



ABFDE News

July 2017
Volume XXXIV
Number 2

Newsletter of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc. **Accredited by FSAB**

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THE GAVEL OF PAST PRESIDENT JIM JOSEY



Aloha My Fellow Diplomates,

I hope everyone is well. It has been a busy year for the Board.

The courts and legal system continues to raise the bar for standards in all areas of Forensic Science. Starting with the Starzecpyzel decision, our discipline was the first to be affected. While some of the other disciplines may have laughed at us at the time, they soon found themselves targeted next. Our positive response and immediate actions helped lead us to successfully improving our discipline in meeting the requirements set by the courts. Our efforts have since served as an example for the other disciplines to follow. Laboratory accreditation is becoming more and more a requirement by the courts. The ABFDE has received requests to participate with a joint task force headed by Dr. Linton Mohammed to address an effort to establish a program for the accreditation of small agencies and private practices. The ABFDE has offered our support in these efforts. Diplomates who are trained as ISO accreditation inspectors would be very helpful. If you are interested in serving on this task force please contact Ted Burkes or Dr. Linton Mohammed.



At the Board's annual meeting this past March we were tasked with making several important decisions. One of the most difficult was to raise the dues. After reviewing the required expenditures, we decided that in order to meet anticipated expenses it would be necessary to raise the annual dues to \$350.00. Treasurer Jim

Re-Accredited by
FSAB in 2017



THE GAVEL (CONTINUED)

Green sent an email to Diplomates with a detailed explanation of the need to raise the annual dues. In an effort to keep costs down we have gone back to thirteen Directors. Therefore we may be calling on some of you to assist with some of the Board's projects.

One complaint was received this year alleging violations of the ABFDE Code of Ethics by a Diplomate. The Professional Review Committee investigated the allegations and, after reviewing their findings, the charges and complaint were dismissed.

Lisa Hanson, Andy Szymanski and myself will be leaving the board as of July 1st. New elections were held at the Board meeting and I want to congratulate Ted Burkes as our new President, Gary Litch as Vice President, and Miriam Angel as Secretary, taking over from Ted. I want to thank Sean Espley who has agreed to extend his term on the Board to continue serving his fellow Diplomates. We also appointed Alan Kreitl to replace Andy.

Though I have only served as your President for the past year I had the pleasure of serving on the Board for the past nine years. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of my two colleagues who will be leaving the Board with me on July 1st.

Lisa Hanson has served on the Board for the past eight years and as Vice President for the past seven years. During this time she has also served as Chair of the Testing Committee and Chair of the Preparation & Validation Committee. She also was instrumental in establishing and presenting the workshop "Demystifying ABFDE Certification" which encouraged potential applicants to test for

certification. She, along with some help from fellow Diplomates, presented that at a number of meetings and we always heard rave reviews from attendees about the workshops success. Lisa has always been willing to volunteer and help out wherever needed. She will be greatly missed.

Since being appointed to the Board two years ago, Andy served on the Workshop and Recertification Committees, was Chair of the Continuing Education Committee and the Diplomate manager for Diplomates "S-Z". He also will be missed.

Director Linda Mitchell has done a great job as Newsletter Editor and Recertification Committee Manager for "A-F". However she has volunteered for new responsibilities as the Testing Committee Chair. As such, Linda will be stepping down as Editor. The job of Newsletter Editor is not required to be a Director so therefore, I encourage anyone that would be willing to help out to please contact Linda and let her know. The new committee assignments and other changes will be discussed in more detail in the Secretary's section in this edition of the Newsletter.

In closing I would like to thank the Diplomates who elected me to serve on the Board nine years ago and my fellow Directors who have made my years with the Board so enjoyable. Special thanks go to the Executive Committee Ted Burkes, Lisa Hanson and Jim Green and to past president Kirsten Singer and for their help through my last year as your President.

I wish all of you a fond Aloha and Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jim Josey

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Ted Burkes

Greetings Diplomates

First, I want to take a moment to thank the Board of Directors for honoring me to be the next President of the Board. It is a task I do not take lightly and will endeavor to maintain the great reputation of the ABFDE.



During the past year and a few months, I have served as the Secretary of the Board, as well as the Chair of the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) Committee. The latter was certainly an eye-opening experience, as

the ABFDE was up for re-accreditation. In that capacity, I had to learn a lot about how the Board operated and tested, and I could not have done that without the help of my fellow Directors. As you should already be aware, we successfully attained re-accreditation from FSAB, and are good for another five years.

During FSAB's annual meeting, they adopted some changes to the accreditation process. Some of these changes include site visits of certifying bodies up for accreditation/re-accreditation and using ISO 17024 in evaluating an applicant Board. As a result, the ABFDE may need to modify some of our testing processes. We will keep you updated on that aspect when we know more. Gary Licht has graciously volunteered to take over as Chair of the FSAB committee, and I look forward to working

with him in moving the ABFDE forward in this process.

At this year's Board meeting, the minutes of which you will receive via a separate email in the near future, the following committee assignments were made:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Testing: | Linda Mitchell (Chair), Bonnie Beal, Tom Riley |
| FSAB: | Gary Licht (Chair), Alan Kreitl |
| Test Prep/Validation: | Lisa Hanson (Chair), Bonnie Beal, Kirsten Singer, Andy Szymanski |
| Credentials: | Miriam Angel (Chair), Bonnie Beal, Farrell Shiver, Todd Welch |
| Nominations: | Bonnie Beal (Chair), Todd Welch |
| Public Relations: | Katherine Schoenberger (Chair), Tom Riley |
| Recertification: | Rick Horton (Chair), Todd Welch (A-F), Sean Espley (G-L), Tom Riley (M-R), Alan Kreitl (S-Z) |
| Historian: | Miriam Angel |
| Syllabus | Gary Licht |
| Rules & Procedures: | Farrell Shiver (Chair), Gary Licht |
| Newsletter: | To be determined (looking for a volunteer(s)) |
| Continuing Ed.: | Sean Espley (Chair), Farrell Shiver |
| Website: | Katherine Schoenberger (Chair), Tom Riley |

This is a great line-up that will serve the ABFDE well.

Continued on page 14

DEMYSTIFYING ABFDE BOARD CERTIFICATION

(Previously known as ABFDE Certification 101)

Over the last six years the Board has hosted many **Demystifying ABFDE Board Certification** workshops at various conferences and meetings. Since the maiden voyage in Chicago at the MAFS Meeting, we have had the pleasure of over 70+ attendees and many of these attendees have gone on to become active Candidates and/or have completed the process and have attained board certification.

If you do not know about the workshop, I will give you a quick summary. The cost per Attendee was between \$100 and \$125. It was voted by the Board that all monies collected from the workshop fees, minus the workshop attendee costs, as well as the instructor's travel and hotel, would be given to the Organization that allowed us to include the ABFDE workshop in their program.

Six weeks prior to the workshop, each workshop attendee is mailed two original Practical Problems. These two Practical Problems have to be completed prior to attending workshop. They are instructed that their case notes must be highly detailed and must comprehensively cover their thinking process, as well as their examination process. They must also write a complete report using proper (acceptable) wording and are directed to reference/use all SWGDOC guidelines they feel apply. Upon completion of their Practicals, the attendee scans all case notes, work product and reports for both Practicals and then emails those scans to the workshop instructor.

While the attendees are busy working on their Practical problems, the workshop instructor finds ABFDE Diplomates who are already planning on attending the meeting where the workshop is scheduled to be held. When these Diplomates are located, they are "encouraged" to be "Mentors" during the upcoming workshop. The mentor to attendee ratio for this workshop is 1 mentor for every 2 attendees and we have been able to maintain this ratio except for one or two times where we had to have 1 mentor for 3 attendees. The Diplomates who agree to be mentors receive the scanned work products and reports for each of their two attendees about one week prior to the workshop. This is done so they can have time to review their attendee's work product in depth.

During the workshop, the attendees are given the history of the ABFDE, information about the importance of

examiner certification and why one should belong to and be active in "legitimate" QDE organizations. At the end of the morning session, the attendees are given a "sample" written test to take that gives them a taste for what the Written Test will be like in the certification process. After lunch, the group goes over the written test questions and answers and the workshop instructor answers any questions that may have come up during the morning session. After all questions are answered, the large group breaks into small groups; one mentor and their two attendees to whom they were assigned. Each attendee will present one of their Practicals to the mentor in the same manner our Candidates present their work product during their official Oral Panel. Of course the mentor and their attendees are not dressed in business suits or presenting with Power Point, but the environment is made as close to the real thing as possible. The attendee will present his/her Practical work product and its conclusion to their mentor and when that attendee is finished presenting, the mentor asks questions of the presenting attendee that either involve the practical, the examinations conducted or the theory used during the examination/conclusion process. The second attendee then presents the other practice Practical, giving him/her the same opportunities/experience with the mentor. This "mock oral panel" as well as the two practice Practicals, are two sections of the workshop that attendees stated were most helpful in relieving their levels of anxiety about the certification process (*written surveys were filled out at the end of each workshop*).

I am happy to announce that we presently have fifteen (15) Candidates in the certification process and two (2) that should be passing through credentialing process soon. Four of those fifteen Candidates will be participating in their Oral Boards at this year's AAFS meeting!

I sincerely want to THANK our Diplomates who have given of their time, energy and knowledge over the past six years that have made this workshop the success it has been. Without everyone's hard work and participation, this workshop could have never been offered! There are future plans to offer this workshop again, if and when requests come in for it again. So please, please, if you haven't had a chance to participate as of yet, consider saying yes if you get the call. The workshop is a lot of fun!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO JASON LE NEW DIPLOMATE



Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. As a Senior Forensic Document Examiner, Jason initially became subject matter expert for cases originating from Eastern Europe. His area of expertise transitioned to the former Soviet republics before he eventually became subject matter expert for cases originating from Middle Eastern countries, working cases closely related to terrorism. Jason also led the FDL Counterfeit Deterrence program, providing critical feedback to credentialing agencies regarding the appropriate design of secure identity documents, to include the U.S. Passport, U.S. Visa, U.S. Passport Card, Border Crossing Card, immigration entry and exit stamps and state driver licenses.

At TIGTA, in addition to working cases involving employee fraud, tax fraud and threats against Internal Revenue Service personnel and facilities, Jason oversees the Questioned Document Section, assigning casework, reviewing completed cases, assuring that standard operational procedures are being followed and updating policies in accordance with the requirements for *ASCLD/LAB-International* accreditation. Jason is also involved in training TIGTA Special Agents, regularly teaching a class on Questioned Document Examination at the Special Agent Basic Training Course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Jason Le is the Lead Forensic Document Examiner at the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Forensic and Digital Science Laboratory (TIGTA, FDSL) in Beltsville, MD where he has worked since 2013. He received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in 2000 and a Master of Forensic Science from The George Washington University in Washington, DC in 2002.

Jason began his career in forensic science as an intern at the U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Forensic Document Laboratory (INS, FDL) in McLean, VA where he was eventually hired as a trainee forensic document examiner. There, he completed a 30-month comprehensive training program in questioned document examination and became a bench examiner for the FDL, which had become part of the Department of

Jason is an expert in Eastern European, and Middle Eastern counterfeits

CONGRATULATIONS TO SANDRA MILLER RAUDABAUGH NEW DIPLOMATE



Sandra Miller Raudabaugh grew up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, PA where she eventually enlisted as a Trooper in the Pennsylvania State Police in 1993. Several years later, in 1999, she saw a posting for a trainee position in the Questioned Documents Section of the Harrisburg Crime Lab.

Her interest in the position led her to reflect upon a distant past when she was working in retail loss prevention. Although not part of her duties, she was looking at store receipts to gain a better understanding of store activities. In doing so, she noted anomalies in the signatures on several merchandise return receipts. After a thorough investigation and parsing through past return receipts, a long-time department manager eventually admitted to the forging of signatures over the years and stealing over twenty thousand dollars

from the company through fraudulent merchandise returns. It was quite the discovery for Sandra and the company, unknowing at the time that this would be a springboard in her career.

Hence her initial interest, Sandra accepted the position and transferred into the QD Section where she completed her training in 2001. Throughout her career, her various assignments within PSP had taken her away from and then back to the crime lab where she was eventually promoted and served as the QD Section Supervisor. This is when she decided to apply for ABFDE certification.

On acceptance of the next career promotion however, she had to leave the crime lab once again. Sandra later retired from the Pennsylvania State Police in 2016 with the rank of Lieutenant, but continued her previously established private practice and her pursuit of board certification.

Sandra earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the Pennsylvania State University, is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists, and is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. In addition to her private practice, Sandra and her husband, Steve, also enjoy travelling in their RV, golfing, motorcycle riding, and spending leisure time with family and friends.



OORAH!



CONGRATULATIONS TO MEG O'BRIEN NEW DIPLOMATE

Meg O'Brien is employed as a forensic document examiner with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), Forensic Laboratory Services in Dulles, Virginia.

Meg, whose full name is Mary Margaret but only allows a few people to actually call her that, holds a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science from University of Central Oklahoma, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from St. Joseph's University (Pennsylvania), and a Master of Science in Forensic Science with a concentration in Forensic Document Examination from Oklahoma State University. She is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Prior to her employment with USPIS, she successfully completed a two-year training program with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) in Austin, Texas. During her training at TxDPS, Meg read books and technical articles on forensic document examination and learned the laboratory instrumentation used in questioned documents examinations. However, her proudest achievement was cleaning out a filing cabinet and discovering a letter signed by Albert S. Osborn and sent to TxDPS in

**Meg found a
1943 Osborn
letter in an old
file cabinet at
Texas DPS**



1943. It was framed and hung on the wall for all to admire.

Meg's initial training was supplemented with additional training at USPIS, including touring facilities relevant to the manufacturing of paper, manufacturing of rubber stamps, repairing typewriters, and printing U.S. money. When not in the laboratory, Meg teaches Jazzercise six days a week, but still finds time to read books, watch movies, and travel. She has a personal goal to see all 50 state capitol buildings in the U.S. and has only thirteen more to go.

AAFS CELEBRATES MAUREEN CASEY OWENS, D-ABFDE

Excerpt from Academy News

Contributed by Nancy Jackson, AAFS director of Development and Accreditation



Maureen Casey Owens graduated from Mundelein College (later incorporated into Loyola University Chicago) with a chemistry major and a math minor. She began her career in 1961 as a Physical Science Aide in the Document Section of the FBI Laboratory. In 1963, she joined the Chicago Police Department (CPD) Laboratory as the only civilian employee in the technical laboratory. Ms. Owens worked at the CPD as a forensic document examiner for 25 years, including 13 years as the head of the documents section.

Ms. Owens is the only person to simultaneously serve as the President of the AAFS (1984-1985) and the President of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) (1984-1986). She was a founding member of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE) in 1977 and subsequently served on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer of the ABFDE.

In 1987, Ms. Owens received the Ordway Hilton Award from the AAFS Questioned Documents Section. In 2008, she received the

Albert S. Osborn Award of Excellence from ASQDE in recognition of her distinguished career and many contributions to the profession of forensic document examination.

Among Ms. Owens' many cases, she helped identify Joe Klein, the *Newsweek* columnist, as the anonymous writer of the novel *Primary Colors*. In 1993, her work helped prove that a purported diary of Jack the Ripper was not authentic. Ms. Owens is the author of numerous published articles and professional papers.



Have you worked on a multi-faceted case that you think others would benefit from? Lisa (Chairman/Test Prep) would love to hear from you. The Test Prep Committee is more than willing to help you recreate your case. Just give Lisa a call or drop her an email. She will give you the specific instructions you need.

Lisa Hanson StillwaterFDE@gmail.com (651) 398-4549

MEMORIAL—GORDON ROY LLOYD STANGOHR

Gordon Roy Lloyd StangoHR passed away peacefully at his home in the Greenspring Retirement Center, Springfield, Virginia, on March 10, 2017 at the age of 96. Gordon was born June 29, 1920, on a farm in Winfred, South Dakota. After high school, he received a scholarship to attend Grand Island Business School in Nebraska. Upon completion, he accepted a Civil Service position with the Census Bureau. This opportunity was interrupted with the onset of World War II. He joined the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific Theater from 1942 to 1945, and received many honorable medals.

On July 10, 1949, he was united in marriage to Lois L. Tibben in Santa Monica, California. They were blessed with four children: Linda Marie, Janet Irene, Jerry Allen, and Carol Jean.

Gordon continued his education by attending American University in Washington, D.C. and taking many other professional courses in Forensic Science. He obtained the prestigious position as the Director of the U.S. Postal Crime Laboratory in Washington, D.C. With his expertise alongside his co-workers, he helped pioneer Forensic Science by forming a link between science, technology and criminal justice. Gordon's specialty was Forensic Handwriting, whereby, he examined, analyzed and



testified in Federal, State and Military courts throughout the Nation on behalf of the U.S. Government. He also represented the U.S. in their Interpol Convention in Paris. Notably, he assisted in the training of over thirty foreign representatives for international collaboration and forensic development. During his U.S. Postal career, Gordon simultaneously served in the U.S. Army Reserves obtaining a rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4. After his retirement as Director of the U.S. Postal Service, Gordon continued to use his expertise to instruct future inspectors for the FBI and the Virginia State Crime Lab. With his enthusiasm and background, he ably assisted in creating intense forensic study programs – not stopping until his second retirement at the age of 80.

2017 MAFS MEETING

By George Lehman

As some of you may know from my previous solicitation to the DocExam list, and as an introduction, I am George Lehman and am a Forensic Document Examiner assigned to the Michigan State Police Questioned Document Unit (Lansing Lab). With that, I was asked this past fall if I would be willing to take the Section Coordinator's position for the QD Section of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS), and humbly accepted.

MAFS will be holding its annual meeting this fall in Cincinnati, OH from September 17 - 22. If you've never been there, it is a fabulous venue. Cincinnati is absolutely beautiful with a revitalized riverfront with shopping, night clubs, restau-



rants, over 8 craft breweries, and numerous family-friendly attractions. The city also sports a world-class zoo and aquarium. Please visit the MAFS website at www.mafs.net for additional information. As Section Coordinator I want to make sure we put on some amazing workshops. As for the workshops, I am planning on having 4 half day workshops and a one full day workshop broken up into a morning and afternoon session for a total of 5 workshops. These workshops will be starting on either Sunday or Monday. The workshops and their abstracts are listed as follows:



Examining Documents Requiring a Multi-Faceted Approach by D/Sgt. Todd Welch (Michigan State Police). This workshop and following in the footsteps of longtime presenter of this workshop, Brian Lindblom, will focus on disputed documents that by their nature or components are complex and require a combination of examination techniques. The evidence derived from microscopic, infra-red, indentation and other testing will be considered in the context of questions

*Continued on
next page*

*Diplomates:
MAFS
is a great
meeting for
earning your
recertification
points*

2017 MAFS MEETING (CONTINUED)

raised about a document's integrity and authenticity. There will be a lecture format followed by hands-on analysis of various single and multi-page documents; working within groups. Equipment will be available for use by the participants. An open discussion of the results will conclude the session.

Covert Communications and Concealment Techniques by Mr. Peter Belcastro (FBI) & Mr. Gregg Moczzycki (FBI). This presentation



Gregg Moczzycki

will discuss various types/methods of concealed communications and the role they play in criminal and intelligence investigations. Focus will be placed on the detection, development, preservation, and demonstration of various types of covert communications that have been encountered in actual questioned document case scenarios. Equipment, chemicals, and other tools utilized during the examination of such cases will be discussed as well as various "offensive forensic techniques" that can be utilized in these types of investigations. Particular attention will be paid to techniques utilized by prisoners to communicate and transmit information secretly; including ways prisoners create and utilize concealments. Hands on exercises will be conducted concerning the creation of various types of concealment tradecraft and the detection of these items.

The Forensic Examination of Original and Copied Signatures by Dr. Linton Mohammed. The examination of signatures comprises much of the



caseload of most Forensic Document Examiners. Quite often, the FDE is tasked with comparing signatures that are copies of varying quality.

These copies are generally pdf files, fax copies, or photocopies. This workshop will look at what is lost in the various copying processes with different resolutions in comparison with the original signatures. The strength of opinions in cases involving copies will be discussed. Attendees will examine both original and copied versions of signatures, and discuss their observations in groups or individually.

Forensic Science Research: How to Make Your Proposals Competitive by Mr. Gerry LaPorte (National Institute of Justice). Scientific research is often characterized as basic or applied. Basic research is defined



as a systematic study directed toward fuller knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and

of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind; applied research is defined as a systematic study to gain knowledge or understanding necessary to determine the means by which a recognized and specific need may be met. As well, "Development"

Continued on next page

2017 MAFS MEETING (CONTINUED)

is often associated with research, but is not commonly recognized as a separate function, which is the application of knowledge or understanding, directed toward the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements. Undoubtedly, rigorous research and development is the cornerstone of accurate, reliable, and valid methods used in forensic science laboratories. However, gaps can exist when research involving forensic science - an application of various sciences to address matters of law - does not include a rigorous research design or consideration of practical limitations and applicability.

Practical casework in the forensic sciences varies from structured research in a controlled environment, but the need to understand limitations with respect to interpreting data from any forensic analysis is critically important to ensure forensic scientists are communicating their findings and conclusions unambiguously. This can be a challenge when proposing research and applying for grant funding. This workshop is intended to be interactive to share ideas about creating research partnerships, strengthening a research grant application, involving student researchers, and considering research and development that can be integrated into an operational laboratory without a significant disruption to casework.

Deciphering Complex Impressions with Adobe Photoshop by D/Lt. Mark Goff (Michigan State Police). This workshop expands on previous methods of tracking sourced impressions and imaging techniques to easily track and account for impressions recovered in documents using Adobe Photoshop imaging techniques. The presenter will demonstrate how creating layer masks of available writing can be used to account for impressions from multiple documents, remove embossed writing, show their orientation when created, and reveal unsourced impressions in complex documents. This workshop is paced to maximize the amount of time spent working with hands on examples to ensure these techniques can be used when the attendee returns to their work site. Graphic step-by-step walkthrough instructions will be provided for future reference.



We will also need some presenters for the technical session at the fall meeting. If you worked on an interesting case, or used a new technique / new piece of equipment, please consider sharing it with the group during this time. These presentations can be very beneficial and impactful on our close knit QD group and the discipline as a whole. Please feel free to contact me with any questions and acceptance into the workshops will be on a first come basis. Further details will be posted on the MAFS website at www.mafs.net. With that, I promise this to be an amazing meeting; one **YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS** and I hope to see many of you there!

Continuing Education

2017

- August 21-25** **21st Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Science**
Toronto, Ontario - Canada www.iafstoronto2017.com
- Aug 28-Sept. 1** **75th Annual General Meeting American Society of Questioned Document Examiners**
San Diego, California www.asqde.org
- Sept. 17-22** **Annual General Meeting Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists**
Cincinnati, Ohio www.mafs.net
- October 6-8** **Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners Annual Conference**
Sacramento, California www.swafde.org
- Oct 17-20** **Printing Process Identification and Image Analysis for Forensic Document Examiners—RIT**
Rochester, NY <http://bit.ly/forensicseminar2017>
- Feb 19-24** **American Academy of Forensic Sciences 70th Annual Scientific Meeting**
Seattle, Washington

Ongoing

Master of Science in Forensic Science—FDE
Center for Health Sciences—Oklahoma State University
[Online courses http://bit.ly/1LwK7pl](http://bit.ly/1LwK7pl)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

BY LINDA L MITCHELL

Fellow Diplomates,

I want to thank you for allowing me to be of service to this very important organization. From the beginning of my training, I have respected the ABFDE for its dedication to the profession of forensic document examination and to the betterment of all FDE's. It has been my privilege to create the newsletter as the recorded history of our organization. It has helped me become familiar with every function of the Board. By becoming involved, I soon recognized the real importance of achieving certification which extends beyond just passing a test to prove we have common baseline knowledge. As diplomates, we represent the gatekeepers of professional ideals. We embody what should be the goals of every FDE and serve as an inspiration to those newbies like me who want a platform from which to grow and develop. ABFDE has been my platform of accomplishment. It has given me self-confidence to continue my professional journey.

I have taken on the job of Testing Chairman. I know that there is much more to this job than just putting together a nice newsletter twice a year. I will need to be available to guide potential candidates toward certification and encourage them to become Diplomates. For that reason, I am requesting that one of our many talented Diplomates step up and make your contribution to the future of our profession.

You will not be required to attend board meetings. It is not necessary that you keep in constant contact with other Diplomates. The hardest part of the job is to collect articles from others like yourself who have many irons in the fire. The compilation is the easy part. I will help you get started and be available to advise you along the way.

Please contact Ted Burkes or myself if you would like to dip your toe into ABFDE service.

Ted—pres@abfde.org

Linda—forensicqde@gmail.com



MESSAGE FROM TED BURKES

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You will notice that three of the members of the Test Prep/Validation Committee are not Directors, but are volunteer Diplomates. The Board decided to roll back from the fifteen Directors that we had up until July 1 of this year, back to thirteen Directors, and use volunteer Diplomates in some of the committee positions. If you are interested in volunteering to assist any of these committees, please contact the committee chair and let them know. Particularly, if you are interested in serving as the Newsletter Editor, it will free Linda Mitchell up to focus her full attention on her Testing Committee Chair position. Please contact me if you are interested in serving as the Newsletter Editor.

Regarding the lawsuit that has been filed against the ABFDE by the Board of Forensic Document

Examiners (BFDE) (you should have received an email regarding this), the ABFDE is currently represented by the same law firm that is representing the co-defendants in this suit. I will update you to the extent possible as I can. Vice President Licht and I, with the assistance of Secretary Angel, are preparing detailed responses to the allegations. More to come in the future.

I hope each of you have a fantastic year, and if I, or any of your Directors, can be of service, please do not hesitate to contact us.

My very best,
Ted Burkes

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2017-2018 Board Officers

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| PRESIDENT | Ted Burkes |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Gary Licht |
| SECRETARY | Miriam Angel |
| TREASURER | Jim Green |

2017-2018 Committee Chairs

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| CONTINUING EDUCATION | Sean Espley |
| CREDENTIALS | Miriam Angel |
| HISTORIAN | Miriam Angel |
| NOMINATIONS | Bonnie Beal |
| PUBLIC RELATIONS. | Katherine Schoenberger |
| RECERTIFICATION | Richard A. Horton |
| RULES & PROCEDURES | Farrell Shiver |
| TESTING | Linda L Mitchell |
| Prep and Validation | Lisa Hanson |
| WORKSHOP COORDINATOR | Sean A. Espley |
| FSAB | Gary Licht |
| NEWSLETTER | VACANT |



Webmasters:
Bill & Lauren Leaver

CERTIFICATION COURSE

*Do you have colleagues who want to become certified,
but don't know what to expect?*

*Why not suggest that they come to the
Demystifying ABFDE Certification
For the next location and date, contact:*

*Lisa M. Hanson,
ABFDE Testing Prep Committee
stillwaterfde@gmail.com*

**SEND CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE NEWSLETTER
to:**

**Linda Mitchell, Editor
ABFDE News**

forensicqde@gmail.com

**Deadline for the next
issue:**

December 15, 2017