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A Letter From The President

Thoughts of the upcoming holiday season gives me pause for reflection, an occasion to share memories of times past and hope for the future. I began this journey with the Conference in February of 2014, with enthusiasm, excitement and frankly some apprehension. This year, I am privileged and humbled to serve as president of a unique association of highly competent individuals engaged in advancing funeral service. As stewards of the Conference, we continue to defend and promote the value of competent entry-level funeral service professionals, as did those who preceded us for the past 114 years.

Each year The Conference undertakes special projects to promote uniformity and continuity in funeral service regulation. During the past year, we began development of a Model Internship Program that we hope to complete next year. We also attended the inaugural meeting of the Economic Liberty Task Force of the Federal Trade Commission in an effort to keep our membership updated on the discussion of enhancing occupational licensing from a mobility perspective.

The Conference strives to provide impeccable examination services to our member boards and to that end; I am pleased to report that we completed the Job/Task Analysis in 2017. The JTA is undertaken every five to seven years to provide the blueprint for the National and State Board Examinations. It is a lengthy project that starts with a survey of licensed practicing funeral directors and embalmers from across the country and ends with updated exams that are reflective of current practices in the profession. We will share the highlights of the entire process at a session during our 2018 annual meeting.

I would like to thank each of the Board Members that I have had the privilege to work with this year, immediate past-president, Sandy Mahon for his tireless

leadership of the Conference as president for more than one term; board members, Sandy Sebastian, Mark Ransford, Robert Barnes, Blair Nelsen, Charles Perine, Mack Smith, and Bart Burton for their support and collaboration; our executive director, Dalene Paull and staff, Lauren Thomas, Sarah Gill, Dustin Wardlow and Allie Sparkman who work hard to keep us and our member boards informed; and each of the volunteers who gave their time and efforts to support the mission of the Conference.

I am blessed to have the privilege of serving as a member of a team of talented individuals who collectively guide the principles of The Conference. As a result of their continued commitment, dedication and intellectual proficiency I think we are well prepared for the future.

Hope to see y'all at our 114th annual meeting, February 28 - March 1, 2018 in NOLA, the Big Easy.

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Edward L. Mubleisen



Jazzing up Regulation in The Big Easy

Join us for the 114th Annual Meeting February 28 - March 1, 2018 as we're "Jazzing up Regulation in The Big Easy!" We're bringing "Scandals, Secrets, and Lies," a discipline power hour, overcoming a natural disaster, and recent regulatory cases to the Crescent City. The two-day event will take place at the historic, boutique property, International House Hotel, located merely steps away from the world famous New Orleans French Quarter.



Jackson Square

Annual Meeting staples, Board Member Training and the highly favored, district meetings, will be making a return along with a presentation on the 2017 Task Analysis Project. We're also bringing

back new favorites, Conference Express and Conference Fishbowl! See the article below for more information on getting involved!

Registration for this event is now open! Take advantage of the early bird fee of \$300 for members (valid until December 31, 2017). More information can be found under "Events" on theconferenceonline.org.

Home to one of America's most historically-rich destinations, New Orleans is a true jewel of the South. From the vibrant music scene to the spicy creole cuisine, NOLA has a little something for everyone. We hope to see you there!

Conference Express

Interested in giving a quick five minute presentation about a regulatory topic at the Annual Meeting? Now is your chance! They can be lessons learned, funny stories, intriguing cases, or inspirational. Come on board with the "Conference Express." The Annual Meeting will offer this fun-learning format featuring quick five-minute presentations with only 20 slides that auto-advance every 15 seconds. This challenging concept requires presenters to be engaging, enlightening, and quick on their feet! Up for the challenge? Let us know!

Board Member Training

The Conference Board Member Training session will be held on February 27 - 28, 2018, in New Orleans, LA at the International House Hotel. The Board Member Training Program will familiarize regulatory board members on the roles and responsibilities of serving on a funeral service regulatory board. Seminar topics will include: the role of a regulatory board member, political realities of boards,

adjudication/discipline/enforcement, the licensure examination, and other current regulatory issues. The training program is open to any member of any board regardless of how many years served.

The Conference is offering a discounted registration fee of \$100.00 per board member for those that register for the Annual Meeting as well. Registration fee includes: the seven hour program that is eligible for continuing education credit (jurisdiction permitting) and a complimentary breakfast. The fee for attendees only participating in Board Member Training is \$250.00 per board member.

Please contact Lauren Thomas by e-mail at services@theconferenceonline.org or phone at 479-442-7076 for more information. Please visit The Conference Annual Meeting page for hotel information.

Now Accepting Delegate Grant Program Applications

Applications to attend the Annual Meeting through the Delegate Grant Program are now being accepted! Through this program, The Conference provides reasonable travel expenses incurred by the accepted delegate(s) to attend the meeting and participate in the Delegate Assembly. The grant is open to board members and/or staff who may have travel restrictions, but would like to attend the meeting.

More information on the Delegate Grant Program including the application, policies and procedures, can be found on the Annual Meeting page on the Conference's website. Applications must be received by December 31, 2017.

All selected delegates must adhere to the policies and procedures of the program. Please note, the number of grants awarded by the Board of Directors is limited. Please contact Lauren Thomas, Member Services Manager, at services@theconferenceonline.org for more information.

Continuing Education Offered

The Conference will be offering continuing education credits for the 114th Annual Meeting as an added feature for attendees. Participants will be able to register for CE credits by completing a simple online form for each session from a smartphone or internet enabled device via the Annual Meeting app.

Requests to become an approved provider of continuing education credits were mailed out earlier this month to all Conference member boards. Please feel free to check with your board to find out if approval has been granted. For information on programs offered, please refer to page four of the newsletter showcasing the agenda. Feel free to contact The Conference office at 479.442.7076 with any questions.

Continued on Page5

114th Annual Meeting Registration

International House Hotel - February 28 - March 1, 2018

Name _____

Title _____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province & Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

**Your contact information will be shared with other attendees. If you do NOT want your contact information shared, please contact The Conference staff.*

BOARD MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAM:

February 27, 2018: 2:00 - 6:00 pm

February 28, 2018: 8:00 -11:30 am

Yes, register me for the board member training session.

Fee: \$100 (with Annual Meeting Registration)

Please submit the Board Member Training registration form.

Pre-Conference Session—Wednesday, February 28th:

(OPTIONAL—included in registration fee)

Funeral Service Administrators Forum (8:00 -11:30 am)

Examination Services Forum (10:30 - 11:30 am)

Hotel Reservations

Contact the **International House Hotel** no later than **January 26, 2018** at **800-633-5770** for reservations.

Mention that you are with **The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards** to ensure the

Are you a licensed Funeral Service Practitioner subject to Continuing Education Requirements? Yes No

If so, please list state(s) licensed in:

2018 REGISTRATION FEES:

Early Bird Fees (*Expire December 31, 2017*)

(\$25 addition to each registration received after 12/31/17)

ICFSEB Member: \$300.00

(includes Associate Members)

Additional Member Registrations: \$275.00

(\$275 for each additional)

Non-Member: \$400.00

*Board Member Training: \$100.00

**Please submit the board member training registration form.*

GUEST FEES:

FUNCTION:

2/28 — Opening Session & Luncheon \$30.00/person

2/28 — Networking Reception \$40.00/person

3/01 — Awards Luncheon \$30.00/person

Guest(s) Name _____

Guest Fees Total: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Check (Make payable to "The Conference")

Visa MasterCard Discover

Card No: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Exp. date: ____ / ____ (mm/yy) CSC _____

Signature: _____

Note: Registration forms *SUBMITTED TOGETHER* from the same regulatory board or school will qualify for a discount. The first registration fee is \$300; each additional registration fee will be \$275. The early bird registration form & payment must be received by

The 114th Annual Meeting of The Conference



Tuesday, February 27, 2018

8:00-5:00 p.m.	Exam Committee Meeting
8:00-2:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
2:00-6:00 p.m.	Board Member Training (<i>pre-registration required</i>)

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

7:30-10:00 a.m.	Convention Registration
8:00-12:00 p.m.	Exam Committee Meeting
8:00-11:30 a.m.	Board Member Training (<i>pre-registration required</i>)
8:00-11:30 a.m.	Funeral Service Administrators Forum (AEFSB)
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Examination Services Forum
12:00-2:00 p.m.	114th Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon
2:15-3:15 p.m.	Cultivating Exam Constructs: Job Task Analysis Overview
3:15-4:15 p.m.	Recent Cases & What We Need to Learn
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Executive Session
5:30-7:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception

Thursday, March 1, 2018

7:00-8:00 a.m.	Past Presidents Breakfast
7:15-8:15 a.m.	The Good, the Bad, and the Crazy: The Most Intriguing Recent Legal Cases (<i>early bird session</i>)
8:15-9:15 a.m.	Scandals, Secrets, & Lies
9:15-10:15 a.m.	Discipline Power Hour
10:30-12:00 p.m.	District Meetings
12:30-2:00 p.m.	Awards Luncheon & Reports
2:15-2:45 p.m.	Conference Express
2:45-3:45 p.m.	Hurricane Katrina-13 Years Later-What we Learned
3:45-5:00 p.m.	Conference Fishbowl

**Agenda updated November 2017*

New Member Services

Examination services are the foundation of The Conference and a valuable component of the licensure process for the funeral service profession. With that in mind, we upgraded our internal database system to better serve the Conference membership, examination candidates, and licensees. In July, a new and improved candidate results report was introduced to member boards. In an effort to increase security, registration ID's (RegID) and Internal Record Verification numbers have been added to the reports. This new format also contains all of the candidate's history for an examination.

In addition to introducing new candidate score reports, The Conference transitioned to transferring these reports to our member boards electronically in September. As many of you are aware, this online system provides access to exam results quickly, while increasing efficiency by using a highly secure user-friendly platform. Instead of receiving results within seven to 10 business days of a candidate sitting for an examination, states will receive the results within one to three business days.

Member boards are able to change their authorized user at any time by submitting an authentication form. If you have questions, or experience issues with the new system, please contact Dustin Wardlow at info@theconferenceonline.org.

42nd FARB Forum

The 42nd Annual FARB Forum will be January 25-28, 2018 at the Loews Coronado Bay. The 2018 FARB Forum will bring together leading experts from across the country to discuss the latest trends in professional regulation.



This exceptional educational program delivers the tools and information needed to ensure the efficient and effective operation of state regulatory boards. Designed for board members, board administrators, investigators and board attorneys, the Forum is educationally driven and includes sessions related to administering state professional licensing boards.

Visit <https://farb.imiscloud.com> for the complete meeting agenda, and information on how to register, continuing education, and arranging transportation.

Annual Meeting Continued

The International House New Orleans

The 114th Annual Meeting will be hosted at the International House New Orleans. First known as the Canal Louisiana Bank & Trust, this property, was transformed in 1943 to the first World Trade Center. Dedicated to world peace, trade and understanding, it helped rebuild war-torn Europe and thrived as New Orleans' most prominent business address, inspiring more than 300 World Trade Centers in 100 countries. In 1998 this historic building was transformed for a third time to New Orleans' first boutique hotel.



The International House

This downtown New Orleans hotel offers 117 guest rooms, suites and penthouses, as well as a destination bar. A forward-looking property, The International House is alive with the energy of New Orleans and is located in a prime spot to place you close to shopping, sight seeing, the Garden District,

and The French Quarter.

The Conference has negotiated a group rate of \$159 for the Annual Meeting. You can make your reservations by calling (504) 553-9550, or by clicking the "make reservations online" link on The Conference Annual Meeting page, www.theconferenceonline.org/upcomingevents/annual-meeting/

Transportation

The Conference has arranged a discounted transportation rate with Airport Shuttle. Round-trip transportation is offered for \$40 per person, or one-way transportation for \$20 per person.

Please visit The Conference Annual Meeting page to obtain information on how to book your transportation with Airport Shuttle. To reserve your transportation, you must book at least 24 hours in advance of your flight arrival time. The discount only applies to reservations made through the online portal, so be sure to visit the Annual Meeting page to book your transportation.

2017 National/State Board Exam Content Outline

The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards is pleased to announce that the 2017 content outline for the National and State Board Examinations is complete. The outline will be used in the development of exams beginning in January 2018. A Job/Task Analysis is completed every five to seven years to update and validate the exam specifications for the National and State Board Examination programs.

A presentation of the process and results will be shared at the Annual Meeting on February 28, 2018 in New Orleans, Louisiana. For ease of reference, the notable changes from the previous outline are as follows:

1. Content redundancies were removed and language was strengthened for clarity.

2. All the tasks in each domain were reordered chronologically.

3. New tasks were added as follows:

- **Funeral Arranging and Directing**

Gather information about the deceased for the purpose of creating a meaningful personalized service

- **Cemetery and Crematory Operations**

Inspect crematory and confirm compliance with legal requirements

Explain the cremation process

Inspect cemetery and confirm compliance with legal requirements

Secure permit for and oversee disinterment

- **Preparation for Disposition**

Transport the deceased for disposition (e.g., interment, shipment, cremation)

4. Tasks were removed as follows:

- **Funeral Arranging and Directing**

Participate in disaster relief efforts

Officiate the services if needed or requested

- **Funeral Service Marketing/Merchandising**

Identify and evaluate target market

Estimate and budget financial resources available for marketing purposes

5. Two domains were renamed.

Funeral Directing is now **Funeral Arranging and Directing**

Regulatory Compliance is now **Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

6. Knowledge areas were reviewed closely by task to ensure they are more inclusive.

Conference Volunteers Rock!



The Job Task Analysis Committee

The Conference has had an eventful year and we owe our success and gratitude to the individuals who have made it possible. Over the past several months, The Board of Directors appointed three ad-hoc committees who were tasked with carrying out the multifaceted Job Task Analysis (JTA) project. The JTA committee used the task inventory compiled from the JTA survey to determine the significance of various activities performed by current practitioners. The Standard Setting Committee was tasked with analyzing the data and determining the passing standard for the National Board Exam and State Board Exam. The Study Material Committee was responsible for updating the study guide, practice exams, and for exploring other potential study options.

In an effort to further the goal of providing Conference Model documents for its members, the Model Internship Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors in September. This committee has been charged

with the development of a best practice internship program including approved supervisor requirements, reporting requirements, and tasks to be performed by interns. The Conference Model documents serve as a guideline to regulatory officials, legislatures, and members of the profession seeking to adopt or amend the laws pertaining to funeral service internships.

These dedicated volunteers traveled from across the country, participated in numerous conference calls, and gave their time and expertise to further the mission of The Conference. A heartfelt thank you to the Job Task Analysis Committee, the Standard Setting Committee, the Study Material Committee, and the Model Internship Committee for their hard work and dedication to the profession.

For information on how to volunteer to

serve on a Conference committee, please visit theconferenceonline.org/committee-interest-form.



The Standard Setting Committee

Cities of the Dead By New Orleans Metropolitan CVB

A very famous writer, upon visiting New Orleans, said: "You can tell a great deal about a community by the way they honor their dead, and without meeting any of the people of New Orleans, yet I can tell you I know I'm going to like them, for very few cities that I have visited throughout the world honor the dead as they do here."

Most deceased here are interred above ground, a situation forced on the area because of the city's high water table and below sea-level elevation.

There are 42 cemeteries in the metropolitan New Orleans area. All feature family-built tombs capable of interring as many as a dozen deceased. The largest cemetery is Lake Lawn Metairie Cemetery and very definitely worth a visit to view incredibly beautiful tombs set in lovely garden areas and topped with handsome sculpture.

In the mid-1800s, this was the site of the Metairie Racetrack and Jockey Club. Legend is that an American millionaire named Charles Howard was denied admission to the clubhouse, his sin being that he was not a Creole. The miffed millionaire vowed to buy and bury the track and the club. In 1872, the site became a cemetery and, in 1885, when Howard died, his eternal resting place was on the grounds of the former Jockey Club. His ornate mausoleum features a statue of a man with his finger to his lips, seeking an atmosphere of respectful silence for those in rest here.

At what was once the main entrance to Metairie Cemetery, you will find the largest of monuments at 85 feet tall. It is the Moriarity tomb. As the story goes, Daniel Moriarity, an Irish immigrant, became a very successful businessman. His beloved wife died in 1887 and Daniel set about to honor her in death like no other.

Although Daniel was successful in commerce, he and his wife could never break into New Orleans society, lacking the "proper" blood lines. Daniel had a friend design the impressive memorial to his beloved - a huge granite shaft topped with a cross of the same material. Daniel wanted his wife, in death, to look down her nose

at those who had snubbed the couple for so many years. He told the sculptor he wanted four life-sized statues placed atop the monument, each facing a different direction, and representing the Graces of Faith, Hope and Charity. The fourth would honor Mrs. Moriarity.

Upon arrival from out-of-state of the monument, it was discovered that no local drayage company had equipment large enough to transport it. A railroad spur from the mainline had to be laid directly into the cemetery in order to complete the delivery. The first erecting firm went bankrupt, and a second was hired allowing for final erection of the huge structure.

A circular sidewalk was installed around the base of the monument consisting of stones from various states throughout the country, each weighing eleven tons. When the walk was completed, Mrs. Moriarity's remains were transferred from her original burial site.

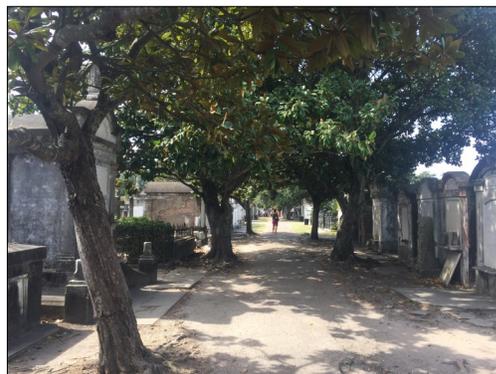
The final cost was set at \$185,000.00. Because of the couple's age differences, Mrs. Moriarity stipulated in her will that only the date of her death be shown, not wanting to give anyone the satisfaction of knowing how much older she was from her spouse. After the stonecutter inscribed the information given him by Moriarity, he realized the date he'd carved was one day off the correct one. He tactfully approached Moriarity, admitting the error and offered to correct it for the small sum of \$2.50. Grunting, Moriarity said, "The hell with it. I've spent enough already."

After Mrs. Moriarity's remains were interred under the monument, the widower called the contractor back to advise him that the cross was crooked and he would not pay one cent until it was corrected. The second contractor went back to work and, like the first, went into bankruptcy. Moriarity, meanwhile, moved to California for health reasons and,

upon his death 36 years later, was buried alongside his wife.

The Moriarity monument is but one of many remarkable structures in Metairie Cemetery. Be certain your tour guide shows you the "Woman With the Lantern" tomb and the truly sad story of its construction.

St. Louis Cemetery No. 1
This cemetery was the fourth in New Orleans



Lafayette Cemetery No. 1

and was laid out in two squares. A third square was set aside for the burial of African-American Catholics. Such notable African-Americans as voodoo queen Marie Laveau, members of the Sisters of the Holy Family, and former mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial are buried here.

Cemetery tours are conducted daily by a number of tour companies, one of which is the nonprofit group Save Our Cemeteries. 504-525-3377. Only guided tours are allowed in the St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.

St. Louis Cemetery No. 2

In the 1820s, the New Orleans City Council, following the belief that the contagions of yellow fever, cholera and other diseases were spread from cemeteries, wanted to find a new site for a cemetery farther removed from the center of population. The plot of land chosen was just outside of the French Quarter, in the historic Tremé.

St. Louis Cemetery No. 3

St. Louis Cemetery No. 3 is located near the end of Esplanade Avenue, near Bayou St. John.

Lafayette Cemetery No. 1

Located in what now is the heart of the Garden District, between Washington, Sixth, Prytania, and Coliseum streets, Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 is the oldest of the seven municipal, city-operated cemeteries in New Orleans. It is a non-segregated, non-denominational cemetery. There are immigrants from over 25 different countries and natives of 26 states.



1885 SHELBY LANE, FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72704

NBE Quarterly Statistics

<i>January 1, 2017 – October 31, 2017</i>					
National Board Arts Examination					
	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %
First Time	1037	791	76%	246	24%
Repeater	316	141	45%	175	55%
Total	1353	932	69%	421	31%
National Board Science Examination					
	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %
First Time	1008	803	80%	205	20%
Repeater	289	106	37%	183	63%
Total	1297	909	70%	388	30%

Please Take the Customer Satisfaction Survey Online at:
www.theconferenceonline.org/survey
Thank You!

Upcoming Jurisdiction Board Meetings

- Alabama - 1/8
- Arizona - 11/21, 12/9, 1/16, 2/20, 3/20
- Connecticut - 1/25, 3/27
- Delaware - 11/28, 1/23, 3/27
- District of Columbia - 1/5, 2/1, 3/1
- Florida - 12/7
- Georgia - 12/12
- Idaho - 1/9
- Indiana - 12/7, 2/1
- Iowa - 12/7
- Kansas - 1/11
- Kentucky - 12/12
- Louisiana - 12/6-7, 1/9, 3/6
- Maryland - 12/13
- Massachusetts - 12/12
- Montana - 1/18
- Nebraska - 1/25
- Nevada - 12/12
- New Hampshire - 12/13, 1/10, 2/14
- New Jersey - 12/5
- North Carolina - 12/13-14
- Ohio - 12/20, 1/24, 2/21
- Oklahoma - 12/14, 1/24
- Pennsylvania - 12/10, 1/18, 2/28
- Rhode Island - 12/20
- Saskatchewan - 1/25, 2/22, 3/29
- South Carolina - 12/6-7
- Tennessee - 12/12, 1/9, 2/13, 3/13
- Texas - 12/12, 3/20
- Vermont - 1/9, 3/13
- Virginia - 1/16
- Washington - 2/16
- Wisconsin - 11/28
- Wyoming - 12/14

* The Conference welcomes any contributions you might share from your jurisdictions. Please submit items to info@theconferenceonline.org.