

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN
ANALYSIS
(SWGSTAIN)

Fall Meeting
November 6- 10, 2006
Stafford, VA

The following minutes document the biannual meeting which took place in Stafford, VA November 6-10, 2006. Those in attendance were:

Anthony Onorato- *Chairperson*- FBI Laboratory
Tom Griffin- *Vice-Chairperson*- Colorado Bureau of Investigation
Jim Mudd- *Executive Secretary*- FBI Laboratory
Tom Bevel- *Executive Board Member*- TBI, LLC
Iris Dalley- *Executive Board Member*- OK State Bureau of Investigation
Martin Eversdijk- *Executive Board Member*- Institute for Criminal Investigation & Crime Science- Holland
Paul Kish- *Executive Board Member*- Forensic Consultant & Associates
Pat Laturnus- *Executive Board Member*- Ontario Police College- Canada
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*- Grayson Singley Assoc., LLC
Michael Van Stratton- *ASCLD Representative*- Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Paulette Sutton- University of Tennessee
Richard Eikelenboom- Independent Forensic Services- Holland
Jon Forsythe- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) - Canada
Neil Fraser- R.C.M.P. - Canada
Victor Gorman- Consultant - Canada
Ros Hammond- Forensic Alliance Ltd. - United Kingdom
Mike Illes – Ontario Provincial Police- Canada
Stuart James- James & Associates Forensic Consultants, Inc.
Kenneth Martin- Massachusetts State Police
Mark Reynolds- Centre for Forensic Science- West Australia
Robert Spalding- Spalding Forensics

Ex Officio members and Invited Guests

Johnny Aycok- Special Texas Ranger
David Baldwin- Iowas State Midwest Forensic Resource Center
Philippe Esperanca- French Gendarmerie Research Institute
John Frederick- NE State Patrol
Carolyn Gannett- San Diego County Sheriff's Office
Tony Larkin- Metropolitan Police Service- United Kingdom
Brendan Shea- FBI Laboratory
Michael Taylor- Christchurch Science Centre- New Zealand

Monday, November 6, 2006

Tony Onorato began the meeting at 9:15 am with opening remarks and reviewing the meeting's agenda. Guests were encouraged to introduce themselves to the group. 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 revealed to the group that Kelly Robbins resigned. Her executive board position would need to be filled.

Invited guest speaker Brendan Shea presented the SWGSTAIN.org website progress thus far. He mentioned that there was a lot of activity on the site in October, 2006; especially to the Legal document and Training & Education document. Brendan assisted members who were having difficulty logging into their SWGSTAIN email addresses. There was a lively discussion as to whether or not documents should be able to be printed from the website. (Currently, documents are not printable.)

Heather Seubert and Mike Illes briefly talked about the BackTrac® Validation Project meeting scheduled for the following night. All those with BackTrac® software were welcome to attend.

The membership then broke into its subcommittees for the remainder of the day.

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Tony Onorato began the meeting at 8:30 am by reviewing the meeting's newly revised agenda.

Subcommittee Updates

Training and Education

Seubert reported that the Training & Education document was on the website for public peer review. To date, she has not received public comments; only received feedback from group. Seubert said she was hopeful to go for vote by next meeting.

Her subcommittee planned to work on an educational model for an introductory bloodstain pattern analysis course.

Quality Assurance

Singley stated that the Quality Assurance document was on the website for public peer review. She mentioned that no comments have been received.

The subcommittee started writing a guideline document which can assist an agency to write their own standard operating procedures for bloodstain pattern analysis. They are also writing an appendix. The subcommittee planned to continue working on those documents.

Taxonomy and Terminology

Gardner reported that the subcommittee planned to revisit concepts at this meeting.

Legal

Craig reported that they will continue working on validation guidelines that was started at the previous meeting. The draft document was sent out to members via email. The subcommittee put forth the "Preparation for An Admissibility Hearing" document on the website for public peer review. It received only one comment.

Craig read the comment regarding error rate to the group. A lively discussion ensued regarding methodology error vs. practitioner/analyst error.

The membership then broke into its subcommittees for the remainder of the morning and reconvened after lunch.

Craig reviewed the document line by line with the group. A few grammatical changes were made. Ken Martin made a motion to allow this document to go before the executive board. Rhonda seconded the motion.

Griffin raised a question regarding the membership not achieving quorum.

The bylaws were reviewed. Onorato said he will send the document to members to vote on via email with a deadline.

A lively discussion ensued regarding the amendment of section 6B of the bylaws.

Invited guest speaker Dr. David Baldwin presented a research update. A question and answer session followed.

Invited guest speaker Michael Taylor presented a research update. A question and answer session followed.

The membership then broke into its subcommittees for the remainder of the day.

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Invited guest speaker Tony Larkin gave a presentation. A question and answer session followed.

Invited guest speaker Carolyn Gannett gave a presentation entitled "Blood on Black". A question and answer session followed.

The membership then broke into its subcommittees for the remainder of the day.

Thursday, November 9, 2006

Invited guest speaker John Frederick gave a presentation on the state of BPA in Nebraska. A question and answer session followed.

Invited guest speaker Mark Reynolds provided the group with a research update. A question and answer session followed.

The membership then broke into its subcommittees for the remainder of the morning.

Griffin made a motion to accept the Spring, 2006 SWGSTAIN minutes as amended. Tom Bevel seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous decision.

Onorato told the group that the Spring, 2007 meeting dates have been secured for the week of April 2, 2007 in the Quantico, Virginia area.

The Continuing Education certificates were handed out by Onorato.

Iris Dalley gave an update about the IABPA (International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts) meeting which was scheduled for the week of October 1, 2006.

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

The guests and ex officio members were then excused from the room while membership issues were being discussed.

Onorato invited the guests and ex officio members back into the room. Onorato congratulated Iris Dalley for being appointed to the Executive Board by ballot and David Baldwin for being nominated as an ex officio member. Both accepted their new positions.

Griffin requested the invited guests and ex officio members return the working documents handouts and notes.