



ABFDE News

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THE GAVEL

KIRSTEN SINGER, PRESIDENT



Hello, Diplomates!

There is a song refrain that keeps playing in my head – “clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right. Here I am, stuck in the middle with you.” I can think of no one else I’d rather be stuck with than you, my colleagues. With “expert” critics and graphos regularly battling us, we have established effective resources to respond in real time to any challenges -- the International Doc List; ASQDE, ABFDE, and SWGDOC websites; and the Daubert Group are the ones that come immediately to mind. Our individual fellow FDEs are also no slouches. Bravo! To Bill Flynn, Grant Sperry and Tom Vastrick for their brilliant efforts in averting a Daubert Hearing. Such denied Daubert hearings are even better than hearings with a successful outcome. *(Editor’s Note: watch the next issue of the ABFDE News for a detailed article of this event from Mr. Grant Sperry.)*

The ABFDE Board of Directors meeting was held April 25-27 this year in Houston, TX. It went so well we were finished a half day early. One of the topics included a request from the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) for the Board to join a coalition of professional document examiners to intervene in a case involving flawed forensic handwriting analysis. After extensive discussion, the Board of Directors concluded that involvement at this time and in this capacity might compromise the impartial and unbiased reputation of the Board. Although the ABFDE is unquestionably concerned with forensic practices that operate on accepted methods and principles, we recommended to CAUT that the most appropriate resource for this information is the Scientific Working Group for Forensic Document Examination (SWGDOC), the organization which publishes standards and guidelines for the field of fo-

Re-Accredited by
FSAB in 2012



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Welcome New Diplomate Alan Kreitl

Alan M. Kreitl grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned a B.S. in Forensic Science from Michigan State University in 1993. The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Crime Laboratory in Phoenix hired Alan as a drug analyst in the Controlled Substance Unit in the summer of 1993.

In January of 1998, he began training the field of questioned documents under the tutelage of Howard Birnbaum. Alan completed training in June of 2000 and has been working cases full-time in the Questioned Document Section of the Arizona DPS Crime Lab since that time.



Alan's professional memberships include the Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners since 2000 and he currently serves on the Board of Directors as the Mountain Region Representative.

Alan has been married since 1998 and has a 13 year old daughter and a 10 year old son.



THE GAVEL

Continued from page 1

rensic document examiners.

During the annual BOD meeting, we also said good-bye to two departing Directors, Marie Durina and Frank Hicks. Both of their contributions have been invaluable.

As Chair the Public Relations Committee, Marie kept her eye on current and future trends, and ensured that the PR initiatives always promoted the Board and the profession. Marie also established the ABFDE Legal Library, strongly encouraged inclusion of Australia/New Zealand for certification, educated attorneys on the ABFDE via letters and the Speaker's Bureau, and consistently recommended a Board response to potential adversities.



*Farewell to Durina and Hicks;
welcome to Riley and Shiver.*

Aside from serving as a past president of the ABFDE, Frank also served as Chairman of the Continuing Education, Nominations, and Rules & Procedures Committees, and on the Testing Committee. He

could always be counted on to right any discussions that went off course with a few simple comments. Frank is truly the voice of experience and reason, with a Mississippi twang.

It is our great fortune, however, that these Directors will be replaced by two new Directors whom we are excited to "get on Board". As of July 1, Tom Riley and Farrell Shiver will be new Directors on the ABFDE, as unanimously decided by the current BOD. Welcome!!!!

Finally, it is my duty as President to report every year whether any complaints have been filed against the Board or a Diplomat. There is currently a complaint against a Diplomat by a non-Diplomat/non-FDE that is under review by the Professional Review Committee that I have established to address the complaint. The outcome can range from dismissal of the complaint to decertification of the Diplomat. In general terms, I will inform you of the decision when it is made.

The BOD Meeting Minutes will be posted on the website when they are complete. I will email all Diplomates when the Minutes become available. As always, please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. Enjoy your summer!!!

Continuing Education

August 2014

11-15 American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) *combined meeting with* Australasian Society of Forensic Document Examiners (ASFDE)

Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa
Honolulu, HI

www.asqde.org/AGM/agm2014 For Registration and Meeting Details!



2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF ASQDE AND ASFDE

The [2014 Annual General Meeting](#) of the **ASQDE** will be held from August 11th through August 15th at the Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa in Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting will be a joint meeting with the [Australasian Society of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc.](#)

asfde Inc.
Australasian Society of Forensic
Document Examiners Inc



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Continuing Education

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August 2014

- 10-15** International Association for Identification
99th International Education Conference
Making An Impression
Minneapolis, MN
<https://www.theiai.org/>

October 2014

- 6-10** Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS)
Joint meeting with ASTEE (American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners)
Crowne Plaza St. Paul-Riverfront Hotel
St. Paul, MN
<http://www.mafs.net>

- 13-18** International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS)
20th World Meeting
Seoul, Korea
<http://www.wff2014korea.org/>



February 2015

- 16-21** American Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting (AAFS)
67th Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency Orlando
Orlando, FL
Seattle, WA
<http://aafs.org/meetings/2015>



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FORENSIC SCIENCES



Staff at the Pike Place Fish Market, Seattle, recognize the AAFS Annual Meeting attendees February 17-22, 2014.

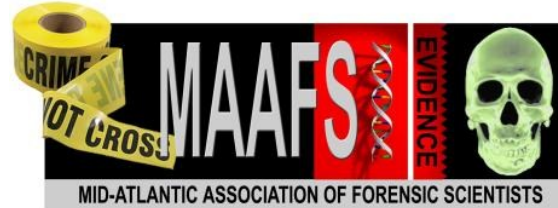
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Continuing Education

May 2015

18-22 Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS)
Hyatt Regency
Chesapeake Bay, MD
www.maafs.org

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August 2015

2-8 International Association for Identification (IAI)
Sacramento, CA
100th Anniversary
www.theiai.org/conference/index.php



Many Diplomates are members of multiple organizations. Please help spread the word about workshops and meetings of groups you may be a member of by e-mailing these events to the *ABFDE News* Editor, Diane K. Tolliver.

Continuing our professional education is necessary to maintain ABFDE certification. Please help the editor with this information.

Meeting announcements may be submitted to the editor at TolliverD@aol.com.

Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, 1916-2014

Document Examiner, Photographer, FBI SA

This was compiled by the ABFDE Editor from various sources. Special thanks go to contributors Timothy Campbell, Joan A. DiMartino, Farrell C. Shiver, Janet Fenner Masson, Kirsten Singer, Tom McAlexander, and Nancy Berthold.

Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt passed away April 24, 2014 at the age of 98.

He was one of the first groups of ABFDE Diplomates, achieving that status on October 29, 1978 and held until 2001.

Mr. Shaneyfelt was the youngest son of a dairy farmer. He worked as a newspaper photographer for the Hastings Tribune, Hastings, Nebraska until he began employment with the FBI's Photographic Section in 1940. He transitioned to Special Agent status with the FBI in 1951.

Field service took him to Detroit but he soon found himself back at the FBI's GHQ Laboratory and assigned to become a questioned document examiner. He continued his love of photography by also being assigned cases involving photographic examinations. During that time, he obtained a B.C.S. degree from Southeastern University, Washington, D.C. His obituary may be found at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=lyndal-lshaneyfelt&pid=170981226&fhid=4948>

Among the many notable cases he worked, he received much documented mention in the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and his testimony in before the Warren Commission, a group appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson. His examination of photographs, images, and handwriting is well documented in official documents.

YouTube has a video of Mr. Shaneyfelt testifying in a televised mock trial of Oswald. This was created in 1986. The mock trial used prominent attorneys, a real judge, and many of the actual witnesses. His direct testimony in this mock trial is related to his handwriting examination and may be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SynJeQrQyYs>

A New York Times news article provides additional information about the mock trial: <http://www.nytimes.com/1986/11/20/arts/tv-review-showtime-stages-trial-of-lee-harvey-oswald.html>

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Lyndal Shaneyfelt plays himself in a made-for-TV docudrama about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Lyndal Shaneyfelt

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Forensic Document Examiners (FDE) Timothy Campbell and Farrell Shiver (and others) shared memories and documentation about Mr. Shaneyfelt on the Document Examination List (DocExam_L). FDE Janet Fenner Masson stated during communications on this list “Thanks for the links Farrell. It was interesting to see Shaneyfelt (as Lucile Lacy always called him) testifying in the mock trial. He worked on several cases down here in Texas over the years and I got to spend time with both him and his wife Shirley. They were extraordinarily nice people – and devoted to each other. Watching the testimony really brought back my memories of those days.”

Mr. Shaneyfelt was a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and for a brief time an applicant to the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners.

“After retiring as Special Agent from the F.B.I., Lyndal Shaneyfelt worked as an independent Document Examiner and Photographic Specialist, testifying as an expert witness in every state in the union.” (Obituary found at The Washington Post, May 11, 2014)

FDE Tom McAlexander shared: “Here's a picture from the Warren Commission Report. Shaney was one of two photography specialists when I started to work for the Bureau in 1960. I remember him mostly as a kind, soft spoken man. May he rest in peace.”



“He worked on the JFK assassination case and the Howard Hughes will case. Then, he was in private practice for 20+ years. (I only met him once when he was opposing one of the examiners and

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Lyndal Shaneyfelt

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came to look at the evidence. He concurred with the findings so we did not see him again.)” Nancy Berthold, FDE.



The black and white photograph above is of the eight members of the Warren Commission with Chief Justice Earl Warren in the center. The men are seated around a conference table with flags behind them and portraits of Kennedy and Johnson on the wall. The photograph was mounted into a cardboard photo frame and the handwritten notation reads: "**For Special Agent Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, with the best wishes of Earl Warren 12/9/65**". This Warren Commission photograph was part of FBI Special Agent Lyndal Shaneyfelt's Kennedy assassination file, now available as a public record.

A query of QDAD (Questioned Document Article Database) by Farrell Shiver revealed the following articles written by Mr. Shaneyfelt:

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Lyndal Shaneyfelt

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1. Obliterations, Alterations, and Related Document Problems (JFS, V16, N3, 1971)
2. The Versatile Writer, AAFS, Dallas, TX, 1974
3. The Value of Indented Writing in Medical Malpractice Case, ASQDE, Nashville, TN, 1984
4. The Fabricators, A Series of Cases Involving Fabricated Facsimiles and Photocopies, ASQDE, Washington, DC, 1996



Photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald holding a rifle, Object Number: 2004.037.0114 (from <http://emuseum.jfk.org/view/objects/asitem/77/5/title-desc?t:state:flow=f36007bd-2b40-4f42-b5a3-e25a798d0afb>)

A black and white photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald holding his Mannlicher-Carcano rifle in his left hand, two Socialist and Communist newspapers in his right, and wearing a Smith & Wesson revolver on his right hip. This famous photograph was taken by Oswald's wife Marina with her husband's camera in the backyard of their Oak Cliff apartment probably on March 31, 1963. It was collected as evidence the day after the assassination of President Kennedy and was closely scrutinized by investigators. The image is also known officially as Warren Commission Exhibit 133-A. Lyndal Shaneyfelt and other FBI Special Agents were able to visualize the mastheads of the two newspapers Oswald is holding to the exact newspaper "The Worker" and "The Militant" Again, these documents were a part of Special Agent Shaneyfelt's Kennedy assassination file.

Janet Masson also shared: "I always really liked Shaneyfelt – perhaps in part because we both loved photography. But also he was just such a nice and approachable colleague. Some years ago we both worked on a case in Waco, Texas – both working for the same side and coming up with the same opinion. We never saw each other during that one as we examined documents and testified at different times. But I remember how pleased the attorneys were with his professionalism. I think they had been a little worried about having a "Yankee" testify in front of a provincial Texas jury – but it worked out just fine."

The History of the Waterman Fountain Pen

Submitted by Marie Durina

The Waterman pen company was officially born in 1884 when Lewis E. Waterman received a patent for his fountain pen feed, but had actually come into existence several years earlier. In the 1870s, Mr. Waterman invented an efficient multi-channel feed, known as a "Three Fissure Feed" from a prototype whittled down and custom fitted to a pen his brother created from a wagon wheel spoke. He then began manufacturing and selling a small number of these pens in the early 1880s. He christened his newly invented model the "Regular" and sold six dozen of these pens during the course of one year from his office at 136 Fulton Street in New York City, under the name of the *Ideal Pen Company*.



After receiving the patent, Waterman increased production substantially, making these early pens with black hard rubber with a simple eye dropper filling system. In 1888, Waterman changed the name of the company to *L. E. Waterman Company* and began an aggressive marketing campaign by publishing advertisements in several magazines, while steadily improving upon his design. By the turn of the century, his pens were being produced with fancy metal overlays, red hard rubber, and mottled red and black hard rubber. Lewis Waterman passed away in 1901 in Brooklyn, N.Y., one year after his company's products

earned a gold medal at the Paris Exposition of 1900. By the 1920s, the L. E. Waterman Pen Company had subsidiaries in Canada, France, and the U.K.



Throughout World War I and the 1920s, Waterman pens were used as models for other pen makers. Despite the large number of patents held by Waterman, many of their designs were extensively copied by other manufacturers.

Photo courtesy of Maurico Aguilar, titled "Tu Amigo!".

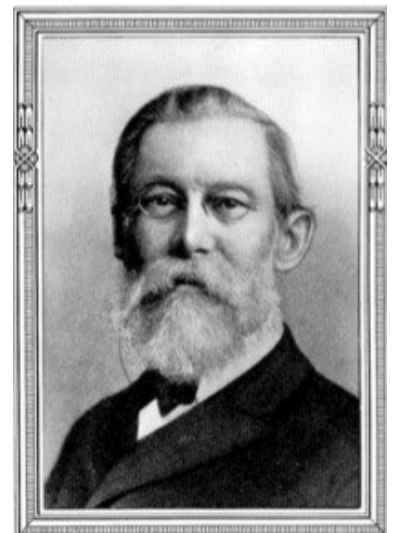
The History of the Waterman Pen

Continued from Page 10

By 1924, the innovation of plastic pens resulted in a decrease in popularity for Waterman's hard rubber ones. In 1929, Waterman finally introduced plastic pens, but sales had already been hurt by the company's failure to respond to technical and stylistic innovations by competitors, as well as the onset of the Great Depression.

The introduction of the ballpoint pen in the 1930s did further harm to company profits, and Waterman struggled to stay afloat. Even though popularity of the Waterman fountain pen was in a state of rapid decline at this point, it is interesting to note that their "Patrician", a beautiful Art Deco styled model from the 1930s, and their "Hundred-Year" model from the 1930s and 1940s, can today fetch over \$1,500 if in good condition.

The American branch of Waterman was sold to *Bic* in 1959, yet production continued under the Waterman name in France. The modern-day Waterman company traces its origins to the French subsidiary, *JiF-Waterman*, formed in 1914 by Jules Fagard. In 1936 JiF-Waterman introduced the first practical disposable ink cartridge, which was originally a glass capsule. The post-World War II period was good to JiF-Waterman, and the company's "CF" model introduced in 1953-54 was the first commercially successful mass-marketed cartridge fountain pen.



Lewis Edson Waterman

In 2001, Waterman was acquired by *Sanford*, a division of *Newell Rubbermaid*, and the same owners of the *Parker Pen Company*. Waterman pens continue to be sold today in a wide variety of colors, designs, and styles. At over 125 years old, this makes Waterman the longest running brand name in fountain pens.



A Letter Sent to All Diplomates from President Singer

Dear Diplomates,

The ABFDE Board of Directors approved an email that was sent today to Mike Martinez (Trace Evidence Unit Supervisor for the Bexar County Crime Laboratory), who is collecting comments to forward to Senator John Cornyn's office in regard to the *Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act*. The text of the Board's email is below.

The ABFDE BOD would like to encourage other FDE's to respond to the draft bill (see attached), if you are so moved.

Regards,
Kirsten Singer, President, ABFDE

Dear Mr. Martinez,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide commentary on the proposed *Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act*.

The American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE), established in 1977, is the oldest and largest certifying body for forensic document examiners in the United States, and is accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB). Diplomates (certified forensic document examiners) of the ABFDE are employed with local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as privately employed. As the current President of the ABFDE, I would like to express the position of our Board of Directors regarding two specific sections of this proposed bill.

With regard to SEC. 102.(a) FORENSIC SCIENCE BOARD.

The ABFDE is very concerned that the Forensic Science Board, like the 2009 National Academy of Sciences Committee, will lack any representation of the forensic document profession.

In its Summary Assessment of Forensic Document Examination, the 2009 NAS Report stated:

"Recent studies have increased our understanding of the individuality and consistency of handwriting and suggest that there may be a scientific basis for handwriting comparison, at least in the absence of intentional obfuscation or forgery. Although there has been only limited research to quantify the reliability and replicability of the practices used by trained document examiners, the committee agrees that there may be some value in handwriting analysis."

Unfortunately, this statement has been interpreted as an inability for the NAS Report to reach any meaningful conclusions regarding the status of the forensic document profession. This has caused repercussions for our profession in court, forensic organizations, and the public. We believe it is due, in part, to the failure to include those knowledgeable about this forensic discipline and its ongoing related research in the process of determining its validity.

With regard to SEC. 102. (h) DEFINITION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE DISCIPLINE.

Of equal concern are the credentials of those who will decide whether a forensic science discipline has sufficient scientific basis to be included on the list, and what the criteria will be for that decision. On the heels of the forensic document ambiguity in the NAS Report, an adverse decision by this newest Board could have disastrous results, not the least of which is the possibility that forensic document testimony will be excluded from criminal court proceedings, and thus deny a defendant of potentially exculpatory evidence.

The ABFDE is proffering its expertise and experience for any decisions to be considered by the Forensic Science Board. Please ensure that the forensic document profession is not overlooked this time around. If you have any questions, or if the ABFDE may be of assistance in your efforts to include the profession of forensic document examination in this very important matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you again, Mr. Martinez. We look forward to hearing from you and Senator Cornyn.

Regards,
Kirsten Singer, President, ABFDE

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issue:

SEPT 15, 2014



*Diane
Tolliver*