

Meeting Minutes for the Forensic Science Institute of Ohio

A meeting of the FSIO was called to order at 10:04am, on June 13, 2019 at the Ohio Fire Academy, Room 2303, 8895 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio. President Heather Sheskey (OSHP) presided over the meeting.

The following Members and guests were present: Becky Barlag (Ohio U.), Bob Budgake (Canton-Stark Retired), Nasir Butt (Cuyahoga Co.), Tammy Darden (OSHP), Jen Duvall (BCI London), Angela Farrington (Columbus), Michele Foster (Canton-Stark), Steve Greene (BCI-Retired), Laurel Hart (OSHP), Jim Smith (BCI London), Jami StClair (Columbus-Retired), Anthony Stender (Ohio U.), Tony Tambasco (Mansfield), Mike Trimpe (Hamilton Co.), Brandon Werry (OSHP) and Chad Wissinger (State Fire Marshal). David Cogan (Toledo) was represented by proxy. A quorum was present. Twelve of the nineteen eligible voters were present or represented.

Secretary Budgake presented the minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting. The minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion, Brandon Werry; Second, Jim Smith. All Members voted in the affirmative.

Chad Wissinger offered the Treasurer's report. He disclosed that the FSIO has a checking account balance of \$23,023, a savings account balance of \$5,001 and a Tong Award's Fund balance of \$36,065. Chad revealed his liking of our new PayPal account. It makes his life as Treasurer much easier. He also stated that our financial advisor, Shawn Whitt, with the Edward Jones Co., was going to stop by after our meetings to introduce himself.

Old Business:

Chad Wissinger specified the Ron Smith course entitled, Finding Latent Print Evidence with Chemistry and Light, will take place October 22-25, 2019, at the Fire Academy. Those interested can register online at www.RonSmithandAssociates.com/Training. Tuition is \$600.

President Sheskey, on behalf of Jeff Lynn, informed the group that he plans to organize another Introductory Expert Witness Testimony Training Course at Ohio BCI, Bowling Green, on August 6 & 7. He will e-mail all an announcement soon.

Brandon Werry expressed his pleasure with the turnout of the Ohio Drug Chemist Meeting April 17, 2019, at the OSHP Academy. There were 90 participants who attended.

Nasir Butt indicated that there have been no meetings this year of the Ohio Attorney General's Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System Advisory Committee. Nasir said that the

State is in the process of signing a contract with a vendor, but no timetable for implementation was specified by the State

Angela Farrington revealed that registration is still open for the ANAB ISO/IEC 17025-2017 Assessor Training Course, scheduled for August 27-30, 2019, at the Fire Academy, Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Tuition is \$1,000 per student, with a maximum class size of 24 students. Angela said the 10 student minimum threshold has already been reached.

Nasir interjected that Cuyahoga County is hosting an ANAB ISO 17025 & AR3125 Transition Training Course at their facility, August 5-6, 2019. The tuition is \$450.

Nasir Butt reported the Ohio Ethics Commission offered no official guidance concerning ANAB directly reimbursing Cuyahoga County employees for travel expenses, regarding offsite inspections of other forensic facilities. However, the County has decided that they will pay for the employee's travel expenses for such visits and will not seek or accept ANAB reimbursement. Chad Wissinger shared that their Division Counsel stated that they can receive reimbursement from ANAB, as long as the funds go to his agency and not directly to the employee.

Mike Trimpe has previously expressed concern regarding the ANAB assessment of their disciplines i.e. explosive residue, soil and wood identification, because they are not doing enough case volume in these specialties. This concern has been alleviated for now, but Mike proposed surveying our Ohio labs, to ascertain what trace disciplines are being performed. He suggested that in the future, a way to preserve these specialties in our state, might be accomplished by agencies submitting these cases to one or two designated facilities, verses all our labs. Jami StClair interjected that just because an agency fails to meet accreditation standards for casework volume, doesn't mean the agency is prevented from doing an analysis. They just can't claim they are accredited to perform this analysis.

New Business:

Bob Budgake presented the Membership application of Erik Blaine (Miami Valley). Erik is the new Director of the lab and coroner's office. Motion to accept, Bob Budgake; Second, Chad Wissinger. All Members voted in the affirmative.

Brandon Werry indicated that they would like to hold a Hypergeometric Sampling Workshop in the summer of 2020. He indicated that their Coverdell grant could be used to cover the travel expenses of the lecturer. Brandon motioned that the membership consider providing lunch for this endeavor; Second, Bob Budgake. All Members voted in the affirmative.

Angela Farrington stated her intention of hosting an AFTE Toolmark Subclass Evaluation Course, September 17th, 8-5pm. She made a motion to have FSIO pay travel and per diem for the instructor, not to exceed \$750; Second, Mike Trimpe. All Members

voted in the affirmative. This course will be limited to 15 students and will have no anticipated tuition charge.

Angela Farrington floated the idea of bringing a DNA STRmix (software for interpretation of DNA mixtures) Course to Ohio. The interest expressed from the membership was mixed. Angela withdrew the proposal for now, so she could do additional research.

*The next meeting of the FSIO will be 10 am, Thursday, September 12, 2019, at the **Ohio Fire Academy**, 8895 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Motion, Bob Budgake; Second, Brandon Werry. All Members voted in the affirmative.*

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am. Motion, Chad Wissinger; Second, Bob Budgake. All Members voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Budgake, Secretary, FSIO