



The Examiner

<http://www.wcmea.com>

Spring 2018



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Death Investigators!

As we enter spring, I realized how time has slipped by. I've also realized the magnitude of time the position of president of the WCMEA encompasses. Quite the eye-opener! Preparing to write a president's message always finds me at a loss for words. I'm not entirely certain as to why because many of you are aware I like to talk. First I'll apologize for the delay in newsletters as many of us involved have had increased caseloads that prevent us from our due diligence. I being one of them.

This past year the Board of Directors of the WCMEA has brainstormed many issues. Anticipated website changes, conference changes, ethical issues, and the ever-daunting legislative dilemma. As I am writing to you am also preparing a survey to be distributed via email. I hope the survey will attempt to garner information across the state to answer questions brought to me by members of the Association. I am strongly hoping that each of you will return your survey submission as your honest answers are what I am seeking.

So let me begin with the **WEBSITE** changes. The Board of Directors granted funding for revision and much-needed updates to the WCMEA website. In my death investigation tenure, the initial website was developed somewhere around the year 2005 and has not met the needs of current computerization. Members found it difficult to use, difficult login to, and difficult to navigate. Please bear with us during the process of transition from the old website to the new one.

The **WEBSITE** so many of you were accustomed to is no longer. You may have noticed as you attempted your online registrations. If you haven't attempted online registrations, online searching the WCMEA will bring up the new site. You will have to generate your new password to access the member side. The new website will allow you to reset your passwords. No more calling/emailing the webmaster to reset your access. The public side of the site will contain information strictly for public use. The member side is tailored to death investigators.

In the future **CREDIT CARDS** will be accepted for registration as well as purchases from the merchandise booth. Credit card use is slated for January 2019. Should we enable this capability earlier we will post that information for you on the website.

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President's Message Continued

ONLINE TRAINING! The Board of Directors has kicked around the availability of online training forms. The training would be limited to an ABMDI credit or two once the training is complete. We are in the process of evaluating this possibility and what it takes to initiate this type of forum. If you need credits in bulk, conference training is still the way to go. The new website will contain many more features that most 21st-century websites offer. STAY TUNED!

Speaking of merchandise, be sure to visit the merchandise table during future conferences. The Board of Directors discussed improving the clothing line as requests for a more "feminine approach" to outerwear had been brought to our attention. As we are seeing an increase in women investigators across the state, new clothing will be added to fit their needs as well as body structures. We will continue to retail our hoodies and other various comfort wear but are evaluating the sizes of goods available.

The Board of Directors also evaluated our conference training forms. We are attempting to centralize conference locations in the future. Many members have voiced their opinions that the conference sites are often out of reach for northern counties. As of late, conferences have been located at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. The resort has offered our association an excellent financial structure that fit the conference planning needs exceptionally well. The Board of Directors had to evaluate funding our organizational needs during a period in which our lobbyist funding was taking a great toll. As the future needs for a lobbyist will decline, the Board of Directors will begin evaluating different areas of the state for future fiscally responsible conference sites. As my previous tenure as conference planner/educational coordinator has shown, conferences can expend a budget thousands of dollars at a time.

A little later in this newsletter, we will address the WCMEA and our legislative bill. The nuts and bolts of the issue were our attempts at gaining a much-needed consistent education in an effort to promote the professionalism of our association. There has been a constant discussion throughout my term that the C/ME offices are greatly undervalued across the state. Many counties are abolishing the coroner system for a medical examiner system for a multitude of reasons. The biggest obstacle is the level at which the county boards value the "non-physician" death investigation offices. There are verbalized dilemmas regarding paying for the staffing of yourself and your investigators, the ability to purchase equipment and materials needed for investigations, even a basic understanding of the importance of the office. I have been told your discussions often fall on deaf ears until something catastrophic happens in your counties that then warrants a call for change.

A few of us wrote the articles published in the Wisconsin Counties Association magazine in hopes of initiating a change for the better. I had hoped the articles would enlighten those across the counties on just what it takes to be a death investigator in the state of Wisconsin. A great deal of what we need to improve on, is in the strength of our organization as a whole. We lost our ability to defend our regulating of fees to the funeral directors in a matter of days due to the strength of their organization. It was the "many against the few," and the institution of the 2015 fee billed costs our offices dearly. In the future, we will be limited in funding our existence because of limited revenues for services. Had our solidarity in a strong WCMEA entity been present, the outcomes could have been different. I cannot stress enough the importance of membership.

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President's Message Continued . . .

I also cannot stress enough the importance of **PROFESSIONALISM, EDUCATION, and CREDIBILITY**. I cannot begin to promote the need for education in this career or any other career for that matter. As many of you hold other jobs outside of the death investigation realm, those jobs are also accompanied by educational, in-services, and training to be competent in your profession. The profession of death investigation is no different. Stating "there is nothing wrong with the way we have done things for years" may be acceptable; however, it doesn't always mean there isn't room for improvement. There is always room to improve, and a stagnant mindset does not improve professionalism. Strive to learn something new every day, as the field of forensic death investigation is ever-changing and so must we.

Lastly, I want to touch on **ETHICS**. Ethical behavior is always a soul-searching endeavor. Recently I have been challenged with some ethical issues regarding members across the state of Wisconsin. Some have related to public behavior, others related to behavior during investigations. Some of this behavior has soured members from attending WCMEA functions. An effort to professionalize WCMEA functions, the appointment of a WCMEA Ethics Committee will become standard, and those committee appointments will be evaluated at each election term. As we progress an effort to promote professionalism, members must be cognizant of ethical behavior in their offices, on-scene investigations, and at WCMEA functions. We are public servants, and the public is watching.

In closing, I want to say I appreciate all of you. You are a super group of people who have chosen a thankless job. I wish to thank you for all of your relentless hours and dedication to this career. Here's to our future, let's make it the best! I thank you for allowing me to serve as your president of the WCMEA.

Regards,
Angela Hinze
WCMEA President

**IT IS YOUR TIME TO SHINE WCMEA!**

The Examiner is looking for interesting case investigations, as well as WCMEA members to highlight in future publications.

Please submit your case reports or personal entries to editor Jennifer Schroeter

Via e-mail:

jennifer.schroeter@kenoshacounty.org

Or via USPS to:

**Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office
1000 55th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140**



Connie Schoechert, Tissue Recipient

To Connie Schoechert, the orange dot on her driver's license symbolized her pledge to donate organs. But years later, she learned first-hand that donation isn't limited to the heart, lungs, kidneys, liver and pancreas.

Special gifts she received after two workplace accidents changed her life. They also helped increase her awareness of how the donation of tissue – bone, skin, valves, veins and tendons – can improve strength, mobility and independence for patients in need.

In 1994 while working at a paper mill, Connie slipped on some steps and fell, injuring her right leg. The company nurse said the impact separated the muscle from her femur and would take some time to heal. But healing didn't come.

Over the next two years, she experienced pain and difficulty walking, despite regular rounds of ultrasounds, physical therapy and home exercises.

Finally, Connie was diagnosed with chondroblastoma, a rare benign bone tumor that required surgery to remove. She was surprised to find out that small bone fragments were used to replace her damaged tissue, thanks to the generosity of a deceased donor.

"That really changed my idea of a donor," Connie says. "It's amazing that so many things can be used to make someone's life better."

Her experience with tissue donation didn't end there. In 1999, Connie, now working at a dry cleaner, fell victim to another accident. A press malfunctioned and pinned her left arm, badly burning her skin from the back of her hand to her elbow.

Connie once again found out about the healing power of tissue donation. Over the next year, she received two grafts to repair and restore the scars on her arm – one from her own skin and the other from donor skin.

Today, Connie lives a healthy lifestyle in Nekoosa, Wis., and enjoys hunting, fishing, snowshoeing and biking. She also is serious about fitness and adheres to a low-carbohydrate diet.

She says the journey was challenging and a lot of hard work. And she is grateful to those whose gifts helped her get her life back. "I haven't received a lung. I haven't received a heart" she says. "But the little stuff really makes a difference. The quality of life is still there."



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Tissue Recipient . . . *Continued*

What would she say to her donors? “A million times, thank you,” she says. “Thank you for the selfless act, for the little miracles that happen every single day.”

According to the Donate Life organization, each year there are approximately 30,000 tissue donors and more than a million tissue transplants. The need for donated tissue is steadily rising. While one organ donor can save as many as eight lives, one tissue donor can enhance and heal the lives of more than 75 people.

Submitted by Joyce Kratz, Donate Life

Deputy Medical Examiner Tom Miller Retires After 41 Years of Service

Tom Miller was recently recognized by the County Board for his many years of service to the Walworth County Coroner's Office and Medical Examiner's Office.

Mr. Miller started his career with Walworth County in 1976. He had served as Chief Deputy Coroner under the late John Griebel for 37 years and as a Deputy Medical Examiner in the Medical Examiner's Office since 2015. County Administrator David Bretl thanked Mr. Miller for his years of faithful service to Walworth County. According to Bretl, “Tom had the confidence of John Griebel for many years. After John's passing, Tom was instrumental in making a smooth transition to the medical examiner system.”



Medical Examiner Dr. Lynda Biedrzycki offered her appreciation for Mr. Miller's years of dedication to the office. Deputy Medical Examiner Gina Carver added “Tom brought a great deal of experience to this office, and along with his compassion for the families he served, we cannot thank him enough for his years of service to Walworth County.”

To honor the wishes of recently retired Deputy Medical Examiner Ron Wilson to keep his departure low key, the office also wants to thank Ron for his over 43 years with Walworth County (15 of those with the Medical Examiner's Office). They are wishing him much luck on the golf course!

On behalf of the WCMEA I offer my congratulations to Tom Miller and Ron Wilson!

Legislative Update

Legislative Update- As the legislative session is now officially in the books, it is with great regret that the WCMEA Training Standard Bill did not pass the Senate or even reach the floor for a vote. For the second session in a row the Bill passed the house unanimously on a roll call vote but stalled in committee in the Senate.

I have never been a believer in excuses, so I certainly will not start now. Reflecting on the over twenty years that this subject has been discussed within the association and the Capital it is difficult to triangulate one decision that produced the aforementioned result. I will never believe the merits of the Bill were the impediment, rather a continuous string of unfortunate events that had nothing to do with the Bill or the Association. Some will call it politics, but I would argue that is an oversimplification of the events that occurred.



What cannot be diminished is the work and passion that was put on full display through the process by many people. Rep. Michael Schraa was an unstoppable champion for the Association as he continued to apply amendments to appease individual legislators until the final hours of the session. Others from the association also selflessly volunteered their time and efforts with no other agenda than to professionalize the death investigator industry.

I recently accepted a job as President of Aqua Innovations, a manufacturing company located in southern Wisconsin, that manufactures equipment for large dairy farms. I will continue to lobby on behalf of the company on environmental and dairy issues, but no longer will have any clients outside of the company. I sincerely loved representing and educating the State on the importance and the role of death investigators. I was often advised by my colleagues in the Capital to remain neutral as to not make waves with any particular politician, even at the expense of the client. Going through the motions for job security has never been in my nature. To me the responsibility of representing the association meant always remaining professional and diplomatic, but also willing to engage in uncomfortable conversations to ensure the association had a real voice on issues. I had difficulty allowing untruths to remain the focus over truth, so these conversations were sometimes necessary. As I failed on this issue, it is important to me that the members understand they had someone representing them that was willing to put the associations agenda ahead of any potential professional advancement. I am the benefactor of many lifelong friends as a result of representing the WMCEA and for that I am forever grateful!

On Wisconsin!

Chris Lenzendorf



Wisconsin Coroner's and Medical Examiner's Association

*Registration Form June 2018 Conference in Wisconsin Dells, WI -
Conference Dates June 11, 12, and 13*

Name & Title: _____

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Email: _____

FEES: Early Bird Prior to April 30, 2018: _____ \$150.00 Member _____ \$175.00 Non-Member

Full Conference After May 1, 2018: _____ \$250.00 Member _____ \$275.00 Non-Member

Single Day: *Indicate The Individual Day You Wish to Attend:*

Monday: _____ \$125.00 Member _____ \$150.00 Non-Member

Tuesday: _____ \$125.00 Member _____ \$150.00 Non-Member

Wednesday: _____ \$50.00 Member _____ \$75.00 Non-Member

I WILL ATTEND THE BOD MEETING SUNDAY EVENING: _____

Annual WCMEA Banquet Tuesday Evening: Indicate if you plan to attend: ____ Yes ____ No

If bringing a guest: # of guests _____ x \$25.00 each = _____ (please enclose payment)

The conference is being held at: **Chula Vista Resort & Water Park**
PO Box 30, Hwy 13 North
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

The WCMEA has a block of rooms reserved for the conference. Please call (844) 837-3828 to reserve a room from the block at a Government rate of \$82.00. Use booking code #F99686. Reservations need to be made **NO LATER THAN May 9, 2018**. After that date, the block of rooms will be released and there is no guarantee that a room will be available.

C/o Rory Groessl, Treasurer

50 Villa Heights Court, Algoma, WI 54201

Make checks payable to: **WCMEA**

Early Bird Registration (prior to April 30, 2018) Full Rate deadline is May 20, 2018

*No refunds for cancellations after June 1, 2018. For additional questions, please contact: Chris Nehring @
christopher.nehring@sheboygancounty.com (920) 892-4917*

Portage County Case Review

On August 15, 2016 at 06:32 AM, Amherst Ambulance along with fire rescue and Portage County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a beef farm in rural south eastern Portage County for a man found down. Initial reports were a 29 year old male was found unresponsive laying alongside an open manure retention pond. Responders, while in route, found travel to the scene to be difficult due to a heavy ground fog that was in the area. Upon their arrival, responders were led to the subject who was lying supine, head downward on a steep concrete embankment. His head, while at the liquid line, was not submerged, however, liquid manure had been splashed over most of his upper torso, face and head. Upon evaluation it was determined that resuscitation efforts were not going to begin. The coroner's office was notified.

While responding to the scene, I too noted the ground fog was heavy and travel time was reduced. Upon my arrival, I was met by deputies and a number of family members and farm workers. I was shown the body of Mike, 29-year-old male, who had not been moved prior to my arrival. He was lying as previously described. Mike is a co-owner with his father of this large beef cattle operation. He had told his father the night before that he was going to be getting up at 05:00 AM to agitate the manure holding pond with an augur attached to a power take-off of a tractor. They had manure haulers coming in at 06:00 AM to pump and haul liquid manure from the pond. The first arriving farmhand found Mike as described. The tractor and augur were still running, they were shut down, 911 was called.



This manure storage structure is a large, outdoor, in-ground 400-foot X 150-foot concrete basin with sloped side-walls. It is approximately 15-feet deep at its deepest point. The basin collects and stores manure, rain-water and other runoff from adjoining concrete pads where up to 800 head of cattle may gather. The basin was approximately two-thirds full at the time of this incident. Stagnant, the basin develops a 6-12 inch crust on top. The tractor and augur are used to break up the crust and allow the liquid manure to be pumped onto awaiting tanker trucks.

The scene was well documented with photography and measurements. The body was placed into a transport pouch and transported into our morgue. At the time it was unknown what may have happened, or what the cause and manner of death was, but environmental gas exposure was being considered. External examination did not show any signs of trauma, his upper torso, face, and head was covered with splattered manure. Mike was never submerged; however, his head was right at the liquid line. Airway was clear and not involved with the same liquid sprayed manure found externally. Medical records were obtained; and Mike had no significant medical history and was on no medications.

While in the morgue, Mike's father, Bob, called to inform me that he had just discovered 13 dead steers and three steers that were unable to stand and walk in the pen adjacent to the holding pond. Those three were later euthanized. I returned to the farm and noted the dead cattle. In reviewing the photographs that had been taken of the scene and body, in the background you can see and identify several downed cattle. These had not been noticed at the time the photos had been taken. I quickly realized we were probably dealing with an environmental gas exposure.

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I returned to my office and called the National Weather Service in Green Bay, Wisconsin and requested their weather data for the area between 05:00-07:00 AM. They stated that the wind was calm, temperatures at 54 degrees Fahrenheit, relative humidity at 97-100%. They indicated that there was a “strong temperature inversion in the area” with warmer air 1000-1300 feet above ground level. This, of course, accounted for the heavy ground fog in the area as noted by responders.

I contacted UW-Madison Pathology, UW-Madison College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, and UW Extensions services for consult and procedures for determining the effects and final diagnosis of a lethal gas exposure. I was referred to several people in Ag Sciences who immediately became interested in this investigation. I was told that it is a very rare occurrence for an open air manure retention pond to create enough gas exposure to cause death. They indicated that the most probable gas would be Hydrogen Sulfide, H₂S. I phoned and spoke with the chief toxicologist at NMS Labs who informed me that they could test for H₂S and requested that I draw both blood & vitreous and gave me packaging instructions.



When I returned to the morgue to draw, I noted a very large “foam cone” had developed coming from Mike’s nose and mouth. This was most probably caused by pulmonary edema, indicating a pulmonary/respiratory involvement.

Completed lab results showed a high Thiosulfate level in the blood of 9.2 mcg/ml. Literature shows normal levels to be less than 1.0 mcg/ml. In consulting with NMS forensic toxicologist, he indicated that lethal exposure to H₂S range from 4.6 to 13 mcg/ml and feels that this is a lethal level. I did rule the manner of death to be an accidental death caused from Hydrogen Sulfide exposure.

These results were shared with the UW Ag & Extension services along with their farm safety services. Since then, further studies and information were obtained showing the potential effects of open air manure retention pond when the scum crust is broken, releasing gases, and the environmental-weather factors of that day are involved. In essence, what was created was a confined space environment of which all farmers and first responders are aware and cautious of, not so much concern has been placed on open air ponds. This information is being widely distributed throughout the nation in the farming community, with guidelines being adopted and gas monitoring equipment recommended.

That being said, this is a concern that should be shared among our EMS, fire, law enforcement and death investigation professionals. All of us responding through the fog that morning and spending some time below ground level at the edge of the liquid line had no idea of the potential harm we were placed in. All EMS, fire/rescue, law enforcement along with death scene investigators should be made aware of this high potential. Proper precautions should be taken in working in this space, such as your agency would in a confined space environment. Please share with your local agencies.

***Submitted by Scott Rifleman, EMT-P, D-ABMDI
Coroner, Portage County, WI***

Interesting Deaths in Wisconsin.....



- **Dunn County-** The body of a 59-year old woman was recovered by the Dunn County Sheriff's Department rescue boat. The woman was last seen around noon two days prior to the discovery. Authorities believe that the woman entered the river and the death is being as self-inflicted.
- **Milwaukee County-** A 7-week infant girl died at a state-licensed child care center as the result of blunt force injuries. Two suspects, a 17-year old girl and 37-year old woman, have since been arrested in connection with the death. If the death is ruled a homicide, she would be the youngest homicide victim this year.
- **Jefferson County-** Two people died after an aircraft crashed into the Rock River. A 51-year old man and 16-year old boy were pronounced dead on scene. The aircraft took off from the Fort Atkinson Airport and landed in the river for unknown reasons. The aircraft was almost completely submerged in the water, with the two victims reportedly unconscious. According to authorities, people on a pontoon boat in the area at the time of the crash drove over and pulled the victims from the water. Live-saving measures were unsuccessful. The aircraft was classified as "experimental". It was designed for personal flying and does not fly faster than 75 mph.
- **Racine County-** A 4-year old boy died after drowning at Browns Lake. The sheriff's department had been dispatched just before 5:30 pm for a missing 4-year old boy. Authorities say the boy was there with a caregiver and several other children. The area was secured and sheriff's deputies began a search. The boy was spotted under water near the pier. The child was removed from the water and CPR was started immediately. The boy was transported to a local hospital where he later died.
- **Kenosha County-** Three men were killed in gang-related shooting. The shooting took place during an annual festival at the Great Lakes Dragaway. As many as 15,000 were at the track that evening. The suspect shot the men as they stood near a food vending area in the parking lot. Two men died on scene, the other was transported to a local hospital where he later died. The shooting remains under investigation.
- **Vilas County-** A 20-year old man was fatally shot by his 19-year old friend. Police responded to a disturbance at a residence in Eagle River, and discovered the 20-year old man with a gunshot wound to the chest. The man was transported to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead. The 19-year old man was arrested and booked into jail on a possible charge of homicide by negligent handling of a weapon.
- **Door County-** A woman died after the ATV she was driving rolled over after hitting a tree. Neither the woman nor her passenger were wearing a helmet. The passenger suffered minor injuries, while the woman died. Speed, alcohol, and inexperience were factors in the crash.
- **Sauk County-** A man died after falling 40 feet from a hotel balcony. He was seen standing on a stairwell pillar and jumped across the stairwell to the other pillar. The jump was apparently successful, but the man lost his balance and fell 40 feet to his death.

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Interesting Deaths in Wisconsin.....

- **Milwaukee County-** A 4 year-old boy was killed by his mother. The boy was found in a bath tub with thermal injuries, a bag over his head, and his arms bound by seven belts. Also found in the tub was the boy's pet guinea pig. Investigators found several searches pertaining to cannibalism on her computer. After killing her son, the mother jumped out a window. She was arrested hours later. She is being charged with first-degree intentional homicide.
- **Sawyer County** – Three bodies were found in a home in Radisson. The victims were 60 years-old, 61 years-old, and 4 years-old. The bodies were of a boy and his grandparents. Cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning, suspected to be caused by an improperly installed furnace.
- **Marathon County-** A 21-year old woman and 25-year old man were killed. The suspect tracked the woman, his fiancée, to a home in Abbotsford and shot her to death because he believed she had been cheating on him. The suspect shot and killed the man moments later, as he stood in the doorway. An 18-year old woman was in the house, and the suspect shot her as he left. She was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect left the scene and drove to his workplace where he called and left a message for his employer.
- **Racine County-** A 26-year old man was shot and killed by police. The man had been pulled over by police for not having a front license plate. According to authorities, the man stopped, then ran from the car before taking out a gun and aiming it at officers who then shot him. The man died while being transported to a hospital by paramedics. The Wisconsin Department of Justice is leading the investigation.
- **Ozaukee County—** A 29-year old man was killed in a late-night snowmobile accident on the Milwaukee River in the Town of Fredonia. The Sheriff's Department was called to the scene just before midnight. The man was lying in the snow about six feet away from the snowmobile. The Ozaukee county Sheriff's Department and DNR are working together to figure out what went wrong.
- **Sheboygan County–** A 47-year old man died in a shooting. The shooting occurred inside a private residence on the city's far northwest side. The man had gone to the residence armed with a handgun where he encountered and threatened a 46-year old family member inside the home. The two struggled over the gun at which time the 47-year old male sustained a gunshot to the leg. The victim was transported to a hospital where he later died.
- **Dane County–** A father and son died in an apparent murder-suicide. A 58-year old man and his 33-year old son were found in a bedroom of their single-family home on the far east side. Four shots were fired from a single semi-automatic gun. Emergency responders tried to resuscitate the men; they later died at a local hospital.
- **Milwaukee County–** A 49-year old woman was mauled to death by her dog. The woman was found by her son in the kitchen of her home. The woman had suffered multiple puncture and blunt force injuries on her arms and shoulders. A pit bull-type dog that appeared to be guarding her body became hostile with the son before he fatally shot the animal. Another pit bull-type dog and a Chihuahua-type dog were found in the residence and turned over to the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission.

Opioid Summit Highlights

August 9, 2017 marked the first Opioid Summit put on by the WCMEA at the Chula Vista Resort in the beautiful Wisconsin Dells. Funding for the event was made possible through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There were 150 people in attendance including coroners, medical examiners, and law enforcement officers.

State Representative Joel Kleefisch delivered opening remarks and briefly discussed current legislation in Wisconsin regarding the opioid epidemic. The topics covered the entire gamut of medicolegal death investigation . . . from understanding the opiate drug war, scene investigation and autopsy, to the struggles of toxicology testing, appropriately signing death certificates, and successful prosecutions.

Many thanks to WCMEA President, Angela Hinze, the State Vital Records Office, and all of the presenters for putting together a stellar event. The WCMEA would also like to thank the staff at Chula Vista Resort for their hospitality.



Training Opportunities

Summer WCMEA Conference & Annual Meeting

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

June 11-13, 2018

Medicolegal Investigation of Death

Dearborn Inn, Dearborn Michigan

May 16-18, 2018

Forensic Anthropology Institute

Short Courses

May 22-23, 2018

UW Oshkosh: Halsey Science Center

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course

St. Louis, Missouri

August 13-17, 2018

Free Online Forensic Training

National Institute of Justice

www.nij.gov/training

2018 Forensic Science Conference

September 27-28, 2018

Minneapolis, MN

Fall Conference Highlights

The 2017 Fall Conference & Annual Meeting was held at beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. There were 72 attendees who enjoyed presentations on topics ranging from forensic entomology and scene photography to forensic anthropology and firearm related deaths. Conference goers were also treated to a visit and demonstration by Dane County cadaver dog, Shiva, with handler Barry Irmen.

The election for the 2017-2018 WCMEA Board of Directors was held, and the results were revealed at the annual meeting. Congratulations are in order for the following:



President: Angela Hinze (Columbia County)
1st VP: Christopher Nehring (Sheboygan County)
2nd VP: PJ Schoebel (Dodge County)
Secretary: Kalynn Podoski (Brown County)
Treasurer: Rory Groessl (Kewaunee County)
Sergeant At Arms: Joe Morovits (Crawford County)
3-Year Trustee: Patty Schachtner (St. Croix County)
Member At Large: TBD
Past President: Jennifer Schroeter (Kenosha County)

The WCMEA would like to thank Amanda Thoma, Green Lake County Coroner and former 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 Osthoff 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, Blood Center of Wisconsin, Lions Eye Bank and RTI Donor Services.

Looking ahead . . . The WCMEA conference format will be returning to January/June. The next conference is set for June 11-13 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Look forward to seeing you there!

Jennifer Schroeter
Kenosha ME's Office
1000 55th Street
Kenosha, WI 53140
(262) 653-3869

WCMEA Suffers Losses

Peter Samb, Buffalo County Coroner, died on May 3, 2017 at May Health System in Eau Claire. He was a man with many talents, and wore many hats. He served in the military - serving his county in Vietnam. Samb was a Sergeant in the US Army Military Corp and a member of the 18th Military Police Brigade. In 1972, Samb began his career in law enforcement as a police officer, and later as a detective, in La Crosse. He attained accreditation as a Certified Fire Investigator, and continued his career as an arson investigator.

Samb also served as the Buffalo County Coroner from 2001 until his death.



Marcus "Mike" Jesse, former Shawano County Coroner, died on November 22, 2017 in Shawano. Jesse was a man of many talents. He began working as a part-time officer for the Shawano County Sheriff's Department in 1967. In 1969 he started work for the Shawano City Police Department until 1982 when he retired with the rank of Sergeant. In addition to his law enforcement experience, Jesse worked for the Shawano Ambulance from 1971 until 1981. He owned and operated a taxidermy business from 1982 until 1999. From there he transitioned to Shawano County Coroner. He remained Coroner until his retirement in 2015. During his career as Coroner, Jesse had served on the WCMEA Board of Directors.

On behalf of the WCMEA, I express my deepest sympathies to all the friends, family, and colleagues these great men leave behind.