

## *A Message from the President*

July 2002

Fellow Members,

Welcome the FDIAl's newsletter. As we enter the heat of summer, we can look back on last year and the first half of this year and reflect for a moment about how events have kept our profession in the forefront of media attention. We had the tragedy of 9-11-01, the murders and kidnappings of children, as well as the routine crime we see daily in the country.

Remember, but for the dedicated people like you and me, a lot of those cases would go unsolved and/or would never be prosecuted. It is our choice and dedication that provide that extra strong link in the chain of justice. This is the link that allows the police and prosecutors to bring to justice the guilty predators that prey upon the very people who look to us for their protection.

When I first saw a decal on the side of police cars that read "To Protect and Serve", I thought it was kind of hokey. The more I thought about it and the more my career progressed, I came to believe that that is our mission. The police officers protect, and we support specialists serve. Together, the public has a sense of well-being and comfort.

As I have written and said many times before, without us and our expertise, many cases would never be solved. Please continue to learn, teach, mentor, and solve the cases assigned to you. We are fast approaching two of the best opportunities to learn and enhance our knowledge: our own FDIAl educational training conference in Destin, Florida this coming November and the IAI's annual training conference in Las Vegas, Nevada this August. Please try to attend, even if only as a daily participant.

Finally, the life blood of any organization is its membership. Renew your own membership, recruit new people to join us, participate in training opportunities, and submit articles to our Newsletter.

Thank you!

H.W. "Rus" Ruslander, MS, SCSA  
President

