

MONTANA CORONERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

September 14, 2020

The Montana Coroners' Association Annual meeting was called to order by President Bob Rosipal at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center on 9-14-20 at 6:55 R.M.

Roll Call:

Roll call was taken and members from the following counties were present: Cascade, Yellowstone, Missoula, Lewis & Clark, Gallatin, Fergus, Powder River, Phillips, Hill, Ravalli, Custer, Roosevelt, Beaverhead, Chouteau, Valley, Toole, Big Horn, Blaine, Pondera, Rosebud, Deer Lodge, Teton, Sheridan, Fallon, Sweetgrass, McCone, Broadwater, Wheatland, Granite, Garfield, and Petroleum.

Minutes:

Minutes from the May 6, 2019 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 \$21,125.73. The estimated cost of the 2020 convention is \$15,000. 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 5. Sydney Dogle from Butte and David Durgan from Livingston were chosen.

Legislative Issues:

Scott Larson from the Crime Lab in Missoula explained that if any coroners wish to have changes made in the existing laws concerning coroner issues they should contact either Dr. Kurtzman or Scott or pass it to Bob and he will relay the changes to them before the upcoming legislative session. He also reported that Dr. Willy Kemp is returning to Montana to replace Dr. Orvik.

Scott stated they have a grant for two free training sessions with AMBDI, so if anyone is interested they need to apply soon. There is also another grant for 1 year for \$150,000 to pay for overdose case autopsies. He urged anyone who had a suspected overdose death to order an autopsy and if the cause of death is indeed an overdose, the grant should pay for the autopsy.

Scott also reported they are working on creating a Coroner liaison position that would further integrate Montana Forensic Science Division with coroners. In part, the duties would include increasing the use of the Death Investigation Database system among coroners, work with pathologists for the information retrieval from coroners (medical records, external reports, etc.), daily review of statewide deaths in conjunction with pathologists, coroner training, among other items.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Annual Convention

Bob reported the membership needed to choose Butte or Great Falls for the next convention. The majority chose Butte. We are hoping to have the meeting in May. Steve will notify the Copper King and make arrangements.

Election of Officers:

Terry Bullis has been the Secretary-Treasurer for 32 years and now is retiring from this position. Terry was presented a plaque and a \$150 gift certificate to honor his years of service.

Steve Holton nominated Jace Dicken from Missoula for the Secretary-Treasurer position. T. J. McDermott made a motion the nominations ceased. Jace was voted in as the new Secretary-Treasurer.

Jace nominated Andy LeBrun as Vice President. Steve Holton seconded the nomination. Dick Brown made a motion the nomination be closed. Andy LeBrun was voted as the Vice President.

Trenton Harbaugh agreed to serve another term on the board. Dave Harris made a motion Trent continue on the Board. Allen Fulton seconded the motion. Dick Brovvn made a motion the nomination be closed. Trenton will serve another term.

The officers are as follows:

Past President Bob Rosipal

President Wynn Meehan

Vice President Andy LeBrun

Secretary-Treasurer Jace Dicken

District I 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 Harbaugh (term expires 2026).

Wynn took over as President and requested ideas from the membership for speakers and topics for next year. He stressed we had only 8 months to put together the convention.

Other:

Greg Kirkwood made a motion the bills be paid. Trenton Harbaugh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dan Whitted made a motion the meeting be adjourned. Leo Dutton seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Farmer, Recording Secretary

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