



District Meeting Minutes (Districts 1, 2, 9)

Thursday, March 1, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.
New Orleans, LA

Present:

Robert Barnes, ICFSEB District 1 Director, Maine State Board of Funeral Service
Cynthia Briggs, District of Columbia Board of Funeral Directors
Bart Burton, ICFSEB District 9 Director, Nevada State Funeral and Cemetery Board
Jolena Grande, Cypress College
Jennifer Kandt, Nevada State Funeral and Cemetery Board
Barbara Kazmierczak, ICFSEB Exam Committee
James Marrocco, New Jersey State Board of Mortuary Science
John McGuire, District of Columbia Board of Funeral Directors
Victoria Monforte, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Lisa Moore, California Cemetery and Funeral Bureau
Chris Naylor, Nevada State Funeral and Cemetery Board
Blair Nelsen, ICFSEB District 2 Director, Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
S. Keith Parsell, Delaware Board of Funeral Service
Robert Smith, American Board of Funeral Service Education
Corie Tillman Wolf, Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

I. Call to Order and Introductions

District 2 Director, Blair Nelsen, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. CST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from District 1, 2, and 9.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Nelsen introduced Jennifer Kandt, Chair of the Model Internship Committee, who gave an overview of the program. He also invited attendees to contribute their board information, including any documents, to the committee for use. An overview of Conference services, including the electronic score transfer system, was also given and participant users complimented the simplicity and quick turnaround time of the service. The group discussed ways to build a stronger relationship with member boards with one participant noting that boards perceive The Conference as just the exam provider, however, cultivating a relationship with Massachusetts has helped that perception. The question was posed as to whether The Conference has considered a name change. District 1 Director, Robert Barnes, shared information regarding the recent branding survey and that more information will be forthcoming. The group discussed educating board members about rules and responsibilities of The Conference and the ABFSE as well as the addition of board information in Conference e-newsletters. Robert Smith noted The Conference held district meetings in the past and the benefit in taking the message directly to the state boards. Jim Marrocco, member of the New Jersey Board of Mortuary Science, stated that attending the Annual Meeting has been very helpful in understanding what the organization does and will bring information back to his Board. A webinar to inform state board members of The Conference was also suggested. Lastly, Mr. Nelsen announced the fee increases including the new price for the NBE and PNBE and the decision process of the board of directors.

III. Current Regulatory Issues

A. Legislative Activity

Various attendees discussed legislation within their jurisdictions including cremation authorizations, abandonment laws, preneed and funeral home inspections. Legislation in Virginia regarding caskets produced by third party providers was discussed and Lisa Moore noted that California will begin licensing Alkaline Hydrolysis facilities this year.

B. Single vs. Dual Licensure

The group briefly discussed single vs dual licensure and Ms. Moore mentioned that California has dual licensure, but there is not a curriculum for funeral directing only. Further discussion ensued on the benefits and challenges of a funeral director only program by those in attendance.

C. Unlicensed Practice/Third Party Providers

Representatives from California, District of Columbia, New Jersey, and Virginia briefly shared the positions of their jurisdictions regarding these topics. It was noted that Virginia and D.C. advance all cases to the Attorney General while California has the authority to sanction unlicensed activity.

D. Death Doula/Midwife Movement

Representatives from Delaware and California briefly shared their experiences with this movement.

E. Updates on Membership Polls

Mr. Nelsen gave an overview of a few membership questions and responses that were distributed over the past year. Attendees were encouraged to contact The Conference if they need to poll other states, or to see if the Conference has previously compiled the information.

IV. Open Forum

Due to time constraints, there was no discussion during the open forum.

V. District 1 Election to Board of Directors

Robert Barnes, member of the Maine State Board of Funeral Service, was elected as District 1 Director of the Board of Directors.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting of districts 1, 2, and 9 adjourned at 12:02 p.m. CST.