

N.Y.S.A.C.C.M.E.

New York State Association of County
Coroners and Medical Examiners

BUSINESS OFFICE

**4721 Pine Hill Road
Albion, New York 14411**

We're on the web!!

www.nysaccme.org



CORONER 101—March 15, 2013

SPRING 2013 CONFERENCE—March 15-17, 2013

* New York State Association of County Coroners and Medical Examiners *

The POST...A Forensic Publication



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Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical

President's Message by *Scott M. Schmidt, CFSP* *Chief Coroner-Orleans County, New York*

WITHOUT EXCEPTION, WE ALL NEED IT

When I was first elected in 1990, I had some basic knowledge of the rules and laws of Medical Examiners and Coroners from Mortuary School as part of a NYS Law Course. In addition, my father who was a State Prosecutor provided me with reams of paper containing NYS County Law and Attorney General Opinions and while we still have generous benefactors who provide a hospital-ity room and a cocktail hour as well as breaks and sometimes breakfasts, a NYSACCME conference is no longer just a "Party Weekend". Our Conference weekends are packed-full of informative, educational and up-to-date information that WE ALL for some financially, you can't put a price on having the proper education and knowledge to do your job. Being a Coroner/Medical Examiner is an important position and with that comes huge responsibility... including proper training and skill sets. Standards are always changing and any District Attorney will tell you how impor-

True or False? Only the wealthy can make a significant gift to NYSACCME.



FALSE! Interestingly, the wealthy are less likely than others to give. Many of our supporters are not wealthy, but are interested in making a sizeable donation to support NYSACCME and its efforts in Medico-Legal Death Investigation Education. But to be practical, they must maintain their current income and cash flow levels. They want to give, but aren't sure how to give wisely. A planned gift to NYSACCME is a wonderful way to make a differ-

ence in the Educational efforts of your organization while also enhancing your own financial and estate plans. Bequests, trusts, gifts of life insurance, and retirement assets—these giving vehicles can benefit you regardless of your level of wealth. And, with a planned gift, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have truly made a difference in the future of Forensic Science. Why not remember NYSACCME in your will or estate planning

or with an outright donation now, to ensure that your interests in NYSACCME will endure through the years. Your attorney and/or financial advisor can help you with the options available to you. NYSACCME is a Not-for-Profit Organization and your gift is tax deductible. Thank you.

measure with
**mathematical
exactness the
tender
sympathies of
its people, their
respect for the
law of the land
and their loy-**

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Susan J. Ernst
Administrative
Assistant

ney General Opinions pertaining to Coroners and ME's. I joined NYSACCME because it was the ONLY place to further my education and remain current on any changes or nuances in the area of Medico-Legal Death Investigation. I paid my own way to conference for over two years until I learned that my County would cover the expense. I did so willingly because I wanted to be properly trained and receive as much information about my job as I could. Back in the day, an added bonus to conference was a company from CA that had a 3-day non-stop hospitality room as well.

Those days are gone

tion that WE ALL NEED in order to do our job effectively. New techniques, tests, equipment, and resources are continually brought to our Conferences FOR EVERYONE'S BENEFIT. And while the economic climate is difficult and while some Counties have deleted the education line from their Coroner/ME budgets, it IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to improve your knowledge and remain current with your continuing education regarding your position. NYSACCME has strived to keep Conference registrations low knowing that some members have to pay on their own. While it may be a stretch

will tell you how important it is to be able to state how much education and training you've had when you're testifying in Court. The training and education I speak of can be found twice a year at NYSACCME Conference. The issue of training is so important that very soon, we will have a new law in NY which requires a newly elected Coroner to have minimum training prior to taking his/her office. The law currently has passed the Senate and is waiting for Assembly approval. NYSACCME has pushed hard for this and



SPRING 2013 CONFERENCE

by Gordon Terry

Gordon R. Terry, CFSP, Otsego County Coroner and Warren Riles, CFSP, Chautauqua County Coroner are the Conference Hosts for the Spring 2013 NYSACCME Conference. Our conference theme is "Occupational Death Investigation".

We have endeavored to include speakers that will touch on the leading causes of occupational fatalities and how they should be investigated and reported by coroners and medical examiners. To date, we have speakers from the NYS Department of Health, New York State Police and our fellow physicians and coroners highlighting deaths in farming, commercial vehicle operation, logging and well drilling to name a few. They will be sharing with you their experiences and research into occupational deaths in New York State and nationally.

We will be staying at the historic Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown, NY, home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame so plan a little time to visit the Hall and stroll around Cooperstown, "America's Most Perfect Village" or hop on the "Cooperstown Beverage Trail" for a self guided tour of breweries and wineries right in the area.

Save the date, March 16 and 17, 2013 (Coroner 101 will be held on March 15th), shake off the "cabin fever" while overlooking beautiful Otsego Lake, learn at the conference and enjoy what the area has to offer.



**Sadly we recently learned of the death of our friend and former treasurer of NYSACCME
Kenneth R. Hamm
October 21, 193 - December 11, 2007**

Kenneth R. Hamm, 77 current Columbia County Coroner, of Gallatin, New York died on Tuesday December 11, 2007 at his residence.

He was born on October 21, 1930 in Gallatin the son of Rossman J. and Marion O. (Bradley) Hamm.

Mr. Hamm was a graduate of Pine Plains Central School, class of 1948.

A corporal, he served with the United States Army from 1954 – 1956 stationed in Germany. He was a member of the Cadby – Shutts VFW Post #7552 in Hillsdale, N.Y. and the Shacameco American Legion Post in Pine Plains, N.Y.

After his military service he became employed by the Kimberly Clark Corporation in Ancram, N.Y. He retired as shift foreman in 1993 after 36 years.

Ken was also very active in community affairs. Along with his military affiliations he was also a longtime contributing member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Ancram. He was an over 50 year member of the Ancram Fire Company and was a member and past president of the Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association.

He had served as the Ancram Town Clerk from 1962 – 1975 and served as town supervisor for Ancram from 1976 – 1981. From 1983 to the present he had served as Columbia County Coroner. Ken was also a member and treasurer of the New York State Association of County Coroners and Medical Examiners.

On August 25, 1957 in New York City he married Denise (Jones) Hamm who survives him at home.

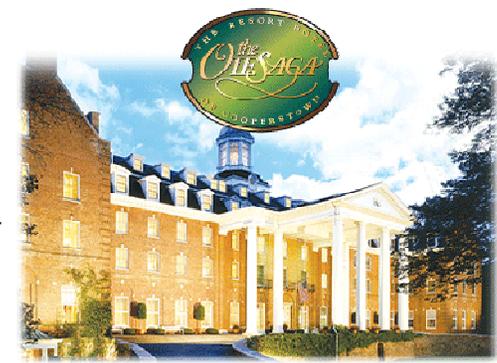
Surviving besides his wife "Sis" is a son, Kenneth R. Hamm Jr. of Tracey, CA and a daughter, Mary Pepoon of Greenport, N.Y. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Gregory, Sarah and Jeremiah.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ancram during the springtime will be announced. Interment will be in the Vedders Cemetery, Gallatin, N.Y.

The family requests memorial contributions be offered to either St. John's Lutheran Church, Ancram N.Y.

Directions to The Otesaga Cooperstown

From the west (Buffalo/Syracuse): Take Exit 30 off the New York State Thruway (I-90) at Herkimer and take Route 28 South to Cooperstown. After entering the village, turn left onto Chestnut Street. Follow Chestnut Street through the stoplight to Lake Street. Turn left onto Lake Street. The Hotel is located on the right overlooking Lake Otsego.



From the east (Albany): Take the New York State Thruway (I-90) to Exit 25A and I-88 to Duanesburg (5 miles), Exit 24 then Route 20 West to Route 80 South to Cooperstown. After entering the village, The Otesaga is on the left, just past The Golf Course on Lake Street.

From the south (Binghamton/Oneonta): Take I-88 to Oneonta, Exit 17 to Route 28 North to Cooperstown. After entering the village follow Chestnut Street through the stoplight to Lake Street. Turn left onto Lake Street. The Hotel is located on the right overlooking Lake Otsego.

From the south (NYC): Take the New York State Thruway (I-87) north. At Albany, continue on New York State Thruway (I-90 West) to Exit 25A (I-88 Binghamton) to Exit 24 (Duanesburg). Follow Route 20 West to Route 80 South to Cooperstown. After entering the village, The Otesaga is on the left, just past The Golf Course on Lake Street.

nounced. Interment will be in the Vedders Cemetery, Gallatin, N.Y.

The family requests memorial contributions be offered to either St. John's Lutheran Church, Ancram N.Y. 12502 or to Community Hospice of Columbia – Greene, 47 Liberty St., Catskill, N.Y. 12414.

**Walton R. Huestis Jr.,
August 19, 1940 - September 27, 2012**

Walton died at CVPH Medical Center Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012, from complications of long term diabetes.

He was born in Ticonderoga, N.Y. August 19, 1940, the older son of Walton and Rhesa (Spearman) Huestis. He graduated from Bordentown Military Academy, Paul Smiths College and Simmons School of Mortuary Science.

He was a member of the The Keeseville Elks, The Iroquois Lodge F&AM #715, The Willsboro Fish & Game Club, The NYS Coroners & Medical Examiners Association and the Willsboro United Methodist Church. He was an Essex County Coroner for 25 years. He owned and managed the Huestis Funeral Home in Willsboro for 39 years.

In 1970 he married Nancy (Hamilton) and together they raised 3 children, Todd of Raleigh N.C., Robb of Willsboro, N.Y., and Katie of Roslindale, Mass.

He is survived by one brother, Kirby of Venice, Fla.; a niece, Rebecca of N.J.; a nephew, David and wife Chris of Saratoga; an aunt, Helen Huestis Wright of Ga.; a sister and brother-in-law, Debbie and Mike McDonald and their daughter, Katelyn; and a sister-in-law, Barbara Morano, all of Loudonville, N.Y.

At the request of the family in lieu of flowers donations in his memory may be made to the Willsboro Rescue, 3 Farrell Rd. Willsboro, NY 12996. Its dedicated members took great care of Bob over many years during his illness. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

CORONERS STORE

The Coroners Store is up and running on the NYSACCME website http://nysaccmestore.com/Home_Page.html. We have shoe covers to Hi Vis Apparels, keep your supply closet full while supporting the New York State of County Coroners & Medical Examiners. Don't see something you need, email us at coronerconnection@gmail.com. We are always looking for new ideas and happy to assist you with your inquiries.

Thank you for ordering your next purchase from the Coroners Store.

John Tyler and Pattilee Brandt, Coroners Store Managers

F or Y our I nformation

On the last day of the Session before Congress recessed for the election, Rep. Laura Richardson (D-CA) introduced legislation requiring the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to plan for and manage mass fatalities in any natural or man-made disaster. NFDA had previously discussed with Rep. Richardson on several occasions our concerns with the

LOOKING FORWARD TO FALL 2013 IN THE FINGER LAKES

Welcome to the Finger Lakes, site of the Fall 2013 NYSACCME Conference. Ontario County Coroner Kevin Henderson is hosting the conference and is in the process of obtaining guest speakers for various topics that will be of interest.

The conference is being held at the newly renovated RIT Inn and Conference Center. You will find that the venue is conveniently located off of Exit 46 from the New York State Thruway and minutes away from the Greater Rochester Regional Airport.

Take advantage of the area and try to plan on taking time to enjoy all of the Finger Lakes Region has to offer. Go on one of the many wine trails or visit one of the beautiful lakes in the region. Take a scenic drive through the hills and mountains; visit some of the historic landmarks in the area or one of the many antique markets that dot the region.

Remember to save the date, September 20-22, 2013.

Sincerely,

Kevin Henderson
Ontario County Coroner

Agency (FEMA) to plan for and manage mass fatalities in any natural or man-made disaster. NFDA had previously discussed with Rep. Richardson on several occasions our concerns with the lack of any federal mass fatality management plan. In response, she has introduced H.R 6566, a bill entitled “*Mass Fatality Planning and Religious Considerations Act*’.

The text of the entire bill is as follows:

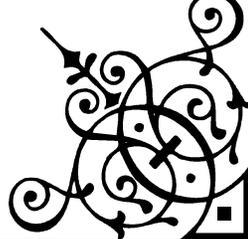
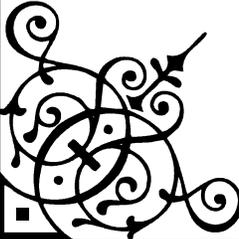
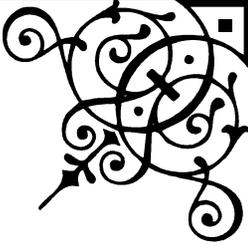
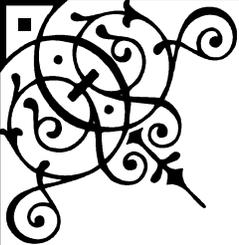
Congress finds the following:

(1) *Emergency preparedness often plans for how to prepare and provide for survivors of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster, but fails to plan for how to prepare for and respond to mass fatalities that result from such an incident .*

(2) *Funeral homes, cemeteries, and mortuaries could be overwhelmed should mass fatalities arise from a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster.*

(3) *Different religions have different customs surrounding death; for example, the Jewish and Muslim religions call for burial of the deceased not later than 48 hours after death Section 504 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 314) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

(c) Preparedness for Mass Fatalities- In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall provide guidance to and coordinate with appropriate individuals, including representatives from different communities, private sector businesses, non-profit organizations, and religious organizations, to prepare for and respond to a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster that results in mass fatalities.’”



THANK YOU

CDT

Center for Donation and Transplant
and

LIONS EYE BANK

At Albany
...for your sponsorship at our
FALL 2012 CONFERENCE

CORONER 101 COURSE TO BE OFFERED AT SPRING CONFERENCE

The Spring 2013 NYSACCME Educational Conference in Coopers-town, New York will be preceded by a Coroner 101 Course.

This Course, put together by NY-SACCME Board member and Broome County Coroner Dr. John Prindle, has been scheduled for Friday, March 15, 2013 at the Otesaga Resort Hotel from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

This Course is a tremendous opportunity to assist you to hone your investigation skills and to brush up on the basics of Medico-Legal Death

Investigation. It is designed to give the newly-elected Coroner some basic skills to accept and process his/her first case.

This is also a great opportunity for those associated with our profession to learn about what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. Registration fee is IN ADDITION to that of our conference.

If you know of a colleague that may be interested in attending, this entire packet is available on our website: www.nysaccme.org



NYSACCME MEMBERSHIP

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO BECOMING A MEMBER OF NYSACCME?

- ❖ Reduction in Conference Registration Fees
- ❖ Accreditation from NYSACCME in Medico-Legal Death Investigation
- ❖ Creditability when involved in court cases
- ❖ Endless networking opportunities with colleagues and other professionals
- ❖ Learn from top-flight speakers presenting cutting edge topics and techniques
- ❖ A resource for questions and information regarding every day cases to that complex one of a kind case that leaves you grasping for straws
- ❖ The opportunity to raise awareness in your own community by gaining knowledge and technique that can be passed on to others who don't know
- ❖ To become an advocate for the Forensic Sciences

OUR MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO:

- All elected and appointed County Coroners and appointed Medical Examiners and their deputies
- Officers and members of organizations where there is significant interaction with NYSACCME
- Persons who have significantly advanced the causes of forensic sciences
- Sworn law enforcement officers involved in death investigations, and official investigators for Medical Examiners

SAVE THE DATES

Fall 2013 Conference – September 20-22 - Rochester

Spring 2014 Conference – March 21-23 - Binghamton

Fall 2014 Conference – September 19-21 - Ellicottville

Spring 2015 Conference – March 20-22 - Owego

Fall 2015 Conference – September 18-20 - Watkins Glen

- Sworn law enforcement officers involved in death investigations, and official investigators for Medical Examiners
- Retired/Emeritus (former members, no longer in office due to retirement)

Membership is effective from January to December. Yearly membership dues are made payable to NYSACCME. Applications are available on our website:

www.nysaccme.org

NYSACCME MISSION STATEMENT



The Mission and Goals of the NYSACCME are to assist in advancement of Forensic Science and its application to death investigation by providing education to those who interact during a death investigation. We strive for the improvement of quality in death investigations in NY State and the advancement of support by the

State of NY, as well as County and Local governments for the death investigators. By organizing Coroners and Medical Examiners throughout the State, we support promulgation of standards for death investigation. We hope to maintain a greater quality of death investigation by accrediting our membership via training, and we

strive to assist with the writing of new laws and/or changing of old laws by maintaining liaison with legislative bodies, representatives, and the State DOH. We are ACTIVISTS for Forensic Science.