

Meeting Minutes for the Forensic Science Institute of Ohio

Prior to the FSIO Meeting, David Hines, Account Manager of Advanced Imaging Systems, Inc., gave a vendor presentation, via Microsoft Teams, regarding assisting forensic labs to digitally archive case files. Since 1972, they have provided government agencies with records management solutions. Services mentioned:

- Expedite the process for post convictions, cold cases, & DNA test results
- Implement a disaster recovery plan for historic case files
- Integration of data between LIMS or system of record
- Real-time access to all historic files
- High volume backfile document scanning (i.e., Lab Files, HR Files, etc.)
- Ongoing mailroom scanning/processing
- Document cleanup ID documents to retain & scan (Retention Management)
- Data migration, cleanup, & consolidation
- Microfilm/microfiche digitizing
- Secure data hosted (Cloud) storage

If there are any questions or interest regarding this vendor's services, he can be contacted at: davidh@aisimc.com or 704-998-6562.

Following the vendor presentation, at 10:31am, Erin Reed and Ryan Gies, of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, informed the group (in person), of a backlog reduction grant, soon to become available to state and local forensic labs in Ohio. The monies are allocated via the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and authorized thru the State via House Bill 169. These ARPA funds will expire in December 2024. Erin and Ryan shared that an allocation formula was trying to be forged and were asking for input on how to approach this. The OCJS is taking the number of reports, counties served and backlog that were reported by each lab into account. After much discussion, the group concurred that development of this funding formula is complex because of the different ways the labs approach their evidence examinations. Labs can expect an email regarding a request for proposals soon. This email will be sent to each Coverdell recipient's project manager.

Following the above discussion, a meeting of the FSIO was called to order at 10:55am, on March 10, 2022, at the Ohio Fire Academy, Room 2305, 8895 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio. President Mark Hiatt (Central Ohio Regional Crime Lab-Newark) presided over the meeting.

The following Members and guests were present in person or via Microsoft Teams: Casey Agosti (BCI-Bowling Green), Daniel Baker (Franklin Co.), Bob Budgake (Canton/Stark-Retired), Jennifer Duvall (BCI-London), Michele Foster (Canton/Stark), Jennifer Hobbs (Franklin Co.), Matthew Juhascik (Miami Valley), Karen Kwek (BCI-London), Jeff Lynn (BGSU), Doug Rohde (Lake Co.-Retired), Heather Sheskey (OSHP), Jami StClair (Columbus-Retired), LeAnne Suchanek (Lake Co.), Meredith Sweeney (Columbus), Mike Trimpe (Hamilton Co.) and Chad Wissinger (State Fire Marshal).

Angela Farrington (Columbus) and Tony Tambasco (Mansfield) were represented by proxy. A quorum was present. Fourteen (14) of the eighteen (18) eligible voters were present or represented.

Secretary Budgake presented the minutes of the December 9, 2021, Annual Meeting. He stated that the minutes were amended to reflect that Heather Sheskey (OSHP) was present. Heather went undetected, because she was sharing a Microsoft Teams feed with Brandon Werry ((OSHP). The amended minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion, Bob Budgake; Second, Chad Wissinger. All Members voted in the affirmative.

Chad Wissinger proffered the Treasurer's report. He disclosed the FSIO has a checking, PayPal and saving's account balance of \$30,202 and a Tong Award's Fund balance of \$39,628. Chad stated that a monthly minimum balance fee of \$3 per month is being charged, then reimbursed to the Tong account monthly. Chad specified that this is a banking software process that can't be changed. He will continue to monitor this to verify the reimbursement is being properly posted. Chad advised the group that we are due for an internal audit of our financial records. President Hiatt appointed an audit committee consisting of himself and Secretary Budgake to accomplish this prior to our next meeting.

Old Business:

Jeff Lynn revealed that BGSU's \$700 thousand funding request is still pending. Jeff expected it to be part of the next State capital budget. These funds will be used to establish a DNA analysis lab and learning center to train forensic scientists, law enforcement professionals and students. Previously, the FSIO Board has issued a letter of support regarding this venture.

An Edwards' vacuum rough pump maintenance course scheduled for October 2021, at the Hamilton County Crime Lab, was cancelled due to lack of interest. In August 2021, the FSIO issued a \$2,750 deposit check to reserve this class. Treasurer Wissinger stated that he received a reimbursement check from Edwards last month and has deposited it into our checking account.

Chad Wissinger advised that FSIO membership dues have been reinstated for 2022. He has issued membership dues invoices via PayPal and has been receiving payments..

New Business:

Jami StClair challenged the membership to come to our next meeting (June) with new training proposals or ideas, since we have no pending proposals.

Bob Budgake queried the membership regarding a pending membership application from Elizabeth Doyle, Lorain County. Doug Rohde informed the group that she is no longer employed there.

The next Meeting of the FSIO, will be 10 am, Thursday, June 9, 2022, at the Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio, with the option of attending via Microsoft Teams. Motion, Chad Wissinger; Second, Bob Budgake. All Members voted in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 am. Motion, Chad Wissinger; Second, Mike Trimpe. All Members voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Budgake, Secretary, FSIO