

International Association for Identification



January 2011 – IAI Monthly Update

FYI, this update is sent each month to all IAI board members, officers, committee chairs, regional representatives, division secretaries, certification board chairs and secretaries, division editors and IAI staff. This update contains information that is of particular interest to these groups. It is also available on the “Members’ Area” of the IAI’s website. Please see the last page of *Identification News* for login and password information.

Hello again from the IAI office and Happy New Year!!

2011 Membership Dues

Just a reminder that 2011 membership dues are now due. The first dues invoice was sent in mid-October and a reminder notice to those who have not paid will be sent in February. If you have not yet paid 2011 dues, please do so as soon as possible.

We realize that many agencies are severely cutting back on all non-essential expenses these days and membership dues are viewed by some as being in that category. Given the rapid change of events in forensic science and the ongoing discussions and legislation resulting from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on forensic science, it behooves all forensic practitioners to stay abreast of the latest developments. We hope you find your IAI membership worthwhile even in these difficult economic times.

Federal Legislation Regarding Forensic Science

Since the release of the National Academy’s Report on Forensic Science, the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) has been working with Congress and various agencies in Washington to craft legislation to address many of the issues raised in that report.

Senator Leahy from Vermont has drafted legislation that he will introduce shortly (in fact by the time you read this it may have been introduced) that deals with this matter. The first draft of the legislation was dated May 5, 2010 and was posted on the IAI’s website in the Current Affairs Section since that date. The new legislation is now posted in that same section. The link is:

http://www.theiai.org/current_affairs/LeahyBill12-22-10.pdf

This legislation will affect almost everyone who works in forensic science/identification. It deals with an oversight model largely managed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with some aspects shared with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

At this time the legislation is open for comment and will undoubtedly be modified before final passage. When reviewing it pay particular attention to the make-up of the oversight committees/boards and the section on accreditation and certification.

If anyone has comments regarding this legislation, please forward them to Ken Martin at kenneth.martin@theiai.org. Ken is the IAI's representative to the CFSO and is consolidating all comments from the IAI. The CFSO is actively involved in reviewing this legislation and making recommendations for modification.

Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

The IAI's Board of Directors will hold a mid-year meeting in Orlando on January 31st and February 1st, 2011. If anyone has items for board consideration, please forward them to Board Chair Vic Inlow at inlow.vici4@gmail.com and/or me and iaisecty@aol.com

2011 IAI Conference – Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Are you considering making a presentation at the Milwaukee Conference next summer? If so, the IAI's Educational Program Coordinator, Jim Gettemy, is accepting applications for lecture and workshop sessions. Please visit the IAI's website where you will find, on the Home Page, a *Call for Papers* icon that links to an application to make lecture or workshop presentations.

Joe Polski