

# Illinois Association of Property and Evidence Managers

Volume 1, Issue 4

Newsletter Date  
December 2009

*Special points of interest:*

- New Member Benefits
- Joint Training Conference
- Officer and Board Member positions available
- Recent Court Rulings that effect evidence collection



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## President's Message

As the year 2009 begins drawing to a close this will be our final newsletter of the year. I would like to take a moment to thank several people who over the course of this past year have worked and continue to work hard for our association. Lisa Robin, our Vice President who has worked tirelessly on recruitment and on our training conferences. Frank Gylonda, who has worked to continue to improve our web site and our electronic communication with all our members. Michelle Borerro our treasurer, who has in the past year revamped our membership role and worked hard to establish with Frank a means of dues payments and billing

that will be easier for all our members. I would also like to give a special thanks to our Newsletter editor Dawn Freiberg, who has I believe helped to create an informative and professional looking newsletter this past year.

As many of you who attended our recent business meeting and training session (54members) your association continues to move forward in growth and outreach for our members and continues to provide our members with the best training in the state. In this newsletter and on our web site members will find information concerning our upcoming training conference. As some of you are



aware, your association has decided to host a joint training conference this coming year with the Illinois Division of the International Association of Identification (IDIAI). We believe that this pairing for a joint conference will allow us to provide a unique training experience for all members and very importantly, keep the cost very low in these difficult times. As you will see in (Continued on page 4)

## IAPEM and IDIAI Joint Conference

IAPEM and the Illinois Division of the International Association of Identification have teamed up to offer you an outstanding educational conference. The conference will be May 19 - 21, 2010 at the Harrah's Casino and Hotel in Joliet, Illinois.

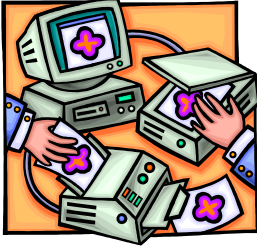
The conference is already packed with 15 different speakers and two workshops. For details on the exact topics and the specific speakers please go to [www.iapem.org](http://www.iapem.org) for more information.

Part of the reason for this

joint conference is to provide each of you with additional networking opportunities and to provide you this valuable education at budget friendly expenses.



## Membership Benefits



Print it, scan it, fax it to 206-337-6290

IAPEM has been busy finding ways to increase the value our members get for their membership dues. IAPEM is excited to announce an added membership benefit.

Members will now be able to print membership forms from the website and fax them to 206-337-6290. These forms will then go directly to IAPEM's treasurer Michelle Borrero.

IAPEM is hoping to continue to expand upon this new membership benefit when it comes to signing up for conferences as well.

For those members who would like to pay for their dues online IAPEM has added this benefit as well. All payments are processed securely with the help of Paypal. Another way that IAPEM is adding benefits for our members.

Remember to check the website often as new features and information is continuously made available.



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# Drug Disposal

In June of this year IAPEM presented the issue of drug disposal to Director Douglas Scott of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. IAPEM requested a meeting with him to discuss how police departments and evidence custodians are to ensure that illegal and legal drugs are disposed of in a manner that is safe for the public as well as the environment.

In an October 12, 2009 article by Steven Ross Johnson in the Courier News reported on the very issues IAPEM raised to

Director Scott. The issue of great concern is that police departments are forced to work with private businesses equipped with incinerators to meet the environmental guidelines that have become increasingly more stringent. Causing the process to become more and more secretive as the number of private businesses willing to help law enforcement has shrunk.

Police departments have investigated other alternatives which are very cost prohibitive

as purchasing and maintaining their own incinerators would cost individual departments over \$3000.

Use the power of your voice and contact your state senators and congressman (<http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/state/IL.html>) to voice your frustration with this issue and to encourage them to serve their constituents the same as each of you has been charged with serving and protecting the citizens of your community.

Your Voice has power.

Use your voice with IAPEM to cause change.

# Recent Court Rulings

In April 2009 there was some clarification to the rulings set forth in the court case *Arizona v Gant*. In this case there was confusion about police being able to search vehicles without a warrant. The following is the clarification: The only exception impacted by this case was incident to arrest searches. If

the officer meets the criteria necessary to obtain a warrant, the officer is automatically entitled to search the vehicle without a warrant under the motor vehicle exception which is no way impacted by this case.

Another court ruling that

could impact evidence processing was made in June 2009. The Supreme Court ruled that crime laboratory reports may not be used against criminal defendants at trial unless the analysts responsible for creating them gives testimony.

*"It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive."*

— Earl Warren

# DNA Storage Issues

Illinois police departments are not the only agencies struggling to follow laws regarding evidence storage. In March 2009 the Mississippi legislature passed a law requiring all DNA evidence must be kept and preserved while the felony crime remains unsolved or for the

period of time the person convicted of the crime remains in custody.

The law does not provide law enforcement with an specific guidelines or regulations on how to preserve this DNA evidence nor does it provide them with a location to store this

evidence. It did recommend that the State Crime Lab be a centralized storage facility but the lab has already stated it doesn't have the capacity.

For further information go to [www.clarionledger.com](http://www.clarionledger.com) and search for *DNA evidence storage still an issue*.



## IAPEM

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IAPEM



*The primary goals of the I.A.P.E.M. are:*

*To provide for an educational exchange, dissemination of information and networking relative to the property and evidence function, for agencies in the State of Illinois.*

*To promote professionalism of property and evidence personnel and to support high standards of performance in pursuit of this task.*

*To deal with the collection, storage, preservation and disposal methods within law enforcement agencies in the State of Illinois.*

*To solicit legal opinions and educate the membership on current or pending legislation that may impact property and evidence collection and preservation.*

## President's Message



IAPEM wishes all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

other parts of this newsletter and on our web site, this will be a unique training experience and the only one of its kind in the Midwest this coming year. Seating for the conference will be going fast and will be limited, so those who register early will afford themselves a discount for the conference and ensure that they have a seat at the breakout workshops of their choice. Another advantage for our members this year will be the ability to meet and mingle with many different forensic scientists from the Illinois Lab system throughout the state. This will provide members

from both associations with personal and professional contacts that will prove invaluable in your professional careers.

I would like to remind our members that nominations are still open until the end of December 2009 for all Officer Positions in our association and any active member in good standing may run for a position. If you are interested please e-mail me with your desire to be added to the ballot and a brief bio about yourself. It is important to remember, that this association needs the input and guidance from all our members

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and that by becoming an officer or board member you will be benefitting not only your professional career, but all members through the state of Illinois.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all happy holidays and success in the coming year.