

MONTANA CORONERS' ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 18, 2017

The Montana Coroners' Association Board of Directors meeting was called to order on November 18, 2017 at 7:45 P.M. by President Greg Kirkwood at Jakes on Gable Drive in Billings. Members present were President Greg Kirkwood, Past President Dick Burrows, Vice President Bill Jones, Secretary-Treasurer Terry Bullis and Steve Holton. Unable to attend were Dick Brown, Verne Buerkle, Trenton Harbaugh, Al Jenkins, Bob Rosipal and Dan Whitted. Wynn Meehan, representative from the Montana Sheriff and Peace Officers Association, was also unable to attend. A motion was made and seconded to forego reading the minutes of the May 7, 2017 Board meeting since all members had received copies previously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The checking account balance is approximately \$24,500 and the stock market account is \$38,000. Dick Burrow made motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Steve Holton seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

LScholarship Update:

Terry stated one of the scholarship recipient's dropped out of MSU-Northern in Havre. The college will return the money if we wish or we can donate the money to them. Dick Burrows made a motion we donate the money and Steve Holton seconded the motion, which also was unanimously approved.

Web Site:

Steve reported the site is up and doing well. HC will get the board information updated to take GICII Meier's name off and replace it with Verne Buerkle.

Legislative Update:

There was no new information report in this regard.

NEW BUSINESS:

2017 Convention:

Steve stated now POST keeps track of non-law enforcement coroners' training. Steve also reported he had been working with Perry Johnson and they would like to have a committee to get speakers to be POST certified. From now on POST wants to have the actual presentation (this can be photos) approved before the convention. In the past the speakers could submit an outline of their presentation, but this is no longer acceptable. President Greg Kirkwood made an executive decision to appoint Steve Holton, Bob Rosipal and Trenton Harbaugh to be the members of a committee responsible for obtaining speakers and making certain

their presentations are pre-certified by POST prior to the convention. Steve said a potential speaker is a Texas Ranger involved with the Chris Kyle homicide case. Bob Rosipal has a line into a child death investigation case in Wyoming. Vital statistics continues to want to speak to the coroners, but feedback last year indicates this was not what the membership desires. It was felt we should not have them speak this year. Site Life was another group the membership did not wish to have as a speaker.

The flashlight pens were a good membership gift last year and we will continue looking for a gift for the upcoming convention.

We will continue with the raffle which will include a Yeti cooler as one of the items and probably a Go-Pro and a camera.

Steve Holton's term is expiring in 2018 and he is willing to serve another term on the Board, so we will not need a nominating committee.

Other Coroner Training:

POST is hosting the Advanced School in Great Falls in December. We can pick and choose which of the speakers from this school we would like at our convention.

Since Dr. Kurtzman was out of town and unable to attend this meeting, he sent an e-mail listing what he would have presented, which is as follows:

"Regardless, here is a brief update of information that can be presented. Much of the information is not new, but just in case here are the details:

1 - Drs. Fusaro and Prashar been working in Missoula now for 8 and 10 months respectively. From time-to-time Dr. Fusaro travels to Billings to help me take time for administrative duties and time-off. We're eager to have a part-time or full-time pathologist join me here in Billings, but that has not been approved and our emphasis is currently oriented to a new Billings facility.

2- As you likely know, a new Billings facility was approved by the legislature during the last session. Plans were moving along efficiently, but are currently stalled with the state budget issues. Despite the budget issues, we do expect progress on the facility to resume.

3- Last year we introduced a single phone number for coroners to call when scheduling an autopsy or to speak with a pathologist. That number is 406-329-1 155. Our thanks to everyone who has been using the number.

4- In early spring we introduce new autopsy request form that should be completed and accompany each case sent for examination. Optimally the request form should be sent by email prior to the examination. A copy of the form is attached, but is also available on the MCA web site.

5- Goals that we would like to work to establish and collectively work towards:

- More consistent death investigation practices with all 56 Montana counties.
- American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation (ABMDI) certification. This is a pretty lofty, but desirable goal.

- Seek ABMDI credit approval for all current POST approved coroner training programs.
- The new Billings facility will greatly improve our ability to provide optimal service to Montana coroners. We're eager to see the facility become a reality. It's long overdue.'

There was a discussion concerning ABMDI accreditation as it was felt in order to do this all coroners and deputy coroners would have to attend ABMDI training at their facility out-of-state and the training was several weeks long. Financially most counties could not afford to pay for this service and have their help unavailable for this extended length of time.

Next Board Meeting :

The tentative date is April 7, 2018 and will be at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown. The convention date is May 6, 7 & 8 (if the motel is available).

Other:

Bill Jones announced he was retiring December 31, 2017. He has been on the Board since May, 1994. We thank him for all his years of service to the Montana Coroner's Association.

Mileage was taken and will be reimbursed at 53.5 cents a mile, which is the State rate. Terry Bullis made a motion to pay the bills. Dick Burrows seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Dick Burrows made a motion the meeting be adjourned. Bill Jones seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Joan Farmer, Recording Secretary