

MONTANA CORONERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 8, 2017

The Montana Coroners' Association Annual meeting was called to order by President Greg Kirkwood at the Hilton Garden Inn in Billings on 5-8-17 at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Roll call was taken and members from the following counties were present: Cascade, Yellowstone, Fergus, Phillips, Hill, Ravalli, Custer, Dawson, Roosevelt, Beaverhead, Chouteau, Toole, Big Horn, Blaine, Madison, Richland, Powell, Rosebud, Deer Lodge, Stillwater, Sheridan, Judith Basin, Daniels, Fallon, Carter, Broadwater, Wheatland, Prairie, Liberty, Garfield, Jefferson, Mineral, and Petroleum.

Minutes:

Minutes from the May 2, 2016 Annual Meeting were read. Harold Adams made a motion the minutes be approved. This motion was seconded and a unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The checking account balance is approximately \$35,500 and the estimated convention cost is \$10,000-\$12,000. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Wynn Meehan. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scholarship:

The scholarship was for students in District 2. There were 4 applicants and the 2 chosen were Mary McGreevey from Helena who is pursuing a nursing career at Carroll College and Colt Pederson of Shelby who is also pursuing a nursing degree at MSU Northern.

Legislative Update:

Dr. Kurtzman reported that the bill regarding the death of a person in custody who has a known terminal disease has been changed and it is no longer mandated that an autopsy be performed. He cautioned that the Medical Examiner should be called and the case discussed before making this decision. He said in all "in custody" deaths that require an autopsy, the State will pay for the examination.

He said HB650 regarding the lab in Billings has passed the House and Senate and was on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. If the Governor decides not to sign it, there is money elsewhere to proceed with the project. Yellowstone County has agreed to pay \$150,000 toward a morgue.

HB198 regarding retaining the increased price of death certificates was vetoed by the Governor so that means the price will roll back to \$3.00 next year. The loss of the \$75,000 the increase had generated was a loss to Montana.

Web Site:

Steve Holton reported we have a computer person hired that has set up the web site and the new address is mtcoroner.org. It is a new site and has links to other sites. Steve said his e-mail address is not correct on it yet. We will be adding the deputy coroners to the site but will use the sheriff's office of the county for a phone number for privacy purposes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers:

President Greg Kirkwood reported Dick Brown's term was expiring and he had agreed to serve another term. Greg also stated Bill Jones was retiring in April of 2018 at the latest. Bill is willing to give his Vice President position to Bob Rosipal now and at the meeting in May, 2018 Bob would move to President. Greg will move to Past President at that time. There were no nominations from the floor for either of these positions. Wynn Meehan made a motion to have Bob Rosipal take the Vice President position as Greg had explained. There was another motion to cease any more nominations. The dates of term expiration are as follows:

Past President Dick Burrows

President Greg Kirkwood

Vice President Bob Rosipal

Secretary-Treasurer Terry Bullis

District 1 Steve Holton (term expires 2018)

District 2 Dan Whitted (term expires 2022)

District 3 Dick Brown (term expires 2023)

District 4 Vern Beurkle (term expires 2021)

District 5 Al Jenkins (term expires 2019)

District 6 Trenton Harbough (term expires 2020).

Dick Brown reported that Lt. Coroner William “Bill” Jones was hired by Yellowstone County Sheriff’s Office in 1978. Detective Jones moved to be in charge of the Coroner’s position in 1990 as a Sgt. Lt. Jones will have spent 40 years with the Y.C.S.O and 28 years as their coroner. He was a long time Board member of MCA and President, Past President and currently Vice President. We appreciate all the years of service he has spent with our organization.

NEW BUSINESS:

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2017 Convention:

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President Greg Kirkwood reported the board had chosen Lewistown for the 2018 convention site. The first week of May was chosen if it was available at the motel. The information will be available on the web site. All forms will be on-line, and will be printed by the attendee and mailed in with the payment. All information **must be typed for dues and convention registration.**

Other:

Al McGahan made a motion the bills be paid. Harold Adams seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Clayton Jewell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Farmer, Recording Secretary