

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS
(SWGSTAIN)

Spring Meeting
April 2-4, 2007
Stafford, VA

The following minutes document the biannual meeting which took place in Stafford, VA April 2-4, 2007. Those in attendance were:

Anthony Onorato- *Chairperson*- FBI Laboratory
Tom Griffin- *Vice-Chairperson*- Colorado Bureau of Investigation
Jim Mudd- *Executive Secretary*- FBI Laboratory
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
Tony Larkin- Metropolitan Police Service- United Kingdom
Pat Laturnus- *Executive Board Member*- Ontario Police College- Canada
Rhonda Craig- *Legal Subcommittee Chair*- FBI Laboratory
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
Richard Eikelenboom- Independent Forensic Services- Holland
Jon Forsythe- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) - Canada
Neil Fraser- R.C.M.P. - Canada
Jeff Gurvis- Consultant
Mike Illes – Ontario Provincial Police- Canada
Stuart James- James & Associates Forensic Consultants, Inc.
Terry Laber- MDPS-BCA Crime Lab
Kenneth Martin- Massachusetts State Police
Mark Reynolds- Centre for Forensic Science- West Australia
Michael Taylor- Christchurch Science Centre- New Zealand

Ex Officio members and Invited Guests

David Baldwin- Iowas State Midwest Forensic Resource Center
Donald Doller- Suffolk County Crime Laboratory
Philippe Esperanca- French Gendarmerie Research Institute
Brendan Shea- FBI Laboratory

Monday, April 2, 2007

Tony Onorato began the meeting at 9:05 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.

Invited guest speaker Brendan Shea presented the SWGSTAIN.org website progress and stats thus far. Brendan assisted members who were having difficulty logging into their SWGSTAIN email addresses. There was a lively discussion regarding the types of documents posted on the website. Currently, the FBI's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on bloodstain pattern analysis is posted as an example. Some members expressed concern that visitors to the website may think the SOP is endorsed by SWGSTAIN, which it is not.

Ken Martin made a motion for the continuation to provide a resource page with materials on the website. Richard seconded the motion.

A lively discussion ensued. Paul Kish made a motion to table this issue. Mark Reynolds seconded the motion.

Subcommittee updates:

Quality Assurance – LeeAnn Singley reported that a number of comments were received for the document posted on the website. Her subcommittee planned to review the comments.

Research – No updates to report. Mike Illes stated that this was the first meeting working as a group. They planned on prioritizing objectives.

Legal – Rhonda Craig reported that they would continue working on the validation guidelines.

Training & Education – Heather Seubert reported that they would review public comments, and respond to those comments.

Taxonomy – Stuart James said he and Phillippe Esperanca would continue working on taxonomy and present progress with the group.

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.

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

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

The membership broke into its subcommittees for the morning and reconvened as a group at 4:00 pm.

Invited guest speaker Dr. David Baldwin of the Midwest Forensic Resource Center gave a research update. A question and answer session followed.

Mike Van Stratton gave a presentation.

Griffin gave his Columbine presentation. A question and answer session followed.

Invited guest speaker Donald Doller of the Suffolk County Crime Laboratory guided members participating in his target project during an evening session.

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Legal

Craig reported that the document entitled "Topics to Consider in Preparation for an Admissibility Hearing on Forensic Bloodstain Pattern" was ready to move on to the executive board for final ratification and subsequent publication as a guidance document. Mike Illes made a motion to accept the document to move on to the executive board. Singley noted that the word "forensic" in the title was not necessary and others agreed. Illes amended his motion to strike the word "forensic" from the title and moving forward to the executive board. Heather Seubert seconded the motion.

Onorato called for the vote as a show of hands. All in favor of the motion- 19 yes, 0 no, 1 abstained. Onorato planned to email the members not present at this meeting for their vote.

Training & Education

Seubert reviewed the changes made to the document entitled "Guidelines for the Minimum Education and Training Requirements for Bloodstain Pattern Analysts" due to peer public comments. A lively discussion ensued. Griffin made a motion as amended to move the document forward to the executive board for final ratification and subsequent publication as a guidance document. Craig seconded the motion. Onorato passed out the ballot for vote. Doller & Esperanca counted the ballots with the following results: 18 yes, 2 nays, no abstentions. Onorato planned to email the members not present at this meeting for their vote.

Quality Assurance

Singley reported that the document "Guidelines for a Quality Assurance Program in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis" was ready to move on to the executive board for final ratification and subsequent publication as a guidance document. Craig made a motion as amended to move the QA document forward to the executive board. Jeff Gurvis seconded the motion. Onorato passed out the ballot for vote. The ballots were counted by Doller & Esperanca with the following results: 18 yes, 0 nays, no abstentions. (Note: 2 members left the meeting early due to travel; therefore, the number of votes differs for this document than the previous two). Onorato planned to email the members not present at this meeting for their vote.

Invited guest speaker Philippe Esperanca of the French Gendarmerie Forensic Research Institute gave a casework presentation. A question and answer session followed.

Business Matters

Onorato told the group that the Fall meeting dates have been secured for November 5- 9, 2007 in the Quantico, Virginia area. The Spring meeting dates have also been secured for March 31- April 4, 2008 in the Quantico, Virginia area.

The Continuing Education certificates were handed out by Onorato.

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.

Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Craig seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.