maryland basketball player, who was the second overall pick in the 1986 NBA Draft, selected by the Boston Celtics. Two days after being selected by the Celtics, Bias was dead from cardiac arrhythmia caused by cocaine intoxication. At the time, Bias garnered comparisons to Michael Jordan and he is considered “one of the greatest what-ifs in basketball history.” Although Bias’s parents believed his death was caused by first-time experimentation with cocaine, his college teammates testified in later civil proceedings that he was an experienced intravenous drug user.

Bias’s death led to major changes in the University of Maryland’s sports programs, and gave momentum to public anti-drug campaigns and the 1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act. Len Bias died June 19, 1986 and the 1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act was signed by President Regan October 27, 1986. This Anti-Drug Abuse Act increased mandatory minimums in federal

sentencing for certain types of drug offenses. States followed suit and district attorneys began prosecuting drug suppliers for homicide in situations similar to the Bias case.

According to a Milwaukee HIDTA Drug Market Analysis, treatment agencies in the HIDTA region report an increase in opiate abuse, predominately abuse of prescription opiates and heroin. Washington County has had nine such confirmed cases since May 20, 2007 and four cases which were autopsied based on suspicion. Since 2006, the Washington County District Attorney’s Office has successfully pursued two “Len Bias” cases, including the death of the 18 year-old that died as a result of heroin intoxication.

On September 13, 2006 the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of WI indicted 13 alleged members of a Milwaukee-based heroin distribution network. The leader of the group allegedly traveled to Chicago several times a week to purchase heroin for later retail on the north side of Milwaukee and in Ozaukee County. These individuals were charged with conspiracy to distribute heroin resulting in death and serious bodily injury. Distribution of this heroin contributed to the overdose deaths of at least four residents of Ozaukee County, including a 17 year-old female.

Although budgets are tight, the rise in state Len Bias prosecutions and federal drug indictments in the face of increased opiate use and abuse supports the need for autopsies and thorough medical and criminal investigations in such cases.

SEMINAR AGENDA

Wisconsin Coroner's and Medical Examiner's Association Annual January Conference January 6, 7, 8 & 9

Sunday, January 6, 2008

- 1300-1700 ABMDI Certification Testing
1700-2100 Board Meeting

Monday, January 7, 2008

- 0800-0845 Registration and Coffee
0845-0900 Welcome—
0900-1030 How the Maggots Can Help!-Dr. Haskell,
Forensic Entomologist
1030-1045 Break
1045-1215 Dr. Haskell (continued)
1215-1315 Lunch
1300-1415 The Postmortem Interval: Lessons Learned
from the Anthropological Research
Facility-Rebecca Wilson
1415-1430 Break
1430-1530 Postmortem Interval-Part II
1530-1630 Coroner/Medical Examiner Office
Management 101-Marc Playman
1630 Day One Wrap Up and Evaluations



Speakers at the Summer Conference included Dr. Russell Alexander, Rev. Wagner, Peggy Peterson, Lori Shinstine, Dr. Rick Barney and Bryan Kastelic

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

- 0745-0830 Registration and Coffee
0830-0930 HRD/Forensic Recovery K-9 Teams & How
They Can Benefit an Investigation-Dr. Dave
M. Wilson
930-945 Break
0945-1045 K-9 Recovery Part II along with K-9
demonstration
1200-1300 Lunch
1300-1500 Skeletons in the Closet and other Places
& When the Bridges Turn into Skeletons
of What They Are- Roberta Geiselhart,
Supervisors of Investigations, Hennepin Co.
Medical Examiners Office, President ABMDI
1500-1515 Break
1515-1700 Peggy Peterson-State updates
1700 Day two wrap up and evaluations

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

- 0830-1130 Keeping Kids Alive in Wisconsin; the
Coroners/Medical Examiners Role in
Successful Child Death Review Teams-Karen
Ordinans, Executive Director Children's
Health Alliance of Wisconsin
1130-
1200 Martha Mallon- OPO
Adjournment

Please note: Those planning to take the ABMDI examination MUST be pre-approved! For more information, call the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators at 314-977-5970.

The conference will again be held at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, located near Hy. 51/39, via exit 194. The WCMEA has designated The Lodge at Cedar Creek as the "official hotel" for this event. You can reach them at 888-365-6343 or their website, www.lodgeatcedarcreek.com. There is a water park for those interested.

MASTER'S 12 UPDATE

The Master's 12 Advanced Death Investigation conference was held at Saint Louis University on July 23 – 26, 2007. Wisconsin representatives were Jean Finley from Marathon County, Sgt. Pat Geenan of the Appleton Police Department, Patrice Plungis from Waukesha County, Tracey Shimek from Kenosha County, Ruth Wolgaert and Jon Hagen from Outagamie County. More than 300 investigators attended.



Laurie Parisey and Katie Wendt, Oconto County

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES COMMITTEE

WCMEA President Al Klimek approved the formation of the Standard Operating Guidelines Committee at the Board of Directors Meeting on September 28. Promoting professional practices is one of the goals of the committee. One step towards this goal includes encouraging every county to develop a set of written standard operating guidelines. The committee will identify examples of policies, procedures and guidelines from different counties and make them available in PDF format on the WCMEA forum. The committee will also address the availability of reference materials, forensic specialist resources and office forms on the forum.

Al Klimek will appoint a varied panel of members to the committee to ensure that counties of all types and sizes are represented. He appointed Jenifer Keach, Coroner of Rock County, to chair the committee. "I feel that we represent

our profession best when we demonstrate our willingness to develop standard operating guidelines, promote education and training and work cooperatively to serve the public," Keach said. "Developing policies can be intimidating to some people. We can make it easier to providing samples to borrow from."

Anyone interested in volunteering to share their policies, resource information or ideas can contact Jenifer at keach@co.rock.wi.us. If you are interested in being on the committee, contact Al at klimek_ag@co.brown.wi.us.

SOCIETY OF MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATORS (SOMDI)

At the 12th Annual Master's Conference, held at Saint Louis University in July, Mary Fran Ernst announced the planned formation of the Society of Medicolegal Death Investigators (SOMDI).

SOMDI is a professional organization created in 2007 to promote the interests of Medicolegal Death Investigation; promoting professional development, education, training and networking opportunities to members in the field of Medicolegal Death Investigation.

SOMDI has been trademarked and its website has been licensed. Currently, Incorporation matters are being finalized. SOMDI is expected to begin operation on January 1, 2008, and will be based in St. Louis, MO. SOMDI has been created by Mary Fran Ernst and Christopher Boden. The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI), a professional certification organization, supports the creation of this association.

- Founding Membership \$250
First 100 people, includes first year's Membership
- Charter Membership \$150
Next 200 people when organization Officially begins, includes first year's Membership
- Active Membership..... \$65/year
Annual membership fee

For more information, contact Julie Howe, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Forensic Education, R512, 1402 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63104-1028, (314) 977-5970.

MOTORCYCLE UPDATE

The Wisconsin Traffic Safety Reporter noted that "motorcycle fatalities declined from 1980 to 1997 nationwide" but since then, the rates continue to rise annually. From 1997 to 2005, the death toll had risen by 115%. Their report noted, "for each mile of travel in 2004, the last year with complete data, motorcyclists were eight times more likely to be injured in a crash, and 34 times more likely to die, than passenger vehicle occupants." In 2005, 34% of the fatally injured motorcyclists had been drinking. In 2006, 93 motorcyclists were killed. Almost 75% if those killed were not wearing a helmet. Wisconsin motorcycles make up 5% of total vehicle registrations but account for 12% of traffic fatalities. Ron Thompson is the Manager of the Wisconsin Motorcycle Safety Program DOT Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS). He can be reached at (608) 266-7855 or ron.thompson@dot.state.wi.us.

DEPUTY CORONER GOES TO THE BODY FARM

If someone would have told me about ten years ago that I would be a deputy coroner and that I would be going to the Body Farm for training, I would have told them they were crazy. But here I am, and the ten years that have passed, have led me to this profession. Whether I can say it was fate, or a stroke of luck, I am unsure. But what I am sure of is that I am exactly where I am supposed to be.

While finishing my master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, I came across a book called "Death's Acre". With an obviously intriguing name, I picked up the book and began reading about decomposing bodies and how so much evidence that already exists on the body can assist investigators as well as coroners and medical examiners in determining time since death. This place, I thought, cannot be real. But after some research I found that it does exist and they are opening the facility to a few select participants of the public. After filling out an application and requesting a letter of recommendation from Coroner Darlene Strey, it was a waiting game. Many had applied and only twenty were selected. About a month later I received notification that I was selected to participate in the Outdoor Recover Course at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. All I had to do was pay the \$850.00 course fee, get housing and transportation, and I was on my way down to Tennessee. Of course along the way you have to expect some problems, like your luggage getting lost. Yes that happened. I flew with Delta, whom I found out later is the only airline that will transport remains from state to state. So it was somewhat comforting that my luggage was possibly with a body being transported to Tennessee. During this waiting period for my luggage, the University of Tennessee anthropology students were sent to pick us up from the airport. They provided me clothing and anything else I needed until my luggage arrived. As devastating as this was, I did not let it get me down. I was excited to be at a facility where I could learn so much and meet the person who created it, Dr. Bill Bass.

Dr. Bass created the body farm in 1981 with a single donated body and small shed. Back then he had to rely on the ME's office for unclaimed bodies. But eventually, he expanded the facility to encompass almost two acres of land. At any given time, you can be surrounded by 180 decomposing bodies. The facility is located behind the University of Tennessee Medical Center in a wooded area and is enclosed by a wooden fence with barbwire across the top. The facility rests on what used to be the medical centers garbage dump. We were warned that when digging, we may come across some garbage that once belonged to the medical center.

While sitting in lectures for the first two days, I thought to myself, this is utterly amazing. All this research and so little

know about it. We have been trying to determine time since death for years, but when you can pinpoint it down to a day or two by basic collection of the right evidence it can be used to place those responsible for the crime, at the scene of the crime and put them away instead of going unsolved. The highlight of the entire excursion was meeting Dr. Bass. Not only did I get to shake hands with the man I thought was utterly the most intelligent man ever, but he even signed "Death's Acre" for me. He taught us to go into a scene with an open mind, to never make assumptions, and to always be on top of your game.



Amanda Thoma

During the lecture of Dr. Ian Dadour, I was introduced to the collection of flesh eating bugs and their ability to retain evidence from a body. As he is speaking about touching maggots, catching flies, obtaining soil samples, and de-gloving, I am thinking to myself, I am really going to be doing all of this, ewwww. Up until this point, I hated anything that crawled, including flies, wasps and snakes. Dr. Dadour's enthusiasm for his profession has inspired me to go on for more schooling to get my Ph.D. in anthropology.

After learning how to map and photograph a crime scene, and pick out bone from dirt, we were off to a full day at the facility. Upon our arrival, we were greeted with television and camera crews getting ready to tape a body being wheeled into the facility. I thought to myself why, why are these people exposing this place to the public when it provides so much more than just a news broadcast? After an explanation, we found out that this body was of an unidentified male who was brought here for the research team to possibly give more clues to his identity. Even after the explanation, I still thought to myself, people should have more respect for the deceased than just filming their body being hauled away. Maybe part of this resentment comes from my own memories of when I was thirteen and I saw the body of my aunt being hauled away in a body bag on the news, or maybe its my drive to do something better.

As I passed through the heavy gates of the facility, I found myself surrounded by what I had only dreamed about. Bodies had been placed discretely along the path that walks you along the hilly two acres. Each body was tagged with two bracelets; one on the wrist, another on the ankle and had its own GPS coordinates. Many of the students stated they had been having problems with "critter" scattering the remains. This prompted a study that is currently going on at the facility, videotaping animal interaction with human

BODY FARM . . . CONTINUED

remains. As the day continued, we were introduced to probing. Probing has been used to outline possible burial sites. This "T" shaped instrument later assisted us in outlining our site for the burial recovery. We then proceeded to flesh eating bugs. Now, as I stated before, I would have sworn to never pick anything up that crawled, well that all passed and suddenly I was inches away from a decomposing body picking up maggots for collection, holding them in my hands for examination, catching wasps and flies, and seeing what de-gloving is and how it occurs. I didn't mind this at all, in fact, as soon as I got back, I bought the Forensic Insect Identification Cards to learn more.

After exploring bugs for an hour, I made my way to learn about ground disturbance. We were shown a piece of equipment that scans under the surface of the ground to find possible burial sites. So as inquisitive as I am, and my need to learn, I had to ask if they have ever used this on soil that has been tilled over, as in farmland. After stating that it has never been used for such an experiment, Dr. Nicholas Herrmann just inspired my dissertation.

It was now time for my favorite exercise, the burial recovery. It was a slow and excruciating process, as most of us just wanted to dig up the remains. We were reminded by anthropology students that it usually is a long process, but only because we want to preserve as much evidence as possible. As luck would have it, I struck bone first. Six hours and three feet deep later, I found the skull. We mapped and photographed, and found out that an autopsy was completed on this individual. After I brushed away more dirt, I found myself staring into the empty eyes that were once of a short man who had severe arthritis and who had worked vigorously throughout his life. As I sit there reminded of how exhausted

I am from the days recovery, suddenly a royal blue seven inch snake comes through an opening in the skull. I, nonchalantly, picked up the snake and looked at it as if it were a creature I had never seen before. Then someone kindly, but sternly reminded me that the snakes in Tennessee are poisonous.

As the day ended, and I sadly walked back through the heavy gates where I learned so much, I found myself glued to these people that I now call my friends and colleagues. Many of us call on each other as resources, and some of us hope to return to the body farm next year. But until then, I will continue to grasp what I had learned and the ability to apply it.

As I am currently working as a deputy coroner for Green Lake County Coroners Office under Darlene Strey, she has provided me an opportunity that is priceless. Darlene has afforded me all the education, training, and experience that is available. I plan to continue to work with the coroners office, but would like to delve deeper in the forensic science profession as a crime scene technician or an autopsy assistant. Until then, I will continue to learn all I can through people I meet in this field.

Amanda Thoma

MUNCHKIN CORONER TO GET A STAR IN HOLLYWOOD

Meinhardt Raabe, the Watertown native who played the coroner who announced, "As coroner, I must aver...I thoroughly examined her...and she'd not only merely dead...she's really, most sincerely dead!" after the Wicked Witch has crushed under Dorothy's farmhouse in the "Wizard of Oz", along with the other 123 Munchkins in the 1939 classic, will be getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Raabe, now 91, lives in Florida. He was working as an accountant with Oscar Mayer in Madison when he asked for a leave of absence when he heard MGM was hiring "little people" to appear in the movie. He stands 4'7" tall, and has two college degrees and a pilot's license.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- November 7 – 8, 2007 - The 19th Annual John R. Teggatz Forensic Science Seminar, Milwaukee. Contact the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's office, 933 W. Highland Avenue, Milwaukee, WI, 53233
- November 9 – 10, 2007 – The William H. Perloff Trauma Care Conference, "Reality Trauma," Stevens Point, WI. Call 608-592-5200 or 608-558-4014 or www.wats.cehss.org
- January 6, 2008 – ABMDI Certification Exam, Wausau WI
- January 6 – 8, 2008 – WCMEA Annual January Conference, Wausau, WI
- January 21-25, 2008 – Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course, St. Louis
- April 21 -25, 2008 - Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course, St. Louis
- June 1 – 4, 2009 - WCMEA Summer Conference, Green Lake, WI
- October 6 – 10, 2008 - Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course, St. Louis

WISCONSIN UPDATE

- In Clark County, one person was killed and 3 injured when a pickup truck slammed into the back of a horse-drawn buggy.
- In Marathon County, a 12-year-old boy was killed after being pinned after being trapped between the frame of a skid steer loader and one of the boom arms for the bucket.
- According to the UW Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, two out of three machine-related fatalities in Wisconsin in 2005 involved skid steers. There were 27 farm-related deaths in Wisconsin in 2005.
- In Sheboygan County, a man entered a factory and proceeded to shoot and kill a former co-worker, then returned to his home and committed suicide.
- In La Crosse County, a woman died after falling from a cliff below Grandad's Bluff. Sheriff's officers reportedly had told a group of people, including the woman, to leave the park before she fell.
- In Marathon County, an 18-year-old man was stabbed to death at an underage drinking party.
- In Langlade County, a man asleep in his motel room was killed when a truck smashed into the building, through the room and out the back. The truck hit two parked cars before crashing through the building.
- In Waushara County, Beth LaBatte, 40, died after being ejected after a vehicle went out of control and rolled into a field. She spent 10 years in prison for the 1991 deaths of two elderly Casco sisters. She was arrested and charged in 1996, sentenced to two life sentences plus 20 years, but was exonerated after retesting of a key piece of evidence for DNA failed to link her to the crimes.
- In Dane County, a man now age 68 was charged with killing his estranged wife in 1976. Her body has never been found. The judge declared a mistrial after jurors couldn't reach a verdict.
- In Clark County, two men driving one truck at the same time were arrested and charged with drunken driving. One of the men, who has no legs, steered the truck while his passenger operated the gas and brake pedals. Both men had prior DUI convictions, and both were also cited from driving after their licenses had been revoked.
- In Brown County, a 15-year-old boy was stuck and killed as he ran across an Interstate highway, fleeing police after a carjacking incident.
- In Marathon County, police found a woman dead in her neighbor's yard. Her husband's body was found dead a short time later of a self-inflicted wound.
- In Winnebago County, a truck driver was found dead in a quarry pond after his truck went over a cliff and fell about 25 feet into the water.
- In Winnebago County, the parents of a girl who died after falling from a ride at Lifest filed a wrongful death lawsuit.
- No charges will be filed against two Rusk County deputies who shot and killed an unarmed man in May. Officers felt the man was armed after a high-speed chase.
- In Chippewa County, two girls were killed after their ATV flipped over. Their ages were 6 and 16; a third girl was hurt.
- At Fort McCoy, a soldier died of bacterial meningitis. None of the other 6000 troops stationed there were reported ill.
- In Dane County, a woman and child waiting at a flooded bus stop were electrocuted along with another man who tried to render aid when lightning hit a utility pole and caused a live wire to fall into the water. A few days later, another man was killed on a golf course, also from lightning. He had sought shelter under a wet pine tree.
- In Kenosha County, deputies shot and killed a man after a car chase and standoff.
- In Oconto County, a pilot died and his wife was critically injured after their small plane crashed after experiencing engine problems.
- Portage County recorded their first two traffic fatalities of the year in late July.
- In Brown County, three people died when their car struck a tree in Green Bay.
- In Brown County, a woman's body was found inside a car pulled from the Fox River. She had been missing for almost two weeks.
- In Winnebago County, the pilot of a P-51 Mustang died in a fiery crash with another plane as they were landing at Wittman Regional Airport during EAA.
- In Polk County, a 15-year-old boy died after he apparently ignited a makeshift bottle-rocket that exploded unexpectedly.
- In Marathon County, a man died when he was crushed by a large piece of steel at a plant that builds storage tanks.
- In Dane County, the three men who attempted to dig up a young woman's corpse to allegedly have sex with it after seeing her obituary photo in a newspaper cannot be charged with attempted sexual assault because Wisconsin has no law against necrophilia, an appeals court ruled.
- In Kewaunee County, an 87-year-old golf cart driver died after he pulled into the path of a car along a state highway. He was trying to cross the road from one section of the golf course to another.

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WCMEA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The WCMEA Legislative Committee has been very active since the last edition of The Examiner. The focus of our efforts has been on moving the revision of Chapter 979 forward. As you may recall, the WCMEA attempted to get the death investigation statute updated in the year 2001. A unanimous approval for the revision was voted at the WCMEA annual meeting. Unfortunately, we were unable to get legislative sponsorship for a Bill during that session of the legislature.

During the previous session of the legislature, the WCMEA successfully re-directed an attack on our membership that was disguised as a Wisconsin Legislative Council, Special Committee on the Powers and Duties of Coroners and Medical Examiners. As a side note, the Chairperson of that committee and her legislative aide lost their jobs at the Capitol following that attempt.

One of the positive results of our actions at the Special Committee was a new respect for the WCMEA. As a result, we have been successful in recruiting Representative Vruwink and Senator Lassa to sponsor

our revision of Chapter 979. We expect to have a Bill draft ready for your consideration within a matter of days. The new Bill is essentially an update of the 2001 Revision that was approved by the WCMEA.

The only area that may seem new is a clarification of the section related to the creation of a Board of Medicolegal Death investigation. We did have that section in the 2001 version, but were asked to provide more information about the membership, authority and responsibilities of the Board. The new Revision Bill does include information that addresses those concerns.

When the WCMEA legislative committee receives the final draft from the Legislative Reference Bureau staff attorney, we will provide it to you in electronic or hard copy. This is your Bill! If you have concerns or comments, we need to know about them. An informational cover letter will accompany the draft. It explains the changes that have been previously approved by the membership, and describes the Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation.