



Newsletter

Member evaluation

What does FOHVAMP mean to you?

That's one of the questions addressed by members who evaluated our sixth Annual Meeting on October 13, 2007. Their answers show a vital, needed advocate for those who have lost a loved one to an unsolved murder.

This Annual Meeting drew 200 people to our all-day gathering which included workshops, luncheon and a forum: many more family members and law enforcement than ever before. This was a reflection of pre-emptive coverage by media, phone contacts by our staff and a growing awareness that FOHVAMP's efforts are now beginning to pay off in legislative response as well as determined efforts by some law enforcement agencies to address our unsolved murders.

"FOHVAMP means to me education and hope for resolution," penned one family member. "Support, information, legislation," offered another. "The world," said a new member. "The one place to go where people know what one is going through and together trying to make positive changes."

At the meeting, we recognized the Denver Police Department, the Sheriff's Offices of Arapahoe County and Jefferson County for giving selected detectives the exclusive job of working old, unsolved murders within their jurisdictions.

Heretofore, some agencies asked their homicide investigators to look at these old cases when they had time or at designated intervals like six months or annually. That is why the backlog of cold cases has grown to 1,250. It was not just that these detectives had no specific training for cold case work. It was that they were constantly called away from the cold cases to work current crimes of violence.

More answers to the question in the headline: "I am new to the FOHVAMP family. What this organization means to me is just that: Family!" "Support, information, legislation." "A large family working together to solve the cases." "It means a lot in different ways. I

am proud to be involved." "FOHVAMP means hope for families and remembrance of our loved ones."

People who remained for the wind-up of this Annual Meeting really connected with motivational speaker and humorist Craig Zablocki. We laughed with him as he told stories about children, particularly his son (Craig is a single father). We cried with him as he told about moving from teaching to his present profession after his sister was murdered in a 1986 New Year's eve homicide that has never been solved. Craig is not only an outstanding performer, he is truly one of us!

FOHVAMP means: "A vital organization that helps victims." "A proactive answer for victims of crime." "Power in numbers to get our cases looked at and to promote legislation." "This organization is an asset to our community/society." "Dedication, belief, hope, trust, desire. THANKS." "Our only hope and voice."

Trade vengeance for justice?

Another query on the evaluation that was handed to each member at our sixth Annual Meeting had to do with the money being spent on Colorado's unused death penalty. The death penalty was sought approximately 150 times in Colorado since 1967 resulting in one execution.

A 2002 memo from then Attorney General Ken Salazar documented that taxpayers spent \$3.8 million in a year prosecuting and defending the death penalty. Could we use some of that money for a Cold Case unit at the state level to effectively address our Cold Cases?

Family members voted by more than 6 to 1 to use this money for justice for our loved ones. Why tie ourselves into knots to preserve the fiction that the killers of our loved ones might get death? A cruel hoax is being played on the families of homicide victims.

Mission Statement

Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons, Inc (FOHVAMP) is a nonprofit organization working in Colorado to find, support and empower families suffering from a loved one's unresolved murder or long-time disappearance.

On The Web

Our website, *unresolvedhomicides.org*, averages 9,000 visits per month with more than 16,000 page views and more than 128,000 hits.

Tune in and see what's new.

This newsletter is published quarterly. It is the official publication of Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons, Inc.

Send letters and comments to:
FOHVAMP, P.O. Box 145, Pine, CO 80470



SOMEONE IS GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

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Howard's Notes

We are two weeks past the Winter Solstice. This was the longest night following the shortest day of the year. It would be a time of fear and sadness except for the indomitable human spirit. Long before the common era, ancient cultures found hope in this time of darkness. Let us go forward from the dark night that has enveloped each of our families. Let us find warmth in each other's friendship, enjoy the lengthening days, celebrate the rebirth of Spring and find justice in memory of our loved ones.

Several members mentioned they wanted to remember what they saw and learned at October's Annual Meeting but they couldn't make notes and participate at the same time. A videographer was hired and videos were made of the workshops and forum. These will be put on DVDs and made available to members, victim service people and law enforcement. We are also working on an overall view of this Annual Meeting. We envision a ten-minute video on DVD that captures the flavor of this unique event. Many of you called this the best Annual Meeting yet! We'll let you know when these discs are ready.

In addition to myself as full-time Executive Director, we now have five part-time, paid staff members. These include Rebecca Guerriero, Outreach Coordinator, who contacts law enforcement agencies and trains their victim service people; Melissa Warren, Supervisor of Volunteers and Victim/Family Coordinator for Denver; Kelly Fernandez-Kroyer, our longest serving Victim/Family Coordinator who handles the 1st, 17th and 18th Judicial Districts; new hires: Brandon Rodriguez, Denver and State researcher; Amanda Milner, Denver researcher. These last two reflect our increased efforts to find family members of Denver victims who represent 48% of this state's unsolved murders. These efforts will boost our growth even further this year.

Volunteers include: Jennifer Havercroft who did the family member interviews that grew out of the grant from the Burt Foundation; Stephanie Cummins and Diane Riechert, members who have been trained and who are now calling family members found by our researchers; and a few more students from Dr. Radelet's Criminology class who are in training to do research as well as other projects as they occur.

Our roster now shows more than 350 family members, friends and volunteers. We started with eleven in 2001.

Remembering...

Our eternal gratitude to Craig Zablocki who donated his performance at our Annual Meeting to his beloved sister, **Christine Zablocki-Alicata**, 26, December 31, 1986.

Our heartfelt thanks to those who purchased the hand-made items at our Annual Meeting craft sale, to the ladies who gave us these beautiful works of art, and to Sherry Burt for the organizing of this special fund raiser.

Donna Yeargain, a friend of Sherry Burt's, made a generous gift in memory of all our murdered loved ones. Her very kind gesture is deeply appreciated.

Joe & Agnes Arredondo in loving memory of their daughter **Jessica Ann Arredondo**, 21, November 25, 1988

Mark Reichert in fond memory of his brother & best friend, **Michael Reichert**, 36, October 10, 2000

Paul & Ramona Blee remembering their beloved daughter, **Marie Blee**, 15, November 21, 1979

Leigh Van Duyn in loving memory of her husband and one true love, **Rick Van Duyn**, 27, October 19, 1986

Wesley McCarthy in fond memory of his brother, **Daniel McCarthy**, 53, August 16, 2005

Ron Griego fondly remembering his beloved son, **Ronnie Griego, Jr.**, 18, October 23, 2003

Don & Jerri Reichert in loving memory of their eldest son, **Michael Reichert**, 36, October 10, 2000

Diane Riechert in fond memory of her classmate and best friend, **Connie Paris**, 18, March 31, 1968

Bill & Esther Loughrey lovingly remembering their son, **Michael Loughrey**, 29, October 17, 1983

Hazel Brewer fondly remembering her beloved daughter, **Rhonda Holland**, 46, January 17, 2004

Bill & Lorrie Copper in fond memory of Bill's best friend, **Guy Oliver Morton**, 18, June 00, 1975

Anne Gress remembering all our murdered loved ones
Mary & Russ Van Duyn lovingly remembering their son, **Rick Van Duyn**, 27, October 19, 1986

Christina Clark in loving memory of her son, **Russell Stephen Clark**, 25, December 15, 1983

Howard & Virginia Morton, remembering with love their son, **Guy Oliver Morton**, 18, June 00, 1975

Mike & Mary Ellen Tournai honoring the memory of their beloved daughter, **Kristina Sandoval**, 23, October 19, 1995

Everett & Linda Donelson lovingly remembering their daughter, **Sherri Majors**, 30, March 18, 1996

James Stewart fondly remembering his beloved daughter, **Cynthia "Cindy" Stewart**, 43, July 6, 1999

Melissa Warren remembering all our murdered loved ones
Connie Elliott in loving memory of her daughter, **Patricia Elliott**, 19, April 11, 2001

Silvia Pettem in memory of **Jane Doe**, 20, April 21, 1954
Nancy Kegresse in loving memory of her lovely daughter, **Pamela Edwards**, 38, November 23, 2003

Judith Hemschemeyer fondly remembering her husband, **Morton Rosenfeld**, 43, May 19, 1979

Misha Chivers honoring the memory of her beloved husband, **Lorenzo Chivers**, 36, February 7, 1999

If you would like to have your loved one remembered in this way, please send a donation to FOHVAMP, P.O. Box 145, Pine CO 80470

What do Cold Case families want from Prosecutors?

Another gem from our Annual Meeting evaluations tells what we expect from prosecutors. We rarely interact with the District Attorney's office because our unsolved murders are still awaiting completion of the investigation in the files of a police department or sheriff's office. But when we do come in contact with D.A.s, we want straight answers and we want them from the horses mouth.

These survey questions were asked: 1) If D.A. declines to prosecute your case, do you want an explanation from the D.A. or the cop. Seventy-five percent of our respondents want to hear the reason explained by the D.A. The other twenty-five percent want an explanation from BOTH the D.A. and the cop!

2) The second part of this section asked "You and your case are quite old. The odds are 50-50 about the chances of success. Would you encourage the prosecutor to prosecute anyway and take their chances with the jury?" Fifty-four percent of our family members said "yes" (do your job, convince the jury) 11% said "maybe" (depends on the evidence) and 35% said "no."

We hope District Attornies will take note.

Board of Directors Meets

Our next Board Meeting is Jan. 12th, at 10:00 AM in the Community Room of the Liongate Apartments at 90 Corona Street in Denver. That's near 1st Avenue & Speer Boulevard. All members are welcome.

Address Service Requested

and Friends
Families of Homicide Victims
and Missing Persons, Inc
P.O. Box 145
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Part of crowd at Forum following lunch



Forum panel CBI Director Robert Cantwell responds to a question as (l. to r.) State Rep. Paul Weissman, Arapahoe Sheriff Grayson Robinson, and Aurora Deputy Chief of Police Terry Jones listen. *[All photos courtesy Virgo Communications]*



Our President, Sherry Burt, poses with Littleton's Victim Assistant Linda Suttle (l) and Police Chief Heather Coogan (r).



Gregg LaBerge, Director of the Denver P.D.'s Crime Lab, speaks to workshop participants



Family members listen at a morning workshop