



District Meeting Minutes (Districts 2, 3, & 7)

Thursday, February 25, 2016 – 10:30 a.m.
Newport Beach, CA

Present:

Ernest Adams, SC Board of Funeral Service, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Lynn Armstrong-Patterson, District 2 Director, DC Board of Funeral Directors
Ruth Ann Arty, MD Board of Morticians
Peter Burke, Secretary-Treasurer, District 3 Director, NC Board of Funeral Service
Kelly Byrd, NC Board of Funeral Service
Dr. Hari P. Close, II, ICFSEB Past President
Chris Ferguson, OK Funeral Board
Charles Graves, NC Board of Funeral Service
Denise Grogan, AL Board of Funeral Service
Keri Haines, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Lynne Helmick, VA Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Amy Holleman, SC Board of Funeral Service
Randolph Horton, DC Board of Funeral Directors
Bart Kirtland, AL Board of Funeral Service
Valdus Lockhart, NC Board of Funeral Service
Robert Moore, IV, NFDA Past President
Edward Muhleisen, Vice President, District 7 Director, LA State Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Blair Nelsen, VA Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Gene Ogradnik, Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science
Charles Perine, AL Board of Funeral Service
Jim Shoemake, Dallas Institute of Funeral Service
Robert Smith, ABFSE Executive Director
Billie Watson Hughes, ICFSEB Past President
Jason Wyatt, AL Board of Funeral Service

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice President, Edward Muhleisen, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. PST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from District 2, 3, and 7.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Peter Burke gave a brief overview of the development of the Model Application that was adopted the previous day by the delegate assembly. He announced the first review of the Model Practice Act taking place within the coming year and instructed attendees to send any comments/suggestions to Conference staff for review regarding the Act. Collaboration between the FTC and the Conference board was also mentioned for future matters.

III. Current Regulatory Issues

A. Recent Legislation Updates

One jurisdiction shared information about a bill to be introduced in response to the NC Dental Board vs. FTC decision noting any decision by a health board would be forwarded to the state department for review.

B. Reciprocal/Endorsement Agreements

Attendees had a brief discussion on this topic with overall consensus being each jurisdiction requires a certified copy of NBE scores to be sent directly from The Conference when an individual is reciprocating from another jurisdiction.

C. Update on Membership Polls

Vice President Muhleisen shared the membership questions with corresponding response data and feedback that had been facilitated by Conference staff over the past year. The requirement of an Ethics course was further discussed with Louisiana noting each board member is required to take an Ethics course annually. Additional topics discussed included: the Family Security Fund in Maryland regarding preneed shortages, funeral consulting firms/individuals and the differences in officiating versus arranging, as well as the variation of how each jurisdiction deals with reporting vs. not reporting preneed contracts.

D. NC Dental Board vs. FTC

Attendees collectively shared what they have heard from their attorney general and board legal counsel in regard to this case.

E. Conference Next Global Project

Apprenticeship requirements and fine-tuning current standards was a topic mentioned as something The Conference could look into, as well as licensure portability. Attendees who had involvement with other regulated professions noted several professions had succeeded in establishing uniformity and The Conference could assist with this.

IV. Open Forum

In the open forum segment, the third party provider, Heritage Cremation Provider was discussed in great length with many jurisdictions sharing similar experiences they had encountered. The FTC undercover investigations was also discussed with attendees recounting experiences they faced personally or through their current position. A brief discussion was held on sending National Board Exam results in a pass/fail format only to member boards with many regulators noting they would accept this transition. A few attendees noted the score might be a requirement in current statutes for a few jurisdictions.

V. District 2 & 3 Election to Board of Directors

Lynn Armstrong-Patterson was elected as District 2 Director and Peter Burke was elected as District 3 Director of the Board of Directors.

VI. Adjournment

The meetings of districts 2, 3, and 7 adjourned at 11:55 a.m. PST.