



District Meeting Minutes (Districts 1, 7, 8)

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

Present:

Donna Amaro, MT Board of Funeral Service
Robert Barnes, District 1 Director, ME State Board of Funeral Service
Peter Cameron, WA Funeral & Cemetery Board
Karen Carruthers, AB Funeral Services Regulatory Board
Brevin Clifford, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Greg Crandall, WY State Board of Funeral Service Practitioners
Dicie Gullick, ID Board of Morticians
Keri Haines, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Barbara Kazmierczak, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Richard Little, WA Funeral & Cemetery Board
Sandy Mahon, President, District 8 Director, Funeral & Cremation Services Council of SK
Edward Muhleisen, Vice President, District 7 Director, LA State Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
JoAnn Reid, WY State Board of Funeral Service Practitioners
Lucy Richards, MT Board of Funeral Service
Jim Shoemake, Dallas Institute of Funeral Service
Cameron Smock, WA Funeral & Cemetery Board
John Tarr, MT Board of Funeral Service

I. Call to Order and Introductions

President, Sandy Mahon, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. EST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from District 1, 7, and 8.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Sandy Mahon gave a brief overview of the secure transfer of electronic scores The Conference is moving towards. He announced the electronic score update should be completed by the end of 2017 with all states on board. The strategic plan recently drafted and approved by the board of directors was shared as well.

III. Current Regulatory Issues

A. Legislative happenings

A participant shared a recent proposed bill that was drafted for board funding purposes through a death certificate fee, but was unsuccessful. Others shared legislative proposals concerning endowment care funds and alkaline hydrolysis regulations involving specific language centered on the use of heat. A member also shared the passage of a recent bill regarding abandonment situations and the right to cremate after a certain number of days.

B. Technology and social media

Attendees briefly discussed this topic agreeing that all boards present do not use social media at this time. Participants also shared their abilities to post discipline actions on websites and discussed whether or not these actions should be left on the sites indefinitely.

C. Update on Membership Polls

President Mahon and District 1 Director, Robert Barnes shared the membership questions with corresponding response data and feedback that had been facilitated by Conference staff over the past year. Attendees further discussed tattoo removal and the group savemyink.com.

D. NC Dental Board vs. FTC updates

One member announced the addition of a public member on their board as a result of this case.

E. Relationships with State Associations

A few members spoke about the cooperative relationships they have with their state associations and the requests they have had to present on behalf of the licensing board.

IV. Open Forum

In the open forum segment, a licensee from Massachusetts informed attendees of the recent news regarding the possible removal of the NBE as a licensure requirement by the Massachusetts board. The implications of this situation were discussed and the disapproval by the MA state association. Conference staff will keep attendees updated as information becomes available. Laws and rules surrounding anatomical or medical waste situations were also discussed.

V. District 7 Election to Board of Directors

Edward Muhleisen was re-elected as District 7 Director of the Board of Directors.

VI. Adjournment

The meetings of districts 1, 7, and 8 adjourned at 11:41 a.m. EST.



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.



District Meeting Minutes (Districts 3, 5, & 9)

Thursday, March 2, 2017 - 10:30 a.m.
Hilton Head, South Carolina

Present:

Ernest Adams, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Bobby Burns, AR State Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Christina Cress, NC Board of Funeral Service
Jolena Grande, Cypress College
Charles Graves, NC Board of Funeral Service
Charvis Gray, SC Board of Funeral Service
E. Denise Grogan, AL Board of Funeral Service
Amy Holleman, SC Board of Funeral Service
Patty S. Hutcheson, Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice
Jennifer Kandt, NV State Funeral & Cemetery Board
Calvin J. Meadows, CFSP, AL Board of Funeral Service
Victoria Monforte, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Lisa Moore, ICFSEB Past President, CA Cemetery & Funeral Bureau
Craig Olive, NC Board of Funeral Service
Charles Perine, District 3 Director, AL Board of Funeral Service
John C. Rudder, AL Board of Funeral Service
Tom Sanderson, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Sandy Sebastian, District 5 Director, MO State Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
David Shehdan, NC Board of Funeral Service
Ellen Simon, FL Division of Funeral, Cemetery, & Consumer Services
James Terry Woodard, ICFSEB Past President, AR State Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Laura Zabel, ICFSEB Exam Committee

I. Call to Order and Introductions

District 3 Director, Charles Perine, called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. EST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from Districts 3, 5, and 9.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Perine updated attendees on the rollout of a new system which will allow The Conference to securely transfer exam results electronically to state boards. The goal of converting to the system by the end of 2017 was also shared. Ms. Sebastian mentioned that Missouri is one of the testing states and that the system has been working well with its ease of use.

Mr. Perine briefly touched on The Conference strategic plan and some of the Board discussions, including the potential of a disciplinary database. He also updated attendees on the Model Practice Act review process and emphasized its purpose as a model document. Lisa Moore, chair of the MPA Review committee, shared a little about the work that went into developing the document and reiterated that it is forever evolving.

III. Current Regulatory Issues

A. Legislative Happenings

The group discussed legislation in their jurisdictions and a representative from South Carolina shared that they had several bills in the house, including a bill regarding the transfer of bodies between funeral homes. The group discussed third party funeral providers and how they are handled in their jurisdictions. The discussion then turned to the combining of boards, including in Arkansas where the legislature is looking into consolidating the cemetery,

embalming and burial boards. Mr. Perine encouraged the group to utilize The Conference as a resource and the organizations ability to quickly poll other jurisdictions.

B. Technology and social media at your agency – what are you using?

The group briefly discussed the use of social media. All the boards present were not allowed to use social media at the board level, but some of the boards governing agencies utilize twitter. The attendees all agreed that they use their websites to post relevant information.

C. Updates on Membership Polls

Mr. Perine shared the questions and responses submitted through membership polls via The Conference. The group discussed verbal embalming exams, tattoo removal, and the physical structure of establishments at length. This led the group to touch on the dangers of establishments in poor condition and the importance of inspections for public safety.

D. NC Dental Board vs. FTC

Mr. Perine recapped the NC Dental Board vs. the FTC case and polled attendees on how it has affected their states. Representatives from NC noted parameters that will be put on what boards can do in regards to issuing cease and desist letters.

E. Relationships with Your State Associations

A few attendees spoke on how their boards have professional and cooperative relationships with their state associations.

IV. Open Forum

In the open forum segment, the attendees discussed the issue of corporate change of ownership when a corporation owns an establishment. The group discussed the importance of educating the public on the value of regulatory boards, how “bad actors” show the value, and the importance of posting actions on websites.

V. District 3 Election to Board of Directors

Charles Perine, Executive Secretary of the Alabama Board of Funeral Service, was elected to serve as District 3 Director.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting of districts 3, 5, and 9 adjourned at 11:50 a.m. EST.