

## Pres. Jan's Final Gavel

*by Jan Seaman Kelly  
President, 2001 - 2003*

### Contents

From the Editor .....	2
In Memoriam: James Conway .....	3
The Gavel .....	4
In Memoriam: James Walls .....	5
The Board Room .....	6
Two New Diplomates .....	7
Recertification Report .....	8
ABFDE on the Web .....	9
2003-04 Committee Assignments .....	9
Continuing Education .....	10
Testing Schedule .....	11
Notes on Folks .....	11

## Choices and Changes

It should come as no surprise that the choices each of us makes affect the quantity and quality of changes that occur in our lives. Your dreams and beliefs are the motivational components of the choices you make. This is my last article to you as President of ABFDE and I want to take this opportunity to discuss the importance of making choices that will benefit you and our profession.

It is an understatement for me to say that I am honored to have served as a director and president of this wonderful organization. I had mixed emotions when I received the telephone call from Past President Mary Wenderoth Kelly advising me I had been elected to a director position. I accepted the position and made the choice to commit my energies to the Board. From this commitment, I have had the privilege of playing a part in establishing changes resulting in an organization that operates more effectively in its daily operations.

The journey of anyone's profession begins with a foundation of the individual's dreams and beliefs. A successful FDE has a road map he/she chooses to follow in order to reach his/her goal.

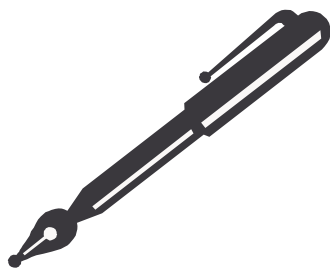
Beliefs provide the perimeters or ground rules we plan on using to achieve our dreams. Integrity, respect for others and respect for the forensic document discipline are elements that provide a stable foundation throughout one's career.

Choices are firmly rooted in our dreams and belief structures. When I completed training, I listed several goals I wanted to achieve as a forensic document

*(continued on page 12)*

# From the Editor

Susan Morton  
San Francisco, CA



## Hail and Farewell

Welcome to Brian Carney as the new Board president. Brian faces a lot of challenges—Daubert issues, FSAB accreditation, and a host of other matters. I wish Brian the best in his tenure and know he will carry the torch capably and with dedication and courage.

Farewell to Jan. It has been great working with her for the past two years. Her Gavel articles have often been the best part of the Newsletter. She has guided the Board with wisdom and fortitude through some turbulent times. The QD profession is stronger and our certificates shine a little brighter because of her influence.

Jan's term as president is over, but she is far from gone. She is now the Board's historian. We have been so busy fighting current battles that we have not taken time to reflect on the past. The Board has existed now for 26 years. We have built up some history. It is wonderful to know that this history will be preserved. Understanding the past can clarify the present and give guidance to the future. Jan has agreed to provide articles for the Newsletter that I am very much looking forward to reading.

The testing of the grandfathered Diplomates is proceeding. Certificates were first offered in 1978, so 2003 is a recertification year for the first group of Diplomates, all of whom were grandfathered. The test wasn't even created until a couple of years later. As one of those grandfathered (or grandmothered in my case), I am now in the testing process. While I wouldn't recommend it as a recreational activity, in some ways I have actually enjoyed the process. I have found the arrangements to be very professionally prepared, well organized and

*(continued on page 15)*

**Editor** Susan Morton

Assistant Editor Kathleen Storer

## Board Reports

The Gavel Jan Seaman Kelly  
Brian Carney

Recertification Report Paige Doherty

Continuing Education Derek Hammond

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**September 20<sup>th</sup>**

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# Another Giant Has Passed

On May 29, 2003, James V. P. Conway passed away after a lengthy illness. He was the author of *Evidential Documents*, one of the major textbooks in our field. His distinguished career spanned many decades with the Postal Inspection Service and in private practice. His wisdom and enthusiasm for questioned documents was an inspiration to several generations of document examiners. He was invariably gracious and willing to share his vast store of knowledge and insight. He strongly believed that information was to be shared, not hoarded.

Mr. Conway attended Saint Vincent College Prep from 1931 through 1934. He studied under a master penman at Cambria-Rowe Business College in Greensburg, PA in 1935-1936. He became a postal inspector and, in 1939, was selected as one of three young inspectors to be trained as document examiners at the National Bureau of Standards. In 1941, he completed his training and was sent to San Francisco to set up a questioned document laboratory. In the 1960s, his position as an inspector took him out of the laboratory. Though he spent several years as a senior postal executive, he always maintained his contacts in the questioned document community. In 1980, he retired from the Postal Service and set up private practice in the San Francisco area.

Mr. Conway was one of the key founders of the Questioned Document Section of the American Academy. Without his effort, and that of Ordway Hilton, there might well have been no QD Section. At the time, many viewed questioned documents as a part of criminalistics and saw no need for a



separate section. Mr. Conway was also one of the first government examiners welcomed at ASQDE meetings. At the time, private examiners were skeptical that government examiners could be objective. Mr. Conway's obvious integrity must have helped dispel that notion. Mr. Conway was also one of the early directors of the ABFDE. His wisdom and guidance were invaluable to the fledgling Board.

Mr. Conway will long be with us in the body of writings he has left. His book and many papers contain the sort of larger insights that never become outdated. We may have moved from typewriters to computers, but objectivity and scientific integrity will never go out of style. Mr. Conway's values and integrity suffuse his writings. Few of us can hope to leave such a legacy. Our whole profession is richer because James V. P. Conway was one of us.

**"The expert should ever remember that having been determined to be qualified by the trial judge, he has the obligation of confirming that judicial underwriting of his qualifications by wholehearted dedication to the truth as revealed by the evidence."**

# The Gavel

## A Message from Our President

Brian B. Carney  
Buford, GA



**“Jan has overseen the completion of more projects for the Board and the document community than any Board I have been a part of since 1995.”**

Jan Kelly has served our community with vigor during her tenure. Jan has overseen the completion of more projects for the Board and the document community than any Board I have been a part of since 1995. My thanks to her for a job well done! As I accept the gavel from our past president, I think about ABFDE projects completed and of projects on our “TO DO” list.

The FSAB project is currently a work in progress, and the Board should be able to submit the application for accreditation in March of 2004. Standard Operating Procedures have been submitted by all directors detailing various committee jobs. Our website has been upgraded with new forms, thanks to Derek Hammond and Randy Gibson. Greg Floyd submitted a plan for the adaptation of a Professional Competency Review Committee which will go into effect soon. The Credentials Committee,

Testing Committee, Test Preparation Committee and Test Validation Committee are all working hard to keep up with the influx of candidates for certification testing. There are more candidates in the testing process than ever before. Our committee assignments have been made, and you can help the Board. The 2003-2004 committee assignments are listed on page 9.

The Board is in need of Diplomates willing to assist (*work hard*) on various committee assignments. For those of you who wish to help as a volunteer, please contact Brian Carney at (770) 614-4440 or [briancarney@bellsouth.net](mailto:briancarney@bellsouth.net), or Paige Doherty at (303) 239-4305 or [paige.doherty@cdps.state.co.us](mailto:paige.doherty@cdps.state.co.us).

# James Wesley Walls

by Rodger J. Gregorich

James Wesley Walls was born on the 4th of July, 1942, in Salisbury, Maryland to James W. Walls, Sr. and Beatrice E. Reed. How fitting for a man who was always so intensely patriotic to be born on the 4th of July.

In 1948, at age five, Jim, along with his mother and younger brother, moved to Lebanon, PA, and took up residence with his maternal grandparents. With the love of his mother and the strict but nurturing care and guidance of his "Pennsylvania Dutch" grandparents, Jim grew into the generously patient, reliable and kindhearted man all of his friends grew to know and love. He was raised in the Lutheran Church and exhibited and lived by strong Christian principles.

Jim graduated from Lebanon High School in the spring of 1960. The next four years were spent in the U.S. Air Force. He often reflected that when in the military, boys become men and "you learn invaluable lessons about life," especially those of discipline, fortitude and loyalty, which were reflected in Jim's character throughout his life. Upon receiving an honorable discharge, Jim left March Air Force Base in Riverside, CA, and returned to Pennsylvania.

In 1965, Jim entered and graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in Hershey and began a career in law enforcement that spanned almost 40 years. After first serving as a patrol trooper, Jim then worked as a crime scene officer in the Identification Unit of Troop H in Harrisburg. He then transferred to department headquarters to investigate economic crime cases involving the Pennsylvania Department of Banks and the Pennsylvania SEC. During his career with the Pennsylvania State Police, he also



served as an helicopter observer in the department's Aviation Unit, where his love of flying led to his obtaining his private and commercial pilot's licenses. Jim's potential was recognized by the then chief of the Questioned Document Section of the Pennsylvania State Police, who encouraged him to begin his three-year training program to become a questioned document examiner. He completed his training in 1974, and became the fine document examiner that he remained for almost 30 years.

Jim retired from the Pennsylvania State Police in 1981 after 16 years of service, and moved to Central Florida to accept a position as a forensic document examiner with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He worked in this capacity for 22 years and was only one year away from retirement when he passed away. In recent years, Jim established his own private document examination business, with an office located in the Rife-Miller building on New York Avenue in Winter Park, Florida.

Jim died of cancer on June 2, 2003. He

*(continued on page 11)*



# The Board Room

Paige E. Doherty  
Denver, CO



**“A considerable portion of the BOD meeting focused on the objectives of the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board Committee.”**

The annual Board of Directors (BOD) meeting of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners was held May 2 through 4, 2003, in Denver. Those in attendance were President Jan Kelly; Vice President Brian Carney; Secretary Paige Doherty; Treasurer Joyce Lauterbach; and Directors Howard Birnbaum, Gregory Floyd, Randy Gibson, Derek Hammond, Kirsten Jackson, Andre Moenssens, Fred Panhorst and Gerald Richards. The following summary is based on the notes of the secretary and does not reflect the official meeting Minutes.

President Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm on May 2, 2003. Secretary Doherty presented the Minutes of the 2002 Board of Directors meeting and the Minutes of an interim Board of Directors meeting held in conjunction with the ASQDE meeting in August 2002 in San Diego. Treasurer Lauterbach followed with a discussion of the

Treasurer's Report. Chairpersons then presented detailed reports on each of the following standing committees:

Competency/Negligence .....	Greg Floyd
Contin'g Education .....	Derek Hammond
Credentials .....	Paige Doherty
Financial Planning .....	Joyce Lauterbach
FSAB Liaison .....	Randy Gibson
Forms & Publications ....	Derek Hammond
Professional Review .....	Brian Carney
Public Relations .....	Joyce Lauterbach
Recertification .....	Paige Doherty
Rules & Procedures .....	Derek Hammond
Test Preparation .....	Howard Birnbaum
	Kirsten Jackson
Test Validation .....	Howard Birnbaum
Testing .....	Brian Carney

A considerable portion of the BOD meeting focused on the objectives of the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) Committee. Directors Randy Gibson and Derek Hammond led discussions on numerous issues pertaining to making application for accreditation by the FSAB. The topics included a mock application, revisions to the Rules and Procedures Guide, redesigning the certificate, a quality manager's

*(continued on page 13)*

# Tytell and Dalzell Earn Certification



**Peter Tytell** resides in New York County, New York, and is a full-time forensic document examiner with fully equipped facilities for the nondestructive examination of documents.

Peter studied the examination of documents with Pearl and Martin Tytell, both licensed by the University of the State of New York to teach questioned document examination and identification. He studied the standard texts in the field and took courses in document analysis and related subjects at Georgetown University's Institute of Advanced Analytical Chemistry and Georgetown University's Institute for Criminal Law and Procedure; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; the Institute of Paper Chemistry (then at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin); Rochester Institute of Technology; and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He also took specialized courses and continuing professional education courses, seminars, workshops, etc. Peter regularly attends meetings of professional organizations in the field and keeps abreast of the current periodicals and relevant literature.

As part of his initial training and his continuing professional education, as well as for specific projects and cases over more than 30 years, Peter has conducted research in various phases document examination. These have included the history, differentiation, dating and identification of handwriting (including cursive writing, hand printing, signatures, numerals, etc.); type-writer and other type styles; typewriters and other imaging equipment; paper; ink and ink differentiation techniques; the

*(continued on page 15)*



**Gregory Dalzell** began his career in the field of questioned documents in October 1995 with the INS Forensic Document Laboratory in McLean, Virginia, where he earned a certification

in the forensic science of questioned document examination. Following six years with the INS laboratory, Greg took his present position as a forensic document examiner in the Questioned Documents Branch of the U.S. Secret Service's Forensic Services Division. Prior to becoming a document examiner, Greg worked for the Federal Reserve Board, the law firm of Jordan & Keys and the Violent Crime Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Columbia.

Greg is a provisional member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Questioned Documents Section and has provided expert testimony regarding questioned documents in a number of different federal courts during his employment with the INS and Secret Service laboratories.

A life member of the Golden Key National Honor Society, Greg's academic credentials include a master's degree from the Department of Forensic Sciences of The George Washington University, and undergraduate degrees from the University of Pittsburgh (B.A., Cum Laude) and the Pennsylvania State University (A.S.).

Greg resides in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife, Sally, and sons, Gregory, Jr. and Paul.



# Recertification Report

Paige E. Doherty  
Denver, CO



**“To encourage Diplomates to prepare practical problem sets, the Recertification Committee will award five points per test set.”**

## Another Changing of the Guards

Several changes have occurred on the Recertification Committee since the last newsletter. Effective July 1, my term as Recertification Committee chairperson ended, and Joyce Lauterbach assumed responsibility. She has already been an instrumental member of this committee for the past two years, during which she has been a delight to work with. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet Joyce, please take a moment from your busy schedule to introduce yourself.

There are also some new committee members who will be assisting Joyce: Jim Larner and Jan Seaman Kelly. If you have any questions concerning any issues pertaining to recertification, please contact the chairperson or your committee member:

### Last name begins with

A-F  
G-L  
M-R  
S-Z

### Contact:

Fred Panhorst  
Jan Seaman Kelly  
Joyce Lauterbach  
Jim Larner

## Recertification Points to Grandfathered Diplomates for Testing

Good news! At the annual meeting in May, the Board of Directors decided that since it is mandatory for grandfathered Diplomates to test for recertification, the point requirements do not apply, and they automatically earn 50 continuing education points if they pass the test. Their recertification will be recorded in a congratulation letter that will state that they certified by testing and also met the recertification requirements. Grandfathered Diplomates need to submit the Application for Recertification in Document Examination (ARDE), but an Annual Update and a NOPA will not be required.

As a reminder, any grandfathered Diplomates due to recertify in 2003 or later should notify the new Testing Committee chair (that would be me!) of their intent to enter the testing process as soon as possible. An

*(continued on page 14)*



# ABFDE on the Web

by **Randy E. Gibson**

If you haven't paid a visit to the website lately ([www.abfde.org](http://www.abfde.org)), you might be surprised at what you'll find there.

In the **Downloads** section, you can download a document describing the "Scope and Process" of the ABFDE, the Application for Recertification and a Workshop Attendance Record. Available in the password-protected area are many helpful files, including the ABFDE Syllabus, past newsletters and the most recent list of federal Daubert decisions regarding handwriting analysis. Also available are the latest Resource Kit, a PowerPoint Presentation you can use to teach others about the ABFDE and audio files from a video tape that James V. P. Conway provided for the April 1996 SWAFDE meeting.

Speaking of meetings, the **Meetings** area lists dates and locations of upcoming educational opportunities.

There is a section devoted to **News** items that involve some aspect of forensic document examination, such as the case that was thrown out of court because lawyers could not read a policeman's written report and an article, "Why Digital Signatures Are Not Signatures."

The **Links** page will connect you with web sites such as Andre A. Moenssens' Forensic-Evidence.com, American Society for Testing and Materials (an organization to which we should all belong), and Identifont, where you can identify a font by answering a few simple questions.

There is also a section, organized by state, that lists the email address of each Diplomat.

The website changes weekly, so stop by and take a look. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to me at [webmaster@abfde.org](mailto:webmaster@abfde.org).



## 2003-2004 ABFDE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003**

**TESTING: Paige Doherty**

Kirsten Jackson / Jim Larner / Fred Panhorst

**CREDENTIALS: Derek Hammond**

Greg Floyd / Andre Moenssens

**RECERTIFICATION: Joyce Lauterbach**

Fred Panhorst, Jan Kelly, Jim Larner

**TEST PREPARATION: Kirsten Jackson**

Howard Birnbaum, Jim Larner

**TEST VALIDATION: Howard Birnbaum**

Randy Gibson; Kirsten Jackson

**FSAB: Randy Gibson**

Derek Hammond, Brian Carney, Paige Doherty  
Kirsten Jackson, Howard Birnbaum

**PUBLIC RELATIONS: Joyce Lauterbach**

Greg Floyd

**RULES & PROCEDURES: Fred Panhorst**

Jim Larner; Andre Moenssens

**FINANC'L PLANNING: Joyce Lauterbach**

Greg Floyd; Andre Moenssens

**CONTINUING EDUCATION: Fred Panhorst**

Derek Hammond

**COMPETENCY: Greg Floyd**

Fred Panhorst; Andre Moenssens

**WORKSHOP COORDINATOR:**

**Kirsten Jackson**

Jim Larner; Randy Gibson

**WEB MASTER: Randy Gibson**

**ABFDE NEWS EDITOR: Susan Morton**

# Continuing Education

**Derek Hammond**  
Forest Park, GA

## August 2003

### 23-28 **American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) 61st Meeting**

*Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, MD*

**Site Chair:** Jerry Richards  
15307 Alan Drive  
Laurel, MD 20707  
(301) 725-3778  
gerald.richards@verizon.net

**Program Chair:** A. Frank Hicks  
100 Oceangate, Suite 670  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4312  
(562) 901-3376  
afhqde@yahoo.com

This list of opportunities available to Diplomates seeking recertification credits may not be all-inclusive. Provide details of upcoming meetings or workshops you want included in this newsletter to

Fred Panhorst  
US Army CID Lab  
4553 North 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Forest Park, GA 30297-5122  
404-469-7043  
FAX 404-469-7112  
ferderick.h.panhorst@us.army.mil

## September 2003

### 22-27 **3rd European Academy of Forensic Sciences**

*Contact:* EAFS 2003 Istanbul Meeting Secretariat  
ODS Tourism and Travel, Ltd.  
Yildiz Cicegi Sokok 12/1 Etiler  
80630 Istanbul-Turkey  
eafs2003.enfsi.org

## October 2003

### 18-24 **Midwestern Association of Forensic Sciences** *Hyatt Regency/Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH*

### 24-26 **Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners** *Sheraton Uptown, Albuquerque, NM*

**Site Chair:** Thomas Van Valkenburgh  
2729 Paseo de Tularosa  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
(505) 471-1197 / Fax: (505) 471-1197\*51  
QDXMNR@aol.com

**Program Chair:** Alan Kreitl  
4315 Adrienne Drive  
Alexandria, Virginia 22309  
(703) 360-6203 / Fax: (703) 360-6108  
hartkittel@aol.com

## February 2004

### 16-21 **American Academy of Forensic Science** *Adam's Mark Hotel, Dallas, TX* "Truth and Justice in the Balance: Forensic Scientists as the Counterpoise"

## Walls

(continued from page 5)

was well known and highly respected in his profession and will be terribly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 12 years, Terry Frazier Walls of Winter Park; son, Danny (and wife Tracy), of Altamonte Springs, FL; daughter, Julie Anne Walls, and granddaughter, Sydney Roache of Middletown, PA; stepdaughter, Kelley McNamara Pisciotta (and husband, Tony); three step-granddaughters, Kelsey, Karley and Kinsley of Atlanta; and a brother, Gerald, of New Providence, PA. Jim was preceded in death by his eldest son, Bradley in 2000.

Jim was a member of the following:

- Diplomat, ABFDE
- Active member, SWAFDE
- Active member, IAI
- Active member, Florida State Div., IAI

On a personal note, Jim and I were very close friends for more than 30 years, as he was one of the first to greet me in July, 1972, when I was a state trooper transferred from my home troop 330 miles away into the Pennsylvania State Police Crime Laboratory Headquarters to begin questioned document training. He seemed an "old-timer" to me at the time, having already been in training for more than a year. We became fast and lasting friends. I can honestly say I cannot remember a cross word ever being spoken between us, and somehow I feel that anyone who was his friend would say the same thing. Jim was even-tempered, charismatic, always kind and friendly and just plain fun to be around. As a document examiner, his professionalism was beyond reproach, and as a person, he was one class act. Those of us who knew and loved Jim Walls will miss him very, very much.

9

## TESTING SCHEDULE



**The written test and oral boards  
will be offered at the following  
national forensic document conferences:**

**August 23, 2003  
ASQDE, Baltimore, MD**

**February 18, 2004  
AAFS, Dallas, TX**

Testing will also be available at some regional meetings in the upcoming year. Any grandfathered Diplomat interested in beginning the testing process should contact Paige Doherty, Testing Committee Chair at (303) 239-4305 for details.

## Notes on Fol ks

**Kathleen Storer** has a new e-mail address:  
[Kathleen.Storer@usss.dhs.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Storer@usss.dhs.gov)

**Keith Nelson** has been under the weather. He is doing better now and has a good prognosis, but he is having to undergo some medical procedures which, if they were applied by governments instead of medical personnel, would be decried by Amnesty International as vilest torture. I know he could use some good wishes and encouragement. His address is:

4051 G. Barrancas Ave.  
PMB 310  
Pensacola, FL 32507

## Pres. Jan

(continued from page 1)

examiner. My goals stem from the dream and belief structure I have: (1) Always be an advocate for the evidence; (2) Seek the knowledge of seasoned FDEs; (3) Seek certification with ABFDE; (4) Contribute to the discipline through research and presentations; (5) Become an ABFDE Director; (6) Assist the newer FDEs entering the profession; (6) Publish a book; (7) Always be thankful for the gift of training given to me by George Lewis, John Shimoda and Susan Morton.

Change evolves from a choice. The choices made by the Board of Directors the past two years have caused significant changes. Standard operating procedures were established for the various committees. With an established and written protocol, all Diplomates will be treated fairly and equally. The committee's work will have continuity, even with the influx of new members and the exodus of experienced committee members.

We are in the final stages of preparation for FSAB accreditation. To continue the choice made by Past President Frank Hicks to seek accreditation required difficult choices in order to make the changes to bring ABFDE into compliance with FSAB. Even though the process toward accreditation is laborious and costly, it is wise to seek it. The changes that have been brought forth will provide the foundation that will strengthen our profession and increase our credibility.

To serve the forensic community by becoming an ABFDE director requires you to make a choice that involves commitment of your time and energy. All of the directors have made that commitment, and to some extent, their choice has caused them to

make some sacrifices. I have worked more closely with the Executive Committee than the other directors, and I am aware of their courage and the sacrifices each of them has made to serve you and the forensic document profession. Their service to the community as executive officers has limited their opportunity to become involved in research or other projects for other organizations. Brian Carney, Paige Doherty and Joyce Lauterbach, along with Director Derek Hammond, have gone beyond their assigned duties by stepping in and taking up the slack to make sure a project was completed. Their dedication to this organization has produced the completion of massive projects such as the updating of the Syllabus and finalizing the application for FSAB.

Up to this point, I have had a phenomenal career largely based on my choices. The purpose of the message in this article is to state that I'm an average person of average intelligence who has a burning desire to serve the forensic document profession; therefore, everyone in this profession can do what I have done. All it takes is for you to realize you have a gift or talent that is valued by the professional organizations. By activating your dream and belief structure, a choice to serve the community by volunteering to assist the BOD can be made. The investing of yourself and your talents is the best way to implement changes to move our profession forward. The BOD needs hard working volunteers who, hopefully, will be future hard working directors.

*"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"*

—Gandhi





## Board Room

*(continued from page 6)*

position and developing Standard Operating Procedures for Committees and Executive Board positions.

The FSAB will begin accepting applications for accreditation in March 2004, which is when the ABFDE aims to apply. The FSAB Committee met prior to this BOD meeting to complete a mock application for review by the FSAB this fall and to revise the Rules and Procedures Guide to ensure compliance with the FSAB requirements. As a result, the committee presented numerous revisions to the Rules and Procedures Guide to the Board for a vote. An updated version of the Rules and Procedures Guide will be distributed to all Diplomates this fall.

The FSAB requires certificates to carry an expiration date or period of validity. The Directors agreed that an expiration date should be added to the current calligraphic certificates issued to new ABFDE Diplomates, and then a smaller license-style will be issued upon recertification every five years. The Board will begin circulating the new certificates beginning January 1, 2004.

Another requirement for accreditation is that the organization appoints a quality manager. Director Randy Gibson volunteered to serve in this capacity.

The ABFDE committee chairpersons drafted Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for each standing committee. Executive Board members also prepared procedures. Each SOP outlines responsibilities of serving on the committee, samples of forms and relevant correspondence. The secretary compiled the SOPs and distributed notebooks to each director. Future directors will receive their SOPs at the beginning of a term and return the notebook at their end of service on the Board.

The Professional Review Committee chairperson discussed publishing statistics of complaints received by the president. The Board decided that the president would begin publishing these statistics annually in the newsletter.

The Board also reviewed information placed on the ABFDE website. Director Gibson will highlight website postings for the Diplomates in a separate newsletter article (page 8).

During the past year, the ABFDE invited several organizations to become official sponsors of the ABFDE. The Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SWAFDE) and the Southern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SAFDE) agreed to officially sponsor the ABFDE as the certifying body.

As the ABFDE continues to grow, the need for a historian position has become more apparent. The BOD agreed that a position should be established to retain historical documentation and records. This will be an appointed position for an indefinite period. The directors appointed President Kelly to this position by unanimous vote.

President Kelly reviewed the results of the general election held earlier this year for the director position. One hundred twenty Diplomates voted, however 30 percent of ballots were void because the Diplomate did not sign the back of the envelope. The signature is only used to verify that a Diplomate only submits one vote and that the voter is in fact a Diplomate. To aid in preventing this from happening in future elections, President Kelly will design a stamp instructing voters to sign the envelope.

The BOD discussed the need for a laptop computer and portable printer. Director Jim Larner was kind enough to donate his old laptop and portable ink jet printer.

*(continued on page 14)*



## Board Room

*(continued from page 13)*

Since President Jan Kelly and Director Jerry Richards complete their terms of service in June, they were each recognized for their accomplishments and years of service on the Board with plaques.

The Directors voted on candidates nominated for Executive Board positions. By acclamation, the new Executive Board members are:

President ..... Brian Carney  
 Vice President ..... Paige Doherty  
 Secretary ..... Derek Hammond  
 Treasurer ..... Joyce Lauterbach

The Directors decided that the next BOD meeting would be held in Atlanta, Georgia from April 30 to May 2, 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am on Sunday, May 4, 2003.



## Recertification

*(continued from page 8)*

ARDE must be submitted prior to beginning testing. Even though most will enter the process well in advance of their recertification year, each candidate will need to complete the application only once. The Testing Committee chair will forward the completed application to the Recertification Committee chair once the grandfathered Diplomate has successfully completed the testing. An application may be downloaded from the website or obtained through the Administrative Offices.

### Other Opportunities to Earn Continuing Education Points

If any Diplomate is looking for an activity to earn points, the ABFDE Test Preparation Committee continues to need new written and practical problems. To earn five points, the Diplomate can write ten multiple-choice

questions, with literature citations, from an assigned topic area. The maximum points awarded for this activity is ten points. This committee is also seeking Diplomates to share their expertise and prepare practical tests in all aspects of document examination, especially handwriting. To encourage Diplomates to prepare practical problem sets, the Recertification Committee will award five points per test set. The maximum points awarded in a five-year period for preparing practical problems remains at ten. Any Diplomate may participate, regardless of whether they were grandfathered or certified by testing. This is an ideal opportunity to earn recertification points while contributing to a worthwhile cause. Interested Diplomates should contact Kirsten Jackson, chairman of the Test Preparation Committee, for more information.

In the past, a Diplomate did not earn recertification points for giving a presentation without distributing a formal paper to the attendees. In May, the Board of Directors decided to modify this standard and award two points for presentations when the Diplomate provides copies of PowerPoint slides to the attendees. In order to receive credit for this type of activity, copies of the PowerPoint slides should be submitted along with your Annual Update to your Recertification Committee Manager.

### Thank you!

It has been a pleasure serving on the Recertification Committee for the past three years and as chairperson for the last two. Through this Committee, I have met many wonderful Diplomates who otherwise I may not have had the opportunity to meet. Thank you for all of the contributions you have made as members of this organization. I look forward to continuing to serve you as the Testing Committee chairperson.



## Tytell

(continued from page 7)

development and production of specialized overlay plates for the examination of type-written and other machine-generated documents, which are in use internationally by private and government document examiners; as well as in basic areas of the theory and practice of document examination. This research has included on-site observations at manufacturers of paper and papermaking equipment, typewriters, typewriter type and elements, ribbons, carbon paper, ink, pens, etc., in the United States and other countries. He has also visited government and private questioned document laboratories in the United States and abroad to observe techniques and procedures. The results of some of this research have been included in technical presentations he has given.

In addition to now being a Diplomat of the ABFDE, Peter also holds the Forensic Science Society (UK) Diploma in Document Examination. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (Questioned Document Section), the American Society for Testing and Materials (Committee on Forensic Sciences, Past Chairman and currently Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Questioned Documents, and recipient of the ASTM Forensic Sciences Award), the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners, the Evidence Photographers International Council, the Inter-Society Color Council, and has participated in meetings of these and other learned organizations in North America and Europe. He is also active in the work of the Scientific Working Group for Documents (SWGDOC) and was a founding member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Forensic Document Examiners*.

Peter has taught and lectured on various aspects of the subject to document examiners employed in public and private laboratories, as well as to investigators, attorneys, etc. He is well known as an expert in typewriter history and was a consultant in this area for an exhibition at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Design.

Peter has worked on cases submitted by courts, prosecutors, public defenders and legal aid societies, law firms, government crime laboratories, other document examiners, private individuals, banks, insurance companies, corporations, etc. Since 1971, he has testified on handwriting and typewriting identification as well as other document problems in state and federal courts and other venues.

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## Editor

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fair. At all stages, I have been given clear instructions and timely information. The test questions and practical problems have a level of difficulty that make them a real challenge, but at the same time they probe knowledge and understanding that any practicing FDE ought to have. It is clear that a great deal of thought and effort by Board members have been and continue to be put into the testing program.

I will be very glad to complete this process. Not only will I be able to tell off lawyers who accuse me of never having been tested, but I can also get rid of the nasty term "grandfathered." It evokes receding gums, bifocals and stiff joints. If I free myself of this terrible aspersion, maybe the term "tall cold one" will again refer to Budweiser instead of orange flavored Metamucil. And maybe I won't need to slather on quite so much Oil of Olay.

## **American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc.**

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