

Meeting Minutes for the Forensic Science Institute of Ohio

Prior to the FSIO Meeting, Eric Johnson, Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victim Services, gave a presentation regarding Ohio's sexual assault kit tracking system. If there are any questions regarding this system or the legal requirements, please contact Eric at Eric.Johnson@ohioattorneygeneral.gov.

A Meeting of the FSIO was called to order at 11:00 am, on June 10, 2021 at Ohio University, Baker Center, Room 366, Athens, Ohio. President Rebecca Barlag (Ohio Univ.) presided over the meeting. This was our first in-person meeting, since December 2019, because of the COVID pandemic.

The following Members and guests were present: Bob Budgake (Canton-Stark Retired), Jen Duvall (BCI London), Diane Gehres (BCI London), Heather Sheskey (OSHP), Sonja Rawn (State Fire Marshal), Erin Reed (DPS), Jim Smith (BCI London), Jami StClair (Columbus Retired), Mike Trimpe (Hamilton Co.). Michele Foster (Canton-Stark) was represented by proxy. A quorum was NOT present. Eight of the eighteen eligible voters were present or represented, therefore no business of the Institute was conducted.

Sonja Rwan, on behalf of Treasurer Wissinger, gave the treasurers' report. She disclosed the FSIO has a checking, PayPal and saving's account balance of \$29,541 and a Tong Award's Fund balance of \$40,501. Jim Smith questioned the monthly minimum balance fee of \$3 per month being charged to the Tong fund. Sonja indicated that she will share this concern with the Treasurer.

Heather Sheskey stated that last spring, they partnered with MAFS to hold a Hypergeometric Sampling and Uncertainty of Measurement workshop. This was held via Zoom and was well attended.

Jeff Lynn (Bowling Green State U.) was not present to report on two planned courses re: pharmacophores and difficult latent print decisions.

Mike Trimpe reported that the Edwards' vacuum rough pump maintenance course, scheduled for last year, was cancelled due to COVID. They still are interested in arranging this course and are currently waiting to hear back from Edwards for a new quote.

New Business:

Heather Sheskey revealed that she queried the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) to get the FSIO certified as an organization for members to receive ABC recertification points for attendance at our meetings. The ABC approved this request in January 2020.

Sonja Rawn indicated that they are still interested in organizing and hosting an Ohio digital examiners meeting. Sonja interjected that their digital examiners are now able to extract digital data from vehicles.

Jennifer Duvall reported that the virtual crime lab director's meeting, held in September 2020 went well. This meeting was restricted to the directors to make it more manageable. The general consensus of those attendees thought that this virtual format would not work well on a larger scale.

Rebecca Barlag announced that they are applying for a three year multi-million-dollar NIJ grant to provide continuing education to current and future practitioners and other criminal justice stakeholders. Rebecca asked the Membership to support and partner with OU regarding this endeavor. Bob Budgake indicated that this request is consistent with our Code of Regulations which states, "The purpose of the Forensic Science Institute of Ohio is to provide a common platform for its member organizations to share resources and work collaboratively to strengthen forensic science in the State of Ohio. We are committed to serve Ohio's forensic science community and its stakeholders by promoting continuing education for laboratory personnel, establishing forensic science graduate/post graduate degree standards and fostering cooperation." Bob stated that since a quorum was not present, we could not act on this proposal at this meeting. Bob suggested that the Board of Directors take up this matter, since the grant application is due in a week. The membership present concurred.

*The next Meeting of the FSIO, will be 10 am, Thursday, September 9, 2021, at the new **Hamilton County Coroner's Lab, 4477 Carver Woods Dr., Blue Ash, Ohio.***

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

The FSIO Board of Directors met virtually on June 10 & 11, 2021. To discuss the request for support by Rebecca Barlag regarding their NIJ grant application. The Board authorized Secretary Budgake to write a letter of support on behalf of the FSIO intended to be submitted with OU's application. President Barlag recused herself from this vote. The Board unanimously approved this request.

The Board also took up pending membership applications, that where in limbo because of our inability to meet due to COVID. The Board unanimously approved the following applications:

Associate Member – Jennifer Hobbs, Senior Forensic Toxicologist, Franklin County Coroner's Lab

Emeritus Member – Doug Rohde, retired Lake County, currently working at the Cleveland Clinic

Honorary Member – Anthony Stender, former Assistant Professor of forensic chemistry at Ohio University

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert E. Budgake
Secretary, FSIO*