

The POST...A Forensic Publication



Volume 1, Issue 11
Summer 2013

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

4721 Pine Hill Road
Albion, NY 14411
(585) 589-5410

www.nysaccme.org

nysaccme@rochester.rr.com

Susan J. Ernst
Administrative
Assistant

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

Make it work, somehow!

Often times I ask my colleagues why haven't they renewed their NYSACCME membership or why haven't I seen them at one of our conferences in a while. More often than not they reply, "...the County doesn't pay for me to go anymore," or "...because of budget tightening, they won't cover our membership in the organization." While costs are rising and everyone is trying to stretch the most out of each dollar, some things are necessary to maintain the quality of the job you're tasked to do. Training and continuing education in your chosen field is just an example of what I mean.

Aside from the networking opportunities at Conference Weekends, NYSACCME provides a level playing field for all Medical Examiners, Coroners, MLI's, OPO staff, Law Enforcement, Legal Professionals, Funeral Directors, and EMS personnel to learn and share critical information and the latest investigative techniques and services with each other...without regard to what credentials you have or don't have. The information and those techniques and services as well as important resource contact information are vital tools for each of us to use and perform our jobs properly. If your County doesn't cover the expense for you to belong and/or attend Con-

ference, that's unfortunate. However, you still need those updates and new information to stay on top of your 'game' so to speak. It is YOUR responsibility to be adequately trained to do your job correctly. I consider it an HONOR to serve in my position. It's a serious undertaking to provide that SERVICE to my community and fellow mankind. And, it's my DUTY to do the best job I can do and to obtain as much information and training available to maintain the integrity of my Office. YOU have to make it work, somehow!

My wife's Grandfather died in April at the age of 93. "Opa" served as a Crew Chief and Propeller Specialist in the Army Air Corps 79th Fighter Group. He was serving in North Africa during WWII and became hampered in the field because they didn't have the proper equipment in Theater to change the aircraft tires when it became an urgent need to do so. With the problem becoming more and more prevalent, "Opa" along with a fellow Staff Sgt., worked with a lot of abandoned materials ON THEIR OWN TIME, to design and fashion a screw-press device for speedily removing tires. Because of this "in-the-field" invention, injury to tubes and casings, (as was likely to happen using the old method,) was eliminated. As

a result of using what material he could find, using the tools he was given, taking some personal initiative and doing it on his own time, "Opa" and his Unit received the Distinguished Unit Badge following a Presidential Citation for duty supporting the British Eighth Army troops during the North African Campaign. "Opa" received the Bronze Star for developing this time and material saving device for changing tires of the P-47 Aircraft.

The next time you choose not to come to Conference or attend a seminar because your County won't pay for it, ask yourself about your DUTY to do the best job you can and to receive as much education and training about and for your job as you can. Ask yourself how serious you are about the SERVICE you provide to your community and fellow mankind. And ask yourself if it's an HONOR to serve in your capacity as Coroner or Medical Examiner or are you just a place-holder.

Thank you Staff Sgt. David H. Schuth for your service to our Nation and for imparting upon us, by your ACTIONS, that HONOR, SERVICE, and DUTY are not just mere words.



N.Y.S.A.C.C.M.E.
New York State Association of County Coroners and Medical Examiners

BUSINESS OFFICE
4721 Pine Hill Road
Albion, New York 14411

We're on the web!!
www.nysaccme.org



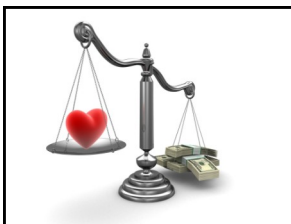
FALL 2013 CONFERENCE – September 20 - 22, 2013

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 it's 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-

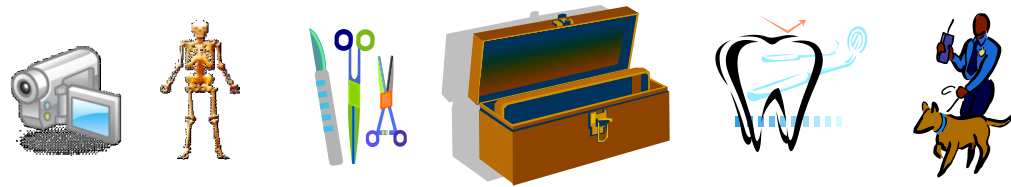
ence in the Educational efforts of your organization while also enhancing your own financial and estate plans. Bequests, trusts, gifts of life insurance, and retirement assets—these giving vehicles can benefit you regardless of your level of wealth. And, with a planned gift, you will have the satisfaction 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.



Kevin Henderson, Ontario County Coroner is the conference host for the Fall 2013 NYSACCME Conference. The theme is

"Tools of the Trade"



As the theme states, I have attempted to put together some of the leading experts in their field to present topics that will help us in the performance of our duties as it relates to death investigations.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Dirkmaat will be presenting Forensic Anthropology and Crime Scene Archaeology. Richard "Dick" McEvoy Jr. is a respected expert in the field of Forensic Imaging. He has presented to numerous organizations around the country and will give us the needed "tools" that will assist us in proper photo documentation and the latest photography and Imaging technology. I am also excited to announce that we will have Jen Reschke, who is the coordinator with Western New York Search Dogs presenting along with her partner, K-9 Cooper who is certified in human remains detection. They will be giving us a demonstration that should prove to be another great "tool" to have. Other topics include Forensic Odontology, presented by Ray Miller, DDS, Completing the Death Certificate, Family Assistance Committee, with the NYSFDA, Dr. Callery who always finds a way to add humor to a difficult topic and Dr. Granger with the Monroe County Medical Examiners Office.

The conference is being held in the newly renovated RIT Inn and Conference Center in Henrietta, NY. I encourage you to take advantage of the Finger Lakes Region while you are here for the conference. Go on one of the many wine trails or visit one of the lakes in the region, you will not be disappointed. If you are a golfer bring your clubs, we have several outstanding golf courses that can test your skills.

Directions to RIT Inn and Conference Center

From the Rochester International Airport

Turn right onto Brooks Avenue.
Veer right onto I-190 South to Exit 12 - Route 253 (Lehigh Station Road).
Turn right onto Route 253.
Turn left onto Route 15 - West Henrietta Road.

From the North

Take I-190 South to Exit 12 - Route 253 (Lehigh Station Road).
Turn right onto Route 253.
Turn left onto Route 15 - West Henrietta Road.
Travel 1/2 mile and the RIT Inn and Conference Center will be on your right.

From the South

Take I-190 North to Exit 12 - Route 253 (Lehigh Station Road).
Turn left onto Route 253.
Turn left onto Route 15 - West Henrietta Road.
Travel 1/2 mile and the RIT Inn and Conference Center will be on your right.

From the East

From Route I-90, The New York State Thruway, travel to Exit 46.
Follow signs for I-190 North
IMMEDIATELY exit onto Route 253 (Lehigh Station Rd).
Turn left onto Route 253.
Turn left onto Route 15 - West Henrietta Road.
Travel 1/2 mile and the RIT Inn and Conference Center will be on your right.

From the West

From Route I-90, The New York State Thruway, travel to Exit 46.
Follow signs for I-190 North.
IMMEDIATELY exit onto Route 253 (Lehigh Station Rd).
Turn left onto Route 253.
Turn left onto Route 15 - West Henrietta Road.
Travel 1/2 mile and the RIT Inn and Conference Center will be on your right.

CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP

The Board of Directors has sadly accepted the resignation as NYSACCME Treasurer from Michael Speer. Mike has been a long-time member of NYSACCME and a great asset to our Association not only as a Board member, but as our Treasurer...working in concert with Susan Ernst, our Administrative Assistant, to create and maintain accurate and up-to-date financials for us. He will be missed for his enthusiasm and concern for NYSACCME as an Officer, however, he has assured us that he will continue participating in the Association and at conferences when able to do so and if an At-Large Board seat becomes available or one which includes his County, he would be interested in re-joining us as a Board member in the future. He also will be training and transitioning our newly appointed Treasurer into his said role...which is a most appreciated gesture!! Thanks Mike for all your work and dedication! With that said, Dr. Richard Tesoriero has been appointed as NYSACCME Treasurer. Richard has belonged to NYSACCME for many years and has been a faithful attendee of conferences as well. He is Deputy Coroner in Oswego County. Richard, as well as all the other Board of Director appointments, will have to run for election this fall when the Officers will also run again. Welcome Richard and thank you for answering the call! Greg Oakes, our Legal Counsel, has been appointed to a 'real' Board seat. He will be filling the vacant seat which was held by R.B. Lawrence. Greg is Coroner of Oswego County and will also remain on the Board as our "Legal Eagle". Thanks for continuing to serve with us Greg.

Dr. Deb Johnson, Medical Examiner in Onondaga County, has accepted the position left vacant when Dr. Mary Jumelic resigned due to illness. We welcome Deb to our family and look forward to her further participation in NYSACCME as a Board Member. Rounding out the slate of Board of Director members is Kevin Henderson, Ontario County Coroner, who will be filling the slot which will be vacated by Dr. John Cooley as of June 1st. Kevin has been a member of NYSACCME for many years and is also a Funeral Director and DMORT member. A special thank you to Dr. Cooley for serving so faithfully on the Board and serving as the Chair of the Sunshine Fund! Dr. Cooley is taking a more active role in his Church life and needs to dedicate more time to that effort. Thank you so much John, for all you have done and for your friendship over the years. There have also been some re-appointments of Special Directors. Bob Bready will be representing the MLI's, Joan Burke will be representing the Organ/Tissue Procurement Agencies, and Scott Mason will be representing the Funeral Director contingency. All three have agreed to serve another 2-year term which is a Presidential Appointment and we thank them for agreeing to serve. We welcome back Bob Bready and thank him for his service to our Nation while serving overseas! Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to service on the NYSACCME Board.

SAVE THE DATES

Spring 2014 Conference – March 21-23 - Syracuse

Fall 2014 Conference – September 19-21 - Ellicottville

Spring 2015 Conference – March 20-22 - Owego

Fall 2015 Conference – September 18-20 - Lewiston

Spring 2016 Conference - March 18-20 - Watkins Glen

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NYSACCME Treasurer Change

Earlier this spring, NYSACCME Treasurer Mike Speer submitted his resignation to the Board of Directors as Treasurer of our Association. With increasing responsibilities in the workplace and time constraints on the personal and professional front, he felt that the time needed to fulfill the obligations as NYSACCME Treasurer would be lacking and that at this time in his life, he needed to step out of that particular role.

Mike has been a long-time member of NYSACCME and served as a Board Member prior to being elected Treasurer. His attention to detail combined with his enthusiasm for the position and NYSACCME in general, combined with the natural energy that exudes from his persona made him a perfect fit not only for the Board, but for the interactions with our Administrative Assistant, Susan Ernst. His quick wit and attention to detail made understanding financial reports easier and streamlined the Treasurer position so we all could understand the entire picture.

In typical team-player fashion, Mike agreed to stay on in the Office until we could find a replacement and also agreed to help in the transition of a new Treasurer into that role. Dr. Richard Tesoriero, Deputy Coroner in Oswego County, has agreed to the appointment and subsequent election as Treasurer. Mike and Rich have already been in contact with each other and the transition is underway and will be completed at the June Board meeting. NYSACCME thanks you Mike, for your leadership and attention to detail over the past several years and would welcome you back to the Board should the opportunity avail itself in the future. Your years of service have been fruitful for NYSACCME and we look forward to your continued participation in our Association through Conference attendance and the like.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING 2014 CONFERENCE

by Joan Burke

Conference Hosts, Joan Burke, NY-SACCME Board Member and Dr. John "Jack" Prindle, Broome County Coroner, welcome you to Syracuse, NY for the NYSACCME Spring 2014 Conference, March 21-23.

Conference topic will be: "Death by Animal" (wild, domestic, large & small).

We have compiled an impressive, accomplished list of presenters from near and far who promise to be informative, educational, captivating and entertaining! We guarantee a very diverse presenter lineup. A sneak peek of presenters will be formally announced in the next edition of the newsletter.

Presentations will range from deaths from large animals, zoonotic diseases, current research regarding vaccines, deaths & hunting, investigating MVA's caused by animals, family pets that kill, law associated with animal deaths, grieving families; when a loved ones death is cause by the family pet, just to name a few. This is a conference you won't want to miss!

Accommodations will be at the lovely Genesee Grande Hotel which will not disappoint! An added bonus to your stay in Syracuse is SU Basketball. The city will be bustling with March Madness!

Hope to see a large turn out in 2014!!!!

THANK YOU

CDT

Center for Donation and Transplant

and

LIONS EYE BANK at ALBANY

...for your sponsorship at our
SPRING 2013 CONFERENCE

NYSACCME BOARD MEMBER TO LEAVE



For many years, those of you who have attended our Bi-Annual Conferences have been asked to donate items or purchase tickets for the Sunshine Fund Raffle. This drawing is held after the Saturday Banquet on Conference Weekend and the proceeds are used to purchase fruit baskets or flowers to be sent to any NYSACCME member whose is going through some difficult times, whether there's been a death in the family or recent surgery or for just a general 'pick-me-up' gift.

Dr. John Cooley, has served on our Board and has chaired the Sunshine Fund for many years now, writing articles on its purpose and explaining the good work that it does when implemented by members who alert him to a need. At our Spring 2013 Conference in Cooperstown, Dr. Cooley announced that he will be stepping down from his Board position to become more active in another organization in his life and felt that the time constraints would be too great to carry on in both positions. His resignation is effective June 1st and it is with great sadness that we accept it.

John is a quiet, contemplative man who brings to the table much wisdom and natural calmness during times of discord and debate. He reasons with kindness and as many of you know, is a very prayerful and faith-filled individual. He often led us in grace before our meals and provided thought-inducing words which actually gave us the opportunity to give thanks. It is with great thanks, that we extend to Dr. John Cooley our best wishes in his new endeavor as he starts a new chapter in leadership and continues his NYSACCME affiliation mentoring and sharing his experience and wisdom with our 'family' for many more years to come.

Kevin Henderson, Coroner of Ontario County has been appointed to fill the vacancy left by Dr. Cooley and will represent Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties. He will have to run for election at the Fall Conference and we welcome Kevin to the Board!

NYSACCME MEMBERSHIP

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO BECOMING A MEMBER OF NYSACCME?

- ▶ Reduction in Conference Registration Fees
- ▶ Accreditation from NYSACCME in Medico-Legal Death Investigation
- ▶ Creditability when involved in court cases
- ▶ Endless networking opportunities with colleagues and other professionals
- ▶ Learn from top-flight speakers presenting cutting edge topics and techniques
- ▶ A resource for questions and information regarding every day cases to that complex one of a kind case that leaves you grasping for straws
- ▶ The opportunity to raise awareness in your own community by gaining knowledge and technique that can be passed on to others who don't know
- ▶ To become an advocate for the Forensic Sciences
- ▶ Continuing Education Credits for Medico-Legal Death Investigators, Physicians, Funeral Directors, on occasion Attorneys

OUR MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO:

- ▶ Elected and appointed County Coroners and appointed Medical Examiners and their deputies
- ▶ Officers and members of organizations where there is significant interaction with NYSACCME
- ▶ Persons who have significantly advanced the causes of forensic sciences
- ▶ Sworn law enforcement officers involved in death investigations, and official investigators for Medical Examiners
- ▶ Licensed Funeral Directors, Embalmers, Undertakers
- ▶ Retired/Emeritus (former members, no longer in office due to retirement)

Membership is effective from January to December. Yearly membership dues are made payable to NYSACCME. Applications are available on our website:

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.