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**Report from the 56<sup>th</sup> Seminar  
of the American Polygraph Association  
(Orlando, Florida, 28 August – 3 September 2022)**

The 56<sup>th</sup> annual Seminar of the American Polygraph Association was held from 28 August to 3 September 2022 in Orlando, Florida. Nearly 600 polygraph examinations practitioners and scientists arrived in Orlando. Majority of them came from the United States, while Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Honduras, Israel, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom were also represented. Fellow feelings were expressed for Ukrainian polygraphers.

This time, for reasons more than understandable, polygraphers from Russia and Belarus did not participate in the seminar. The large group of Polish delegates, consisted of 12 people, representing intelligence, counterintelligence, and the academia.

Besides scientific papers, the lavish programme of the seminar included workshop subjects on analysing test data, valid test questions, issues concerning countermeasures, and questions related to the pre-test and post-test interviews. One of the lectures referred to Reid's classic interview technique and interrogation, yet rather than Reid's confrontational forms of interview, these were contemporary "soft" ones that were promoted. Many papers and workshops also em-

phased that the examination must be focused more on gathering information than on obtaining the admission of guilt from guilty subjects. Attention was paid to the role of a good pre-test interview as a prerequisite of an efficient examination and subsequent interrogation, and on truthful subjects sharing more verifiable details.

Other presentations discussed among others specific details on of interrogating witnesses and victims of crime, methods of analysing the content of written statements and evidence, and the question of security of processing and storing data from polygraph examinations. Discussions also extended to a number of instructive case studies that involved polygraphers. One of them was concerned solving a puzzle of what proved a staged robbery of money from a convoy in Massachusetts in 2011. The study on the man accused and sentenced for killing Malcom X, who finally proved innocent, provided particular food for thought.

The stream of lectures on subjects related to psychology included general considerations on the psychology of lie and personality issues that influence the way interviews with various subjects should be conducted. Discussions also concerned the results of studies that demonstrated correlation between traumatic experiences and perception of statement credibility (geared towards false indications of deception). A training of the interrogating personnel on the consequences of the trauma proves an efficient antidote here.

A review of US legal cases proved interesting. Determining whether to admit evidence from polygraph examinations, courts generally applied Daubert standard. They also made sure that polygraphers comply with APA standards, which include audio and video recording of the course of the examination, and proper qualifications of the polygraphers including continuous training and development.

Refusal of being subjected to polygraph testing by officers of governmental bodies can be considered a justified reason for dismissal.

Traditionally, the seminar was an opportunity to present the latest models of polygraph hardware and software (Lafayette Instrument, Stoelting, Limestone i Axciton) and yet another device for assessing truthfulness (EyeDetect). The polygraphs currently available in the market only differ from those offered several years ago with minute tweaks and improvements.

During the Seminar, Donald Krapohl, took over the post of the President of APA. Assuming his duties, President Krapohl presented new authorities of the APA and discussed its key tasks for the coming year.

These were certainly the polygraphers taking their first steps in the profession who found the content of this year's seminar most informative, instructive, and beneficial. Those more experienced drew more from mutual consultations, and exchange of information and ideas during networking between the sessions. Some dissatisfaction could be felt among that group, as there were hopes for a greater progress in methodology and technology of polygraph examinations. Understanding these concerns well, the new president commented on the issue and explained that scientific research is never an easy project, as it is both resource- and time-consuming. Moreover, for objectivism's sake, studies conducted by independent bodies rather than the APA would enjoy greater recognition.

Next year's annual APA Seminar will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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