

MONTANA CORONERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 6, 2019

The Montana Coroners' Association Annual meeting was called to order by President Bob Rosipal at the Clarian Copper King Convention Center on 5-6-19 at 6:55 P.M.

Roll Call:

Roll call was taken and members from the following counties were present: Cascade, Yellowstone, Lewis & Clark, Gallatin, Flathead, Fergus, Phillips, Hill, Ravalli, Custer, Dawson, Roosevelt, Beaverhead, Chouteau, Big Horn, Musselshell, Blaine, Richland, Powell, Rosebud, Deer Lodge, Treasure, Sheridan, Sanders, Judith Basin, Daniels, Glacier, Fallon, Sweetgrass, Carter, Broadwater, Prairie, Meagher, Liberty, Garfield, Jefferson, Golden Valley, Mineral, and Petroleum.

Minutes:

Minutes from the May 7, 2018 Annual Meeting were read. Wynn Meehan made a motion the minutes be approved. This motion was seconded and a unanimously carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The checking account balance is \$27,472.27. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scholarship:

The scholarship was for students in District 3 but there were no applicants from this district. There were 5 applicants from Districts 1 and 4. Madison Casazza from Columbia Falls and Callie Cavill from Stevensville were selected.

Legislative Update:

There was a discussion of bills concerning a different way of paying for autopsies. One proposal involved the population base per county. With one formula, prices for 6 counties would drop, and in other counties they would rise. In the past the western part of the State charged less than the eastern part because the west had the Medical Examiners who were paid by the State, and the State owned crime lab and autopsy suite. The east had independent forensic pathologists, and had to pay extra for autopsy suite, cooler fees, etc. There were other bills regarding funding of autopsies. The laws makers are trying to get counties to pay and not the State. Wynn urged the

coroners to get involved in getting the legislation we want regarding autopsy funding. We will need to see which new laws pass.

Web Site:

Steve Holton reported we have had a web site for 2 years and have a contract for \$700/yr. If you know of any continuing education training please e-mail Steve and he will have our computer technician put it on our site. We need updates on the coroner and deputy coroner lists. We have discussed having a mobile app. Please let Steve know if you would like this added. Steve's e-mail and phone number are on the web site.

Other:

The 2019 certificates will be mailed to those who attended the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers:

Al Jenkins position expires in 2019. Dick Brown reported the Nominating Committee had recommended Jessie Billquist-Jette from Anaconda to replace Al's position. Dick nominated Jessie for this board position and Steve Holton made a motion the nominations cease. There were no other nominations from the floor and Jessie was chosen.

The officers are as follows:

Past President Greg Kirkwood

President Bob Rosipal

Vice President Wynn Meehan

Secretary-Treasurer Terry Bullis

District 1 Steve Holton (term expires 2024)

District 2 Dan Whitted (term expires 2022)

District 3 Dick Brown (term expires 2023)

District 4 Sibley Jankoviak (term expires 2021)

District 5 Jessie Billquist-Jette (term expires 2025)

District 6 Trenton Harbough (term expires 2020).

2020 Convention:

President Bob Rosipal reported the board had chosen Billings for the 2020 convention site. There was a request to have training on coroner inquests at this time. A block of time will be reserved for this topic. Another topic suggested was to have Michelle Stewart, an investigator who speaks about web sites and the ones predators use, give a presentation.

Other:

There was a discussion concerning the tissue center calling before the coroner was even at the death scene. Bob Rosipal said he would call the tissue center and request they wait two hours before contacting the coroner after they receive the death notification.

Greg Kirkwood made a motion the bills be paid. Wynn Meehan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Leo Dutton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shane Shaff seconded the motion, which was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Farmer, Recording Secretary