



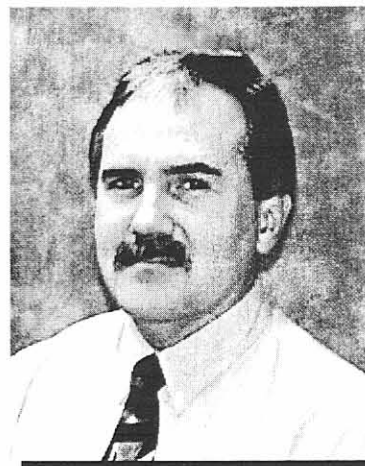
## *A Message from the President*

July 1999

Fellow Members:

Well, we're moving along quite well into this year. I'm looking forward to a year of rest and relaxation after this one.

The Board of Directors met on May 8th in Melbourne, the site of our next conference in October. The board discussed many issues but one of the most important issues was the Web Site planned for the association before the end of the year. Ron Fertgus did much of the legwork for this project to get it off the ground with much success. The only thing remaining is the selection of a webmaster and the initial construction of the web site. Changes will be ongoing once we are online but I definitely feel that this site will rival other state division web sites.



Work is in high gear for the 40th Annual Training Conference being held in Melbourne October 24-28, 1999. This is still the most popular state division conference anywhere in the country. We have been able to keep the costs down to a minimum thanks to the hard work of Julie Shoff and others involved in the Conference committee. There is nowhere else that you can find this caliber of training for under \$100 and workshops that are available for no additional costs. The brochures are being printed and mailed to the members as you read this letter. Deb Fischer and Bud Haemmerle have been working extremely hard to bring us the best program yet and for those of you that have attended previous conferences, you can realized how difficult they are to top each successive year. This year we will have some new topics such as crime scene testimony from the viewpoints of both a judge and an attorney. There will also be updates on the latest in digital imaging, DNA and IAFIS. In addition there will be three 40-hour workshops held: a Latent Comparison Course, Science of Latent Fingerprints and Basis Crime Scene Processing. Each attendee to these workshops will receive a separate certificate for attendance. These workshops are usually filled to capacity prior to the start of the conference so plan to register early. The social activities planned will rival last year's which has been called the best year ever. We will have more of the hot selling denim logo shirts that sold out the first day last year. This year we have added a second color in addition to the old favorite t-shirts. Everyone has been thrilled with these logo shirts because they are top quality products at half the price sold at other conferences. We will also have insulated coffee mugs for sale this year imprinted with the FDIAI logo. All of this merchandise will be sold at the IAI conference in July as well as our own conference in October.

Our Editor, Alan Clark, has moved to Gainesville from Miami but will still maintain his duties as editor of this newsletter. Alan has done an excellent job after taking over this year.

Districts 7, 9 and 10 held a joint training meeting with the South Florida Forensic Association sponsoring their first Forensic Technology Expo in Plantation on May 8th. It was a real success. Over 125 people attended the Expo with over a dozen exhibitors participating. The food was great and nearly every exhibitor expressed a desire to participate in next year's Expo if one is held. At this point, the second annual conference is planned for next May and we are anticipating nearly 25 exhibitors. We are hoping to make this a mid-year mini-conference for the association.

As always, I am available for suggestions or comments to improve the organization. My address, phone number and e-mail address is on the inside front cover. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Until the next issue...