



The Examiner

<http://www.wcmea.com>

Summer 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

— *The future ain't what it used to be.*
Yogi Berra

I just couldn't find a good way to start this message, so I .binged (bung?) 'quotations'. Who could I find that would provide some great inspirational message about the future, success, or medicolegal death investigation (those were few and far between)? Lincoln, Gandhi, Biedrzycki? I have good quotes from all of them, but since there's a game on right now, I am drawn more to thoughts about the future of the AL East (sorry) and Yogi-isms.

But what does the future hold for us?

We only have to look to the immediate future to see big changes on the horizon. Already many of you have had or scheduled your training for the DHS' Vital Records Information System (VRIS), which will be in place for us by the end of the year. With the implementation of this new system the old familiar death certificates and the procedures in place for signing them will be changed.

The Legislation Committee has been hard at work on changes to the 979 statutes. We have a dedicated group of individuals who are actively working to bring about these changes.

As you know, we have hired Lenzendorf, Winters, & Associates as our lobbying firm and they have been working hard on our behalf on this issue.

If you're on the WCMEA GoogleGroups, you'll know what's next. Elections. This year, the WCMEA is implementing the changes for the voting procedures which are in the constitution. Nominations are now being accepted through August 9. Send your nominations to Laurie Parisey at emt1ocontofalls@yahoo.com. You can nominate yourself. You also have the option to vote by absentee ballot if you're unable to make the Fall Conference. For those of you who will be there, the procedures are going to change as well. A list of the candidates and how to vote absentee will be on the website on August 10.

With all of that being said, I hope that all of you are enjoying your summer, spending time with your families, generally relaxing, and maybe even taking in a baseball game or two. I look forward to seeing all of you in October at the conference. Drop me a line if there's anything I can do for you.

-PJ

pschoebel@co.dodge.wi.us

Please send us case information or personal profiles for consideration in the upcoming publications.

Entries can be sent to:

Patrice Hall or Jennifer Schroeter
8600 Sheridan Road
Kenosha, WI 53143

Or via email:

Patrice.hall@kenoshacounty.org
Jennifer.schroeter@kenoshacounty.org



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Former Fond du Lac County Medical Examiner Dies



Kenneth Alan Stormo, age 75, died on May 17, 2013 in Fond du Lac while under hospice care. Dr. Stormo was a talented and brilliant man certified by the American Board of Pathology in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology and forensic pathology.

Dr. Stormo served as an Assistant Medical Examiner for Milwaukee County as well as the Interim Medical Examiner for Fond du Lac County until he retired in 2008. He was a cherished and loyal member of the WCMEA and will be greatly missed.

Missing in Wisconsin

The Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office is hosting the first annual "Missing in Wisconsin" event on September 29, 2013. This event, modeled after the "Missing in Michigan" and "[New York State Missing Persons - Missing and Never Forgotten](#)," is geared towards families with missing loved ones.

At this event, which is made possible by donations and volunteers, families are able to ensure that their loved one's disappearance has been reported to the police department, a profile is created in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (www.NamUs.gov), and most importantly, a DNA sample is collected from the family.



The DNA sample collected from the family will be sent to the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) which manages the NamUs system in a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Justice (through the Department of Justice). The family member's DNA is uploaded to the national level of the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and case information is entered into NamUs. There are two databases within NamUs, missing persons and unidentified persons, in which the cases are approved and/or managed by Law Enforcement and Medical Examiner/Coroner agencies. When a medical examiner/coroner office has a John or Jane Doe, a DNA specimen can be taken from this unknown person and sent to the UNTHSC for analysis and to be uploaded into CODIS and the unidentified side of NamUs. These two databases are constantly compared with each other and in conjunction with the UNTHSC have resulted in over 900 associations. Funding for this assistance is completely free of charge.

With your help, Missing In Wisconsin will provide families with the assistance they need to be reunited with their loved ones . . . or find the closure they deserve.

Please visit Missing in Wisconsin on Facebook, or contact Kenosha County Medical Examiner Patrice Hall; Patrice.hall@kenoshacounty.org, (262) 653-3865, for more information.

WCMEA Conference Highlights



The 2013 Annual Spring Conference was held in Kenosha County at the beautiful Radisson Hotel and Conference Center April 8, 2013 through April 10, 2013. There were approximately 60 attendees who were welcomed by Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser and Medical Examiner Patrice Hall (pictured left).

The conference-goers enjoyed presentations from local and national names on topics ranging from organ/tissue donations and toxicology best practices to sharp and blunt force injuries and the forensic autopsy. Captain Anderson and Captain Bolender with the Oak Creek Police Department ended the conference highlighting the Sikh Temple shooting and the lessons learned.

Vital Records provided updates regarding the upcoming roll-out for SVRIS and offered multiple break-out sessions to allow hands-on training with the new system. The association was also introduced to lobbyist Lezendorf-Winters & Associates (pictured right) and heard first-hand the progress of the 979 legislation and training standardization guidelines.



An evening social event was generously sponsored by the Wisconsin organ and tissue donation teams (ATSF, RTI Donor Services, Blood Center of Wisconsin/Wisconsin Tissue Bank, and Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin) on Monday, April 8, 2013 and proved to be an event to remember.

Many thanks to Barry Irmen, Dane County Director of Operations, for his hard work in making this conference a huge success. The WCMEA would also like to thank our host Kenosha County, the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, as well as the many presenters, sponsors, and exhibitors for their time, hospitality and expertise. The 2013 Fall Conference and Annual Meeting will be hosted by Manitowoc County from October 14, 2013 through October 16, 2013. Looking ahead to 2014.....**host counties are still needed!** If you would like to bring the conference to your community please notify your WCMEA Board of Directors.



Interesting Deaths in Wisconsin.....

- In **Dane County**- A 52-year old woman was struck and killed in Sun Prairie. The woman was running on a blacktop path where it crosses the bottom of the Hwy 151 off-ramp when she was struck and killed by a local bishop who was allegedly intoxicated and on his way to a church ceremony. The woman was training for the annual Syttende Mai, a 20-mile run in Stoughton . . . her favorite event.
- In **Milwaukee County**- A 30-year old man was found shot to death inside a vehicle that had crashed into a building. Witnesses told authorities that the vehicle had been driving erratically before it crashed into the side of the apartment building.
- In **Winnebago County**- A 60-year old man died after a two-vehicle crash in Menasha. The man was found unconscious following the head-on collision, and was taken to Theda Clark Medical Center where he later died.
- In **Kenosha County**- Two men, ages 20-years and 23-years, were shot and killed in a residential area in the city of Kenosha. The double-homicide remains under investigation; however, two suspects have been identified in the case.
- In **Waukesha County**- A 32-year old Town of Brookfield Police Officer suffered an apparent heart attack while responding to a burglary. He was transported to Waukesha Memorial Hospital where he later died.
- In **Dane County**- A body of an adult man was recovered from Lake Monona. Authorities confirmed that body was that of a missing 26-year old Kaukana man. He had been missing since January 16, 2013, and police believe he may have fallen through the ice. The body had been discovered in approximately 33 feet of water by an avid diver who had been operating a personal sonar device under water.
- In **Milwaukee County**- Three children, 4-year old twin boys and 5-year old girl, died in a West Allis house fire. The children had been left home alone and were locked in a bedroom. They were found huddled together beneath a dresser. Their 24-year old mother had left the children to go to work. She has since been charged.
- In **Vernon County**- A 57-year old man was killed after his car crashed into a utility pole in the village of Viola. The man was the driver and sole occupant of a car that had been traveling on Drake Avenue when it went out of control, crossed the center line and struck the utility pole.
- In **Marathon County**- A 51-year old man died following a motorcycle crash on Hwy 51 in the town of Maine. The man had been driving north on Hwy 51 when he lost control of the motorcycle and left the roadway. The man was transported to Aspirus Wausau Hospital where he later died from his injuries.
- In **LaCrosse County**- A 61-year old man drowned in Swift Creek. His body was recovered after emergency crews received reports of an empty, anchored fishing boat. The death was ruled an accident.

Continued on Page 5....

Interesting Deaths..continued from page 4

- In **Brown County**- a 44-year old woman died as a result of a domestic homicide. Officers found the woman dead at a house. Green Bay police are questioning a 50-year-old man in connection with the death.
- In **Lafayette County**- Three people were found slain. The slayings were discovered when a family member discovered a body in the rural Town of Wiotta home and contacted the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department. Deputies then found 2 more bodies inside the home. Authorities discovered that a truck that was owned by one of the homicide victims was missing and issued an alert. The suspect, a 31-year old man, was later located in Waukesha and taken into custody.
- In **Milwaukee County**- A 9-month old infant died six months after allegedly being abused by his father. The baby's father is in police custody. The baby was hospitalized at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in October with a severe head injury, multiple rib fractures, and a fractured wrist. The baby was released from the hospital after several weeks, and was enrolled in hospice.
- In **Dane County**- A body of a man was found in the parking lot of the East Towne Mall. Police were called to the mall near a construction site on reports of 2 people lying down in the parking lot. The man was pronounced on-scene, and the woman was found unconscious.
- In **Rock County**- The body of an unidentified male was found in the Rock River in the town of Beloit by a person walking along the bank. The body was discovered in about 5 feet of water, and recovered from the river by divers from the Rock County Sheriff's Department and police officers.
- In **Milwaukee County**- Two infants die over the course of one weekend and co-sleeping is suspected. A 5-month old infant boy was found unresponsive in bed with his twin sister, and died on-scene. A 2-month old infant boy died in the ER at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. He had been co-sleeping with his mother in an adult bed.
- In **Rock County**- An industrial accident at United Ethanol grain silo killed a 27-year old man. There were 140,000 bushels of corn in the silo during the accident, less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the silo's capacity of 680,000 bushels. The man had been found after 12 hours of searching. The incident remains under investigation.
- In **Ozaukee County**- A 41-year old woman was found hanging in her cell at the County Jail. She had been arrested on suspicion of battery charges and was being held in a single cell. She was not on suicide watch.
- In **Jackson County**- A 34-year old woman was killed. She was found dead after police were asked to do a welfare check at a residence. A 36-year old man is wanted in connection with the killing.
- In **Chippewa County**- Three people died and five were injured in a trailer home fire northeast of Holcombe. The fatalities included an 82-year old wheelchair bound man, a 22-year old man and a 5-year old boy.
- In **Winnebago County**- A 66-year old man was shot and killed by a Town of Menasha Police Officer. The police were called just after 5:00 p.m. for a man who was threatening to harm himself. When police arrived, the man was holding a long-barreled gun at the end of the apartment hallway and refused to drop his weapon and pointed it at the officers.

National Missing & Unidentified Persons (NamUs) @ University of North Texas Health Science Center- *No cost resources available for case management and forensic services*

It has been estimated that there are approximately 40,000 unidentified human remains in the offices of the Nation's medical examiners and coroners or were buried or cremated before being identified (see [Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains: The Nation's Silent Mass Disaster](#)). OJP's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), confirmed that, in a typical year, medical examiners and coroners handle approximately 4,400 unidentified human decedent cases, 1,000 of which remain unidentified after one year. (See the [Medical Examiners and Coroners' Offices, 2004](#) for the full report.)



The unidentified decedents database was initially created by the [National Association of Medical Examiners \(NAME\)](#), which is an NIJ grantee, with volunteer time and effort. In September of 2011, NamUs was awarded through a cooperative agreement to the [University North Texas Health Science Center](#) (UNTHSC) for system management and ongoing development. NamUs continues to support investigators across the country who seek to resolve challenging cases involving missing persons or unidentified remains.

When a missing person or unidentified decedent case is entered, the system automatically performs cross-matching comparisons between the databases, searching for matches or similarities between cases. The NamUs staff can provide forensic odontology, analytical services and fingerprint examination to support law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners, at no cost.

UNT Center for Human Identification also offers training and investigative support to resolve missing person and unidentified decedent cases across the United States.

- Coordinating UNT anthropology and DNA resources
- Providing nationwide missing and unidentified person training courses
- Developing and implementing missing/unidentified person protocols
- Providing case consultations and networks of resources to assist with investigations

Obtaining facial reconstructions of unidentified decedents from certified forensic artists with [Project EDAN](#)
Coordinating with [NamUs](#) to share information and resources

Performing analytical searches to locate family members for DNA collections and next of kin for death notifications

Another NamUs feature of interest to coroners/medical examiners is the **Unclaimed Persons database** (UCP). UCP contains information about deceased persons who have been identified by name, but for whom no next of kin or family member has been identified or located to claim the body for burial or other disposition. Only medical examiners and coroners may enter cases in the UCP database. However, the database is searchable by the public using a missing person's name and year of birth.

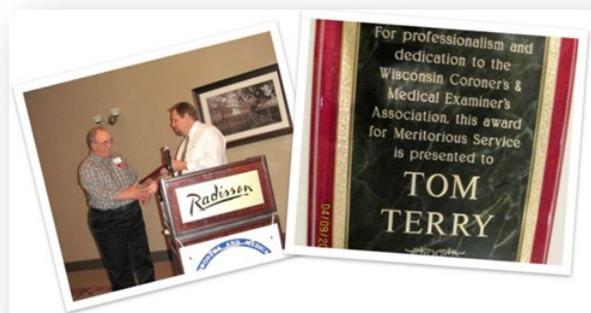
All of the above mentioned resources can be coordinated through the NamUs RSA (Regional System Administrator)

[NamUs Regional System Administrator Contact / Map](#)

For the region that includes Wisconsin, contact Lori Bruski- phone: 817-718-7904 or email Lori.Bruski@unthsc.edu

Lori Bruski, Regional Systems Administrator for National Missing & Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

The Meritorious Service Award



P.J. Schoebel, Dodge County Medical Examiner and President of the WCMEA, presented the “Meritorious Service Award” to Tom Terry on Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

The newly retired Tom Terry was honored for his leadership, tireless compassion, and years of dedicated public service for the Racine County Medical Examiner’s Office and the WCMEA.

Congratulations to Tom Terry on this great honor, and many thanks for all that he has done for the WCMEA, Racine County, and Wisconsin.

John Steers Retires

La Crosse County Medical Examiner, John Steers, recently retired. Steers, age 54, was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2009 which, despite aggressive treatment, has metastasized to his bone and spine.

John Steers has served the State of Wisconsin for over two decades as a paramedic and deputy Coroner for both Buffalo and Trempealeau Counties, before taking the position of Medical Examiner for La Crosse County in 1994. After 19 years, John Steers is recognized as La Crosse County’s longest serving medical examiner.



Steers has been a long-time member of the WCMEA and served on the board of directors. He has been a friend and mentor to many, as he served his community with compassion and dedication. Steers looks forward to traveling and spending time with his beloved family in his last two years.

On behalf of the WCMEA, I offer my gratitude to John Steers for his contribution to death investigation and tireless public service, and wish him well.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

National Association of Medical Examiners

2013 NAME Annual Meeting - Beer, Baseball and Bikes!

October 11-15, 2013 in Milwaukee, WI

www.thename.org for more information

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training

Saint Louis School of Medicine

September 9-13, 2013

www.medschool.slu.edu/mldi/ for more information

WCMEA—Fall 2013 Conference

October 14-16, 2013

Location to be determined in Manitowoc County

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner—New York

Medicolegal Investigation of Death Course

January 20-24, 2014

Applications will be accepted starting August 2013

For more info: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocme>

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

Voting for WCMEA Board of Director (BOD) Positions

Nominations for the upcoming elections will be accepted now through August 9, 2013. Nominate yourself or a colleague for the following Board of Directors (BOD) positions:

President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Trustee (3rd year).

To be a valid nomination, the following information must be included:



Date: _____

Your Name: _____

Name of Candidate: _____

County of Candidate: _____

Position: _____

Please send **all nominations** to Laurie Parisey, WCMEA Secretary, at emt1ocontofalls@yahoo.com.

For more information, please contact PJ Schoebel, pschoebel@co.dodge.wi.us, or visit the WCMEA website at www.wcmea.com.