President's Message

My year as President is nearing a close. The business meeting of the annual meeting will mark the election of a new slate of officers to take office January 1st. My Board has worked diligently to provide the leadership of this organization. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their work on your behalf. The activities of the past year will culminate with a joint meeting with the Canadian Society of Forensic Sciences in Toronto September 30 to October 3rd. The success of this meeting and the year's activities will be partially measured by the SOFT attendance. Plan to attend the meeting. Take an active part in discussions, presentations and the business meeting and enjoy the social aspects of the meeting.

We are celebrating our 10th annual meeting. We first met at the Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner in October of 1970. Abe Freireich was the host and we called it an interim meeting (between AAFS meetings). We slowly formalized the organization and today we have goals and objectives which represent only the forensic toxicologist. No other organization serves only that group. As a forensic toxicologist, shouldn't you be supporting the organization. Keep SOFT growing (bring in some new members) so that we can continue to prosper and serve the interests of the forensic toxicologist.

I'm particularly proud of our program in obtaining funds to support research in forensic toxicology. If you are employed by or belong to an organization or know of a manufacturer who has educational or research funds, please tell us so that we can make them aware of our program.

As we return to a normal work schedule from our summer of 1980, let me wish all of you a productive and satisfying year.

Best Regards,
Len Bednarczyk,
President

Editorial

Perhaps it's just summer time or perhaps no one reads editorials or maybe nobody really cares to respond. My mail was totally devoid of any response to the July editorial. This apparent apathy (the complaint of most newsletter editors) leads me on to yet another "soap box" - What is the direction of our organization? Who will lead?
Our constitution, by-laws and incorporation papers clearly indicate our purposes as an organization. Those purposes serve only as guidelines. What are the immediate problems that face forensic toxicologists? How can a responsive organization such as SOFT pinpoint these problems and then establish programs to meet these specific needs?

One way is to elect officers that reflect your thinking and express ideologies closest to your own. Elsewhere in this publication, the nominating committee has listed willing candidates for each opening in our slate of officers to be filled. Nominations from the floor are still possible and encouraged. Just last year the office of secretary was filled by a candidate nominated from the floor. It's your organization. Let's not hear a month from now that a slate of officers was "steam-rolled" into office.

Come to the annual meeting. Take an active part in the elections and the business meeting and make SOFT take the direction you, the membership, desire. Don't sit back and criticize the Board of Directors. Elect them and then communicate with your elected officials. The organization certainly can't "please all of the people all of the time" but it should provide a responsive program for the majority of the membership.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Jesse:

It is noted in the recent SOFT Newsletter that at the Board of Director's meeting a discussion took place as to whether the degrees of the Board members should appear on the SOFT stationery.

It has always been my opinion that SOFT was to be a forum for the "working toxicologist", many of whom were not as fortunate as us to have advanced degrees. It appears to me that the use of degrees on the letterhead is a kind of "slap in the face" to these individuals...who by the way, make up a majority of the SOFT membership.

If we want SOFT to become another Academy of Forensic Sciences - fine! Put the degrees on the letterhead. If, however, we want SOFT to be the informal organization we started 10 years ago, then save the degrees for the ends of letters.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Manning, B.S., M.S., Ph.D., DABFT
Editor's Response

Thanks for your letter, Tom. As the mover of the motion which prompted your response, I will try to answer for the board. I would first draw your attention to the letterhead upon which you wrote to me - the M.D.'s and Ph.D.'s are clearly indicated. This I'm sure was not done to "slap anyone in the face". SOFT and NOCOME both must correspond with individuals and organizations who know nothing about our respective groups or the caliber of its members. The letterhead should therefore indicate what and who we are. Particularly when communicating with government and legal agencies, the degrees of achievement of the leaders of any organizations are considered in evaluating that group. For example, we have been able to obtain funds to support graduate research in forensic toxicology. The pharmaceutical and chemical companies approached for funds, knew little about SOFT or its membership - the letterhead was the first image we presented.

At no time has this or any other executive board tried to do anymore than present the best positive image of our organization. At no time was any affront to the membership remotely intended.

Jess

Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc.
Administrative Officers Meeting
Baltimore, Maryland - July 18, 1980

The meeting was called to order by President L. Bednarczyk at 9:40 AM. Those attending were: President Leonard Bednarczyk; Vice President Yale Caplan; Treasurer Joe Balkon; and Secretary Everett Solomons.

Tax Exempt Status
This problem has still not been resolved. R. Simon will make a report at the annual meeting in Toronto.

Membership Committee
Pres. Bednarczyk pointed out that application processing has been unacceptably slow. A letter from Committee Member H. McCurdy has indicated a problem with communication.

Several suggestions were made with regard to membership and applications for membership including:
1. A specific procedure be established for application processing.
2. A deadline of thirty days be established for processing of routine applications.
3. A file for each member be maintained which would contain:
   a. the original application
   b. a copy of notification of acceptance or rejection of membership
   c. any other pertinent information
4. The Secretary was charged with the responsibility of drawing up a form to be used for application processing by the Committee which would include:
   a. name of applicant
   b. date of application
   c. recommendation of reviewer as to membership status
   d. remarks
5. The Membership Committee Chairman is responsible for notifying the Secretary as to the final judgment of the Committee; the Secretary in turn should send a letter of notification to the applicant and copies to the President, the Treasurer, and the Editor of the Newsletter.
6. It was further suggested that a flow plan be drawn up depicting the membership application process.

Publicity
The Publicity Chairman, Ron Backer, has placed appropriate notices in JAT, J. Anal. Chem., J. Forensic Sci., and other publications concerning the forthcoming meeting in Toronto. Other announcements concerning activities of SOFT, Inc. will be made also.

Another Joint Meeting
President Bednarczyk indicated that the American Association of Clinical Toxicologists has written and asked that consideration be given to a combined AACT-SOFT meeting in 1985 or '86. The consensus was favorable and final approval of the Board will be sought in Toronto.

Funding for Tox Talk
President Bednarczyk pointed out that J. Bidanset has been asked to seek financial support from pharmaceutical houses, government agencies, or other agencies as necessary to subsidize the cost of the newsletter. Some success has already been achieved in that Roche Diagnostics has offered financial aid.

New Format for Tox Talk
J. Balkon displayed a representative cover sheet which would be used to give Tox Talk an improved appearance. The new format was received well by those present and will be presented at a later date to the Board for final approval.

Timeliness of Publication of Tox Talk
This is still a problem and may be in part due to the fact that the Editor has to personally type the Newsletter. Solomons offered to provide assistance in getting the Newsletter typed.

Dues Increase
Treasurer J. Balkon pointed out that the proposed budget for 1980-81 projected a very narrow margin of only $82.21 (see attached copy). Increased expenses are in part due to:

a. expense of publishing Newsletter
b. cost of travel for business meetings
c. increased expenses associated with the Annual Meeting

It was noted by Y. Caplan that if any unexpected necessary expenditures should arise, the organization could be financially unprepared to meet them.

Pres. L. Bednarczyk proposed a dues increase from the present $20.00 to $30.00. This was generally agreed upon by those present.

SOFT Honor Society
J. Balkon proposed a SOFT, Inc. sponsored National Honor Society of Forensic Toxicology be established to honor outstanding students of this discipline. Joe was encouraged to proceed with this endeavor and will construct guidelines and by-laws for the proposed society.

Education Award
Although the first SOFT Education Award recipient has been chosen, several details regarding the exact title, the purpose of the award, guidelines for application of the money, renewability of the disbursement, and the maximum amount to be awarded a given recipient has yet to be spelled out. J. Balkon suggested, and it was the consensus, that an Award Committee should be established and given the responsibility of defining these details.

Registry of Forensic Toxicology Analysts
Pres. L. Bednarczyk brought to our attention a copy of the proposed Registry
Forensic Toxicological Analysts by the ABFT, Inc. He noted that a panel discussion on this subject was held at the joint meeting of SAFS, MAAFS, and NEAFS in Louisville, Kentucky in May.

J. Balkon expressed concern that the proposal was released to others before being circulated for examination and comment by diplomates of the ABFT, Inc.

Pres. L. Bednarczyk goes on record as being unequivocally opposed to the concept of a Registry for non-Ph.D. toxicologists because of a potential diluting effect on the meaning of ABFT certification.

J. Balkon and Y. Caplan expressed some reservation as to the possible success of establishing a registry.

E. Solomons supports the formation of such a registry as offering an alternative pathway of recognition for capable non-Ph.D. forensic toxicologists.

All present agreed with Pres. Bednarczyk that 3b and 3c under training requirements be deleted and only 3a be accepted.

It was also agreed by all present (as suggested by J. Balkon) that absolutely no grandfathering be allowed.

Recertification

A proposal for requalification of diplomates of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology was discussed. Pres. Bednarczyk has responded for SOFT.

Proficiency Testing

In a recent article describing a grant of $100,000 to support a program "to assess the performance of the nation's 200 forensic toxicology laboratories" the manager of the program, John O. Sullivan, released statements which generated the concern of Pres. Bednarczyk and the other officers present at this meeting.

The overall tone of the article was such as to arouse concern that a similar program to that formulated by the same agency for testing the proficiency of criminalists might be promulgated in this instance with similar disastrous results.

Some of the pertinent points made by those present at this meeting included:

1. Y. Caplan:
   a. The study must maintain anonymity
   b. Mr. Sullivan must be apprised of SOFT's stance concerning the project.
   c. Recommendations must be drawn up and submitted to J. Sullivan and B. Finkle
   d. The goal of the project should not be to publicly identify and pronounce the deficiencies of laboratories, but rather to allow self identification of weaknesses which would lead to self-improvement
   e. Finally, SOFT, Inc. must take a stance for or against the project

2. Pres. Bednarczyk insists that Mr. Sullivan must give assurance that the money is to be used for research and the data should not be made public!

3. J. Balkon suggested that Pres. Bednarczyk call R. Baselt (Pres. CAT) to request that he and his organization reinforce the position of SOFT, Inc. on this issue.

Toronto Meeting

J. Balkon pointed out that the Syva Corporation has offered $500.00 for the purchase of mementos to mark the 10th anniversary of SOFT. In return, Syva
A tentative general outline of the program for the 1980 meeting was presented by Pres. Bednarczyk. Many of the details are yet to be delineated.

A tenth anniversary cocktail party to be held after the banquet scheduled Thursday evening was agreed upon.

J. Balkon proposed and Pres. Bednarczyk accepted the responsibility for preparing a special letter from the President of SOFT, Inc. inviting members to the tenth anniversary meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Everett T. Solomons, Ph.D.
Secretary, SOFT, Inc.

A Proposal for Requalification of Diplomates
of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Introduction

During the past three years, the Board of Directors of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, Inc. has actively studied the problem of Recertification in many ways. A Committee appointed by the Board was charged with the task of developing a workable mechanism for "Recertification". Both solicited and unsolicited suggestions from Sponsoring Organizations and individual Diplomates were considered. The Committee studied the plans for recertification being developed by other, similar certification boards. Many boards are still in the process of developing plans or have deferred decisions regarding recertification. A few have developed exceedingly complex and costly mechanisms which are difficult to implement.

In addition, over the past four years during which the Board has acquired experience in certification, it has learned that the practice of forensic toxicology is perceived and carried out in varying ways. This is due in part to geographic and political differences over which the Diplomate has little control. Thus, what a Diplomate does in the laboratory may be similar to the activities of others but how results are used, court appearances, level of funding, support for professional enrichment, etc. depends largely on the agency with which the Diplomate is associated.

Finally, any mechanism to be adopted for monitoring continuing certification must be economically and practically feasible. This is of particular concern at this time when LEAA funding of some ABFT activities will soon end and relocation of administrative services is necessary.

In considering all of these factors, and others, the Board of Directors at its last meeting, adopted guidelines which will aid in a more rapid implementation of a program. The following is a preliminary draft of these guidelines.

General

1. The term "Requalification" was substituted for "Recertification". This was done on the basis that the Diplomate has already been judged to be "certified". The extension of the process should have as its goal to determine whether the Diplomate has maintained qualifications for the acceptable

requested that an exhibit be allowed in a prominent location at the meeting. Y. Caplan suggested that Syva be written and notified that an attempt would be made to cooperate with this request if logistically possible, but if not, it would be hoped that the $500.00 donation could still be made.
practice of forensic toxicology.
2. No examination will be required for Requalification.

Requirements for Requalification

Prior to the end of the initial period of certification (or subsequent period of requalification), the Diplomate must show evidence of:
1. Continued good moral character and high ethical and professional standing.
2. Continued professional activity in forensic toxicology as defined for Certification.

Documentation

An application form modeled after the present Certification Application Form will be developed. This form, added to the usual and necessary information, will provide for statements relating to the following (all information will apply to the time period between the Diplomate's original application for Certification and current application for Requalification or approximately five years):
1. Applicant has/has not been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. (If so, explain.)
2. Applicant has/has not had proved charges of unethical conduct brought forward. (If so, explain.)
3. Formal Courses - list title, date and institution. If a graduate degree was awarded, transcripts must be provided directly from the degree awarding institution.
4. Listing of position(s) held and description of activities involved clearly outlining those tasks directly relating to forensic toxicology.
5. The names of two individuals from whom the Board may solicit statements relating to the applicant's moral, ethical and professional standing. These references should be individuals knowledgeable of forensic toxicology, not directly related to the applicant or occupying subsevient positions in the agency of the applicant. At least one reference must be a Diplomate of one of the forensic science boards.
6. Evidence of continuing professional activities will be solicited by listing these activities and documenting them when appropriate. Relative weights will not be assigned to specific activities. Rather the Board will view the sum of these activities as evidence of continuing involvement in forensic toxicology provided the Board accepts these as activities which enhance the applicant's knowledge and skills in forensic toxicology. Examples of these will include, but not be restricted to, the following:

Court Appearances
Publications
Presentations or Invited Lectures given
Workshops - faculty or participant
Membership in national or regional professional organizations
Participation in proficiency testing programs
Awards and honors
Other continuing education activities
7. The completed application form and accompanying documents must be sworn to as true, signed and witnessed before a notory public.

Implementation

1. Ten months prior to the expiration of the period of certification, the Diplomate will be sent a notice consisting of an application form and covering letter with instructions.
2. In order to maintain continuity, the Diplomate must submit the application for Requalification not later than six months prior to the expiration of
the period of certification (i.e. four months are allowed for completing and mailing the necessary documents). A late reminder will be sent one month prior to this deadline.

3. Upon receipt of the completed application, a Requalification Committee appointed by the Board will review the documents.
   
a. Upon unanimous agreement in favor, the Diplomate is requalified.
   
b. If questions arise, the Requalification Committee will seek clarification by appropriate means and re-review the documents.
   
c. In the event of lack of agreement by the Requalification Committee or in the case of problems which the Committee cannot resolve, the application will be reviewed by the entire Board after which a majority vote will determine whether the Diplomate is requalified.

4. Upon requalification, the Diplomate will be issued a sealed-in-plastic pocket card attesting to the requalification and a decal which can be applied to the original certificate.

   a. Diplomates who fail to apply for requalification or who fail to achieve requalification, will be notified and dropped from subsequent listings in the Directory.
   
   b. In the event that unforeseen events justify delays in requalification beyond the period of original certification, the Diplomate will be suspended without prejudice until the delays can be resolved.

5. The period of requalification will be three years.

6. The application fee for initial Requalification is $75.00 payable at the time of application.

It is the intent of the Board of Directors to establish a process of Requalification which effectively documents that a Diplomate has continued to devote a significant amount of professional activity to the practice of forensic toxicology as well as to continue to develop knowledge and skills. It is of practical importance to accomplish this goal by a process which will function within certain practical constraints.

To this end, we solicit your comments and criticism. Particularly, we wish to learn your recommendations as to:

1. A minimum full-time equivalent of professional involvement in forensic toxicology during the five years of Certification preceding Requalification, and
2. The portion of time devoted to continuing education activities as they may relate to improving professional knowledge and skills.

Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc.
Treasurer's Report
End of Fiscal Year 1980

I. General Operations

   A. Balance as of June 31, 1979  $ 1432.89
   
   B. Income Received
      
      1. General Membership Dues  2910.00
      2. Application Fees  175.00
      3. Meeting Income  2652.00
      
      C. Total Income  5777.00

   D. Total Fiscal Year Assets  7169.89

E. Disbursements

   1. Stationery/Supplies  146.54
   2. Workshop Cost  296.00
   3. Newsletter  692.23
   4. Board of Directors  764.80
   5. Postage  80.00
   6. Annual Meeting  2728.11
7. Memorial Gift                          50.00
8. Legal Fees                           300.00
9. Secretarial Expense                 50.00
10. Hospitality Suite                   280.00
11. News and Views Endowment           100.00
F. Total Disbursements                 5487.68

G. Balance as of June 30, 1980          1682.21

II. Grant in Aid Stipend Budget
   A. Balance as of June 30, 1979        1500.00
   B. Income
      1. Stipend from Wyeth Labs          100.00
      C. Total Income                    1600.00
   D. Disbursements
      1. First Award                     500.00
   E. Balance as of June 30, 1980        1100.00

Proposed Budget
For Fiscal 1980-81

I. General Operations
   A. Opening Balance                    1682.21
   B. Income
      1. General Membership Dues
         Remaining Dues                   1600.00
      2. Application Fees                100.00
      3. Meeting Income                  -
      4. Syva Endowment for Momento       500.00
      C. Total Income                    2200.00
   D. Total Operating Assets            3882.21
   E. Disbursements
      1. Stationery/Supplies             150.00
      2. Workshop                        300.00
      3. Newsletter                      1000.00
      4. Board of Directors              1000.00
      5. Postage                         100.00
      6. Annual Meeting                   -
      7. Anniv. Momento                   500.00
      8. Legal Fees                      200.00
      9. Secretarial                     50.00
      10. Hospitality Suite               500.00
      F. Total Disbursements              3800.00
   G. Ending Period Balance              82.21

II. Grant in Aid Stipend Budget
   A. Balance                            1100.00
   B. Income                              None Anticipated
   C. Disbursements
      1. 1981 Award                      500.00
   D. Balance                             600.00

Dues Announcement

The treasurer reminds all delinquent members that dues are slow coming in this year. Please bring your check books to the annual meeting or send those dues in today.
Members to be Dropped
The following individuals will be dropped from the membership roles at the annual meeting for non-payment of dues for more than two years:

Joseph Costa
George Safferstein
Wagdy Wahba
K.D. Sing

Report of the Nominating Committee
In keeping with the bylaws of the SOFT, Inc. requiring a slate of candidates to be published at least 30 days prior to the National meeting, the Nominating Committee submits the following candidates for office for 1981:

President: Yale Caplan
Vice President: Joseph Balkon
Treasurer (2 years): Michael McGee
Board of Directors: Rosemary Alstott
Nicholas Hodnett

Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the time of the election.

Thomas A. Rejent, DABFT
Chief County Toxicologist

Joint Meeting Preliminary Program
Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, 1980
Westbury Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

Wednesday, PM Toxicology & Chemistry
- Automated Gas Chromatograph Headspace Analysts - Forensic Science Applications
- Drug Screening by GC at the 13th Winter Olympics
- Fused Silica Capillary Columns - Applications
- Pyrolysis GC Capillary for Paint Analysis
- GC-MS Applied to Analysis of Drugs

Thursday, AM Toxicology
- Cannabinoid Analysis in Blood by EMIT
- Clinical Evaluation of EMIT-THC Method
- THC Metabolites in Urine

- Forensic Study of Marijuana & Other Drugs in Driving
- Involvement of Marijuana & Other Drugs in Traffic Fatalities in Ontario
- Evaluation of HPLC for Screening & Quantitation of Benzodiazepines & Acetaminophen in PM Blood
- HPLC Applied to the Detection of Drugs
- Separation of Drugs Using Reverse Phase TLC
- Cardiotoxicity of Tricyclic Antidepressant Drugs
- Prep™ I Automated Sample Preparation for Extraction & Concentration of Drugs in Physiological Fluids

Friday, AM Toxicology

Simultaneous Determination of Propoxyphene & Nor-Propanxphene in PM Blood using a semi-automated GC System
- Narcotic Analysis - Extraction Procedures and Derivatization
- Demonstration of Pancuronium Bromide in Tissue
- Detection of Morphine in Urine by Thin Layer Immunoassay
- Methods for Rapid Microdetermination of Drugs in Tissue
- Drugging in Horse Racing - Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow
- Blood & Liver Drug Levels from Fatal Cases
- A Comparison of Results Obtained by Several Digestion Procedures in the Simultaneous Determination of Diphenhydramine, Methaqualone, Diazepam & Chlorpromazine in Liver
- A Quantitation of Ethylene Glycol in Post Mortem Blood after Derivitization
- Murder by Arsenic Poisoning - A Case Report

Ethanol and Bone Marrow
Part 1 - Blood vs. Bone Marrow Ethanol Concentration in Rabbit & Humans
Part 2 - A Storage Study of Ethanol Levels in Rabbit & Human Bone Marrow
Part 3 - Comparative Study of Ethanol Levels in Blood vs Bone Marrow, Vitreous Humor, Bile & Urine
- Response of Breath-Alcohol Analyser to Acetone
- Alcohol Testing under Field Conditions in Canada
- Occupational Exposure & Other Factors in the Interpretation of Forensic Lab. Data

Friday, PM SOFT Business Meeting

American Board of Forensic Toxicology

Congratulations should go out to the following individuals who have recently successfully completed all requirements and been granted Certificates of Qualification in Forensic Toxicology:

Alice Shao, She Wong, DABFT
Toronto, Canada

Michael McGee, DABFT
Richmond, Virginia

Leroy Mohn, DABFT
Holland, Michigan

John Kofoed, DABFT
Willowdale, Canada
Bernard Yen, DABFT
Toronto, Canada

Floyd E. McDonald, DABFT
Houston, Texas

James A. Zotter, DABFT
Houston, Texas

Wan Ching Sun, DABFT
Toronto, Canada

The Board will be composed as follows, as of July 1, 1980:

Directors:
Randall C. Baselt (7/1/84)
James C. Garriot (7/1/84)
Thomas A. Rejent (7/1/84)

Officers for Fiscal 1980-81:
President: Robert V. Blanke
V. President: Charles N. Reading
Secretary: Thomas A. Rejent
Treasurer: Jane H. Speaker

Directors at Large:
Robert V. Blanke (7/1/82)
Robert H. Cravey (7/1/84)
Kurt M. Dubowski (7/1/84)
Larry B. Howard (7/1/82)
Morton P. Mason (7/1/82)
Charles N. Reading (7/1/81)
Robert H. Reeder (7/1/81)
Jane H. Speaker (7/1/81)
Irving Sunshine (7/1/81)
Jack E. Wallace (7/1/84)

Attend your annual meeting