



# OHIO INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

The Professional Association for State Investigators

77 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

## NEWSLETTER

January 2005 Issue

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### OIA MEETING DATES 2005

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| January   | 26                            |
| March     | 23                            |
| May       | 25                            |
| July      | 27                            |
| September | 28                            |
| November  | 9 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) |

### *PRESIDENT'S LETTER*

By Gary Kennedy

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Well, to the fortune or misfortune of OIA, I'm here for another year as President! Seriously though, all joking aside, I want to thank all of the OIA members for their support this past year. I've called upon many of you for assistance, which you've given without hesitation. I am truly honored and blessed to be associated with such a fine group of individuals.

A special thank you to Greg Perry, Alan Bonham, and Arnie Schropp for sitting on the panel at the November meeting. The panel discussion was interesting, informative and exciting.

I want to thank the officers and committee members for all of their hard work this past year. We were able to accomplish a lot in 2004: Revised the Bylaws, updated the website, co-sponsored the Attorney General's Conference on Law Enforcement and the Fraud Conference, put into motion the First Annual Investigator and Fraud Examiner Training Conference, and even found time for a Pizza Party. A lot more is planned for this year, so keep checking the website.

The holiday awards banquet was a good time as usual. Every attendee was given a door prize, and in fact, we have some items left over so plan on attending the meetings. We plan to have a drawing at each meeting. Also, be sure to frequent the sponsors' establishments often and to thank them for their support. A special THANKS to Faith Ottavi who helped pull together the finishing touches for the Holiday Banquet. I couldn't have done it without you!

We had several deserving members receive this past year, but the following three were presented with plaques at the banquet: Randy McGough received a special Service Award for his work as the Treasurer of OIA for the past two years. Thank you for your outstanding service. Kelli Coleman DelGuzzo received the President's Award for her work and dedication, which allowed many the accomplishments in 2004 to be possible. Thanks Kelli for all your hard work. Our Investigator of the Year, Steven W. Southard, Sr., is commended for his investigative work on the Fairfield County fires. His investigation revealed serial arsonists at work and his effort led to the arrest of five individuals. Steve will be our speaker at the January 26, 2005 meeting and will be discussing this case along with giving a demonstration of ALEX. Congratulations Steve!

Congratulations to the 2005 officers:  
Kelli Coleman DelGuzzo : Vice President  
David Crawford: Treasurer  
Vickie DiCesare: Secretary  
Please check the website or the last page of the newsletter for updated officer contact information.

Thanks to everyone and see you on the 26<sup>th</sup>!



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### ***SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS***

Steven Schierholt was appointed as the Executive Director of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

Kelli Coleman DelGuzzo on the birth of her son, Coleman "Cole" David on November 24, 2004.

### ***TRAINING OPPORTUNITY***

The First Annual Investigator and Fraud Examiner Training Conference will be held on February 11, 2005. Go to <http://www.oia.homestead.com/oia.html> for more info.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Edwin Scott Harter  
Edward Baldzicki  
Brian Sweeney  
Larry Deese

**MEMBERSHIP TOTAL IS NOW 101!**

### ***OIA CONTACTS***

#### **Officers & Committee Chairs for 2005**

##### **President:**

Gary Kennedy (D) 644-5955  
[gkennedy@serb.state.oh.us](mailto:gkennedy@serb.state.oh.us)

##### **Vice-President:**

Kelli Coleman DelGuzzo (D) 644-9176  
[Kelli.Coleman@exchange.state.oh.us](mailto:Kelli.Coleman@exchange.state.oh.us)

##### **Secretary:**

Vickie DiCesare (D) 728-2438  
[Vickie.dicesare@slpaud.state.oh.us](mailto:Vickie.dicesare@slpaud.state.oh.us)

##### **Treasurer:**

David Crawford, Jr. (D) 466-0900  
[DCRAWFORD@AG.STATE.OH.US](mailto:DCRAWFORD@AG.STATE.OH.US)

##### **Nominating Committee Chair:**

Alan Bonham (D) 644-7139  
[ABONHAM@serb.state.oh.us](mailto:ABONHAM@serb.state.oh.us)

### ***OIA MEMBER PROFILE***

**Name:** Steven W. Southard  
**Position:** Deputy State Fire Marshal  
**OIA Membership:** Since 2003  
by Gary Kennedy

This month we're profiling the OIA 2004 recipient of Investigator of the Year award: Steven W. Southard, Sr.

Steve has been a Deputy State Fire Marshal since 1999. He has worn many hats throughout the years serving as firefighter, police officer, paramedic, and a harbor patrol captain. Steve has received extensive training in arson investigation and related areas. Steve is a member of the North American Police Work Dog Association and a recipient of numerous honors, awards, and commendations. These awards include the Lifesaving Award, the Jack Pyle Memorial Award given to the investigator of the year by the Southern Ohio Fire Investigators Association and the Ohio Fire Marshal's Office, commendations from the U.S. Department of Justice Crisis Management Team, the Huron Police Division, Huron Fire Department, and Providence Hospital.

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
GO TO**

<http://www.oia.homestead.com/oia.html> to fill out your application.



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### ***AGENCY PROFILE***

#### **Agency: State Personnel Board of Review**

The State Fire Marshal's Office was created by the Ohio General Assembly on April 16, 1900. The law was primarily adopted as a statewide means to combat arson. The duties of the office expanded to include the inspection of buildings, public education and fire prevention education. Today, the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office is organized into five bureaus and is the oldest functioning State Fire Marshal's Office in the country.

The Fire and Explosion Investigations Bureau investigates the origin and cause of fire and associated crimes at the request of fire departments, Federal, State, Local agencies, and insurance companies. If an investigation determines a fire is arson, a case is compiled and presented to the local prosecutor for further action. Occasionally, an arrest is necessary right on the spot. Fire Marshal investigators have arrest powers. As part of their investigation, investigators depend upon ignitable liquid detection dogs, polygraphists, and a modern state-of-the-art forensic laboratory.

The Fire Prevention Bureau provides on average 2,500 fire safety and training programs for schools, businesses, and civic organizations. Annually, more than 70,000 children and adults take part in potentially lifesaving educational programs.

The Code Enforcement Bureau inspects structures throughout the state to ensure compliance with the Ohio Fire Code. The structures include state-owned buildings, schools, nursing homes, foster care and group homes, day care facilities, hospital maternity and psychiatric wards, and hotels/motels.

The Ohio Fire Academy offers over 150 training and education programs for 2,500 individuals on average each year. Field training courses reach an additional 12,000 fire fighters and students across the state. The Academy boasts an extensive film library for use in local training.

The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation regulates Ohio's underground storage tanks program. It works to prevent and detect releases of petroleum from regulated tanks, and reviews and evaluates corrective actions.

For more information, go to  
<http://www.com.state.oh.us/sfm/>

### ***THIS WEEK COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER***

*By Gary Kennedy*

Anyone who reads the "This Week" community newspapers probably saw the feature on the OIA in the December 23, 2004 edition. Kevin Parks did a nice job on the article and photographer Lorrie Cecil even made Alan and me look good. I've got copies for anyone interested in reading it.

### ***JOB OPPORTUNITY***

Visit the following website,  
<http://statejobs.ohio.gov/applicant/index.asp>  
or the links found at for the latest job openings.