

President's Message

Joyce A. Lauterbach

It is really quite interesting times that we are living in. Discontent among an isolated few, however, is more than compensated for by the overwhelming support and encouragement offered from a broader community of examiners who actively engage and participate in the greater document community. Even so, it is disconcerting that isolated situations are so publicly broadcast.

With regards to any complaint filed against a Diplomate, Professional Review Committee (PRC) members are expressly prohibited from discussing any aspect of a complaint with anyone other than the president or the chair of the PRC. In two recent situations, even current directors, who had not been assigned to a PRC, did not know the identity of the Diplomates against whom a complaint had been filed. Rather, details about the complaints and affected Diplomates only became public after statements and accusations were broadcast by individuals who were not serving on the Board or a PRC. Responses to these public statements and accusations are being addressed now only after consulting with counsel that the Board was forced to retain.

The PRC procedures are designed to be fair to all parties. Any complaint filed against a Diplomate MUST be supported by "evidence that can be verified and corroborated" per Professional Review Procedures 1.C. in the Rules and Procedures Guide. An individual cannot simply assert material misrepresentation of evidence, bias in rendering conclusions, or any other violation of the ABFDE Code of Ethics—there must be evidence to substantiate such allegation(s).

Complaints are submitted to the president in writing, along with corroborating documentation. The president receiving a complaint has the authority to either (1) summarily dismiss any complaint which, in the opinion of the president, does not offer adequate corroborating documentation of an infraction, or (2) convene a PRC if the president believes that there is sufficient corroborating evidence and that a complaint should be independently reviewed by the PRC members.

If any complaint reviewed by a PRC Committee results in a recommendation for disciplinary action, then Section IV. V. of the PRC procedures requires that the respondent be notified

(continued on page 5)

Contents

Recertification Committee Report.....	2
Daubert Corner.....	2
Book Review.....	3
From the Board Room.....	4
ABFDE Workshop.....	5
Continuing Education.....	6
Board of Directors.....	12

Recertification Committee

Donna Eisenberg
McLean, VA

In accordance with the ABFDE's FSAB accreditation requirements, the 2007 Scoring Table was created last year and used by all Diplomates who documented and submitted earned recertification points. This year, one change has been made to the 2007 Scoring Table; the change concerns the number of points earned for participating in professional proficiency tests. The revised 2008 Scoring Table will award one point for any Board approved proficiency test for a maximum of five points possible in five years.

The 2008 Scoring Table is available for download from the ABFDE website. It will bear a revision date of 6/3/08.

Unless instructed otherwise by a Diplomate, recertification managers have the option of sending a Diplomate's NOPA either by regular or electronic mail.

Recertification requires earning 40 points within a five-year period of time. It is being re-emphasized that half of those points (20) MUST be earned from continuing education credits.

The recertification manager for Diplomates whose last names begin with A-F has been changed. Jan Johnson has replaced Jeff Taylor on the Recertification Committee. Diplomates A-F will now send their updates to Jan c/o of the Michigan State Police Lansing Laboratory, 7320 North Canal Road, Lansing, Michigan 48913. Jan can also be reached at johnsonjan@michigan.gov or 517-322-6399. The remaining recertification managers will stay the same:

A-F	Jan Johnson	M-R	Donna Eisenberg
G-L	Dennis Mooney	S-Z	Ellen Schuetzner

Daubert Corner

by Kirsten Singer

After seven challenging and rewarding years, I have decided to resign from the Daubert Group. For all future Daubert challenges, please contact Jan Kelly, LVMPD, at qdwatchdog@aol.com or 702-229-3963. For federal Daubert decisions, contact Kathleen Storer, USSS, at Kathleen.Storer@uss.s.dhs.gov or 202-406-5805.

Editor Lisa M. Hanson
Associate Editor Jason Lee Miller

Board Reports

President Joyce A. Lauterbach
Secretary David L. Oleksow
Continuing Education A. Frank Hicks

Composer
IntelliType

2008-2009 Board Officers

PRESIDENT.....Joyce A. Lauterbach
VICE PRESIDENT..... Donna Eisenberg
SECRETARY.....David L. Oleksow
TREASURER..... Jeffrey Taylor

2008-2009 Committee Chairs

CONTINUING EDUCATION.....A. Frank Hicks
CREDENTIALS.....David L. Oleksow
FSAB..... Dennis Mooney
HISTORIAN.....David L. Oleksow
NEWSLETTER EDITOR..... Lisa M. Hanson
PRC..... Donna Eisenberg
PUBLIC RELATIONS..... Dennis J. Ryan
RECERTIFICATION..... Donna Eisenberg
RULES & PROCEDURES..... Dennis Mooney
TEST PREPARATION & VALIDATION.....Carl McClary
TESTING..... Donna Eisenberg
WEBMASTER.....William Leaver
WORKSHOP COORDINATOR.....L. Jim Josey

Send contributions to:

Lisa Hanson, Editor
ABFDE News
1031 Eagle Ridge Trail
Stillwater, MN 55082
Tel (651) 398-4549
Fax (651) 793-2901

lisa.hanson@state.mn.us

Deadline for the next issue is:

September 20th

www.abfde.org

Book Review

Fakes and Forgeries: The True Crime Stories of History's Greatest Deceptions: The Criminals, the Scams, and the Victims

By Brian Innes

(Available from Amazon.com for about \$20 US)

by Lamar Miller

This is not a document examination textbook. Instead, the book explores the three F's—fake, forgery, and fraud. It takes the reader on an interesting journey through the history of document forgery, counterfeiting, art forgery, and the con men who produced the famous fakes. As with most popular crime stories, the book concentrates more on the interesting characters and con men than on the methods used to detect their dastardly deeds. The book is well illustrated with excellent drawings and photographs of historically significant forgeries and con men. The book is well written and a pleasure to read. I recommend *Fakes and Forgeries* to my colleagues.

Barry Innes, the author, is a research biochemist turned author. Dr. Innes has authored numerous books on crime and forensic science, as well as tarot cards, UFOs, and the interpretation of dreams!

The book contains a brief introduction, eight chapters, and an excellent index.

Chapter one, "Funny Money," contains an interesting history of tales of counterfeit currency, coins, stamps, and other items of value.

Archimedes, the Greek mathematician and inventor, was asked by the king to determine if his crown was pure gold or a mixture of gold and silver. Legend has it that Archimedes was puzzling over this problem as he relaxed in a public bath, a popular pastime in his native Syracuse. He discovered that water was displaced as he stepped into his bath. It dawned on him that gold was denser than silver and would displace less water than a mixture of the two metals. He could test his theory by immersing the king's crown and measuring the amount of water it displaced.

The water displaced by pure gold of the same weight as the crown, was compared to the water displaced by the king's crown. A comparison of questioned and known samples!

It is said that Archimedes was so excited with the discovery that he jumped from the bath and ran naked through the streets shouting "Eureka!" meaning "I have found it." Hence, the Archimedes' Principal was born.

Much of the initial chapter deals with the problems associated with counterfeit currency and stamps. This includes the familiar explanation of the different printing methods, (intaglio, offset lithography, letterpress, dry offset, and screen printing) and how to recognize each. The careers of several famous counterfeiters are profiled in this chapter.

The second chapter, "Fake Art," deals with the interesting world of faked paintings, sculpture, and other works of art. A young Michelangelo was said to be an accomplished forger of the paintings of some of the old masters. He was able to produce such exact copies that the experts were unable to detect his work from the originals. Michelangelo cleverly substituted his copies for the originals on display in museums.

Sotheby's and Christie's, the two famous art auction establishments, simultaneously offered two copies of the same Gauguin painting for sale in 2000. Both were eventually traced to con man, Ely Sakhai.

This chapter also delves into the use of modern technology in the examination of works of art. Mentioned are ultraviolet light, radio-carbon dating, infrared photography, spectrographic analysis, and thermo luminescence.

(continued on page 11)

From the Board Room

David L. Oleksow
San Diego, CA

Minutes of the ABFDE Board of Directors Meeting

Atlanta, Georgia - May 16 to 18, 2008

The Board of Directors of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc. met for the annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on May 16, 17, and 18, 2008. Board members present were Joyce Lauterbach, Donna Eisenberg, David Oleksow, Jeff Taylor, Dennis Mooney, Carl McClary, Dennis Ryan and Kirsten Singer. Also present on the last two days of the meeting was Frank Hicks, newly-elected director to the Board.

The meeting was called to order by President Joyce Lauterbach at 8:15 a.m. President Lauterbach read a statement about the last year's trials and tribulations. The agenda was provided to the directors; and one addition was made regarding ASTM standards, to be handled by director McClary. A motion was made to adopt the proposed agenda and seconded. The proposed agenda was approved unanimously.

Adoption of the 2007 BOD Meeting's Minutes

The minutes of the April, 2007 Board of Directors meeting were adopted unanimously with modification. Secretary Dave Oleksow asked for the inclusion of an omitted statement about the use of the word "collaboration" to describe the relationship between ABFDE and LaTrobe. At the 2007 meeting, Oleksow had asked that the record reflect that the relationship between ABFDE and LaTrobe was not a "collaboration" but rather that ABFDE allowed the dissemination of the Hammond Pilot Test to Diplomates for informational purposes only.

Treasurer's Report - Jeff Taylor

Director Taylor presented the Board of Directors with the current annual report dated April 14,

2008. President Lauterbach provided the secretary with the Audited Financial Statements and the Report of Unauthorized Transactions, both dated June 30, 2007. Also presented by Lauterbach were copies of the Interim Treasurer's Report dated April 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007, and the Corrected Treasurer's Report for April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, prepared by President Lauterbach as interim treasurer. The fictitious reports presented by former treasurer Allen Southmayd at the 2007 Board of Directors Meeting in Charlotte, NC, were also submitted to Secretary Oleksow for filing in the secretary's records. The April 14, 2008 report was reviewed by members of the Executive Committee.

On a monthly basis, checks issued by the treasurer are reviewed by the president, who keeps copies of monthly bank statements for her files. All checks issued require two signatures.

The revised treasurer's SOP, prepared by Treasurer Taylor and President Lauterbach, provides for an annual internal audit, not to include the treasurer, and an external audit every two years by a professional auditor. A motion for a two-year external audit was made by Donna Eisenberg and seconded by Dave Oleksow. The vote was unanimous in favor of the audit. The external audit will take place at the same time as the preparation of the IRS 990. The records and results of the external audit will go to the president, secretary and treasurer for review and record-keeping.

The 2006 990 report was prepared by the Hobbs Group, P.A for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, and filed by the president in early August 2007. The Hobbs Group, P.A. also audited the books and issued reports regarding the previous treasurer's activities. There was no activity with the AMES Fund this year. The current balance in the AMES fund is approximately \$4,500.

Annual dues were received from 123 Diplomates, and all monies and interest misappropriated by the previous treasurer have been recovered.

Fourteen application fees were received this year, for a total of \$3,500.

A report was filed on January 4, 2008, to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and will be reported next in 2010.

(continued on page 9)

President

(continued from page 1)

in writing and be given an opportunity to appear before the Board to provide further explanation. The procedure provides that the PRC chair presents the committee's findings to the entire Board, and the respondent is provided the same opportunity to explain and defend his or her position. The procedures further express that "The oral presentation of the respondent cannot be made by a person other than the respondent; no legal counsel or other agent may be present." A respondent is afforded every opportunity to avail him- or herself of the chance to be heard by the entire Board of Directors. Further, every five years when a Diplomate fills out his or her Application for Recertification, the Diplomate signs an agreement to abide by ABFDE Code of Ethics as defined by the ABFDE Rules and Procedures Guide (RPG).

Previously there was a provision in the Professional Review Procedures 1.D. that stated, "If the complaint involves pending litigation, no action will be taken until final adjudication of all court proceedings." That provision was revised at the 2006 BOD meeting with the addition: "However, if the complaint to the Board also involves pending litigation arising out of the same facts against a Diplomate, the above suspension of action by the Board will not apply and the Board may proceed with an immediate fact investigation by the PRC in accordance with the procedures set out hereafter." This amendment was to preclude one from forestalling any pending PRC review by subsequently filing further legal actions unrelated to the underlying case.

Despite the ABFDE's RPGs and the agreement of every Diplomate to abide by these rules, a civil lawsuit was filed against the ABFDE. The lawsuit filed in California against the ABFDE alleged violation of civil rights and freedom of speech. ABFDE's counsel filed a motion to strike with the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco, and a hearing date on that motion has been set. Because of this lawsuit, the Board felt it was necessary to engage the professional services of a law firm (Roberts Markel in Houston, Texas) in order for the ABFDE to acquire language and recommendations to strengthen and clarify the ABFDE's PRC policies and procedures, venue

(continued on page 7)

ABFDE WORKSHOP

Case Examinations of Medical and Business Records

**Saturday, August 16, 2008, 8am - 5pm
Asheville, North Carolina**

The workshop will encompass commonly encountered business records case problems. The instructors will engage the attendees in discussion about methodology, approach and conclusions. Participants will receive original case materials in advance of workshop attendance and will be required to examine two case problems and document all physical evidence for the group discussion. In conclusion, a panel of highly experienced examiners will cover techniques of documenting findings; suggested methods of dealing with attorneys, avoidance of biases and other problems frequently encountered in medical/business records examinations.

Five original case problems will be sent to each attendee with a short scenario. The examiners may call designated instructors for additional information if needed to complete the assignment. Contact information for these instructors will be provided. Only two of the case problems will be the responsibility of the individual attendees.

Lunch and breaks are included in the cost.

**There are still some slots available.
Late registrations will be accepted.**

\$100 for ABFDE Diplomates
and ASQDE Members

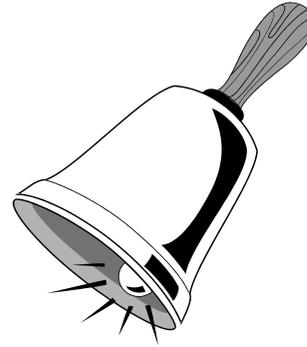
\$150.00 for All Others

Registration for the workshop will be handled by the ASQDE. Forms are included within the registration materials as well as on the ABFDE web site.

The workshop is open to ABFDE Diplomates and members of ASQDE, SWAFDE, SAFDE, AAFS (QD-section), CSFS, MAAFS, and MAFS. Requests from applicants not meeting the listed requirements above will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Continuing Education

A Frank Hicks
Long Beach, CA



August 2008

16-21 American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE)

Reasoning with Technology: A Cognitive Approach to Casework and Research

Workshop: "Case Examinations of Medical and Business Records," conducted by the ABFDE

Renaissance Asheville Hotel
Asheville, NC
(800) 359-7951

Grant Sperry (Program Chair)
FDES, Inc.
7859 Cross Pike Drive
Germantown, PA 38138-8117
(901) 759-0729; (901) 747-7757
qdman@earthlink.net

Charlotte Ware (Site Chair)
Post Office Box 3000
Charlotte, NC 28228-3000
(704) 329-9168
ewware@uspis.gov

September 2008

9/29-10/1 Midwest Forensics Resource Center (MFRC)

A DCI Symposium Addressing Topics in Questioned Document Analysis

Ankeny, IA
Todd Welch and Lisa Hanson (Coordinators)
DCI Crime Laboratory
(517) 719-5473
Welcht@michigan.gov
Lisa.Hanson@state.mn.us

October 2008

1-3 Midwest Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) 37th Annual Meeting

Hotel Fort Des Moines
Des Moines, IA
(800) 532-1466

Todd Welch (Program Chair)
Lansing Forensic Laboratory
7320 North Canal Road
Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 719-5473
Welcht@michigan.gov

20-23 Skill-Task Training, Assessment & Research, Inc. (ST²AR)

Workshop: Emphasis on Handwriting and Signature Examinations, Digital Photography, Dichroic Filters and Ink Jet Technology

Skill-Task Training, Assessment & Research, Inc. (ST²AR)
9360 West Flamingo Road, Suite 110-400
Las Vegas, NV 89147

Jan Seaman Kelly (Program Chair)
(702) 828-3963
qdwatchdog@aol.com



This list of opportunities available to Diplomates seeking recertification credits may not be all-inclusive. Provide details of upcoming meetings or workshops for this news-letter to:

A. Frank Hicks
Rile & Hicks
100 Oceangate, Suite 670
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 901-3376 / Fax (562) 901-3378
afhqde@yahoo.com

President

(continued from page 5)

provisions, and a letter of agreement to be signed by all Diplomates.

In a letter of resignation received by the Board, a copy of which was also sent to all Diplomates, was an accusation that “recent and present leadership has been remiss in its fiduciary responsibility to protect the assets of the ABFDE Diplomates from embezzlement.” At the time the embezzlement was occurring, the policies and procedures of the treasurer had been in place and appropriately followed for many years. Upon discovery of the unauthorized withdrawals, however, the Board acted immediately and appropriately. All funds were fully recovered, and tighter procedures were set in place so that now the president oversees all activities relating to the Board’s funds. The vice president and secretary also have online access to the ABFDE’s bank account for additional oversight of all banking activities. Further, the Board decided at the last meeting that in addition to an annual internal audit, the treasurer’s books will be audited externally every two years.

In a disgruntled letter sent to the Board and copied to all Diplomates, the author cited the resignation of a past director-at-large, who is an attorney and law school professor, due to what he perceived to be a slipping effectiveness of the ABFDE. The letter, however, fails to recognize that the statement “a vocal minority intent on limiting the ABFDE in its legitimate functions by wresting control of its Board and depriving it of the ability to do what it has done so well” was later retracted when it was realized that there was not a vocal minority attempting to control the Board. The Board has done, and still does do, an outstanding job of testing for basic competency, and requiring continuing education and competency among its certified Diplomates. With respect to the other two referenced directors who resigned, the author failed to elaborate that they did so in order that they could devote their time and energies toward a program of research and publication rather than certification and recertification.

This same letter further asserted that the ABFDE is a dying organization due to strife and discontent and that the overall number of certified Diplomates has dwindled over the last several

years. While it is true that a number of Diplomates had been reaching an age of retirement and that some of our grandfathered Diplomates opted not to participate in the mandatory testing requirements for all Diplomates, these resignations were primarily due to life circumstances. Rather, contrary to what the author alleges, the ABFDE is once again in a growth cycle. There are currently 129 Diplomates; in February one new Diplomate passed his oral examinations; currently 14 candidates are in some stage of the testing program; and one additional new applicant has just been approved by the Credentials Committee. Additionally, there are a number of apprentices in various laboratories preparing for an opportunity to become an ABFDE-certified examiner.

Additional allegations in this letter, which are untrue, include the statement that the ABFDE leadership is secretive and does not advise Diplomates of changes to our bylaws. Bylaws changes are published in the secretary’s minutes each year after the annual BOD meeting. Current bylaws are also published and maintained on the ABFDE web site. The SOPs are merely internal working documents that provide guidance and directions for sitting Board members.

Further allegations that the ABFDE violates federal and state laws are simply not applicable. Actually, it is impossible to understand how the Board can violate the Constitution of the United States and/or individual state law, since the Board is not a government agency but rather is governed by its own bylaws.

And finally, not only those of us sitting on the Board of Directors, but also every ABFDE-certified Diplomate, should take exception with the statement that “the Board and its Diplomates have departed from well known and established scientific fundamentals.” Every Diplomate should be proud of having achieved ABFDE certification, and it is exactly those high standards of ABFDE certification that we expect all ABFDE Diplomates will aspire to and maintain.

Annual Updates

This year Dues Notices, Change of Address Forms, and your Annual Update forms have been sent to you via email attachments, rather than in a separate mailing from our Administrative Office

(continued on page 8)

President

(continued from page 7)

in Houston. Currently, I believe that I have a complete and accurate list of e-mail addresses for all ABFDE Diplomates. Please advise me if there have been any changes in your contact information. This notice in the Newsletter will serve as an alternate back-up form of notification regarding this change. If for any reason you have not received Dues and Annual Update notices from me via email, please contact either me at joyce.lauterbach@ci.irs.gov, or at 803 253-3547, or contact your Recertification Manager. Forms are also available on the ABFDE website.

Please download and print your forms from the email attachments, or from the ABFDE website.

- Your annual dues and change of address forms must be sent to:

ABFDE Administrative Office
7887 San Felipe, Suite #122
Houston, Texas 77063

Include your name and certificate number on your form of payment. If your employer sends one check for more than one Diplomat, please ask your accounting department to include the name and certificate number of each Diplomat on the memo line or counterfoil of those checks so that the dues are properly credited to each Diplomat.

- Your annual updates must be sent to your recertification manager.

NOTE that the recertification manager for Diplomates with a last name beginning with A through F is now Jan Johnson.

Other Business

Frank Hicks and Jim Josey were elected to the Board of Directors on the last ballot. Frank Hicks previously served on the Board and is a past president (1999 to 2001). We welcome Mr. Hicks to the Board and especially appreciate the historical perspective he is able to add. We also welcome Jim Josey to the Board; Mr. Josey has been assigned to be workshop coordinator. In fact, a group of trainees and potential applicants to the ABFDE have expressed interest in ABFDE workshops tailored for trainees and newly trained examiners. The Board has chosen to begin work to put on

workshops tailored towards the trainees. Already, Mr. Josey is actively engaged in discussions regarding subject matter and venue with a group of trainees who have been instrumental in recommending and promoting these workshops.

Currently we have ten directors, five of which have been elected by the Diplomat body at large. Since the last BOD meeting in May, it became necessary for director Kirsten Singer to resign from the Board and also as newsletter editor due to other commitments. Ms. Singer was an outstanding director, and we are going to miss her contributions and her ever pleasant personality. Although all candidates for a director position on the last slate had a very respectable number of votes, the Board did appoint the next runner-up on the slate, Jan Johnson from the Michigan State Police Laboratory, to fulfill Ms. Singer's vacated position on the Board. Lisa Hanson has agreed to assume responsibilities as newsletter editor; this is not a Board position.

In the last newsletter I indicated that the Board was seeking a director-at-large. The Board has reviewed the bylaws provision that requires at least one position on the Board be filled by a public member. The RPG does not set out criteria of any kind about what qualifications, if any, that this public member should have. Upon further inquiry about why this was a requirement in the ABFDE bylaws, we learned that initially the Board believed that FSAB would require this. FSAB chair Dennis Mooney was asked to inquire with FSAB in this regard. We have learned that FSAB has not made this a requirement and that other boards that have achieved FSAB accreditation do not have public members on their Boards. A motion to amend this requirement in the ABFDE bylaws was recently sent to the directors for a vote.

In addition to ABFDE bylaws, each committee chair was asked to review the SOPs for their own committees and make all necessary revisions and updates. The most significant revisions were needed for the treasurer, Recertification, and Nominations Committees. Revisions that will affect nominations and balloting were completed and were adopted at the last BOD meeting. Other revisions are nearing completion.

Minutes

(continued from page 4)

Funds of \$3,664 were expended to continue liability insurance with CFM Insurance.

Credentials Committee - Dave Oleksow

Oleksow reported that the committee processed the applications of eight examiners desiring to obtain ABFDE certification. All eight were cleared to begin testing as "Candidates for Certification" and are in various stages of the testing process. Two other examiners have applications pending.

Continuing Education - Jeff Taylor

Six continuing education workshops received credits in advance of the meetings during the past year.

FSAB - Dennis Mooney

Cost of membership dues was \$1,000 this year, and miscellaneous meeting attendance costs were \$686.08.

The 2008 FSAB meeting was held on February 17, 2008 in Washington, DC. Dennis Mooney is currently the ABFDE representative and was present at the meeting. Derek Hammond was also present, serving as a director-at-large. Carl McClary was a visitor at the meeting.

Yale Chaplan replaced Susan Johns as president of the FSAB Board.

Public Relations - Dennis Ryan

The ABFDE web site has been updated to include a better search function, and visitors can now search by state map for available examiners. The designation, "Accredited by the Forensics Specialty Accreditation Board," was added. The password for this site will be changed in the near future for security reasons.

Thanks to Brian Lindblom, we have several different formats (jpg, png, tiff & eps) of the ABFDE logo for dissemination to the Diplomates for use on stationery, business cards, etc. These logo options will be found in the protected area of the web site in the near future.

The ABFDE brochure has been revised this past year through the diligent efforts of Kathy Nicolaidis. The brochure will be posted on the protected area of the web site for downloading.

The speaker's bureau continues to be worked on and refined. Several PowerPoint presentations are currently in review.

Recertification - Donna Eisenberg

During the last recertification year (April 2007 to March 2008), 23 Diplomates completed the recertification process and were issued Certificates of Recertification and Diplomate Membership Cards. Ten other Diplomates continue in the process.

The review of the written questions is under way, and the committee is actively arranging for a suitable test validation company for both written and practical problems.

Workshop - Dennis Ryan

ABFDE is considering providing training workshops for people actively engaged in apprentice training in questioned documents.

Historian - Dave Oleksow

All historical documents were sent to Oleksow for storage and maintenance in this past year.

Testing - Donna Eisenberg

One candidate successfully completed the certification testing program, and 15 candidates are currently in the testing process. One candidate was dismissed from testing, and no candidates voluntarily withdrew from the process. In accordance with FSAB Standards, spread sheets were prepared for "Performance Characteristics" and "Current Status of Each Candidate."

Thirteen candidates in the last year passed the written examination. During the last recertification year, four Diplomates retired (Mark Gernandt, Gary Clark, James Horan, and Marc Jaskolka).

Rules and Procedures - Dennis Mooney

Revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for many of the Board positions are being written or have been written at the request of President Lauterbach. The revisions and updates are being handled by the committee chairs.

Test Preparation and Validation - Carl McClary

Sample practical tests have been requested of the document community via newsletters, and none have been received. At this time there is no immediate need for additional problems; however, multifaceted problems are desired for future insertion into the test materials.

Nominations - Dennis Mooney

New SOPs were written to address nominations and the election of directors.

(continued on page 10)

Minutes

(continued from page 9)

The Nomination Committee obtained slates of candidates for two elections this past year. Frank Hicks was nominated as a candidate for the April ballot and was replaced on the Nominating Committee by Marvin (Mickey) Dawson.

Special Presentation - Allen Southmayd

Mr. Allen Southmayd appeared before the Board to apologize for his embezzlement activities. He submitted a letter of resignation. After he left, the Board voted unanimously to reject his resignation and instead to decertify him.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm on Friday, May 16.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00am on Saturday, May 17.

A motion was made by Donna Eisenberg to adopt the committee reports, seconded by Carl McClary. The reports were adopted unanimously.

Old Business

There was discussion of the Voting and Election Procedures. Dennis Mooney will provide revisions of the SOPs for the Voting and Election Procedures to the full Board, within 60 days, for a vote on the changes.

President Lauterbach made a motion to amend Bylaws Article 9,4a by dropping the word "mail". The motion was seconded by Donna Eisenberg, with a unanimous vote to make the change.

The current status of the members of the Daubert Response Team was discussed. Singer related that Diplomates can contact her about assistance in preparing for a challenge. (Singer has since resigned from the Daubert Group; see the "Daubert Corner." – Ed.)

A discussion about reduction of annual dues ensued. No correction in dues is anticipated in the future due to ongoing activities involving validation of test materials and the validation costs.

The PRC Committee reported its findings regarding a complaint against a Diplomate. Following the presentation covering the charges and findings of the PRC Committee, a vote was taken as to whether there was agreement by the directors not involved in the investigation. Two abstained due to conflict of interest; the remaining directors agreed with the committee's recommendations. No action was taken due to the resignation of the party under consideration.

The Board has received a number of applications from foreign applicants. These applicants must provide the same level of documentation as domestic applicants. Verification of information is always difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

The Board will audio record all presentations of testing subjects in their interviews. The recordings will be erased upon the successful completion of the testing process.

There was discussion and a motion regarding the preparation of a Letter of Arbitration Agreement to be signed by new applicants. The motion included seeking legal advice from Pamela Montgomery, an attorney from Houston, TX. The motion was offered by Dennis Ryan and seconded by Donna Eisenberg. The vote was unanimous to retain Pamela Montgomery as general counsel for the ABFDE and to review the PRC issues.

New Business

Future workshops were discussed, and there was agreement that the best way to present workshops is in conjunction with organizational meetings. There was also agreement that the Board would go forward with other workshops in the future. Several Board members volunteered to prepare the next workshop and announce it at the upcoming ASQDE meeting.

Dennis Mooney will attend and evaluate the ST²AR October workshop in Las Vegas and report back to the Board.

Oleksow reported the desire that our Diplomates participate in the SUNY on-line testing by Dr. Shirhari. No decision was made.

Participation in presentations to non-handwriting groups was discussed. There was consensus that we do need to reach out to legal professionals and other interested parties.

The Board is considering a proposal to certify non-handwriting subspecialties through the Board. Dennis Ryan will handle the proposal and report back to the Board after discussions at the ASQDE meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm on Saturday May 17.

The meeting reconvened at 8:15am on Sunday, May 18.

Tom Vastrick is preparing a response to the current Law School Review article. The Board discussed various options and actions that might be appropriate in response to articles critical of the questioned document discipline.

(continued on page 11)

Book Review

(continued from page 3)

One of the more interesting revelations was that the artist Salvador Dali signed hundreds of blank sheets of paper just before his death. It was said that he had a wicked sense of mischief! Wicked indeed!

The third chapter ventures into friendly territory. Ah yes, questioned documents! A topic familiar to this audience! The chapter begins with a photograph of the original Constitution of the United States, which was written with a quill pen. A low-powered microscope may be used to differentiate the work of a quill pen from the metal nib pens used to prepare many later copies.

Literary forgeries are said to be more interesting than the mundane forgery of wills and deeds. On a personal note, the mundane does pay the bills! William Shakespeare was a frequent target of the earlier literary forgers. Some of the more modern examples include the Hitler Diaries and the Howard Hughes autobiography.

The book includes accounts of the examinations of the Vinland Map and the Diary of Jack the Ripper. The book explains in some detail the modern examination of suspect documents. The Mormon forgeries and the work of our colleague, Bill Flynn, are covered in some detail. The use of modern instrumentation in the examination of documents is covered.

As with the other chapters, more space is given to the personalities of the con men than to the techniques used to prove the forgeries.

The remaining chapters explore a variety of topics. Phony prehistory examines the story of the Piltdown Man, an archeological "missing link," and how Piltdown was discovered to be a fake and, likewise, how similar fakes were discovered.

The book then moves on to explore the careers of several famous con men who assumed different identities. The life of Fernand Waldo Demara was made into a movie, "The Great Imposter." Also covered are some of the exploits of Frank W. Abagnale, whose career was covered in the book and movie, "Catch Me if You Can." After serving some time in prison, Abagnale is now making a living as an expert on financial security.

The exploits of clever con men, assuming false identities and persuading unsuspecting victims to

part with their money, are well covered. The chapter entitled "Faking for a Cause," discusses the many forgeries and frauds deliberately perpetrated on behalf of a cause or belief. Some of the forgeries committed by both sides in WWII and the Cold War make interesting reading, especially to those of us who had the pleasure of working with Joe English at Georgetown University those many years ago! The Shroud of Turin is also covered.

The ending chapter explains some of the charlatans involved in fake medical machines and miracle cures.

Get the book. It will provide some general background information on Fakes and Forgeries. The illustrations alone are worth the price. Scan them into your next civic club presentation.

Minutes

(continued from page 10)

Further discussion ensued regarding workshops and possible topic areas. Various members of the Board were assigned to investigate sites. Jim Josey was assigned to work as workshop coordinator for programs tailored to trainees.

The SWAFDE training syllabus is being reviewed by Frank Hicks and Carl McClary. McClary will compare the syllabus with ASTM standards. The Board feels we should recognize and acknowledge viable training programs.

The Board will publish the revised bylaws and roster after the password has been changed on the ABFDE web site.

Carl McClary recommended that we add wording to the RPGs to the effect that the applicants recognize and adhere to all applicable ASTM Standards. There was general agreement that this be done. This was also suggested to be added to the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices. Eisenberg suggested that the wording be added to the application.

There were no reassignments by the president.

The next meeting was set for Houston, Texas, for May 15 through the 17, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45am on May 18.

2008-09 Board of Directors

Terms for Directors

Officers

Joyce A. Lauterbach, President	2nd term ends in 2009
Donna O. Eisenberg, Vice President	1st term ends in 2009
David L. Oleksow, Secretary	1st term ends in 2010
Jeffrey S. Taylor**, Treasurer	2nd term ends in 2011

Directors

Dennis J. Mooney	1st term ends in 2009
Carl R. McClary**	1st term ends in 2011
Dennis J. Ryan**	1st term ends in 2011
A. Frank Hicks**	1st term ends in 2012
L. Jim Josey**	1st term ends in 2012
Jan M. Johnson*	1st term ends in 2010

*Appointed to unexpired K. Singer term

** Elected by Diplomates at large

Board Make-Up

Federal Agency

Donna O. Eisenberg
Joyce A. Lauterbach
Carl R. McClary

State Agency

Jan M. Johnson

City/County Agency

Jeffrey S. Taylor

Private Practice

A. Frank Hicks
L. Jim Josey
Dennis J. Mooney
David L. Oleksow
Dennis J. Ryan

American Board of Forensic
Document Examiners, Inc.
Administrative Office
7887 San Felipe, Suite 122
Houston, TX 77063