

# NEAFS Newsletter

Volume 46, Issue 2

Summer 2021

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NEAFS 1976



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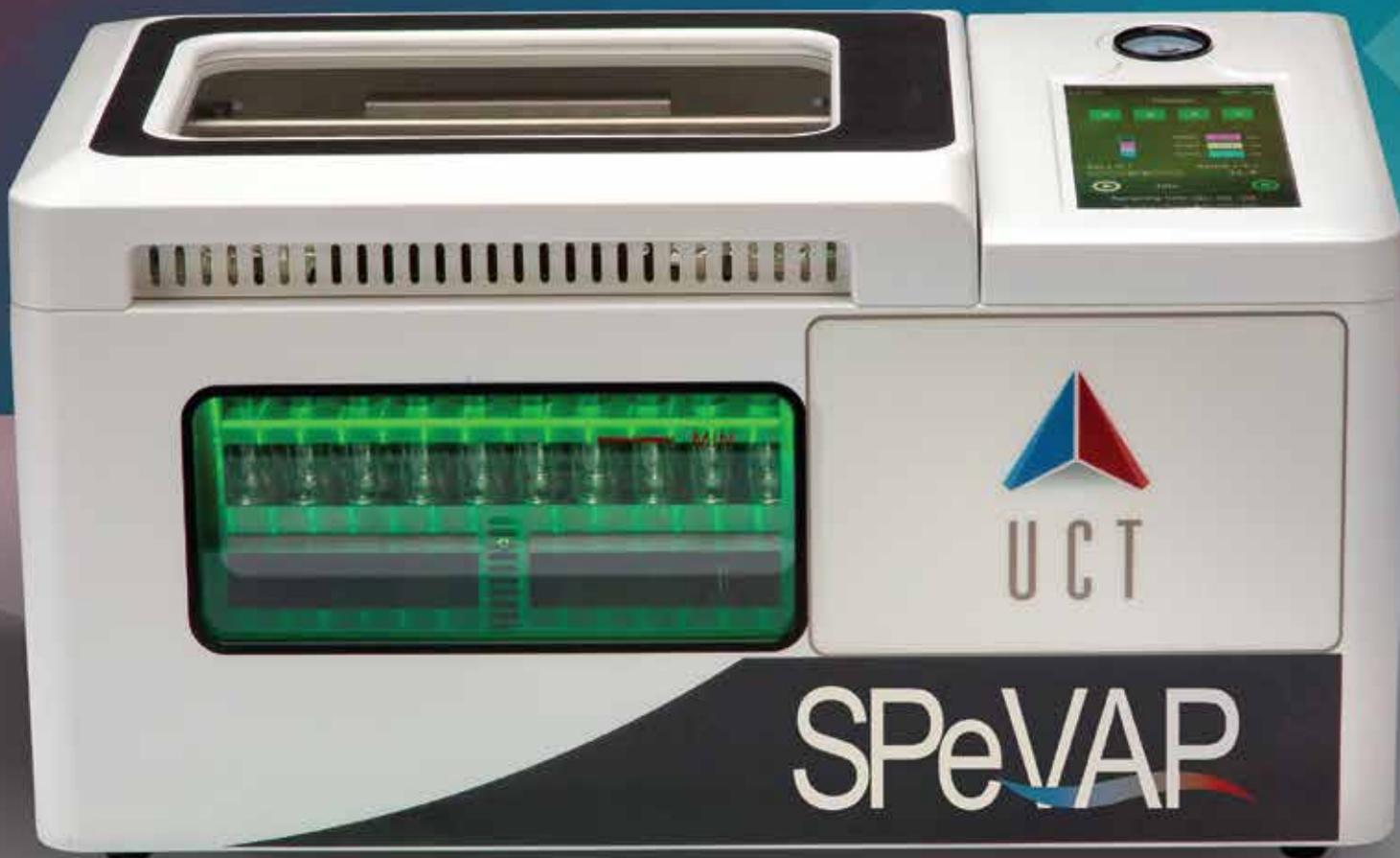
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## A Message from President Angela Vialotti

Hello! I hope you are all finding time to enjoy the warm summer weather, and reconnect with family and friends. I personally am looking forward to reconnecting with you, NEAFS, at the upcoming Annual Meeting...in person! The Annual Meeting will be held from November 1 - 5, 2021 in Newport, Rhode Island at the Newport Marriott. President-Elect/Program Chair Adam Hall and his meeting team are hard at work organizing a phenomenal event, which I am very excited about. Please continue to check the NEAFS Annual Meeting page on the website - registration information will be posted soon!

It's not too late to upgrade your membership status or to encourage your peers to join - the application deadline for both is September 1st, 2021. And we are still accepting nominations for the Meritorious Service Award. If you have a recipient in mind you can email our Awards Chair, Danielle Malone.

Please don't hesitate to let me know of any topics you would like discussed at the next Board of Directors Meeting, which will be held on July 25th.

Thank you,  
Angela



# **MEET THE 2021 BOD**

## **Angela Violotti – President**

Connecticut Forensic Lab, Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Scientific Services

Forensic Science Examiner 1 for approximately 4.5 years

BS in Biochemistry – Cedar Crest College

MS in Forensic Science – Cedar Crest College

## **Adam Hall Ph.D., D-ABC - President-Elect**

Assistant Professor, Biomedical Forensic Sciences Program Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology Boston University School of Medicine

BA in Chemistry - Stonehill College

MS in Chemistry - Northeastern University

PhD in Analytical Chemistry - Northeastern University

## **Elizabeth Duval – Secretary**

Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory

Forensic Scientist II, 2009-present

BS Genetics, Texas A&M University

BS in Forensic Science, University of New Haven

## **Stephanie Minero– Treasurer**

Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Services

Forensic Scientist in the Controlled Substance Analysis Section since 2008

BS in Forensic Science - Long Island University/CW Post

MS in Biology - Long Island University/CW Post

## **Alanna Laureano- Director**

Westchester County Department of Labs & Research, Division of Forensic Sciences Since 2007

Forensic Science Specialist and Assistant DNA Technical Leader

BS in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry- University at Albany, SUNY

MS in Forensic Biology- University at Albany, SUNY

## **Matthew Marino - Director**

New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences, East Regional Laboratory from November 2011 to present

Forensic Scientist 2 in the Drug Unit and Criminalistics Unit

Westchester County, NY Forensic Laboratory from July 2007 to September 2011

Forensic Technician

BS in Natural Sciences with a concentration in Chemistry-St. Thomas Aquinas College

## **Amanda White - Director**

New York State Police Crime Laboratory, FS II- Controlled Substance Analysis from 2019-Present

Westchester County Department of Labs & Research, Controlled Substance Analysis 2016-2019

NYPD Police Laboratory, Controlled Substance Analysis/Latent Print Development 2011-2016

MS Biomedical Forensic Science, Boston University

BS Biology & Anthropology, SUNY Oneonta

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## *A message from Program Chair Adam Hall*

### **2021 NEAFS Annual Meeting to be held in person November 1-5 in Beautiful Newport, Rhode Island**

As the 2021 NEAFS annual meeting nears, I'm growing increasingly excited to share with all of you the program that I have been working on over the course of the past year!

It goes without saying that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented us all with challenges, hardships and losses far beyond what most of us have ever experienced in our lifetimes. Efforts to plan an in person gathering of 350+ scientists from the greater northeast region of the United States at a time such as this has been unnerving and challenging to say the least. However, as days pass, vaccinations rise and new cases diminish, I have become very optimistic that the NEAFS 2021 meeting will as close to a "normal" meeting and experience as possible. At this point in time, I am pleased to announce that all efforts have been directed towards holding the next NEAFS meeting in person in beautiful Newport, RI November 1-5, 2021!

Following Halloween this year we will gather as a community of practitioners, academicians, investigators, students and thought leaders at the Newport Marriott for 3.5 days filled with workshops, scientific sessions, plenary presentations and an evening session which is not to be missed! Workshops will be held on Tuesday, November 2nd and will include (to date): Advanced Topics in Forensic DNA, Scientific Writing and Dissemination, Facial Reconstruction, ABC Examination Preparation, and Fieldable Analytical Detection Technologies.

The scientific sessions will be held on Wednesday, November 3rd will include: Crime Scene Investigation, Forensic Biology, Drugs of Abuse, Criminalistics, Forensic DNA Analysis, Forensic Toxicology and Trace/Arson and Explosives. Also on Wednesday, November 3rd our evening sessions speakers, Drs. James Fox and Jack Levin will discuss the timely topic of mass murder and help us to understand the differences between spree, serial and mass murderers. An inside view from the nation's foremost leaders on the topic will give the NEAFS community a perspective into the minds and motivations behind such heinous acts of violence. A book signing for "Extreme Killing: Understanding Serial and Mass Murder" with drinks and hors d'oeuvres will follow the evening session.

The plenary session scheduled for Thursday, November 4th will be split into a morning and an afternoon session is entitled "Plenary Session I: Guilty Until Proven Innocent: The roles that advocacy and compassion play in establishing innocence" and "Plenary Session II: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt: How the attorney/scientist dialogue and strong forensics build effective prosecutions". Following the plenary session we will all have an opportunity to gather at the President's reception for a fun filled evening for the first time in two years!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in November!

All the best,

Adam B. Hall, Ph.D., ABC-FD  
2021 Program Chair and President Elect



## Is your Lab Looking for a 3D Imaging System for Cartridge Cases & Bullets?

The Evofinder® Automated Ballistic Identifications system provides a unique solution for 3D imaging of both bullets and cartridge cases with a high degree of accuracy and speed as well as providing automatic correlations with statistical analysis. The Evofinder® system is uniquely capable in its ability to capture both pristine and deformed evidence in 3D, quickly and accurately.



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4. Auto-Comparison – Evofinder® software can automatically provide statistical recommendations of possible matched samples within minutes in addition to possible use as a sorting tool for large sample sets.
5. Speed - Scanning of a 3D image of the side of a bullet (pristine bullet, caliber 9 mm), or the 3D bottom surface of a cartridge case (10 mm diameter) can be completed in less than 3 minutes.

Leeds also offers comparison microscopes including the LCF3 Firearm & Tool Mark Comparison Microscope built with Olympus optics, used to analyze and compare bullets and cartridge cases.



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# NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS



For questions, additional information or to volunteer please contact Adam Hall at: [presidentelect@neafs.org](mailto:presidentelect@neafs.org)

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING



**Newport Marriott**

NOVEMBER 1ST 2021 - NOVEMBER 5TH, 2021





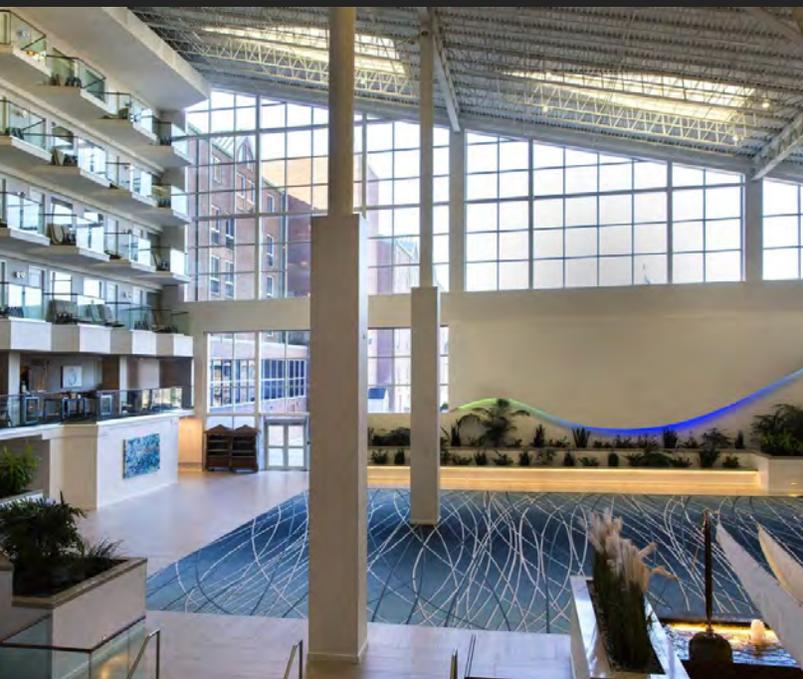
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**NEAFS 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**November 1st - 5th Newport, RI**  
**CALL FOR PAPERS**

Abstract Form can be found on the NEAFS website at [www.neafs.org/callforpapers](http://www.neafs.org/callforpapers).

**MEMBER** or **ACTIVE APPLICANT** presenting a technical talk or poster  
receives **FREE REGISTRATION**

**DEADLINE: *September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021***

**PLEASE NOTE: All presenters must register for the meeting. In addition,  
reimbursement for registration must be submitted after presentation has been  
given at the meeting.**

You will be notified whether your abstract is approved as is, approved with suggested modifications, or not selected. It is recommended that abstracts be from 250 to 500 words and must accurately reflect the content of the presentation.

**Peter R. De Forest Student Competition Rules and Guidelines**

Students may choose to enter their presentation (oral or poster) in the Peter De Forest Student Competition. To be eligible to compete, a presenter must be enrolled as a full or part time undergraduate or graduate student during the time the research was performed and completed. A graduation date within 6 months of the NEAFS meeting at which the work will be presented is acceptable, provided the work was completed before the graduation date. NEAFS membership is not required. Presentations should consist of original research or ideas. Literature reviews will not be accepted into the competition. Students will be judged on both scientific accuracy and presentation skills. For collaborations, only one student will be eligible to present the work and the award will go to the presenter, not the project. No two students may present the same project, even if in a different format (oral vs poster presentation.) The student presenting the work should have contributed and completed the major portion of the work themselves. A student may present their research in both oral and poster format, however only one format may be entered into the competition.

Abstract Form can be found on the NEAFS website at [www.neafs.org/callforpapers](http://www.neafs.org/callforpapers).

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## Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists Meritorious Service Award Nomination Form

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists is accepting nominations for the Meritorious Service Award.

This award is given to a NEAFS member that has a history of providing commendable service to the forensic science community by serving justice through casework, performing research advancing forensic science, training and educating forensic scientists and future forensic scientists, and overall contributions to the NEAFS organization. The nominee must have held the status of Regular Member within NEAFS for at least 10 years to be considered.

All nominations must be received by September 1st. The winner of the NEAFS Meritorious Service Award will be announced during the annual meeting.

**The Nomination Form can be found on the NEAFS website [www.neafs.org](http://www.neafs.org).**



## ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Are you a current full-time undergraduate student in your junior or senior year, or are you either a part-time or full-time graduate student completing his or her degree in a forensic program at a regionally accredited institution located in the Northeastern U.S. (Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania)?

**Then you are eligible to apply for:**

George W. Neighbor Jr. Memorial Scholarship (undergraduate) - Award is \$1750

George W. Neighbor Jr. Memorial Scholarship (graduate) - Award is \$1750

George W. Chin Memorial Scholarship – Award is \$2000

Carol De Forest Forensic Science Research Grants - Award is \$2500

**\*Note** – eligibility is for both full-time undergraduate and graduate students

**\*\* Note** – Two Research Grants will be Awarded.

All submission materials for either the scholarships or the research grants must be completed, and electronically submitted by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The 2020 Awards recipients will be notified no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more information and Scholarship/Research Grant forms please go to <http://www.neafs.org/>

Questions or comments? Please email [Awards@NEAFS.org](mailto:Awards@NEAFS.org)

# THE GEORGE W. CHIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

## NEAFS and the Chin Family



On September 22, 2016, NEAFS lost one of the pioneers of the Association. George had a passion for forensic science and as a self-appointed “God of Trace Evidence”, he liked to share his knowledge and mentor the younger generation. George was one of the co-founders of the Student Forum at NEAFS, where he would teach students about the realities of a job in forensic science. In addition to NEAFS, he was also a life member of the New Jersey Association of Forensic Scientists (NJAFS), a charter member of the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners (ASTEE), and a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and the New Jersey Homicide Investigators Association (NJHIA).

A graduate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice – City University of New York (CUNY), his professional career spanned 36 years with the New Jersey State Police. When George first started in March of 1980, he was briefly assigned to the Equine Laboratory at the Meadowlands, but quickly transitioned to a position at the North Regional Laboratory, where he was able to grow his love for all things Trace Evidence. George loved his work and helped to educate students about our field. He would routinely take his own time to go and lecture to high schools and attend their career fairs. In addition, George has mentored numerous interns over the course of his career, many of whom have him to thank for their current employment!

George’s graciousness was felt by all who came into contact with him and his passing leaves a huge void in the forensic community and in our hearts.

George’s family has graciously set up this Memorial Scholarship fund in his memory and honor.

# THE GEORGE W. CHIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Eligibility requirements for the George W. Chin Memorial Scholarship:

- Currently enrolled in a Forensic Science program
- Full-time undergraduate students in their junior or senior year
- Full or part-time graduate students (limited to first two years for PhD students)
- The student must demonstrate excellence in his/her academic program.

Application requirements:

- Two letters of recommendation (each accompanied with the recommendation form) from Professors involved in the Forensic Science curriculum.
- A letter from the student describing his/her personal aspirations in the Forensics field, achievements and reasons for award consideration. (Minimum of 250 words - maximum of 500 words). This must be provided to the Professors submitting the recommendation letters.
- Applicants should be attending college/university within the area from which the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists draws its members (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania).
- Most current academic transcripts.
- Application requirements must be emailed by **April 30<sup>th</sup>**. Out of fairness to all potential candidates, no exceptions will be made.

Interested candidates should submit the above requirements electronically in a single PDF titled (GWC\_Last name\_First name\_Grad) OR (GWC\_Last name\_First name\_Undergrad) when filling out the application.

# THE GEORGE W. CHIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Are you a current full-time undergraduate student in your junior or senior year, or are you either a part-time or full-time graduate student or in your first two years of your Ph.D. Forensic Science program? Do you attend a college or university within the area from which NEAFS draws its members (CT, NY, NJ, PA, VT, NH, ME, RI, MA)? Do you demonstrate excellence in your academic program?

If Yes, you are eligible to apply for the George W. Chin Memorial Scholarship!

The award is \$2000.00 as well as Associate membership for one year in the NEAFS organization. Membership will be granted to a current member or active applicant as well as a non-member (the application fee will also be included).

All submission materials for the Memorial Scholarship must be completed and electronically submitted by April 30. The award recipients will be notified no later than September 1.

For more information and to obtain the application forms, go to <http://www.neafs.org>

If you have any questions please email: [awards@neafs.org](mailto:awards@neafs.org)



## 2022 NEAFS Annual Meeting

*October 17th- October 21st, 2022*

*Hotel: Sheraton Niagara Falls  
300 Third Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303*

*Meeting: The Conference and Event Center  
Niagara Falls  
101 Old Falls Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303*





## NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS 2021 TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD: JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 - DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS) is proud to offer its members a Training Scholarship Fund (TSF). **Members in good standing are eligible to receive up to \$400 towards training, workshop or non-NEAFS meeting registration and travel expenses.** Individuals will only be allowed reimbursement once per application period. Any NEAFS Annual Meeting expenses are ineligible to receive funding. Reimbursement will occur upon receipt of a certificate showing successful attendance and completion of the course along with an article summarizing the course for the NEAFS newsletter.

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must submit a *Pre-Approval Application* prior to attending the training for which they wish to obtain funding. All applications must be complete with a brief course description, statement as to how the applicant will benefit from attending the training and justification for receiving funding (i.e. insufficient employer funding or continuing education requirements).

Notification will be given to each applicant upon receipt of the *Pre-Approval Application*. This notification lets the applicant know that their submission has been received **by the Awards Chair** at NEAFS and is being reviewed. Applicants can expect to be informed of the acceptance or rejection of their application within 60 days of receiving this *Pre-Approval Application* notification.

Upon successful attendance and completion of the training, all pre-approved applicants must submit a *Reimbursement Application* along with supporting documentation. Whenever possible, a certificate should be provided as proof of attendance and completion. If a certificate is not issued, or is unavailable, a letter from the organizer/instructor verifying the applicant's successful attendance and completion shall suffice. Each Training Scholarship Fund recipient is required to contribute to NEAFS and its members by publishing a written article in the Newsletter. *Reimbursement Applications* will only be considered complete when accompanied by a 1000-word (minimum) course summary.

All application materials can be found on the NEAFS website.

# Certification Reimbursement

The NEAFS Board of Directors has voted to reimburse the American Board of Criminalistics and International Association for Identification exam sitting fees for five NEAFS members (regular or associate) in good standing who pass the ABC or IAI exam. This offer is for any exam completed in 2021. After passing the examination, please fill out the Certification Reimbursement Form ([www.neafs.org](http://www.neafs.org)) and email the completed form with proof of passing the exam to the NEAFS Certification Chair Peter Diaczuk at [certification@neafs.org](mailto:certification@neafs.org). The reimbursement is based on a first come first served basis. Remember you must pass the ABC or IAI exam to be considered for reimbursement.

The following are current examinations that are offered: Comprehensive Criminalistics Examination (CCE)  
Drug Analysis (DA)  
Molecular Biology (MB)  
Fire Debris Analysis (FD)  
Hairs and Fibers (HF)  
Paints and Polymers (PP)

For more information about the examination sitting, please contact Peter Diaczuk at [certification@neafs.org](mailto:certification@neafs.org).

For more information about the examination and the American Board of Criminalistics, please visit <http://www.criminalistics.com>.

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**GET YOUR  
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## Historical facts – NEAFS

- “NEAFS was founded in 1975 by a group of dedicated forensic scientists dedicated to improving the professional status and technical capabilities of individuals engaged in all phases of forensic science.” “To accomplish its goals, NEAFS conducts continuing education seminars featuring workshops and special training sessions. The Annual Meeting...presents a contagious atmosphere of scientific exchange and social congeniality.” Mark Lewis, President 1980
- The first Editor of the newsletter in 1976 was R.E. Gaensslen
- The first meeting of the Executive Board was on May 1, 1976 by President Angelo Fatta. Also in attendance were Vincent Crispino, R.E. Gaensslen, Thomas Kubic, Carl Moller and Alexander Stirton.
  - On this first meeting, it was stated that there were 211 members and this number included applicants. Six of those members were upgraded to Regular members.
  - The first annual meeting was being discussed. The annual meeting was to be a one day meeting on or about October 23, 1976. Tentative sites were John Jay College or C.W. Post College. The schedule was: 8am-12pm Coffee and Registration, business meeting and split sessions; Lunch; 1pm-5pm two general interest talks, split sessions, mixer and dinner. The split sessions included serology, microscopy, arson, toxicology and drug identification. The general interest talks would be short and would be concerning aspects of forensic science that would be unfamiliar or unusual to most members.
- NEAFS was incorporated by the State of Connecticut on May 12, 1976. Vincent Crispino, Thomas Kubic and Henry Lee were the Incorporators.
- The NEAFS newsletters were published by the Forensic Sciences Foundation which was located in Maryland.
- A joint meeting was held on April 15-16 with MAAFS in New Jersey as well as the Annual Meeting of NEAFS on October 29<sup>th</sup> in 1977.
- Dr. Peter De Forest chaired the Hairs and Fibers Session during the Second Annual Meeting. Alexander Stirton chaired the Serology Session and Dr. Jesse Bidanset chaired the Toxicology Session during the Second Annual Meeting.
- The newsletters included information from other regional organizations as well as NEAFS.
- In 1977, the BOD acted as an ad hoc Education Committee and set up two courses intitled: “Forensic Microscopy” and “Introduction to the Forensic Applications of Infrared Spectroscopy”.
- A luncheon was held during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting of NEAFS and consisted of salad, a choice of roast beef or filet of sole, dessert and a beverage for \$6.00. Cocktails were \$1.50 and beer and wine were \$1.00.
- In 1978, the annual meeting was increased to a two day program instead of one day.
- George Neighbor volunteered to chair the Paint analysis program for the 1978 Annual Meeting.
- In 1978, NEAFS sponsored a training course entitled “Basic Bloodstain Analysis” and it was taught by Dr. Henry Lee, Dr. R.E. Gaensslen and Dr. Peter De Forest. This course was held at the University of New Haven.
- George W. Neighbor was the Secretary of NEAFS in 1978.
- Thomas A. Kubic was voted in as a Life Member of NEAFS while he was President in 1978.
- In 1979, Chris Chany was approved to become a Provisional member from a student member and Peter Diaczuk was approved to be a Corresponding member.
- George W. Neighbor was President-elect in 1980.
- Travel reimbursement for mileage was 17 cents/mile in 1980.
- NEAFS had 400 members in 1980.
- In May 1980 in Louisville Kentucky, NEAFS participated in the first multi-regional association meeting.
- George W. Neighbor had a BA degree in Chemistry from Rider College and a MS in Forensic Science from John Jay College. He worked as a Principal Forensic Chemist for the NJSP in the North Regional Laboratory in Little Falls, NJ where he supervises the trace evidence and bio-chemical units. Prior to working with the NJSP, He has

twenty years of industrial research experience in materials analysis. He served as Secretary for two terms (1978-79) and was a member of the AAFS and the Forensic Science Academy. George became President of NEAFS in 1981 – the 7<sup>th</sup> year in NEAFS history. George stated at the end of his President’s message in the March 1981 newsletter “Now you can call me George, or you can call me G.W., or you can call me George W., or you can call me Hi Neighbor”. In 1989, George presented “Trace Evidence Never Grows Old” during the Criminalistics Session.

- In 1997, the Scholarship award was renamed the George W. Neighbor Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- In 1980, the Annual Meeting budget was \$2000.
- 1980 Goals of NEAFS
  - Exchange ideas and information among professionals in the field
  - Promote recognition of forensic science as an important part of the justice system
  - Sponsor and organize seminars, workshops, and special training sessions
  - Represent the membership on national issues affecting forensic science
  - Encourage research and development
  - Stimulate implementation of new methods and techniques
  - Establish professional standards
  - Provide advice on educational curricula, legislation and other matters affecting the profession
  - Arbitrate professional disputes
  - Foster friendship and collegiality among the forensic scientists of the Northeast
- For the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, the room rate was \$55 (single or double).
- The 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting was the first meeting held in New England in Peabody, MA. A clam bake was scheduled.
- The door prizes that were given out at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting were a Commodore 64 Computer, Cannon AE1 Camera, Reflecting Telescope and an AM-FM radio.
- Our current method of visiting the exhibitor booths and obtaining confirmation of the visit goes back to at least the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in 1983.
- The door prizes given out at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting which was donated by Perkin-Elmer were a Video Cassette Recorder, Compact Disk Player, Scientific Programmable Calculator, Cordless Telephone and a Sony Walkman.



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