



District Meeting Minutes (Districts 1, 5, & 6)

Thursday, February 25, 2016 - 10:30 a.m.
Newport Beach, California

Present:

Robert Barnes, ME Board of Funeral Service
Steven C. Brunken, NE Board of Funeral Directing & Embalming
Kanetha Dorsey, KY Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Collin Follis, MO Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Amy Goode, AR Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Ken McGhee, MO Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
John Rice, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Sandy Sebastian, District 5 Director, MO Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Mack Smith, District 6 Director, KS Board of Mortuary Arts
Steve Spann, John A. Gupton College
Bobby Thurman, AR Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Pat Traffas, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Carlena Weiland, MN Department of Health

I. Call to Order and Introductions

District 6 Director, Mack Smith, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. PST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from Districts 1, 5, and 6.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Smith gave an overview of Conference initiatives including the Model Practice Act, the Model Application, and the revamped scholarship program.

III. Current Regulatory Issues

A. Recent Legislation Updates

The group discussed recent legislation including fee sweeps and funds. A representative from Arkansas mentioned the consolidation of agencies occurring in their state while a representative from Kansas spoke about crematory operators and a recent bill in his state. A new law in Tennessee states that crematories have to be funeral homes with one license per establishment. This prompted a group discussion on crematory laws and requirements.

B. Reciprocal/Endorsement Agreements

The group discussed whether their jurisdictions have any agreements which do not require NBE scores sent directly from The Conference. A representative from Arkansas noted their acceptance of score transfers directly from other jurisdictions. A Conference board member explained the security factor involved and the importance of not allowing individuals to submit scores. Receiving scores directly from The Conference was expressed as the most reliable way of ensuring certified results.

C. Updates on Membership Polls

District directors shared the questions submitted through membership polls via The Conference. The group discussed funeral assistants, ethics requirements, and traveling embalmers as well as the implications of the North Carolina Dental Board case. Preneed contracts, internal best practices including audits, the stacking of human remains, and how laws are written regarding storage were also topics discussed by attendees.

D. NC Dental Board vs. FTC

A brief conversation took place regarding the implications from this case.

E. Conference Next Global Project

Participants shared opinions on what potential projects The Conference could undertake, including one attendee mentioning a disciplinary databank, but noting the project would only succeed if all regulatory boards participated. The suggestion of a national crematory operators exam was also discussed as a component for licensure as crematory operator.

IV. Open Forum

In the open forum segment, the attendees discussed if licensing boards would accept only pass/fail information for National Board Exam candidates, instead of the actual scaled score. The general consensus was that it would be a non-issue. It was noted that some statutes require a 75, however, the inclusion of language on the score report indicating achievement of a "pass" could be noted and added when the candidate meets the minimum-scaled-score of 75 for those who require a 75 in their statutes.

V. District 1 and 5 Election to Board of Directors

Robert Barnes, board member from the ME Board of Funeral Service, was elected to serve as District 1 Director and Sandy Sebastian, Executive Director of the MO State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, was elected to serve as District 5 Director.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting of districts 1, 5, and 6 adjourned at 11:53 a.m. PST.