

MONTANA CORONERS' ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JULY 9, 2020

The Montana Coroners' Association Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1:35 P.M. by President Bob Rosipal at the Fergus County Complex in Lewistown. Members present were President Bob Rosipal, Past President Greg Kirkwood, Secretary Treasurer Terry Bullis, Jessie Billquist-Jette and Sibley Jankoviak. Trenton Harbaugh and Steve Holton were present via a telephone conference call. Unable to attend were Vice President Wynn Meehan and Dan Whitted. Present as guests were Fergus County Sheriff Rick Vaughn, Fergus County Undersheriff Tracy Lewellen and Cascade County Chief Deputy Coroner Andy LeBrun.

MINUTES:

Joan Farmer read the minutes of the last meeting of March 22, 2020. Steve made a motion the minutes be approved, and this was seconded by Greg and unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Terry stated the checking account balance is \$19,305.26 and the stock market account balance is \$44,305.16. He reported a few counties had sent in registration fees for the conference and he did not return them but will hold them for the next meeting. The credit card payment arrangements have not been set up. Terry announced that he is retiring this year from his position as secretary-treasurer. He has had this position for 44 years.

OLD BUSINESS

Training conference/convention for 2020:

Steve reported the Hilton Garden Inn in Billings has reserved a block of 60 rooms at \$96/night (plus tax) for the dates of September 13-15. We will start the convention Sunday afternoon and finish on Tuesday at noon. He said they were giving us the meeting rooms at no charge.

Jessie stated the speaker is confirmed for those dates and someone from the association will pick him up at the airport and return him to the airport on Tuesday.

Steve said the schedule is Dr. Kurtzman will speak on Sunday afternoon and Dick Brown will give a presentation. The speaker, Darren Dake, will speak all day Monday and half a day Tuesday.

Jessie said the cancellation policy for the speaker is if we let them know 60 days prior to the speaking date we will have to pay 50% of the fee plus all the travel charges. The policy also stated that if it's an emergency reason, the fees would be waived. It was felt that if the governor will not allow a meeting our size that would qualify as an emergency reason.

Steve reported the hotel needs 80-day notice to cancel, and we pay 40%. If we give them 30-day notice, we have to pay 60% on the rooms. He said they were eager to have our business and feels if the governor says we cannot meet with that many people, that they will not charge us cancellation fees.

Trent stated we will need to check with the city of Billings to confirm we can have a meeting of this size.

Dan is working on getting an estimate on T-shirts and asked if we wanted full cotton or a blend. The board requested a blend. Steve has a MCA logo that we would like to have screen printed on the T-shirts.

President Bob Rosipal scheduled another board meeting in Lewistown for August 6, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. At this time, we should know the governor's policy on meeting size and if the convention can be hosted as planned. A notice will be posted on the web site requesting T-shirt sizes and a request this information be sent to Terry's e-mail address. The cut-off date is September 1.

The board members are requested to bring an item from a local business for the raffle. The large items for the raffle are a drone, a Yeti cooler and a go-pro.

Scholarships:

Dick Brown reported he received 8 applicants from District 5 and 4 of the 8 were from counties outside of the district. Sydney Dogle from Butte was chosen. She is going into nursing, has a 4.0 GPA and does have some medical issues. David Durgan from Livingston was also chosen. He is pursuing a career as a physician.

NEW BUSINESS:

Greg Kirkwood, our representative on the Burial Board, is going to resign from that position. Andy LeBrun is agreeable to take the position, but he will need to be appointed as the coroners' office representative.

Dick Brown and Bob Rosipal serve on the Forensic Science Advisory Board. Bob wants to meet with Scott Larson at the Crime Lab to discuss this issue. Bob asked if any of the board had problems with ImageTrend. There was a discussion, and most felt it was user friendly and liked the feature with the photos being put in and immediately available. They also felt it was redundant with the same information being requested in multiple areas. This makes it time consuming and it takes about 40 minutes per case.

Fergus County Sheriff Vaughn stated a portion of the state is going with Zuercher and it works with ImageTrend. Buck Heron was sent information to get it installed, hopefully by October. Kalispell, Missoula and Billings have ImageTrend training programs. Scott Larson will be invited to our August meeting and Sheriff Vaughn will have more information available by that date on this subject.

Andrea Orvik, the forensic pathologist in Billings is going to resign and go to Tennessee.

Bob introduced Andy LeBrun who is taking over the chief deputy coroner position in Cascade County.

Other Training:

The April Basic Coroner class was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. Perry wants Bob to put on a Basic Training course in Lewistown, which is in the center of the state, and the limit would be 32 students. This allows 4 groups in the morning and 4 in the afternoon to do the scenarios. If they were registered for the April class, they do not need to re-register. Lewistown will host this class at the Fairgrounds. The December class is filling up too.

Trent needs advanced 16-hour training. Bob can do this if we have to cancel the September meeting. Bob will set up a traveling training program if necessary.

The Advanced Training is scheduled for December 8, 9 & 10 in Great Falls.

The Basic Training at the Academy is scheduled for December 14-18.

If the governor shuts us down again, we'll probably get another extension.

Nominating Committee:

Terry's position of Secretary-Treasurer needs to be filled. Terry said that the two weeks prior to the convention are very intense and busy, but after that it's just quick book entries. The stock market advisor is Sue Stanaway, and she has done an excellent job with our account. Dick Brown said he would take the job for 2-3 years, but not forever. This topic will be readdressed at the August meeting. We also need a Vice President. Trent was agreeable to take this position. We will need to find someone for Trent's position, and it was suggested we find someone from Yellowstone County.

Dick Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Greg Kirkwood and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Farmer, Recording Secretary

Addendum:

After the meeting was adjourned, Dick Brown spoke with several of the board still present.

Dick Brown clarified the motion he had made at an earlier meeting about the board members not collecting reimbursement for mileage, but instead to receive reimbursement for a night's lodging. He meant this was for travel to the convention, not board meetings. With this clarification, the Board members present will need to e-mail their mileage to Terry for reimbursement.