

**Board of Coroner Standards Meeting:**  
Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 1300 hours

**BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Tom Eekhoff, Chairman, Campbell County Coroner  
Mike Bryant, Funeral Director, Worland, WY  
Connie Jacobson, Coroner, Natrona County  
Mike Blonigen, District Attorney, Natrona County  
James Wilkerson, M.D., Pathologist, Loveland, CO  
Tom Saprony, Law Enforcement, Uinta County

**STAFF**

Jeff Shultz, P.O.S.T. Director  
Ken Nelson, Attorney General's Office

**GUESTS**

Wayne L. Reynolds, Chief Deputy Coroner, Natrona County

**RECORDER:**

Reina M. Wagner, Natrona County Coroner's Office

The meeting was called to order at 1310 hours by Chair Eekhoff. The last meeting minutes were read and approved by the board. Chair Eekhoff asked for a motion to accept the minutes and approve, second by Mike Blonigen, motion carried.

**AGENDA:**

**I. Coroner Course Evaluations – Connie Jacobson:**

Connie presented the 2010 and 2011 evaluations from the Coroner Basic Course. It was noted in both years, the instructor, Clark, left early by two hours. Those two hours could be utilized for other education such as medicolegal topics, investigative techniques, etc. Toxicology importance was also discussed. Two-hour lectures are presently given by James Wilkerson, M.D. It was discussed that coroners and investigators need a practical aspect, ie. what to do after the body is taken into the morgue setting. An ideal place on the agenda might be immediately after the scene investigation presented by Clark. Connie will speak with Dave Harness, Coroner from Johnson County who has a doctoral degree in Forensic Science to discuss his willingness to do a two hour practical course at the academy in June, 2012. Connie will also meet with Brian Brooks at the academy to finalize the curriculum.

**II: Wyoming Coroner Association Report – Connie Jacobson:**

Connie attended the annual Carbon County Coroners' Conference in Rawlins last week on training and education. The conference provides 20 credit hours for training in the fall. Connie presented a WY-MT conference plan to take place in May, 2012 in Sheridan, WY that will also offer 20 POST credits. Also mentioned were other resources that offer POST credits such as P.O.S.T. website, Colorado Coroner Association website, all Sheriffs and Police Depts offer education.

**III: Legislative Progress:**

Mark Harris not present. This agenda item was deferred.

**IV: Accrediting Coroner Morgues/Offices – Connie Jacobson:**

Connie noted that N.A.M.E. and the International Association of Coroner on morgues that are accredited, and one of the benefits to accredited morgues is that grant money is made more available to accredited coroner offices. Other advantages are AMBDI certified employees. Policies and procedures are up to national standards. Tom's concern with accreditation was time and staff, or even caseload in smaller offices. Is it worth the time and effort for smaller offices? Dr. Wilkerson believes the value of training is important. District Attorney Blonigen stated that even if staff is not certified, the training and experience is advantageous. Connie stated accreditation is an individual choice (per office). Tom agreed that accreditation could be left up to each individual office.

**V: Acceptance of Other Coroner Basics From Another Source – Tom Eekhoff:**

The concern was only one basic course a year is now offered instead of two per year. Basic certification now is available in St. Louis, and has been for the last three years. The board has been through this concern in the past. Tom believes this is a management situation in getting their staff to these courses. The alternative is to find another source and bring it/them to the board. Courses will still have to be available in Wyoming for hours approved for Wyoming Coroners Standards. St. Louis does not offer the WY law portion and must be provided by an alternate source. Also discussed again was that extensions are not given for coroners if they are unable to get coroner basic education in a timely manner. It was discussed that the responsibility lies on the coroner to have investigators attend Basic when offered, within the year of hire.

**VI: Coroner Sanctions – Ken Nelson:**

Handout given by Ken Nelson. See "v" and vii. Mark Harris has worked on potential sponsor and talked to legislatures. Tom will contact Mark Harris to follow up.

**QUESTION:**

Connie had question on Peace Officer Basic Training regarding decertification. A repeat of Basic for hours lacking, such as 2 hours, is nonproductive and is not continuing education per D.A. Blonigen.

Having no further business, Tom Eekhoff requested motion to adjourn, second by Tom Saprorny, adjourned.

The Board agreed to the next tentative meeting for May 2, 2012, Wednesday. Location: Laramie. Time: 1300 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Reina M. Wagner  
Administrative Assistant  
Natrona County Coroner's Office