

# **MONTANA CORONERS' ASSOCIATION**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**APRIL 6, 2019**

The Montana Coroners' Association Board of Directors meeting was called to order on April 6, 2019 at 5:55 P.M. by President Bob Rosipal at the Clarian Copper King Convention Center in Butte. Members present were President Bob Rosipal, Past President Greg Kirkwood, Vice President Wynn Mehan, Secretary-Treasurer Terry Bullis, Dick Brown, Trenton Harbaugh, Steve Holton, Sibley Jankoviak and Dan Whitted. Al Jenkins was unable to attend. Present as guests were Big Horn County Deputy Coroner Greg Heidrich and Perry Johnson. Dr. Rob Kurtzman was present via a telephone conference call.

### **MINUTES:**

Joan Farmer read the minutes of the last Board meeting from November 10, 2018. Wynn made a motion the minutes be approved and Steve seconded the motion which unanimously carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The checking account balance is \$26,587.65 and the stock market account is \$44,731.00. Terry reported 61 have pre-registered and 50% of the counties are members and 12 are pending. Custer County is the only one not responding. By convention time he anticipates 80-95% will be members. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Legislative Update:**

Perry reported bill 99, which was the coroner bill, passed. The content did not change, but the grammar was cleaned up.

#### **Scholarships:**

Dick Brown reported he had 3 applicants from District 4 and 7 multiple phone calls. He expects to have several more applications by the May meeting.

#### **Web Site:**

Steve Holton reported he had a call in to Mark for some changes and wanted to include our scholarship information.

#### **Site Life:**

There was a discussion on this topic and how Site Life will not let the hospital release a body to the funeral home if it's eligible for harvesting even if the deceased had not given permission for this service. There have been cases where bodies have been held for 18 hours while Site Life tries to persuade the family to donate the organs of the deceased. It was felt that they have such a turnover of personnel and have no idea of the vastness of our State and the problems they cause with their calls coming to the coroner before he\she has even arrived at the scene.

### **Inquests:**

There was a discussion on inquests and sheriff coroners. MACO is trying to save money by eliminating independent coroners and lumping the position into sheriff/coroner positions. If the sheriff/coroner is getting paid then he needs to have coroner training. If there are no non-sheriff coroners there is no one under the state law to run an inquest. Dr. Kurtzman felt the coroners should try to clarify how this would work and have input from the attorney general or find a sponsor and get a legislative rule at the next legislative session.

### **Death Certificates:**

Dick Brown stated if you sign a death certificate as pending, then receive the autopsy results and amend the pending to complete with the appropriate information, but make a typographical error, the only way to correct the error is to go before a judge. The system allows for one correction and that is when you change from pending to complete. Dick feels we should try to get this changed in the next legislative session. Dr. Kurtzman will check and see how the law written and how to get it revised.

### **New list of Coroners/Deputy Coroners:**

Dr. Kurtzman said Dr. Orvik is making a list of coroners and deputy coroners. Perry said he has a list of new sheriffs and coroners. Terry is also working on coroner/deputy coroner updates. Scott Larsen will also need this list when it's completed. When the new NVDRS goes live all this information will need to be put into the system.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **2019 Convention:**

The 2019 will be held May 5, 6 & 7 at the Clarian Copper King Convention Center in Butte. The King Ballroom has been reserved for \$500/day and \$250 for ½/day. This includes use of audiovisual equipment and a projector. Steve will check to be sure a pointer is available.

### **Speakers:**

On Sunday afternoon Dr. Kurtzman will open the meeting and introduce the new medical examiner, Dr. Andrea Orvik, who is based in Billings. He will have a 2 hour slot and two Ravalli County deputies will present cases for the other 2 hours. On Monday from 8-3 will be the presentation on teen killers and from 3-5 Greg Kirkwood will talk about the Burial

Preservation Board. On Tuesday morning there will be training for the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). Image Trend is the company providing this software and will be “training trainers”. Since it can be specialized for each county to do other functions, Steve made a motion that he will e-mail each jurisdiction to see if they want specialized time in the afternoon. If there is interest in this regard, the room will remain rented for the extra 4 hours. This motion was seconded and approved. Terry questioned if the State would pay for the extra \$250. Dr. Kurtzman thinks there may be money available in this regard and will check on this request. There was a discussion on the information that will be put into the NVDRS system. Bob reported there is more information available on Image Trend training that is on Web University.

**Raffle items:**

Terry reported the raffle items are a high impact wrench and an impact drill. He will purchase a third item that is more appealing to the feminine coroners.

**Membership gifts:**

A mug and sandwich cooler will be given to those in attendance.

**Menus:**

Breakfasts will be the continental breakfast provided for all guests staying at the Clarian Copper King. Lunch on Monday will be chicken wraps and dinner will be a 10 oz sirloin with ice cream sundae.

**Site for 2020 Convention.**

This will be discussed at the May meeting.

**Nominating Committee:**

Al Jenkins term will expire this year. This will be discussed at the May meeting.

**Other:**

Mileage was taken and Dick Brown made a motion to pay the bills. Greg Kirkwood seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Joan Farmer, Recording Secretary