

October 13, 2009

Dear SWAFDE Members:

As the 2010 SWAFDE Program Chair, I would like to welcome you to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada to attend our joint meeting of the Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners and the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners from **August 28 to September 2, 2010**.

The theme of our joint meeting is "A Century of Questioned Documents" which coincides with the 100th anniversary of Albert S. Osborn's *Questioned Documents*. Currently, the plans for the program are:

- ❖ two separate workshops (subjects to be determined)
- ❖ a visit from Dr. Moshe Kam regarding testing completed in Asheville, NC in 2008
- ❖ signature complexity research project
- ❖ paper presentations by members of both organizations

I will continue to keep you informed as the plans solidify for workshops or research projects that may be presented. **Should you decide to present at this meeting, it is suggested that an abstract be submitted as soon as possible since presentation time will be limited and at a premium. Please email completed abstract forms to me at dmccarle@auroragov.org or send by fax to my attention at 303/739-6237.** Abstract forms will be available **January 2010** on the ASQDE website at www.asqde.org. (FYI: If you use the Firefox web browser, you may need to install an add-on before you are able to use ASQDE's menu system. If so, click on [Note to Mozilla FireFox users](#) appearing at the bottom of the ASQDE home page for detailed instructions.)

Meeting presentations are available in two formats: presentation to membership (usually using PowerPoint or something similar); or a poster presentation which entails a 5-minute (or less) verbal presentation to the membership, demonstrative charts regarding the presentation and a question-and-answer session during the group presentation of posters.

Either type of presentation is eligible for inclusion in the *Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners*, a peer-reviewed publication. For detailed guidelines on paper submissions to the Journal, go to www.asqde.org and click on the Journal bar.

Registration fees are estimated at **\$325-\$375** for the 5-day conference. Registration usually includes a continental breakfast, President's Reception, Banquet and week-long hospitality suite. Every attendee also receives a CD containing all of the papers presented. As it has over the past few years, ASQDE will schedule break-out sessions specifically for trainees. We expect registration fees to be finalized in the spring and forms available April 2010.

Attached to this email is a flyer with hotel and travel details. I suggest you reserve your room soon, as we expect them to fill up fast.

Additional information will be passed on as received through the SWAFDE Website and via membership emails. This is a unique opportunity to meet examiners from other areas of the country and to network and share ideas.

Need another reason to attend next year's meeting? Well, SWAFDE needs your vote. Next year is election year for both the SWAFDE President and Secretary.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at dmccarle@auroragov.org or at 303/739-6241.

Hoping to see you in Victoria,

Darla McCarley-Celentano
SWAFDE Program Chair 2010



The 68th Annual Meeting The American Society of Questioned Document Examiners The Southwestern Association of Forensic Document Examiners

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
August 28th to September 2nd, 2010

2010 marks the centenary of the publication of Albert S. Osborn's *Questioned Documents*. Over the course of 100 years the profession has provided a great service to the courts and society at large. We welcome members and guests to one of the most beautiful locations in Canada and the Pacific Rim for the 68th Annual/Joint Meeting of the ASQDE and SWAFDE.



The meeting will be held at the historic Fairmont Empress Hotel central located in Victoria's *Inner Harbour*. The Empress recently celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2008. Although historic in character, the Fairmont Empress has the most modern facilities having recently undergone renovations of the conference facilities. It is strongly recommended that conference attendees register for **Fairmont President's Club**, the free registration includes several benefits: separate check-in queue, free internet use in-room, free shoe shine and others.

The accommodations at the Fairmont Empress Hotel have been described as world-class and renowned for classic charm and afternoon tea. Activities include year-round golf, sea kayaking, cycling, whale watching, fishing, antique shopping, hiking, winery/microbrewery and garden tours. Some of the local attractions include:

- ❖ Royal B.C. Museum/National Geographic IMAX Theatre
- ❖ B.C. Experience at the Crystal Garden
- ❖ Butchart Gardens
- ❖ Cowichan Valley Wineries
- ❖ the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
- ❖ Maritime Museum of BC
- ❖ Craigdarroch Castle
- ❖ Chinatown

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.tourismvictoria.com> and/or the hotel concierge can assist in travel plans. **The hotel rate for the Empress will be between \$155 (one queen bed) and \$182 (Canadian dollars/CAD) per night.** These rates have been confirmed and additional information about the Fairmont Empress is available at: <http://www.fairmont.com/empress> or 1-866-540-4429. Make sure to **mention the ASQDE** for special conference rates.



Transportation overview

Flights to Victoria:

Victoria International Airport (airport code CYYJ) is easy to get to with many direct flights from US cities including San Francisco and Seattle. Flights from within the United States may connect through Seattle, the flying time from Seattle to Victoria is approximately 40 minutes. Many flights, including those from the Pacific Rim and Europe will connect through Vancouver International Airport (airport code CYVR) where a short flight of approximately 25 minutes will whisk you to Victoria.

Ground transportation from the Victoria International Airport is provided by:

1. Shuttle service by AKAL Airport Shuttle to the Empress is \$18 (CAD) each way. Reservations may be made at: <http://www.victoriaairportshuttle.com>.
2. Taxi service provided by Yellow Cab of Victoria, fare estimate from the airport, other “off-airport” rental companies Thrifty, Discount and Enterprise offer pre-arranged pick up from the airport.

Combination Air, Ground or Sea Options:

1. Fly to Vancouver International Airport (CYVR) and take Pacific Coach Lines bus service directly from the airport or downtown to Victoria Bus Terminal via BC Ferries. The scenic voyage from the mainland terminal of Tsawassen to Swartz Bay takes approximately 2 hours. Upon arrival at Swartz Bay the bus then proceeds to the Victoria Bus Terminal which is adjacent to the Victoria Conference Centre and Fairmont Empress Hotel. <http://www.pacificcoach.com>.
2. Catamaran service from Downtown Seattle to Victoria’s Inner Harbour is across the street from the Fairmont Empress. Total time about 3 hours each way, via Victoria Clipper. <http://www.clippervacations.com>.
3. Washington State Ferries. The ferry service from Anacortes, WA (between Bellingham and Seattle) and Sidney, BC about 30 minutes from Downtown Victoria. Details are available from the Washington State Department of Transportation. <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov>.
4. Driving via BC Ferries from the BC Mainland. BC Ferries service from the Vancouver area to Victoria: hourly sailings from 7 am to 7 pm and 9 pm, additional sailings as demand warrants, sailing time is approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes. <http://www.bcferries.bc.ca>.
5. Driving to Victoria via Coho Ferry in Northern Washington State. Ferry service from Port Angeles, WA to Victoria, BC (Inner Harbour) fare each way includes car and driver, takes 90 minutes, three departures every day during peak season. <http://www.cohoferry.com>.

Immigration and Travel Documents Information

The ASQDE/SWAFDE Conference will be registered with the Canada Border Services Agency and a *Letter of Recognition* will be available that will facilitate the entry process for attendees.

For United States residents, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) is a U.S. law that requires all travelers, including U.S. and Canadian citizens to present a valid passport or other approved secure document when entering the United States from within the western hemisphere.

Passports

To obtain a passport for a new issue or renewal, go to: <http://www.travel.state.gov/passport> (US Dept. of State). You can check status regarding your passport at this site. (Passport delivery appears to be taking approximately 5 to 6 weeks.)

Tobin Tanaka (ASQDE Site Chair 2010)

Samiah Ibrahim (ASQDE Program Chair 2010)

Darla McCarley-Celentano (SWAFDE Program Chair 2010)