2005 Winter Meeting Review

Discussions ■ Elections ■ Awards

The SEARCH Membership held its 2005 Winter Meeting in St. Pete Beach, Florida, January 27-30, 2005. This Membership Bulletin provides a brief summary of meeting highlights—including meetings of the Board of Directors, Membership Group and Program Advisory Committees, elections, and award selections. (Full meeting minutes and PAC summaries are being distributed via email to the Membership along with this Bulletin.)

Message from the Executive Director

At our 2005 Winter Membership Group Meeting, Members’ energy and enthusiasm attained the same high level as our previous meeting. Key people—Members, Federal partners, and private-sector experts—provided thoughtful debate on the critical issues that affect our organization in a major way today and into the future.

One of the new features of this meeting was the first-time use of an At-Large Member discussion session. The discussion focused on criminal background checks and prior offenders, and was moderated by At-Large Members Dr. Charlie Friel and Prof. Kent Markus. The session was very well received and will become a standard part of meeting agendas. I would like to give Charlie and Kent much credit for a compelling presentation.

As new SEARCH Chair Paco Aumand told SEARCH staff during a visit in Sacramento on March 11, three things are certain in life: Death, taxes and change. And there is significant change ahead in the next 5-10 years for criminal justice information managers.

One such issue discussed at the Winter Meeting is how the role of the state repository is changing. During a special session featuring a panel discussion and roundtable on the future of criminal record repositories, our intent was this: To engage in thought-provoking debate about the realities that are facing us with respect to the evolving role of repositories. To its credit, the Membership recognized that the repository landscape is changing. Although no resolution or action resulted from this discussion, it was clear to the Membership that this was a very important and timely issue and that SEARCH needs to seize the opportunities to improve how backgrounding is accomplished.

Meanwhile, I would like to mention that special thanks are due to Paco, SEARCH Illinois Member Ken Bouche, and SEARCH staff for helping put the special sessions together. The format and content of these were very well received.

— Ron Hawley
Board of Directors Elections
Due to recent changes in SEARCH leadership caused by the November 2004 retirement of SEARCH Chair Gerry Wethington (Missouri), the position of both Chair and Vice Chair were available, and elections were held to fill the unexpired terms of both.

Elected as Chair was Mr. Francis (Paco) Aumand III (Vermont), and elected as Vice Chair was Lt. Thomas Turner (Virginia). Their terms run through July 2006. Congratulations to both Paco and Tom!

In addition, Mr. Mike Lesko (Texas) joined the Board, filling a vacancy.

The other 12 members of the Board of Directors are:
- **At-Large:** Dr. Hugh Collins, Dr. Charles Friel, Prof. Kent Markus, Mr. Gordon Wasserman
- **State:** Col. Kenneth Bouche (Illinois), Mr. Paul Heppner (Georgia), Mr. Barry LaCroix (Massachusetts), Ms. Liane Moriyama (Hawaii), Ms. Linda Rosenburg (Pennsylvania), Mr. Theron Schnure (Connecticut), Ms. Diane Sherman (Michigan), Maj. Alecia Webb-Edgington (Kentucky)

Board Meeting Highlights
Highlights of the Board of Directors meeting on January 27 are as follows:
- The Board reviewed the activities and deliverables status of current grants, using “Funding Fact Sheets” as a guide.
- The Board discussed the newly developed performance evaluation system for SEARCH staff, and changes to some job classifications.
- The Board discussed recommended changes to the Membership Group Travel Policy.
- The Board reviewed, and adopted with a minor amendment, the SEARCH Strategic Planning Digest, which represents SEARCH’s vision, mission, beliefs, core values, and goals with objectives, and which was developed by the Strategic Planning Committee chaired by Mr. Paco Aumand. (Download a copy of the Digest at http://www.search.org/files/pdf/stratpd.pdf.)
- The Board discussed locations for future Membership Group meetings, particularly the timing of meetings held in Washington, D.C., and alternating locations for east coast/west coast/central United States.

Membership Group Meeting Guest Speakers, Presentations and Reports
- Mr. Charles Morton, HAZMAT Credentialing, Transportation Security Administration, discussed the latest activities regarding TSA’s handling of hazardous materials endorsements for individuals seeking or renewing commercial driver’s licenses.
- SEARCH Member Mr. Brad Truitt, Assistant Director, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, provided an overview of the Tennessee Regional Information Center (TRIC), which provides for the timely receipt of information, analysis of that information, and dissemination to law enforcement to deter and prevent terrorism and criminal activities relevant to the state.
Roundtable and Panel Discussions

- **Federal Partners Panel**: Three U.S. Department of Justice agency representatives provided an overview of their agencies' recent activities and initiatives. They were Mr. Christopher Miles, National Institute of Justice; Dr. Gerard Ramker, Bureau of Justice Statistics; and Mr. David P. Lewis, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

- **Congressional Panel**: SEARCH General Counsel Robert R. Belair provided an overview of Federal legislative activity, including the status of criminal justice funding, homeland security funding, background check legislation, Department of Justice reauthorization, and NICS legislation.

- A **Roundtable Discussion** provided a forum for the Membership to discuss with their peers a range of relevant issues taking place in the states, including state criminal history audit programs, development of standards for facial recognition technology, and digital signature applications in the justice area, and other topics.

- **Criminal Background Checks and Prior Offenses: A Discussion of Policy Choices**, led by At-Large Members Dr. Charles M. Friel and Prof. Kent Markus. The discussion focused on the range of choices that policymakers are examining as they try to ascertain when, in the context of employment, housing and other life necessities, a criminal record is “relevant” and what the “appropriate” uses for noncriminal justice record checks are.

- A Panel and Roundtable on **The Future of Criminal Record Repositories**, led by Mr. Owen Greenspan, SEARCH Director of Law and Policy, reflected on how repositories have evolved over the years and discussed the impact of events, attitudes, and trends at the international, Federal, national, state, and local levels on repositories. The panel recognized that the most significant influence on the future of repositories is the public’s expectations and demand for noncriminal justice background checks. Panelists were Mr. Frank Campbell, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, and three private-sector justice consultants: Mr. Jeffrey D. Harmon, Mr. Michael Kirkpatrick, and Mr. David J. Roberts. Members discussed a range of critical issues involving the state repositories, and at the conclusion of the panel agreed that the central state repositories need to begin focusing on building solutions for the future.

Program Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings

The three PAC meetings differed from their usual format of program status updates by instead providing for in-depth exposure and discussion of a single topic.

- **Law and Policy**: The PAC discussed the identity card conundrum, specifically the increased attention being paid to the need for more effective identification documents and the role that SEARCH would have in responding as an organization to expanding activities in this area. Participating in this discussion—and reporting on their states’ experiences with identity document issues and procedures—were Members from Florida (Mr. Mike Timmerman, Alternate), California (Mr. Gary K. Cooper, Alternate), New York (Mr. Dan Foro), and Nevada (Maj. Robert Wideman).

- **Research and Statistics**: The PAC meeting focused on the Web-based Crime Data Resources at the National Consortium on Violence Research (NCOVR), based at the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie-Mellon University. Leading the discussion were SEARCH At-Large Member Dr. Al Blumstein and Dr. Jacqueline Cohen, Research Professor at the Heinz School and an NCOVR staff member.

- **Systems and Technology**: The PAC investigated the latest technologies and their application to justice information sharing, in particular:
  - Recent activities and advancement of the Global Justice XML Data Model (discussion led
by SEARCH staff Ms. Catherine Plummer).


— The application of Web services to this environment (Mr. Gerry Coleman, Wisconsin Crime Information Bureau).

— Activities of NLETS to employ new technologies (Ms. Bonnie Locke, NLETS).

— The FBI’s Next Generation IAFIS (Mr. Gary Barron, FBI).

Awards and Recognitions

Annual Awards
The Board selected recipients for SEARCH’s two annual awards, which will be bestowed at the 2005 Annual Meeting next July in Washington, D.C.

- United States Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) will receive the 2005 O.J. Hawkins Award for Outstanding Contributions in Criminal Justice Information Systems, Policy and Statistics in the United States. He is being recognized for his longtime support of criminal justice information and identification technology programs and of protecting children from Internet crimes.

This award formally acknowledges an individual’s service, dedication, and contributions that have improved the justice community’s ability to develop and use criminal justice information, and is intended to honor an individual whose efforts have had a national impact over a significant period of time. Sen. Gregg was nominated by former SEARCH Executive Director Gary R. Cooper, himself a previous recipient of the O.J. Hawkins Award, who wrote that Sen. Gregg “has been a creative and effective champion” for such initiatives as IAFIS, NCHIP, CITA, integrated justice, interoperability initiatives, and COPS technology programs.

- Ms. Donna Uzzell, Director, Criminal Justice Information Services, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), will receive the 2005 Gary R. Cooper Meritorious Service Award, presented each year to the SEARCH Member who has provided outstanding work on behalf of SEARCH and criminal justice information services. Ms. Uzzell, a SEARCH Member since 1997, serves on the Board of Directors and co-chairs the National Task Force on the Back grounding of America.

She was nominated by Hawaii Member Liane Moriyama, who notes that Ms. Uzzell’s contributions on the national level are “significant.” In addition to her responsibilities at the FDLE in providing oversight and managing the third largest criminal history information system in that nation, she is CJIS subcommittee member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, is current chair of the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council, and is involved in advocating for child protection issues. Ms. Moriyama, in her nominating letter, lauded Ms. Uzzell’s “experience in public safety, her compassion for the common good, her commitment to child safety issues, and her operational knowledge of what complete, timely, and accurate (criminal history) data can contribute.”
Staff Recognition
In appreciation of her nearly 18 years of service and dedication as SEARCH staff, Ms. Terri Chapman received a crystal vase at the SEARCH Membership Group Meeting from Chair Paco Aumand. Ms. Chapman, who served as Special Assistant to the Executive Director, resigned from SEARCH on February 11 to pursue a career as a Realtor.

Ms. Terri Chapman is flanked by SEARCH Chair Paco Aumand (left) and Executive Director Ron Hawley after the presentation of her vase.

Major Donor Recognized
ManTech Information Systems and Technology, a leading provider of innovative technologies and solutions focused on mission-critical national security programs, recently donated 40 licensed copies of its NetWitness Network Forensics Analysis Software to SEARCH’s National Criminal Justice Computer Laboratory and Training Center. The donation is valued at $1 million.

Mr. Todd Shipley (left), Director of SEARCH Training Services, presents a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Mark Longworth, Vice President, Forensics Explorers, ManTech Information Systems and Technology.

Upcoming Meetings

2005 Annual Membership Meeting
July 21-24, 2005 (tentative dates) • Washington, D.C.
Hotel TBD

Our original hotel for the 2005 Annual Meeting closed unexpectedly for the summer for remodeling, therefore staff is searching for a new site. This may also affect the exact dates we can hold the meeting. We will inform Members of the new meeting dates, site and reservation procedures as soon as we have that information. For questions, contact Ms. Kim McInerney, Special Assistant to the Executive Director, at kim@search.org.

Future meetings:
• 2006 Winter Meeting: January 24-27, Los Angeles, CA (location TBD)
• 2006 Annual Meeting: date TBD, Washington, D.C. (tentative)
**New Member**
The following Member has been appointed since the January 2005 meeting:

- **Mr. Jeffrey Kellett**
  Administrator
  State Police Criminal History Repository
  New Hampshire Department of Safety
  (appointed March 10)

**Finance Committee Appointments**
SEARCH Chair **Paco Aumand** has made the following appointments to the Finance Committee, which represents the Board of Directors in monitoring the corporation’s finances:

- Chair: **Mr. Barry LaCroix** (Massachusetts)
- At-Large Member: **Dr. Hugh Collins**
- State Member: **Ms. Liane Moriyama** (Hawaii)

**Member Retirement**
- **Mr. Larry W. Smith**, Assistant Director, North Carolina Department of Justice (Member since July 2004)

**Member Promotions**
Congratulations to two SEARCH Members who recently earned promotions:

Major **Alecia Webb-Edgington** has been detailed by Kentucky State Police Commissioner Mark Miller to the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security to serve as the Deputy Executive Director for Operations and Prevention Initiatives. In this role, she will be leading the establishment of an information and intelligence fusion center for the Commonwealth and serve as the agency’s chief liaison with the law enforcement community at the federal, state, and local levels.

Maj. Webb-Edgington is currently the CIO of the Kentucky State Police and has responsibility for its Homeland Security efforts. She has been a governor-appointed SEARCH Member since November 2002, and was elected to the SEARCH Board of Directors in July 2004.

**Mr. Jose A. Ramirez** was recently promoted to Inspector within the Department of Public Safety, New Mexico State Police, and assumes a new position as Assistant Director of the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy (NMLEA). In this position, he oversees all State Police training and recruiting. The NMLEA is responsible for administering statewide basic and advanced law enforcement training. Insp. Ramirez has been a governor-appointed SEARCH Member since January 2003.

**Welcome to New SEARCH Staff**
Ms. **Kim McInerney** joined SEARCH staff February 15 in a temporary position as Special Assistant to the Executive Director. She will work on special projects and events for Executive Director Ron Hawley, as liaison to the Membership Group and Board of Directors, and on such Membership-related activities as governor appointment letters, the State Dues program and the Members-only Website.

Kim previously worked as an Events Coordinator for a Sacramento-based nonprofit organization, and as a senior business administration assistant for a consulting firm. She has an associate’s degree in social science from Santa Rosa Junior College and is working toward a bachelor’s degree in business management.

**Mr. Mike Stein** has been hired as SEARCH’s new Director of Justice Information Technology Services, effective June 1, 2005. He is currently Vice President of ISD Corp., which provides software and professional services that improve the management of court and probation case information to law and justice organizations worldwide.