

April 1980

TOX TALK

This Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis as the official communication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists. A portion of the annual dues supports this publication and mailing costs. Subscriptions for non-members may be obtained at a cost of \$7.50 per year by contacting the editor.

CONTENTS

Editorial	Page 2
SOFT Membership Procedure	Page 2
Past President's Message	Page 2,3
Committees of SOFT - 1980	Page 3,4
Nominees recommended from SOFT to ABFT	Page 4
Treasurer's Report	Page 4,5
The Newsletter	Page 5
Society of Forensic Toxicologists' Education Award	Page 5,6
The St. John's University Toxicology Club	Page 6,7
Job Opportunities	Page 7,8,9
Meeting Announcements	Page 9,10
Minutes of SOFT Annual Business Meeting - 11/2/79	Page 11 thru 21

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EDITORIAL

Our organization now sports a membership of approximately 110 full members and associate members. Recently some 30 St. John's students added to that segment of our membership.

At the New Orleans executive board meeting, the question of increased dues was proposed for discussion and soundly defeated. The no vote however, was based not on the fact that our budget fails to reflect increased financial needs, but on the concept that by keeping our dues low we might be able to attract the "bench-forensic-toxicologist".

Our organization was founded, organized and continues to serve only forensic toxicologists and those who are interested in the profession. Our activities during the past ten years certainly have demonstrated how effectively a small group can direct its own future.

The executive board and the membership feel that SOFT is an affordable, and yet effective professional organization. We are currently preparing a brochure to describe our past activities and future goals and objectives. Having obtained this plateau in membership, now is the time to carry on a membership drive. Talk to other toxicologists in your laboratory about SOFT; encourage them to join. If you are a faculty member, advise your students about the advantages of belonging and demonstrating interest in a national organization.

Let's set as a goal that each member will try to bring in at least one new member during this next year. The advantages are mutual. Our organization can serve the new member and his membership dues will allow us to hold the \$20 annual dues line.

SOFT MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURE

Application for membership in SOFT may be obtained from any officer of the organization or from Membership Chairman, Robert K. Simon, Ph.D., ICI Americas, Inc., Biomedical Research Dept., Wilmington, De., 19897

After having completed the application (2 SOFT members as sponsors are required), return the application with a \$5 application fee to the Secretary, Everett T. Solomons, Ph.D., Georgia State Crime Laboratory, P.O. Box 1456, Atlanta, Georgia 30301. After the applicant has been reviewed by the membership committee, the chairman will notify the applicant directly of the committee's decision. If the action of the membership committee is positive, soon after you'll begin receiving Tox Talk and a dues notice.

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The tenth year of the existence of the Society of Forensic Toxicology is now approaching and with it an expansion of our scope and geography is predictable as long as the Society caters to the needs and wants of its constituents. What really needs to be done along with the programs already under way is more active participation by more members in business and scientific affairs.

I believe it would be prudent for members to let the new officers know they are ready, willing and able to help and I'm sure that assignments to the myriad of committee duties will be forth-coming. Participation stimulates action, increases competence and visibility and adds to everyone's professional status.

It has been a pleasure for me to be associated with fellow officers John Kofoed, Yale Caplan and Joseph Balkon. The Board of Directors sagely kept my inherent impatience under control and guided the Society to what I consider a most progressive year. The steady moderate growth of our membership indicates the Society is fulfilling a need, yet our flexibility and informality continues to spark lengthy exchanges of ideas which typifies the foundation on which the organization was begun.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all who have so unselfishly contributed to the Society's progress. My congratulations to the newly-elected and reelected hierarchy. I am confident they will similarly respond to the challenges and continue to develop programs beneficial to all members.

Sincere thanks to all.

Thomas A. Regent, D.A.B.F.T.

COMMITTEES OF THE SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS
FOR THE YEAR 1980

Constitution & By-laws

Caplan, Y., Ph.D. - Co-chairmen
Dubowski, K., Ph.D.
Simon, R., Ph.D.

Education

Lynch, V., Ph.D.

Publicity

Backer, R., Ph.D.

Membership

Simon, R., Ph.D. - Chairman
McCurdy, H., Ph.D.
Manning, T., Ph.D.

Workshop

Bidanset, J., Ph.D. - Chairman
Balkon, J., Ph.D.,
DalCortivo, L., Ph.D.
Schweda, P., Ph.D.

Grants & Endowments

Bath, R., Ph.D. - Chairman
Simon, R., Ph.D.

Proficiency Testing

DalCortivo, L., Ph.D. - Chairman
McBay, A., Ph.D.
Rejent, T.
Bednarczyk, L., Ph.D.

Tox Talk Newsletter Editor

Bidanset, J., Ph.D.

NOMINEES RECOMMENDED FROM
SOFT TO ABFT

As a nominating organization, the Society of Forensic Toxicology is entitled to submit names in nomination to fill expected openings on the executive board of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology. Dr. Leo DalCortivo has chaired an ad-hoc committee of SOFT to provide two names for consideration. His committee has submitted the names of Thomas Rejent and Jesse Bidanset. ABFT is under no obligation to accept either of the candidates.

TREASURER'S REPORT

1. General Budget

A. Balance as of February 1, 1980.....		<u>1332.41</u>
B. Income Anticipated		
1. Membership Dues Outstanding (Fiscal) 1979-80.....	400.00	
2. 1978-79.....	80.00	
3. New Members.....	400.00	
4. Workshop Fees.....	<u>250.00</u>	
C. Total Anticipated Income.....	1130.00	
D. Predicted Working Income thru June 31, 1980.....		<u>2462.41</u>
E. Disbursements		

	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>SPENT</u>	<u>ANTICIPATED</u>
1.	Hospitality	250.00	-	250.00
2.	Newsletter	250.00	113.50	126.50

3.	Workshop Exp.	400.00	50.00	350.00
4.	Exec. Bd. Exp.	800.00	764.80	35.20
5.	Postage	50.00	100.00	100.00
6.	Special Issue	100.00	80.00	-
7.	Attorney	-	300.00	200.00
8.	Meeting Exp.	-	-	202.53
9.	Misc. Exp.	100.00	-	101.11
F. Total Disbursements, Budgeted.....				1950.00
Actual.....				1408.30
Anticipated.....				1365.34
G. Asset Status As of June 31, 1980				
1.	Without Anticipated Dues Revenue.....			322.07
2.	With anticipated Dues Revenue.....			1097.07

Joseph Balkon, Ph.D.

THE NEWSLETTER

The proposed mailing dates for Tox Talk Newsletters for the remainder of the year 1980 are:

June 1
September 1
December 1

To allow time for typing and printing, the deadline for submission of material must be 15 days prior to those mailing dates.

Each committee chairman is urged to send periodic progress reports for inclusion in the newsletter. The newsletter is only as interesting and informative as the membership make it. Contribute everything from meeting announcements and job opportunities to an interesting case.

Laboratories will be receiving requests to submit short abstracts and procedures used on interesting cases shortly.

Tox Talk may be taking on a new format this year and the editor is actively seeking industrial support for publication and mailing costs. If you have any suggested supporters, please let me know.

J. Bidanset, Ph.D., Editor

SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS EDUCATION AWARD

The education of specialists in the forensic sciences continues to be a challenge to many of us. The increasing sophistication of methods in forensic toxicology promises to add, to the judicial process, information which was not thought to be possible as late as the 1960's.

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists has dedicated many of its efforts to continuing effective education in the field. With this in mind, it is my privilege to announce that a grant-in-aid will be awarded by the Society to a graduate or post-graduate student pursuing studies

in forensic toxicology. Candidates seeking consideration for such an award should submit a complete curriculum of their studies, title and progress of their current project and a listing of their previous educational and technical accomplishments to:

Dr. Vincent DeP. Lynch, Chairman Educational Committee, SOFT
St. John's University, College of Pharmacy
Grand Central & Utopia Pkwy.
Jamaica, New York 11439

A single award will be made annually to the candidate pursuing projects thought to be of greatest benefit to the profession of forensic toxicology and to the forensic sciences as a whole.

The announcement of the first award winner will be publicized in our next Tox Talk Newsletter.

THE ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY TOXICOLOGY CLUB

Until recently there were not many people with an education specifically in Toxicology. Those holding jobs in this field were trained in other subjects, mostly Chemistry and Pharmacology, both of which are major components of Toxicology. It is the goal of the club to inform agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and others, that there are people available now that are trained specifically as Toxicologists. Having workers and researchers who are educated specifically for Toxicology jobs ensures the employer that the work will be done properly without having to train someone in a field other than the one in which they were educated. As it stands today, when we speak to someone we are asked, "Toxicology? You mean you stuff animals?"

The main objective of the Toxicology Club is to make it known, on campus and in the scientific world, that St. John's University has an undergraduate course in Toxicology.

On a day to day basis, the Toxicology Club is concerned with enabling its members to learn more than is taught on the University campus. In order to have a complete education the student must keep abreast of current happenings in all areas of sciences. Only by reaching out beyond the university walls can our education prepare us to be effective in our career.

For the club, this is accomplished by arranging tours of various facilities that are of interest to the members. This semester (a first for the Tox Club) there were two tours that were arranged that exposed us to different aspects of Toxicology, the first of which was to the Nassau County Medical Examiner's Office. This trip showed us the different methods and instruments utilized by the Forensic Toxicologist and gave us an insight into the important field of Medical/Legal science.

The second trip to Brookhaven National Laboratories, exposed us to the field of general research in inhalation toxicology. Both of these trips allowed students to see applications of Toxicology that are very prominent in today's scientific world.

The club members are also encouraged to attend symposiums given by different organizations, such as the Society of Forensic Toxicology,

The American Chemical Society and the New York Academy of Sciences. In attending these conferences the students are exposed to the major issues concerning scientists today. In arranging these trips and attending scientific meetings, we have begun to make ourselves heard. Plans for the next semester are being made and for our largest project, we will concern ourselves with the organization and operation of St. John's contribution to the National Poison Prevention Week to be held in March.

For Toxicology majors, their future in fields such as environmental protection, Cancer research, industrial safety, poison prevention and treatment and the legal ramifications of these and numerous other related fields, the possibilities are endless. Right now the sky is the limit, but only if we help ourselves.

Paul Sandor, President

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The position of toxicologist within the laboratory involves the analyses of blood (post mortem and antimortem), urine, tissue for levels of alcohol, drugs, narcotics and poisons.

Education experience - B.S. degree in chemistry or Biology is required with a minimum of 4 years experience in forensic or clinical toxicology. Theoretical and practical knowledge of gas chromatography, ultra-violet spectrophotometry, infrared spectrophotometry, thin layer chromatography and fluorescence spectrophotometry are required.

Salary is open and commensurate with toxicological training and experience.

Send resumes to: Jay t. Pinacuda, Chief Chemist
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department
c/o Crime Laboratory, Bldg. S-846
P.B.I. Airport, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33406

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Toxicologist - Senior level position. Ph.D. required. Experience in toxicology (analytical, forensic or clinical) required. Additional background in biochemistry, analytical chemistry or medicinal chemistry, desirable. To conduct analyses in postmortem medical legal cases.

Toxicologist - Assistant level position. Background in clinical biochemistry, analytical chemistry or medicinal chemistry required. Experience in toxicologic analysis desirable but not essential. To conduct analyses in postmortem medical legal cases. Ph.D. or M.S. desirable. Experience may be substituted for advanced degrees.

Please send resume to: Yale H. Caplan, Ph.D.
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
State of Maryland
111 Penn Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
(301) 396-3844

The California State Department of Justice has established a new position of Forensic Scientist - Toxicologist. The duties for this classification include toxicological analysis of blood and urine samples and courtroom interpretive testimony. An understanding of the metabolism, excretion, and toxicity of common drugs and toxicants is required. 31.9K

At this time, two levels of this classification are established. The Senior Forensic Scientist-Toxicologist (salary ~~\$2203-\$2659/mo~~) will define the program scope, direct the statewide drugs while driving program and perform analyses of the more complex or unusual cases. Minimum qualifications are either (1) ~~M.S. degree with 5 years experience in forensic toxicology~~ or (2) Ph.D. and one year of post-doctoral work in the field.

The journeyman position of Forensic Scientist-Toxicologist (salary \$2005-\$2419/mo) performs analyses and provides courtroom testimony only. Minimum qualifications are (1) M.S. degree with 3 years experience in forensic toxicology or (2) Ph.D. and one year of post-doctoral work in the field. This position will be filled after the program is established and operational.

Submit state application form 678 along with a resume of your experience and education. Forms are available from Ms. Debbie Winter, State of California, Department of Justice, P.O. Box 13337, 3301 C. Street, Sacramento, Ca., 95813.

* * * * *

Crime Laboratory Analyst Supervisor 1, position number 00714.

Sanford, Division of Staff Services, Crime Laboratory Bureau, Sanford Regional Crime Laboratory, (Toxicology).

\$18,144.72 - \$24,596.64 Pay Grade 22

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in one of the physical or natural sciences and three years of experience in a forensic laboratory.

Four years of experience in the identification and analysis of fingerprints may be substituted for the required college training.

Must be qualified by the Department of Law Enforcement to testify as an expert witness in state or federal courts.

Submit a completed state of Florida Employment Application to:

Mr. Jeffrey W. Long, Personnel Officer
Department of Law Enforcement
Post Office Box 1489, 408 N. Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

* * * * *

Toxicologist - Senior Forensic Scientist. Minimum qualification:

1. M.S. or equivalent in toxicology, biochem, pharmacology or closely related field. Min. 5 yr. experience (within last 10 yrs) in forensic toxicology with at least 1 yr supervisory experience included.

OR

2. Ph.D. in toxicology, biochem, pharmacology, or closely related field with min. 1 yr (within last 5 years) post doctoral work in field of forensic toxicology.

Knowledge of gas chromatography, UV and VIS spectrophotometry required, and GC/MS equipment desirable. Person will be responsible for development of statewide program in Calif. and supervision of future personnel. Salary range estimated at \$27,000 - \$32,000+. Position in Sacramento. Candidates will be interviewed based on education and experience. Appointment early 1980. Interested individuals should contact:

Ms. Kathy Keating
Bureau of Forensic Services
3301 C Street
Sacramento, Ca 95816
(916) 322-2580

* * * * *

ICI Americas, Inc., Biomedical Research Dept., Wilmington, De 19897

Immediate opening in Bioanalytical Group of Drug Metabolism for BS/MS Analytical Chemist/Toxicologist. Heavy experience with GC, HPLC required. Mass Spec background very desirable. Position involves method development and R & D for drugs/metabolites in biological specimens.

Contact Dr. Robert K. Simon.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Southern, Midwestern, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeastern Associations of Forensic Scientists are holding a joint meeting which has been scheduled for Louisville, Kentucky - May 7 through May 10, 1980.

Information can be received by contacting:

Mike Alfultis
Loraine County Crime Laboratory
1005 North Abbe Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035
(216) 365-4191 ext. 232

* * * * *

Meeting Title: 8th International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety.

Sponsoring Organization: International Committee on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS)

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

Dates: June 15-19, 1980

For program announcement and general meeting information.

Dr. Bernard H. Fox
Secretary, ICADTS
4241 North 25th St.
Arlington, Va 22207.

Tel: office (301) 496-5833
home (703) 524-6636

For reduced fares, tours, and all travel arrangements, write or call the official North American representative, ICADTS:

John Haville
Cosmopolitan Travel
1120 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel: (202) 466-6330

* * * * *

IXth International Congress of the European Association of Poison Control Centres and European Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists.

Thessaloniki, Greece - August 24 -27, 1980

For information contact: Dr. Anastassios Kovatsis
University of Thessaloniki
Greece

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~~The 10th Annual Meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists will be held as a joint meeting with the Canadian Society of Forensic Science.~~

Place: Westbury Hotel
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Date: September 30th - October 3rd, 1980

For information or suggestions regarding the Meeting, contact:

Bill Robinson, Accommodation Chairman
(416) 965-9507

or

John Wells, Scientific Program Chairman
Centre of Forensic Sciences
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario - M7A 2G8
(416) 965-9273

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The sixth Annual meeting of the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists will take place in the Northern New Jersey area, October 24 and 25, 1980.

Information regarding this meeting or the Association may be obtained by writing Mark B. Lewis, c/o Scientific Laboratory, State Campus. Bldg. #22, Albany, New York, 12226.

SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS, INC.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Williamsburg, Va., November 2, 1979

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by President Rejent after a quorum was determined to be present.

Thomas Rejent opened the meeting by expressing his regrets over the untimely death of Elmer Gordon and he asked the members to stand in silence for 2 minutes. A card with the names of all the members of the Society was sent to Elmer's widow and a memorial gift of money to the Rochester Muscular Dystrophy Society. A thank-you note has been received.

In his introductory remarks President Rejent stressed that all items to be discussed were of vital importance to the Society.

1. Reading of the minutes of the 1978 annual meeting

The minutes from the last annual meeting in Niagara Falls, N.Y. were approved as published in "Tox Talk".

Motioned by Leo Dal Cortivo, seconded by Mike McGee it was unanimously approved by the members present.

2. Treasurers Report

The treasurer's report was accepted as published in "Tox Talk" October 1979 issue.

Motioned by Mark Lewis, seconded by Neil Reading it was unanimously approved by the membership.

Joe Balkon mentioned that the anticipated income from membership dues would be greater in the coming year since we have received over 20 applications for membership at this meeting. Regarding the dues the treasurer mentioned that since he took office in January he has sent dues notices out to each individual member, something that hasn't been done before. It meant, however, that since the fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, some members have received two notices in one calendar year.

Bob Simon suggested that a more definitive and inclusive financial report be published in the news letter each calendar year and than an official audit of the books by somebody outside the organization should take place. This will give outsiders like the I.R.S. the impression that we are very solid and well organized financially.

Dr. Balkon replied that he is working on this particular recommendation. The only trouble is that he himself had to prepare the budget. Normally a budget should be prepared from submissions from the Board of Directors, committees, etc., but this has not been the case.

President Rejent added that the Board of Directors found the report totally acceptable as did the Society's representative to the Internal Revenue Department.

3. Future Meetings

1980 - Sept. 30 - Oct. 3. Joint meeting with the Canadian Society of Forensic Science at the Westbury Hotel in Toronto. This will be the society's tenth anniversary and more than 200 are expected to attend.

1981 - Nov. 3-6. Joint meeting with the Midwest Association of Forensic Science at the Ramada O'Hara Hotel in Chicago.

1982 - This meeting will be held jointly with the Southern Association of Forensic Science in the Orlando area of Florida. A hotel will be booked around March 1980.

1983 - Tentatively set for Pittsburg, greater New York area, Cincinnati, Cleveland or Detroit.

4. The Report of the Board of Directors

The Society has now in excess of 130 members and the president welcomed 30 students from St. Johns University, who has applied for student membership. There has been a streamlining of the handling of the membership application forms which should result in more rapid processing of new applications.

There has been some discussion among the Board of Directors about the Society's role in the changes that might be forthcoming in the American Board of Forensic Toxicology and president Rejent asked Robert Blanke to explain to the members what has happened in this area within the last few months.

In Niagara Falls, he explained, SOFT adopted a resolution directed to the A.B.F.T. asking it to clarify and identify which organizations should be nominating new members for the Board of Directors. At the A.B.F.T. meeting in February in Atlanta it identified the American Academy of Forensic Sciences through its toxicology section, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists and the California Association of Toxicologists as 3 nominating organizations. As vacancies occur on the Board of Directors (three in the coming year) the Board might invite nominations for replacements from these three organizations, but each society will be notified more clearly about the mechanism of how to place names in nomination.

Tom Rejent replied that with this in mind, he has appointed an ad hoc committee to select two possible nominees, should the Board offer to our Society that it nominates two. The members of this committee are:

Leo Dal Cortivo,
Leonard Bednarczyk,
Joseph Montford.

6. Tax Exempt Status

The President now asked Robert Simon to summarize the negotiations he has had with the Internal Revenue Department.

Dr. Simon informed the membership that the I.R.S. has rejected our application for exempt status, which was applied for under Article C3 as a scientific organization. The application reached the E.O. office in Scranton, Pa. in January of this year. It was sent back and re-submitted in April, sent back again and re-submitted in July and after that final submission we were rejected.

Around the 25th of September a letter was received from the District Director in Scranton pursuing to a rejection by Marion Rushen who reviews the applications. During the past month the Society has hired an attorney, Mr. David Walsh, who is a tax expert. He has since contacted Ms. Rushen and obtained the following information:

- 1) The category we applied under, C-3, was the wrong one. It should have been done under C-6, which is a more general business category.
- 2) In the letter of rejection they list 15-16 items, they specifically did not like.

These items have to be straightened out before we apply under C-6. Once that is done, the I.R.S. will come up with additional suggestions which they will look at before proceeding any further. David Walsh has informed us that during the past year there has been a large number of law suits by the I.R.S. against organizations as ours applying for tax exempt status.

The attorney would like SOFT to take the following actions:

- 1) Give him the power of attorney for negotiations with I.R.S. This the Board of Directors already did recommend at their meeting yesterday.
- 2) Allow him through his power of attorney to continue discussions with Marion Rushen regarding I.R.S. wishes with respect to giving us exempt status.

We will have to make a number of changes in both the actual written constitution, in the bylaws and in our full organizational approach. We have to convince the I.R.S., that we are not serving the private interest of the members. In the bylaws, for example, it says that if we for any reason disband the Society, then the money in the treasury are distributed equally to all members of the organization. This we have to get out of the bylaws and the money should be given to a recognized, tax-exempt, charitable organization under Section C-3. This is the type of thing we have to do, we have to work close with Dave Walsh, we have to make these changes, we have to follow I.R.S.'s guidelines the best we can. Thus we have to try as soon as possible at least within the next year to get the tax-exempt status. We have been very fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. David Walsh who for a set of fee of \$500.00 will do all the legal work involved. The Board of Directors has authorized this payment as well as giving Mr. Walsh the power of attorney that he needs in his dealings on our behalf with the I.R.S. Through discussions he already has had with Marion Rushen, he has gained a great deal of information regarding the changes in our constitution and bylaws the I.R.S. require us to make.

Joe Balkon commented that when S.O.F.T. was started, we endeavored to keep ourselves as uncomplicated and informal as possible. It is now obvious, that we cannot operate that way no matter what our desires are.

Bob Simon said that the treasurer's report is a case in point. The I.R.S. told him that they were surprised to find previous years report only in the newsletter and stating only so much in and so much out. What they want to know is how much is used for stamps, envelopes, etc., how much the Board members get, etc. WE have to bring our business affairs up to the same high esteem we have had for years as forensic toxicologists.

Jesse Bidanset asked Dr. Simon to explain the advantages of obtaining tax-exempt status. All meeting fees, he explained, will automatically be tax-exempt and members do not have to worry about being audited personally. In the state of Delaware the law states, that the members, officers etc. cannot be held personally responsible for the actions of a corporation, so theoretically members can leave themselves open for law suits if we do not have tax exempt status. We have \$1,500.00 the President obtained from Roche for the express purpose of being used for scholarships to get students involved with forensic toxicology and so on, but the thing is where are these \$1,500.00? We must get them out of the general account, we have to have specific ways to handle scholarships. Companies are much more apt to donate money for scholarships if we are tax exempt. There are, he pointed out, two prime reasons for seeking tax exempt status:

- 1) The growth of the organization.
- 2) The security of its members.

Joe Balkon added a third reason, namely that the treasurer does not want to fill in complicated income tax forms.

To this Dr. Simon added, that theoretically we owe taxes for the past 10 years. It is not an astronomical sum, but we are liable for back-taxes. However, if we do as they say and we do get tax-exemption status, it is not likely, they will ask for it.

Tom Rejent mentioned that the Board of Directors has authorized an expenditure of \$500.00 to Dave Walsh and he asked the individual members to inform the officers of S.O.F.T. who they work for and if it is a tax-exempt organization. We are not trying to formalize S.O.F.T. to a point where it is uncontrollable but we need this kind of data for our application.

Jesse Bidanset asked if there would be any problems because changes in the bylaws has a 30 days delay. Dr. Simon answered that we are not going to rush into this, we are going to get everything done right and wait until the Toronto meeting to vote about it. Changes have to be filed with the sate of Delaware, then they go back to the lawyers and then to Scranton and here they may ask for other changes and so on. We don't know the time factor, it may take a week or a year, it all depends on Scranton. It is a very complex situation.

7. Education

Tom Rejent said, that we have a couple of candidates who have been tentatively approved for a grant by the Society. Besides the funds from Roche we have had very favorable reactions from several other pharmaceutical companies, but in view of our status with I.R.S. we want to be a little careful in our handling of this, but the funds are there. At the Niagara meeting Dr. Vincent Lynch gave a paper regarding graduate forensic toxicology education and the President has asked him to present to this meeting the recommendations that the Education Committee, he is chairing, has come up with.

Dr. Lynch mentioned that over the past year the committtee that was constituted at the business meeting last year has held a couple of meetings regarding the actual accreditation of university programmes which will ultimately turn out

that person, who is classified as a forensic toxicologist. He informed the members that in February 1979 a civil service commission took on a preliminary classification and recognition of forensic toxicologists. Over the past 8 months he has been in communication with a number of people in the area of institutional accreditation including the Council on Post-secondary Education in Washington, a quasi federal organization whose president is Dr. Kenneth Yong. He encouraged the society not to follow the ordinary procedures but rather to do the not so common and not ordinary things.

Dr. Lynch continued and said that if we wish we could apply to the Council on Post-secondary Accreditation and become a member of that organization and receive full status as an accrediting body. On the other hand that would take longer than straightening out our bylaws, constitution and I.R.S. status. He recommended that the society establishes a programme which will do the following:

- 1) The Education Committee will undertake a formal survey of all the programmes that are currently operating across the country in institutions of higher learning.
- 2) The Society will request collaboration and cooperation with all such institutions in our endeavours.
- 3) All programmes will be evaluated by the existing or an expanded Education Committee. Yesterday, Yale Caplan was added to the existing committee.

Dr. Lynch assured the members that it is not the Society's aim to interfere with any educational operation. He used here the term academic freedom which he said is a crucial term in educational circles. Standardization does not mean that each institution has the same curricular content, but rather that the institution in question will have the same goals and objectives while they develop their own approach needed to produce the proposed student product. Standardization does mean, however, that the institution will support the programme in an appropriate fashion, that is in similarity in faculty requirements, in facility and equipment requirements to support research and in auxiliary facilities which will justify the title of Forensic Toxicologist with other words facilities available for subsidies. Initially the goal of the Education Committee will be to gain acceptance of S.O.F.T. as a body responsible for determining that a programme of education meets the requirements for providing an appropriate degree. This will include some form of programme certification under the auspices of the society. Ultimately it will be desirable to have this function recognized by the Council of Post-secondary Education and the Council on Graduate Studies within the United States. A possible way to achieve that goal in the interim would be to have one of the existing accrediting bodies undertake such accreditations as part of their routine, for example, enlist the aid of the Council of Landgrantologists or the Middlestate Council or whatever. Certainly it was not intended, that our efforts should impede or arrogate the activities of any other group as was suggested earlier. Hopefully with time the Academy and the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists will recognize the society in the educational role it proposes to undertake. Dr. Lynch expressed the thought that the Society can function as an organization offering certification to these programmes and he finally asked for the support of the membership in these matters.

With respect to the grant from Roche, Bob Simon asked if the money was strictly earmarked for student grants or can they also be programme inclusive.

The President answered that they can be used any way we see fit, there are no strings attached, and he added that the Board of Directors as of yesterday, has given Dr. Lynch its blessing to proceed in the manner he has just outlined and he will get more assistance from Drs. Caplan, Blanke and the other members of the Education Committee.

Dr. Lynch added that last year when he gave his original presentation, he asked each member to investigate whatever programme that was available in members area. This now becomes more urgent because if the process goes as he hopes, it will be the committee who will have to ask each member in a particular area to join with them in an actual programme evaluation to avoid undue cost due to travelling expenses.

Asaad Masoud asked how many schools around the country give degrees in forensic toxicology. The President answered, that this is something we don't know, but many give graduate courses in the field and our present job is to determine whether they really are what they say they are.

Dr. Lynch added that he would estimate that there are between 18 - 28 schools that offer degree programmes in toxicology. To Mike McGee's question if the committee distinguishes between forensic toxicology and forensic science courses Dr. Lynch answered that we are only interested in toxicology.

Dr. Bidanset finally asked whether it would be appropriate to ask for a vote of confidence in the Education Committee but the President said that this has already been done through the Board of Directors.

8. Proficiency Testing

Dr. Bednarzyk informed the meeting that the programme is working and that he gets approximately 30% feed back. In general the results are not too bad. There is agreement that one sample a month is too much so for the next year there will only be one every two months. The charge will still be \$24.00. He welcomed any suggestions that could improve the operation.

Dr. A. McBay mentioned that he had received a call from Mr. John Sullivan, a forensic science manager of the L.E.A.A. to the effect that Congress has appropriated \$100,000.00 for a federal supported proficiency programme. What they want to do now is to solicit an hourly fee for a contractor to do this work. Dr. McBay said that he would suggest that the programme runs for 2 years and he hopes there will be enough money to take care of that. He was assured that all results will be anonymous. He will continue to discuss the matter with Mr. Sullivan.

Bob Simon was concerned about L.E.A.A. completely taking over the proficiency testing programme and he asked if L.E.A.A. knows about our programme. Tom Rejent answered that a letter has just been typed to the I.R.S. and to Mr. Sullivan of the L.E.A.A.A. The content of the letter has been approved by Dr. McBay and offers to Mr. Sullivan the help of the Society in determining what the programme should consist of and the expertise of its members to help him make the correct decisions.

Bob Simon suggested that we tell Mr. Sullivan and other agencies about our programme and suggest to him that a member of S.O.F.T. sit on a committee. Tom Rejent said that we cannot do this alone, somebody else has to put it together, but it is agreed that we must attempt to have our people in on what is going on to make sure that what is being done is correct.

9. Logo

Joe Balkon told the membership that for the past year there has been a battering around of a logo, a symbol we can use to represent the organization. We would like to use it in a brochure describing what the Society is about in order to attract new members. It is also an appearance factor, that goes along with the organization and which people can identify as a forensic toxicology symbol. We have asked several people to send in their ideas and what we come up with is a ring representing a Conway cell with the Society's name on the outside border and the symbolism of skull and crossbone for the poisoning agent and behind that is the intertwining ring system representing the causative factor associated with poisoning or biohazard. Before passing his rough copy around, Dr. Balkon explained, that the background will be changed from black to silver.

Tom Rejent commented that the Board of Directors already has approved this design after looking at 8 - 9 different suggestions. Dr. Decker suggested that we, for legal reasons, add the letters INC. for incorporated behind the name of the Society. The President thanked him for this useful suggestion and went on to explain that Yale Caplan has been asked to put together a brochure describing the activities of the Society as well as requirements for membership.

After being motioned by Dr. Bednarzcyk and seconded by Dr. Caplan the membership unanimously accepted the design of the logo as presented.

10. The Journal of Forensic Toxicology

Joe Balkon explained, that the reasons for, we could accomplish all we set out to do and for its success, is two-fold. Firstly, we had a rapid response on the part of the people who submitted papers. Secondly, the rapid participation of Dr. Vincent Lynch who helped getting this particular issue together. He furthermore emphasized, that this was not a one time shot in terms of what the Society can do in disseminating forensic toxicological literature. We should consider another dedicated issue of the Journal in 1½ to 2 years from now. He finally mentioned that he needs some kind of a feedback from the membership regarding their opinion of the articles appearing in the issue.

Tom Rejent said that he was so impressed by this issue that he had written the people involved especially the editor a letter of thanks.

Asaad Masoud asked if it was possible to ask the journal for one issue a year mostly devoted to papers given at the Annual meeting, but Dr. Balkon thought that this would be impossible since there are only six issues a year. They are only willing to dedicate one issue in 9 - 12 to a particular organization. Dr. Masoud also suggested that since many employers request that their people give a presentation in order for them to go to a meeting, all contributions at the annual meeting could be published in the journal some month later. The President did not think that S.O.F.T. is ready to dedicate papers presented at the

annual meeting in such a manner that it is publishable. The annual meeting in his opinion is to give the members an opportunity to come and tell about their experiences, discoveries and what they have done. It is up to themselves to expand on this and formalize it into a paper they can submit to a Journal, there are no strings attached. This meeting has been fantastic because we have not structured any particular paper into any single direction at all. We were all permitted to discuss what seemed pertinent at that particular time.

11. Bylaw Change

Yale Caplan explained that the Bylaw Committee does not act on the validity or acceptability of a proposed change, all it does is to put the concept into context, so that if it is accepted by the membership the change would be in the appropriate form consistent with the bylaws.

This particular amendment which deals with the number of meetings a member must attend, was suggested by one member and was put into format by the Bylaw Committee. The committee has no position on it, it is neither in favour nor opposes it. It only put it into this particular form for consideration of the membership. Some information has come up during this meeting that the Executive Committee does not think that this particular bylaw change might be the best thing to get in our present situation. All members should have received the wording of the change at least twice, once by individual mailing and once in the newsletter.

In order to refresh the memory of the members present, Dr. Caplan read the proposed changes in Section 3, dealing with "Termination of Membership".

- C. A member shall be removed from S.O.F.T. if he fails to attend the annual meeting for four consecutive years. Exemption to this requirement may be granted by the Board of Directors upon receipt of a written request from the member.

Furthermore, Paragraph E, is suggested deleted and the following sentence added to paragraph D.

"Termination of membership for unethical conduct must be approved by three-fourths of the voting members present at the annual business meeting".

Dr. Caplan continued to explain that previous bylaws provide that a member can be terminated for failure to attend meetings but such action would require approval of the Executive Board and must ultimately be voted upon at the annual meeting. The mechanism is there now. The proposed change merely makes it automatic if a member fails to attend the annual meeting for four consecutive years. Before it was at the discretion of the board.

Bob Simon commented that in his opinion non-payment of dues is a good reason for throwing somebody out. It does not mean anything that a member does not attend the yearly meeting. We are going into our second decade and there is still a lot of growth. A member as Dr. Lynch can stay away from meetings for years and still do more for the organization than anybody else.

President Rejent agreed fully with this and added that in our efforts to seek tax exemption status it would not, in his opinion, be beneficial to throw people out of the organization for the reasons stated. Jesse Bidanset also spoke against the change emphasizing that because of the tight money policies many employers cannot afford to let their personnel travel to meetings even if the Executive Board is trying to move the meeting place around in the country.

Mike McGee said that a person could miss four meetings and all he has to do to show his interest in the Society is to write a letter to the Executive Board explaining the situation. He was neither for nor against the proposal.

Joe Balkon and Neil Reiding commented that if somebody pays their dues every year, that is to show interest. Some may take this in the context of buying an association title, but this is not true. Tom Rejent finally mentioned that there are members of the Society who are not present but have contributed to the Journal and he asked if the person who introduced the change in the bylaw would like to comment. As this was not the case the proposal was brought to a vote.

It was unanimously voted down.

12. Workshops

Jesse Bidanset reported that the first two workshops that were conducted by Joe Balkon and himself dealt with derivative U.V. and were held in conjunction with S.O.T.A.A. meeting in New Orleans in March and the second at St. Johns University. The first one was poorly attended, the second better, but he thought that they just about broke even with the programme this year.

In cooperation with the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, they are going to try a G.C/T.L.C. workshop. It will be at an intermediate level and will deal with special topics in T.L.C. and G.C. They have invited a number of manufacturers to donate pieces of equipment and apparatus for a 3½ days workshop. It will be held January 7-10, 1980 at St. Johns University and the fee is \$225.00 for members. The faculty will be described in a brochure that will be sent to the members in a week's time. It will be limited to 16 - 20 persons and will be on a first come first served basis.

Dr. Bidanset answered no to Ray Bath's question whether members could apply for financial help to the Society's educational funds. Joe Balkon commented that the Workshop Committee request from the membership that they provide input to the Committee in terms of what they would like to see being done in future workshops and not let the committee go out on a tangent. If some particular person desires that a workshop is done in a particular region the most important thing the person could do is to gather a commitment from prospective students. The Committee can then go ahead and make the necessary arrangements.

Ray Bath asked if it was possible for the Society to include ½ to 1 day of toxicology in the workshops the manufacturers put on. President Rejent said that this is being looked into constantly and that Perkon Elmer already took part in the two first workshops.

Bob Simon commented that Finnigan might be willing to give a 25% discount for S.O.F.T. members taking part in their GC/MS workshops. This would be another approach, namely to use what is already available of workshops and then have some toxicology added to the curriculum. Tom Rejent answered that in order for this to be acceptable to S.O.F.T., the

organization must have some input to a particular workshop, first then will it consider such an arrangement. We do not want cartebianch to say yes, some of us want to attend; we want to know who is teaching and what they are teaching. We want to say something about the context of the workshop as we have done in the past.

13. Nominations and Elections

The President opened this part of the meeting with a brief comment. He wanted all present to understand, that the Nominating Committee serves for one year only and is selected by the incumbent president of the Association. There should be no quarrel with the Committee, if there is any, it should be with the president. The members of this year's Nominating Committee were selceted by himself and they came up with a slate of officers, which has been presented to the members in writing in the newsletter, that has been sent to all members. Because of surrounding circumstances, the chair has chosen not to entertain any cartebianche motion for the officers that has been nominated. He then drew the members attention to the fact that the Nominating Committee has nominated Dr. Leonard Bednarczyk to President of the Society and asked for a motion from the floor to that effect.

The motion was made by Dr. N. Reading and seconded by D.W. Robinson. It carried by a majority voice vote.

A motion to elect Yale Caplan to the position of Vice-President, as nominated by the Committee, was made by Jesse Bidanset and seconded by Everett Solomons. This was also carried by a majority voice vote.

The President informed the members that the Society has opted to have rotating officer shifts for the positions of treasurer and secretary. Last year by the luck of a draw it was decided that the secretary should have a one year term and he thanked John Kofoed who has held the position for the past year. The treasurer has a two year term and Tom Rejent thanked Joe Balkon for all he has done for the organization over the past year.

Next the Nominating Committee had placed the name of Robert Forney, Jr. in nomination for the position of secretary for a two year term.

A motion to that effect was made by Mark Lewis and Dr. Lynch seconded the motion.

Joe Balkon entered the name of Dr. Everett Solomons in nomination and made the motion which was seconded by Leo Dal Cortivo. As no other names were made available Jesse Bidanset seconded by Yale Caplan made a motion to close the nomination.

The result of the voting by written ballots was as follows: -

Dr. Robert Forney, Jr.	6
Dr. Everett Solomons	31
Invalid	1

As an incoming member of the Board of Directors the Nominating Committee had placed the name of Dr. Joseph Montford in nomination.

A motion supporting this was made by Neil Reading and seconded by Mike McGee. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

For the second position on the Board of Directors the Nominating Committee has placed the name of Dr. Jim Valentour in nomination.

This was motioned by Jesse Bidanset and seconded by Leonard Bednarczyk.

Bob Simon seconded by Ray Bath, placed the name of Dr. Marina Stajic in nomination. The result of the voting by written ballots was: -

Dr. Marina Stajic	10
Dr. Jim Valentour	27

Since a position on the Board of Directors was left open by the election of Everett Solomons to secretary, the President invited nominations from the floor for this position which expires by the end of 1980.

Jesse Bidanset, seconded by Neil Reading placed Dr. Leo Dal Cortivo in nomination while Mike McGee nominated Dr. Marina Stajic which was seconded by Patricia Fields.

Dr. Dal Cortivo expressed his wish to decline his nomination and let Marina Stajic stand alone. The President, however, ruled, that this was too late as he had ample opportunity to withdraw at the time he was nominated and seconded.

Dr. Lynch moved that the nomination be closed and this was seconded by Mike McGee.

The result of the voting by written ballots were:

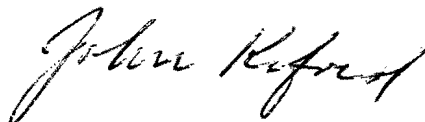
Dr. Marina Stajic	16
Dr. Leo Dal Cortivo	23

Closing and Adjournment

As a final note, the President thanked the membership for the opportunity he has had to serve the Society for the past year.

Joe Balkon thanked, on behalf of the members, Tom Rejent for the excellent job he has done as President of the Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

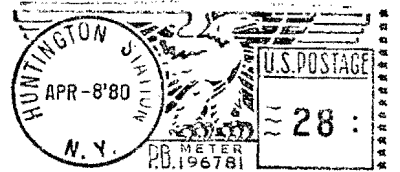


John

Got me up at 12:30

Wm

TOX TALK NEWSLETTER
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