



# ABFDE News

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## THE GAVEL

KIRSTEN SINGER, PRESIDENT



**D**ear Diplomates, This is my final Gavel message, and if I could bundle my myriad thoughts and emotions into a thought cloud, the largest word would definitely be PROUD. It has been a short five years, but the Board has accomplished so much and worked together so well, that I could not be prouder of our work and camaraderie.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, you will have a new President in Rosalind Spencer. We are excited that she not only stepped up to take on the duties, but that she is one of our Canadian Diplomates. Please congratulate her!

I would like to note two items from our recent annual BOD meeting, as reported in the Minutes. First, since Bill Riordan and I are stepping down from the Board, the BOD will be reaching out to Diplomates for replacements through Board appointment so that they can be on the Board by July 1<sup>st</sup>. I will announce the newest Directors once confirmed.

Second, there was discussion at the meeting regarding the use of the Ames Fund. The Ames Fund was established in 1997 through the generosity of many of our Diplomates. The

Re-Accredited by  
FSAB in 2012



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## THE GAVEL

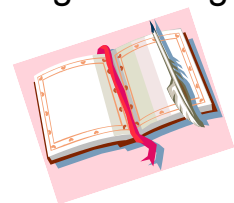
purpose of the fund is to provide fiscal resources for projects the Board believes will help defend our field and better inform our Diplomates and the legal community. We realized at this year's annual meeting that the fund had been dormant for nearly a decade. Noting past uses of the Ames Fund, the BOD decided to expand the purposes of the fund to include activities and research that support continuing requirements for accreditation and promote certification of Forensic Document Examiners. If you have ideas for relevant applications of this fund, please contact me before July 1<sup>st</sup>, and Rosalind after July 1<sup>st</sup>.



As I prepare to step down, I would like to note some of the Board's accomplishments for the past 5 years. First and foremost is the addition of Australia and New Zealand as eligible countries for FDE certification (we already have one new Australian Diplomat). The ABFDE Demystifying Certification 101 Workshop has been instrumental in encouraging candidates to apply for certification (there are currently 13 FDEs in the pipeline as I write this). The BOD also continues to develop updated written and practical tests that are based on the ACT Test Blueprint for validation. And getting re-accredited by FSAB is always a happy day.

I have spent one third of my professional life on the ABFDE Board of Directors, and I could not have chosen a better way to spend my time. I have learned so much, and imparted some wisdom; I have worked hard, and laughed just as much; and I have found that our profession consists of very strong individuals who are even stronger when we work together. It is a brave new world, with many new normals, but I know with certainty that the BOD, and our profession, will continue to do great things. It has been a privilege and an honor to represent you, Diplomates.

*Kirsten*



# Continuing Education: Super Bowl of Workshops for FDEs at MAFS in September in Mackinac Island, MI

By Courtney L. Baird, FDE, IN State Police Laboratory

Greetings Fellow Document Examiners!

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual fall meeting of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) will be held in Mackinac Island, Michigan on September 20 - September 25, 2015. Mackinac (pronounced MAK-in-aw) Island is truly spectacular. You must take a ferry to the island, and when you step onto the dock, you will be in a living Victorian village where transportation is limited to horse and buggy, bicycle, or foot. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the island. It truly is like going back in time.

Information about the meeting may be found at [www.mafs.net](http://www.mafs.net), and registration opens around June 1<sup>st</sup>.



The Mission Point Resort, location of the MAFS Super Bowl of QD Workshops and the Dream Team of Instructors.

The Mission Point Resort lodging is beautiful with rates as low as \$85 a night (+ taxes and fees), and their website is [www.missionpoint.com](http://www.missionpoint.com). The questioned document workshops are going to be amazing!

Bill Flynn and Kathleen Annunziata Nicolaidis open the week with a full day workshop titled "**The Forensic Examination of Electronic Signatures**". Digital signatures are becoming more and more common in our world, and Bill and Kathleen are on the cutting edge of this type of examination. This workshop will

have a hands-on section and discussions on casework, validation studies, and current research. 3 ABFDE Recertification Points have been approved for attendance and participation.

Do you have a VSC or are you interested in getting one? Don't miss David Tobin and Michael Zontini presenting a half day workshop titled "**Getting the Most Out Of Your Video Spectral Comparator**". There will be live equipment demonstrations with audience participation. 3 ABFDE Recertification Points have been approved for attendance and participation.

Have you heard that Brian Lindblom is retiring? I can hardly believe it myself. But, he has agreed to present for us a half day workshop titled "**The Examination of Documents Requiring a Multi-Faceted Approach**". He will be covering a broad array of examination methods such as microscopic; infra-

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# Super Bowl of Workshops

Continued from Page 3

red/ultraviolet; latent impression analysis; indentation sequencing; sourcing latent impressions; ink offsets and transfers; typography; use of electronic measuring grids to assess margins and line spacing; printing method identification; and document formatting. Don't miss out on attending one of Brian's last workshops! 3 ABFDE Recertification Points have been approved for attendance and participation.

Frank Hicks is going to present another one of his thought provoking signature workshops titled "**Evaluating Signatures: What Matters?**" This workshop will involve practical exercises to be worked on prior to attending. During the workshop there will be lively and interactive discussions! 3 ABFDE Recertification Points have been approved for attendance and participation.

Peter Belcastro, Jr. and Gregg Mokrzycki will close out the workshop sessions with a half day workshop titled "**The Application of Questioned Document Examinations to the Analysis of Valuable Signatures and Other Antiques**". This workshop is for you if interested in learning the best approach to examining signatures of value, famous artworks, historical documents, and other antiques. 3 ABFDE Recertification Points have been approved for attendance and participation.

What a line-up! ABFDE Diplomates may earn 18 points for attendance and participation in these workshops. I am also in the process of recruiting paper presenters. If you plan on attending, please plan on presenting a paper. Just shoot me an e-mail with your title and abstract, and I will add you to the schedule!

If you have any questions at all, please give me a call, and I hope to see you on the 8-mile coast line of Lake Huron!!!

**September 20 - September 25, 2015**

**Earn (at least) 18 ABFDE Recertification points for your attendance and participation in this Super Bowl of workshops with a Dream Team of instructors.**

Kindest Regards,  
Courtney L. Baird  
Indiana State Police Laboratory  
Division  
Phone: 317.921.5322  
E-mail: [cbaird@isp.in.gov](mailto:cbaird@isp.in.gov)



MIDWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

# Minutes from the 2015 BOD Annual Meeting

*Submitted by Bonnie L. Beal, Secretary*

The ABFDE Board of Directors (BOD) met for their Annual Meeting May 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Chandler, AZ. Present were: President Kirsten Singer, Vice President Lisa Hanson, Secretary Bonnie Beal, Treasurer Jim Green, Sean Espley, Rick Horton, Jim Josey, Gary Licht, Bill Riordan, Farrell Shiver, Rosalind Spencer, and Andy Szymanski. Tom Riley was unable to attend.

The 2014 BOD Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved and distributed.

## **Treasurer's Report** – Jim Green

*The following comments relate to fiscal activities from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.*

### Filing of IRS 990-EZ:

Income and expense information was provided to the Hobbs Group to facilitate the preparation of the 2013 "Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax" form. Allyson DeHart, an accountant with The Hobbs Group, filed the form on the Board's behalf in February, 2015.

### Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA):

The appropriate form (BRA-25) was not completed this year. The submission is required every other year and was properly filed in 2014.

### BOD Liability Insurance – CNA Insurance Company:

A payment in the amount of \$3,037.00 was made to CNA Insurance Company on March 11, 2015. As a result of changing the insurance carrier to CNA from the prior carrier (CFM Insurance), the Board saved \$923.00.

### Ames Fund:

During the past year, interest in the amount of \$5.31 was added to the prior balance in the fund of \$4,539.27. The current balance is \$4,544.58. As a reminder, the Ames account is not a separate fund; it is simply a dedicated balance that currently exists in the regular checking account.

### Diplomate payments for dues:

2013 – 2014 dues payments totaled \$28,056.84.

### ACT Validation services:

No payments were made to ACT during the past year for their validation services.

### District of Columbia representation:

Payment in the amount of \$103.54 was made to the Corporate Service Company on February 6, 2015 to maintain statutory representation in D.C. (Our Corporation documents were initially filed in D.C.)

### FSAB Accreditation:

A payment was made to FSAB in the amount of \$833.00 on January 1, 2015.

### Hilton 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Sales:

Royalty income in the amount of \$419.05 was received.

### Bank Account balances (3/21/15):

CD: \$7,581.78 (Currently earning .05% interest. Expires 5/14/15.)

Savings: \$324.27 (Interest accumulates at .01 per month.)

Regular Checking: \$29,592.03 (3/31/14 balance: \$27,170.88.)

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# 2015 BOD Minutes

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A 'Profit and Loss' statement for the 2013 - 2014 fiscal year appears below.

## ABFDE Profit & Loss July 2013 through June 2014

	<u>Jul '13 - Jun 14</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Application Fee	788.00
Hilton 2nd Edition	419.05
Membership Dues	26,556.84
Total Income	<u>27,763.89</u>
Expense	
ABFDE BoD Mtg 2014	
Airfare	4,453.82
Airfare & Travel	1,132.31
Director dinner	226.75
Meals	391.53
ABFDE BoD Mtg 2014 - Other	4,976.33
Total ABFDE BoD Mtg 2014	<u>11,180.74</u>
Administration	6,389.78
Audit - 2013	4,075.00
Bank Error	-15.00
FSAB	
FSAB Membership Dues	842.00
Total FSAB	<u>842.00</u>
Insurance - nonemployee	3,004.00
Legal Fees	88.50
Northeast Trophies & Awards	37.75
Office expense	169.86
Overpayment	250.00
Plaques	37.75
Postage and Delivery	323.00
Refund - Hyatt	-2,263.54
Reimbursement	122.55
Statutory Rep.	100.13
STOP PAYMENT	424.50
Supplies and Materials	400.39
Transferred from business acct	-1,500.00
Voided	-424.50
Total Expense	<u>23,242.91</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>4,520.98</u>
Net Income	<u><u>4,520.98</u></u>

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# 2015 BOD Minutes

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## **FSAB Committee Report – Bonnie Beal**

A new application will need to be completed prior to the year 2017. FSAB requires an annual report from all accredited organizations by March 31 of each year. Our FSAB Annual Report was submitted on February 27, 2015, along with the Substantive Changes and updated RPG. FSAB notified President Singer that they had received our packet.

## **Public Relations Committee Report – Submitted by Bonnie Beal for retired Chair Masson**

Janet Masson, Chair of this committee, stepped down from the Board. She is dearly missed and this committee is in flux at this time. Secretary Beal has provided the following:

According to Director Licht, the Texas White Paper and ABFDE Position Letter was mailed to all Attorney Generals in the United States and their Territories.

Past Chair Marie Durina updated the Recertification Application and this was placed onto the ABFDE website prior to her July 2014 departure.

The ABFDE website has been updated to include a current Directory of Diplomates; this is updated throughout the year. Additional updates include current versions of the RPG documents posted by Secretary Beal: Code of Conduct, General Provisions, Background Purposes, Code of Ethics, Bylaws, Duties of Officers and Committees, Procedure for Application and Certification, and an Outline of Substantive Changes. Laureen Leaver has proven invaluable in helping the BOD keep the website current and her assistance and diligence in this regard is extremely appreciated. There are areas of the website that still need to be updated and this is in the process of being conducted. Laureen has added a link to Tom Vastrick's database.

*"The ABFDE website has been updated to include a current Directory of Diplomates...and current versions of" administrative documents. This includes a link to Tom Vastrick's database.*

## **Recertification Committee Report – Rick Horton**

On July 1 the ABFDE is projected to have 109 active Diplomates: Three (3) new Diplomates completed the testing process and were issued an ABFDE Certificate of Qualification and Membership Card. Sixteen (16) Diplomates met the recertification criteria for the next five (5) year period and have received, or are in the process of receiving, a Certificate of Recertification and new Diplomat Membership card. Six (6) Diplomates retired or resigned. Four (4) former Diplomates passed away. Two (2) files are being maintained for each Diplomat. The appropriate Manager keeps a file containing items pertaining to Diplomat activity, including annual updates with supporting documentation and all significant correspondence relating to recertification; and the Administrative Office keeps a file containing the initial application, annual Notice of Points Awarded (NOPA) forms, letters, Recertification Applications, and copies of Member cards and Recertification Certificates.

## **Rules and Procedures Committee Report – Bonnie Beal**

An electronic version of the most recent Rules and Procedures Guide (RPG) is maintained and is up on the website. The RPG is in compliance with the published FSAB and SWGDOC standards. The RPG Committee has been working with the Testing Chair with updating the Testing SOPs and the testing area of the RPG. Additional work is still being conducted and the updated SOPs and RPG will be distributed and uploaded onto the website.

## **Test Preparation and Validation Committee Report – Rosalind Spencer**

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## **Credentials Report – Bonnie Beal**

The Credentials Committee received three applications this year. All three applicants plus one I was awaiting documents on prior to last year's meeting have passed into the testing phase.

I am happy to report the Board voted three applicants to Diplomat status. The new Diplomates are: Brenda Lanners, Linda Mitchell, and Melanie Holt.

## **Continuing Education Committee Report – William M. Riordan**

The following workshops were approved for recertification points:

**Sponsoring Org.:** American Society of Questioned Document Examiners  
**Workshop Name:** Skillful Freehand Signature Simulation  
**Workshop Date:** August 11-12      **Location:** Honolulu, HI  
**Points Awarded:** 6

**Sponsoring Org.:** American Society of Questioned Document Examiners  
**Workshop Name:** Adobe, Digital Media & Evidence  
**Workshop Date:** August 13      **Location:** Honolulu, HI  
**Points Awarded:** 3

**Sponsoring Org.:** Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists  
**Workshop Name:** Automating Image Production for Forensic Document Examiners  
**Workshop Date:** October 7, 2014      **Location:** St. Paul, MN  
**Points Awarded:** 6

**Sponsoring Org.:** Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists  
**Workshop Name:** Complex ESDA Sourcing Using Digital Image Layers  
**Workshop Date:** October 8, 2014      **Location:** St. Paul, MN  
**Points Awarded:** 3

**Sponsoring Org.:** American Academy of Forensic Sciences  
**Workshop Name:** Classification of Typewritten Material  
**Workshop Date:** February 16, 2015      **Location:** Orlando, FL  
**Points Awarded:** 6

**Sponsoring Org.:** American Academy of Forensic Sciences  
**Workshop Name:** The Examination of Skillfully Simulated Signatures  
**Workshop Date:** February 16, 2015      **Location:** Orlando, FL  
**Points Awarded:** 3

**Sponsoring Org.:** American Academy of Forensic Sciences  
**Workshop Name:** Automating Image Production for Forensic Document Examiners  
**Workshop Date:** February 17, 2015      **Location:** Orlando, FL  
**Points Awarded:** 6

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**Sponsoring Org.:** Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners  
**Workshop Name:** Conventional and Digital Printing Processes and Forensic Examinations  
**Workshop Date:** April 16, 2015      **Location:** Duluth, GA  
**Points Awarded:** 6

**Sponsoring Org.:** Rochester Institute of Technology  
**Workshop Name:** Printing Process Identification and Image Analysis for Forensic Document Examiners  
**Workshop Date:** April 21-24, 2015      **Location:** Rochester, NY  
**Points Awarded:** 21

## **FSAB Committee Report – Bonnie Beal**

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## **Test Preparation and Validation Committee Report – Rosalind Spencer**

The Test Preparation and Validation Committee Chair wrote to all Diplomates requesting their assistance in formulating new practical problems, in order to properly update the repository of practical questions. Examples of appropriate topics for combining into tests were given, to aid creativity. Devising practical problems which are multifaceted and aligned with the ACT test blueprint can be time-consuming but is extremely valuable to the Board, and this is reflected in the recertification points awarded for each test. New practical tests continue to be submitted in a slow but steady trickle, and volunteers to validate such tests are encouraged. A review of the second written test was held last August at the ASQDE 2014 meeting.

## **Workshop – Sean Espley**

There were no ABFDE workshops held during this reporting period. On April 21-24, 2015, RIT was providing a printing process workshop for new and seasoned forensic document examiners and criminalists. On June 4, 2015, Lisa Hanson will be providing the “De-Mystifying Board Certification” workshop in Pasadena at the annual SWAFDE meeting.

## **Historian – Bonnie Beal**

The 2014 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes and Newsletters have been archived.

## **Testing Committee Report – Lisa Hanson**

This report covers the period beginning April 25, 2014 and ending May 2, 2015.

Four candidates successfully completed the certification testing program and achieved Diplomate status. There are ten (10) candidates currently in the testing process. No Candidates withdrew.

In accordance with FSAB standards, attached are the “Performance Characteristics” and “Current Status of Each Candidate” spreadsheets. These statistics are maintained to record and track the performance of testing candidates during the various phases of the certification examination process.

Four Oral Examinations have been conducted resulting in four passing evaluations. There are no Candidate (s) eligible to take the Written Exam. There are four Candidates eligible to taken the Practical Examinations. Two Candidates are able to request their Practicals after their six month waiting period. One Candidate is able to request their Practicals after their three month waiting period and one Candidate is presently taking the Practical Tests. Two Candidates are eligible to participate in the Oral Examination Phase.

A Testing Committee Oral Examination Panel will be available during the upcoming Annual ASQDE Conference in anticipation of Candidates who may qualify during the next four months.

Written examinations and Oral examinations will be offered at all upcoming national and regional meetings in accordance with the needs of the candidates and the availability of ABFDE Directors.

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## **ABFDE Professional Review**

One Professional Review was requested and acted upon during 2014 due to the following:

President Singer was contacted on December 19, 2013 with a complaint involving a Diplomat.

During the 2014 ABFDE Board Meeting, President Singer requested that a PRC be convened to conduct a full review of the complaint towards the Diplomat. Vice-President Lisa Hanson requested she be removed as Chairman during the Review for personal reasons and therefore, President Singer would reside as Chair.

On Thursday July 24, 2014 the Professional Review Committee submitted the following to President Singer: Upon review of all documentation, the PRC complaint was found non-persuasive and the investigation was closed by President Singer.

## **Secretary Report – Bonnie Beal**

On August 8, 2014, Lisa asked that a change to the RPG Testing area that would allow Diplomates to sit on Oral Board panels when there are not enough Directors to fill the panel. This was supposed to have been voted on back in 2012 or 2013 but we were unable to quickly find the vote or the change. The BOD voted on wording provided by Lisa to section G. 4.3 and 4.5. A majority affirmative vote was achieved on August 8, 2014.

On August 20, 2014, the BOD was asked to vote on whether or not to award candidates Linda Mitchell, Brenda Lanners and our first Australian candidate Melanie Holt, Diplomat status. A majority affirmative vote was reached on August 21, 2014.

On September 10, 2014, Rick put forth a motion to award 1 point for participation in research involving 5 hours or less and 2 points for research greater than 5 hours; not to exceed 10 points during the 5 year recertification period. The motion was seconded by Kirsten and a majority affirmative vote was reached that same day.

After the vote on August 8, 2014 the following sections of the RPG was changed to read:

Section G. 4.3 (the text in bold is the area that was changed/added)

The panel for the Oral Boards shall be composed of three Directors, **if they are available**. Whenever possible, a member of the Testing Committee shall sit on all panels. **If three Directors are not available at an Oral Board destination, Diplomat(s) may be chosen to conduct the Oral Board examination(s). Whenever possible, a Director shall sit on all panels. The Testing Committee Chair may also choose instead to pay for the necessary number of Directors to attend the Oral Boards.**

Section G. 4.5

All panel members should be familiar with the candidate's results. Whenever possible, each member should be provided a copy of these results for review prior to the examination. (All copies disseminated to panel members must be returned to the Director **or Diplomat** coordinating the Oral Board at its conclusion.)

The ABFDE website was updated with the new substantive changes and updated RPG. The directory has been updated to add our new Diplomates.

## **Nominations – Rosalind Spencer**

At the last Board meeting several candidates were suggested as worthy of consideration for Directors. The

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Chair of the Nominations Committee contacted those identified, last September. Of these, a number confirmed their interest in serving in the Board of Directors, and their names were forwarded to the President for further consideration. Two new members were welcomed to the Board, after the resignation of two Directors.

This concludes the Committee reports.

## **Old Business**

### **ACT – Riley**

Due to the resignation of one of our Directors, there is no progress to report.

### **Training Syllabus Update – Riordan & Licht**

This work is still in progress. The Freeware has not been working well and it has been decided to use Access. An Access reader is available for free. The committee is hoping to have more progress by next meeting.

### **OSAC Update – Licht**

The Organization of Scientific Area Committees, OSAC, inaugural meetings were held in Norman, OK in January, 2015. QD was in the second group, and met January 20, 21, and 22. There are 24 subcommittees grouped under five Scientific Area Committees. As already noted and reported by NIST, there are researchers and statisticians assigned to each subcommittee. It appears to be a workable organization, even without all the details being worked out. The structure can be found at the NIST OSAC website, and has been well reported by NIST. The names of persons assigned to each subcommittee can also be found at the NIST OSAC website. (<http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac.cfm>) One area of organization that is still in the formative stages is the canvass process of reviewing and approving standards. The Free Dictionary defines canvass, “1. To examine carefully or discuss thoroughly; scrutinize:” and it appears that this is a suitable definition of the processes of a standards development organization (SDO). NIST will provide direction and oversight over the canvass process, and insure that it meets ANSI standards for a SDO

In the formative days of OSAC, participants were informed that revised or new standards would proceed through either SDOs or the canvass process. NIST planned to use the structured SDO process as guided by ANSI principals. (Presumably ANSI - SES 2:2006, Model Procedure for the Development of Standards, “This standard provides a model standards development procedure that contains all of the essential requirements of due process that a credible standards development organization should consider. The procedure is in a readily adoptable format of options for the use by any size and type of organization.”) On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the group was shown a list of SDOs that wanted to partner with OSAC. There were few options, with ASTM being one of them. By the end of the meeting we were informed that no one present wanted to work through ASTM, and the canvass process appeared to be the common choice. This may have been a small surprise for the NIST leadership, but was adapted to quickly.

The work at the first meeting was structured by NIST, and that structure helped to get the organization functioning. It was necessary to adapt to technological challenges, specifically virtual meetings with hundreds of people as active participants. That was remedied by face to face meetings in January, and may be resolved for future virtual meetings. OSAC is functioning on a very limited budget, and virtual meetings are needed. The next and perhaps most important use of modern technology was the KAVI software package and the training in the use of it. Holding the meeting at a federal training facility worked, but funding is limited, and subsequent work will proceed with virtual meetings and the use of the KAVI platform for document exchange and commentary.

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NIST had previously compiled a catalogue of standards already in print, and published that catalogue in digital form. (<http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac-standards-inventory-news.cfm>) Each subcommittee established priorities for work. One of the first orders of business was to decide which standards could go to the OSAC Registry as “ready to use”. One requirement was that a standard was to have gone through a standards development organization (SDO) if it was to go directly to the registry. The QD subcommittee had discussion about whether or not all standards that had already been through a Standards Development Organization, e.g. ASTM, should go to the registry, and then work on revisions. The final vote was to vote on each QD standard individually and decide if it could go to the registry, or go to a task group.

Nine standards were recommended to go to the registry.

1. E2285 Standard Guide for Examination of Mechanical Checkwriter Impressions
2. E2286 Standard Guide for Examination of Dry Seal Impressions
3. E2287 Standard Guide for Examination of Fracture Patterns and Paper Fiber Impressions on Single-Strike Ribbons and Typed Text
4. E2289 Standard Guide for Examination of Physical Match of Paper cuts, Tears, and Perforations in Forensic Document Examinations
5. E2291 Standard Guide for Indentation Examinations
6. E2388 Standard Guide for Minimum Training Requirements for Forensic Document Examiners
7. E2494 Standard Guide for Examination of Typewritten Items
8. E2710 Standard Guide for the Restoration and Preservation of Charred Documents
9. E2711 Standard Guide for the Restoration and Preservation of Liquid Soaked Documents

Five standards were recommended for revision work, including one listed above:

1. Standard for Examination of Handwritten Items (E2290)
2. Standard for Scope of Work of Forensic Document Examiners (E444)
3. Terminology Relating to the Examination of Questioned Documents (E2195)
4. Terminology for Expressing Conclusions of Forensic Document Examiner (E1658)
5. Standard for Minimum Training Requirements for Forensic Document Examiners (E2388)

Seven SWGDOC standards were recommended for work later:

1. Altered Document
2. Writing Ink Comparison
3. Documents Produced with Toner Technology
4. Documents Produced with Liquid Ink Jet Technology
5. Non-destructive Examination of Paper
6. Writing Ink Identification
7. Use of Image Capture and Storage Technology in Forensic Document Examination (E2765)

Nine Drafts of standards are in various levels of completion:

1. Case Review
2. Document Dating
3. Folds and Creases
4. Line Intersections
5. Initial Assessment of Evidence

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6. Note Taking
7. Sequence of Strokes
8. Thermal Printing
9. Writing Instruments
10. Classification of Typewriter Type Styles

Five standards are in formative stages:

1. Chemical Examination of Paper
2. Examination of Counterfeit Documents
3. Classification of Conventional Printing Processes
4. Continuing Education and Professional Development of FDEs
5. Classification of Facsimile Devices Using Terminal Transmitting Identifier and Receiving Transmission Identifier

That adds up to 35 standards at various levels of maturity.

Based upon commentary from NIST leadership, it appears that they think nothing like this had been done before. On the contrary, everyone who worked with a SWG or SWG products, or ASTM, or other SDOs, knows that standards have been around for years, and were created by and for practitioners. What has changed for forensic scientists is the funding source and oversight. In the past we could invite researchers and statisticians to SWG meetings, but a gradual decrease in funding caused that to cease. With a new funding stream, and the resources to conduct business via virtual meetings, things have started again.

Scientific Working Groups are not disbanded. It is true that SWGs will have to function by using email and virtual meeting platforms, and electronic document control. Some are still active. SWGDOC will remain, but in a wait and see mode. The writing and revising of standards that was happening at SWGDOC will, for the current time, function through OSAC.

## **Recertification - Horton**

Due to the addition of webinars and other alternative training, a new attendance form will be created and uploaded onto the website.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Board Committees and Functions 2014 – 2015 - Singer**

ACT Project – Tom Riley and Andy Szymanski  
Continuing Education – Andy Szymanski  
Credentials – Bonnie Beal  
Nominations – Rosalind Spencer  
Public Relations – Gary Licht  
Recertification – Rick Horton  
Rules and Procedures – Farrell Shiver  
ABFDE Syllabus Update – Gary Licht  
Test Preparation and Validation – Lisa Hanson  
Testing – Lisa Hanson  
Workshop – Sean Espley  
Newsletter Editor – Linda Mitchell

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# 2015 BOD Minutes

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## **FSAB Issues - Singer**

A letter was drafted and to be sent to President Bohan asking what documentation was needed to satisfy requirement 5.3.3.2. This section requires that certification bodies applying for reaccreditation “must be able to affirm that more than 50% of its certificants have gone through the formal training program described in 5.3.3.” We also expressed our support to raise this training requirement from 50% to at least 75% due to the recent increased scrutiny of the forensic sciences by the judiciary, media, and public, as well as the establishment of the NIST OSACs and DOJ National Commission on Forensic Science, all which demonstrate the need to raise standards for the forensic sciences. The letter is below:

*Dear President Bohan,*

*The ABFDE annual meeting of the Board of Directors was this past weekend, and as the current President, I am contacting you with two specific requests which arose from the meeting.*

*First, in preparation for ABFDE’s reaccreditation application, we request clarification regarding Section 5.3.3.2 of the FSAB Standards for Accrediting Forensic Specialty Certification Boards. This section requires that certification bodies applying for reaccreditation “must be able to affirm that more than 50% of its certificants have gone through the formal training program described in 5.3.3.” What criteria should ABFDE provide on the tab of our reaccreditation application in order to satisfy this requirement?*

*Second, also with regard to Section 5.3.3.2, the ABFDE recommends that the affirmation of a formal training program for 50% of certificants be increased to at least 75%. The recent increased scrutiny of the forensic sciences by the judiciary, media, and public, as well as the establishment of the NIST OSACs and DOJ National Commission on Forensic Science, demonstrates the need to raise standards for the forensic sciences.*

*Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Best Regards,  
Kirsten Singer  
President, ABFDE*

## **Diplomates’ Questions - Singer**

One Diplomat asked several questions regarding a position on a working group this Diplomat accepted. One question was about “conflict resolution”. After discussion of the questions, it was determined that the Board does not deal with non-Diplomat complaints, we have a Professional Review process to deal with conflict issues brought to the Boards attention for review and have procedures in place. We deal with each, case by case. The other question regarded FSAB was addressed above with the FSAB letter.

The next item was from another Diplomat who raised concerns regarding the amount of points a presenter of a workshop receives versus someone who takes the workshop or gives a paper presentation. The Board discussed this concern and agreed that a change was needed. We agreed on 10 points for the presenter of the workshop.

## **Paradigm Shift – Spencer**

Rosalind had an opportunity to attend the Royal Society meeting in London, UK. Here is her report:

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# 2015 BOD Minutes

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*The Royal Society is a Fellowship of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. Founded in 1660, it holds original notes, drawings, letters and portraits of all the eminent scientists of the past centuries in its collection. The purpose of the Royal Society is to recognize, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.*

## *1. 'The paradigm shift for UK forensic science'*

*Scientific Meeting, The Royal Society, London UK, February 2015*

*A paradigm shift is imminent in UK forensic science as the discipline approaches a pivotal juncture in the modern courtroom. The event capitalized on an emerging landscape to develop, design and promote a robust, effective and efficient capability that will best serve justice.*

*The event drew upon extensive international experience in change management, forensic science research and judicial influence, with many of the key speakers hailing from the US (various universities, NIST etc). Other speakers included The Lord Chief Justice for England and Wales, and Chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee. All speakers were highly regarded in their specific forensic fields and countries.*

*For those who are interested, the meeting programme is available to download, and recorded audio of the presentations is available. The papers will be published in a future issue of Royal Society Philosophical Transactions B.*

## *2. 'The paradigm shift for UK forensic science - further discussion'*

*The Royal Society at Chicheley Hall, Buckinghamshire, UK.*

*Immediately after this two-day meeting was a smaller residential invitation-only meeting, at the country retreat of the Royal Society, to allow for greater networking and informal discussion. The satellite meeting consisted of a smaller number of key players who would take the outcomes from the discussion meeting and convert these into international drivers for advancement of the subject. The programme for this meeting is also available to download.*

*This is the first time that forensic science has featured at the Royal Society. Having UK forensic science put under the microscope in such a public way by such an eminent body will hopefully set it on a path to cohesion and success, after the debacle of privatization, disbanding and fragmentation that it has endured in recent decades, with the ultimate risks to justice.*

## **Practical Test Appeal - Hanson**

One Candidate appealed the results of one practical. The BOD reviewed the test, the reviewer's responses, and the Candidate's appeal. Upon discussion, the Candidate won the appeal and will move on to the Oral Boards.

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# 2015 BOD Minutes

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## **Restructuring of Testing Committee - Hanson**

The Testing Committee is getting really busy which is a good thing, however, it is getting difficult to keep up with everyone. The Testing Chair recommends changing the SOP so if the number of candidates reaches more than 10, then the Testing Committee Chair would start passing the next candidate on to one of the Committee members to be the point of contact (POC). The POC would take on what the Testing Chair does for the candidates and then the Testing Chair would become an evaluator for the Testing Committee member. Each new candidate would be passed on to the next Committee member until the number falls below 10 for the Testing Committee Chair.

## **ABFDE Directors**

Sean Espley is the Chair of the Workshop Committee. He would like to research putting on workshops again, as long as, they are financially worthy for the Board.

## **Departure of Directors**

Kirsten Singer and Bill Riordan have stepped down off the Board, effective July 1st.

## **Ames Fund**

The Ames Fund was established in 1997 through the generosity of many of our Diplomates. The purpose of the fund is to provide fiscal resources for projects the Board believes will help defend our field and better inform our Diplomates and the legal community.

Per the Treasurer's report at the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in 2015, it was highlighted the fund had been dormant for nearly a decade. Noting past uses of the Ames Fund, the BOD discussed expanding the purposes of the fund to support the activities and research necessary to achieve the continuing requirements for accreditation and promote certification of Forensic Document Examiners.

## **Election of Directors**

Two Directors will be appointed this year and elections will be needed next year to maintain the balance of election vs. appointments.

Rosalind Spencer was elected as the new President. Lisa Hanson, Jim Green, and Bonnie Beal were elected by the Board to stay as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be in Houston, TX.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Bonnie L. Beal,**  
ABFDE Secretary  
May 2015

# Continuing Education

## August 2015

- 2-8** International Association for Identification (IAI)  
Sacramento, CA  
*100th Anniversary*  
[www.theiai.org/conference/index.php](http://www.theiai.org/conference/index.php)
- 8-13** American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE)  
Toronto, Canada  
Eaton Chelsea, Toronto  
Bonnie Beal, Program Chair  
Diane Kruger, Site Chair  
<http://www.asqde.org/AGM/agm2015.html>

## September 2015

- 20-25** The Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS)  
Mackinac Island, MI  
Mark Goff, Local Arrangements Chair  
GoffM3@Michigan.gov  
Courtney L. Baird, QD Section Chair  
CBaird@isp.IN.gov  
317.921.5322

## August 2016

- 18-23** The Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS)  
*23rd International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences*  
Auckland, New Zealand  
[www.anzfss2016.org](http://www.anzfss2016.org)
- 15** The Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS)  
Branson, MO

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## Continuing Education

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This page should also be filled with continuing education announcements. 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 new *ABFDE News* Editor, Linda Mitchell, at [forensicqde@gmail.com](mailto:forensicqde@gmail.com).

Continuing our professional education is necessary to maintain ABFDE certification. Please help the next editor make this information available from a world-wide arena. This page and this newsletter should be filled with information about opportunities that help Diplomates maintain currency in our discipline.

After this issue, meeting announcements should be submitted to the editor, Linda Mitchell, at [forensicqde@gmail.com](mailto:forensicqde@gmail.com).

Please consider this a responsibility to our profession. Thank you for allowing me to serve as the editor of the *ABFDE News*. I have really enjoyed this second round serving as the editor. From Page-maker to Publisher, it has been a great experience. This position allowed me to grow professionally and to connect with so many colleagues. I apologize for the oversights I have made. It is now time to enjoy more of my retirement.

# ABFDE Retrospective

By Kirsten Singer, ABFDE President

The end of my time as President has inspired me to create a brief retrospective of ABFDE past Presidents, and events in history that were occurring during their eras.

1977 The **ABFDE** is established, Jimmy Carter is elected President, a gallon of gas is 65 cents, the World Trade Center is completed, and Star Wars opens in theaters.

1981-1983 **James J. Horan** elected first ABFDE President. During his tenure, Margaret Thatcher is elected PM, Sony releases the Walkman, and Lady Diana marries Prince Charles.



James H. Kelly

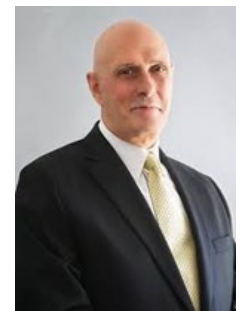
1983-1985 **James H. Kelly**. Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album goes to #1 and stays #1 for 37 weeks; President Reagan signs bill establishing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

1985-1987 **Robert G. Lockard**. Ronald Reagan is President, Challenger Space Shuttle explodes after take-off, and *Fatal Attraction* and *Dirty Dancing* are released

for the first time

1987-1989 **Thomas J. Donovan**. Larry Bird (Boston Celtics) begins NBA free throw strike of 59; "Nightline" is seen in the USSR

1989-1991 **William J. Flynn**. Tower of Pisa is closed to the public after leaning too far; Nelson Mandela released after 27 years imprisonment in South Africa; the first successful trial run of the system that would become the World Wide Web (12/25/90) occurs.



William J. Flynn

1991-1993 **Janet F. Masson** elected first woman President. Tiger Woods, 16, becomes youngest PGA golfer in 35 years; Betty Boothroyd becomes the first woman to be elected Speaker of the British House of Commons in its 700-year history; Johnny Carson's last appearance as host of the Tonight Show.



Dan C. Purdy

1993-1995 **Dan C. Purdy** elected first Canadian President. US Supreme Court outlaws excluding people from juries based on their gender; Channel tunnel linking England and France officially opens.

1995-1997 **Mary Wenderoth Kelly**. Oklahoma City bombing, Princess Diana dies in a car accident, *Titanic* movie is released. The first version of the Java programming language is released. IBM computer Deep Blue becomes the first computer to win a

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# ABFDE Retrospective

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Mary Wenderoth Kelly

game of chess against a reigning (human) chess champion, Gary Kasparov.

1997-1999 **Howard C. Rile, Jr.** The Euro is the new European currency, Columbine high school massacre, *The Matrix* and *The Sixth Sense* are in theaters.



Howard C. Rile, Jr.



A. Frank Hicks

1999-2001 **A. Frank Hicks.** Panama Canal returned to Panama, JFK Jr. dies in plane accident, the world experiences Y2K and 9/11, *Shrek* movie is released, and the word "Google" becomes a verb.

2001-2003 **Jan Seaman Kelly.** Publishes the Forensic Examination of Rubber Stamps, and is future co-editor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents. 109th Wimbledon Women's Tennis: Serena Williams beats Venus Williams (7-6 6-3) ; Polaroid Corporation is purchased by One Equity Partners, creating a new company that now operates under the Polaroid Corporation name, launching a new era for Polaroid.

2003-2005 **Brian B. Carney.** Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, Danica Patrick takes on the

Indy 500, space shuttle *Columbia* explodes, and *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Finding Nemo* are in theaters.



Brian B. Carney

2005-2007 **Paige E. Doherty.** World population reaches 6.5 billion, Saddam Hussein bites the dust, YouTube is created, Hurricane Katrina slams New Orleans, and *An Inconvenient Truth* is in theaters.

2006-2009 **Joyce A. Lauterbach.** Gets ABFDE accredited by FSAB!. Western Union discontinues its telegram service; construction begins on the Freedom Tower for the new World Trade Center in New York City. 40th Country Music Association Award: Kenny Chesney, Carrie Underwood and Keith Urban wins.



Joyce A. Lauterbach

2009-2010 **David L. Oleksow.** Alexandre Bilodeau wins the Gold Medal in the freestyle skiing men's moguls event, becoming the first Canadian to win a Gold Medal during a Canadian-hosted Olympics; volcanic ash from the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland leads to the closure of airspace over most of Europe.



Kirsten Singer

2010-2015 **Kirsten Singer.** Apple iPad debuts, Osama Bin Laden bites the dust, President Obama re-elected, Hurricane Sandy hits the east coast, Ebola strikes, and *The King's Speech* and *12 Years a Slave* are in theaters.

## Francis Devine, Diplomate: 1978-1992

Francis Michael Devine 1928-2015

Francis Michael Devine, aged 86, passed away on Thursday February 5, 2015. Frank was the son of Michael Francis and Sarah Marie Devine and was predeceased by his wife Vera Jean Harris and daughter Jeannie, as well as his sister Ellen Coulter, and brothers John Devine and Richard Devine.

Frank was born April 22, 1928 in Boston, Massachusetts. He graduated from High School at the age of 16 and shortly thereafter joined the Navy. Frank was discharged to the reserves in 1946. He attended and graduated from Boston College and again served his country during the Korean War where he accepted a commission as a Marine Corps Officer. He served in Korea until 1953. Until his discharge he continued to serve in the Marine Reserves until 1960.

Frank worked as a Document Examiner for the FBI and retired after a nearly 30 year career. He met his wife while working at the FBI and raised their family in Silver Spring, MD. During his career at the FBI, he also obtained a Master's Degree in Forensic Science and developed his lifelong friendships with many people but especially his loyal and true friend William Newbrough. Frank continued working in private practice after his retirement from the FBI. Frank was an ABFDE Diplomate from 10-29-78 and retired 1-5-92.



Frank enjoyed telling jokes, listening to Irish music, and playing golf as often as possible. He was a devoted and faithful Catholic and enjoyed his involvement in the Catholic Community.

Left to mourn his loss and remember his life are his children Michael Devine and spouse Monica, Sarah Koerner, Joseph Devine, Joan Devine and spouse Beverly, Kathryn Reynolds and spouse Thomas and Jeanette Stump and her spouse Terrence, along with many grandchildren and great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Sally O'Leary and her husband William, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church, Williamsville, MD. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made to Hospice of Frederic County, PO Box 1799, Frederick, MD 21702 or Little Sisters of the Poor, 601 Maiden Choice Lane, Baltimore, MD 21228. An online memorial was available at [www.keeneybasford.com](http://www.keeneybasford.com).

**Administrative Office**

7887 San Felipe  
Suite #122  
Houston, TX 77063  
(713) 784-9537



**Webmasters:**  
Bill & Lauren Leaver

**2015-2016 Board Officers**

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VICE PRESIDENT.....Lisa M. Hanson  
SECRETARY.....Bonnie L. Beal  
TREASURER.....Jim Green

**2014-2015 Committee Chairs**

CONTINUING EDUCATION.....Andy Szymanski  
CREDENTIALS.....Bonnie L. Beal  
HISTORIAN.....Bonnie L. Beal  
NOMINATIONS.....Rosalind Spencer  
PUBLIC RELATIONS..... Gary Licht  
RECERTIFICATION.....Richard A. Horton  
RULES & PROCEDURES.....Farrell Shiver  
TEST PREP & VALIDATION.....Lisa M. Hanson  
TESTING.....Lisa M. Hanson  
WORKSHOP COORDINATOR.....Sean A. Espley



*Thinking of going through the ABFDE Certification process?*

*Come to the 101 Basics of Certification course. For location and date, contact:*

*Lisa M. Hanson, ABFDE Vice President and Testing Committee Chair*

*[lisa.hanson@state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.hanson@state.mn.us)*



Send contributions for the next ABFDE News to:

**Linda Mitchell, Editor  
ABFDE News**

[forensicqde@gmail.com](mailto:forensicqde@gmail.com)

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