

To: ASC Board
From: Chris Eskridge
Date: October 23, 2015
Re: Executive Director's Report

This has again been a very busy six months since we last met. We continue to be financially sound, and remain a vibrant, active professional society. The Washington, D.C. meetings are turning out to be larger than expected, with perhaps as many as 3,600 coming from 25-30 countries. In sum, over the last six months, things have moved along, and we have engaged in the normal flow of business, as normal as anything is with this very dynamic and active organization of ours. A few detailed thoughts:

1. *Divisions*

As usual, I try to stay in touch with the divisions, especially at this time of the year as they make their annual meeting plans. It appears as if we might be getting yet another division soon, a white collar crime division. As noted in the financial report, all 10 of the divisions are doing well, with solid membership and positive account balances.

2. *Committees*

Our more than 30 committees and liaison representatives have been active and have fulfilled their assignments in a timely fashion. I have stayed in touch with the various chairs and liaison reps when needed.

3. *Policy and Procedures Manual*

We made all of the updates to the Policy and Procedures manual subsequent to the Spring Board Meeting, and posted it on the web.

4. *Columbus Office Activities*

The Columbus staff continues to perform above and beyond, handling the elections, getting the annual meeting program together and handling the myriad of meeting logistics, dealing with the newsletter, keeping the membership list and databases up to date, interacting with divisions and committee members, managing the webpage, and managing our funds in an orderly fashion. Of particular note, all three of the staff have been working together to upgrade the various forms on our website. It's been truly a team effort, and quite the task, with a substantial amount of testing and re-testing. Our membership and registration forms are particularly complicated (our members can join any of 10 divisions and can select from 7 different journals and choose to receive each of those journals in different ways), and that has required a significant effort on their part. Their focus, patience and hours of work on this project has truly been above and beyond. The company we have contracted with for the program app, upgraded that software this year. This has pushed Susan Case quite a bit. She has also taken on the task of being another primary contact for our various hotel and drayage firm personnel. Nicole has had to learn to decipher the new investment statements on the financial end, and Kelly has taken on additional Annual Meeting duties. I would like to particularly note that Nicole and Kelly took on the task of enhancing our online Employment Exchange process, and are now doing the same with *The Criminologist* ads. Tying these online transactions into our shopping cart, many of which involve international

monetary exchanges, has been a challenge. The ASC staff are ASC “people”, and are totally dedicated to the growth and development of the organization. They regularly brain storm as to how to streamline work as they keep getting pushed in different directions (again, we have 10 divisions now and some 30+ committees and organizational liaison representatives). The staff evaluates old vs new ways of handling their tasks, with a constant eye toward cost effectiveness. They work together to help ASC run and to make each growing annual meeting a seamless event. In sum, we have an extremely professional, dedicated, and committed staff who are focused on the health and well-being of ASC, who regularly go the extra mile, and who are always looking for ways to save ASC money. We are very fortunate.

5. *Annual Meeting Preparations*

- A. Washington, D.C. (2015) - We did our site visit last Spring in conjunction with the Mid-year Board Meeting and lined things up. We have worked with the hotel staff since of course. The hotel is full, the overflow hotels are full, things are organized, the program book is printed, the app program is up and running, bags and badges have been ordered....we are ready to go!
- B. New Orleans (2016) – Susan Case and Kelly Vanhorn went to New Orleans last Spring and took a good look at the hotel (New Orleans Riverside Hilton). The hotel has built eight additional breakout rooms since we signed the contract. This is going to give us the “breathing room” we need to deal with the likely 1,000+ sessions that we will hold. We have secured a great venue, and we look to a great meeting.
- C. Philadelphia (2017) – Susan Case and I will be traveling to Philadelphia this Spring to get a good look at the Philadelphia Marriott. Our audio-visual provider, who is based in Philadelphia, will also be joining us.

6. *Annual Meeting Location for 2027*

The Board asked me to look at some new cities for the 2027 meetings, namely San Antonio, Dallas, Denver, and Austin. I found that there are no hotels big enough to conveniently handle us nor near enough to a convention center in Denver or San Antonio. The Austin hotel situation is still too fluid at the moment to make a hard decision in my view (lots of building going on and nice plans are in place, but things are not in place just yet), and flight connections are somewhat suspect into Austin, especially for our international participants. So, that really left Dallas (now the #3 most airline connected city in the world). Dallas has 3 large hotels that at least on paper would work for us. Consequently I traveled to Dallas with Doug Weiss (our Experient rep) to check them out – the downtown Sheraton, the Anatole Hilton, and the Gaylord Marriott. My assessment is that the Gaylord is just too far away from things (like the Gaylord in Washington, D.C.). It’s a lovely property, but just too far out. The Sheraton is right downtown, and it could meet our needs, but I am a bit concerned about growth issues. We would be right on the cusp with their breakout space and sleeping room space. The Sheraton is roughly a mile away from the Convention Center, so that option would be out. In addition, the Sheraton is in the financial district and there is not a lot

around that area. The Anatole Hilton has more than enough sleeping rooms, and plenty of breakout space even with anticipated organizational growth. Perhaps more importantly, the Anatole Hilton breakout space is of the right size and configuration for us as well. The area around the Anatole is also beginning to develop and should be a booming place in 12 years. I can also report that the Anatole Hilton staff went the extra mile, and showed real interest in hosting our meeting. My experience is that when hotels do this up front, we get that same kind of treatment when we are on-site as well. So, I propose that we sign with the Anatole Hilton for our 2027 meeting, but there is more. We really need to sign at least two contracts with the same firm to get the best deal. Consequently, I propose that we sign with the New Orleans Riverside Hilton for 2028, the same hotel where we will be meeting next year. The New Orleans Riverside Hilton has plenty of breakout space and sleeping rooms, and is directly adjacent to the Convention Center (ie., extra breakout space). By going with two Hilton's in a row, we will pick up some great concessions from Hilton National Sales (lower attrition rate, a better comp ratio, lower sleeping room rates, free wifi and microphones, etc)., and we will also be getting back on the good side of the Hilton family, after having cancelled two Hilton contracts in D.C. this year. In addition, by signing with the New Orleans Riverside, they will treat us a little nicer next year when we are there! On the negative side, Dallas and New Orleans are both in the south. That would give us back to back meetings in that geographic region, but they are two very different cities, and pragmatically two new locations for our meeting rotation (we last met in Dallas in 1978 and in New Orleans in 1992). I propose that we move in this direction.

7. Ice Cream Social

I saved the best until last as always. All current Board Members are invited to participate in the Ice Cream Social which will take place from 1:30 to 2:45 on Thursday in the Exhibit Hall foyer. The event will again be sponsored by Wiley (thank goodness, as the ice cream is \$63/gallon this year)...get ready to do some scooping, as the aprons are ready!