

# GEORGIA FORENSIC NEWS

The International Association for Identification, Georgia State Division's Official Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 32, Number 2

AUGUST 2002

## **OFFICER SAFETY WARNING: MRI UNIT CAUSES MALFUNCTION OF OFFICER'S SIDEARM**

It has been brought to our attention that law enforcement and security personnel exposure to a Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit could potentially cause weapon malfunction.

After officers from the Manheim Township Police Department in Lancaster County, Penn., responded to a burglar-alarm call at a local medical facility in July 2001, one of the officer's pistols malfunctioned on the firing range.

An investigation revealed that, "Every metal part of the gun was magnetized," Lt. Douglas K. Sing of the Manheim Township PD told Newsline. "Nobody had ever heard of this happening before," he added.

According to a warning Lt. Sing released to the law enforcement community, the semi-automatic pistol was found to have a magnetized firing pin, which stuck to the side of the channel within the slide.

Upon inspection, it was determined that the entire pistol had become so magnetized that paper clips actually stuck to any metal surface. The department

armorer was able to demagnetize the firearm with the use of a high-power, videotape-erasing unit after complete disassembly.

When the malfunction was discovered, the officer had no idea of when or how his pistol had become magnetized. A review of the officer's activities revealed that weeks earlier he had investigated a burglar-alarm call at the medical office that was equipped with an MRI unit. During the investigation, the officer walked into the MRI suite. As it is completely expected that the responding officers would not want to give away their position to a potential suspect, they did not turn on the lights in order to maintain that element of surprise.

However, in doing this, the officers did not see the warning in the suite to avoid entering with metal objects. MRI medical per-

sonnel indicated that the magnet is always "on," so they have detailed instructions on safety, which include keeping metal objects away from the unit. Upon further inspection, two additional officer's firearms were also found to have been magnetized.

**RECOMMENDATION:**  
NEVER enter an MRI suite if you have any metal or electronic device implanted in your body because the results could be fatal. Awareness of this situation could prevent serious or deadly consequences. Further, the fact that there is no outward sign that a firearm may not function as a result of MRI/magnetic exposure makes this problem difficult to detect.

**ALL ISSUE FIREARMS  
SHOULD BE CHECKED FOR  
THIS CONDITION.**

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*President's Message**Shannon Hale*

Hello Everyone! I hope you and your families have been well since the last newsletter in June. A big thank you goes to members Detective Chad Knight and S/A Terry Cooper for their hospitality and direction for our Spring Meeting in Commerce, June 28. The Commerce Police Department provided a great BBQ lunch—thank you so much for your generosity. Mr. Bob Lavender from the District Attorney's Office up yonder lectured on the legalities we all deal with regarding the admissibility and presentation of scientific evidence in a court of law. Not the most *exciting* of topics but perhaps the most *important* in these days of Daubert, Harper, and Frye. I was fortunate enough to attend the IAI Conference in Las Vegas recently along with several other GA IAI members. The two Daubert presentations were packed with people from all disciplines. Kasey Wertheim, Ron Smith, and Steve Meagher offered several hours of insight into preparation and presentation techniques when faced with the recurring Daubert issues we all will experience.

Unfortunately, due to family commitments, Ms. Teresa Race stepped down from her position on the IAI Board of Directors. We hope to regain a position on the

Board for next year's conference in Canada. We sold over \$225.00 worth of pins and T-shirts at the conference, which is not bad for only one afternoon of selling! Thank you to Al Pryor, Brenda Hutson, and Suzanne Cowen for their help sitting at our little booth! We had several comments that our pin was the best pin of any state division—thanks Marla Lawson!! Start making plans to attend the meeting in Canada, set for July 6-11, 2003. We will be making a list of folks who will be willing to share rooms to save money.

I hope you all are as excited about going to Athens as I am! The schedule of classes is being finalized as I write to you. That information will soon be available along with hotel and registration information on our awesome website [www.gai.ai.org](http://www.gai.ai.org). Stephen Greene has truly outdone himself with the website. Along with constant updates, we now have a message board and all sorts of surveys like where we want to have our next annual conference and what type of training you may desire. Check it out and give us your feedback so we can provide you with the best website possible.

Please contact us with any comments about the GA IAI. This is your organization and we officers are here to serve you. I look

forward to seeing you all in Athens. Take care and have

## Publication Information

The *Georgia Forensic News* is published quarterly on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. Deadline for submissions is four weeks prior to publication. Submissions can be sent to the Editor at the address on the back of this newsletter. Any articles in this publication can be republished with credit given to the author. The Editor's daytime telephone number is (404) 469-7039, and e-mail address is [editor@gai.ai.org](mailto:editor@gai.ai.org).

## ADVERTISING

The current advertising fees are:

- \$100 per full page ad for four consecutive issues
- \$50 per half page ad for four consecutive issues
- \$25 per quarter page ad for four consecutive issues

**Make checks payable to: GA IAI**

**Remit to: GA IAI Editor  
93 Bates Ave., NE  
Atlanta, GA 30317**

## E-MAIL & ADDRESS CHANGES

Keep us updated with your contact information!

Send e-mail and address changes to: GA IAI Editor, 93 Bates Ave. NE; Atlanta, GA 30317. Or e-mail changes to:

**[editor@gai.ai.org](mailto:editor@gai.ai.org)  
or  
[sec-treasurer@gai.ai.org](mailto:sec-treasurer@gai.ai.org)**

A reminder to all members to please forward a current e-mail address so that we can forward important information to you.

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*Editor's Message**Juliet H. Wood*

Dear Members,

This is the first issue that I have co-edited with David Leedah. While I am excited to be working on the newsletter, I am sad to see Dave go. Thank you, Dave, for the past two years you have put in as Editor and for the help on this newsletter. Best wishes!

You may see some changes in format from time to time. This may occur from incorporating ideas from other newsletters, or it may just happen because I have inadvertently deleted something and cannot replicate it. In any case, the purpose of this newsletter will not change, and that is to keep you all informed with the events of our organization and provide you with news from the forensic fields.

While I will try to include articles dealing with our various disciplines, I encourage you to please write in to share your stories and experiences. These can be stories of general interest, interesting cases, new processing techniques or hints, innovation developments, comments on the articles—anything you would like to share with your fellow members that would help us expand our knowledge base. Member accomplishments, milestones, and other announcements are welcome also.

We have an exciting fall season coming up with the conference in Athens. You will find the necessary forms to register for

this conference in this issue as well as the ballot to vote for next year's Division Officers and Board of Directors. If you cannot attend the conference, please do send in your absentee ballot! The schedule of seminars for the conference is still being finalized, but please do check our new website, [www.gaiai.org](http://www.gaiai.org), for up-to-date conference information, as well as for other types of information.

Again, please help me make this the newsletter for you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Juliet H. Wood

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### 2001-2002 Committees

#### Membership:

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#### Sciences & Practices

Chairperson-Stephen Greene

#### Latent Print Certification

Chairperson-Andrew McIntyre

#### Crime Scene Certification

Chairperson-Galen Noll

#### Nominating

Chairperson-Lou A. Cuendet

#### Resolutions

Chairperson-Charlie Moss

#### Legislative

Chairperson-Robert L. Windham

#### Long Range Planning

Chairperson-Douglas Shafer

#### Conference Planning

Chairperson-David T. Leedah

*(Continued from page 1)*

Police department and medical-facility security personnel should notify officers of the following:

-- Investigations within medical facilities could magnetize an issue firearm rendering it inoperable.

-- The test to determine if a firearm has become magnetized is to place a paper clip next to the firearm. If the paper clip clings to the firearm, a supervisor should be notified immediately.

-- A trained department-designated officer should verify the firearm is magnetized and the firearm should be demagnetized with the use of a high-powered videotape-erasing unit after it has been completely disassembled.

-- The firearm should be test-fired prior to being returned to service.

Calibre Press urges officers to heed this warning and familiarize yourselves with these precautions. The officers at Manheim Township PD were fortunate that the malfunction was discovered on the firing range rather than during an incident, said Lt. Sing. It could have been a lot worse.

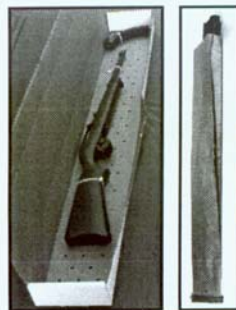
*Article forwarded by the Chesapeake Bay Division IAI's Secretary-Treasurer, who received it from their Sergeant-at-Arms. Original source unknown.*



# VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.gaiai.org](http://www.gaiai.org)

- Get updated information on upcoming events
- Find GA IAI contact information
- Download the newsletter
- Download membership forms
- View merchandise
- Read Bylaws and Constitution
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## EVIDENCE COLLECTION AND PACKAGING SPECIALISTS

<u>Evidence Packaging</u>	<u>Fingerprint Supplies</u>	<u>Crime Scene</u>	<u>Photography</u>	<u>KITS</u>
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# **ANNOUNCING**

## **GEORGIA STATE DIVISION INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION'S**

### **32nd ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR**

to be held at

HOLIDAY INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
197 E. Broad Street  
ATHENS, GEORGIA

from

October 28 to November 1, 2002

Seminar topics include:

- Daubert Issues
- Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome
- Courtroom Testimony
- Blood Spatter Workshop
- AFIS/GCIC
- Digital Photography
- Mass Disaster Investigation/Noble Incident
- Child Abuse Investigation

Vote for next year's Division Officers and Board of Directors.

Vote on Resolutions to the Bylaws and Constitution.

Continue checking the GA IAI website, [www.gaiai.org](http://www.gaiai.org), for the finalized agenda.



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## GEORGIA STATE DIVISION INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION

32nd ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR REGISTRATION  
HOLIDAY INN AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
ATHENS, GEORGIA  
October 28 to November 1, 2002

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GAIAI# \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Members—Full Seminar*	\$125.00	\$ _____
Non-Members—Full Seminar*	\$150.00	\$ _____
Non-Member Spouse*	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
Registration per day	\$ 25.00	\$ _____
Late Fee	\$ 15.00	\$ _____
Presidential Reception	\$ 15.00	\$ _____
BBQ at UGA Stadium Sky Suites	\$ 15.00	\$ _____
Installation Banquet	\$ 20.00	\$ _____

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*includes Presidential Reception, BBQ at UGA Stadium Sky Suites, and Installation Banquet

Entry to social events will be by ticket only. Social events admission is included in payment of full registration and spousal registration. For all others, tickets will be available from the Secretary-Treasurer.

Registration is requested by October 15, 2002. After October 15, late fees will apply.

Hotel reservations must be made separately. The hotel is located at 197 E. Broad Street, Athens, GA. Rates are \$69.00 + tax (Courtyard Rooms) or \$74.00 + tax (Tower Rooms). Use Referral Code "GAIAI" when making reservations. Contact Beth Elzea in Sales with issues in reservations at (706) 354-6404 or fax (706) 548-3031.

Mail registration and fees to: Georgia State Division IAI  
ATTN: David Leedahl/Conference Coordinator  
200 Louise Drive  
Commerce, GA 30529

For further information, contact David Leedahl at (706) 613-3337, Ext. 316.

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**GEORGIA STATE DIVISION  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION**

**VENDOR APPLICATION/REGISTRATION  
32nd ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR  
Holiday Inn and Conference Center  
Athens, Georgia  
October 28 to November 1, 2002**

I/We hereby make application to establish a vendor's site at the Georgia State Division Annual Educational Conference.

The individual table fee for this conference is \$125.00, which includes all three social events for one representative. The fee for each additional representative is the cost of whichever social event(s) the representative wishes to attend. The social events and fees are: Presidential Reception--\$15, BBQ at UGA Stadium Sky Suites--\$15, and Installation Banquet--\$20.

The vendors' area will be open the following times:

Tuesday, October 29	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 30	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 31	9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Registered vendors will be afforded the opportunity to make a short presentation prior to the opening of the vendors' area on Tuesday.

We are anticipating a registration of approximately 75 to 100 participants.

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**SPECIAL NEEDS/REQUESTS** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail application together with registration fee to: Andrew McIntyre  
Georgia State Division, IAI  
1721 Stone Trace Court  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-4340

Registration is requested by October 15, 2002.

**Note:** If you are planning on shipping equipment in advance, contact Beth Elzea at the Holiday Inn to verify shipping at (706) 354-6404 or fax (706) 548-3031. **Mark packages for GAIAI.**

## Resolutions to the Constitution and Bylaws

### **Resolution 2002-1**

The Constitution of the Georgia State Division of the International Association for Identification as appended hereto shall be adopted in its entirety.

The purpose of the new Constitution shall be:

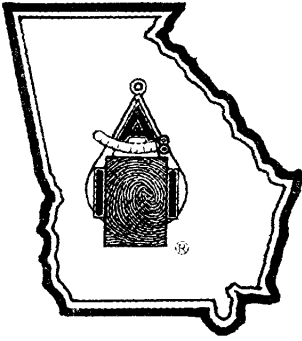
1. To incorporate changes made to the Constitution as adopted and revised in 1972, 1976, 1980, 1982, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1999 and 2000.
2. To renumber items.
3. To incorporated consistent terms and language throughout the document.

***This is the second reading of the resolution and will be voted upon at the Educational Conference in Athens.***

### **Resolution 2002-2**

The Bylaws of the Georgia State Division of the International Association for Identification are to be amended to conform with the proposed Constitution changes.

***The proposed Bylaws will be posted at the Educational Conference in Athens for review.***



GEORGIA STATE DIVISION  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR IDENTIFICATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please complete and return to:  
Georgia State Division, I.A.I.  
8316 Winston Way, Jonesboro, GA 30236  
ANNUAL FEE: \$25

I hereby make application for membership in the Georgia State Division, International Association for Identification in accordance with its Bylaws and Constitution and agree to be bound by them.

I am applying for:  
(defined on reverse)

Active Membership

Associate Membership

PLEASE COMPLETE  
BOTH ADDRESSES.  
Check mailing preference

Name in Full: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employed by: \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_  
In what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?  
 NO  
 YES (If yes, give full details on other side.)

of fees, which will be refunded if application is rejected. *Incomplete applications will be returned.*

- 2. I understand that application fees paid to the Association by any new applicant between January 1 and August 31 shall be applied to the membership dues for that calendar year only; fees paid by an applicant on or after September 1 shall be applied to the following calendar year.

- 4. Also, I understand that my Membership Certificate is the property of the Division and must be returned to the Secretary upon my *resignation or suspension*.

Because this information will be used for compiling our Membership Directory, PLEASE be precise and complete ALL items.

- 3. All applications MUST be accompanied by payment Lapel Pin is optional for \$5.00.

**5. PLEASE NUMBER UP TO THREE AREAS OF YOUR EXPERTISE**  
Indicate your primary discipline as Number 1, then other areas as 2 and 3.

___ Bloodstain Pattern Analysis	___ Fingerprint Identification	___ Laboratory Analysis
___ Crime Scene Investigation	___ Forensic Art	___ Polygraph
___ Innovative/Gen. Techniques	___ Footwear/Tire Tracks	___ Questioned Documents
___ Firearms & Toolmarks	___ Forensic Photography/ Electronic Imaging	___ Voice Print & Acoustics

6. Recommender: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member's # \_\_\_\_\_  
Member's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Recommender's Signature (Required) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Membership Committee Chairperson and Date

STATE DETAILS OF "YES" Answer to Question 1 below:

**PERSONAL HISTORY**

Degree and/or Honors and other Qualifications for Membership

**MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS**

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

Active membership of the Georgia State Division shall consist of heads of Bureaus of Identification or Investigation (including persons under their supervision who are engaged in the science of identification), heads of Police Departments, Chiefs of Detectives and Sheriffs, provided however, that the foregoing persons are bona fide employees of, and who receive salaries from National, State, County, or Municipal Governments, or some subdivision.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

All reputable persons wholly or partially engaged in any of the various phases of the science of identification and who are not qualified for Active Membership are eligible to become Associate Members. They shall, in all respects, be subject to the same rights and privileges as Active Members, except that they shall not be entitled to the office of Vice President or President.

**I certify that the information herein contained is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Any omission or falsification of information will be a basis for rejection or denial of continued membership.**

Applicant's Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**GEORGIA STATE DIVISION  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION**

**ABSENTEE BALLOT**

The following is quoted from the Bylaws of the Georgia State Division of the International Association for Identification:

Para 3.04 (4) Absentee Ballot. An Absentee Ballot with the name of each candidate selected by the Nominating Committee for each elected office will be mailed to each member in good standing prior to the Annual Training Seminar. The ballot will be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer in a sealed envelope marked "Absentee Ballot" to be received no later than the opening date of the Annual Training Seminar. [8:30 AM, October 28, 2002]

**OFFICERS**  
**Vote for one for each office.**

- President**     Douglas W. Shafer  
                   \_\_\_\_\_
- 1st Vice President**     Stephen D. Greene  
                                   \_\_\_\_\_
- 2nd Vice President**     David T. Leedahl  
                                   \_\_\_\_\_
- Secretary-Treasurer**     Denise Williams  
                                   \_\_\_\_\_
- Sergeant-at-Arms**     Earl W. Osbon, Jr.  
                                   \_\_\_\_\_
- Editor**             Juliet H. Wood  
                                   \_\_\_\_\_
- Historian**         Karen Underwood  
                                   \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Vote for five (5).**

- Robert L. (Butch) Windham  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Katrina L. Murdock  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Terry J. Cooper  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Brenda Hutson  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Marion McDonald  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

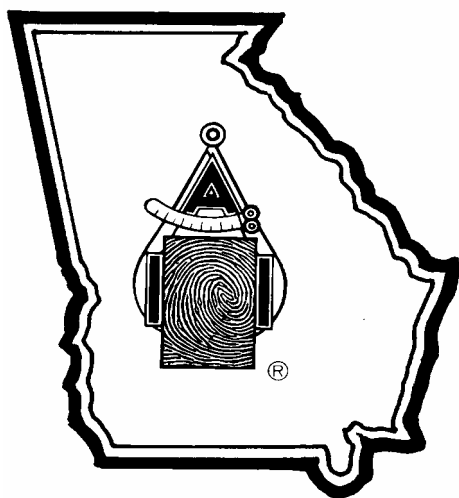
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*GAIAI #*

Return ballots in a sealed envelope marked "Absentee Ballot" before October 28, 2002 to:  
Denise Williams  
Secretary-Treasurer, GA IAI  
8316 Winston Way  
Jonesboro, GA 30236





Next newsletter mailing date:  
November 2002

# GEORGIA FORENSIC NEWS

**International Association for Identification**  
**Georgia State Division**  
**Juliet H. Wood, Editor**  
**93 Bates Ave., NE**  
**Atlanta, GA 30317**