

The POST...A Forensic Publication



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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

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

I'm very fortunate that in my County-Orleans, the relationship between all four Coroners is one of not only friendship, but also one with professional trust. It's not uncommon for any one of us to call another and ask advice on a particular matter, ask for response assistance on a case, or ascertain whether or not they are available to take a case when I can't. It hasn't always been that way!

Before I took office in 1990, ALL 4 Coroners were physicians and there was no great friendships between them. Working with them as a Funeral Director, I was often discouraged with their lack of concern for completing required paperwork and/or with their seemingly poor attitude for the Law Enforcement Personnel they worked with. Time was not of the essence

when it came to responding to a scene or completing their paperwork or investigation.

I learned that this was commonplace in some other Counties and wondered why. After all, we work together on scenes for the ultimate answers regarding cause and manner of death. Egos shouldn't play a part, but unfortunately they do. Even to this day, there are some Counties that don't understand/recognize the duties and powers of our Office. It's our place to change this pattern and it's past time!

I spent hours working with Law Enforcement officials in my County teaching them what I need to do and working with them with what they need to do. I make a conscious effort to keep my fellow Coroners informed about issues in

the County that they may not be aware of. I've been grateful and openly thankful for the Volunteer Firefighters regarding the job they do and the assistance they offer my Office. I've made every effort to respond as quickly as possible so nobody has to wait for extended periods of time.

The issue isn't what I've done for me, but what I've done to perpetuate respect and acknowledgement for the Position of Coroner in my County. Extend your hand, introduce yourself to each other, provide respect to those we work with. It starts with you...and perhaps you'll find that with a better perspective and with a firm handshake, your job will become easier and you'll gain more professional respect.



REVISTING THE FALL 2008 CONFERENCE "Sudden, Unexpected, and Out of the Ordinary Deaths"

Dutchess County Chief Medical Examiner Kari Reiber and her Chief MLDI Bob Bready were the hosts of our Fall Conference. Kudos go to this dynamic duo for putting together a very entertaining and informative program. It's been quite a while since NYSACCME has travelled

"downstate" and this was a chance to let NYSACCME shine. Hosting a conference can be a challenge, but Dr. Reiber and Inv. Bready are to be commended on the quality of the presenters and especially for the facilities. The Sierra Suites welcomed us with open arms and kept

the attitude of "anything you need" going through the entire weekend. We had an outstanding compliment of vendors as well as sponsors to help make the weekend a success both on the educational front and on the financial front. From the Officers and Board of Directors, THANKS Kari and Bob

SPRING CONFERENCE – LEWISTON, NEW YORK March 20-22, 2009



The NYSACCME Spring Educational Conference will be held at the Barton Hill Hotel and Spa in Lewiston, New York... which is a few short miles north of Niagara Falls, New York...on the United States side.

Our host for the Spring Conference are our friends from Upstate New York Transplant Services. Kim Hersperger and the gang at UNYTS are Associate NYSACCME members and have put together a program

entitled: "Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem". Among the presentations will be topics including: Blood Stain Basics, Interpreting Blood Stain Patterns, Fire Arms and Fingerprints, Mysteries solved by Toxicology, Mysteries and Motives in WNY. Dr. Werner Spitz will give a presentation on the Death Investigation of JonBenet Ramsey as well as other **famous** cases. A presentation by the NYSDOH will allow our Conference to qualify

for 4 CEUs (**2 are law**) for our Funeral Director friends. The Barton Hill Hotel and Spa is looking forward to our stay and has promised impromptu wine-tasting opportunities, and perhaps even a Murder-Mystery weekend for us. REGISTER EARLY as this is a Boutique Hotel with limited room space. Remember, reservations MUST be made through the NYSACCME office for our group rate!

NYSACCME STILL NEEDS AN EXPERIENCED PIO: Anyone Interested?

As NYSACCME membership grows, we are rapidly becoming the preferred provider of Forensic Science Education in New York State. What a great tribute to the founders of this Association and to YOU, the membership at large, for helping to make this happen. The Officers, The Board, and

you...the membership, work in concert to make this such a great Organization. If there is anyone who has Public Information Officer (PIO) training and would like to assist NYSACCME in promoting its cause, we need your help. Press Releases and Television Interviews need to be made available

in every locality where we are holding conference. Benefits of membership in our Organization need to be made abroad in order to make NYSACCME a household word. If you have the qualifications and are interested in helping out, please contact President Schmidt: sschmidt6278@yahoo.com

"Benefits of membership..... need to be made abroad..."

Scott Schmidt
President
NYSACCME

NYSACCME MISSION STATEMENT

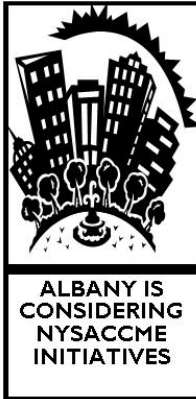


The Mission and Goals of the NYSACCME are to assist in advancement of Forensic Science and its application to death investigation by providing education to those who interact during a death investigation. We strive for the improvement of quality in death investigations in NY State and the ad-

vancement 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 investi-

gation 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.

UPDATE ON NYSACCME-PROPOSED LEGISLATION



NYSACCME has been instrumental in developing legislation in two areas. The first being that of MINIMUM TRAINING requirements for newly elected Coroners. The second being that of Mutual Aid agreements for Coroner/ME services to adjacent Counties. Senator's Maziarz and Young are the two sponsors of these bills. The Training Requirement bill, S.404 would require all newly elected/appointed

Coroners to take a Coroner 101 -type course giving basic knowledge of death investigation and protocol related to death scenes. NYSACCME is hoping to be a major player in providing this training. ME's and Deputy ME's will be exempt from this law. The Mutual Aid bill, S.2621 would empower Counties to obtain Coroner/ME services in the event the existing Coroner/ME is unavailable or is in need of assis-

tance during a disaster or Mass Fatality event. This is something which doesn't exist with the exception of contractual agreements between Coroner Counties and ME Counties. These bills are being introduced again by the Senators. Support from your Senator and Assemblyperson is vital to the passage of these bills into law. NYSACCME has been the driving force behind each piece of legislation!

"No matter what the occasion, the Barton Hill Hotel & Spa offers you exquisite spaces, uncompromising service and exceptional cuisine."
..from the brochure

The Barton Hill Hotel and Spa: Preview

For corporate meetings or special events, Barton Hill Hotel & Spa is the place. They offer adaptable and spacious formal dining venues, from the beautifully appointed Lewiston Room (220 guest) to the Niagara and Lafayette rooms (65 guests). The BHH&S has all the facilities needed to blend productivity and elegance. The spacious

and elegantly appointed rooms and suites, designed with an historic flair to reflect Lewiston's heritage-feature the most contemporary amenities. The attentive staff will guide you throughout the facility, and to the areas most exciting attractions and events if you wish. The tranquil and relaxing ambience of the Spa invites you to

soothe your cares away and renew yourself with an extensive array of therapies and services offered in serene, intimate spa treatment rooms. REGISTER EARLY as there are only 85 rooms at this property. For more information visit their website at:

www.bartonhillhotel.com

NEW NYSACCME WEBSITE ALMOST COMPLETE



Click on: www.nysaccme.org and follow the link to our new home-page. The Website committee is still working and the site is still 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 the Coroners Store and NYSACCME members will have an area to pose professional questions. Further, the ability to join the Association, the ability to renew membership, and the ability to

register for conference will be available online. Member Jerry Irrizary along with President Schmidt and Administrative Assistant Susan Ernst are STILL working to finalize all changes and to master the art of updating the website on our own...as needed.

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT/COMMITTEE WORK UPDATE

President Schmidt has re-indicated his desire to have NYSACCME become more member-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 contact Pres. Schmidt or NYSACCME Admin. Asst. Susan Ernst to VOLUNTEER/register 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 information in this area is greatly needed as there doesn't 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

NYSACCME MAJOR PLAYER WITH NYSDOH/SEMO



Starting in Fall of 2007 and continuing for the better part of 2008, NYSACCME was represented by Pres. Schmidt on a State-Level Workgroup developing guidance for writing an All-Hazards Mass Fatality Plan for Counties in New York. There was an emphasis placed on Pandemic Flu specific Fatali-

ties. NYSDOH Dept. of Emergency Preparedness along with NYSEMO began introducing the Guidance Documents to Public Health officials, ME's/Coroners, Law Enforcement, and Hospital officials in Buffalo on January 12. There are a total of 12 seminars scheduled at this point and the

information is invaluable to County Planners and to Coroners and Medical Examiners. "The Medical Examiner/Coroner is the CORNERSTONE in the development of these plans," said Ralph Iler from the NYSDOH. Plan on attending one of these seminars in your area!

YOUR INPUT NEEDED NOW!!!

During some late evening conversation following the Saturday dinner at our Fall Conference, a select group of people convened an 'executive session' so to speak and came up with an idea. What if NYSACCME was to schedule a conference aboard a Cruise Ship? There

would certainly be an increase in costs for the attendee and NYSACCME would incur some additional costs for speakers and room rentals, but, this could be a fun thing! Your County may not fund you as usual...but who knows? If you would be interested in such a

venture for the Fall of 2010, probably sailing out of New York City, **PLEASE email President Scott Schmidt at: sschmidt6278@yahoo.com**

If we have enough interest perhaps we'll be taking a special boat ride with friends!



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

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



THE POST & SPRING 2009 CONFERENCE

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 difference 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 differ-

ence 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.