

Mid-Atlantic Cold Case Homicide Investigators Association



January 2022

Greetings Fellow Members,

As your president I want to reach out to the membership and update everyone on the past year's events as well as let you know about MACCHIA's agenda for 2022. First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone for their tireless work and commitment to resolve open cases bring some degree to resolution to victims and their families. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do.

This past year presented even more challenges than we are normally faced with to resolve cold cases. COVID affected us all in so many ways; from our opportunities to interview, to travel, to meet with witnesses and families, to prosecuting offenders. As usual we adapted and persevered even though many times we had to find "work arounds" for many aspects of the investigation that were normally routine. We have seen numerous cold case success stories lately and that is awesome. I am hopeful we are getting back to "normal" leading to even more case closures. MACCHIA will continue to support our members and their agencies in the effort to resolve cases.

In addition to affecting our investigations, COVID had a major impact on our training. As you know MACCHIA was created to provide low-cost training and information sharing amongst those working unsolved homicides. During the year we made several attempts to hold Roundtables to discuss our cases and investigative strategies. Unfortunately, COVID continued to hamper our efforts and the ability of our members to travel and attend. COVID also forced us to cancel our 2020 annual conference in Annapolis. It was a difficult decision to make in early 2020 but in the end, it was the right decision for our membership and our ability to provide a quality instructional product in a safe environment.

The good news is that MACCHIA's 22nd Annual Conference in Annapolis in August of 2021 was a great success. Even though many agencies had or were just coming out of travel restrictions the conference was well attended. I cannot thank our presenters enough. MACCHIA strives to have presenters that are both experienced and knowledgeable, and still working in their field of expertise. That requires a commitment above and beyond their normal duties; I am very grateful for their time, effort, expertise, and commitment to help others solve cases. This year's presenters included Investigator Tom McAndrew (Forensic Exhumation in Cold Cases), Investigator James Holland, Dr. Angela Williamson, and Supervisory Crime Analyst Christine Palazzolo (Samuel Little Murder Investigation/Interview Techniques for Psychopaths), Sergeant Matthew Koehler (Bear Brook Murders), Pamela Jarman (BODE Technology Group-Forensic Genealogy and Cold Case DNA Processing), Sergeant Darrell Price (Case Study: Motive vs. Physical Evidence), and Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Matt Ackley and Detective Johnny Capocelli (Investigating and Prosecuting No Body Homicides). In addition to the in-class training the Social at the Fleet Reserve Club and the gatherings at the Galway Bay Irish Pub and the Annapolis Graduate Hotel were great informal opportunities to make contacts, discuss cases, and share ideas. Thank you to all our vendors who contributed to our training and social events including Bode Technology Group, Parabon Nanolabs, Cybergenetics, Z&F USA Inc., Aftermath, Berla, M-Vac Systems Inc., and Galway Bay Irish Pub.

We are already preparing our agenda for next year's conference, August 3-5, 2022, in Annapolis, Maryland. Please let us know if there are specific topics and/or instructors you believe would be beneficial to our membership and their cases. We are always interested in open case presentations as well. Please don't hesitate to contact me or our Training Director, Frank Tona at tonap@ccso.us.

Our next Roundtable is scheduled for April 21, 2022 in Bucks County Pennsylvania. Please take a look at our website for details. The goal of the Roundtable is to provide the presenters with ideas or new resources to further their investigation. In addition, as participants in the Roundtable we can always learn new ideas and investigative techniques from the presenters. I encourage all members to consider presenting an unsolved case at future Roundtables. We have closed cases as a result of the discussions at the presentations. Not because great work was not already done but because the sum of us all is better than any one of us. The presentations do not need to be long, elaborate or detail every investigative step taken. If requested, MACCHIA can and will assist in preparing the presentation.

Remember that MACCHIA is a year around resource for our members and their agencies. We are ready and willing to assist with consultations, guidance and resources at no cost to our members. We are only a phone call or email away.

MACCHIA is a training driven organization. Our mission is to provide a forum for up to date, relevant, and innovative investigative techniques and strategies that can assist us all to resolve our unsolved homicides. I ask that we all be active members and support MACCHIA in providing the best training available by not only attending the training and networking but also providing your input and expertise to better our organization.

Check for updates and new postings on our **website** at Coldcasehomicide.org, and on [Facebook](#). Follow us on **Twitter** [@MACCHIACOLDCASE](#), **Instagram** [@coldcasehomicide](#) and on **LinkedIn** at [MACCHIA LinkedIn](#).

Thank you all for the tireless work that you do for the victims of homicides and their families. Best of luck to all of you on your cases and hope to see you soon. Please contact me with any suggestions to improve our organization at cflanagan2093@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Christopher Flanagan

President
Mid-Atlantic Cold Case Homicide Investigators Association