

An Invitation from the President

*"A Sensible Advantage for the
Private Polygraph Examiner"*

You may have heard of the **National Polygraph Association (NPA)**, and then again, maybe not. In any event, I would like to ask for a little of your time to tell you about us.

The **NPA** has been expanding by leaps and bounds year after year and the reasons are becoming obvious. They can be summed up as:

"AFFORDABLE COSTS"

"HIGH QUALITY TRAINING and SPEAKERS"

"ULTIMATE LOCATION FOR ITS ANNUAL SEMINARS"

"NATIONAL POLYGRAPH STANDARDS"

Some of our members have described **the National Polygraph Association as,**

**"The Association That Caters To
the Private Examiner."**

I tend to agree with that statement because this already reflects the **National Polygraph Association's** present membership. However law enforcement examiners, and particularly the agencies that employ them, also recognize the outstanding advantages of the

NPA which accounts for growing law enforcement and government membership representation.

The National Polygraph Association History

The founding history of the **NPA** is attributed to the late Dr. Chris Gugas during a March 1989 meeting. The NPA held its first national seminar in Fort Worth Texas in 1990. Mr. Gugas was regarded as an early pioneer in the polygraph field, starting his career with the OSS (which later became the CIA) during World War II. He was also a former president of the American Polygraph Association (APA).

The National Polygraph Association's original mission was intended to work toward overturning the 1988 Federal Decision known as the Employee Polygraph Protection Act, (EPPA). This legislation severely restricted, and in many cases, totally eliminated the use of polygraph testing in the workplace setting. It wasn't until 2002, during the term of then President Billy Rakes, that we revisited the mission of the National Polygraph Association. President Rakes brought to the attention of the membership that the original mission in regard to the EPPA was a cost prohibitive and fruitless endeavor for any association to undertake. When our mission statement and the constitution and by-laws were revised, a number of opportunities became apparent that presented advantages to the private examiner that had not been fully appreciated before. These advantages fell into those areas listed previously. ***“Cost – Quality Training - the Ultimate Annual Conference Location – (at the right time of the year)”***

COST

It's no secret that the cost of various membership fees and the cost of continuing education training affects polygraph examiners to one degree or another. But without question, ***PRIVATE EXAMINERS ARE SUBJECTED TO A FAR GREATER PERSONAL COST.*** For example, no governmental agency or department pays membership, seminar or convention fees, transportation costs, lodging or per diem for private examiners. Private examiners buy and maintain their own equipment, and unlike non-private examiners, no one is paying the private examiners when they attend a training seminar.

The National Polygraph Association realizes this and works persistently to keep costs affordable. For example:

- . **The Annual Membership Fee is presently - \$ 75 a year.**
- . **The 2007 Conference Fee for a member was - \$125**

was formally trained in the science of polygraph at the US Army Polygraph School in 1984. He is a retired Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and a former investigator with the Passaic County NJ Prosecutor's Office. As a private examiner he has specialized in the testing of sex offenders and has been a featured presenter all over the world. . **Marty Oelrich** is a talented examiner in private practice in Arizona. He is a serious student of the science of polygraph testing sex offenders in treatment that includes a solid background in research. Among many things, he has an expertise regarding Internet pornography as related to sex offenders and has developed a specialized process to obtain maximum information from the offender in this regard. **Attorney Mark Kruzman** comes to us from Minnesota to provide valuable legal advice and updates to examiners to include pitfalls examiners often overlook and need to heed.

NATIONAL POLYGRAPH STANDARDS

One of the requirements of any profession that is associated with forensic sciences is that of standardization. The **National Polygraph Association** takes on this task quite seriously to assure its standards are valid. In a 1998 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Cordoba* case where polygraph testing was an issue, the U.S. District Court declared that polygraph had been extensively tested and had been the subject of extensive peer review and publication. They agreed that it was even probably accepted in the scientific community as a useful diagnostic or investigative technique. However it also found that in their opinion, polygraph did not have general acceptance for courtroom evidence because it had no controlling standards to ensure proper protocol. It noted that there were associations that had "association standards" (*specifically naming polygraph associations*) but added that these only applied to its own members and do not meet the definition of uniform standard.

To meet this challenge, a Committee was formed in 1997 within the **American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)**, the largest Standards Development group in the world. The committee, designated as **Committee E-52 Forensic Psychophysiology**, worked diligently over the years to develop consensus standard for the polygraph profession. This committee has successfully developed "**National**", and now, "**International Standards**," and the work will continue.

These standards are recognized throughout the world by the scientific and judicial communities. They include standards for Research, Instrumentation, Quality Control, Education and Training, Polygraph Testing itself, and Ethics. These published standards apply to law enforcement, federal government and private examiners. They apply to schools and polygraph instrumentation manufacturers as well. These standards are equally important to those who use our services, such as courts, attorneys, private companies, corporations and the public.

Judges and attorneys recognize **ASTM Standards** because they frequently deal with them in civil cases. The standards apply to *every examiner*, and to whatever association the examiner may belong, *or even if the examiner belongs to no association*. These standards have become:

"The Standards of our Profession" as opposed to an **"Association Standard."**

To address this profession's obligation, **in 2002, the National Polygraph Association**
ADOPTED ALL ASTM COMMITTEE E-52 STANDARDS

ON FORENSIC PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY as the **STANDARDS FOR THE NATIONAL POLYGRAPH ASSOCIATION.**

The National Polygraph Association is the first polygraph association to make this commitment.

LOCATION

Regarding the seminar location, the National Polygraph Association found a home for its training seminars in the desert of Las Vegas, as they say. The NPA has held its seminars in Las Vegas the past 11 years, with great success and wonderful feedback. Las Vegas is more than ideal for our seminars and one of the reasons our costs are held to an affordable range.

Timing of the seminar is also ideal for Vegas because it is held in January, a great time to get out of the snow, and it avoids the Vegas summer heat.

The NPA has no “seminar/awards banquet.” It does not organize any “scheduled entertainment.” (This frequently requires an additional cost to attend). After all, in Las Vegas there is an abundance of food and entertainment to share with colleagues, old friends and new acquaintances.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The motivation for my letter to you is to share with you some information about the National Polygraph Association, an association designed to assist the private examiner, or to those contemplating a move to become a private examiner in the near future. Our membership reflects that The National Polygraph Association indeed welcomes all examiners, but admittedly has special advantages to the private polygraph examiner. Private examiners shoulder the cost burden alone. The NPA provides the required high quality training keeping within ASTM standards at affordable costs and an ultimate location. It’s all here.

I invite you to check out the **NPA Seminar in Las Vegas, January 21-23, 2008**. Come and see if it isn’t everything I described. I invite you to become a member of the National Polygraph Association. After all, this is your profession and your practice. It requires a tremendous investment in both time and money. The NPA offers a sensible advantage to your practice. I can’t think of a better motivation to join your fellow private examiners.

Thank you for reading this message and if you have any questions about the association or if you would like a copy of our newsletter, please don’t hesitate to contact any of the officers or board members.

To join the NPA just go on line to obtain an application at nationalpolygraph@yahoo.com or contact Treasurer Gary F. Davis by phone 785-828-3248.

Best regards,

George H. Baranowski, President
National Polygraph Association