

A Message from the President

January 2001

Fellow Members,

Hope everyone had a happy holiday season and has returned to work with a renewed enthusiasm and an opportunity to work a little overtime to help with the holiday bills. I'd like to thank each of you for allowing me to serve as president of the largest state chapter of the International Association for Identification. It is an honor and a privilege and I will do my best to serve you and the association.

As I prepared to write this message, I reviewed the past eight years of president's messages and found a common theme to them all. It was said in many different ways, but came down to the following plea,

PLEASE TAKE AN INTEREST AND GET INVOLVED IN THE ORGANIZATION!!

As I reflect on that theme, I wonder why we have had such a problem attracting member participation. Are we apathetic, not interested, too busy, or just reluctant to volunteer? An answer needs to be found before we become just another state division, with a 6-page newsletter and a 2-day annual conference.

The Board of Directors has wrestled with these questions for some time now and has taken some drastic action to encourage member involvement in association business. The number of Directors has been reduced from 10 to 5 and their duties have been re-focused on conducting association business. The requirement to hold training sessions has been eliminated and directors will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred while attending the spring and fall board meetings. This is an attempt to generate interest in serving as an association director and these changes will be watched by the long range planning committee.

Rather than repeat the appeal to members to get involved, I challenge the current officers of this association to solicit and groom members who show any spark of interest in serving. I think you must be proactive in drawing people into association business and share the years of experience you possess. I personally find it difficult to delegate tasks, but I recognize this as a shortcoming and will try to change. By working on this together, we can make the F.D.I.A.I. even better.

I remind everyone to start thinking about nominations for the **Outstanding Forensic Science Award**, the **Sustained Achievement Award**, and the **Photography contest**. These nominations must be made to Board Chairman Vincent Chew at least 30 days prior to the annual conference and are intended to recognize the skill and hard work of our members. Contact me for further information on award criteria.

William Schade
President

