

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN
ANALYSIS
(SWGSTAIN)

Fall Meeting
November 7- 11, 2005
Stafford, VA

The following minutes document the biannual meeting which took place in Stafford, VA November 7-11, 2005. Those in attendance were:

Anthony Onorato- *Chairperson*- FBI Laboratory
Tom Griffin- *Vice-Chairperson*- Colorado Bureau of Investigation
Pat Laturnus- *Executive Board Member*- Ontario Police College
Rhonda Craig- *Legal Subcommittee Chair*- FBI Laboratory
Ross Gardner- *Taxonomy & Terminology Subcommittee Chair*-Gardner Forensic Consulting
Heather Seubert- *Education and Training Subcommittee Chair*- FBI Laboratory
Lee Ann Singley- *Quality Assurance Subcommittee Chair*- Pennsylvania State Police
Michael Van Stratton- *ASCLD Representative*- Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Richard Eikelenboom- Independent Forensic Services
Rod Englert- Englert Forensic Consultants
Bart Epstein- Laber & Epstein
Martin Eversdijk- Institute for Criminal Investigation and Crime Science
Neil Fraser- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.)
Victor Gorman- R.C.M.P.
Jeff Gurvis- Consultant
Ros Hammond- Forensic Alliance Ltd.
Mike Illes – Ontario Provincial Police
Stuart James- James & Assoc. Forensic Consultants Inc.
Kenneth Martin- MA State Police
Jon Nordby- Final Analysis Forensics
Kelly Robbins- WKCAC
Phyllis Rollan- AL Dept. of Forensic Services
Robert Spalding- Spalding Forensics
Paulette Sutton- University of Tennessee
Toby Wolson- Miami-Dade Police Department

Ex Officio members and Invited Guests

John Frederick- International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (IABPA) ex officio member
Norman Reeves-IABPA ex officio member
Jim Mudd - FBI Laboratory
Mark Reynolds- West Australian Police

Tony Onorato began the meeting at 9:05 am with opening remarks and reviewing the meeting's agenda. Onorato introduced Cynthia Van Landingham, FBI Training Liaison. Van Landingham explained the process of securing meeting dates for the SWGSTAIN meeting to the group.

Future Meetings

Onorato told the group that the Spring, 2006 meeting dates have been secured for the week of April 3, 2006. He will have the invitee letters ready by the end of this week. A discussion regarding location of the meeting ensued.

Heather Seubert discussed the agenda for Wednesday regarding the vendor demonstration given by Andre Anyon of Forensic Models.

Meeting/Conference Update

Tom Griffin congratulated Stuart James, Heather Seubert, Rhonda Craig, and Lee Ann Singley for the presentation given at the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (IABPA) meeting. Griffin passed out the survey that was given out at the end of the presentation. The feedback revealed that the responders are enthusiastic to see SWGSTAIN work product.

SWGSTAIN American Society of Crime Laboratory Director (ASCLD) Representative Mike Van Stratton provided an overview of the SWGSTAIN update at the ASCLD meeting. Van Stratton stated that the response to his poster presentation of SWGSTAIN was well received. A synopsis of the presentation will be available on ASCLD's website.

Invited guests and ex officio members were introduced and were given the opportunity to comment on behalf of their organizations. Norman Reeves passed out a document he authored entitled "The Exclusionary Hypothesis". The group planned to review it and reconvene the next day to discuss.

Guests were encouraged to attend any of the subcommittee sessions that interested them.

Griffin reminded the invited guests that any documents given out during the meeting were for members only. Guests may review documents, but may not take them.

Onorato mentioned that the FBI Virtual Academy is still under construction, so he will investigate possibility of getting own website, like SWGFAST (Scientific Working Group on Fingerprint Analysis).

Onorato introduced Jim Mudd as the Executive Secretary of SWGSTAIN. He will serve as a consultant on Quality Assurance matters, as well as be a working member of SWGSTAIN.

Onorato reminded the group that the Executive Board members were up for reappointment.

Sergeant Mark Reynolds, Senior Forensic Investigation Officer of the Crime Scene Unit of the Western Australian Police Service gave a presentation on the variables with using ninhydrin for blood pattern analysis. A question and answer session followed.

The group divided into their respective subcommittees for the remainder of the day.

11/8/05

Seubert provided an update of the BackTracks Validation Project. Participants of the validation project planned to meet that evening.

Onorato opened the floor to comments regarding Norman Reeves' document (which was

distributed the previous day). A *spirited* discussion ensued regarding police officers and scientists, and the educational requirements needed to practice bloodstain pattern analysis. The consensus of the group was that SWGSTAIN needed to set the bar at a level that is comfortable for police officers and scientists to reach that middle ground. Griffin thanked Reeves for being the catalyst of this discussion. Griffin told Reeves that he was the right guest at the right time.

Martin Eversdijk gave a presentation on luminol. A question and answer session followed.

The group divided into their respective subcommittees for the remainder of the day.

11/9/05

Griffin begins meeting with day's agenda. The subcommittee chairs presented their draft documents to the group for detailed discussion.

Quality Assurance Subcommittee- Lee Ann Singley led a line by line discussion of the draft document entitled "Quality Assurance Procedures for the Analysis of Bloodstain Pattern Evidence". Singley made revisions to the document according to group's suggestions during the spirited discussion. Singley planned to send the revised draft document to the Executive Board via email for vote. Onorato stated that the FBI editorial staff will review document for proper format.

A motion was set forth by Onorato to vote on this document being released to the public for review and to make comments. Singley carried the motion. Kenneth Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the 23 members present. (5 members absent)

Education and Training Subcommittee- Heather Seubert led a line by line discussion of the draft document entitled "Guidelines for the Minimum Educational Requirements for Bloodstain Pattern Analysts". Seubert made revisions to the document according to group's suggestions during the spirited discussion and planned to email the modified document to the members before the next meeting.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent off-site at the FBI Firing Range for the vendor demonstration.

11/10/05

Onorato excused the ex officio members from the room while membership issues were being discussed.

The Executive Board Ballots were distributed and then counted by Singley and Victor Gorman. The nominees were the current Board members (Tom Griffin, Tom Bevel, Bart Epstein, Paul Kish, Pat Laturus, and Kelly Robbins). The membership ratified the appointment by unanimous decision. Onorato thanked and congratulated those individuals.

Onorato stated that it was his desire to reappoint those members who were up for reappointment.

Griffin spoke on behalf of the Membership Committee and nominated Mark Reynolds for membership. Griffin opened the floor for members to nominate possible guests for future meetings. Several individuals were nominated during a spirited discussion. A resource pool was created and will be given to the Membership Committee.

Onorato invited the ex officio members and guests back into the room, and gave them an opportunity to address the membership with a brief summary of their SWGSTAIN experience.

Onorato offered Reynolds membership to SWGSTAIN. Reynolds accepted.

Griffin made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Victor Gorman seconded the motion. Motion carried at 1:14 pm.

Legal Subcommittee- Rhonda Craig led a line by line discussion of the draft document entitled "Preparation for an Admissibility Hearing". Craig made revisions to the document according to group's suggestions during the spirited discussion.

A motion was made by Griffin to forward this document, with amendments discussed as group, on to the Executive Board. Mike Illes seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Griffin encouraged members to present SWGSTAIN at organization conferences when an opportunity to do so arises. A spirited discussion regarding possible forums ensued. Onorato reiterated the need for a SWGSTAIN website. A spirited discussion ensued regarding the structure of the website.

Seubert mentioned that she was still in need of measurements from six participants. Participants of the validation project planned to meet again at the next meeting.

Griffin made a motion to accept the Spring, 2005 SWGSTAIN minutes as amended. Jon Nordby seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous decision.

Onorato commended the group on such a productive meeting.

Griffin requested the ex officio members return the working documents handouts.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.