



The Examiner

<http://www.wcmea.com>

Spring & Summer 2016



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Using Political Skill	1 & 2
Conference Updates	2
Fatal Occupational Injuries	3
Interesting Deaths	4 & 5
Tox Symposium	6
Training Opportunities	6
WSLH Forms	7
WCMEA Renewals	7
Online Course	8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hoping this message finds you well, and that you are able to find time to enjoy the summer months ahead! I want to first let you know of a couple of changes within the WCMEA board of directors: Al Klimek, first-year trustee, and Laurie Parisey, Secretary, have resigned from their positions. PJ Schoebel, Dodge County, and Kalynn Podoski, Brown County, have graciously accepted appointments for the respective positions.

The board of directors has decided to charge ahead in the next legislative session in a last attempt to get the coroner/medical examiner training bill introduced. The WCMEA lobbyists have been working diligently on a strategic plan, and need the support and assistance of the membership. Chris Lenzendorf has presented some useful information in the article featured below that I hope you will take to heart. As I receive new information, I will pass it along to you.

The 2016 Fall Conference & Annual Meeting is fast approaching, and time to start thinking about WCMEA Elections. Keep your eyes open for additional information regarding nominations and absentee voting. Please consider getting involved with your WCMEA!

-Jennifer

Using Political Skill to Maximize and Leverage Work Relationships

With election season upon us it means only one thing.....Frank and I will be attending endless fundraising events, golf outings and cocktail meet and greets. I know, I know it is very difficult work and is hard to ask for sympathy right? In reality I have found these unique times are when the battles of 2017 are won and lost, so we must not be complacent and have a sound strategy going in.

One of my favorite hobbies is reading, whether it be history or business, I enjoy non-fiction. Lately I have been reading books on personalities and how they relate to politics. I would like to share some of my findings as it will not only present our strategy for this election year but also provide some guidance for anyone in a leadership position.

Political skill may be defined as the ability to maximize and leverage relationships in order to achieve organizational, team, and individual goals (Ferris 2005)

When I spoke at the conference in April I briefly explained that there is a perception in the Capital that the WCMEA is an active association but not a large organization. To overcome this perception I believe it is important to align with other associations we share common interests with to increase political capital. We are currently working on this. Attending events is the perfect time to get to know legislators and their staffs in a very informal setting. This is where my recent reading will be relevant and provide our association with an opportunity.

ContinuedPage 2.



Using Political Skill Continued

I describe four distinct practices leaders can use to harness the positive effects of political skill:

Social Awareness—A leader’s ability to astutely observe others to understand their behaviors and motives. In even more simple terms this can be described as finding common ground. Over the past several years I have become friends with legislators and their staff’s because it was discovered we had common interests including kids, Packers etc. It is important to look at legislators as people and have empathy for the pressure they are under when in the Capital.

Sincerity—a leader’s ability to be forthright, open, honest, and genuine with others. This also means showing a genuine interest in other individuals. If anything Frank and I have possibly been too transparent, but we never want to be perceived to be manipulative or to have hidden motives.

Interpersonal Influence—a leader’s ability to influence and engage others using a compelling and charismatic interpersonal style. Specifically, attempts to influence others are usually successful due to their ability to put others at ease, establish rapport and communicate with others in positive ways.

Networking—a leader’s ability to build diverse relationship networks across and outside of the organization. Just as we enjoy expanding our networks, legislators would appreciate tapping into our networks to help the as well. I am always asking legislators for help so it makes me feel good to reciprocate when I can.

These principles may seem simple but when incorporated into an overall strategy they become powerful. I know this update is somewhat different than my usual political discussions but I hope it was insightful.

Chris Lenzendorf, WCMEA Lobbyist

Conference Highlights

The 2016 Spring Conference was held at the Chula Vista Resort in beautiful Wisconsin Dells from April 25, 2016 through April 27, 2016. There were 53 attendees who enjoyed presentations on topics ranging from opioid deaths and child abuse to the Columbine High School shooting and mass crime scenes.

DHS provided updates regarding SVRIS and offered helpful tips regarding usage and productivity. WCMEA Lobbyist Chris Lenzendorf provided crucial information regarding the 979 legislation. He detailed this last legislative session, and there was great discussion regarding how best to move forward as an association for the next session.

The WCMEA would like to thank Amanda Thoma, Green Lake County Coroner and WCMEA 1st Vice President, for all of her hard work and dedication in putting together a stellar program. Additional thanks to the staff at the Chula Vista Resort, as well as the many presenters and exhibitors for their time, hospitality and expertise.

The association would also like to acknowledge the following sponsors who generously supported the conference, making it a huge success: American Tissue Services Foundation, Elsevier Publishing, Lions Eye Bank, and RTI Donor Services.

The 2016 Fall Conference and Annual Meeting will be held October 24th - 26th at the Premier Best Western Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Neenah. Please mark your calendars!



Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Last month, President Obama declared April 28th as Worker Memorial Day. In 2014, 4,821 workers did not return home due to a fatal work-related injury. My job is to account for all these deaths which occur in Wisconsin, and to help determine which factors contributed to that death. Some days, it can be difficult to feel my work makes a difference. I wanted to list a few ways which I, along with my staff, help honor the dead and fight for the living.

- *We care about who died.* We read their obituaries, we see their photos, read about their hobbies, their lives, and the families and loved ones they leave behind.
- *We take the time to carefully investigate each case.* We read the detailed accounts of injuries, autopsy findings, toxicology reports, police investigative reports, and news articles to piece together what happened.
- *We make the information available to the public to use for preventing other serious or fatal incidents.* This data is so important. We not only list a number of work-related deaths, but also identify *why* they died. Those who have stewardship over the work environment can use this data to make educated decisions about how to protect workers from hazards seen and unseen.

As I compile this list, I realize the work we do in occupational fatalities parallels that of a CME. Coroners and medical examiners care about decedents, carefully investigate each case, and piece together what happened. You provide vital information for others to use, and in our case, to figure out how these workers died.

What we do matters. In simply doing our job, it brings attention to those who can't speak for themselves, and perhaps help one more person return safely home to their family.



Submitted by Rebecca Adams, MPH, Program Manager
BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Interesting Deaths in Wisconsin.....



- In **Kenosha County**- A man working for a land surveyor discovered human remains in the town of Paris. The death is being investigated as suspicious in nature. Identification has not been made.
- In **Langlade County**- An 18-year old man died following a shooting outside a high school prom. The man arrived at the Antigo High School prom with a rifle and began shooting while outside the entrance of the building, injuring two students as they exited the building. Officers who were patrolling the parking lot heard the shots, and one of the officers opened fire on the gunman. The man was taken to a nearby hospital where he later died. The man was believed to be the lone shooter. The two victims suffered injuries that were not life-threatening.
- In **Wood County**- A 36-year old man killed his two children, a 3-year old boy and a 5-year old girl, and then killed himself. Authorities were alerted at about 0300 hours when they took a report that a 36-year old man sent his brother a disturbing email which said goodbye to his family. When police entered the man's home with family members, they smelled a strong odor of natural gas and found the three bodies. All of the individuals died as a result of gunshot wounds. The incident remains under investigation.
- In **Marathon County**- A 42-year old man was shot and killed by police. The shooting happened after police were called to a domestic disturbance and found probable cause to arrest on related charges. An officer tried to arrest him; however, the man armed himself with a knife and the officer shot him. The man died at the scene. The shooting is being investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.
- In **Outagamie County**- A 28-year old woman was killed in a three-vehicle crash. The woman was thrown from her SUV, and an infant who was riding in a baby seat in her vehicle was taken to a Neenah hospital for precautionary reasons. A man who was driving a pickup truck suffered unspecified injuries and transported to a hospital in Appleton. The driver of a fuel truck that was involved in the crash was uninjured. The fuel truck was traveling east and stopped at the railroad tracks, as required by law. The pickup driver did not realize the fuel truck had stopped and swerved into the oncoming lane to avoid it. The SUV was heading west and swerved to avoid the pickup, got back onto the road, overcorrected and flipped.
- In **Dodge County**- An 88-year old woman died after a 3-car crash. A woman driving a Jeep on State 89 failed to stop for a stop sign at the intersection of Cty Hwy T and State 89. The Jeep struck a car, which was forced into the southbound lane of Cty Hwy T, which then struck a pick-up truck that was stopped at the posted stop sign. The passenger of the Jeep was taken by EMS to a local hospital and later transferred to the UW-Madison Hospital where she died. The crash remains under investigation.
- In **Shawano County**- Two people are dead after a one-vehicle crash. A 36-year old man was driving north on Cty Hwy H when he lost control of his vehicle, entered a ditch and hit several trees. The 36-year old driver and his 22-year old passenger both died from their injuries. The crash remains under investigation.
- In **Dane County**- A 38-year old man was shot to death at a gas station in Madison. The man was shot in the parking lot, and taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. Police are encouraging anyone with information regarding the shooting to call.

Interesting Deaths in Wisconsin.....

- In **Outagamie County**- A 40-year old man is dead following a duplex fire. Crews responded to the duplex after a passer-by reported the flames and smoke. By the time crews arrived, they saw heavy smoke and flames from the garage area and heavy smoke from the eaves of the home. Crews were unable to enter the front of the home. They went to the back and attempted entry, but were pushed back by the heat. After more firefighters arrived, crews were able to breach the front door and knock down the fire. Firefighters found the man on the floor in the living room. Crews were able to get the man to an ambulance and begin CPR. He was taken to a local hospital where he later died.
- In **Vilas County**- The body of a 47-year old woman was found on a hiking trail in Phelps. The woman was last seen riding her bike on a Sunday afternoon. Her shirtless body was found the following Tuesday. There were alcohol bottles and papers around the body. The death is considered suspicious and remains under investigation.
- In **Milwaukee County**- A partially decomposed body was found in a lagoon at Meaux Park. Some young boys playing in the park alerted adults about the gruesome discovery. The death remains under investigation.
- In **Racine County**- Three people died in a home explosion at a Burlington residence in a murder-suicide. Investigators revealed that the evidence suggests that a 41-year old man caused the death of his 43-year old girlfriend and her 17-year old son, and was responsible for the subsequent fire and explosion. The man and his girlfriend had been dating and living together for several years at the home. The couple had been involved in a domestic dispute, and as a result, the man was being kicked out of the home. The woman and her son had been staying at a hotel, but went to the home on the day of the fire to ensure that the man was packing his belongings and leaving the home.
- In **Milwaukee County**- A 9-year old girl was struck by a bullet that pierced a wall of her home on Milwaukee's north side as she watched television. The girl was shot during an exchange of gunfire between two groups armed with rifles and pistols after which police recovered more than 40 shell casings. The girl was transported to Children's Hospital where she died nearly two weeks later. Police are still searching for a green Jeep Cherokee whose driver may have more information regarding the shooting.
- In **Ozaukee County**- A 38-year old man was found dead inside a Grafton hotel after a standoff with police. Saukville Police had been called in the afternoon for a possible burglary. Officers believed that the man broke into a woman's house, held her at gunpoint and forced her to drive him around earlier that day. The woman was released unharmed. Grafton police noticed a car they believed to have been involved in the incident parked at the Hampton Inn. Police from both Saukville and Grafton attempted to reach the man. The officers attempted to make initial contact in the hotel and heard one shot. They went back to get additional equipment, tried to make a second contact and heard a second shot. SWAT moved in, but the man was found dead in the bathroom from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.
- In **Kenosha County**- The body of a 39-year old man was found burned on Simmons Island. Police and Fire Departments were called to Simmons Island by a passerby who noticed a brush fire in a wooded area just southeast of the entrance to the small boat harbor. The death remains under investigation.

Coroner and Medical Examiners Toxicology Symposium

On July 15, 2016 the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) will be hosting a free, one day symposium for individuals involved in death investigations in Wisconsin. Medical Examiners, Coroners and their deputies are invited to this exciting learning event, to network with their colleagues and meet the WSLH Toxicology Staff. Continuing education credits (5.75 credit hours) will be offered from American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI).

Symposium topics will include:

- High profile death investigation cases from the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner's Office
- Investigation of the toxicology-related death scene
- Postmortem investigation of heroin cases in Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Department of Health – Drug Overdose Trends and Statistics

The registration link for the symposium will be included in the email distributed by Lisa Hebl. If you have not received the email to register please contact the lab or follow the link below:

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6VRJhxgbODBE50N

Symposium location:

Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison, WI. (UW Madison Campus)

Lunch and Breaks will be provided

Registration deadline is July 7, 2016

One night's lodging on July 14, 2016 offered at no charge on a first come, first serve basis.

The WSLH is pleased to offer a tour of the laboratory on July 14, 2016 at 3:30 for anyone interested. See the Symposium registration to RSVP.

Please share this information with your staff and colleagues.

Please contact Diane Kalscheur or Lori Edwards with any questions at 608-224-6248.

Training Opportunities

Fall WCMEA Conference & Annual Meeting
Best Western Premier Bridgwood Resort
Hotel & Conference Center, Neenah
October 24-26, 2016

NAME 2016 Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, Minnesota
September 9-13, 2016

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course
St. Louis, Missouri
August 18-22, 2016
www.medschool.slu.edu/mldi

Free Online Forensic Training
National Institute of Justice
www.nij.gov/training

New Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) Sample Submission Forms

The new forms were mailed out mid-April and the feedback has been good. Thank you to Lisa Hebl of Vital Records for sending out an email with the notification of the new forms.

The forms have been in use for over a month and the WSLH would like to point out the following highlights:



- Ethanol analysis will be performed on all specimens received at the lab. If ethanol is the only test you require please note “EtOH only” on the form. Comprehensive drug testing will be performed on all blood and urine specimens if sample volume permits, no need to request qualitative or quantitative testing.
- Some fields of note when completing the forms include the draw site, collection date/time and Submitter Specimen ID. Draw site and collection date/time are required by our Laboratory Information System (LIMS) and if omitted the WSLH will call the submitter to obtain this information. The Submitter Specimen ID section is for your use – If you track your cases by number or have an autopsy number you want to reference with a specific case, that identifier will print on the laboratory report.
- Providing a complete medication history, including illicit drug use, case history and cause of death (if known) is always helpful in directing the testing process.
- Specimen volume is a new field, added to assist the laboratory in prioritizing testing. For a volume reference using the WSLH kits, the green top glass vials hold 30 mLs and the urine containers hold 60 mLs.

If you have not received the new submission forms or need additional forms please call the lab at 608-224-6248 and ask for Diane Kalscheur or Lori Edwards. The WSLH is working to create a fillable PDF submission form and will notify you when it’s available.

We appreciate your patience and feedback during this transition and remind you to please discard any old submission forms you may have.

Submitted by Diane Adler Kalscheur, Advanced Chemist WI State Laboratory of Hygiene

WCMEA Memberships!

It’s that time of year once again! Please watch for the 2016-2017 WCMEA membership invoices via email or USPS. Membership dues are due on July 1st.

PLEASE renew your membership applications if you have any changes. Remember to print legibly, and to send the application along your remittance to Rory Groessl, WCMEA Treasurer.

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WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE PRESENTS

An Online Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course



Providing basic training for new investigators, and for those interested in working as a death investigator. The instructor for this class is Mary Ricci. She is a registered death investigator by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators since 2008 and is the medical examiner for Barron County. Ms. Ricci is the 2nd Vice President for the Wisconsin Coroners and Medical Examiners Association. She brings many years of EMS instruction and death investigation experience with her into the classroom. For further information contact Mary Ricci, D-ABMDI, at 715-822-4040 or email: mary.ricci@co.barron.wi.us.

Registration For the Fall Semester Begins June 13, 2016

Class size will be limited to 24 students

Register by calling 800-243-9482 or 715-234-7082, Ext. 5045.

Course number is 67105

Approved for 40 ABMDI credits