

# The POST...A Forensic Publication



Volume 1, Issue 4  
Winter-2010

**Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender sympathies of its people, their respect for the law of the land and their loyalty to high ideals.**

**Gladstone**

## NYSACCME

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## President's Message by Scott M. Schmidt, CFSP Chief Coroner—Orleans County, New York

*I've been in Funeral Service since 1982. I've been an elected Coroner in my County since 1990. There are many things that have left an impact on me and my life over the years but only a certain few stand out.*

*Living in a small community is a blessing, but sometimes it can also be a curse. I'm sure you know what I mean. People find out things you wish they hadn't. People somehow know your every move and some can even tell you what you had for dinner last night. This same curse is often at the same time that blessing I spoke of first. You become close to people, you become part of a unique and extended family. You become part of that community....the community becomes your family as well.*

*This past week I had the honor of being part of my community. 24 year old Jason Johnston was killed in Afghanistan by an IED. Jason was a member of the Albion community. He was fighting for me, for my family, for our nation. His death was the first combat-related death of a serviceman in Orleans County since Vietnam.*

*As the family's chosen Funeral Director, I interfaced with the Army, Police, Fire, Patriot Guard, and many other people and agencies who came together as a family to honor this young man who died for our freedom. Being part of the community is something we do as part of our jobs, but is also something we should be proud of as well. I have NEVER been so proud of my community. My community...the one*

*who allowed 2400 school children to line the street and wave flags as the procession went past the school buildings. My community...the one that had nearly every flag lowered to half staff out of respect. My community...the one which came out in frigid temperatures and blowing snow to line the roads coming home from the airport to welcome home a hero. My community...people who will never forget the sacrifice so many people are making so that we may all speak our minds or write articles such as this. I've never been so proud to be part of a community...MY community. May you experience the love and the comfort of community in the New Year. God bless our Troops and God bless America!*



## REVISITING FALL 2009 CONFERENCE "Mass Fatality Response"

*Amidst the rolling hills of Monroe County, our Fall Conference was hosted by Dr. Caroline Dignan, Chief ME-Monroe County and her Chief Medical Investigator Robert Zerby. The Woodcliff in it's opulence was a perfect venue for our gathering. The topic of Mass Fatalities was again timely in that many of our members*

*had participated in such an event earlier in the year. Presentations were offered pertaining to Family Assistance Centers to the Morgue Operations following Continental Flight 3407. All 4 ME's from Erie County presented programs on that incident and Dr. James Woytash and his staff were presented with an token of*

*appreciation from DMORT Region 2 Commander Kevin Costigan. It was a tremendously informative and successful conference which attracted many new members as well. From the Officers and Board of Directors, THANKS Caroline and Bob for a job well done!!!*

# SPRING CONFERENCE – BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

## March 19-21, 2010



The NYSACCME Fall Educational Conference will be held March 19-21, 2010 in Binghamton, New York. The Binghamton Regency Hotel will be our conference venue and Dr. James Terzian, NYSACCME's Treasurer will be our conference host.

He has selected the topic of CHILDHOOD FATALITIES and has compiled a list of presenters that promises to be informative, riveting, and entertaining. Presentations will be

delivered ranging from Pediatric Homicide to Pediatric Organ Donation. From Pediatric Radiology to Pediatric Suicide and everything else in between.

Dr. John Prindle, Broome County Coroner, will be our dinner speaker and will present his acclaimed program on the American Civic Association Mass Murder/Suicide Mass Fatality Event.

We urge you to invite your Law Enforcement Colleagues as this

is a topic which touches many people, and unfortunately happens much too often. We must endeavor to investigate these cases properly for accuracy, but for the families left behind.

Remember, conference reservations and hotel reservations **MUST** be made through the NYSACCME OFFICE!

### CORONER 101 COURSE TO BE OFFERED AT SPRING CONFERENCE

The Spring 2010 NYSACCME Educational Conference in Binghamton, New York will be preceded by a Coroner 101 Course.

This Course, put together by NYSACCME Board member and Broome County Coroner Dr. John Prindle, has been scheduled for Friday, March 19, 2010 at the Binghamton Regency from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

This Course is a tremendous opportunity to assist you to hone your investigation skills and to brush up on the basics of Medico-Legal Death Investigation. It is designed to give the newly-elected Coroner some basic skills to accept and process his/her first case.

This is also a great opportunity for those associated with our profession to learn about what

we do, how we do it, and why we do it. Registration fee is IN ADDITION to that of our conference.

If you know of a colleague that may be interested in attending, this entire packet is available on our website: [www.nysaccme.org](http://www.nysaccme.org)



### NYSACCME MISSION STATEMENT



The Mission and Goals of the NYSACCME are to assist in advancement of Forensic Science and its application to death investigation by providing education to those who interact during a death investigation. We strive for the improvement of quality in death investigations in NY State and the advancement of support by the

State of NY, as well as County and Local governments for the death investigators. By organizing Coroners and Medical Examiners throughout the State, we support promulgation of standards for death investigation. We hope to maintain a greater quality of death investigation by accrediting our membership via training, and we

strive to assist with the writing of new laws and/or changing of old laws by maintaining liaison with legislative bodies, representatives, and the State DOH. We are **ACTIVISTS** for Forensic Science.

## NY SEMO and OHS to offer Mass Fatality Class



(ALBANY)

The New York State Emergency Management Office and the New York State Office of Homeland Security is preparing to offer a 2-day Mass Fatality Course. This is the original course put together by FEMA.

The course is going to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Utica, New York and will be limited to approximately 30 registrants. The dates for this first offering will be March 16 and 17 of 2010...the week just prior to our



conference.

There are plans in the works for a second offering of this same course in the Fall of 2010, but information is still sketchy about that.

This course is designed for Public Officials, Public Health personnel, Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Coroners, Medical Examiners, and other people involved with Emergency Operations.

NYSACCME President Scott Schmidt has been asked to participate on the faculty for this

program along with NYSP Inspector David McBath...a frequent speaker at NYSACCME and a co-author of the class.

For more information visit the NY SEMO website and click on the link that takes you to the Training and Exercise section.

## NYSACCME FALL 2010 CONFERENCE

NYSACCME will be holding the Fall 2010 Educational Conference in Syracuse, New York. Our host for this conference will be the former Chief Medical Examiner of Onondaga County, Dr. Mary Jumbelic.

We have already secured a contract for one of the nicest properties in the Central New York Region and

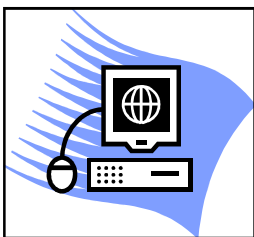
NYSACCME is pleased to announce that the Fall 2010 Educational Conference will be held at the Genesee Grande Hotel.

The Genesee Grande Hotel has 159 rooms and luxury suites. All rooms have cable television, high speed internet access as well as Brazilian granite baths. Each room is also finally appointed with elegant living areas.

Dr. Jumbelic is diligently working on her program as of the date of this publication. Watch for details in mid-Summer and make plans now to attend the Fall Conference in Syracuse, September 17-19, 2010.



## OUR WEBSITE – [www.nysaccme.org](http://www.nysaccme.org)



[www.nysaccme.org](http://www.nysaccme.org) is the address of our home-page. The Website committee is still working and the site is currently under construction, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. In the near future, visitors will have the ability to purchase selected merchandise from an all-new Coroners

Store.

NYSACCME members will have an area to pose professional questions. Further, the ability to join the Association, renew membership, and register for conference will be available on-line.

The map of Counties and mem-

bers is almost complete. NYSACCME Administrative Assistant Susan Ernst is working with the webmaster to finalize all changes and to master the art of updating the website on our own...as needed.

## HELP NYSACCME GROW...BECOME MORE INVOLVED

There are many activities and tasks throughout the year that the Board members toil over to keep the Organization running smoothly. With a membership base on the rise, those 'chores' will also continue to increase. In an effort to take advantage of the, "...many hands make light work..." saying, a list of committees is listed here in hopes that you...NYSACCME members, will join the effort to keep NYSACCME moving forward smoothly. Please con-

tact Pres. Schmidt or NYSACCME Admin. Assistant Susan Ernst to VOLUNTEER for the following committee work.

***Conferences, Accreditation, By-Laws, Education/ Training, Finance, Community Relations/PR, Executive Oversight, Community Outreach, The Post, Website, Legislative, Sunshine Fund***

Currently, Dr. James Terzian is Chairing a committee on Drug Disposal Policies. Any infor-

mation in this area is greatly needed as there does not seem to be a standard among Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Law Enforcement Officials. Contact Dr. Terzian with information:  
JTerzian@Lourdes.com

NYSACCME needs your email address. Please include it on your membership and conference registration forms so we can have up-to-date member information. We DO NOT and WILL NOT sell our email lists to companies and outside agencies for solicitation of products and/or services. You can also just reply to:

nysaccme@rochester.rr.com

## THE CORONERS STORE—NEW AND IMPROVED



NYSACCME has been so blessed over the years to have dedicated individuals such as Gary Boardman, Jack Taylor and Charlie Smith to serve as managers of our Coroners Store.

The manager of our 'store' has been a thank-less job that required hours of prep-work before, during and after confer-

ence to transport, manage and maintain the inventory of the store. With time at a premium and commitment for people to focus on their primary jobs paramount, it has become too much of a 'hazard' for members to volunteer this service to NYSACCME.

A new Store has been fashioned and the manager will be John Tyler from Crime Scene Clean-

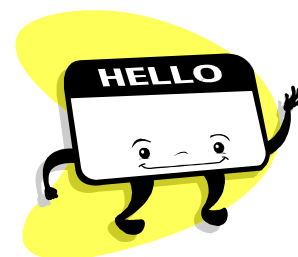
Up, Inc. John will incorporate our inventory into his and will be in charge of the store operations with guidance from 1st VP Riles. NYSACCME will get a percentage from the sales and have NO OVERHEAD! Thanks John for stepping up!

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES...HOSTS NEEDED

We're in good shape. NYSACCME has volunteer conference hosts through Fall of 2011. Looking ahead, we'll be in Syracuse in the Fall of 2010, in Watkins Glenn in the Spring of 2011 and either back in Lewiston or Buffalo in the Fall of 2011. It's not too early to start making plans for the Spring of 2012.

Being a conference host is very rewarding and aside from SUGGESTING a hotel, the host duties revolve around selecting a topic, securing speakers for the weekend, and if comfortable ...introducing the speakers at conference. NYSACCME coordinates all the details with the hotel, and arranges for the meals and lodging of our speak-

ers if needed. ALL NYSACCME speakers come to us at no cost. If interested in hosting, please contact the NYSACCME office at 585-589-5410.



**N.Y.S.A.C.C.M.E.**

New York State Association of County Coroners  
and Medical Examiners

**BUSINESS OFFICES**

**4721 Pine Hill Road  
Albion, New York 14411**

We're on the web!!

[www.nysaccme.org](http://www.nysaccme.org)



SAVE THE DATES FOR SPRING 2010 CONFERENCE

*CORONER 101 TUTORIAL—Friday, March 19*

*SPRING CONFERENCE—Saturday, March 20—Sunday, March 21*

**True or False? Only the wealthy can make a significant gift to NYSACCME.**



**FALSE!** Interestingly, the wealthy are less likely than others to give. Many of our supporters are not wealthy, but are interested in making a sizeable donation to support NYSACCME and its efforts in Medico-Legal Death Investigation Education. But to be practical, they must maintain their current income and cash flow levels. They want to give, but aren't sure how to give wisely. A planned gift to NYSACCME is a wonderful way to make a differ-

ence in the Educational efforts of your organization while also enhancing your own financial and estate plans. Bequests, trusts, gifts of life insurance, and retirement assets—these giving vehicles can benefit you regardless of your level of wealth. And, with a planned gift, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have truly made a difference in the future of Forensic Science. Why not remember NYSACCME in your will or estate planning

or with an outright donation now, to ensure that your interests in NYSACCME will endure through the years. Your attorney and/or financial advisor can help you with the options available to you. NYSACCME is a Not-for-Profit Organization and your gift is tax deductible. Thank you.