



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards

Contact: Dustin Wardlow info@theconferenceonline.org

Photo Included: 2019-2020 ICFSEB Board of Directors (.jpg)

From left to right: Sandy Mahon, Robert Gribble, Robert Barnes, Mark Ransford, Charles Perine, Jennifer Kandt, Blair Nelsen, Edward Muhleisen. Not pictured: Douglas "Mack" Smith

The Conference Holds 115th Annual Meeting

SAN DIEGO, CA (February, 2019) – Members of the regulatory community from throughout the United States and Canada gathered for the 115th Annual Meeting of The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc., February 27 – 28, 2019 to focus on regulation in the death care profession. The meeting was held at The Dana on Mission Bay in San Diego, California.

"Navigate, Legislate, Regulate" was the theme of the meeting that featured speakers from the Federal Trade Commission, state licensing boards, and regulatory legal experts. The event welcomed a diverse group of over 90 attendees from state and provincial governing boards, funeral education programs, and other industry professionals. The goal of the meeting was to offer participants dynamic sessions while also providing forums to discuss challenging issues and share best practices.

The two-day event focused on recent regulatory cases, a legislative overview of preneed and cremation in Ohio, updates at the Federal Trade Commission, protecting the public through licensee compliance, and a regulatory perspective on body brokerage. The attendee favorite, Conference Fishbowl, also returned for the third consecutive year. The session challenges participants to discuss attendee-submitted topics with a different group every five minutes.

Conference Legal Counsel, Dale Atkinson, provided attendees with an update on recent cases involving various regulatory professions nationwide and discussed what regulators and attendees could learn from each scenario. Jon Rettig, President of the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors discussed new preneed and cremation legislation passed in Ohio and how it has affected various stakeholders.

The new Federal Trade Commission Funeral Rule Coordinator, Patricia Poss, gave a presentation that included an overview of the Funeral Rule and discussed civil penalties, the Funeral Rule Offender Program, and the upcoming regulatory review.

The meeting also included presentations from two regulatory board executives. Montana Board of Funeral Service Executive Officer, Lucy Richards, provided attendees with a case study on protecting the public by ensuring licensee compliance. Ms. Richards discussed the Montana Board's experience in addressing regulatory oversight of trust accounts, the process of determining statutory authority, and the development of rules. Jennifer Kandt, the Executive Director of the Nevada Funeral Board offered a regulatory perspective on body brokerage. Ms. Kandt shared the headline grabbing incident involving a funeral home and body brokerage company in Nevada, and the collaboration the Nevada Funeral Board and other agencies to halt and reprimand the responsible party.

District Meetings were also held to give attendees the opportunity to discuss issues affecting their boards in smaller group settings. Elections were held for districts three, five, eight, and nine. Charles Perine, Executive Director of the Alabama Board of Funeral Service was elected to his second term representing District 3. Robert Gribble, Executive Director of the Tennessee Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, was elected to represent District 5. Registrar for the Funeral and Cremation Services Council of Saskatchewan, Sandy Mahon, was elected to represent District 8, and Jennifer Kandt, Executive Director of the Nevada Funeral Board, was elected to represent District 9.

Elections were also held for the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. District 3 Director Charles Perine was elected to service as Secretary-Treasurer, District 6 Director Mack Smith was elected to serve as Vice President, and District 4 Director Mark Ransford was elected to serve as President. District 7 Director Edward Muhleisen will serve as Past President.

The Conference Annual Meetings provides a valuable opportunity for those interested in furthering funeral service regulation to come together to exchange information, problem-solving strategies, and goals for the future of profession. The 116th Annual Meeting will be held February 19 – 20, 2020, in Palm Coast, FL. For more information on the Annual Meeting visit www.theconferenceonline.org

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