



THE ASSOCIATION



December, 2016

Issue 4, 2016



For those of you enjoying this holiday season in a warm tropical place and for those of you wishing for a warm tropical place...



MERRY CHRISTMAS and have a
SAFE and **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**



President's Perspective

Wow, where has 2016 gone? For IACAI, 2016 has been a very important year as we ventured into the national spotlight and helped to sponsor the largest international crash conference in history, to date. Even though IACAI had been involved in the planning of WREX2016 since 2013, the conference itself is where IACAI shined. IACAI issued \$3,000 in seed money to get WREX2016 started and we got every penny of that back with the huge success of WREX2016. IACAI also sponsored two (2) of the many crash test vehicles, where the IACAI logo was prominently displayed to the 850+ attendees, vendors, and staff. One of those sponsored cars unexpectedly rolled over in the second most exciting crash test on crash day! Crash day was awesome (even with the Florida midafternoon shower)!

But individual members of IACAI were involved in many other aspects of WREX2016 as well. Treasurer Scott Poston, Director Mark Helms, and Director Tim Spencer served on three (3) of the crash teams, and helped to gather evidence of each crash such as photos and videos.

Vice-President Dave McElhaney served on the planning committee from the beginning. He also served on the vendor subcommittee along with me and Duane Meyers (Wisconsin). Dave helped to contact hundreds of vendors to both present at the conference but also to provide door prizes. He was an integral part in ordering supplies and the conference give-away articles. Great job Dave!

Yours truly, besides serving on the planning committee and vendor subcommittee, I was also heavily involved in the website creation and constant updates. Then as the conference drew near, I became the WREX2016 Conference PIO (for reasons unknown, HA!). But really it was a pleasure working with Orlando PD's Public Information Office and the local Orlando media.

Like Dave, I became involved from the start back in 2013 when, for the first time ever, state and national crash association leaders all sat down at the same table and started a collaborative effort to share information. It was at those meetings that WREX2000 was mentioned and the race was on to get WREX2016 up and running. After years, months, countless video meetings, on-site meetings, and finally setup for several days before the conference, WREX2016 was held on May 2-6, 2016. It was THE conference for crash investigators and will go down in the record books!

Well, I didn't plan for this article to be all about WREX2016 and still want to highlight this year's seminars.

In March, our friend, Kevin Johnson taught a great seminar on Event Data Recorders. Kevin provided updates and many trick of the trade when it comes to gathering evidence from both vehicles and large trucks. He brought in a car and some trucks and the class was able to see and examine the vehicles.

The June pedestrian seminar, taught by director Tim Spencer, provided confirmation of pedestrian formulas used in our field. The morning live testing, using a fire department dummy and a donated vehicle was invaluable training.

Videoring from all angles and taking video in slow motion gave attendee's the visual tools they need to confidently testify about pedestrian crashes. If you missed the seminar, many of the videos are on IACAI's Facebook page.

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In November, our annual legal update was instructed by St. Joseph County F.A.C.T. prosecutor Jennifer McKinney. The legal update was traffic specific and gave detailed case law for officers to refer to in their duties. The afternoon session on crash interview and interrogation was well presented by our own newbie director Gene Eyster. Gene presented processes for interviewing victims, witnesses and suspects. He shared many techniques and tips he has learned from experience in his 40(ish) some years in law enforcement.

IACAI was privileged in August to partner with the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council (IPAC) to host Trial Advocacy II: Lethal Weapon – Understanding the Vehicular Crash in Indianapolis. Many IACAI members were invited to attend along with their prosecutor. Over 60 crash investigators and prosecutors attended. Several IACAI board members help facilitate the 4-day training which included several scenes to investigate a pedestrian scene. Several live crash tests, similar to the June seminar, provided the class with the first hand observations on the dynamics involved in a pedestrian crash.



President's Perspective

So, in summary, 2016 was a tremendous year for the Indiana Association of Certified Accident Investigators. Keep watch for information coming soon on trainings for 2017.

Remember to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IndianaIACAI or bookmark our website at www.iacai.com.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your president. I hope and pray all of you have a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kip Shuter

WREX 2016 is now but a distant memory to those who attended; the dust has settled and the excitement that was WREX has dissipated, for the most part. WREX 2016 will go down in history as the world's largest Reconstruction Conference in history to date, and the IACAI will be part of that history as well. From the inception of WREX back in April of 2013 to the end of the conference on May 6th, 2016, the IACAI was involved. WREX 2016 will go down in history for several things in addition to being the largest reconstruction conference in history. It will go down in history as being a well-planned, well-attended and well-executed conference. If you were one of the 800+ attendees, you were part of conference filled with lectures from some of the greatest minds in the crash investigation business, some truly amazing technical demonstrations, participated in some interesting experiments and watched some spectacular crash tests. Aside from the heat, rain, and little hitches here and there, it was a great experience for everyone who attended.

IACAI President Kip Shuter and myself had the pleasure of being part of this historic event, representing the IACAI from the inception of the most recent incarnation of WREX back in 2013. Many long hours were spent on video and telephone conferences, attending planning meetings and many, many phone calls to potential vendors. 21 associations from the US, Australia, and the UK put down \$3,000 each in funding to get WREX off the ground. There was a lot of sweat equity that went into planning this conference. I will tell you that it was difficult but really rewarding. We got to experience things that we would likely never have and gained friends and valuable contacts that cannot be forgotten. WREX 2016 not only turned out to be the biggest conference ever, it also turned out to be a hugely successful conference – so much so, that all of the associations that contributed seed money to get the project going received refunds on their contributions!! The lessons learned and the knowledge gained from participating in this conference will help the IACAI meet the next big challenge.

Speaking of next big challenges, I want to take this moment to announce that the IACAI board of directors has agreed to begin planning for a 3-day Crash Investigation conference in 2018! The date and location for the conference has not been set yet, but will be announced sometime in mid to late 2017. So, while it seems far off, I can tell you that this conference will be here before you know it. Stay tuned to the newsletters and other email notifications for more information.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks for 2016. I thank GOD that we have a great organization as we have in the IACAI, and that we have been blessed with a considerable amount of talent in those who put on the training year after year. It is my wish that 2017 will be a great and prosperous year for the IACAI and a safe and prosperous year for its members! Merry Christmas!!

David McElhaney, V-P IACAI

Secretary's

Memo



Hello all:

Coming in 2017, I will be working/walking through a few scenarios that you may come across in real life situations/investigations. Hopefully this will enhance your investigations as well as peak your interest.

This 4th Quarter Newsletter for 2016 is short, brief and to the point.

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

PS:

I appreciate all that you do and I am sure that the good people in the state of Indiana appreciate all you do as well as the sacrifices that you make.

***Your association
works for you!***

The IACAI is a non-profit organization dedicated to the professional education and training of crash investigators and reconstructionists throughout the State of Indiana. Training is open to all crash investigators, employed by or retired from a public safety agency.