



The Examiner

<http://www.wcmea.com>

Fall 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| President's Message | 1 |
| Inmate Autopsy | 2 |
| Conference Registration | 3 |
| Interesting Deaths | 4 & 5 |
| Sheboygan County | 6 |
| Fond Du Lac County | 7 |
| Training Opportunities | 7 |
| Bewitch the WCMEA | 8 |



Hello WCMEA members and happy fall!

I apparently prematurely bid farewell in the last edition of the newsletter, as I was ask to put together another President's message for this issue. Part of holding this position is being able to roll with the flow, so that is exactly what I am going to do.

As I write this, we are preparing for our fall conference in Madison with great expectations of a large turnout. First Vice President, Angela Hinze, has put together a great line-up with a focus on mass/multi casualty incidents which we all pray we will never have to deal with but, nevertheless need to be ready for. Please strongly consider attending the conference and encourage others to do the same.

Our nominations committee, consisting of John Larson, Mary Ricci and John Steers, is accepting nominations for officers. Please contact them if you, or someone you would like to nominate, are interested in a position. It is a very fulfilling opportunity that will allow you to make your mark in the history books of the WCMEA.

As I prepare to take on more of an emeritus role as Past President, I feel that our association, much like the economy, is on the edge of recovery.

We have had some recent rocky years with involvement/participation but, as time goes on things are on the up-swing and I anticipate a full recovery. This will require all of us to continue to promote our profession, members, as well as ourselves.

Continue to educate yourselves and others within your office. Seek accreditation through agencies like AB-MDI and maintain good working relationships with others in the death investigation industry. Remember to always promote organ and tissue donation by "just saying yes" and lastly..... Vote with your heart and not by party affiliation.

See you in Madison.

-AI

CELEBRATE!!

Medicolegal Death Investigator Week in Wisconsin!

October 22-26, 2012

This is an opportunity for you and your colleagues to honor all of your hard work and dedication!

The Inmate Autopsy

At some point in our career as medicolegal death investigators, our investigation has involved a case in which the responsibility for an investigation lies with a county other than that where the death occurred. Our training has always taught us the following: ‘if the injury producing event occurs in County A who is transported to a hospital in County B and passes away, jurisdiction passes back to the Coroner/Medical Examiner of County A’, that Coroner or Medical Examiner would have the ability to order an autopsy.

There is an exception; however, and that is when the death involves the death of an inmate confined to a state prison, regardless of where the death producing incident occurred. The exception is this: The Coroner or Medical Examiner where the death occurred is responsible for conducting the autopsy on the inmate. The statute makes no exceptions for injury-producing events, 24-hour rules, or other incidents which would normally cause the case to switch Coroner or Medical Examiner jurisdiction, though it may switch jurisdiction for law enforcement.



The full text of chapter 979.025, which pertains to inmate autopsies follows:

979.025 Autopsy of correctional inmate.

979.025(1)(1) INMATE CONFINED TO AN INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE. If an individual dies while he or she is in the legal custody of the department and confined to a correctional facility located in this state, the coroner or medical examiner of the county where the death occurred shall perform an autopsy on the deceased individual. If the coroner or medical examiner who performs the autopsy determines that the individual's death may have been the result of any of the situations that would permit the district attorney to order an inquest under s. 979.04 (1), the coroner or medical examiner shall follow the procedures under s. 979.04 (2).

979.025(2)(2) INMATE CONFINED IN AN INSTITUTION IN ANOTHER STATE. If an individual dies while he or she is in the legal custody of the department and confined to a correctional facility in another state under a contract under s. 301.07, 301.21, or 302.25, the department shall have an autopsy performed by an appropriate authority in the other state or by the coroner or medical examiner of the county in which the circuit court is located that sentenced the individual to the custody of the department. If the coroner or medical examiner who performs the autopsy in this state determines that the individual's death may have been the result of any of the situations that would permit the district attorney to order an inquest under s. 979.04 (1), the coroner or medical examiner shall forward the results of the autopsy to the appropriate authority in the other state.

979.025(3)(3) COSTS OF AN AUTOPSY. The costs of an autopsy performed under sub. (1) or (2) shall be paid by the department.

979.025 History: 2001 a. 16.

Shortly after becoming Dodge County Medical Examiner in 2006, my colleagues in Dane County pointed out this exception to me. Since that time, many of us have spoken about this issue, and usually when the situation arises where jurisdiction for ordering an autopsy needs to be determined.

Inevitably the conversation about this section of 979 turns this way and someone will say to me, “That makes no sense. Why is the statute written that way?” To which, I must reply, “Don’t ask me. I didn’t write it.” And finally, the standard legal disclaimer – I’m not a lawyer, nor have I ever been, so talk to your corporation counsel about all legal questions.

P.J. Schoebel, Dodge County Medical Examiner



WCM EA

Wisconsin Coroner's and Medical Examiner's Association

Registration Form October 8-10, 2012

Annual Conference

Name & Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Email: _____

Fee: **Full Conference** ___\$225.00 Member _____\$250.00 Non-Member

Single Day: Circle Day You Wish to Attend: Monday or Tuesday

_____ \$100.00 Member _____ \$125.00 Non-Member

I WILL ATTEND THE BOD MEETING SUNDAY EVENING: _____

BANQUET ATTENDEES:

Please include an additional 20.00 for banquet guests not attending the conference. _____ Additional banquet guests. Please indicate your food preference:

_____ Chicken _____ Meat/Steak _____ vegetarian

C/o Robert Kulhanek, Treasurer

2422 N. 7th St., Sheboygan, WI 53083

Make checks payable to: WCMEA

*****Registration deadline is October 1, 2012*****

A \$25 fee will be charged for late registrations. No refunds for cancellations after October 1, 2012

For additional questions, please contact: Angela Hinze at angela.hinze@co.columbia.wi.us

Interesting Deaths in Wisconsin.....

- In **Lincoln County**- Two women were killed and two others injured after a car rolled over in Merrill. The cause of the crash is unknown; however, three of the women were ejected from the car when it rolled in the street just after 3:30 a.m. Two of the three women ejected died at the scene.
- In **Waukesha County**- The driver of a milk tanker truck died at the scene after he failed to negotiate a curve and overturned the truck. The victim was a 22-year old town of Addison man who drove for Gundrum Trucking of Slinger.
- In **Fond du Lac County**- Two motorcyclists died after a man drove his car into a group of 12 or more motorcyclists from Michigan traveling through Fond du Lac County on their way home after visiting Milwaukee. One man, 59 years old, died at the scene, and the other motorcyclist, 43, was transported to a local hospital where he died days later. The 25-year old driver of the car was charged with numerous counts including second-degree homicide after the car crossed the center line and plowed into the group on Hwy 51 in the town of Taycheedah.
- In **Sheboygan County**- A bicyclist died when he was struck by a car. The 48-year old man was on County Highway Y in the township of Mosel when he was struck by a car driven by a 67-year old man. The cause of the crash is unknown.
- In **Dane County**- A 7-year old boy was killed and members of his family were injured when a car careened off a road, went airborne and landed on their picnic table. Authorities said the family was having dinner at the table on private property across from Garner Park when the car left the road, struck a tree and became airborne.
- In **Portage County**- A 23-year old Baraboo man was killed in a car crash on Interstate 90 near Portage. The man fell asleep at the wheel and the vehicle rolled over. The man was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected.
- In **Sauk County**- A 79-year old Prairie du Sac woman was killed in a head-on crash on Highway 12 west of Sauk City. She was the passenger of a van that was struck head-on by another vehicle that had crossed the center line on Hwy 12. She was pronounced dead on-scene.
- In **Kenosha County**- The body of a 20-year old female was found in a city park. The decedent was discovered in a brush fire. The death was determined to be a result of the fire.
- In **Milwaukee County**- A mass shooting took place at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek. A single gunman killed six people and wounded 4 others before ending his own life. The gunman was a 40-year old white supremacist living in Cudahy, but originally from Colorado. The incident drew media attention nationally and around the globe.
- In **Walworth County**- A 61-year old Darien man died after the ultralight plane he was piloting crashed in a nearby cornfield near the Big Foot Airfield in Walworth County. Shortly after takeoff, the plane banked right and crashed. The man was transported to a local hospital where he later died.
- In **Kenosha County**- An adult female was found in a local cemetery. The body was found by an on-duty Kenosha Police Officer. The death is being investigated as a homicide.

Continued on page 5

- In **Sheboygan County**- A 61-year old Freedom man died while trying to save his grandson. Witnesses reported that the grandson had been swimming too far from the Lake Michigan shore. The man entered the water in an attempt to reach the boy, but did not return to shore. He was later found unresponsive in the water and was pulled to shore.
- In **Marinette County**- A 10-year old boy died in an all-terrain vehicle crash. The boy missed a stop sign at an intersection in Middle Inlet and struck a pickup truck.
- In **Waukesha County**- A 2-year old boy was found unresponsive in a backyard pond. The child was taken by helicopter to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin where he later died. It is not known how long the child was in the water.
- In **Milwaukee County**- A 45-year old woman was stabbed to death during an attempted robbery in Kilbourn Reservoir Park. Within minutes of the incident, officers had a suspect in custody with the help of witnesses at the park.
- In **Wood County**- An 18-year old woman was found dead in her Marshfield home. An autopsy revealed stab wounds to her back and throat. The victim's ex-boyfriend is being held by police as a suspect in her death.
- In **Racine County**- A pilot was killed when a small plane crashed into a yard along Eagle Lake in Kansasville. The single-engine plane was flying from Chicago to Minocqua when it crashed and hit a building. The pilot, and sole occupant, of the plane was killed and the plane destroyed. The cause of the crash was not immediately known.
- In **Lafayette County**- A father is facing potential charges of starting a fire that killed three of his four children. The fire started at approximately 0300 hours. The man's wife and daughter managed to escape the fire; however, the man's wife remains in critical condition at a Madison hospital. She is 16 weeks pregnant. The man's three sons, ages 3, 5 and 7 years, died in their bedroom. The fire remains under investigation.
- In **Waukesha County**- A two-month old infant was stabbed to death. The infant's mother told authorities that she believed she heard the voice of God telling her to kill the baby because it was satanic. Police were called to the home after being notified by staff at a psychiatric hospital. The mother had called the hospital to report that she had killed her baby.
- In **Burnett County**- A 3-year old girl wandered away from her home. Her body was later found in a canal near her house where she had drowned. The girl's parents have since been charged with felony neglect.
- In **Rock County**- A 26-year old man riding in a car was killed and the driver critically injured in an alcohol related crash. The vehicle had been traveling at a high rate of speed on Highway 213 when it lost control at a curve. The car went airborne, struck a utility pole, and rolled over. The driver of the vehicle was later arrested on suspicion of homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle, operating after revocation causing death, third offense OWI, open intoxicants in a car and failure to maintain control of a vehicle.
- In **Shawano County**- A 48-year old man was killed after crashing his motorcycle on County Highway E near Plier Road. The man lost control of his motorcycle after crossing the centerline and entering the gravel edge along the roadway. He was ejected and was not wearing a helmet.

Remembering Sheboygan County 10 Years Later

October 11, 2012, marks the 10-year anniversary of the deadliest traffic crash in Wisconsin state history. It was a Friday morning commute like no other on October 11, 2002. Heavy fog loomed over Interstate 43 at a point where the highway comes its closest to paralleling Lake Michigan just north of the Ozaukee-Sheboygan County line. With low visibility, vehicles in the southbound lanes began striking each other as some slowed down. As vehicles attempted to leave the roadway, more cars and trucks became involved causing a chain reaction. Witnesses reported that cars continued to plunge into the pileup at high rates of speed for an estimated five minutes.

A total of 50 vehicles were involved, with at least eight having burst into flames. Fire plumes from the wreckage rose over 20-30 feet into the air. Ten people died as a result of the fiery crash; all of the victims still inside their vehicles. Many of the bodies were burned beyond recognition. In addition to the fatalities, 39 people were injured and transported to area hospitals.



Multiple agencies worked together tirelessly and ceremoniously to care for both the living and the dead. The crash was initially reported at 7:19 a.m., and an eight mile stretch of highway remained closed until the scene had finally been cleared approximately 12 hours later.



Since 9/11, emergency management and mass casualty plans have become standard for government agencies both locally and nationally. Because of such plans, though each situation is unique, there is a better understanding of appropriate management of a mass casualty incident. As demonstrated by the emergency workers, law enforcement, and coroner personnel in Sheboygan County, we have become masters at caring for the victims and survivors . . . but what about each other?

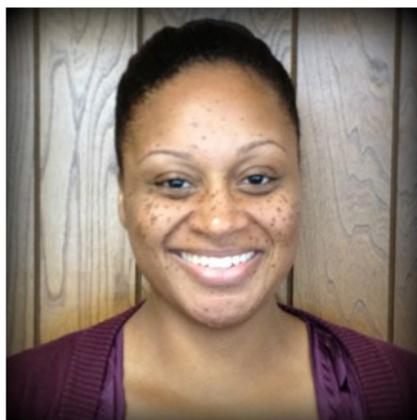
In a mass casualty incident, what kind of care is offered to those dedicated workers in the hours, days and months that follow? Though 10 years has passed since the Sheboygan County Coroner's Office was dispatched to the horrific I-43 traffic crash, the wounds of that day have not yet healed. The emotions and memories are still very raw.

Tragedy does not discriminate. Any of us could find ourselves thrust into a mass casualty incident. In addition to sharing our resources and time, let us share our hearts, our ears . . . our embrace.

Jennifer Schroeter, Kenosha County Chief Deputy Medical Examiner

Fond Du Lac County Welcomes New Forensic Pathologist

As of August 1, 2012, Dr. Kristinza Giese joined forces with Dr. P. Douglas Kelley in her position as Associate Medical Examiner for Fond du Lac County.



Giese was raised in Rockville, Maryland. She went on to Howard University in Washington DC for her undergraduate studies, and then to the Medical College of Wisconsin for medical school. Kristinza Giese had intentions of pursuing a career in surgery. During her rotation in surgical pathology, Giese had the opportunity to visit the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office. It was a visit that changed her career path. Giese completed a year of general surgical residency before switching to pathology. She returned to the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office to complete her fellowship, and as the saying goes . . . the rest is history.

Dr. Kristinza Giese took an opportunity to visit the Fond du Lac County Medical Examiner's Office and knew it would be a perfect fit. Giese states "I visited the Fond du Lac Office and knew I'd have the opportunity to work and learn from a great pathologist, Dr. Kelley, in an area that my family would love."

Though new to the field of forensic pathology, Giese is talented, ambitious and looking forward to the challenges of servicing various counties. The Fond du Lac County Medical Examiner's Office provides autopsy services for 14 counties including its own.

On behalf of the WCMEA, Welcome Dr. Giese and congratulations on your new position!

Upcoming Training Opportunities

St. Louis University School of Medicine
Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course
January 28—February 1, 2013, at St. Louis, MO

www.medschool.slu.edu/mldi

for more information

2012 NAME Annual Meeting
October 5-10, 2012 in Baltimore, Maryland

www.thename.org for more information

West Virginia University offers continuing education online. For more information go to:

<http://continuinged.wvu.edu>

24th Annual John R. Teggatz Forensic Science Seminar

Presented by the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office, November 7-8, 2012

Call 414-223-1200 for more information

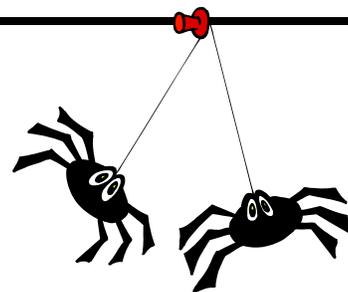
Investigating Cold Case, Missing, and Unidentified Persons

Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, WI

December 4-6, 2012

Call (888) 370-1752 or email cjgrants@fvtc.edu for more information

Patrice Hall & Jennifer Schroeter
Kenosha ME's Office
8600 Sheridan Road
Kenosha, WI 53143
(262) 653-3869



BEWITCH the WCMEA!

This is your opportunity to share with the association!!! *The Examiner* is always looking for interesting case investigations, as well as special WCMEA members and colleagues to highlight in upcoming publications.



Please submit your case reports or personal entries to editors Patrice Hall or Jennifer Schroeter by **November 26, 2012**.

Forward submissions via e-mail:

patrice.hall@kenoshacounty.org; jennifer.schroeter@kenoshacounty.org

Or via USPS to:

Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office
8600 Sheridan Road
Kenosha, WI 53143