

# THE VOICE

Newsletter Spring 2013

CALIFORNIA SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION



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**2013 President**  
**Scott Currie**

## President's message

Dear CSAIA members,

As most have been experiencing, over the last few years the economy has created challenges with individuals and departments not having the funds for training. CSAIA has felt this belt tightening as well by reducing from our normal two annual trainings to just Spring Training in Shell Beach. Well, the Board is optimistic about 2013 and is bringing back Fall Training. For 2013, Spring Training is in Shell Beach as it has been for over 25 years now and Fall Training will be in Sacramento. Each training conference will be two and half days with a total of 20 hours of instruction. The Board of Directors and I are excited about this year as we continue to work hard to provide the best possible training in the area of sexual assault investigations.

The Board is also scheduling two one-day trainings that are expected to occur later in the year. Watch the web site and your e-mail for more information.

I am also excited about CSAIA collaborating with the California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center (CCFMTC for short) to provide the medical aspects of sexual investigations both to medical personnel and to law enforcement. This is a great opportunity for the different disciplines to gain more insight of each other and to embrace the team aspect of sexual assault investigations. It has always been interesting to me to hear from law enforcement personnel after attending a SART class. They are frequently amazed at what medical personnel do and how it can assist law enforcement investigations and prosecutions. I'm sure medical personnel have a similar experience sitting through law enforcement training. After attending SART related classes, I can assure the law enforcement community that the medical training is not just about looking at the pictures that most of us non-medical people don't want to look at.

With this said, I hope you are able to attend one or more of the trainings CSAIA is providing for 2013. We also greatly appreciate it when members pass on information about these training opportunities to others who may not have heard about CSAIA. Thank all of you for all you do for the victims and I hope to see you at a future training.

**Scott Currie**  
**2013 CSAIA President**

## Spring Training Shell Beach 2013

By Margie Jessen RN, MSN, FNP

For the third year, CSAIA and CCFMTC have collaborated together to implement best practice advanced training for healthcare professionals, law enforcement and district attorneys. The advanced topic offered standing room only for numerous subjects making the training a complete success.

Utilizing the SART design to promote and convey the team embodiment is what SART is based upon. CCFMTC's collaboration with CSAIA has offered exceptional speakers, training and education for all attendees. From courtroom communications to genital micro trauma all aspects of advanced practice forensic nursing was presented to attendees creating an effective learning environment.

We look forward to Fall training in Sacramento where we will be offering a mixture of novice to advanced practice for healthcare professionals who care for victims of sexual assault.



**Board of Directors member, Margie Jessen, presented Shannon Carvness with a gift from the CSAIA in appreciation for speaking at the Spring 2013 conference in Shell Beach, CA.**



**Margie Jesson, RN, MSN, FNP**



**CSAIA Fall Training 2013  
Sacramento Hilton Arden West Hotel  
October 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013**



## Save the Date CSAIA Fall Training 2013

Fall Training 2013 will be October 15th, 16th, 17th, 2013 at the Sacramento Hilton Arden West Hotel.

The tuition has been set at \$250.00 for current members. It is \$300.00 for renewing or new members. The CSAIA annual membership fee is \$50.00. Please remember to keep your membership current.

Spring Training 2013 was a packed house (almost 200 participants). We anticipate a great turn out for Fall 2013.

Your BOD is finalizing the instructors for the training and will get a training flyer out soon. The BOD knows your training departments require it before the training can be approved.

For CSAIA attendees the rooms at the Hilton Arden West during the training have been reduced to \$99.00 a night (plus taxes) for single or double occupancy. When I send out the training flyer you will find a special code to receive the reduced room rate. You will need that code to contact the Hilton to make any room reservations.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at 951-955-0742 or [swelch@csaia.org](mailto:swelch@csaia.org).



BOD members Monica McPortland and Steven Welch at registration.

4 THE VOICE  
**News From Spring 2013**

CSAIA in conjunction with CCFMTC hosted the Spring 2013 Conference at the Cliffs Hotel in Shell Beach on March 14th, 15th, and 16<sup>th</sup>. The conference was very well attended with over 190 members participating. The line-up of speakers proved very informative and topics such as sex offender supervision/containment in parole, child abduction response planning, developments in rapid DNA analysis, courtroom communication and drug facilitated sexual assault were presented. Author Carissa Phelps addressed members with an inspiring presentation on human trafficking. The feedback from attendees was very positive and informative.



Attendees registered and enjoyed the presentations in the ball room



A CSAIA member views the class selection



Board of Director's Secretary, Karen Sherwood, conversing with a member.

# Spring Training Conference 2013 Raffle Winners

Two members were given tuition and lodging for a 2014 conference. One member won a two night stay at the Cliff's Resort in Shell Beach! Congratulations!

The remaining proceeds from the raffle were donated to the Pomona Children's Advocacy Center. The CAC is a non-profit organization that provides free DVD-recorded forensic interviews for law enforcement of children who are victims of abuse, or witnesses to abuse. The interviews are conducted at a child-friendly center utilizing specialized forensic interviewers who have assisted in countless sexual assault investigations in Southern California.

Thank you to all who supported the cause!!



Board of Directors members; Malinda Wheeler, Karla Beler and Tim McFadden draw tickets for the raffle.



BOD member Malinda Wheeler

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**SAFER ACT of 2012, written by Malinda Wheeler, March 4, 2013**

On February 28, 2013, as part of its renewal of the Violence Against Women Act, the House of Representatives passed the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act, which will help eliminate the backlog of untested DNA evidence from unsolved rape cases and take countless rapists off the streets. The Senate has already passed the bill, so it is now headed to the President to be signed into law.

SAFER will bring transparency to the testing process and increase the efficiency of the criminal justice system by more effectively targeting areas with large backlogs. SAFER requires participating law enforcement agencies to audit and publicly disclose their backlogs for the first time. It also reallocates existing funding to ensure that much more gets spent directly on testing evidence and solving cases (without increasing the deficit). In 2000, The Debbie Smith Act was signed into law allocating millions of dollars for funding the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act. Monies will be taken from this law and used for SAFER to conduct an audit of all untested sexual assault evidence kits (SAEK), and establish a registry of all these untested kits.

The registry will be voluntary and only a State or unit of local government can submit information about a sample (grant money may be available for any agency participating). Information to submit will include: date of sexual assault, responsible investigating agency, date sample collected, date information entered into registry, status of the progression of the sample in testing (including entity of testing agency), dates of statute of limitations, and anything else the Attorney General deems appropriate. No personally identifiable information about the victim will be entered. This registry will be accessible via the internet by anyone from the public. The registry will allow victims to monitor the progress of forensic evidence in their own case using a non-personally identifying ID number online.

One year after the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall develop and disseminate to law enforcement agencies a report on best practices for the testing and use of DNA evidence collected as part of the criminal investigation of sexual assault cases.

It is unknown exactly how many untested SAEKs are out there sitting on a shelf, crammed into a freezer or locker or still sitting in a hospital evidence refrigerator. There are many reasons why police may not send forensic evidence in for testing, but one study funded by NIJ (National Institute of Justice) reported that 44% of police respondents said one of the reasons they did not send evidence to a lab was because a suspect had NOT been identified. Fifteen percent said they did not submit evidence because analysis had not been requested by a prosecutor. Three in ten said they did not submit evidence because they were uncertain of its usefulness (Strom, et al, 2007.)

Should all SAEKs be analyzed?? Should “most” be analyzed? This is the big question which generates areas of controversy and engaging discussion between victim right, advocacy and investigative personnel. Clearly, education is still needed by many law enforcement departments on submitting SAEKs where DNA may be useful. But we all know that DNA alone doesn’t solve all sexual assault cases- good police work does!

For more information about the SAFER Act, visit [www.RAINN.org](http://www.RAINN.org), or the author Malinda Wheeler.

Reference: Kevin J. Strom, Jeri Roper-Miller, Shelton Jones, Nathan Strikes, Mark Pope & Nicole Hortsmann (October 2009). *The 2007 Survey of Law enforcement Evidence Processing*, Final Report to the National Institute of Justice, Grant Number 2007F07165. NCJ 228415.

# CSAIA 2013 Achievement Awards



## Awards:

- The Michiel Hyder Sustained Achievement Award
- Sustained Achievement Award in Forensic Services
- Legislator of the Year Award
- Outstanding Agency of the Year Award
- The Patrick Sullivan Investigator of the Year Award

CSAIA will be presenting the Sustained Achievement Awards at the 2013 Fall Training Conference in Sacramento, California. Please think of recipients for the above awards and submit your nominations. All nominations need to be submitted to **Roberta Hopewell** by **August 1st, 2013**. All nominations need to include a nomination form as well as a letter describing the nominee and his/her qualifications.

**Please visit the web site at [www.csaia.org](http://www.csaia.org) for nomination forms.**



**President Scott Currie presented past President Roberta Hopewell with a service award at the Spring 2013 Conference.**

## Membership Corner



Richard Nickel, Membership Director

We are currently 304 members strong! If you have any recruitment ideas or would like to encourage members of your team or organization to become members of CSAIA, please contact our Membership Coordinator Richard Nickel. Richard can be reached at [richard.nickel@csaia.org](mailto:richard.nickel@csaia.org) or [boardmembers@csaia.org](mailto:boardmembers@csaia.org).

### Membership Status

**Check out your membership status at [www.csaia.org](http://www.csaia.org). All memberships are now based on an annual renewal from the date you joined the Association!**

### Training Ideas??

CSAIA is always looking for new and innovative ideas in training to bring to membership.



If you have any ideas for our Conference Training or One-Day Training, please contact: [boardmembers@csaia.org](mailto:boardmembers@csaia.org)

## Members make the difference! Join today!

There are many benefits simply from belonging to your association. The greatest benefit to joining CSAIA is the networking and camaraderie that takes place between members. As a CSAIA member, you have access to many resources to enrich your professional career and connect with law enforcement, deputy district attorneys, advocacy programs, and medical specialists who have a real passion for what they do.

### Website:

#### Resource's area

The resources area provides Presentations, downloads, interesting articles, and other Web sites that are relevant to you. It is driven by Members postings, which means the more items are posted, the more resources will be shared. Examples of resources in this area are: 290 Information, Case Law, Legislation, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office One Minute Brief by Devallis Rutledge and lots more.

#### Training Events

Education and Training programs will help you build new skills and reinforce your own experiences and knowledge.

#### E-Mail Members

The California Sexual Assault Investigators Association email system. The system allows members to exchange information. Members who are current can send, can share ideas, get information, and ask questions on important issues. **Each email sent is stored for members to view on-line at a later date.**



## Certification for SANE's – Is it Worth It?

By Malinda Wheeler, April 8, 2013

After the March Shell Beach conference, I was asked this question by a few new members of the SANE world: Is the cost of national certification worth it? My short answer is, absolutely! There is only one national certification available to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners that imposes strict guidelines and criteria to achieve this goal. I know firsthand because I was a member for the Forensic Nurse Certification Board with the International Association of Forensic Nursing for two years.

During those two years of serving on the FNCB, I helped develop eligibility criteria, regulations, applications, application processes and recertification processes. I was also involved with the recertification process for SANEs and reviewing and confirming information included in the applications. This was a painstakingly detailed process! If no one on the board was familiar with the educational course, or provider, calls were made to the audited applicants to submit more information. All initial applications for first examination were reviewed and verified, and then every 5<sup>th</sup> application for recertification was audited.

What are the goals of national certification?? Are they only personal goals to achieve another “A” on a test and a certificate to hang on the wall? I don't think so. Although certification in ANY field doesn't prove competency (just like state licensure doesn't prove or guarantee competency), there is a level of professional standard of knowledge and expertise that is achieved. The SANE tests were developed before my term on the FNCB but I do know that thousands of dollars were spent by IAFN to hire test item writers and reviewers. Also, outside professional testing consultants were hired to meet compliance with other national certification and testing centers like ANCC (American Nurses Credentialing Center). I also know the level of difficulty in achieving a passing rate. Many nurses do not pass on first attempt. Challenges in developing the test questions were to assure a high level of knowledge, yet applicable to other countries and jurisdictions where specific practices may vary. Expertise is also tested through knowledge only gained through work experience and situational questions. First time test takers must be active in providing SANE care and have been an RN for 2 years.

In the recertification process, 45 hours of SANE continuing education is required every three years. The breakdown of hours seems complicated at first when recertifying, but it is all spelled out in the instructions. Remember, that in other countries there may not be “accredited” nursing organizations that provide continuing education, but they could have highly qualified and applicable medical instruction or medical examiner education that would enhance a SANEs knowledge base.

Clinical competency criteria are spelled out for each test- adolescent/adult or pediatric. Every effort has been made to offer solo practicing examiners and low volume examiners to have their SANE work and practice validated. Supervisors and evaluators of clinical competencies are validated. Each and every applicant can request help in the successful completion of this certification process. I believe that SANE certification demonstrates to your community that you possess an ongoing professional commitment to provide quality patient care.

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## CSAIA 2013 Board of Directors



**Top Back Row (left to right):** Karla Beler, Secretary Karen Sherwood, Malinda Wheeler, Marjorie Jessen, Monica McPortland, Roberta Hopewell **Bottom Front Row (left to right):** President Scott Currie, Treasurer Tim McFadden, Richard Nickel, Steven Welch



### About Our Organization

**CSAIA PHONE NUMBER:**  
**(951) 290-8261**

<http://www.csaia.org>

**California Sexual Assault Investigators Association**

**750 S. Lincoln Avenue  
#104-287  
Corona, CA 92882**

Membership is now on a 12 month annual cycle! Watch your e-mail for an electronic notification to renew your membership. **RENEW ON-LINE!**



You must renew to continue to have access to the Members Area on the website and to continue to receive information by email!!