

The International Councilor

November 2009

The Newsletter of the Council of International Investigators

Issue 9

Alan Marr represents CII at IKD conference

By Past President Alan Marr

On 16 October with my wife Vicki, I attended the 45th AGM of the I.K.D. (The International Federation of Associations of Private Detectives.) held in Vienna, Austria. C.I.I. had applied to join the umbrella organization in Europe which tries to negotiate uniformity of licensing and privacy issues with the European Parliament. I.K.D represents a unified group of some 26 European Detective Organizations and therefore holds more sway. We have about 55 members within Europe and therefore it is in the interests of our members that we join I.K.D. We were voted on and accepted unanimously. The weekend was also the 60th AGM of the Austrian Detective organization O.D.V. A banquet was held on the Saturday evening with some 120 attendees and nine members of C.I.I. were present. The host was our Regional Director Bernhard Maier and a splendid time was had by all. I would like to thank I.K.D for accepting us and for Bernhard's hard work in organizing the event.



The CII members that attended the meeting. Back row – Aaron Sivan (Israel); David Sanmartin (Spain); Joel Auribault (France); unknown; Raul Fat (Romania); Front row Jacob Lapid (Israel); Deborah, Jacob's partner; Alan Marr (UK); Host Bernhard Maier (Austria); Pascal Mignot (Switzerland).

The survey results are in!

By Eddy Sigrist

Our primary mission was to design and implement an electronic membership survey and report back to the board and membership by the 2009 AGM.

A nineteen question on-line survey was put together by the committee with the questions approved by the officers. With the assistance of Sarah Luczyk of Shirley Bishop's office, the survey was posted on the council's website with notification being sent to the membership via the electronic listserve.

A total of 109 members completed the survey. The survey results were analyzed with the results detailed below. It would be the Strategic Planning Com-

mittee's recommendation that the results of this survey be used to formulate the next strategic plan drafted. Currently plans are being submitted for the improvement and revamping of the Council's website and changes to the organization and running of the annual general meetings. I would urge the board to make sure that the results from this survey relating to the website and annual general meetings be taken into consideration.

The following is a summary of the results from this survey:

Continued on page 3

**Empire
Investigations
rows
its way
to gold!**



The women's quad sponsored by Empire Investigation in Pittsburgh raced against 17 boats in the Head of Charles Regatta in Boston . Not only did the team of Eva Szigethy (Bob Kresson's wife), Heather Wakeley, Melissa Rice and Jessica Archibald battle high winds, freezing rain, and 37 degree temperature during the almost 3 mile race, they rowed their way to the first place medal. All four women are expert rowers.

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The survey results are in!

Continued from page 1

AGM summation

A convenient location strongly influences membership attendance.

September and October are the preferred months

North America and Europe will achieve significantly higher attendance rates than other regions.

Attendance is significantly reduced when cost exceeds USD 3,000.

A strong professional speaker program, with topics of interest to all members and not limited to a particular geographical region positively influence members decision to attend.

Regional meetings would be strongly supported and most members would attend an AGM in the same year.

CII Website summation

Presently the CII website is used by members to source contact details, read the CII newsletter and look for information on upcoming events.

Members expressed a preference to keep the member directory open to public access.

Members would like the CII website to be upgraded. This includes modernizing the website and search engine optimization, a news section, educational material and a CII brochure for marketing purposes.

Survey results

Convenience in getting there

83% responded that a convenient location will influence their decision to attend.

14% did not consider location to be a factor in their decision.

Time of year

28% would not likely attend an AGM in July

22% would not likely attend an AGM in August

17% would not likely attend an AGM in September

11% would not likely attend an AGM in October

28% would not likely attend an AGM in November

Cities

London, San Francisco, New York and Paris are four favorites with interests shown for Hawaii, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Boston, Washington DC and Hong Kong.

7% would not likely attend an AGM in North America

13% would not likely attend an AGM in Europe

30% would not likely attend an AGM in South America

33% would not likely attend an AGM in Asia

36% would not likely attend an AGM in Far East / Australia

47% would not likely attend an AGM

Continued on page 4

CII New Applicants

Kelly Eugene Riddle
Kelmar & Associates Inc.,
San Antonio, Texas

Charles William Rettstadt
Research North Inc.,
Petoskey, Michigan

Anne Styren
Profile Intelligence AB
Stockholm, Sweden
46.8.645.9045



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Audit Committee Report as of December 31, 2008

The Audit Committee (the “Committee”) of the Council of International Investigators (the “CII” or “Council”) conducted a review of the financial statements (F/Ss”) covering the year 2008 (January 1st – December 31st, 2008). In completing this review, we the “Committee” inspected the records sent to us, which included, the Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Report, Profit & Loss Detail (detailed list of revenue and expenses) as well as the completed Federal Tax Returns (forms 990-EZ & 990-T). Our inspection was made in

accordance with established guidelines. The organizations financial statements are prepared on a cash basis in accordance with principles adopted by the “Council” and approved by the board and its membership. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We have taken steps to see that the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material

Continued on page 7

The survey results are in!

Continued from page 3

in Africa

Cost of attending an AGM

- USD 1000 – USD 2000 5% would not likely attend
- USD 2000 – USD 3000 39% would not likely attend
- USD 3000 – USD 4000 64% would not likely attend
- USD 4000 – USD 5000 71% would not likely attend
- USD 5000 75% would not likely attend

Topics

Topics of interest broadly included, international fraud investigations, international due diligence, international asset searches, surveillance, new technology and business development.

These topics seem applicable and of interest to all members and are not limited to a particular geographical region.

Professional vs member speaker

- 61% would likely attend with professional speakers
- 41% would likely attend with member speakers
- A strong professional speaker program would likely increase attendance at an AGM.

Comments

- The best of the comments include:
 - Useful seminars with cutting edge information and professional experts speakers.
 - Implemented CII guidelines to increase conference attendance are not being followed
 - Make certain that classes are taught by real professionals with a serious well planned message.

Conference is too long

Cost, accessibility and professional speakers influence my decision for attending.

Regional meetings

99% would likely attend a regional meeting in their area

22% would not likely attend an AGM in the same year they attend a regional meeting

CII website

The three primary reasons to visit the CII website are; member contact details, CII newsletter and upcoming events

95% would visit the CII website to read / access articles relevant to the industry.

45% would use a blog page added to the website

72% prefer the membership directory to stay open to public access.

Recommend changes to the CII website

- Improve functionality of member search.
- Industry news / members in the news
- Advertising
- Educational material
- Upgrade look and feel, modernize
- CII brochure

General comments

Marketing of the CII website to chambers of commerce and other business sectors.

Invest in modernizing website and search engine optimization. More regional content

What can members do for the CII

The majority stated that they will continue promoting the CII, introduce new members, and become more active members themselves.

DateCheck phone app gets the 411 on suitors

Back in the day, a single man or woman would meet someone intriguing, collect his or her phone number, then head home to pump friends, family and colleagues for information.

Do you know this guy? Is she seeing anyone? Is he nice? Does she make a decent living?

Today, a new mobile phone program called DateCheck has streamlined that process. Instead of surveying friends and family for information, singles can plug in a name, phone number or e-mail address and plumb a slew of public databases to find out if Mr. or Ms. Seemingly Wonderful is married, a convicted felon or worse, a weekend clog dancer.

And they can do it while the person of interest is, say, ordering a drink at the bar or visiting the loo.

“In the time it takes to redo your lip gloss, you can check all this stuff out,” DateCheck’s promotional video touts. “It’s like having a private investigator right in your purse.”

Digging up dirt on a date is nothing new, of course.

“There are two kinds of people — those who Google their dates and those who lie about it,” said Dan Nainan, a 28-year-old professional comedian from Manhattan, who said he’s used the Web to find out if dates had criminal convictions or were lying about their age. “Who wouldn’t Google someone if they were going to go out or do business with them?”

Background checks, through a private detective or online services such as USSearch.com, RecordsRegistry.com, eFindOuttheTruth.com, DateSmart.com or DateDetectives.com (which partners with Intelius, the company that came up with the DateCheck app), have become more prevalent, especially as friendly fix-ups have given way to stranger dating through online dating sites.

“There was a time when people thought it was rather unromantic, when they looked down on checking someone out, but in the past five years, investigating a date has definitely become more acceptable,” said Vicki Siedow, a Los Angeles private investigator. “I just did one this weekend for a client who checks out everyone. Even before she meets a guy for coffee, she has me do a background check on him.”

John Arnold, co-founder and executive vice president of business development at Intelius, said the

number of singles using the company’s online investigative services to check out dates was one of the reasons Intelius decided to create the DateCheck phone app.

The program is still under review by Apple for its iPhone and Research In Motion (maker of BlackBerries), but is available for Android phones such as the Google G1 and myTouch, as well as Motorola’s new Cliq.

“We run periodic surveys of our customers and one of our larger responses was in the dating space,” he said. “It seemed an appropriate direction to go when we kicked off our flagship mobile app.”

Intelius’ information comes from public records and publicly available sources such as departments of corrections, courts, sex offender registries, property deed and tax assessor records, with DateCheck’s “dirt” divvied into five specific areas.

The “Sleaze Detector” checks for criminal convictions, sex offenses and other red-flag raising issues while “\$\$\$\$” looks up property ownership information (including assessed property values).

Other features delve farther: “Compatibility” gives users a birth date and offers astrological insights; “Interests” gleans employment, education and social networking data; and “Living Situation” finds out who, exactly, the person is sharing his or her home with (a wife? a boyfriend? his mother?) by tapping property — and other — public records.

Some data is free, but the juicy stuff (specifics on criminal convictions, lists of aliases, bankruptcy records) requires a fee — anywhere from \$1.95 to find out the names and ages of the people sharing a potential love interest’s home (information on children under 18 is not provided) to \$39.95 for a full background check.

And yes, DateCheck can be a bit of a tease.

“The summary level of Sleaze Detector — the free level — is very bare bones,” said Arnold. “You’ll get a summary of the criminal records associated with a name, such as, ‘We found three criminal records for John Smith in the state of Washington.’ But if you want to know if someone has a protection order against them for domestic violence, you have to pay for it.”

Continued on page 6

DateCheck phone app gets the 411 on suitors

Continued from page 5

As it turns out, many women are more than happy to do just that.

Lisa Oldham, a 42-year-old business owner from Dallas, gladly ponied up \$39.95 to Intelius to check out a man she met via an online site who seemed a little hinky.

“He kept asking me out and calling me after that first date but something didn’t feel right, so I ended up investigating him,” she said. “I found out that he’d been in jail for grand theft auto and had a string of stolen and fraudulent check charges. I ran as far and fast as I could.”

Oldham said safety — for herself, her children and her assets, such as the PR business she built from scratch — is her main concern when it comes to rooting around in a date’s business, although she acknowledges there can be other motivations.

“There are people who use it as a tool to find out how much somebody makes, but I think most people just want to find somebody’s who’s honest and trustworthy and who’s safe,” she said. “I have two kids, a successful business. These things could be put in jeopardy if I allow someone in who’s a smidge shady.”

Would she use a phone app to get the 411 on someone she’d just met? “Just plugging in an e-mail address to get instant information about somebody sounds creepy,” she said. “It’s pretty Orwellian. For me, it’s more of a case-by-case scenario. You have to have faith in people right out of the gate.”

Uses and abuses

Stephen Lichtenstein, professor of law at Bentley University in Waltham, Mass., said he understands singles wanting to avoid predators or people who are married, but digging around in a stranger’s life without their knowledge may not be the way to go about it.

“Some things that are legal are not necessarily ethical,” he said. “If somebody meets me in a bar and gives my information to some third party that I don’t know and they do a background check on me, even though it’s public information, why not at least contact me and say, ‘X has inquired about you and we’re going to do a background check.’ I do have a problem with this ethically.” It’s not the first time Intelius’ information services have raised questions. In early

2008, the company withdrew a plan to compile a cell phone directory of 90 million numbers after drawing fire from consumers and privacy advocates.

Lichtenstein also worries that DateCheck’s vast network of instantly available information could be used not for good, but for evil.

“This to me smells like an opportunity for somebody who wants to stalk somebody,” he said. “My main concern is the misuse of it.”

Intelius’ Arnold, who’s been married for 21 years (and no, he didn’t investigate his wife), argues that DateCheck is more about leveling the playing field than putting tools into the hands of creeps.

“The creeps are already armed up,” he said. “They’re way ahead of the game. This is more of a way for consumers to fight back. This is an ‘in the moment’ application so when you meet someone and you’re away from home, you can make the decision to either engage or politely move on.”

Grain of salt

Siedow, the private investigator, said she, too, is all for dating safety, but worries singles could be lured into a false sense of security because of data that doesn’t show up. Or, she said, a person’s name could be confused with someone else’s, resulting in a scenario where an innocent man or woman is labeled as a criminal.

“In this day and age with everything that’s out there, I think it’s foolish not to check (people out),” she said. “But you have to remember to take the information with a grain of salt.

“People need to be very aware of the limitations. It could lead to false positives or false negatives and it could be used in ways that are not intended.”

For singles such as Oldham, though, hooking up with a pocket-sized dating detective seems a bit like dating itself — a mixed blessing.

“It’s a great way ... to catch red flags, but it does open up the possibility that people will find out where you live, what property you own, what your house is worth, what your house looks like,” she said. “That’s the chance you take with technology these days. I’m sure Google maps will soon be able to see in my underwear drawer.”

-Submitted by Sheila Ponnosamy and taken from MSNBC On Line web news

2nd Vice President's Report

This year has been a challenging year for the 2nd VP who's brief is a small one, with the exception of arranging the 2010 AGM and being a member of the legislative committee there is very little else to do apart from being ready to man the pumps in an emergency once one has been directed to the fire. Luckily this year there have only been a few incidents where I thought I would have been of assistance but I was not called for. So what have I been doing?

As I am responsible for the 2010 AGM which is being held in Cardiff, Wales. I have been to Cardiff twice since last years AGM once in November last and again in June this year. On the committee is myself, Mark Jones and our local host Laurence Brown. Each trip was for a 2 day period. I will take this opportunity now to commend Laurence on a great job he is doing on the ground. Much has been achieved during these visits and I can say that Cardiff will be as good if not better than the 2005 Lisbon AGM.

I have been in constant communication with the 1st VP in that role and her role as the legislative committee. We have been working on pushing this organization onto greater things and bring it up to the 21st century. We have also been working on what other duties the 2nd VP should be responsible for and the 1st VP is working on this.

Being involved in 2 AGM's on the front line I have been look-

ing at how AGM's are arranged, paid for and how their content are put together. I have worked on a plan that if adopted will make the organization easier with better content and better education subjects making each AGM as good as the one before.

I have been looking at the way we are seen by prospective clients and members alike. What was the feed back? 'Old, stuffy, gentlemanly club like'. Not the international association of professionals we see ourselves to be. This is an area that I have been looking at and I have produced my ideas and recommendation in another report. (Unfortunately not provided here.)

As I mentioned earlier the 2nd VP does not have a great deal to do so one has to make work for oneself, I do think though that who ever is 2nd VP they should use their time wisely working on policy that they can work through in the 1st VP position so they are well prepared for the President's job with a well thought out agenda and policies that will work and be for the good of the council.

Roy K Whitehouse CFE CII

Audit Committee Report as of December 31, 2008

Continued from page 4

respects, the financial position of the "Council" at December 31, 2008: and that its changes in the net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended are in accordance with the principles authorized by the Council of International Investigators on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. The standards mentioned require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principals used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material aspects, the assets, liabilities and retained earnings of CII as of December 31, 2008 and its revenue, expenses and reconciliation of retained earnings for the fiscal year then ended and also presently fairly allowable costs, membership fees as charged in accordance with the CII constitution.

It is noted that the Council reports its financial results in US dollars. As indicated above, the Council uses cash based accounting for U. S. tax purposes. The CII follows the calendar year for both its fiscal year and for Tax reporting. In this case, although the association incurred no federal tax liability in 2008, corporate tax returns, forms 990EZ and 990-T, were filed in July of 2009 within the extension period granted for filing 2008 returns. We the Committee reviewed the 2008 tax returns, which were prepared by PATTI LARSON, who was commissioned to do so by the Councils Administrator, Shirley Bishop Inc. ("SBI").

Our inspection or "audit" is not meant to be construed as an "audit" or opinion by a Certified Public Accountant (or Certified Management Accountant/Chartered Accountant). This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, executive board, board of directors and membership of the Council of International Investigators and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely, The CII Audit Committee-

Insurance Firms Tell Privacy Czar to Back Off

By Sarah Schmidt, Canwest News Service
November 11, 2009

Canada's privacy czar is facing demands from key players in the insurance industry to butt out of claim investigations and to stop complaining about the use of covert video surveillance to catch suspected insurance cheats.

After fielding a growing number of complaints against insurance companies, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner issued guidelines to the private sector in May to protect people against covert video surveillance, characterizing it as an "extremely privacy-invasive form of technology" to be considered "only in the most limited cases."

"Covert surveillance is an intrusive act, and, if there are other means to resolve a dispute, we believe they should be explored first," such as independent medical exams, assistant commissioner Elizabeth Denham said.

Private investigators have fired back, calling on the insurance industry to disregard the directives.

"Our advice to the industry is, if you need to investigate, do not be deterred by the privacy commissioner's guidelines," said Norman Groot, counsel to the Canadian Association of Private Investigators.

"We challenge the privacy commissioner on the existence and scope of a right to privacy in public places, and we say that, where there are flags of fraud, the right to defend and the right to investigate supersedes another's right to privacy of their image in a public place."

The country's privacy watchdog is also fending off a State Farm Insurance legal challenge questioning her jurisdiction over investigations in the first place.

The largest property and casualty insurer in North America is asking the federal court to rule

that personal information collected during these investigations, including copies of covert video surveillance reports and tapes, falls outside the scope of Canada's private sector privacy law.

State Farm turned to the court in response to an investigation of a complaint against the insurance company. A man under covert video surveillance complained to the privacy commissioner after the company refused to provide him with the information compiled about him.

State Farm is seeking an order that the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act

(PIPEDA) does not apply to the privacy interests of the man under surveillance.

This is the second challenge to the privacy czar's authority this year from an insurance company.

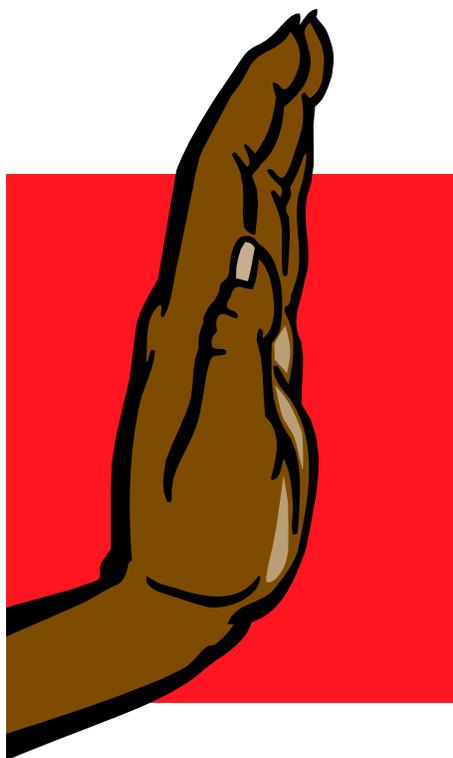
Following an investigation into the covert surveillance practices of a private investigation firm working on behalf of an insurance company, the privacy commissioner determined the complaint was well-founded and recommended the firm depersonalize or remove third parties caught on video without their consent.

In this case, a mother and daughter were videotaped during covert surveillance of the mother's sister, who had begun legal proceedings against her insurer over benefits following a car accident.

The privacy commissioner also found that the collection, use or disclosure of personal information about third parties without their consent was only acceptable in certain, specific situations: for example, when the information is relevant to the purpose of the collection of information about the subject of the surveillance.

The privacy commissioner declined to bring an application to Federal Court to enforce the recommendations even though the firm refused to implement the recommendations.

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Alan makes a new friend!
On the way back from the AGM
in Surfers Paradise.
Vicki & I stopped off in Thailand
and I befriended a Thai girl.
I later realized it was a boy-girl.
Well we all make mistakes!



INTERPOL Media Release

Communiqué de presse — Comunicado de prensa — نشرة إعلامية

No 94/2009

15 October 2009

INTERPOL General Assembly calls for greater global integration of national police investigations

SINGAPORE – A series of measures aimed at encouraging greater integration of national investigations by using INTERPOL's global policing tools and databases have been endorsed by delegates at the organization's General Assembly, which closed on Thursday.

More than 800 senior law enforcement officials from around the world backed a number of recommendations to enhance operational support, including the expansion and increased use of INTERPOL's DNA and fingerprint databases by frontline officers in member countries to help solve crimes and identify fugitives through data comparison.

Enhancing the status of INTERPOL's Red Notices, or international wanted persons notices, was also a recommendation supported at the five-day meeting in Singapore.

INTERPOL President and Commissioner of Singapore Police Force, Khoo Boon Hui said the meeting had provided an opportunity to forge new ground.

"As countries have become more integrated, so has criminal and terrorist activity. Increasingly there is greater recognition of the nexus between unstable states, crime and terrorism," said President Khoo.

"It will no longer be sufficient to deal with each of these in silos and our commitment to playing a larger role in anti-corruption and peacekeeping will allow INTERPOL to be more effective and take a proactive approach."

Delegates also endorsed a resolution calling for member countries to promote the use of technological tools such as access-blocking of websites containing child sexual abuse images. To support national units investigating these types of crime, the INTERPOL General Secretariat will also create and share with police worldwide a list of Internet addresses of sites identified as containing abusive images.

The development of an information exchange platform for National Anti-Corruption entities – including a strategic Anti-Corruption Information database to promote co-operation in exchanging corruption-based information to identify trends and develop strategies to combat corruption activities – was also supported by the General Assembly.

"Time and time again we have seen the results which can be achieved when national police forces use the full resources of INTERPOL to support their investigations. No country can afford not to exchange potentially vital data via INTERPOL or fail to check information against our global databases if they want to consider their investigation thorough," said Secretary General Noble.

"Tackling transnational crime effectively and identifying criminals worldwide needs better information sharing and use of INTERPOL's global databases by law enforcement officers to ensure that no potential links to other crimes worldwide are overlooked," added Mr Noble.

The world's largest police organization's annual meeting also included a joint INTERPOL-United Nations ministerial meeting, which saw more than 60 ministers endorse a Declaration on enhancing the role of police in the world's peacekeeping operations as a vital element in ensuring global security.

The application by Samoa to join INTERPOL was also approved by the General Assembly, making it the organization's 188th member country.