THE ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE

LOCK AND KEY

MARCH 2007

Letter From The President
Lane Darling

Hello everyone. I hope this newsletter finds you in good times and good spirits.

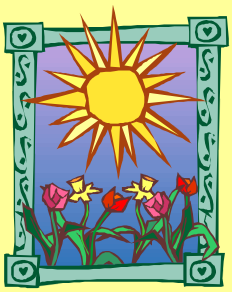
The March Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14th at the Veteran's Hospital in Phoenix. Information regarding this meeting and directions on how to get to the meeting place is included on a separate page of this newsletter.

The March meeting is a very important meeting because it is the meeting where we, as members, cast our votes for executive board officers. The board officers we elect will serve the association for the next two years, so I encourage you to attend this meeting so your vote can be counted.

Also at this meeting we will be giving away a **FREE** seat to the training seminar in June (this does not include room or food). The training seminar is being held at Little America in beautiful, cool, Flagstaff on Thursday, June 14th and Friday, June 15th. Topics at the seminar include hazardous materials identification and handling, DNA, stress management, and a round table forum to discuss specific issues affecting all of our agencies.

I recently sent out a series of questionnaires to many of you asking about specific information concerning your property/evidence operation and I plan on providing the results of these questionnaires at this seminar during the round table forum. The training seminar is a fantastic experience that provides a networking opportunity with others in our profession. Please make plans to attend and I hope to see you there!!

Lane Darling, President



Spring Is Back

Announcements

The AAPE Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14th at the Veteran's Hospital in Phoenix.

(See page 9 for more information)

Mary Alinen (2nd Vice-President) would like members to send her copies of the business forms your Property & Evidence Section uses. She would like to prepare a packet of the different forms used by various agencies as handouts for next years seminar. Paperwork can be sent C/O Mary Alinen, Evidence Custodian, Sierra Vista Police Department, 911 N. Coronado, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635.

We are looking for someone to fill the vacant Marketing Director position on the Public Relations Committee. The responsibility of the position is to increase the awareness, advertising, and membership of the organization.

An empty head is not really empty; it is stuffed with rubbish. Hence the difficulty of forcing anything into an empty head.

- Eric Hoffer

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LOCK AND KEY

Moving A Property & Evidence Section: A Case Study By Bill Brantley

The Tucson Police Department's Property & Evidence Section has completed Phase I of it's barcoding plan. All 1 million-plus items are now barcoded. The night shift will immediately begin Phase II of the project, which involves data entering the files associated with the property or evidence. This is a monumental task, but the benefits will give us much quicker research capabilities in determining what we have stored, what has been checked out, and for how long. This will also inform us of items checked out, which were never returned. We also expect a more complete accounting of the items checked out to the courts. The barcode system will allow us to perform more accurate and timely audits of our storage boxes. Eventually, we hope to create a Quality Assurance Supervisor position to oversee future audits and make any recommended improvements to the section.

As the Phase II of the barcode system progresses, we have encountered delays with the new building. The original move in date of April 2007 was postponed until August 2007 around six months ago. Now, the opening date is moved to November 1, 2007. The new facility is in an existing warehouse, but the interior walls need to be taken out and the concrete flooring removed and replaced with a thicker concrete slab able to support the weight of our shelving and evidence. After permit delays, the demolition is now complete. The timeline should be coming together and be more reliable as construction begins.

(This is an ongoing story. In each issue of the newsletter, I will let everyone know what we are doing to prepare for our move.)

News From The Seminar Chairman Sandie Imberi

The seminar is June 14th and 15th, 2007 in Flagstaff, AZ. it will be held at the Little America hotel resort. Please get your registrations in as soon as possible. There are only 50 rooms blocked at the government rate so make your reservations early.

We have a great seminar planned and lots of good information to be learned. There will be lots of free giveaways, door prizes, and a great free lunch on Thursday. There will also be sharing of ideas and meeting new people in the same line of work.

A free seat to the seminar will be given away at the March 14th, 2007 meeting at the VA Hospital, Phoenix, AZ.

If you have any questions on the seminar please feel free to call me anytime at 602-534-2558 or 602-525-3685.

You can also go to the AAPE web site for information and forms for the seminar. www.azape.org

When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

- Norm Crosby

EVI-PAQ® introduces

An evidence box with a view.

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DISCOVER THE TRUTH.

Introducing window boxes. Viewing evidence couldn't be easier. Evi-Paq's new window boxes feature a rigid acrylic window which lets you view the evidence while it's still in the box, allowing you to record information from the evidence without opening the box and breaking the integrity of the original seals.

Call (800) 852-0300 or visit www.armorforensics.com to request a sample.

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LOCK AND KEY

It's good sportsmanship to not pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling.

- Mark Twain

Driving Defensively

More than 41,000 people lose their lives in motor vehicle crashes each year and over two million more suffer disabling injuries, according to the National Safety Council. The triple threat of high speeds, impaired or careless driving and not using occupant restraints threatens every driver—regardless of how careful or how skilled.

Driving defensively means not only taking responsibility for yourself and your actions but also keeping an eye on "the other guy." The National Safety Council suggests the following guidelines to help reduce your risks on the road.

- Don't start the engine without securing each passenger in the car, including children and pets. Safety belts save thousands of lives each year! Lock all doors.
- Remember that driving too fast or too slow can increase the likelihood of collisions.
- Don't kid yourself. If you plan to drink, designate a driver who won't drink. Alcohol is a factor in almost half of all fatal motor vehicle crashes.
- Be alert! If you notice that a car is straddling the center line, weaving, making wide turns, stopping abruptly or responding slowly to traffic signals, the driver may be impaired.
- Avoid an impaired driver by turning right at the nearest corner or exiting at the nearest exit. If it appears that an oncoming car is crossing into your lane, pull over to the roadside, sound the horn and flash your lights.
- Notify the police immediately after seeing a motorist who is driving suspiciously.
- Follow the rules of the road. Don't contest the "right of way" or try to race another car during a merge. Be respectful of other motorists.
- Don't follow too closely. Always use a "three-second following distance" or a "three-second plus following distance."
- While driving, be cautious, aware and responsible.

(Permission to reprint granted by the National Safety Council)

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE LOCK AND KEY

Business card size:
$3.00 once or $10.00 annually

Eighth of a page:
$5.00 once or $18.00 annually

Fourth of a page:
$10.00 once or $35.00 annually

Half a page:
$20.00 once or $70.00 annually

Full page:
$40.00 once or $150.00 annually

Call any AAPE board member to reserve your advertisement in the next edition of the newsletter.

The deadline is the 1st day of January, April, July, and October.

LOCK AND KEY

You're not a star until they can spell your name in Karachi.

- Humphrey Bogart

Famous Last Words (Maybe)

Don't worry its not that deep.

Hey look a light at the end of the tunnel.

I can pass this guy.

Nice doggy.

"Na, I don't think we need to go to the hospital."

"Don't touch the red button!"

Which wire was I supposed to cut?

I wonder where the mother bear is.

These are the good kind of mushrooms.

Now watch this.

Let's split up, we'll cover more ground.

I'm sure this isn't the poisonous kind.

Watch, I'll prove it!

I know this great shortcut we can take.

Your Help Is Needed

I am always looking for information for both the website and newsletter. Please send stories, photos, and anything else you think would be of interest to the membership to Bill Brantley, Tucson Police Department, Property & Evidence Section, 270 S. Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701.

The AAPE is always looking for volunteers to work on the different committees created to support the goals of the association. Whether you have a small amount of free time or you are one of the lucky people with plenty of extra time on hand, we have assignments for you. The following committees can use you:

Task Force
Public Relations
- **Newsletter**
- **Web monitor**
- **Marketing**

Good and Welfare
Training
Legislature

Contact any committee chairman to see how you can help. Every minute of donated help is valuable to us.

Someday you may get to wear cool uniforms like these!

Do Back Belts Prevent Injury?

Back injuries account for nearly 20% of all injuries and illnesses in the workplace and cost the nation an estimated 20 to 50 billion dollars per year. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) believes that the most effective way to prevent back injury is to implement an ergonomics program that focuses on redesigning the work environment and work tasks to reduce the hazards of lifting.

In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of workers who rely on back belts to prevent injury during lifting. Back belts, also called "back supports" or "abdominal belts," are currently worn by workers in numerous industries, including grocery store clerks, airline baggage handlers, and warehouse workers. As their use has risen, NIOSH has increasingly been asked for advice on back belt selection. In response to these inquiries, the Institute decided to address a more fundamental question. Rather than ask "Which belt will best protect workers?" NIOSH researchers began with the question--"Do back belts protect workers?"

After a review of the scientific literature, NIOSH has concluded that, because of limitations of the studies that have analyzed workplace use of back belts, the results cannot be used to either support or refute the effectiveness of back belts in injury reduction. Although back belts are being bought and sold under the premise that they reduce the risk of back injury, there is insufficient scientific evidence that they actually deliver what is promised.

NIOSH systematically reviewed published peer-reviewed scientific literature on back belts to determine if they actually reduce the risk of back injury. Because there were few studies on the association between workplace use of back belts and injuries, NIOSH also reviewed studies of the relationship between back belt use and forces exerted on the spine during manual lifting. In other words, much of the existing research is based on theories of what causes back injury, rather than on the actual rates of workplace injury with and without back belt use.

There have been anecdotal case reports of injury reduction in workplaces using back belts. However, many companies, which have instituted back belt programs have also implemented training and ergonomic awareness programs. The reported injury

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reduction may be related to these or other factors. On the basis of available evidence, the potential effectiveness of back belts in reducing the occurrence of low back injuries remains unproven.

Why Is So Little Known About Back Belts?
Only in recent years has the "industrial back belt" been widely used. While there are more than 70 types of industrial back belts, the typical abdominal support used in workplaces today is a lightweight, elastic belt worn around the lower back, sometimes held in place with suspenders. Because of the recent emergence of back belt use in the workplace, there have been few published studies of the rate of injury among workers using the belts. These studies suffer from design flaws and have not produced sufficient support for or against the use of back belts.

Can a Back Belt Increase the Potential for Injury?
At this point, there are no definitive studies on either the beneficial or harmful effects of wearing back belts. Just as there is speculation that back belts may help, there is also concern that they may harm workers. As a result of the NIOSH review, the Institute is concerned with the potentially harmful effects associated with a false sense of security that may accompany back belt use.
There is some research showing that workers believe they can lift more when wearing a back belt. If workers falsely believe they are protected, they may subject themselves to even greater risk by lifting more weight than they would have without a belt.

How Should Workers Be Protected?
Rather than relying solely on back belts, companies should begin to implement a comprehensive ergonomics program that strives to protect all workers. The most effective way to prevent back injury is to redesign the work environment and work tasks to reduce the hazards of lifting. Training in identifying lifting hazards and using safe lifting techniques and methods should improve program effectiveness.

NIOSH believes that the decision to use back belts should be a voluntary decision by both employers and employees. Back belt use should not be a mandatory job requirement.

Excerpted from:
BACK BELTS
Do They Prevent Injury?
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 94-127
October 1996

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Meeting Minutes by Deborah Lopez of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office

12/13/06 Hosted By The Tucson Police Department at the TPD Public Safety Academy

10:08 Bill Brantley with Tucson PD welcomed the members and introduced Sgt.Tim Froebe, who presented the members with training on Underwater Crime Scene Management.

There were 13 members and 5 board members present. .

11:35 Lane our association President from Mesa PD, began the meeting with old business and turned it over to Nancy our 1st Vice President from Tucson PD, as he was not in attendance at the last meeting. Nancy advised Old Business at the last meeting was regarding the bylaws verbiage with had been discussion and addressed at the last meeting. Nancy had available the bylaws handbook and advised the changes that were recommended at the last meeting. The verbiage throughout the handbook will be voted on at this meeting regarding, "members formerly involved in or retired from".
The membership approved the changes, and Nancy advised the changes would be added to the website.
Nancy continued with the other old business where the SSN needs to be removed from the invoices and the request for the renewal form and the invoice form to look different. Mary Alinen with Sierra Vista PD, our 2nd Vice President who is in charge of the membership, advised she sends out the renewals the first two weeks of July which is the beginning of most agencies fiscal year. Mary advised, by sending them out at that time, prevents double mailings. Lane suggested sending out the mailings the last week of June, and Nancy suggested sending out the renewal via email. Sandie suggested bringing their ideas for the forms to the March meeting.

11:45 New Business - Lane asked Nancy for new business from the previous meeting, Nancy advised the members the Public Relations committee is looking for a Marketing Director. Nancy suggested announcing an interest in the newsletter. Lane advised it would be someone who could upgrade the pamphlet or binder for handouts at different presentations. Lane asked for any more new business, Jessie Joy with Eloy PD suggested having Sgt. Froebe teach at the seminar on the Underwater Crime Scene Management. Sandie our Training Committee chairman advised all the speakers have already been set up for this year's seminar, but can keep him in mind for next year.
Lane advised that the association officers nominations will be voted on at the March meeting, so if anyone is interested please make it known. Mary Lewis from DPS Lake Havasu, is the associations Sgt. of Arms, oversees all voting. According to the by-laws for voting Section 3, absentee ballots for the election of officers will be sent to voting members not present at the meetings, within (10) days of the meeting and are to be returned within (14) days of mailing. A printed "ballot" with all persons nominated, and for which office, will be enclosed with instructions to vote for only one person for each office and return in the enclosed envelope, upon which should be printed the words, "Ballot for Election of Officers". This envelope should usually have the signature of the voter on it, and be sealed and enclosed in another one addressed to the secretary so that the inner envelope will not be opened except by the election committee or members of the executive board when the votes are counted. Instead of having the voter's signature on the inner envelope, it may be placed on the ballot, but a place for the signature should be indicated, so that there may be some means of protection against votes being cast by other than legal voters. Lane advised he would send out the mailings and Bill Brantley, Tucson PD public relations committee, will have them posted on the website with the requirements of each board member. It will be verified at the March meeting who is in good standing to vote, which includes paid membership. Nominations will be accepted through email or postmarked by Jan 31 to President Lane Darling with Mesa PD and absentee ballots must reach the associations' post office by March 7th which Sandie will check prior to the March meeting. The officers will take office on July 1st for a two-year reign. Mary Alinen nominated Sandie Imberi incumbent as Treasurer, who accepted. Jessie Joy nominated Debbie Lopez incumbent as Secretary, who accepted. Jessie also nominated Nancy McKay-Hills for President who accepted. Jessie nominated Lane Darling for 1st Vice President (who will take time to consider it) Jesse asked Lane about 2nd Vice President which Lane advised he would have to take some time to consider that as well. Sandie nominated Mary Alinen incumbent as 2nd Vice President who accepted. Nancy nominated Jesse Joy for Sgt. of Arms, who accepted. Mary Alinen nominated Bill Brantley for Vice President who accepted. Bill Brantley with Tucson PD advised he will update and post the nominations on the website, as he receives them. Lane Darling President from Mesa PD advised he will send Bill any nominations he receives. Jesse Joy suggested having the elections in June instead of in March. After discussion on pro's and con's of the issue, Lane advised further discussed at a later meeting which would result in a by-law change.
Lane was selected to man the hospitality room this year at the seminar. Lane turned it over to Sandie Imberi with Phoenix PD our Treasurer and Training Committee chairman. Sandie asked Lane draw for the free seat for the seminar which was won by Bill Brantley with Tucson PD, and Sadie advised another free seat will be drawn at the March meeting.

12:15 Lane asked Sandie for the Treasurers report which she reported:

As of 9-13-06 balance was		$15,233.65
Expenses:		
	Website	150.00
	Admin/Board	427.41
	Good & Welfare	50.39
Income:		
	Seminar Registration	525.00
	Dues	575.00
	Bank interest	36.42
		Total $1,136.42

Leaving a balance on 12-13-06 of $15,742.27
A copy was given to Debbie Lopez secretary for the meeting minutes.

Sandie advised on Thursday the speaker will train on hazmat handling and packaging. Another speaker will be on DNA collection and preservation. Sandie continued, "Then on Friday morning will be on stress management and then in the afternoon will be our open forum round-table discussion". Sandie advised on the announcement for the seminar she included an area for their request for the topic discussion at the roundtable. The seminar will be held in Flagstaff at Little America. The associations' business meeting will be held Friday afternoon before the round table discussion. Sandie asked the members present for their input on ordering items for handouts and drawings to email her with suggestions and ideas. Sandie had a book that several members approved her suggestions, to purchase with the association logo on the items. Mary Alinen mentioned the need for goodie bag stuffers and door prizes and if you are not going to be in Flagstaff on Wednesday, you can mail the stuffers. Lane suggested asking your local merchants for donations. Mary suggested getting with your city or county manager for goodie stuffers. Jesse suggested contacting your local Chamber of Commerce.

Lane asked Nancy for a Legislative committee update. Nancy advised the committee meet with Fran Burns and gave her some of the input of what the membership would like to see the legislation change the ARS Statutes laws, which included the 90 day found property statute and the $25.00 limit to be raised on the ARS Statute. Fran advised we needed to get the bill to the legislature in order for these changes to be made. We need a lobbyist to take on our cause to get the bill to the legislation. After discussion with the board it was suggested that on the short notice, we would wait until next year. Which the committee will hopefully by then meet and present the association with what can be voted on whether it be a $250.00 limit from $25.00 and the 90 day to 30 days and get it voted on before August so there will be plenty of time to present to the lobbyist for the legislation meeting. Mary suggested presenting this to the seminar members. Sandie suggested the legislation committee put together a proposal and send it out to the membership for input and suggestions at the seminar. That way the have the time to present the information to the Sheriff's and Chief's for their feedback. Nancy mentioned we would need to present the proposal to the Sheriff's & Chief's association in order to obtain our lobbyist. Lane advised the information we receive he can CC: his legal advisor and get helpful information for the committee. Nancy mentioned getting the stats together for the proposal Lane mentioned presenting something at the March meeting so that it can be discussed at the round table discussion at the seminar in June.

Lane advised the meeting minutes were posted and hearing no additions or modifications asked for a motion to accept. Mary made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, Jesse 2nded the motion and they were approved.

13:05 Lane hearing nothing further from the members, accepted a motions to adjourn.

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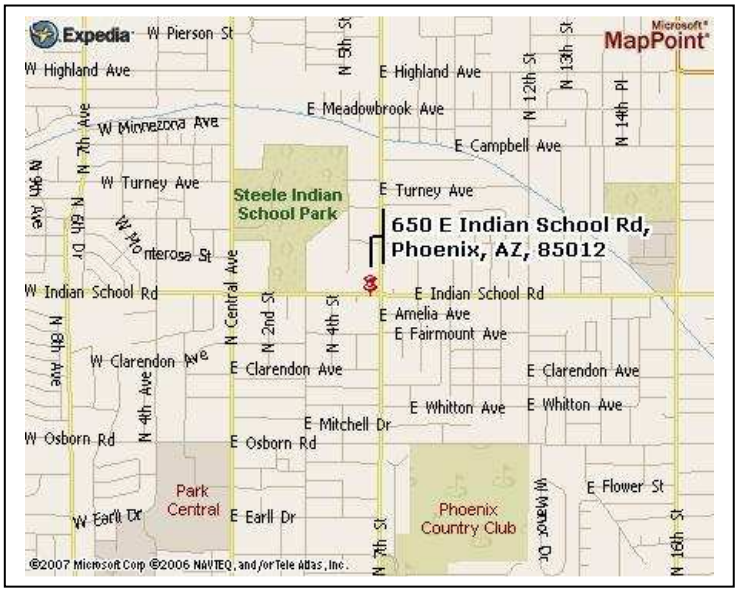
AZAPE QUARTERLY MEETING

MARCH 14TH, 2007

HOSTED BY THE PHOENIX VETERANS HOSPITAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Refreshments at 9:00 A.M.
The meeting begins at 10:00 A.M.
Training will be on conversing with the mentally ill
Location: Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center
650 E. Indian School Road
Phoenix, Arizona
Directions:
From Indian School Road, turn onto 3rd Street. Take the first right, then the first right into the parking garage. Level 2 & 3 have been reserved. The meeting is in the ACC Wing (the two-story part) of the main complex in the Southeast Conference Room located in the basement.
Please do not bring any weapons into the building.