

Meeting Minutes for the Forensic Science Institute of Ohio

The Annual meeting of the FSIO was called to order at 10:05am, on December 9, 2021 at the Ohio Fire Academy, Room 2303, 8895 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio. President Rebecca Barlag (Ohio U.) presided over the meeting.

The following Members and guests were present in person or via Microsoft Teams: Daniel Baker (Franklin Co. Coroner), Bob Budgake (Canton-Stark Retired), David Cogan (Toledo), Brooke Ehlers (Miami Valley), Mark Hiatt (Central Ohio Regional Crime Lab)), Jeff Lynn (BGSU), Adam Pasternak (USFDA), Doug Rohde (Lake Co. Retired), Jim Smith (BCI London), Meredith Sweeney (Columbus), Tony Tambasco (Mansfield), Mike Trimpe (Hamilton Co.), Brandon Werry (OSHP) and Chad Wissinger (State Fire Marshal). A quorum was present. Thirteen (13) of the eighteen eligible voters were present.

Secretary Budgake presented the minutes of the December 12, 2019, June 10, 2021 and September 9, 2021 meetings. The minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion, Mike Trimpe; 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 \$26,767 and a Tong Award's Fund balance of \$41,095. Chad stated that the monthly minimum balance fee of \$3 per month was being charged to the Tong account erroneously. Hence the bank reimbursed the account \$77 for past charges, though in November, this charge reappeared. Chad vowed to correct this issue.

Old Business:

Mike Trimpe reported that the Edwards' vacuum rough pump maintenance course scheduled for October 22nd, at the Hamilton County Crime Lab, was cancelled due to lack of interest. Mike queried the group to see if there was any additional interest and none was expressed. Mike will request Edwards to reimburse the FSIO for the \$2,500 deposit check issued to reserve the class.

President Barlag advised that they did not receive the NIJ grant to provide continuing education to current and future practitioners and other criminal justice stakeholders. Rebecca implied that she intends to reapply in the future.

Mark Hiatt previously requested that the FSIO consider sponsoring another court room testimony class for new hires. Mark revealed that he intends to approach MAFS to consider such an endeavor, since most of the FSIO are members of this organization.

New Business:

President Barlag presented the following slate of officers for year 2022: President-Elect – Jennifer Duvall (BCI London) (will become President in 2023), Secretary – Bob Budgake and Treasurer – Chad Wissinger. Motion to close the nominations and approve the presented slate of candidates, Tony Tambasco; Second, Brandon Werry. All Members voted in the affirmative. Mark Hiatt will become President on January 1, 2022. Current President Rebecca Barlag will remain on the Board and serve as Advisor.

Bob Budgake presented the Associate Membership application of Benjamin J. Bythell, PhD (Ohio U.). Ben is Associate Professor instructing in the Ohio University's forensic chemistry program. Motion to accept, Bob Budgake; Second, Chad Wissinger. All Members voted in the affirmative.

Chad Wissinger led a discussion regarding the reinstatement of membership dues payments in 2022. There was a consensus to do so. No official action was needed since the suspension of dues payments was only for 2021. Chad said he will issue invoices soon to the membership.

Jeff Lynn reported that on December 7th, their Delta Delta Epsilon (DDE) Forensic Honor Society chapter (BGSU) hosted a Zoom panel discussion regarding post-undergraduate pathways in forensic science. Jeff indicated that this endeavor went very well but was disappointed that they had no participation outside BGSU. Our colleagues that participated in this discussion were Casey Agosti (BCI-Bowling Green), Mark Hiatt, Adam Pasternak, LeAnne Suchanek (Lake Co.) and Mike Trimpe.

Jeff Lynn announced that BGSU has requested \$700 thousand in funding, via the State capital budget, to establish a DNA analysis lab and learning center to train forensic scientists, law enforcement professionals and students. Jeff revealed that the FSIO Board issued a letter of support regarding this venture.

*The next Meeting of the FSIO, will be 10 am, Thursday, March 10, 2022, at the **Ohio Fire Academy**, 8895 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Motion, Bob Budgake; Second, Jim Smith. All Members voted in the affirmative.*

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 am. Motion, Bob Budgake; Second, Chad Wissinger. All Members voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Budgake, Secretary, FSIO