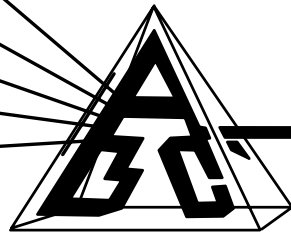


Official Publication
of the American Board
of Criminalistics

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Wausau, WI 54402-1123
Registrar e-mail:
abcereg@dwave.net

Web Site:
WWW.Criminalistics.org



Certification News

Volume 10 Issue 2 Winter 2003

“Professional Competency Certification in Criminalistics”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Certification is a voluntary, formal process to ensure that individual professionals meet peer-based education, experience, and knowledge standards. The issue here is the word voluntary. As long as people are given the choice to participate in a program or process, there will always be those that question the need for them to get involved.

You may have been in the Criminalistics profession for years, enjoying the challenges of the job, participating in professional organizations, learning new theories and techniques, and generally being fully involved in your profession. However, each time you see certification information on the General Knowledge Exam, a Technical Specialty Exam, or the Specialist Exams, you ask yourself “Why join? I seem to have all the benefits of the Criminalistics profession already?”

There are many reasons to become an ABC Certified professional. I offer you just a few for your reflection:

- Becoming ABC GKE Certified provides your clients with the understanding that you have the basic knowledge, skills, and abilities to evaluate all types of physical evidence.

- Becoming ABC Certified in a specialty area provides your clients with the understanding that you have the in-depth knowledge, skills, and abilities to evaluate physical evidence in your area of expertise.
- Becoming ABC Certified offers you the ability to provide input into advancing the Criminalistics profession.

There is no penalty for not being ABC Certified, but don't miss out on the fullness of what ABC Certification has to offer. There is no better time than the present to show your commitment to the Criminalistics Profession.

- Being ABC Certified illustrates a commitment to the Criminalistics profession.

Maybe you see the value in becoming certified, but you are asking yourself “What if I am not really sure I can pass the GKE?” “Do I want to take the risk that I might fail when I am not required to even try?”

You are not alone; every single individual that has taken an ABC Certification exam has asked himself or herself that very same question. If you are

committed to being in the Criminalistics profession, have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to analyze physical evidence, you should be able to pass the exam, with a little study and review. Nobody is an expert in everything so it is important to follow the study guide and increase your knowledge in your weaker areas. Following this path will only improve your abilities as a well-rounded professional.

Notes from the Registrar

Maintenance Fees

Maintenance fees have remained \$30 since the inception of recertification forms in 1993. Unfortunately, the cost of doing business has not. The ABC has tried hard to keep the expenses to a minimum, but even with the use of grants, the extensive use of volunteers and cost saving services, such as bulk mailing rates we anticipate having a difficult time supporting the program in the near future. In order to avoid financial difficulties we are considering increasing our yearly maintenance fees. (Example: A \$10 increase would generate a little under \$6,000. This is about the cost of two Peer Group Committees Chairs meeting to review and update two examinations.)

The Registrar's position has almost always been a position that has received some type of compensation. The less the compensation the more likely the ABC was to have trouble accomplishing its goals. The current Registrar is an independent contractor and is compensated at the rate of \$12,000 a year or \$11/per hour before taxes. The Registrar is the hub of the organization and is responsible for maintaining all records of the ABC and their database. The vast majority of all documents and fees pass through the Registrar.

Expenses to operate the Registrar's office will be about \$24,000 in 2003. This does not include the cost of computers, phones, FAX machines, printers, which are the responsibility of the Registrar.

Without going into detail, income to cover the Registrar's expenses will be about \$26,000: \$15,500 coming from recertification maintenance fees and about \$11,000 coming from testing fees. Other miscellaneous income is used to pay for the BOARD members' expenses and promotional items for the regional meetings. There is very little left for examination development.

Other than assigning me to write this article, there has been almost no discussion on this topic. However, as the BOARD considers increasing fees over the next year, we need your input on how we might keep these increases to a minimum. Unfortunately, placing recertification forms on the internet will not cause a sufficient savings to prevent an increase. Please write to or e-mail me with your comments. ABC Registrar, P.O. Box 1123, Wausau, WI, 54402-1123 or abcreg@dwave.net.

Technical Specialist

During the summer meeting of the ABC in Boston, the BOARD decided to change the experience requirement for the Technical Specialists. A Technical Specialist now needs two years experience in their specialty to apply to sit for the examination. All other requirements remain the same.

This fall the Forensic Specialty Accreditation Board (FSAB) has asked for clarification on the ABC's application for accreditation. Responses to their inquiries were returned within days of the request. We are awaiting action on our application.

Recertification Forms

The Recertification Forms ABC 603 has been revised to be more user friendly. The major changes are that certificates are requested for some activities and e-mail addresses are needed for persons giving workshops. Both will save the Committee time contacting these individuals to verify points requested.

REMINDER

When adding your certification accomplishment to your signature block, the ABC encourages you to use

D- ABC for Diplomate

F-ABC for Fellow

S-ABC for Technical Specialist

Let these marks of distinction bring you recognition for the effort you put into meeting the certification challenge.

Look for the ABC Booth at a Meeting Near You

The ABC will have a more pronounced presence at professional gatherings.

The ABC booth, making its first appearance at the Atlanta AAFS meeting, will be prominently displayed at most of the regional and national meetings. Stop by, get free ABC signature items, and show your support for the ABC certification process.

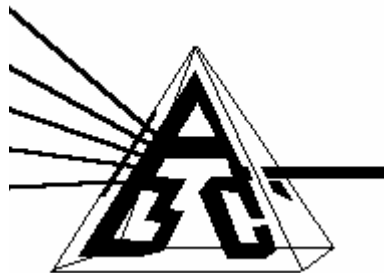
American Board of Criminalistics Mission Statement

To raise the level of competence in Forensic Science through peer based certification and promotion of professional development.

The American Board of Criminalistics is dedicated to the highest quality standards and programs for certification of scientists involved in the administration of justice.

THE ABC LOGO

—
An
Historical
Perspective



As the ABC was forming, Jo Ann Becker designed the ABC Logo. The five rays entering the prism represent the original five members of the ABC; CAC, MAAFS, SAFS, NEAFS, and MAFS. The founding Associations came together to form a unified certification program for the whole profession.

Since that date the membership has grown, but the logo continues to represent the roots of the ABC.

The ABC Membership Directory

It is anticipated that the next ABC Membership Director will be distributed on CD. One printed, paper copy will be available to members at no cost, by request from the registrar.

To keep the Directory current – notify the registrar if your information changes.

Although it is still under construction, the list of certified members will be part of the newly designed web site. If you would like to have your name, address or phone number excluded from the site, please contact the registrar.

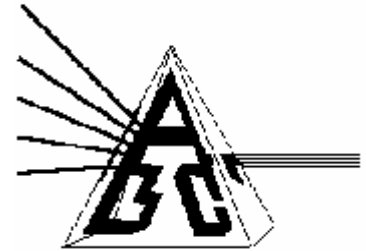
ABC Web Site

The ABC web site at www.criminalistics.com is being improved and updated. Check out the changes and report your opinions back to the Board of Directors or the webmaster.

ABC Shirt Order Form

White short sleeve
Polo shirt
W/ ABC logo
100% cotton

\$27 plus \$3 shipping and handling
No exchanges or refunds



**American Board
of Criminalistics**

M	L	XL	Price	Total
			\$30.00 each	

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail this form with a check payable to
the ABC to:

American Board of Criminalistics
P.O. Box 1123
Wausau, WI 54402-1123

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Respectfully Submitted – Dani Bergman – ABC Treasurer

AUGUST 1990 – NOVEMBER 2003

INCOME (Categories)

300	Member Dues	\$ 38,800.00
310	Donations	\$ 2,700.00
320	Interest	\$ 5,074.34
330	Application Fees	\$ 36,410.00
340	General Test Fees	\$145,875.00
350	Specialty Exam Fees	\$ 9,325.00
355	Technical Exam Fees	\$ 13,400.00
360	Recertification Fees	\$106,860.00
370	Unearned	\$ 5,685.00
380	Marketing Sales	\$ 1,566.00
390	Miscellaneous Income*	\$ 3,130.28
	NIJ Grant	\$ 37,643.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$406,468.62

EXPENSES (Categories)

400	Postage	\$ 38,774.11
410	Supplies	\$ 12,194.64
420	Printing	\$ 37,794.21
425	Miscellaneous Expenses*	\$ 482.24
430	Bank Fees	\$ 240.57
435	Equipment	\$ 5,918.72
440	Wages	\$ 61,364.38
445	Insurance	\$ 13,033.44
450	Telephone	\$ 4,178.38
460	Travel Expenses	\$ 36,312.99
470	Lodging	\$ 11,527.31
470	Room-Meals	\$ 29,089.32
475	Miscellaneous Travel*	\$ 3,025.72
480	Legal	\$ 537.50
485	Contractual	\$ 37,546.93
490	Awards	\$ 1,163.73
490	CAC Payback	\$ 11,501.00
496	Insufficient Funds Checks	\$ 370.00
500	Accreditation	\$ 2,750.00
510	Meeting Expenses	\$ 32,819.63
520	Marketing	\$ 15,673.29
530	Refunds & Overpayments	\$ 2,320.00
550	ABC Registrar	\$ 22,822.81
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$388,700.17

INCOME LESS EXPENSES \$ 17,768.45

TRANSFERS

To ABC	\$-13,762.28
To CDs-10,000.00	
To Money Market	\$-25,000.00
From ABC	\$ 25,000.00
From CD	\$ 10,512.36
From Money Market	\$ 13,762.28
TOTAL TRANSFERS	\$ 512.36

OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE\$ 18,280.81

ABC GENERAL ACCOUNTS PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

JANUARY 1, 2003 – NOVEMBER 30, 2003

INCOME (Categories)

300	Member Dues	\$ 4,000.00
320	Interest	\$ 207.07
330	Application Fees	\$ 2,040.00
340	General Test Fees	\$ 12,750.00
350	Specialty Exam Fees	\$ 500.00
355	Technical Exam Fees	\$ 1,400.00
360	Recertification Fees	\$ 15,130.00
370	Unearned	\$ 2,255.00
380	Marketing Sales	\$ 406.00
390	Miscellaneous Income*	\$ 127.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 38,815.07

EXPENSES (Categories)

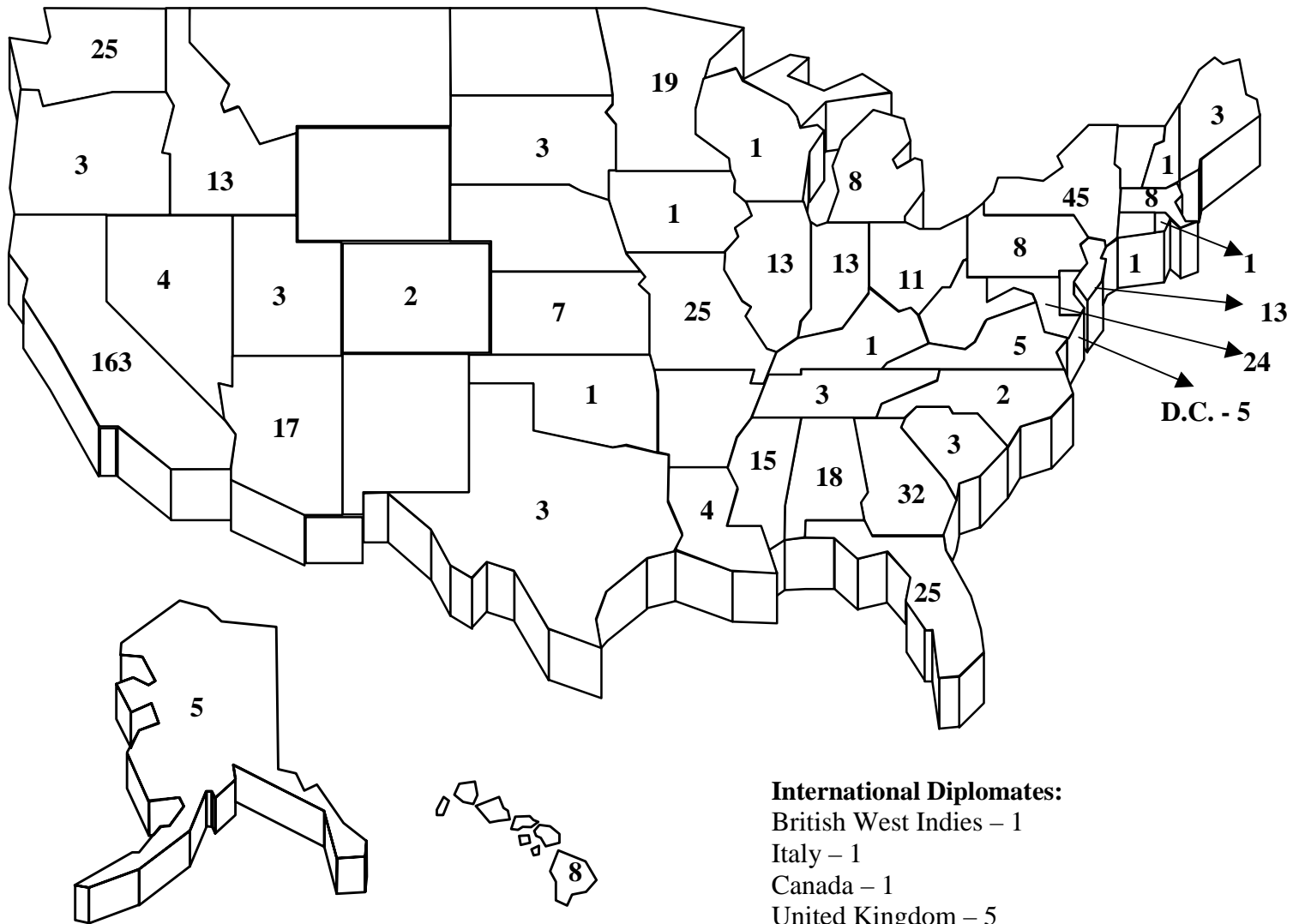
400	Postage	\$ 836.81
410	Supplies	\$ 483.50
420	Printing	\$ 2,670.72
430	Bank Fees	\$ 48.00
440	Wages	\$ 671.00
445	Insurance	\$ 1,695.75
450	Telephone	\$ 59.86
460	Travel Expenses	\$ 1,850.50
470	Lodging	\$ 526.43
470	Room-Meals	\$ 212.00
475	Miscellaneous Travel*	\$ 71.82
485	Test Development	\$ 896.50
500	Accreditation	\$ 750.00
510	Meeting Expenses	\$ 5,454.45
520	Marketing	\$ 4,079.58
530	Refunds & Overpayments	\$ 15.00
550	ABC Registrar	\$ 22,822.81
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 43,144.73

INCOME LESS EXPENSES (\$ 4,329.66)



Distribution of ABC Certified Diplomates

As of January 26, 2003



CERTIFICATION STATISTICS

Total number of Diplomates 568
 Affiliates 15
 Technical Specialists – Drugs 11
 Technical Specialists – Molecular Biology 10

Fellows

Fire Debris	19	Molecular Biology	46
Paints and Polymers	8	Biochemistry	10
Hairs and Fibers	9	Drug Analysis	38
Total number of	130		

ABC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	<i>Jennifer Mihalovich</i> - CAC Oakland Police Department Crime Lab 510/238-3386 jsmihalovich@oaklandnet.com
Vice President	<i>Gregory B. Matheson</i> - CAC At Large Los Angeles Police Dept. Crime Laboratory 213/847-0043 GBM1@aol.com
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At Large	<i>Linda Jankowski</i> - MAAFS At-Large New Jersey State Police 609/671-0022 n011jankowskiL@g.njsp.org

Public: *Victor Weedn*
Carnegie Mellon University
412/268-6250 vweedn@cmu.edu

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516/261-2117

Examinations Committee (Standing)

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Forensic Science Associates
510/222-8883 pbarnett@fsalab.com

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205/933-6621 adfsbh@mindspring.com

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Federal Forensic Associates
919/848-3696 ahyter@nc.rr.com

Members *Reta Newman* - AAFS Criminalistics Section
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Dave Green - MAFS
Lake County Regional Forensic Laboratory
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Edward Bernstine - NEAFS
Massachusetts State Police Agawam Crime
Laboratory
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Elizabeth Ziolkowski - ASTM E-30
Boston Police Department Crime Lab
617/343-4690 Ziolkowskil.bpd@ci.boston.ma.us

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Certification News is the official publication of the American Board of
Criminalistics. Published semi-annually in summer and winter.

Address questions or comments to:

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c/o Los Angeles Police Department Criminalistics Laboratory
555 Ramirez St. Sp 270 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone 213.847.0043
FAX 213.847.0040 e-mail: GBM1@aol.com

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555 Ramirez St. Sp 270 Los Angeles, CA 90012 — Phone 213.847.0043 — FAX 213.847.0040 e-mail: GBM1@aol.com

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American Board of Criminalistics

P.O. Box 1123, Wausau, WI 54402-1123

E-Mail: abcereg@dwave.net

Phone: 715-845-3684 Fax: 715-845-4156

PLEASE POST ON YOUR LABORATORY BULLETIN BOARD

Date Deadline	Event Location	For More Information, Contact:
January 2004 November 2003	PRIVATE SITTING Serological Research Institute Richmond, California	Peter Barnett (520) 222-8883
February 18, 2004 December 18, 2003	AAFS Meeting Adam's Mark Hotel Dallas, Texas	Dave Petersen Dan Bergman
April 7, 2004 February 7, 2004	PRIVATE SITTING Idaho State Police Meridian, Idaho	Dan Bergman (651) 642-0700
April 19-22, 2004 February 19, 2004	SAFS Meeting – Best Western Hotel Acadiana Lafayette, Louisiana	Mike Healy (941) 747-3011
April 20-23, 2004 February 20, 2004	MAAFS Meeting – Wyndham Hotel Wilmington, Delaware	Susan Blankenship (310) 739-8577
May 2004 March 2004	John Jay College of Criminal Justice New York, New York	
May 3-7, 2004 March 3, 2004	CAC Meeting – Crowne Plaza Hotel Foster City, California	Jennifer Mihalovich (510) 238-3386
September 20-23, 2004 July 20, 2004	MAAFS, MAFS, SAFS Meeting Walt Disney World – Orlando, Florida	Mike Healy Susan Blankenship
October 2004 August, 2004	CAC Meeting Ventura, California	Greg Matheson (213) 847-0043

To arrange to sit for an examination, you must contact the Registrar by letter or fax (715-845-4156) by the deadline listed.

Local contacts are provided for conference information only.

To arrange for ABC Exams to be administered in your laboratory, contact your regional representative.

The ABC will proctor a test at your lab!

Are your colleagues having a hard time getting to a test offering?

Make life easier and encourage your colleagues by bringing the test to them.

All you need is for five or more people to register and the ABC will cover the expenses of getting an ABC test administrator to your site. Even if there are only 1 to 4 people, the ABC will absorb half the cost.

Contact the ABC registrar, Mike Haas, at 715.845.3684 to get the ball rolling.