



MAAFS Business Meeting Minutes
Morgantown, West Virginia

May 8, 2019

Call to Order

The 47th Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists Annual Business Meeting was held on May 8, 2019 in Morgantown, West Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 5:19 pm by President Diane Lawder.

Appointments

Cassandra Burke was appointed Parliamentarian for the 2019 MAAFS Business Meeting. A quorum of 10% of 404 current members was established.

Welcoming Remarks

President Diane Lawder thanked the Executive Board, and especially Allison Murtha Laneve for being her “go-to-girl”. She discussed the transition of the personnel of the Meeting Planning Committee and how much hard work and dedication they show to MAAFS and how much they have contributed to MAAFS success. President Lawder also issued a call for all members to serve on the Executive Board. Benefits to doing so include, personal benefits, agency recognition, the opportunity to work with other great people, get insights as to how the organization conducts business, help put together workshops, and meet other section colleagues.

Announcements

An attendance sheet was circulated for the membership to sign. Also, The ABC Committee needs a new representative, which MAAFS will send out an e-mail asking for volunteers.

Secretary’s Report

The minutes were e-mailed to the members for review. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Cassandra Burke and seconded by Lori Seman. All votes recorded were ayes, with no dissentions. The motion to approve the minutes was carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Susan Blankenship presented her first Treasurer’s report with an apology for not having the Gervasoni Traditional “Big Gulp” with her. She showed two reports which included a statement of cash flow, an income statement, and a balance sheet. She informed the membership of the ability to pay using both PayPal and Stripe platforms, which is different this year. Stripe is easier for Federal Agencies to use since most are not allowed to use PayPal. A motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by Catherine Savage and seconded by Cassandra Burke. The votes were all ayes with no dissentions. The motion to approve the reports was carried.

Committee Reports

ABC Committee

Susan Blankenship presented this report. She stated that Elizabeth Ballard has resigned as the Exam Committee representative. There are now two openings which need to be filled, a Board of Directors position which Susan will vacate due to her term ending, and an Exam Committee position. The Exam Committee position is looking for a Biology Section member with strong computer skills, especially Excel, and be forward thinking in Molecular Biology. The position requires an ABC certified applicant. An e-mail will be forthcoming detailing the open positions.

Susan also described how ABC is working towards ISO Certification. As such, two new exams are being developed. One will encompass Biology screeners and the other DNA Analysts. The exams will be piloted in Anaheim, CA, the site of the American Academy of Forensic Scientists (AAFS) Annual Meeting. The fundamental exam is designed for those examiners with one year of experience and will encompass things all Forensic Scientists have in common, such as ethics, evidence handling, etc. A Drugs examination will be on the horizon soon.

Audit Committee

Presented by A. Robyn Quinn and Ashley Rush. This is performed on two budgets, the MAAFS budget presented by the Treasurer and the Meeting Planning Committee's budget. The report will follow.

Meeting Planning Committee

Lori Seman presented this report in a PowerPoint format. She announced the following attendance totals for the 2019 MAAFS Annual Meeting: 65 Members, 62 Non-Members, and 30 Student Members. Sections totals were: 61 Criminalistics, 56 Biology, 21 Questioned Documents, and 19 others. There was 1 Platinum vendor, 1 Gold vendor, 5 Silver vendors, and 14 Bronze vendors. The Vendor's Reception follows this Business Meeting, complete with food and open bar. Please take time to thank the vendors, talk, and mingle amongst your colleagues and vendors. The Hospitality Suite with complimentary drinks will be open, tonight only, in the Green Room.

Workshop attendee totals were detailed on the PowerPoint presentation. Vendor workshops were continued this year with six submissions and five accepted. The presentation proposed by a vendor shall be educational and not a sales pitch. The vendor workshops have been successful and will continue to be utilized, hopefully with more member input to increase the number of attendees.

The finances for the meeting were decreased this year with a net loss of approximately \$7,500.

The meeting for 2020 will be in either Richmond or Newport News, VA, with the destination for 2021 hopefully being chosen this fall.

Housekeeping Items: The dinner tomorrow night will be at Mountain State Brewing Company. Please remember to recycle your badge holders, retrieve your Certificates (and those of your colleagues if they are not attending), and send in the e-mail survey about this meeting.

A question from the floor concerned booking hotel rooms blocked off for MAAFS. One local jurisdiction was unable to book the rooms for Tuesday night. Cassandra Burke answered by stating the contract for the hotel states a certain number of rooms per night. When the target number has been reached, the computer shuts the block down, even if the rest of the hotel is not full. When this happens, please

contact the MAAFS. Lori also stated the hotel was having a problem with Tuesday night. Allison Laneve stated if MAAFS knew about the situation, an e-mail blast would have gone out to the membership.

Biology Section Report

Ruth Damaso Neely stated there were fifteen to twenty potential speakers. There were three scholarship winners in Biology and fifteen papers presented. Ruth stated she will work with the incoming chair, Kelly Knight, for next year's meeting.

Questioned Documents Section Report

Rachael Clay stated the QD Section had a great year. There were three workshops, two off-site and each was wonderful. The Crime Scene houses provided by WVU were like real life scenarios. The Micro and QD labs were hands-on and practical. The number of papers is great – a full agenda. She thanked all QD members and welcomed the incoming QD Chair, Khody Detweiler.

Criminalistics Section Report

Catherine Savage stated the Criminalists Section was Drug Chemistry heavy this year, including Novel Psychoactive substances (NPS) and fentanyl analogs. There were three NPS, one Ethics, and one Cannabis and Pesticides workshops. There were 45 attendees and 15 papers presented. There were break-out sessions in Drugs, Toxicology, and Fire Debris. She introduced the incoming Criminalistics Chair, Carrie Wise, and thanked everyone.

Membership Committee

President Diane Lawder presented this report, stating there are 8 new members, whom she read aloud. None were present to receive their certificates. If anyone in attendance knows them, please take their Certificates to them.

Training and Education Committee

Since this committee is not in attendance, the report will be skipped.

New Business

MAAFS Executive Committee Election Results

President-Elect: Catherine Savage

Secretary: Eileen Briley

Criminalists Section Chair: Michele Drake

Questioned Documents Section Chair: Greg Dalzell

Biology Section Chair: Shiao-Mei (Mimi) Smith

Awards Committee

A. Robyn Quinn asked for more applications for Student Scholarships, since the awards always seem to go to Virginia Commonwealth University. The award includes one complimentary night in the hotel, MAAFS meeting registration, and a hug from Allison. The winners this year are: Brittany Fung, Annabelle Campbell, and Najai Bradley. Each recipient received a plaque and a \$1,000 check.

Special awards were given to Cassandra Burke and Allison Laneve for their years of hard work and dedication to MAAFS, and especially serving on the Meeting Planning Committee (MPC) they have run efficiently for years. Robyn Quinn gave a history of how it was prior to the formation of the MPC in 2009. The local lab nearest to the Annual Meeting site was designated the host, and as such had to secure the hotel (contract), solicit vendors, and award prizes. These duties caused the host personnel at

least one month away from lab duties. In 2008, it was decided a Meeting Planning Committee would do the work of hosting the meeting and doing all of the work. The Annual Meeting would rotate through the local regions, allowing all members to attend a meeting without having to travel too far. This committee will enable the meeting to run more smoothly, allowing for greater meetings. In 2009, Cassandra and Chris joined and in 2010, Allison and Keena joined the committee. The Meeting planning Committee became not just friends, but family. Robyn then read the award plaque for Cassandra aloud, which included the duties she has fulfilled since 2003, including Communications Chair from 2003 to 2010, MPC Chair to 2013, and site coordinator from 2013-2019.

Cassandra gave remarks and stated as a young Forensic Scientist, with the retirement of a Board member, she decided to step up and become involved. She was able to get to know everyone in the organization this way. She stated that new people are the lifeblood of the organization and encouraged all members to get involved. The members you work with will become not just colleagues, but friends and family. She has been involved for 18 years and will continue to be involved in MAAFS.

Robyn then read Allison's plaque aloud. Allison gave remarks thanking everyone for the award, but 99.95% of the work has been done by Lori Seman – great job! Since attending a MAAFS meeting at Penn State and meeting so many people, Alli decided to get involved. She was introduced to Cass by her boss and the rest is history. She encouraged everyone to get involved, not just with the Executive Board, but to make your voices heard and get to know the Board and Section Chairs. She is also looking forward to sleep!

President Lawder presented awards to the outgoing officers: Ruth Damaso Neely, Catherine Savage, and Rachael Clay. All were hugged by Alli.

Closing Remarks

President Lawder then turned the gavel over to A. Robyn Quinn at 6:12pm. Robyn presented the outgoing President with a plaque. President Quinn gave remarks stating next year's meeting will be in Virginia, the North Dakota lab is hiring Chemistry and DNA analysts, and gave her thanks to the members present and the Meeting Planning Committee and the Executive Committee. Please forward any recommendations for workshops to your Section Chairs. New equipment is needed for the Annual Meeting, as the current inventory is out of date. Members can donate as MAAFS is a 501(c)(3) organization. Educators may get a discount.

A motion to adjourn was given by Cassandra Burke and seconded by Ruth Damaso Neely. All votes were aye with no dissention. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.