

President's Message

Joyce A. Lauterbach

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Although we were unable to meet the June 2006 target date, I am pleased to announce that the ABFDE submitted its FSAB application on August 15, 2006. Pursuant to the submission of our application, Derek Hammond was invited back as a non-voting member to attend the FSAB EC Meeting in Chicago on September 7 and 8, 2006. During that meeting, an Application Review Committee was formed to conduct a review of our application. A timeline for completion of the review is unknown.

On another very positive note, the Board just received notice that we will be receiving our first royalty check of \$500 from the Hilton book rewrite project. That money will go back into the Ames fund.

Recently at the ASQDE Meeting in Portland, Oregon, the Board was asked to consider its activities outside of certification and recertification, and this was further addressed by the Board in a September 15, 2006 interim teleconference. One of the things that the Board agreed upon was that it would continue to consider and evaluate activities outside of certification and recertification on a case-by-case basis. The Board's involvement and support of the Hilton book project was considered a worthwhile venture, as well as very good PR. The Board's support of the Daubert Group, and use of the AMES Fund for purchase of court transcripts when requested by the Daubert Group in defense of the field, were considered to be sound use of the funds as they were intended when these contributions were made.

Debate regarding the Board's involvement with the Skill Assessment Testing continues with strong opinions on both sides of the issue. A second pilot test is being prepared for the upcoming ABFDE Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada. This decision was made last May. Three things factored into the decision to do this second pilot test at the Board workshop. One was that Dr. Bryan Found, who was originally scheduled for this workshop, might not be a strong draw a third time this year since he had already been to SAFDE in April and was scheduled for ASQDE in August. Second, having Derek Hammond prepare a second test would be a cost savings that could be factored into the registration costs. And

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RECOGNITION!

ABFDE Website

If you have not been to the ABFDE website recently, you should make a special visit at www.ABFDE.org. Web Master **William Leaver** has made significant changes to our site. The work that has been done on this site is outstanding. There is a new appearance, and all of the links are much easier to navigate. Please remember to thank William Leaver for the improvements, because we now have a site that we can be proud to send someone to. One recommendation has been made to conceal email addresses to avoid harvesting by spam software. Another request was also to list examiners by state and province. Perhaps two sort buttons could be employed. This would be useful for attorneys looking for an examiner in a specific location. Both of these suggestions were forwarded to Mr. Leaver and are projects that can be worked on as time allows.

Board Room Redux

by Gregory A. Floyd

In an attempt to make the minutes of the April 2006 Board of Director's meeting brief and concise, I inadvertently omitted a change to Professional Review procedures that was voted on during that meeting. Since a question arose during the ABFDE Update at the Society meeting concerning Professional Review procedures, I obviously should have included this change in the previous summation of the minutes of the meeting. The change occurs in Professional Review Procedures (page IV-1 Sec. 1.D.).

If the complaint involves pending litigation, no action will be taken until final adjudication of all court proceedings upon which the original complaint was based. However, if the complaint to the Board also involves pending litigation arising out of the same facts against a Diplomat, the above suspension of action by the Board will not apply and the Board may proceed with an immediate fact investigation by the PRC in accordance with the procedures set out hereafter.

This change became effective following the Board vote on this issue, and will hopefully correct an area of the procedures that was perceived as a loophole from the previous version.

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Deadline for the next issue is:

December 20th

www.abfde.org

New Diplomates



Lisa Hanson graduated from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, in 1990. She received her B.S. in biology with a minor in chemistry.

Lisa interned at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Laboratory in St. Paul in the Intoxilyzer Section

before being hired as a toxicologist in 1991. She remained in the Toxicology Section for eight years while also being a member of the Crime Scene Unit. She began her work in the Ques-

tioned Documents Section in 1999 and formally finished training under Debra Springer and Ron Enzenauer in 2002.

“I have always had an interest in this kind of work. Being raised by a father who was a narcotics investigator, and later a welfare fraud investigator, I have been exposed to police work my whole life.

“I have a wonderful, supportive husband named Greg and two beautiful, fun-loving daughters named Ali (12) and Lauren (10). We also have a rat terrier named Oreo (3) who keeps us all on our toes!”



Rob Lesnevich is currently employed with the U.S. Treasury Department, FMS, Questioned Documents Lab. He has been a document examiner for 12 years.

A graduate of Villanova University, Rob completed training under his father, Gus. He is now in his last year of law school at the University of Baltimore.

Rob lives in Maryland with his wife and three children.



Karen Oroku received her Bachelor of Arts degree in education from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. After graduation, she lived in the Pacific Northwest area for a few years and moved back home to Hawaii when her husband was offered a new

job position. The move had many positive aspects, including gaining the opportunity to work at the Honolulu Police Department, where

she is presently employed. Karen received her formal training in forensic document examination from Jim Josey at the Honolulu Police Department Crime Laboratory.

Karen is a member of the Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners and the American Society of Testing and Materials.

“We have two sons who attend the University of Hawaii, which may be the reason why my husband and I enjoy cheering at the University’s various sporting events including football, volleyball, basketball and baseball.”



Recertification Report

Donna O. Eisenberg
McLean, VA

“...the Recertification Committee has revised its Scoring Table so that emphasis will be on *continuing education and contributions to the FDE community.*”

The ABFDE's goal regarding recertification has transitioned into one which improves and enhances our recertification process. This will enable the ABFDE to be more in line with other certifying bodies in the forensic community and earn accreditation by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB). Therefore, the Recertification Committee has revised its Scoring Table so that emphasis will be on **continuing education and contributions to the FDE community.**

The new Scoring Table (pages 12-14) has eliminated those categories in the old table that did not meet these criteria. The new table is comprised of a point system that awards activities for continuing education and contributions to the FDE community. Where applicable, as noted in the new Scoring Table, documentation of claimed points must be provided to the ABFDE on an annual basis. The new Scoring Table reduces the minimum number of required points that must be earned during each five-year qualification period to 40. Accumulated points greater than 40 will not carry over into the next qualification period. A minimum of 20 points must be earned by attending recognized professional conferences, seminars, or workshops within the five-year recertification period. It remains the Diplomate's responsibility to maintain and submit supporting documentation for all activities claimed.

The new Scoring Table will go into effect next year for all Diplomates. That is, all updates submitted in 2007 and thereafter will use the new Scoring Table. All points previously accumulated using the old Scoring Table will be retained so that no one will lose any points with this change to the new Scoring Table.

Modifications to the Annual Update submission form(s) have also been made. The new Scoring Table and Annual Update submission forms can be found on the ABFDE website.

As before, Diplomates must complete and submit a continuing education activity summary report annually using the new forms to their respective Recertification Committee Manager by August 15 each year. The Committee Managers are Greg Floyd (A-F), Dennis Mooney (G-L), Donna Eisenberg (M-R), and Ellen Schuetzner (S-Z). If you have any questions, please contact the Committee Chairperson, Donna Eisenberg.



Summary of Feedback from Skill Assessment Test (Pilot)

by Derek Hammond

In June 2006, the ABFDE made its first Skill Assessment Test available. This was a signature test that required the FDE to compare 20 known signatures from a single writer to 50 questioned signatures. The questioned samples were a mixture of genuine signatures (by the known writer), disguised signatures (by the known writer) and forged (simulated) signatures.

Participation was voluntary in this pilot

program and was limited to ABFDE Diplomates only. Participants were not permitted to submit their answers, although they were encouraged to provide feedback.

Fifty-two Diplomates participated. To date 44% (23/52) of the participants have returned feedback forms. (Note: One non-Diplomate also provided written feedback).

A summary of the feedback received follows.

1. What was your motivation (reason) to participate in the pilot test (check all that apply)?

Evaluation of test as a tool for the assessment of professional skills	21
Evaluation of test as a tool for continuing professional education	14
Evaluation of test as a tool for professional training material	12
Evaluation of test as a tool for publishable research	7
Just curious	3
Other	2

2. Did you find the general test information and instructions clearly written and unambiguous?

Yes	22
No	2

3. Did you find the multiple choice answer instructions clearly written and unambiguous? (Note: One participant did not submit a response.)

Yes	21
No	2

4. Did you find any of the wording or terminology used in the test package to be incorrect, unclear, or ambiguous?

Yes	6
No	18

5. Did you find the image quality of the signatures presented suitable for comparison purposes?

Yes	20
No	4

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Summary

(continued from page 5)

6. Given the choice, which format and form of reproduction would you have preferred for the signature test material (check one): *(Note: One participant did not submit a response.)*

Grouped format; inkjet printed (as presented in this test)	2
Grouped format; inkjet printed accompanied by CD containing individual images	5
Grouped format; photographs (digital)	2
Individual format; photographs (digital)	0
Individual format; photographs (digital) accompanied by CD containing individual images	12
Other (please explain)	2

7. Did you find the task of signature comparison fairly presented in the pilot test?

Yes	24
No	0

8. Is the test realistic (i.e., is it representative of actual casework?)

Yes	19
No	5

9. What level of difficulty would you assign to the problem?
(Note: Six participants checked more than one.)

Easy	3
Moderate	15
Somewhat Difficult	11
Too Difficult	1

10. With respect to the pilot test's design, content, instructions or materials, do you have any further comments or suggestions?

Yes	8
No	16

11. Based on your evaluation, did you conclude that such tests are useful as a tool for the assessment of professional skills? *(Note: Two participants checked both "yes" and "no". One participant did not submit a response.)*

Yes	23
No	2

12. Based on your evaluation, did you conclude that such tests are useful as a tool for continuing professional education? *(Note: One participant checked both "yes" and "no".)*

Yes	23
No	2

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Summary

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13. Based on your evaluation, did you conclude that such tests are useful as a tool for professional training material? (Note: One participant checked both "yes" and "no.")
- | | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 23 |
| No | 2 |
14. Based on your evaluation, did you conclude that such tests are useful as a tool for publishable research? (Note: One participant did not submit a response.)
- | | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 16 |
| No | 7 |
15. Would you be willing to participate in other such tests if offered on a self-assessment only basis (answers not returned to ABFDE)?
- | | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 24 |
| No | 0 |
16. Would you be willing to participate in other such tests if offered wherein your answers are returned to the ABFDE and recorded for purposes of publishable research? (Note: One participant checked both "yes" and "no.")
- | | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 18 |
| No | 7 |
17. What other proficiency testing do you participate in? (CTS, La Trobe, etc.) (Note: Eight participants checked more than one. Three participants did not provide a response.)
- | | |
|----------------|----|
| CTS | 21 |
| LaTrobe (FEPL) | 6 |
| Other | 3 |

A second skill assessment test (signatures) is being developed and will be used as workshop material. Participation in the second test will be limited to registered FDEs who attend the ABFDE workshop "Authentications and Simulations" on November 6-8, 2006 in Las Vegas.

Feedback from pilot tests and a second survey included in this newsletter will later be reviewed by the entire ABFDE Board of Directors in order to determine whether this program continues in any form.

President

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third, it was our understanding that Diplomates perceived the test as a good training tool.

As reflected in the minutes from the 2005 BOD Meeting, and again in the October 2005 issue of the ABFDE newsletter, there were questions such as, "Will the ABFDE grade the results and make the answers known at a later date or allow participants to self-grade their work?" and "Does this type of testing get incorporated into certification testing or recertification?" The decision from the current sitting Board in April 2006 was that the pilot test would be voluntary and testing would not be a part of certification or

recertification. There are still questions, however, to be answered regarding the future of this type of testing. Several questions that have been raised regarding whether the Board should pursue this type of testing are:

- Is proficiency testing, research and publication within the mandate of the ABFDE and its stated purpose "to establish, enhance, and maintain standards of qualification for those who practice forensic document examination and to certify, as qualified specialists, those voluntary applicants who comply with the requirements of the Board," or is this reaching too far?
- Are there more appropriate venues such as personal research, AAFS, ASQDE, NIJ or

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Continuing Education

Jeffrey S. Taylor
Charlotte, NC

October 2006

9-13 **Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS)**

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Downtown Indianapolis, Indiana

Program Chair: Mark Ahonen
(317) 899-8521
mahonen@isp.state.in.us

Local Arrangements Chair: Dirk Shaw
(317) 327-3021
dshaw@indygov.org

November 2006

6-10 **American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE)**

ABFDE Workshop/Seminar
The Orleans Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Contact: Jan Seamen Kelly
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Forensic Laboratory, Document Section
5605 West Badura Avenue, Suite 120B
Las Vegas, NV 89118-4705
(702) 229-3963 / Fax: (702) 259-0082
qdwatchdog@aol.com

February 2007

6-10 **American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)**

Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas

aafs.org

ABFDE Workshop November 6-10, 2006

by Jan Seaman Kelly

The go-ahead for the ABFDE workshops on November 6 to 10, 2006 is confirmed. Although there are still slots available for additional registrants, these slots are filling up. If you plan to attend you should contact Workshop Coordinator Jan Kelly.

There has been one change to the previously announced workshops. There will be a tour of the Fisher Space Pen manufacturing plant in Boulder City, NV, and the Rubber Stamp Workshop will be one half-day rather than two half-days. This will be an excellent opportunity to see each step of the pen-making process. The registrants will be

split into two groups with one group attending the Rubber Stamp Workshop and one group taking the Fisher tour, and the following afternoon the groups will switch.

There is no change to the registration, and due to the late announcement of this change, late fees will be waived for registrations paid by October 20, 2006. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jan Kelly at (702) 229-3963 or e-mail at qdwatchdog@aol.com Registration forms were published in the last newsletter and are posted on the ABFDE website, www.abfde.org

Commentary

Back to Basics and Moving Forward

by Grant R. Sperry

So, what's with the turmoil among Diplomates of late? How come the Board is catching so much flak from all angles? Why can't we all just get along? These are some of the questions I and others have discussed over the past several years or so. These discussions have obviously increased in frequency and substance of late.

I'm sure I'm not alone in having given these questions much thought, including recent conversations with fellow ABFDE Diplomates and Board officers/directors. The discontent of some with particular initiatives undertaken by the ABFDE Board was particularly evident in the discussions which took place during the ABFDE briefing by President Joyce Lauterbach and Vice President Derek Hammond at the 2006 ASQDE AGM.

First and foremost, a grateful and sincere acknowledgement and thank you to the volunteers on the ABFDE Board and the countless hours they unselfishly devote to our profession and the ABFDE.

I'm sure no one would argue that the Board has become quite diversified in their activities over the past several years. They have undertaken workshop responsibilities, the development of a pilot for a proposed proficiency test, movement towards FSAB accreditation, valuable assistance to the field through the creation of the ABFDE Resource Kit, the underwriting of the recently published Hilton book, and other initiatives as well.

While the contributions to the profession by the ABFDE are many and significant, and while diversification is not a "bad" thing, it is certainly not a "good" thing if/when it results in a detrimental shift (or loss of focus) from the core business of the organization and when there is not adequate "buy-in" from those affected by the particular project or initiative.

The ABFDE is in the "certification" business; at least that is what the ABFDE mission statement indicates. Until we have an abundance of "current" tests available and validated, the ABFDE is FSAB accredited, and any other problematic issues related to certification and recertification have been resolved, the Board's focus should be prioritized on the core business.

The ABFDE's diversification into other areas, without adequate "buy-in" from Diplomates, is a problem exacerbated by the perception that as a Diplomate of the ABFDE you have no "voice" in the selection of those who are making these decisions. Areas of disagreement with respect to the implementation of controversial policies and initiatives within an organization will likely be present as an inherent component, whether it is a certifying board (ABFDE) or professional organization (ASQDE). However, disagreement is much more palatable, certainly less disruptive, more manageable and likely more amenable to resolution when those in positions of leadership are in some fashion held accountable for their actions and decisions.

It is my understanding from the recent ABFDE briefing that all of the directors or officers currently serving were elected by the Board, as opposed to having been elected by Diplomates at large. Further, it is my understanding of the ABFDE bylaws that the Board can amend, create, or set aside a bylaw as they deem necessary. It should not be surprising, therefore, that a growing number of Diplomates view the ABFDE Board as an oligarchy. A growing perception, whether valid or not, is that a group of individuals (e.g. the Board) with a particular mindset *could* (and some would argue *have*) perpetuate their views and resulting decisions unabated, simply by electing to the Board only those who share their particular ideas.

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"Everyone is Entitled to My Opinion"

Personal Error Rate Testing

by Susan Morton

As promised, I did participate in the pilot study of personal error rate testing. I found it an interesting and instructive exercise and will certainly participate in more such testing if it is offered.

Dr. Found gave a workshop at the ASQDE meeting which was also enlightening. I think it is not a coincidence that since these two events the email storm about the subject has quieted down. A good dose of information will usually quell fears based on lack thereof.

Not all fear is based on ignorance, of course. Some is well founded in real possibilities of unfavorable results. Thus far, research has allayed those fears. We have been useful in the courts far too long to suddenly drop by the wayside. Junk science may make a flash in the pan, but it doesn't hold up for very long; and we have been here for more than a century. In all that time, someone would have paid attention to the man behind the curtain. But it is entirely possible that some of our claims may get pruned.

Dr. Found's research so far indicates that we are excellent at making pronouncements on natural writing and at distinguishing natural writing from disguised or simulated writing. We are a little weaker on distinguishing disguised from simulated writing. It may prove that we cannot determine whether a signature is a simulation or a denial signature written by the purported signer.

Whatever shall we do if this proves to be the case? Well, we claim to be scientists, so we will have to do what scientists do and shift our paradigm when new information becomes available. That is the scientific process. A hypothesis is used until new information disproves it. If our hypothesis that we can distinguish disguised from simulated writing proves not to be true, we have to abandon it. To do otherwise

would be intellectually dishonest and antithetical to the scientific process we say we follow.

Rigorous adherence to scientific practice is not always easy and usually takes a great deal of moral courage. History is littered with brilliant researchers who made great breakthroughs and then became pathetic figures by hanging onto discredited theories. Truly great scientists are those that remain open to new ideas and proofs and are willing to adopt new ways of thinking—even, heaven forefend, admit they were wrong.

Paradigm shifts are never easy. Geologists experienced such a shift in the early part of the 20th century. It was particularly hard for them, as they deal with nice firm physical objects like rocks. Some brave souls first proposed that continents don't stay in one place, but move around over the surface of the planet. They cited abundant physical evidence that this happens. Not knowing the mechanism of how it occurs, they called their new theory Continental Drift. They were professionally savaged. Careers were destroyed and lives ruined over the matter. The giants of the profession could not conceive of how such a thing could happen and decided to ignore any evidence that it had and stomp on any one who supported the idea.

They became the fossils they were studying. But knowledge will march on. Cartographers mapping the ocean floor found the mid-Atlantic Ridge, and biologists noted unusual kinship groups of living organisms on distant landmasses. Eventually the mechanism of moving continents was discovered and formulated into the theory of Plate Tectonics. Turns out, continents sail around all over the place like paper boats on a pond on a gusty day. Los Angeles is galloping toward Anchorage at a shocking rate. I myself live on the North American Plate, but drive across the San Andreas Fault every week

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Daubert Corner

by Kirsten S. Jackson

The forensic document profession again triumphed in two Daubert hearings and another affirmed appellate court decision in the past few weeks. In *US v. Juan Pena and Maria D. Pena* (5th Cir. Texas), the judge concluded that the witness had proper training and credentials and that the expertise satisfied the Daubert inquiry. In *State of New Mexico vs. Alfredo Colalillo*, the forensic document examiner was subjected to a Daubert hearing by telephone. Cross-examination questions emphasized peer review and ASTM standards. The defendant subsequently plead guilty, in large part due to the strength of the examiner's Daubert testimony. And in a 9th circuit appellate case, *US v. Jawara*, the judge's decision to deny a Daubert hearing involving an FDE was affirmed. The error in making an explicit reliability finding was found to be harmless "in light of [the FDE's] extensive academic qualifications and experience and the relevance and value of her testimony to the jury."

While these outcomes are definitely encouraging, and such decisions by the judges have been without exception since 2003, please be aware that in both hearings, the FDE was notified only a few days in advance, and several hours of preparation were required during that time. It is clear that our profession cannot become complacent. If you are aware of an impending Daubert hearing involving forensic document examination, or have your own Daubert hearing and need assistance, please contact Jan Kelly or Kirsten Jackson. The Daubert Group is currently aware of three other potential Daubert hearings in the works across the country, both federal and state. The outcomes of each will be reported in the next newsletter.



Sperry

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I believe the current squall within the ranks of the ABFDE can be tempered by:

- immediately moving to remedy the *perception* of an absence of accountability and representation by providing for elections of directors and officers by Diplomates of the ABFDE. (It is my understanding that this may be in the works to some extent.)
- stay focused on the core business of the ABFDE, with diversification only as our primary "certification"-related obligations are being met or exceeded.

Again, perhaps some oversimplification, but I believe the issues delineated above contribute significantly to the strong undercurrent of discontent being voiced of late.

The ABFDE is an outstanding certifying body that, to some degree, has seen a focus shift from its primary objective. Nonetheless, I'm extremely proud to be a Diplomate of the ABFDE and look forward to contributing to its future successes. ☺

Morton

(continued from page 10)

to buy my groceries on the Pacific Plate. Every year my grocery store moves a little farther north.

A few of the early proponents of mobile real estate lived to see themselves vindicated. Most of the resisters tried to live it down quietly. It was not a stellar event in the annals of scientific progress, though sadly not unique. I hope we make it a lesson and are willing to go where the evidence takes us. Otherwise we might wind up like the renowned Swiss geologist who emigrated to America and, to his dying day, stood firmly on his new homeland shaking his first at the idea of moving continents, as North America sailed farther and farther away from his natal soil.



President

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universities for proficiency testing, research, and publication?

- Is the Board a "Certification" Board or a "Proficiency" testing Board, or can it be both?
- How would the Board define acceptable passing scores on a barrage-type test?
- What would be the Board's responsibility if a Diplomat was doing poorly on this type of testing?

All of these issues will be considered by the entire Board of Directors when making a decision at the next BOD meeting regarding the future of the pilot test. The Board will defer these decisions until all responses from the survey in this newsletter can be compiled. The survey will be posted on the ABFDE website for those who would prefer to use an electronic format for their response. Is it too much to hope for a 100% response from the Diplomat body on the survey that is included in this newsletter?

Another issue raised in Portland concerns the composition of the Board, representation of private and government examiners from each region of the country, and election of future Board members. The current bylaws require that once our FSAB application is submitted. *"Not less than one-half of the members at large of the Board of Directors shall be elected by a mail ballot whenever a vacancy exists. These members shall be elected from a ballot consisting of a slate of candidates prepared by the Nominations Committee."* The Nominating Committee is appointed by the President and *"will be chaired by the immediate Past President or a Director designated by the President and at least two additional members that must be Diplomates that are not current Directors. This committee is responsible for preparing a slate (at least 2) of candidates willing to serve as Directors when vacancies occur."*

Anyone who feels he/she can make the commitment and would like to serve on the Board should contact me. I will pass your names on to the appointed Nominating Committee. If you have questions regarding the commitment required, please feel free to call me at (803) 253-3547 or joyce.lauterbach@ci.irs.gov.

There has been a request to publish the transcripts of the ABFDE update in Portland. In the interest of transparency and open disclosure a full transcript of this meeting will be posted on the ABFDE Website in the near future. Even though this meeting was held in an open public forum, the transcript will be posted on a password protected page so that it can be accessed by Diplomates only. Additionally, posting a full transcript of the meeting on the Website eliminates the possibility of misrepresentation of any comments or issues that were discussed in the ABFDE Update. This also allows for Diplomates who were unable to attend the ASQDE Meeting in Portland an opportunity to benefit from all information that was disseminated.

There have been some requests to establish a Speaker's Bureau. Public Relations Chair David Oleksow would like to know of individuals in various regions of the country who would participate in a Speaker's Bureau. The survey in this Newsletter also inquires about your interest in this. If this is something you would like to see started, and if you would like to participate please make your comments on the survey form and also contact PR Chair David Oleksow

And finally, Jesse Jackson once said "Leadership has a harder job to do than just choose sides. It must bring sides together." From my own experience in different working environments, the best employers had an ability to discuss issues and find solutions that two parties could live with. These work environments were more productive, and there was less discontent and better work place morale. Can lessons be learned from these experiences? I think so. It is important to listen to and consider differing points of view. Above all, whether individuals agree with one another or disagree, each **must** be treated with respect and courtesy.

In additional to respecting others and their viewpoints, it is vitally important that the Directors of the Board engender the trust and respect of the greater Diplomat body. This requires honesty and transparency. Openness, trust and respect are attributes that I will continue to strive for during my term as your President.



RECERTIFICATION POINTS SCORING TABLE

A minimum of 20 points must be earned by attending recognized professional conferences, seminars or workshops within the 5 year recertification period.

	ACTIVITY	POINTS	COMMENTS
1	Attending a QD organization professional conference (local and/or national)	2 points per half day of technical session	No maximum number of points
2	Attending a course or workshop approved by the Board	3 points per half day of training	No maximum number of points See attached list of Board-approved QD organizations.
3	Presenting a QD-related paper at a QD organization professional conference	10 points per presentation	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 30 Documentation must be submitted (e.g., a hard copy of the paper or Power Point presentation which was distributed at the meeting or included on the Program CD).
4	Conducting or teaching a portion of a workshop(s) and/or seminar(s) for QD examiners	5 points per half day	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 20 See attached list of Board approved QD organizations.
5	Participating in a panel discussion as a professional FDE	2 points per participation	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 6
6	Participating in a poster presentation at a QD organization professional conference	3 points per participation	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 9 Documentation must be submitted (e.g., a reduced/condensed version of the poster and a written summary of the information conveyed).
7	Publishing article(s) in a forensic journal	15 points per article*	No maximum number of points *Only 5 points awarded if credit was also previously granted for presentation as a technical paper.
8	Publishing article(s) relating to QD in a non-QD magazine(s) or publication such as a state bar journal, investigator association publication, etc.	2 points per article	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 6 Documentation must be submitted (e.g., a hard copy of the article).
9	Providing formal lectures on any aspect of document examination to non-document examiners	½ point per half day	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 5
10	Providing an in-service QD workshop that updates fundamental QD principles to at least 5 FDE's	1 point per half day	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 5 Documentation must be submitted (e.g., a written summary of the information conveyed).
11	Touring of manufacturing plant(s) such as paper, dandy roll, pencil or pen manufacturers, etc.	½ point per half day	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 5

APPROVED QD-RELATED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

	ACTIVITY	POINTS	COMMENTS
12	Successful completion of a QD-based* College and/or Graduate school course (Successful completion of an undergraduate or graduate course is a grade of a B or better)	Each class per semester earns 3 points	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 18 A copy of the course outline and grade earned must be attached with Annual Update. *The course must be QD-centered (i.e., the primary focus of the class).
13	Successful completion of a QD-related class (e.g., RIT)	2 points per half day	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 10 A copy of grade or certificate earned must be attached with Annual Update.

APPROVED POINTS RELATED TO PROFICIENCY TESTING

	ACTIVITY	POINTS	COMMENTS
14	Collaborative Testing Services (CTS)	1 point per test	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 5 Documentation must be submitted.
15	LaTrobe University, Forensic Expertise Profiling Laboratory (FEPL)	2 points per test	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 6 Documentation must be submitted.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

	ACTIVITY	POINTS	COMMENTS
16	ABFDE Board Committee participation by a non-Director (i.e., evaluation of practical tests; editing syllabus, etc.)	2 points per year	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 10 Documentation provided to you from the Committee Chairperson must be submitted.
17	Preparation of a practical test(s) that has been accepted by the ABFDE	5 points per test	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 15 Documentation provided to you from the Committee Chairperson must be submitted.
18	Preparation of a practical test(s) that has been accepted by other testing services such as CTS or FEPL	2 points per test	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 10 Documentation must be submitted.
19	Participation at SWGDOC Committee meetings	1 point per meeting	Maximum points possible in 5 years = 5

BOARD-APPROVED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS): QD Section only

American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE)

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM E30.02 Committee)

Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences (CSFS): QD Section only

International Association for Identification (IAI): QD Section only

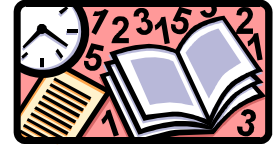
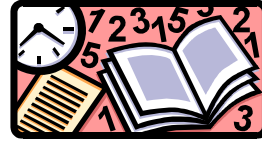
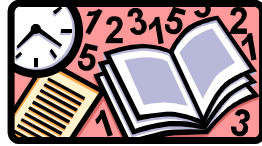
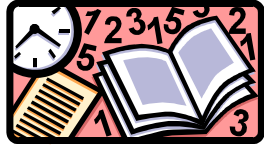
Midwest Association of Forensic Sciences (MAFS): QD Section only

Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS)

Northeastern Association of Forensic Sciences (NEAFS)

Southeastern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SAFDE)

Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners (SWAFDE)



TESTING SCHEDULE

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

November 2006

ABFDE, Las Vegas, NV

February 2007

AAFS, San Antonio, TX

Testing may also be available at other regional meetings in the upcoming year if three directors are available for oral panels. Any candidate interested in beginning the testing process should contact Testing Committee Chair Derek Hammond at (404) 469-7044 for details.

American Board of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc.

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