

NEAFS Newsletter

Volume 45, Issue 1

Spring 2020

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Cover Design: Keith Mancini

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PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532

president@neafs.org

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Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public
Protection
278 Colony Street
Meriden, CT 06451

presidentelect@neafs.org

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Biomedical Forensic Sciences Program
72 East Concord Street, Suite R-806
Boston, MA 02118

treasurer@neafs.org

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Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
124 Acton Street
Maynard, MA 01754

secretary@neafs.org

Director: Stephanie Minero

Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner
1194 Prospect Avenue
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director1@neafs.org

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500 Sea Girt Ave.
Sea Girt, NJ 08750

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PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532

director3@neafs.org

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Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner
1194 Prospect Avenue
Westbury, NY 11590
pastpresident@neafs.org

Executive Secretary: Helen Wong

Suffolk County Crime Laboratory
Bldg. 487, William J. Lindsay County Complex
725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Hauppauge, NY 11787
executivesecretary@neafs.org

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Bay Path University
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Longmeadow, MA 01106
education@neafs.org

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Goodspeed**

Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
124 Acton Street
Maynard, MA 01754
978-451-3504
registration@neafs.org

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NEAFS
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
membership@neafs.org

**Social Media Coordinator/ Merchandise
Chairperson: Amanda White**

NEAFS
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
merchandise@neafs.org

Site Chairperson: Janine Kishbaugh

Cedar Crest College
100 College Drive
Allentown, PA 18104
610-606-4661
sitechair@neafs.org

Publications Chairperson: Brandi Clark

NEAFS
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
publications@neafs.org

Awards Chairperson: Danielle Malone

NYC - OCME FBio
421 E 26 Street
New York, NY 10016
awards@neafs.org

Ethics Chairperson: Beth Saucier Goodspeed

Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
124 Acton Street
Maynard, MA 01754
978-451-3504
ethics@neafs.org

Corporate Liaison: Sarah Roseman

Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner
1194 Prospect Avenue
Westbury, NY 11590
exhibits@neafs.org

Dues: Joseph Phillips & Angelina Pollen

NEAFS
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
dues@neafs.org

Certification Chairperson: Peter Diaczuk

John Jay College, Department of Sciences
524 W 59th street
New York, NY 10019
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MEET THE 2020 BOD

Maria Tsocanos - President

Westchester County Forensic Laboratory, NY
Forensic Scientist in the Forensic Biology section
BS in Forensic Science - John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Angela Violotti – President-Elect

Connecticut Forensic Lab, Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Scientific Services
Forensic Science Examiner 1 for approximately 4.5 years
BS in Biochemistry – Cedar Crest College
MS in Forensic Science – Cedar Crest College

Adam Hall Ph.D., D-ABC - Treasurer

Director, Mass Spectrometry Facility-Barnett Institute of Chemical and Biological Analysis-Northeastern University, Boston, MA 2014- Present
Instructor of Forensic Chemistry, Boston University School of Medicine, 2007-2014
Forensic Chemist II, MA State Police Crime Laboratory, 2002-2007
BA in Chemistry - Stonehill College
MS in Chemistry - Northeastern University
PhD in Analytical Chemistry - Northeastern University

Elizabeth Duval – Secretary

Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory
Forensic Scientist II, 2009-present
BS Genetics, Texas A&M University
BS in Forensic Science, University of New Haven

Stephanie Minero– Director

Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Services
Forensic Scientist in the Controlled Substance Analysis Section since 2008
BS in Forensic Science - Long Island University/CW Post
MS in Biology - Long Island University/CW Post

Alanna Laureano- Director

Westchester County Department of Labs & Research, Division of Forensic Sciences Since 2007
Forensic Science Specialist and Assistant DNA Technical Leader
BS in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry- University at Albany, SUNY
MS in Forensic Biology- University at Albany, SUNY

Matthew Marino - Director

New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences, East Regional Laboratory from November 2011 to present
Forensic Scientist 2 in the Drug Unit and Criminalistics Unit
Westchester County, NY Forensic Laboratory from July 2007 to September 2011
Forensic Technician
BS in Natural Sciences with a concentration in Chemistry-St. Thomas Aquinas College

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A Message from President Maria Tsocanos

I am humbled and honored to be the President of this incredible organization. The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists is truly a unique organization with a dedicated Board of Directors and Staff.

We continue to strive to grow and succeed in our mission, which is to exchange ideas and information within the field of forensic science and to foster friendships and cooperation among various laboratory personnel.

I would like to take a moment to welcome our new and reinstated members that were voted in at the 2019 Annual Meeting, Welcome! Remember that you can upgrade your membership status from associate to regular member or regular to emeritus for FREE by completing a membership application now available online!

We are currently working towards becoming a paperless organization. We are upgrading the website and creating documents that will be available to you. Please be patient with our new endeavor.

Our President-Elect Angela Vialotti is working tirelessly with her annual meeting staff to organize yet another amazing meeting. The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held at the Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa in Groton, CT on October 14th – 17th. Stay Tuned as more information becomes available on our website.

Deadlines to keep in mind:

- Membership Dues April 1, 2020 to avoid late fees
- New Member Application September 1st
- George W Chin Memorial Scholarship (\$2000) April 30th
- George W Neighbor JR Memorial Scholarship (\$1750) April 30
- Carol De Forest Forensic Science Research Grants (\$2500) April 30th

If you have a fellow NEAFS member in mind for the Meritorious Service Award please send in your letter to our awards committee today!

We hope everyone stays healthy and safe.

Maria Tsocanos

2020 NEAFS President



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For questions, additional information or to volunteer please contact
Angela Vialotti at: secretary@neafs.org

2020 ANNUAL MEETING



OCTOBER 14TH – 17TH, 2020



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2020 Annual Meeting



Mystic Marriott



Groton, CT



October 15th, 2020



Thursday Evening Session



Trivia/Board Game Night

2020
PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION



NEAFS 90S MIX

2020 Preliminary Meeting Schedule

(subject to change)

Tuesday, October 13th

3:00pm - 6:00pm	Board of Directors Meeting
7:30pm - 10:00pm	Board of Directors Dinner

Wednesday, October 14th

7:00am - 1:30pm	Registration
7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast
8:30am - 5:00pm	Workshops
8:00am - 12:00pm	ABC Exam
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)
6:00pm - 9:30pm	Exhibits Set-up
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Registration

Thursday, October 15th

7:00am - 12:00pm	Registration
7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast
7:30am - 8:00pm	Exhibits
9:00am - 5:00pm	Scientific Sessions: Chemistry, Criminalistics/CSU & Digital Evidence, Biology/DNA, Trace/Arson & Explosives, Toxicology
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Business Lunch
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Registration
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Welcome Reception & Poster Session
8:00pm - 10:00pm	Evening Event

Friday, October 16th

7:30am - 9:30am	Registration
7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast
7:30am - 11:00am	Exhibits
9:00am - 12:00pm	Morning General Session
12:00pm - 2:00pm	Luncheon
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Registration
2:30pm - 5:30pm	Afternoon General Session
6:30pm - 7:30pm	Cocktail Hour
7:30pm - 11:30pm	President's Reception

Saturday, October 17th

7:00am - 9:30am	Registration
9:00am - 12:00pm	Student Forum
9:00am - 12:00pm	Educator Forum

NEAFS 46th Annual Meeting

October 14th - 17th Groton, CT

CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstract Form can be found on the NEAFS website at www.neafs.org/callforpapers.

MEMBER or **ACTIVE APPLICANT** presenting a technical talk or poster
receives **FREE REGISTRATION**

DEADLINE: *September 1st, 2020*

PLEASE NOTE: All presenters must register for the meeting. In addition,
reimbursement for registration must be submitted after presentation has been
given at the meeting.

You will be notified whether your abstract is approved as is, approved with suggested modifications, or not selected. It is recommended that abstracts be from 250 to 500 words and must accurately reflect the content of the presentation.

Peter R. De Forest Student Competition Rules and Guidelines

Students may choose to enter their presentation (oral or poster) in the Peter De Forest Student Competition. To be eligible to compete, a presenter must be enrolled as a full or part time undergraduate or graduate student during the time the research was performed and completed. A graduation date within 6 months of the NEAFS meeting at which the work will be presented is acceptable, provided the work was completed before the graduation date. NEAFS membership is not required. Presentations should consist of original research or ideas. Literature reviews will not be accepted into the competition. Students will be judged on both scientific accuracy and presentation skills. For collaborations, only one student will be eligible to present the work and the award will go to the presenter, not the project. No two students may present the same project, even if in a different format (oral vs poster presentation.) The student presenting the work should have contributed and completed the major portion of the work themselves. A student may present their research in both oral and poster format, however only one format may be entered into the competition.

Abstract Form can be found on the NEAFS website at www.neafs.org/callforpapers.

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NEAFS would like to Welcome the Following New Members

Jessamyn Chmura

Boston PD Crime Laboratory

Christian Hopkins

Certified Labs

Ewelina Mistek

Lednew Research Group

Darina Griffin and Mikayla Caldwell

Mass State Police Crime Laboratory

Danielle Munoz

Mid Hudson Crime Laboratory

Michael Fagiola, Nicholas Ciccone and Alexandra Kocaj

Nassau County Medical Examiner

Conor Lennon

NJ State Police-Office of Forensic Science

Kyle Brown and Mary Coleman

NMS Labs

Kendra Hardy and Brendan Perrotta

NYPD Police Laboratory

Michele Plowinske, Tobi Kirschmann, Carolyn Frantz and Mary Maltbie

NYSP Forensic Investigation Center

Season Seferyn

Onondaga County Center of Forensic Sciences

Erin Monko

PA State Police

Jennifer Kenyon

Penn State University

Vujayalaxmi Radkar and Alyssa Lombardo

Westchester County Department of Labs and Research

Chadeen Vanriel and Rosalyn Roman

Yonkers PD Forensic Science Laboratory

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Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists Meritorious Service Award Nomination Form

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists is accepting nominations for the Meritorious Service Award.

This award is given to a NEAFS member that has a history of providing commendable service to the forensic science community by serving justice through casework, performing research advancing forensic science, training and educating forensic scientists and future forensic scientists, and overall contributions to the NEAFS organization. The nominee must have held the status of Regular Member within NEAFS for at least 10 years to be considered.

In addition to this form, a letter of recommendation outlining the nominee's contributions must be emailed to awards@neafs.org. All nominations must be received by September 1st. The winner of the NEAFS Meritorious Service Award will be announced during the annual meeting.

Nominator

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Affiliation:

NEAFS Membership Number:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

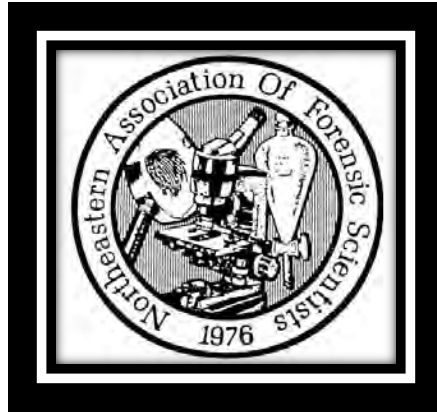
Nominee

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Affiliation:



ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Are you a current full-time undergraduate student in your junior or senior year, or are you either a part-time or full-time graduate student completing his or her degree in a forensic program at a regionally accredited institution located in the Northeastern U.S. (Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania)?

Then you are eligible to apply for:

George W. Neighbor Jr. Memorial Scholarship (undergraduate) - Award is \$1750

George W. Neighbor Jr. Memorial Scholarship (graduate) - Award is \$1750

George W. Chin Memorial Scholarship – Award is \$2000

Carol De Forest Forensic Science Research Grants - Award is \$2500

***Note** – eligibility is for both full-time undergraduate and graduate students

**** Note** – Two Research Grants will be Awarded.

All submission materials for either the scholarships or the research grants must be completed, and electronically submitted by April 30th. The 2020 Awards recipients will be notified no later than September 1st.

For more information and Scholarship/Research Grant forms please go to <http://www.neafs.org/>

Questions or comments? Please email Awards@NEAFS.org

THE GEORGE W. CHIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

NEAFS and the Chin Family



On September 22, 2016, NEAFS lost one of the pioneers of the Association. George had a passion for forensic science and as a self-appointed “God of Trace Evidence”, he liked to share his knowledge and mentor the younger generation. George was one of the co-founders of the Student Forum at NEAFS, where he would teach students about the realities of a job in forensic science. In addition to NEAFS, he was also a life member of the New Jersey Association of Forensic Scientists (NJAFS), a charter member of the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners (ASTEE), and a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and the New Jersey Homicide Investigators Association (NJHIA).

A graduate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice – City University of New York (CUNY), his professional career spanned 36 years with the New Jersey State Police. When George first started in March of 1980, he was briefly assigned to the Equine Laboratory at the Meadowlands, but quickly transitioned to a position at the North Regional Laboratory, where he was able to grow his love for all things Trace Evidence. George loved his work and helped to educate students about our field. He would routinely take his own time to go and lecture to high schools and attend their career fairs. In addition, George has mentored numerous interns over the course of his career, many of whom have him to thank for their current employment!

George’s graciousness was felt by all who came into contact with him and his passing leaves a huge void in the forensic community and in our hearts.

George’s family has graciously set up this Memorial Scholarship fund in his memory and honor.

THE GEORGE W. CHIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Eligibility requirements for the George W. Chin Memorial Scholarship:

- Currently enrolled in a Forensic Science program
- Full-time undergraduate students in their junior or senior year
- Full or part-time graduate students (limited to first two years for PhD students)
- The student must demonstrate excellence in his/her academic program.

Application requirements:

- Two letters of recommendation (each accompanied with the recommendation form) from Professors involved in the Forensic Science curriculum.
- A letter from the student describing his/her personal aspirations in the Forensics field, achievements and reasons for award consideration. (Minimum of 250 words - maximum of 500 words). This must be provided to the Professors submitting the recommendation letters.
- Applicants should be attending college/university within the area from which the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists draws its members (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania).
- Most current academic transcripts.
- Application requirements must be emailed by **April 30th**. Out of fairness to all potential candidates, no exceptions will be made.

Interested candidates should submit the above requirements electronically in a single PDF titled (GWC_Last name_First name_Grad) OR (GWC_Last name_First name_Undergrad) to awards@neafs.org

THE GEORGE W. CHIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Are you a current full-time undergraduate student in your junior or senior year, or are you either a part-time or full-time graduate student or in your first two years of your Ph.D. Forensic Science program? Do you attend a college or university within the area from which NEAFS draws its members (CT, NY, NJ, PA, VT, NH, ME, RI, MA)? Do you demonstrate excellence in your academic program?

If Yes, you are eligible to apply for the George W. Chin Memorial Scholarship!

The award is \$2000.00 as well as Associate membership for one year in the NEAFS organization. Membership will be granted to a current member or active applicant as well as a non-member (the application fee will also be included).

All submission materials for the Memorial Scholarship must be completed and electronically submitted by April 30. The award recipients will be notified no later than September 1.

For more information and to obtain the application forms, go to <http://www.neafs.org>

If you have any questions please email: awards@neafs.org

Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists

George W. Chin Memorial Scholarship

Application Form

Undergraduate ☐ Graduate ☐ Ph.D. (1st 2 years) ☐ (select one)

Name _____ Email _____

School Residence _____ School Phone Number _____

Home Address _____ Home Phone Number _____

College/Institution _____ Current Year _____

Personal aspirations in the Forensics field, achievements and reasons for award consideration –

Minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 500 words

(Please use the space below and/or attach additional sheets, if necessary)

All applicants must submit the following materials electronically in one pdf file to awards@neafs.org: 1) Candidate application; 2) Two recommendation forms from Professors in the Forensic Science curriculum and corresponding letters; 3) Most current academic transcripts.

All materials must be submitted and received no later than **April 30th**. The winner will be notified no later than September 1st.

NEAFS does not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or physical handicap.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY: Reference# _____ Date Received _____ Initials _____

Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists

George W. Chin Memorial Scholarship

Recommendation Form

Undergraduate___ Graduate___ Ph.D. (1st 2 years)___(select one)

Candidate's Name_____ Date_____

Professor's Name_____ Signature_____

Title_____ College/Institution_____

Address_____

Phone Number_____ Affiliation with Candidate_____

Please check the appropriate code: O=Outstanding E=Excellent G=Good A=Average BA=Below Average NI=No Information

	O	E	G	A	BA	NI
Knowledge of subject matter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to work with others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reliability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maturity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please feel free to give us any additional comments you feel may be helpful to us. (Attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

I have read the candidate's letter and find it to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree

All applicants must submit the following materials electronically in one pdf file to awards@neafs.org: 1) Candidate application; 2) Two recommendation forms from Professors in the Forensic Science curriculum and corresponding letters; 3) Most current academic transcripts.

All materials must be submitted and received no later than **April 30th**.

NEAFS does not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or physical handicap.

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2020 Training Scholarship Fund

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS) is proud to offer its members a 2020 Training Scholarship Fund. Regular members, in good standing, are eligible to receive up to \$400 towards training, workshop or non-NEAFS meeting registration expenses. Detailed instructions and application forms are available on the NEAFS website. Simply click the “Training” link at the top of the screen and scroll down to the “NEAFS Training Scholarship Forms”. The current application period is January 1st, 2020 to December 31st, 2020. Reimbursements will be issued on a first come, first serve basis and funding is limited. If you plan to attend a non-NEAFS meeting workshop, training or course during this application period and will not be funded by your agency or any other non-NEAFS related entity, we highly encourage your swift application for the 2020 Training Scholarship Fund. Please visit the NEAFS [training](#) website to take advantage of this great NEAFS opportunity and to view upcoming training opportunities!

Dr. Andrew Schweighardt used the scholarship fund to subsidize the costs of attending the 72nd AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

I am grateful to the NEAFS Travel Scholarship Fund which helped to subsidize the costs of attending the 72nd AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Anaheim, CA. I work at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) where my job often concentrates on missing persons identification and the role that DNA plays in mass disaster response. These responsibilities were on my mind when I planned my first day at the conference. I started the day attending a breakfast seminar on “Ethno-Cultural and Religious Considerations in the Management of the Dead.” This may not be a topic that ordinarily receives a lot of attention from forensic scientists, but it is certainly something that might be relevant in mass fatalities occurring in diverse areas such as New York City. I followed that up with a



workshop on “Mass Disasters and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI).” DVI is a field that is becoming increasingly more organized, largely in response to government oversight calling for standardization. This workshop included my favorite topic – DNA – but also featured other speakers that offered a reminder about all the other modalities of identification such as odontology, fingerprints, and anthropology. Overall my first day left me feeling very well informed about trends and developments in the scientific response to disasters.

With a little time to relax before the scientific sessions began, I started the next day with an early morning swim at the hotel pool. I really enjoyed this, and it gave me a good opportunity to stretch my rather large frame after being compressed in a tiny airline seat on the long flight out west. I went to the Academy Cup to cheer on the Criminalistics team as they answered forensic science trivia questions. They placed in the top three teams, but unfortunately were not the leading team. Later that day I attended the Criminalistics Luncheon, followed by the AAFS Annual Business Meeting. This was a special meeting for me because I was promoted to Fellow. I originally joined AAFS as a Student Affiliate and aspiring forensic scientist years ago, and I am grateful for all that the Academy (and NEAFS) has done to foster my professional growth. Feeling like I needed to celebrate, I spent time that evening with some great friends at the John Jay College Reception. I proudly consider John Jay to be one of the cornerstones of my forensic science background, and I am always eager to reminisce about the good old days as a Bloodhound.

The next day or two was a blur of posters and talks in the Criminalistics session. Based on the future direction of forensic biology, I was particularly drawn to talks covering Rapid DNA and Massively Parallel Sequencing. I tried my best to attend a few talks of former students in my Molecular Biology class at John Jay. Some of the topics were the use of a vacuum to collect DNA from paper documents (Christian Hopkins), the analysis of stamp pad inks (Swetha Rajagopal), and the identification of opioids using LC/MS/MS (Natalia Platosz). In an effort to further broaden my horizons beyond DNA and support some current or former colleagues, I also attended interesting talks on the examination of bones and cartilage in cases of neck trauma (Christopher Rainwater), anthropological investigations in migrant deaths (Angela Soler), the detection of art fraud and counterfeiting (Nicholas Petraco), and optimizing a workflow for paper evidence (Ashley Morgan). The variety of topics covered at an AAFS meeting perfectly illustrates one of the primary benefits for attending a conference that so broadly captures many disciplines.

This AAFS meeting also gave me the opportunity to serve as a moderator again. One who serves in this capacity acts as the primary liaison between the session chairs and the speakers. Most of us see the moderators as the masters of ceremony who keep the presentations flowing smoothly. However, like many service positions in professional organizations, there is often much that goes on behind the scenes. It is through the moderators that powerpoint files are filtered to the Academy laptops, last-minute questions from speakers are fielded, and speaker biographies are collected. I highly recommend service as a moderator to any rising stars in the Academy, as it provides great networking opportunities and public speaking experience, not to mention giving back to the Academy and strengthening any future applications for promotion in the Academy. At this particular meeting, my assignment to the session on “Non-Human DNA” seemed an appropriate placement based on my graduate research on bacterial DNA. There were some very interesting talks on the recovery of human DNA from bird eggs and feathers (Georgina Meakin), the use of pyrosequencing for species identification (Mirna Ghemrawi), a SINE-based assay for species identification (James Liang), using environmental DNA to characterize biological communities (Hillary Eaton), developing human DNA profiles from sections of the mosquito midgut (Mollie Comella), signatures of suicide in the human postmortem microbiome (Katelyn Smiles), changes in the microbial signature of human samples (Denise Wohlfahrt), and multidisciplinary efforts to identify a cat killer (Jeremiah Garrido, Christina Lindquist, and Michelle Bell). Being focused on human nuclear DNA for my main job, it is easy to forget that so many other sources of DNA may be relevant to forensic science. These speakers all did a terrific job of reminding the audience that it’s not all about humans.

To keep riding the momentum of reconnecting with old friends and colleagues, I attended a reunion for former Visiting Scientists of the FBI Laboratory. This was a major highlight of my early career. Living and working in Quantico, Virginia was a wonderful experience that allowed me to gain firsthand knowledge of one of the world’s greatest crime laboratories. I learned a great deal of new things at the FBI Lab and I am grateful to have been able to publish some of the work I did there. My experience there provided me with a strong foundation on which I have built a career as a forensic biologist at OCME. Seeing all the familiar faces at this reunion brought back lots of fond memories. It was also humbling to be included in a group that counts Forensic Biology legends such as John Butler among its ranks.

For me the highlight of every AAFS conference is, and always will be, the Believe It Or Not session. This is where speakers can shed the formal restrictions imposed on them in the scientific sessions and design a forensic science talk with one thing in mind – pure entertainment. Talks here are often judged not by their technical details but by the shock value of the story. The lineup of speakers did not disappoint. The audience learned about Mickey and his connection to USACIL (Chris Taylor), Porky Pig and the Butcher (Barry Fisher), Disney Imagineering (Ben Schwegler), Forensic Science in Comics (Michelle Miranda), Drugs in Dizzyland (Adriana D’Armas), Big Bad Wolf and Electrocution (Helmut Brosz), and BLEVE it or not (Peter Diaczuk). I also gave a talk in this session about a homicide and dismemberment case that OCME worked on in NYC.

On a serious note, I want to share a fond remembrance of my former OCME colleague, Dr. Noelle Umback. I learned of Noelle’s passing the day of my arrival in Anaheim. It was shocking to me, as Noelle had been a major fixture at AAFS conferences, and it was hard to imagine one without her. I will always remember Noelle for her professionalism and the dedication that she had to her work. I think the best way we can honor her is to carry on the commitment to the Academy which was so important to Noelle.

In closing, let me again express my profound gratitude to NEAFS for helping to make my trip to Anaheim possible. It was a very worthwhile conference and I’m glad I didn’t miss it. NEAFS was the first professional organization that I ever joined and I will always regard it as a major stepping stone in my career. In my opinion, the relatively small financial commitment required to join NEAFS is a bargain in light of the many rewards it offers. Thank you NEAFS!

*Visit neafs.org
under the
merchandise
tab!*



GET YOUR NEAFS GEAR!

Beth Saucier Goodspeed used the scholarship fund to subsidize the costs of attending the 72nd AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

During the week of Feb. 24, 2020, I attended the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Anaheim, CA. During this meeting, I attended workshops, lectures and seminars. Not only does this meeting provide information during the week, but it also provides an opportunity to meet people from all over the world that practice in the field of Forensic Science. I look forward to attending this meeting every year since it provides a wonderful experience and I always come back with new information.

This year, NEAFS was able to provide funding to me so I could attend breakfast and luncheon seminars that were not funded by my current job. When I attend any workshop or meeting, I want to get as much out of it as I can and NEAFS allowed me to do this at this year's AAFS meeting.

The first Breakfast Seminar that I attended was entitled "The Working Stiffs: Writing and Publishing the Experiences of a Forensic Pathologist in Both Fiction and Non-Fiction". This seminar was given by Judy Melinek, MD and T.J. Mitchell, BA who are a husband and wife writing team. Dr. Melinek has served as a pathologist in New York City as well as other cities. She has used her experiences to write a fiction book entitled First Cut. Her husband, Mr. Mitchell was an English major in college so he uses his knowledge and skills to edit her writing to make it suitable for publishing. They have also written a nonfiction book entitled Working Stiff. This is also based on her experiences and speaks about what it is really like to be a forensic pathologist. They wanted to educate the public about real life to dispel the misgivings of some of the forensic science shows on TV. Dr. Melinek also has her own blog and she has also written a column in *Forensic Magazine*.

The second Breakfast Seminar that I attended was entitled "Is a Soldier's Combat Stress a Reason to Commit Five Murders?" This seminar was given by T. L. Williams MFS, Rick Malone MD, Phillip Curran MFS, Angel L. Miles MA, and Celia Gallo MFS. This seminar was about a soldier that was serving in Iraq who was having difficulties with coping in his current environment. He was seeking help at the Combat Stress Center. The speakers provided a background on this soldier. On a day of an appointment, he proceeded to enter the Stress Center with a loaded gun that he took from another officer and proceeded to shoot and killed five US service members. He also attempted to kill two other officers before he was apprehended. Virtual crime scenes as well as actual crime scene photographs were presented to show the actions that occurred on that fateful day.

The first Luncheon seminar that I attended was entitled "The Disappearance and Murder of Sierra LaMar: A Multidisciplinary Case Study". This seminar was presented by Melissa A. Dupee MSFS and Michelle L. Bell, BA. This seminar was about fifteen year old Sierra LaMar who was kidnapped and murdered. Her body was never recovered. Information in regards to the events of the day she was kidnapped as well as the time period following the kidnapping was described. They spoke about the crime scene search in the surrounding areas, the examination of the suspect's vehicle, and the search to find Sierra's body. The serology and DNA testing of the items were also presented in detail by the forensic scientist that performed the analysis. Trace materials also played a role in this case and the scientist's findings were discussed. The court case was also described as well as the outcome of the trial.

The second Luncheon seminar that I attended was entitled "Fingerprinting the Brain: Mind, Memories, and Malingering." This seminar was presented by Charles Scott, Jorien Campbell MD, Gary Ciuffetelli MD, Ambarin Faizi, DO and Bethany Hughes. This seminar detailed how brain waves collected by an EEG can be used to determine if a suspect is telling the truth or lying about a crime that he may or may not have been involved in. Electrodes are attached to the brain of the subject to collect the brain wave activity while pictures and/or words are displayed on a screen. If the suspect recognizes the image or word as a significant event, a "P300" brain wave and also a corresponding wave appear. If it is not a significant event, these brain waves will be absent. This technique has been accepted and allowed into court cases.

Overall the AAFS annual meeting was excellent. I was able to come home with more knowledge and ideas to help me in my current job. If you haven't attended an AAFS meeting yet, I highly encourage you do so. But, I must say, nothing beats the NEAFS annual meeting!



NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS 2020 TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD: JANUARY 1st, 2020- DECEMBER 31st, 2020

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS) is proud to offer its members a Training Scholarship Fund (TSF). **Members in good standing are eligible to receive up to \$400 towards training, workshop or non-NEAFS meeting registration and travel expenses.** Individuals will only be allowed reimbursement once per application period. Any NEAFS Annual Meeting expenses are ineligible to receive funding. Reimbursement will occur upon receipt of a certificate showing successful attendance and completion of the course along with an article summarizing the course for the NEAFS newsletter.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must submit a *Pre-Approval Application* prior to attending the training for which they wish to obtain funding. All applications must be complete with a brief course description, statement as to how the applicant will benefit from attending the training and justification for receiving funding (i.e. insufficient employer funding or continuing education requirements).

Notification will be given to each applicant upon receipt of the *Pre-Approval Application*. This notification lets the applicant know that their submission has been received **by the Awards Chair** at NEAFS and is being reviewed. Applicants can expect to be informed of the acceptance or rejection of their application within 60 days of receiving this *Pre-Approval Application* notification.

Upon successful attendance and completion of the training, all pre-approved applicants must submit a *Reimbursement Application* along with supporting documentation. Whenever possible, a certificate should be provided as proof of attendance and completion. If a certificate is not issued, or is unavailable, a letter from the organizer/instructor verifying the applicant's successful attendance and completion shall suffice. Each Training Scholarship Fund recipient is required to contribute to NEAFS and its members by publishing a written article in the Newsletter. *Reimbursement Applications* will only be considered complete when accompanied by a 1000-word (minimum) course summary.

All application materials can be found on the NEAFS website. Please submit all inquiries, applications and supporting documentation to: awards@neafs.org.



NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION

Instructions: To be completed prior to attending the workshop/meeting eligible for reimbursement.

Applicant Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Organization/Agency: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____
 NEAFS Member Number: _____
 ABC Status: Diplomat Fellow Board Member Affiliate Exam Committee

Training Information

Course Title: _____
 Sponsor/Host Organization: _____
 Meeting Dates & Times: _____
 Location: _____ Travel Dates & Times: _____
 Course Description: _____

 Attendance Benefit to Applicant: _____

Expenses

Registration Cost: _____ Travel Cost: _____
 Justification for Reimbursement: _____

Will you be reimbursed by your agency or any other non-NEAFS related entity for any expenses incurred as a result of attending the above training? Yes No

If "Yes", provide funding agency and amount: _____

Have you been funded to attend all or part of a workshop or training course this year? Yes No

If "Yes", provide cost of workshop(s)/training(s) attended and amount compensated: _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY: Reference #: _____ Date Received: _____ Initials: _____



NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION

Instructions: To be completed upon successful completion of the workshop/meeting approved for reimbursement.

Applicant Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Organization/Agency: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Training Information

Course Title: _____
 Sponsor/Host Organization: _____
 Meeting Dates & Times: _____
 Location: _____ Travel Dates & Times: _____
 Instructor/Organizer: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

*If applicable, provide proof of attendance and successful completion by attaching a certificate to this form.

NOTE: Each applicant must write a 1000-word (minimum) course summary to accompany this form. Applicants awarded full or partial workshop reimbursement will have their course summaries published in the NEAFS Newsletter. The preferred format is a Microsoft Word document. Reimbursement applications submitted without a course summary will be considered incomplete and ineligible for reimbursement.

Reimbursement Information

Expense(s) Incurred: _____

*Applicants must provide proof of payment for each expense listed on this application.

Will you be reimbursed by your agency or any other non-NEAFS related entity for any expenses incurred as a result of attending the above training? Yes No

If "Yes", provide funding agency and amount: _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY: Reference #: _____ Date Received: _____ Initials: _____

Upcoming Training

August 2020

Basic Fire Debris Analysis for the Forensic Chemist
The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF's Forensic Science
Laboratory-Washington located in Ammendale, Maryland
Monday, August 17 through Thursday, August 20, 2020

Introductory Fire Debris Analysis for the Forensic Chemist is a four-day course designed for state and local government laboratory analysts in the early stages of fire debris training or with less than a year experience in conducting fire debris analysis casework. This class covers the basic theory and concepts analysts need to understand in order to help them gain initial competency from their agency. Classroom learning will be enhanced with hands-on exercises and small group assignments.

There is no tuition for the course, but participant's agency must cover all travel and per diem costs.

The deadline for submitting an application for the course is May 1, 2020. Applicants will be notified of their status for the class by mid-May.

Download application [here](#).

Upcoming Training

December 2020

Introductory Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Workshop

Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, 9601 NW 58th St., Doral, FL 33178

December 7-11, 2020

Violent crimes usually result in bloodshed. When physical forces act upon liquid blood, patterns will be deposited on the various items at the crime scene, as well as the clothing of the individuals present during the activity. These patterns can yield valuable information concerning the events that lead to their creation. The information can then be used for reconstruction of the incident, as well as to evaluate the statements of the witnesses and the crime participants. Bloodstain pattern evidence can be of value in the investigation of any violent crime in which bloodshed occurs.

Workshop objectives:

- 1) Teach the investigator how to identify bloodstain pattern evidence at the crime scene.
- 2) Teach the investigator how to properly document bloodstain pattern evidence.
- 3) Teach the investigator how to properly preserve the bloodstain pattern evidence.
- 4) Teach the investigator how to reconstruct bloodstain patterns at the crime scene.
- 5) Provide the foundation for teaching the investigator how to interpret bloodstain pattern evidence.
- 6) Teach the investigator the safety and health issues associated with bloodstain pattern evidence.

Workshop Goals:

- 1) To be able to recognize bloodstain pattern evidence at the crime scene.
- 2) To be able to properly document and preserve the bloodstain pattern evidence.
- 3) To be able to properly use bloodstain pattern terminology.
- 4) To be able to identify simple bloodstain pattern types.
- 5) To obtain basic bloodstain pattern analysis knowledge that will be the foundation for additional training culminating in being able to evaluate and interpret bloodstain pattern evidence and render an opinion concerning that interpretation.

The objectives and goals will be achieved through lecture, discussion, practical experiments with blood, and case studies.

Workshop Description: <http://noslowforensic.com/new-page/>

Instructor: Toby L. Wolson, M.S., F-ABC, Noslow Forensic Consultation, LLC, E-mail: Toby.Wolson@gmail.com

Further information about this workshop can be obtained at the following website: <http://noslowforensic.com/new-page/> or by contacting Toby Wolson (Toby.Wolson@gmail.com).

NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS



For questions, additional information or to volunteer please contact Adam Hall at: treasurer@neafs.org

2021 ANNUAL MEETING



Newport Marriott

NOVEMBER 1ST 2021 - NOVEMBER 5TH, 2021





It is with a heavy heart that NEAFS is announcing the sad news of David N. Ryan's passing. David had been a NEAFS member for over 15 years, a New Jersey Association of Forensic Scientists (NJAFS) member and a dedicated practitioner within the Forensic Science community for close to 20 years. David received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Rutgers University in 1999. After three years as a Flavor Chemist Assistant, David began his career in Forensic Science with the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences (NJSP OFS) North Regional Laboratory in 2002, within the Drug Unit. After a promotion in 2010, he took the crucial role of helping to implement, troubleshoot and maintain the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). In addition, he began to train new scientists within the OFS system. These duties followed through to his most recent promotion to Drug Unit Supervisor in 2017, solidifying a leadership role that he had maintained throughout his entire career. David was exceptionally intelligent,

thoughtful and patient. These traits continually elevated him to a respected and sought after advisor and mentor for work related issues.

David loved his profession and went above and beyond as an ambassador for the field. In 2012, he gave a presentation on synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones at the NJAFS Annual Meeting. He also provided numerous lectures and presentations regarding LIMS, drug analysis and methods of instrumentation to the police academy, prosecutor's offices, police officers and coworkers. David found time to give back to his community by lecturing high schools on the dangers of drug use and the analysis techniques used by the NJSP. Even in his downtime, David promoted his love of science. He would often take his children on trips to the Liberty Science Center and the aquarium in Camden, NJ. This gave him the opportunity to share his time, enthusiasm and wealth of knowledge with his boys.

David Ryan was an amazing individual. His thoughtfulness, care and respect for others will not be forgotten, nor will his contributions to the Forensic Science community.

Certification Reimbursement

The NEAFS Board of Directors has voted to reimburse the American Board of Criminalistics and International Association for Identification exam sitting fees for five NEAFS members (regular or associate) in good standing who pass the ABC or IAI exam. This offer is for any exam completed in 2020. After passing the examination, please fill out the Certification Reimbursement Form (www.neafs.org) and email the completed form with proof of passing the exam to the NEAFS Certification Chair Peter Diaczuk at certification@neafs.org. The reimbursement is based on a first come first served basis. Remember you must pass the ABC or IAI exam to be considered for reimbursement.

There will be an ABC examination sitting at the
2020 Annual NEAFS Meeting
on
Wednesday, October 14th
from
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following are current examinations that are offered:
Comprehensive Criminalistics Examination (CCE)
Drug Analysis (DA)
Molecular Biology (MB)
Fire Debris Analysis (FD)
Hairs and Fibers (HF)
Paints and Polymers (PP)

For more information about the examination sitting, please contact Peter Diaczuk at certification@neafs.org.

For more information about the examination and the American Board of Criminalistics, please visit <http://www.criminalistics.com>.

Historical facts – NEAFS

- “NEAFS was founded in 1975 by a group of dedicated forensic scientists dedicated to improving the professional status and technical capabilities of individuals engaged in all phases of forensic science.” “To accomplish its goals, NEAFS conducts continuing education seminars featuring workshops and special training sessions. The Annual Meeting...presents a contagious atmosphere of scientific exchange and social congeniality.” Mark Lewis, President 1980
- The first Editor of the newsletter in 1976 was R.E. Gaensslen
- The first meeting of the Executive Board was on May 1, 1976 by President Angelo Fatta. Also in attendance were Vincent Crispino, R.E. Gaensslen, Thomas Kubic, Carl Moller and Alexander Stirton.
 - On this first meeting, it was stated that there were 211 members and this number included applicants. Six of those members were upgraded to Regular members.
 - The first annual meeting was being discussed. The annual meeting was to be a one day meeting on or about October 23, 1976. Tentative sites were John Jay College or C.W. Post College. The schedule was: 8am-12pm Coffee and Registration, business meeting and split sessions; Lunch; 1pm-5pm two general interest talks, split sessions, mixer and dinner. The split sessions included serology, microscopy, arson, toxicology and drug identification. The general interest talks would be short and would be concerning aspects of forensic science that would be unfamiliar or unusual to most members.
- NEAFS was incorporated by the State of Connecticut on May 12, 1976. Vincent Crispino, Thomas Kubic and Henry Lee were the Incorporators.
- The NEAFS newsletters were published by the Forensic Sciences Foundation which was located in Maryland.
- A joint meeting was held on April 15-16 with MAAFS in New Jersey as well as the Annual Meeting of NEAFS on October 29th in 1977.
- Dr. Peter De Forest chaired the Hairs and Fibers Session during the Second Annual Meeting. Alexander Stirton chaired the Serology Session and Dr. Jesse Bidanset chaired the Toxicology Session during the Second Annual Meeting.
- The newsletters included information from other regional organizations as well as NEAFS.
- In 1977, the BOD acted as an ad hoc Education Committee and set up two courses intitled: “Forensic Microscopy” and “Introduction to the Forensic Applications of Infrared Spectroscopy”.
- A luncheon was held during the 3rd Annual meeting of NEAFS and consisted of salad, a choice of roast beef or filet of sole, dessert and a beverage for \$6.00. Cocktails were \$1.50 and beer and wine were \$1.00.
- In 1978, the annual meeting was increased to a two day program instead of one day.
- George Neighbor volunteered to chair the Paint analysis program for the 1978 Annual Meeting.
- In 1978, NEAFS sponsored a training course entitled “Basic Bloodstain Analysis” and it was taught by Dr. Henry Lee, Dr. R.E. Gaensslen and Dr. Peter De Forest. This course was held at the University of New Haven.
- George W. Neighbor was the Secretary of NEAFS in 1978.
- Thomas A. Kubic was voted in as a Life Member of NEAFS while he was President in 1978.
- In 1979, Chris Chany was approved to become a Provisional member from a student member and Peter Diaczuk was approved to be a Corresponding member.
- George W. Neighbor was President-elect in 1980.
- Travel reimbursement for mileage was 17 cents/mile in 1980.
- NEAFS had 400 members in 1980.
- In May 1980 in Louisville Kentucky, NEAFS participated in the first multi-regional association meeting.
- George W. Neighbor had a BA degree in Chemistry from Rider College and a MS in Forensic Science from John Jay College. He worked as a Principal Forensic Chemist for the NJSP in the North Regional Laboratory in Little Falls, NJ where he supervises the trace evidence and bio-chemical units. Prior to working with the NJSP, He has

twenty years of industrial research experience in materials analysis. He served as Secretary for two terms (1978-79) and was a member of the AAFS and the Forensic Science Academy. George became President of NEAFS in 1981 – the 7th year in NEAFS history. George stated at the end of his President's message in the March 1981 newsletter "Now you can call me George, or you can call me G.W., or you can call me George W., or you can call me Hi Neighbor". In 1989, George presented "Trace Evidence Never Grows Old" during the Criminalistics Session.

- In 1997, the Scholarship award was renamed the George W. Neighbor Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- In 1980, the Annual Meeting budget was \$2000.
- 1980 Goals of NEAFS
 - Exchange ideas and information among professionals in the field
 - Promote recognition of forensic science as an important part of the justice system
 - Sponsor and organize seminars, workshops, and special training sessions
 - Represent the membership on national issues affecting forensic science
 - Encourage research and development
 - Stimulate implementation of new methods and techniques
 - Establish professional standards
 - Provide advice on educational curricula, legislation and other matters affecting the profession
 - Arbitrate professional disputes
 - Foster friendship and collegiality among the forensic scientists of the Northeast
- For the 10th Annual Meeting, the room rate was \$55 (single or double).
- The 12th annual meeting was the first meeting held in New England in Peabody, MA. A clam bake was scheduled.
- The door prizes that were given out at the 11th Annual Meeting were a Commodore 64 Computer, Cannon AE1 Camera, Reflecting Telescope and an AM-FM radio.
- Our current method of visiting the exhibitor booths and obtaining confirmation of the visit goes back to at least the 9th Annual Meeting in 1983.
- The door prizes given out at the 14th Annual Meeting which was donated by Perkin-Elmer were a Video Cassette Recorder, Compact Disk Player, Scientific Programmable Calculator, Cordless Telephone and a Sony Walkman.