



OHIO INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

The Professional Association for State Investigators
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

NEWSLETTER

March 2001 Issue

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

I bid all of you a hearty welcome as we shake the winter blahs and prepare for spring. Another exciting and informative year is planned for you. One of the things that impresses me most about our association is the wealth of knowledge and experience shared among our members. An overwhelming majority of you recognize this too. Many of you stated in the OIA survey last year that you would like to know more about what our members are doing. Over the course of this year, we will feature a few OIA members in our newsletter and as the keynote speaker at the luncheons. Check out the topics and speakers for future meetings at www.oia.homestead.com/oiaevents.html. If you would like to be profiled for an upcoming issue or have an interest in speaking at one of our meetings, please contact any OIA officer or me directly.

Now, here's a word about membership – RENEW! Or, for you new prospects – JOIN! As you probably know, membership to the OIA is renewed on an annual basis. Our membership drive runs between January through March. Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership application for the 2001 membership year. If you haven't renewed your membership, please take the time now to complete the application and return it to us with your membership dues as soon as possible. Feel free to make copies of the application if other investigators within your agency would like to join the OIA this year. Applications are also available on our web site at

www.oia.homestead.com/membership.html.

If you would like to be included in the 2001 edition of OIA Roster, we must receive your application by March 31st. Be sure to check out

our home page at

www.oia.homestead.com/home.html for updates and information.

We will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday on a bi-monthly basis, with the exception of November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Please visit our web site for the meeting dates, times, and location. For the benefit of you veteran members out there, the time and place are still the same as last year.

Our speaker for March will be fellow OIA member Rick Bivens with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Internal Affairs Department. Mr. Bivens will share his experiences and discuss some of the interesting issues confronting the Internal Affairs Department at his agency, such as employee theft/fraud, workplace violence, and dealing with public perceptions and expectations about investigations handled by his department.

See you at the March meeting.

Gregg

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Meeting Dates

January
March
May
July
September
November



Please visit
about these meetings.

OIA OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Officers & Committee Chairs for 2001

President – Gregg Thornton.....
644-9110
Vice-Pres – Lou Agosta.....
466-8164
Secretary – Linda Hardesty.....
461-0256
Treasurer – Arnie Schropp.....
644-9110
Membership – Faith Ottavi
466-4135
Professional Development – Terry McLaughlin
466-9290
Newsletter – Mark Levy
644-9177
Nominating – Alan Bonham
644-7139
By-Laws – Mike Moran.....
644-7032

SPECIAL THANKS

OIA Banquet



Special thanks to Faith Ottavi, Diana Coulter, and Laurie Rinehart-Thompson for arranging many of the fabulous door prizes at our banquet last December. Thanks to their efforts, everyone who attended received a door prize. We would also like to thank the following merchants for their donations: Lynd's Fruit Farm and Market, Trade Secret Salon at City Center, Amy's Hallmark at City Center, The Links at Echo Springs, Patio and Hearth Shoppe, Ruth Wagner (Faith's Mom), Buckeye Hall of Fame Café, Cliff Nelson at the Ohio State Racing Commission, Mitchell's Steak House, Broad Street Bagels & Deli, Peppers New York Deli, California Fitness Center, and Brenen's Coffee House & Café.

CONGRATULATIONS

Investigator of the Year Award – Steven Schierholt

President's Award – Faith Ottavi

Service Award – Laurie Rinehart-Thompson –
2 years as OIA Vice President

Service Award – Deb Gearhiser – 2 years as
OIA Treasurer

Special Service Award – Geof Von
Weimerskirch for OIA logo design

Special Recognition Award – Mark Levy for
OIA Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

OIA SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE

Please visit our web site for registration information about our co-sponsorship of the spring training conference entitled, ***“Emerging Trends in Fraud.”*** The one-day conference will take place in Columbus on Friday, May 4, 2001. Registration forms will be mailed to OIA members the first week of March.



OUR FOCUS FOR 2001

This year our agenda will be to continue to provide opportunities for members to network and share information and resources with each other. We will accomplish this by 1) holding bi-monthly meetings and featuring speakers who will address topics of general interest in the field of investigations; 2) disseminating the OIA newsletter on a regular basis containing news about the association, training opportunities offered by other organizations; 3) disseminating to our members the OIA Roster as a network and resource guide; 4) co-sponsoring with the Auditor of State and Central Ohio Chapter of Association of Certified Fraud Examiners a one-day training seminar on May 4, 2001, on the topic of Emerging Trends in Fraud; 5) continuing our role as a co-sponsor of the Ohio Attorney General Law Enforcement Conference held in the fall; 6) recognizing the accomplishments (“Investigator of the Year Award”) of our members at the annual OIA Banquet in December.

The OIA Newsletter is published six times a year for its members. Submissions by e-mail are welcomed year-round and can be addressed to Mark B. Levy, Newsletter Editor.