



District Meeting Minutes (Districts 2, 4, 6)

Thursday, March 2, 2017 – 10:30 a.m.
Hilton Head, SC

Present:

Lynn Armstrong-Patterson, District 2 Director, DC Board of Funeral Directors
Ruth Ann Arty, MD Board of Morticians
Reynolds Baldwin, Jr., PA State Board of Funeral Directors
Sheldon Brown, DC Board of Funeral Directors
Steven C. Brunken, NE Board of Funeral Directing & Embalming
Dr. Hari P. Close, II, CFSP, ICFSEB
Tim Derickson, OH Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Mark Evely, Wayne State University
Erika Fulgern, MN Dept. of Health
Lynne Helmick, VA Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers
Mia Mimms, VA Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers
Robert C. Moore, IV, NFDA
Blair H. Nelsen, VA Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers
Gene Ogrodnik, Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science
S. Keith Parsell, DE Board of Funeral Services
Mark Ransford, District 4 Director, MI Board of Examiners in Mortuary Science
Jon Rettig, OH Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
John Rice, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Mack Smith, District 6 Director, KS Board of Mortuary Arts
Robert Smith, III, ABFSE
John Strohman, SD Board of Funeral Service
Corie Tillman Wolf, VA Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers
William Wappner, OH Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Arvid Wiest, NE Board of Funeral Directing & Embalming
Asanti Williams, DC Board of Funeral Directors

I. Call to Order and Introductions

District 6 Director, Mack Smith, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. EST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from District 2, 4, and 6.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Smith gave an overview on recent Conference initiatives including the upcoming transition to sending exam scores electronically to state boards. An update on the Model Practice Act was also provided.

III. Current Regulatory Issues

A. Legislative Happenings

The group discussed various regulatory issues from around the districts. One participant shared the possible merger of health groups within their state. Other concerns that were shared included removing tax exemptions, preneed issues, sunset review, the sweeping of funds, and lack of crematory regulations.

B. Technology and Social Media

Attendees shared their regulatory board's experience with using social media as a means of communication. Only a few Boards utilize platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, but many have concerns on how to monitor and manage the public interaction. It was noted that the Commonwealth of Virginia was considering

creating a social media position to control and moderate all of their Boards' social accounts. One participant noted a wide range of information available on the state board websites (some offering a great resource of information while others offering very little). The option of posting the FTC price list on funeral home websites was also discussed.

C. Update on Membership Polls

Mr. Smith gave an overview on the membership polls that have been conducted by The Conference on behalf of member boards. The results were shared with the attendees.

D. NC Dental Board vs. FTC updates

The attendees were provided with a brief recap of the case.

E. Relationships with State Associations

The group discussed the benefits of joining organizations such as the Council on Licensure, Enforcement, & Regulation (CLEAR) and the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB), which promote, connect, and educate the regulatory community.

IV. Open Forum

In the open forum, the issues that arise from third party marketers brokering with funeral homes were discussed. The group dialog also covered concerns over exemptions from Continuing Education Units (CEUs) after a certain amount of years.

V. District 2 & 4 Elections to Board of Directors

Blair H. Nelsen, from the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, was elected as District 2 Director of The Conference Board of Directors. Mark Ransford, of the Michigan Board of Examiners in Mortuary Science, was re-elected as District 4 Director of the Board of Directors.

VI. Adjournment

The meetings of districts 2, 4, and 6 adjourned at 11:50 a.m. EST.