

## LOUISIANA STATE CORONER'S ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES FOR FALL 2016 MEETING

OCTOBER 29, 2016 – BOSSIER CITY, LA

**Dr. Todd Thoma**, President of LSCA, **called the meeting to order** and welcomed new parish Coroners. **Erin Deutsch**, Secretary/Treasurer, presented a brief **financial report**.

Capital One Checking Account: Balance as of 09-30-16 = \$63,402.24

Deposits to checking include Association Dues for 2016.

One deposit in September of \$1460.60 from Capital One rewards program (use of DB card or checks accrued credit on account, rewards program ended September 2016 and lump sum was deposited into account-no other rewards programs existing at this time for business checking).

Debits to checking thus far include monthly Verizon phone bill, \$855.00 to CPA for 2015 Tax Prep, \$1800.00 to Chuck Credo for 2016 Legislation, \$386.20 to Dawnie Steadman for airfare for continuing ed presentation, and \$69.48 for website domain 3 year renewal.

Capital One Savings Account: Balance as of 9-30-16 = \$101,028.76

Annual Percentage Rate 0.68% from 1.00% due to market fluctuations. Business savings still best option to receive interest without receiving withdrawal penalties.

Paid Membership for 2016 (to date) includes 48 parishes (80%) and 97 members.

Will begin sending 2017 membership invoices out soon.

**Dr. Beau Clark** presented **legislative update** and invited all Coroners to attend legislative meetings.

- The following bills mention coroners but involve no changes to coroners: Child Death Review Panel membership, Transportation of children under EC (parent allowed to ride with patient from ER to psychiatric facility), Prohibition of trafficking of human remains
- Continuing Tutorship – attempt was made to remove Coroner involvement, however Coroners will remain involved.
- LSP and motor vehicle collision blood toxicology results: law requiring coroners to submit toxicology results extended time frame from 5 days to 6 months; coroners now have 6 months to submit toxicology results to the state. (LSP crime lab will process toxicology for free). Language in the law changed Motor Vehicle Accident to Motor Vehicle Collision. Relay any Trooper related issues to Beau Clark.
- Authorized use of human biological matter in training cadaver dogs. In addition to body donation, cremation or burial of indigents/paupers, coroners may now donate a minute quantity of biological material for training of cadaver dogs.
- Bill regarding mandated blood testing of caretaker during infant death was involuntarily deferred.
- When a patient with PEC leaves one parish and travels to another parish (facility), the PEC must be reevaluated. The coroner in that new parish has a complete 72 hours to CEC. Currently this bill only applies to certain parishes. Motion was made to add entire state of La to this legislation.
- Coroners may receive cremation requests now for fetus less than 20 weeks or under 350 grams since hospitals are now required to give families burial options for disposition in those cases.
- Law defeated which would have allowed for freezing of human body within two minutes of death in order for future possibility to reanimate. This law would have greatly hindered Coroner's investigation.

- Public records law regarding autopsy report: all documents used in autopsy report, including notes (except photos) are public record subject to public records request. However, Coroner is not main conduit for releasing other entities records.

Dr. Clark discussed searching and following bills on the legislative website. Preliminary discussion was held regarding location of Fall 2017 meeting, possibly New Orleans. Election of new LSCA officers is to be held at that time. Dr. Thoma advised coroners when dealing with sexual assault cases, submit bill promptly, CVR pays on first come first serve basis.

**Crime Lab** presentation: Dr. Pat Wojtkiewicz, Headquarters Lab Director for North LA Crime Lab presented the new Forensic Sciences Center. Plans to open Spring 2017 and will house 2 main sections: crime lab and forensic pathology department. The center is a state building in Shreveport, LA which will serve 29 parishes.

**LSU FACES Lab:** Ginesse A. Listi, PhD, D-ABFA/Director FACES, presented services offered to coroners and law enforcement. In 2006, LA law named FACES as the state repository for unidentified and missing persons.

**CPSC** (consumer product safety commission): Shana Toole and M. Kim Pigott presented on deaths related to unintentional injuries and product involvement and how data is used to regulate standards. Coroners may be entitled to compensation for reporting such cases to CPSC.

#### **Working lunch**

**Continuing Education Presentation** by Dr. Joan A. Bytheway, Ph.D., D-ABFA Director, Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science (STAFS) Facility, Associate Professor, Forensic Anthropology, Sam Houston University

**Adjournment.**