



*Tennessee Professional Investigators Association  
Newsletter*

*January February March 2013*

**Letter from the Chairman**

TPIA Members,

I hope everyone had a great Holiday and is looking forward to the New Year 2013. The TPIA Board has put together an outstanding CPE seminar that is scheduled March 09, 2013. There many details that you can find on the new TPIA web-site, but let me share just a few.

SSA Robert Kosky with the FBI will be speaking about what a crime scene says about the person who committed the crime. SSA Kosky was with the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) for many years before being assigned to the Knoxville Area. He was the subject matter of the TV show "Criminal Minds."

This year we will be awarding the "TPIA Investigator of the Year" award to Ron Lax. Mr. Lax was the Private Investigator that uncovered evidence that freed the "West Memphis 3." There is a movie being produced about Mr. Lax's work on the case with the actor Colin Farrell playing Ron Lax. (We have already received media attention regarding this event) Mr. Lax will be speaking on the investigative techniques he used on this case.

There are several other areas of Investigation that will be taught on this date, I look forward to seeing you there.

Jack Lakin CMI, LPI  
State Chairman of Tennessee Professional Investigators Association (TPIA)  
Director of Investigator Joint Task Force (IJTF)



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### **TPIA 2012 Board of Directors**

Chairman: Jack Lakin                   865) 688-4000  
Vice Chairman: Dan Sherrod (865) 254-1663  
Secretary: Peggy Booth           (865) 774-2095  
Treasurer: Adonia Phillips       (865) 428-3837

### **TPIA 2012 Board Members**

Jack Barker  
William Clifton  
Garrye Marlitt  
Robert McCarter  
John Sturgeon

### *Announcement*      **2013 CPE news...**      *Announcement*

The officers and board members have been working hard to offer the best CPE in our 20 year history. We are happy to announce the following 2013 CPE Information:

**Date:** Saturday **March 9, 2013**

**Place:** Knoxville Tennessee at the famous **Calhoun's On the River Restaurant** overlooking the Tennessee River in Downtown Knoxville. It is located at 400 Neyland Drive on Knoxville's historic waterfront. **Calhoun's On The River** is close to all major downtown hotels, the University of Tennessee Campus, Neyland Stadium, home of the VOLS, and Thompson-Boling Arena.

We have the top floor Banquet room of the restaurant and our food is being catered by The Copper Cellar!

**Cost: \$ 99.00 per person:** that *includes* our regular **50.00 TPIA membership fee** and only **49.00 per person** for the CPE ! (\$89.00 for TPIA Charter Members)

**Speakers:** Announced on page 5 & 6 of this newsletter

A number of **downtown hotels** are available to accommodate your stay.



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***A great time for socializing, networking, and learning***

**TPIA Membership Meeting Schedule**

*Courtyard Restaurant  
3749 Alcoa Hwy.  
Alcoa TN 37701  
6:00 PM*

- January 08, 2013**
- March 09, 2013**
- May 14, 2013**
- July 09, 2013**
- September 10, 2013**
- November 12, 2013**

**Tennessee Private Investigation and Polygraph Commission**

**Mailing Address:  
500 James Robertson Pkwy  
Nashville, TN 37243-1167  
Phone: 615-741-4827  
Toll Free: 1-888-251-3997  
Fax: 615-532-2965**

<b>02/15/2013</b>	9:30 AM	Andrew Johnson Tower 2nd Floor Conference Room	Commission Meeting
<b>04/19/2013</b>	9:30 AM	Andrew Johnson Tower 2nd Floor Conference Room	Commission Meeting
<b>06/14/2013</b>		<b>Meeting Canceled</b>	
<b>08/16/2013</b>	9:30 AM	Andrew Johnson Tower 2nd Floor Conference Room	Commission Meeting
<b>10/18/2013</b>	9:30 AM	Andrew Johnson Tower 2nd Floor Conference Room	Commission Meeting
<b>12/13/2013</b>	9:30 AM	Andrew Johnson Tower 2nd Floor Conference Room	Commission Meeting

Some meetings may be cancelled 30 days prior to the actual meeting.  
Before planning to attend a meeting, please be certain the meeting is being held as originally scheduled.



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### **Members:**

**We have made some changes this year in our contact information.**

**If you wish to contact TPIA you may do so by**

**email:**  
*tpia1@tpia.com*

**mail:**  
**TPIA**  
**2008 E. Magnolia Ave.**  
**Knoxville, TN 37917**

**We encourage you to check your information on the website directory. If you have any changes or need something corrected, you can use the web site application form and email to us or use the last page of this newsletter. This last page can also be used for new member applications and renewal applications. You may print it out, complete, and mail to us. It is important that you put member name and your PI license number on your check.**

### **Legal Jargon**

#### **punitive damages**

n. (synony- mous with exemplary damages), damages awarded in a lawsuit as a punishment and example to others for malicious, evil or particularly fraudulent acts.

#### **defamation**

n. the act of making untrue statements about another which damages his/her reputation. If the defamatory statement is printed or broadcast over the media it is libel and, if only oral, it is slander. Public figures, including officeholders and candidates, have to show that the defamation was made with malicious intent and was not just fair comment. Damages for slander may be limited to actual (special) damages unless there is malice. Some statements such as an accusation of having committed a crime, having a feared disease or being unable to perform one's occupation are called libel per se or slander per se and can more easily lead to large money awards in court and even punitive damage recovery by the person harmed. Most states provide for a demand for a printed retraction of defamation and only allow a lawsuit if there is no such admission of error.

#### **Slander**

n. oral defamation, in which someone tells one or more persons an untruth about another, which untruth will harm the reputation of the person defamed. Slander is a civil wrong (tort) and can be the basis for a lawsuit. Damages (payoff for worth) for slander may be limited to actual (special) damages unless there is malicious intent, since such damages are usually difficult to specify and harder to prove. Some statements, such as an untrue accusation of having committed a crime, having a loathsome disease or being unable to perform one's occupation, are treated as slander per se since the harm and malice are obvious and therefore usually result in general and even punitive damage recovery by the person harmed. Words spoken over the air on television or radio are treated as libel (written defamation) and not slander on the theory that broadcasting reaches a large audience as much as if not more than printed publications.



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**if you feel like your world has been turned upside down, sometimes it's because God is teaching you to live right side up.**

### **2013 CPE Speakers**

#### **Robert H. Kosky, Jr**      *Our Featured Speaker*

Supervisory Special Agent  
Cyber Crime Program  
Knoxville Division  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SSA Kosky began his career in the Tampa Division of the FBI in 1988 after receiving his Juris Doctor from the University of Tennessee. His experience includes investigations of violent crime, financial crime, corruption, terrorism and cyber crime matters, and he has served as a firearms instructor and SWAT team member. For over eight years, SSA Kosky was assigned to the Behavioral Analysis Unit in Quantico, VA where he conducted behavioral and threat assessments and profiles for investigations involving serial homicide, serial rape, child abduction, child rape, child homicide, corruption and terrorism. SSA Kosky supervised a Joint Terrorism Task Force in Tennessee for several years before assuming responsibility for the Cyber Crime Program for the Knoxville Division of the FBI, where he currently oversees national security and criminal network intrusion investigations.

The television show "Criminal Minds" was adapted from his work at the BAU (Behavioral Analysis Unit)

#### **Ronald Lee Lax**

Inquisitor, Inc  
364 Front Street  
Memphis, TN 38103

Ron Lax founded Inquisitor, Inc in 1978 as a full service private investigation firm. Beginning as a one man operation, Inquisitor Inc. has grown to 15 investigators. Mr. Lax holds a private investigator's license in Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Texas and Montana.

Since 1990 Mr. Lax has personally conducted investigative work on more than two hundred capital murder cases. He has conducted extensive guilt/innocence investigations, prepared comprehensive analysis of police investigations, and assisted the attorneys in preparation for both the guilt/innocence and the penalty phases of the trial as well as post-conviction proceedings.

His role as guilt/innocence investigator in a capital murder case is to assist the attorney by conducting a thorough investigation into the facts of the case, including: A complete review of all material produced in discovery by District Attorney General, an analysis of the police investigation determining materials which have not been produced, but which should be in existence, verifying or discrediting the accounting of events as given by the client and by all other witnesses revealed by prosecution, developing additional witnesses who have not been previously interviewed, conducting a complete background investigation of the client and all other parties involved in the crime, determining the veracity of witnesses, examining the forensic reports provided by prosecution to determine whether defense experts are needed for independent evaluations, Coordinating all materials produced by the prosecution and by the defense team in an easily understandable and accessible form, complimented by a Time-line that includes all pertinent events pre-dating the crime and continues to present, and presenting all information to the attorney in a timely fashion allowing him/her to structure the defense strategy most advantageous for the client. ( Speakers continued on page 6)

Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.



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### **Dan F. Sherrod, Jr., LPI, CFE, LAPPS** Investigator/Consultant/Protection Specialist

Dan was born and raised in Knoxville, TN. He graduated from Knoxville Holston High School and the University of Tennessee – Knoxville (UTK). At UTK, he majored in accounting and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He served in the U. S. Marine Corps as a combat engineer. He has two children, Kelly, a middle school teacher at Karns Middle School, and Jason, a Tennessee State Trooper. Jason is also a helicopter pilot with the Army National Guard, and served a deployment in Iraq where he flew over 70 combat missions. Dan is married to the former Elizabeth Stepp. This past April, they celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Elizabeth is a retired Senior Special Agent with TVA OIG. She is a Licensed Private Investigator (LPI), a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and an Accredited Healthcare Fraud Investigator (AHFI). They have 5 grandchildren.

Dan is a CFE, and licensed both as a private investigator (LPI) and an armed private protection specialist (LAPPS). He is a past Board Chairman/President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Tennessee Professional Investigators Association and is currently serving as Vice Chairman. He is also immediate Past-President/Board Chairman of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Knoxville Chapter and currently serves on the board of directors for that association.

During his 40+ year career, Dan has occupied various corporate positions including, Director – Finance & Administration, VP- Finance & Administration, VP- Sales, President, CFO, COO, & CEO. After several years as a partner in a medico-legal consulting group, he became a licensed private investigator in 2006, and currently serves as President/Treasurer of Sherrod Investigative Group, Inc. His specialties are financial, contract, and insurance fraud.

### **Jack R. Lakin, CMI, LPI**

Jack Lakin is co-owner and supervising investigator of Private Consultants and Investigation. He is a Licensed Private (LPI) by the state of Tennessee with approximately 24 years of experience. Investigative services provided are in areas such as homicide, precise evidence evaluation, insurance fraud, surveillance, theft, witness location, witness interview, and background checks.

He is a current member of Tennessee Infragard as an observer for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He is current Chairman of the Tennessee Professional Investigators Association (TPIA) and former chairman of the Tennessee Association of Investigators, Knoxville Chapter (TIA).

He is trained by the United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs faced by Law Enforcement Officers with emphasis on Drug Trafficking, Investigation and Surveillance Techniques.

He is certified by the courts of Tennessee as a Capital Murder Investigator (CMI)

He attended Walter State Community College seeking an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice, concentrating in Law Enforcement with emphasis on Criminal Investigation. He also graduated in 1987 from the Knoxville Police Training Academy with a diploma as Police Officer concentrating in all areas of Law Enforcement with emphasis on Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA): Physical Defense and Crisis Situation Procedures. He worked as a police patrolman. His accomplishments include many homicide investigations with arrest and convictions, nomination for Police Officer Of the Year in 1988, received commission from Governor Ned McWherter for Law Enforcement Officer in the state of Tennessee 1987 and instructor for Knoxville Police Officer Reserves in the areas of Criminal Investigation and Defensive Tactics.

He is certified in completing courses in Police Photography given by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Semi-automatic weapons training, Basic Crime Prevention given by the National Crime Prevention Institution, "At Scene Traffic Accident Investigation" given by the Institute of Police Technology and Management, and Hazard Materials and Incident Management given by Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)

Mr. Lakin is also a Lecturer for Risk Management Personnel and Insurance Representatives teaching seminars on signs, prevention and investigation of Insurance Fraud.



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***Tennessee Professional Investigators Association Application***

New Member  Member Information Update  Member Renewal

Type of membership:  \$50.00 Active/ Licensed PI  \$25.00 Associate/Non-Lic. Individual

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle (Year optional)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ 800 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**TENNESSEE LICENSURE INFORMATION**

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR LICENSE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY LICENSE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

POST INFORMATION ON WEB SITE?  YES  NO

All information submitted by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate box, fill out and mail to us at:

**TPIA**  
2008 E. Magnolia Ave  
Knoxville, TN 37917