THE ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE

LOCK AND KEY

Spring 2008

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone! I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and not buried too far under the mountain of evidence we all receive.

The March Quarterly Meeting was held at the Gilbert Police Department's new Evidence Facility. After the meeting we were treated to a tour of their facility. I would like to give thanks to the members of the Gilbert Evidence Section. They made our visit enjoyable by providing refreshments and the tours.

Our next meeting is our annual training seminar, which is quickly approaching so you need to register and book your rooms before they are all sold out. The seminar is June 12th and 13th at Little America in Flagstaff. You can go to our web site (azape.org) to get a registration form. This training seminar should be the best we have ever had so you don't want to miss it!

The seminar includes one full day with Richard Warrington of Gizmos and Gadgets. Richard will demonstrate cost effective methods to collect and package evidence from a crime scene. He is a frequent lecturer at the International Association for Identification (IAI) yearly training seminar and at many local state association seminars. The speaker on the second day is Judy Brodsky who will discuss developing and reviewing your unit's policies and procedures. We will also have another round table meeting to problem solve many issues affecting the Property & Evidence Sections statewide.

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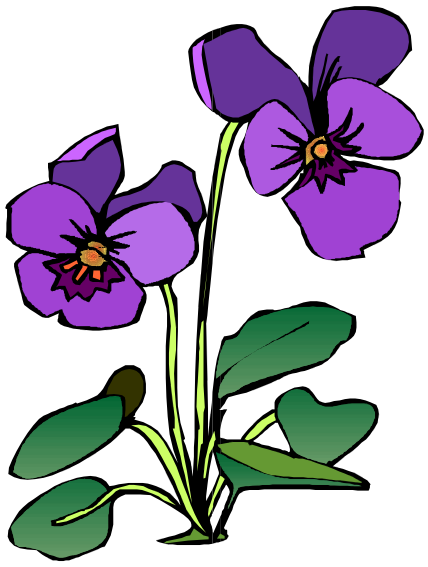
If any of you have anything you can donate as door prizes or have connections to Target, Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, Sears, golf courses, resorts, casinos or any other businesses that can donate new items for door prizes, please ask them if they would donate to our association. We will mention them at the seminar so it will be some free advertisement!

Hope to see you at the June 12th and 13th Training Seminar at Little America in Flagstaff.

Thanks,

Lane Darling, A.A.P.E. President.



SPRING

IS IN THE AIR

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
By Bill Brantley

The City of Tucson is wrapping up construction on their new government building, which will be a home for the Police Department's Property & Evidence Section and the Identification Section. Painting and flooring is currently being installed. A "punch list" will soon be prepared for anything that was missed during the original construction. The building name chosen by Police Chief Richard Miranda is the Evidence, Property, Identification Center or "EPIC" for short.

The "tentative" move date is now May or June. The ongoing joke around the section is "what year". This is based on the fact we originally were supposed to move in April of 2007. Multiple delays prevented the start of construction until after our original move in date. We are "pretty" confident the move will take place this year. Unfortunately, the delays have now moved us to the summer months. No one is looking forward to moving in the extreme heat, but I hope we can do it before the monsoon season begins in July and August, or we will need to budget for a boat.

The RFP (Request for Proposal) for the storage containers (pallets and corrugated plastic bins) has closed, as has the RFP for the heavy equipment (forklifts, people lifts, and pallet jacks). There is a six-week lead-time to allow for delivery of the items. All of these purchases must be delivered before we can move-in. If timing goes as planned they will be installed prior to receiving the keys to the building.

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(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.)

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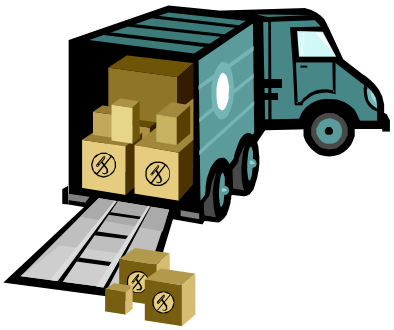
Each Evidence Technician will be assigned a "moving buddy" from the contracted moving company. This will allow for more manpower and speed the moving process, which should take between four and six weeks. The majority of the staff will be moving items over the weekends. Our current location is downtown and, because of congestion, it was decided that moving on the weekend would result in less traffic on the streets and around our loading dock. It also allows SWAT to have fewer people milling about when escorting the moving trucks. The move will take longer than we wish, but we are not altering our public hours during the week. Right now we are just waiting to go as the final touches are being completed. In preparation, purging of specialized areas (firearms, narcotics, and money) has been halted so we can concentrate on purging general disposal and marijuana prior to moving.

There are some photos of the new building on the next page.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are still 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.

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Tucson Police Department's new Evidence, Property, and Identification Center (EPIC)

LOCK AND KEY

When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick.

- George Burns

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The sites for the September and December 2008 quarterly meetings are set. The host agencies are:

September 10, 2008

Avondale Police Department.

- Robert Reddington is the contact.

December 10, 2008

Tucson Police Department

- Nancy McKay-Hills is the contact.

Directions will be given prior to each meeting.

Remember, all of our quarterly meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of March, September, and December.

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.

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SAFETY FIRST

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.

SAFETY STATISTICS

There were over 30 fatal workplace accidents in 2007. Falls were the number one reason for Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) fatality investigations in 2007. During that year, they investigated 12 fatalities that occurred due to a fall. In addition to fall related fatalities, ADOSH investigated nine fatalities that occurred as a result of the victim being struck by some object, six that occurred as a result of the victim being caught in equipment or other material and two fatalities from employees being asphyxiated. There was also one fatality where the cause of death was unknown.

One of the reported fatalities in the first quarter of 2007 was a fall from an eight-foot ladder. In 2006, another Arizona worker was killed in a fall from a ten-foot ladder, so even short falls have the potential to be fatal. Another individual was wearing his fall protection harness and lanyard, but was not connected to an anchorage point.

Please make sure everyone is using proper safety practices within your Property & Evidence Section. With the increasing size of evidence storage facilities, there is a trend to build and store items higher and higher. This requires using ladders or lifts to reach and acquire the necessary item. The sad thing is accidents are preventable. Training, educating, monitoring, or closely controlling the environment where the employees were killed could have prevented these deaths.

Statistical information was taken from the ADOSH Advocate newsletter available online. They offer many training classes including one on Fall Protection Awareness. Classes are held throughout the state of Arizona.

LOCK AND KEY

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COMMITTEES

TRAINING COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Sandie Imberi, Phoenix Police

Members: Mary Alinen, Sierra Vista Police

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Bill Brantley, Tucson Police

Members: Nancy McKay-Hills, Tucson Police
Brent Johnson, University of Arizona Police Department

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Newsletter Editor: Bill Brantley
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Web Monitor: Todd Renier, City of Tempe

GOOD AND WELFARE COMMITTEE:

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Members: Deborah Lopez, Pinal Sheriffs

RESPONSE TEAM COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Linda Conley, Quartzsite Police

Members: Lane Darling, Mesa Police

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Nancy McKay-Hills Tucson Police

Members: Lane Darling,Mesa Police
Deborah Lopez, Pinal Sheriffs
Silverio Ontiveros, Phoenix Police
Jesse Joy, Eloy Police Department