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The Conference Holds 112th Annual Meeting

NEWPORT BEACH, CA (February, 2016) The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards held its 112th Annual Meeting February 24 - 25, 2016, at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach in Newport Beach, California. Members in the regulatory community from throughout the United States and Canada gathered to focus on regulation in the death care profession.

The two-day event was officially called to order on Wednesday February 24th by President Sandy Mahon. In addition to resolving the business functions of The Conference, the first day of the meeting centered on recent regulatory cases and the effects of student conduct when it comes to professional licensure.

With the completion of the Conference Model Application for Funeral Service, the committee’s chairman, Peter Burke, updated attendees on the process, shared the committee insight, and highlighted discussions that carried the project forward. The purpose of the Model Application is to serve as a resource for the funeral service regulatory community in requesting/requiring the disclosure of pertinent information on determining eligibility of applicants for licensure. The delegate assembly unanimously passed a motion accepting the Model Application as a Conference model document.

During the first session of the day, Conference Legal Counsel, Dale Atkinson, provided attendees with an update on recent cases involving numerous regulatory professions nationwide and discussed what

regulators and attendees could learn from each case. Among other cases, Mr. Atkinson discussed the recent case of Mattei v. The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, et al, in which the United States District Court for Western District of Texas granted a motion to



From Left: Vice President Edward Muhleisen, President Sandy Mahon, Past President Dr. Hari P. Close, II, CFSP

dismiss in favor of The Conference regarding claims filed by the examinee alleging violations of numerous rights related to the invalidation of National Board Exam scores.

Lori Long, Manager of Professional Conduct and Regulatory Affairs with the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, gave an overview

of a recent scandal involving 13 male dentistry students who were suspended from clinical work at Dalhousie University when news broke of misogynistic, sexist and gender violent comments about female classmates on Facebook. Ms. Long emphasized the responsibility regulators have to ascertain the suitability of an individual to practice. She raised many provocative questions for attendees to consider when assessing an applicant's eligibility for licensure, in particular activities that occurred during an educational program.

“We had a very productive first day of meetings, and we could not be more appreciative of our guest speakers,” said Sandy Mahon, President of The Conference. “They brought a great deal of insight to issues regulators are confronting within their jurisdictions.”

Annual Meeting Continued

The second day of the Annual Meeting centered around ensuring the highest standards in funeral service regulation, with presentations on The Funeral Rule, System Automation, and creating a model licensee. Craig Tregillus, Franchise Rule Coordinator with the Federal Trade Commission, led an informative discussion in which he encouraged attendee's participation regarding The Funeral Rule. Mr. Tregillus highlighted compliance, enforcement, and what regulators need to know while also sharing findings from the latest FTC sweeps.

Lynne Helmick, Deputy Director of the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, and Vanessa Niekamp, Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, gave consecutive presentations on System Automation and automation as it relates to open meeting laws and modern technology. Ms. Helmick and Ms. Niekamp both shared the various capabilities and experiences they have encountered with automated systems.

On motion and pursuant to Article VI, Section 2, of The Conference By-laws, the delegates met in closed session to discuss matters related to the National Board Examination (NBE) program. As a result of a motion unanimously adopted, a resolution was presented mandating that The Conference, on behalf of its member boards, file a formal complaint with the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) Committee on Accreditation (COA) requesting an investigation regarding an item harvesting scheme undertaken by the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service Inc. (AAMI) that threatened the integrity of the National Board Exam. The resolution passed unanimously.



President Sandy Mahon presides over The 112th Annual Meeting

District meetings were held to close out the morning. During this session, recent legislation updates, Conference initiatives and Conference membership polls, and implications from the North Carolina Dental Board Vs. the FTC were discussed. The smaller group setting allowed attendees to focus on issues within their jurisdictions and share best practices. Elections were held for Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, and 9.

Robert Barnes, CFSP, board member from the Maine State Board of Funeral Service, was elected to represent District 1. Lynn Armstrong-Patterson, board member from the District of Columbia, was elected to represent District 2. Sandy Sebastian, Executive Director of the Missouri State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors was elected to represent District 5, and, Bart Burton, board member with the Nevada State Funeral Board, was elected to his second term representing District 9.

Thursday afternoon kicked off with the annual awards luncheon. Following the district meeting and AEFSE reports, President Mahon presented Lisa Moore, Bureau Chief of the

California Cemetery and Funeral Bureau, with the President's Distinguished Service Award and recognized her for her ongoing commitment, leadership, and outstanding service to The Conference. "Lisa has worked tirelessly to advance the goals of The Conference," said President Mahon. "She is an active past president who continues to serve this organization. She most recently chaired the Model Practice Act committee, and has been an integral part of its success."



President Sandy Mahon presents Lisa Moore the President's Distinguished Service Award

President Mahon, who previously served his predecessor's term as president in accordance with Conference By-laws, recognized Past President Dr. Hari P. Close, II, CFSP, for the time he served as president during the 2015 year and for his dedication. Following the recognition of Dr. Close, he presented President Mahon with the President's gavel as he begins his term as the first international president of the organization. Edward Muhleisen will continue to serve as Vice President and Dr. Close will continue to serve as Past President. The 2016-2017 Board of Directors were officially sworn in to close the awards luncheon.

Charles Perine, Executive Secretary of the Alabama Board of Funeral Service, Peter Burke from the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service, and JoAnn Reid, Executive Director of the Wyoming State Board of Funeral Service Practitioners led a panel discussion on creating the model licensee. The discussion focused on the education, qualifications, and background of potential licensees. In closing of the Annual Meeting, attendees separated into smaller groups to address issues facing licensees today. A central theme of ensuring high standards was addressed by attendees, including: changing the culture of funeral service regulation, standards of practice, responsibilities of the regulatory community, the disparity between licensure requirements, and the benefits to licensure. Following the group exercise, President Mahon thanked all those who attended the Annual Meeting and made it a success. Before calling the meeting to a close, Mr. Mahon invited all those in attendance to the 113th Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, SC.

The ICFSEB Annual Meeting provides a valuable opportunity for those interested in furthering funeral service regulation to come together for exchange of information, problem-solving strategies, and goals for the future of the funeral service profession. For more information on the Annual Meeting or The Conference, call 479-442-7076, or visit www.theconferenceonline.org.

A.R. “Sandy” Mahon Elected President

First International President to Serve



Sandy Mahon

A.R. “Sandy” Mahon was elected President of The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc. (The Conference) at the 112th Annual Meeting. The event was held February 24 - 25, 2016, at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach in Newport Beach, California.

Mr. Mahon, Registrar of the Funeral and Cremation Services Council of Saskatchewan, is the first international President of The Conference. Mr. Mahon was elected Vice President of

The Conference in 2015. “It is a truly an honor to become the first international president of this organization,” said Mr. Mahon. “This is an international organization and I will take great pride in serving all of our member jurisdictions.”

Mr. Mahon was elected to his first term on the Board of Directors as District 8 Director in 2015. He was appointed to The Conference Board of Directors in 2013 and elected to fill out his predecessor’s term in 2014. As District 8 Director, he represents funeral service regulators from Alaska, Alberta, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Saskatchewan, Washington, and Wyoming. He previously served as President of The Association of Executives of Funeral Service Boards.

Mr. Mahon has been employed by the Funeral and Cremation Services Council of Saskatchewan since 2005. He is a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired at the rank of Sergeant Major. The latter part of his career in the RCMP was spent in a variety of training functions. He has a Certificate in Adult Education from St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Sandy and his wife, Katherine, reside in Regina, Saskatchewan.



Dr. Hari P. Close, II, CFSP, presents Sandy Mahon with the President’s Gavel.

Conference Model Application Adopted

The Conference Model Application was adopted by the delegate assembly at the 112th Annual Meeting of The Conference on February 24, 2016. Before its adoption, the final draft of The Conference Model Application was approved by the Model Application Committee on January 19, 2016, and by the Board of Directors on January 22, 2016.

Recognizing the variety of requirements among members, the goal of the committee was to collect research and compile a universal document to be used in licensing individuals. The primary purpose of The Model Application is providing a resource for the funeral service regulatory community in requesting/requiring the disclosure of pertinent information on the application of a potential licensee.

Much like The Conference Model Practice Act, The Model Application will promote standardization of terminology and requirements which will better facilitate public understanding of the profession. Regulatory officials can review subsections which are applicable to their existing laws and rules, with the availability of unrequired information for review and consideration in the future. Additionally, The Model Application will increase licensure portability through uniformity and consistency.

The Model Application Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors in August 2015, comprised of

representatives from five of The Conference’s member jurisdictions. The committee held multiple meetings via conference call over the course of several months; the final product includes the composition of these meetings as well as research by individual committee members in the interim. The Conference Model Application includes sections on candidate identification, education, examination(s), internship, work history, prior licensing, discipline/criminal history, substance abuse/mental health, background check and attestation. If your jurisdiction is considering amending your application form, please refer to this model for suggested questions, information, requirements and language.

The Model Application can be found online at: www.theconferenceonline.org/resources/model-application, or you may request a hard copy by emailing services@theconferenceonline.org.

Model Application Committee:

Peter Burke
Chad Dresselhaus
Lynne Helmick
Brittney Lewin
Beth Ann Prindiville
Jeanne Todd

Board of Directors Updates



Charles Perine

In April 2016, the Board of Directors met via conference call to fill positions on the Board. Charles Perine was appointed to fill the vacant District 3 chair. As District 3 Director he represents funeral service regulators from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Mr. Perine has been the Executive Secretary for the Alabama Board of Funeral Service since 2013.

Prior to his current position, he served as Associate Executive Secretary of the board.

District 5 Director Sandy Sebastian was elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of The Conference. Ms. Sebastian was elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting (see page 5).

Interested In Serving?

The Conference Board of Directors periodically appoints various committees to serve on behalf of The Conference. If you are interested in being considered to volunteer for future committees, please submit the online form at www.theconferenceonline.org/committee-interest-form/. A Conference representative will be in touch based on committee needs and requirements.

Fourth Straight Board Member Training Session Held

The Board Member Training session was held prior to the Annual Meeting for the fourth straight year with the largest number of participants to date. The Conference welcomed attendees from funeral service boards in: Alabama, Alberta, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, and NFDA. The Conference is pleased to add the following names to the Board Member Training completion list:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Donna Amaro | Nancy Kirk |
| Lynn Armstrong-Patterson | Bart Kirtland |
| Lisa Bos | Bill Kostiw |
| Steven Brunken | Ken McGhee |
| Bryan Chandler | Robert Moore, IV |
| Chris Ferguson | Sandy Sebastian |
| Craig Geary | Sylvester Smith |
| Randolph Horton | Jason Wyatt |

The Conference Awards NBE Scholarships

The Board of Directors of The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards selected 10 recipients to receive the National Board Examination (NBE) scholarship. The scholarship allows recipients to sit for the NBE with the \$500 examination fee waived.

The scholarship program was open to any first-time exam candidate eligible to sit for the National Board Examination in 2016. Scholarship applicants were asked to explore the examination security section of The Conference's website and explain what exam security means to them as a National Board Exam candidate. From the nearly 100 scholarship entries received, The Conference Board of Directors selected the 10 recipients at random during the Board of Directors Meeting on February 23, 2016, in Newport Beach, California.

"The responses we received were phenomenal," said Sandy Mahon, President of The Conference. "You could tell that a lot of thought was put into these submissions. The vast majority understand the importance of examination security as it pertains to the integrity of the profession."

The NBE Scholarship recipients are:

- Christina Anderson, University of Minnesota
- Autlaychia Boyd, Dallas Institute of Funeral Service
- Dyani Cortez, Miami Dade College
- James Devine, Tidewater Community College
- Marissa Howe, Fayetteville Technical Community College
- Karla Kringle, Lake Washington Technical College
- Courtney Rieland, University of Minnesota
- Clayton Sneed, Jefferson State Community College
- Inez Tillmon, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park
- Carissa Watson, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park

District Directors Elected



Members of the 2016-2017 Board of Directors being sworn into office.

Elections were held for Districts 1, 2, 5, and 9 for the Board of Directors of The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards at the 112th Annual Meeting.

Robert Barnes was elected District 1 Director and represents funeral service regulators from



Robert Barnes

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. Mr. Barnes is a past president of the Conference and served on the Board of Directors from 2005-2011. He has been a licensed practitioner for over four decades. Mr. Barnes has been a member of the Maine State Board of Funeral Service since 1994.

Lynn Armstrong-Patterson was elected District 2 Director and represents regulators from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and

Washington D.C. Before her election, she was appointed to The Conference Board of Directors in 2015. She is the owner and founder of Bianchi Funeral Service located in Washington, D.C. Ms. Armstrong-Patterson has served as Chairman of the DC Board of Funeral Directors since 2004 and has been involved in various funeral service organizations including NFDMA, DCFDA, AEFSB, and NFDA. She is a Past President of the 100 Black Women in Funeral Service Organization and served on the Arts Exam Committee of ICFSEB from 2012-2015.



Lynn Armstrong-Patterson

Sandy Sebastian was elected District 5 Director and represents funeral service regulators from Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee. Sandy Sebastian was appointed to The Conference Board of Directors in 2015. She is the



Sandy Sebastian

Executive Director of the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors and State Board of Podiatric Medicine for the state of Missouri. Ms. Sebastian has spent over 29 years within the same organization, Division of Professional Regulation, working in various capacities that included

licensure and regulation. Her previous roles included Director of Human Resources and Operations Coordinator for the Division of Professional Regulation.

Bart Burton was elected to his second term as District 9 Director. As District 9 Director he represents funeral service regulators from Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah. Mr. Burton was appointed to The Conference Board of Directors in 2010, he was elected in 2011 to complete his predecessor's term, and was elected to his first term in 2013. He is an Area Director for Service Corporation International and was appointed to the Nevada State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers in 2007. Mr. Burton served as President of The Conference in 2014.



Bart Burton

113th Annual Meeting Update:

March 1-2, 2017 at
The Omni Hilton Head
Oceanfront Resort

[More Information Online!](#)

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Secure Electronic Transfer of Results

The Conference is currently in the testing phase for transferring examination results electronically. This has been a service the membership has requested and The Conference has been researching to find the solution to best meet the need of the members of The Conference.

Once implemented, states will receive notification of the secure transfer of documents via email. The system will use AES 256-bit FIPS 140-2 approved encryption to provide the highest level of security. The system will be compliant with industry and government standards, and regulations designed to safeguard sensitive consumer data, including HIPAA and GLBA.



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NBE Quarterly Statistics

January 1, 2016 - March 31, 2016

| National Board Arts Examination | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| | Total Tested | Pass # | Pass % | Fail # | Fail % | Absent # |
| First Time | 260 | 179 | 69% | 81 | 31% | 6 |
| Repeater | 108 | 41 | 38% | 67 | 62% | 1 |
| Total | 368 | 220 | 60% | 148 | 40% | 7 |
| National Board Science Examination | | | | | | |
| | Total Tested | Pass # | Pass % | Fail # | Fail % | Absent # |
| First Time | 279 | 205 | 73% | 74 | 27% | 2 |
| Repeater | 92 | 24 | 26% | 68 | 74% | 4 |
| Total | 371 | 229 | 62% | 142 | 38% | 6 |

For a full listing of year-to-date stats, please visit www.theconferenceonline.org/resources/nbe-statistics/

Please Take the Customer Satisfaction Survey Online at:
<http://theconferenceonline.org/survey>

* The Conference welcomes any contributions from member jurisdictions. Please submit items to info@theconferenceonline.org.

Upcoming Jurisdiction Board Meetings

- Alabama - 7/11, 10/3
- Arizona - 6/12, 7/19, 8/16, 9/20, 10/18, 11/15, 10/20
- Arkansas - 9/15, 12/10
- Delaware - 5/24, 7/26, 9/27, 11/22
- District of Columbia - 5/5, 6/2, 7/7, 9/8, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1
- Florida - 5/19, 6/30, 7/7, 8/4, 9/1, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1
- Georgia - 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, 10/10, 11/8, 12/13
- Indiana - 6/9, 8/4, 10/6, 12/1
- Iowa - 6/2, 9/1, 12/1
- Kansas - 7/14, 10/13
- Louisiana - 6/8-9, 8/10-11, 9/7-8, 10/12-13, 12/7-8
- Maine - 7/12, 9/13, 11/8
- Maryland - 6/8, 7/13
- Massachusetts - 6/7&21, 7/5&19, 8/2&16, 9/6&20, 10/14&18, 11/1&15, 12/6&20
- Michigan - 10/20
- Missouri - 6/14-15, 9/14-15, 12/7-8
- Nebraska - 7/21, 10/20
- North Carolina - 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14
- Ohio - 6/20, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/19
- Oklahoma - 6/19, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8, 10/13, 11/10, 12/8
- Oregon - 6/14, 8/9, 10/6-7, 12/13
- Pennsylvania - 6/23, 8/3, 9/14, 10/26, 12/6
- South Carolina - 6/16, 7/18, 8/18, 9/21, 10/27, 12/7
- Tennessee - 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13
- Texas - 6/21, 9/13, 12/13
- Utah - 8/17, 11/16
- Virginia - 7/12, 10/18
- Washington - 8/2, 11/1
- Wisconsin - 8/2, 11/22
- Saskatchewan - 6/23, 9/8, 10/13, 11/10, 12/8