



## District Meeting Minutes (Districts 2, 3, 6)

Thursday, February 28, 2019 – 10:30 a.m.  
San Diego, CA

### **Present:**

*Mark Blake, NC Board of Funeral Service*  
*Brad Coman, GA Board of Funeral Service*  
*Stephen Davis, NC Board of Funeral Service*  
*Denise Grogan, AL Board of Funeral Service*  
*Lynne Helmick, VA Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers*  
*Steve Herndon, NC Board of Funeral Service*  
*Duane Hills, DC Board of Funeral Directors*  
*Amy Holleman, SC Board of Funeral Service*  
*Randolph Horton, DC Board of Funeral Directors*  
*Keith Parsell, DE Board of Funeral Service*  
*Amy Mauldin, NC Board of Funeral Service*  
*John McGuire, DC Board of Funeral Directors*  
*Blair Nelsen, VA Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers*  
*Patricia Poss, Federal Trade Commission*  
*Susan Reynolds, Iowa Board of Mortuary Science*  
*Leo Seger, NE Board of Funeral Directing & Embalming*  
*Michael Shorter, ICFSEB Exam Committee*  
*Robert Smith, ABFSE*  
*John Strohman, SD State Board of Funeral Service*  
*Patricia Traffas, ICFSEB Exam Committee*  
*Gail V. Tucker, MD Board of Morticians*  
*Joseph Frank Walton, VA Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers*  
*Frankie Washington, NFDMA*  
*Asanti Williams, DC Board of Funeral Directors*  
*Seth Williams, Iowa Board of Mortuary Science*

### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Conference Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Perine, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. PST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from District 2, 3, & 6.

### **II. Update on Conference Initiatives**

District 2 Director Blair Nelsen gave a brief overview of recent Conference initiatives including the Annual Report, the NBE Candidate Handbook, and the Annual Meeting Justification Toolkit. Mr. Perine encouraged attendees to read the Annual Report and to familiarize themselves with the Candidate Handbook. Mr. Perine mentioned that the Justification Toolkit was created to help those who are interested in attending the Annual Meeting. It was noted that all three publications are available on The Conference website and are viewable in the meeting application.

### **III. Current Regulatory Issues**

#### **A. Licensure Obstacles**

Mr. Perine began the discussion on licensure obstacles by asking participants how their boards are handling military families and felony convictions. It was stated that in South Carolina an individual cannot get licensed if convicted of fraud or moral turpitude. Mr. Parsell mentioned in Delaware, unless there is a direct relationship to funeral service, a license cannot be denied. Alabama is dealing with prison reform legislation and the AL legislature is currently drafting a bill that would help prisoners obtain licensure. Mr. Nelsen asked attendees if their boards do anything to reduce obstacles for military families. The group discussed how very little correlates from military embalmers to funeral service. In Delaware, embalmers on bases have to follow the rules of Delaware, but special accommodation is made to work on the base only. The group discussed the issues of spouses having a hard time getting licensed due to difference in state requirements when their military spouse is transferred. The consensus of the group is that minimum competency must be met. The question of jurisdictions requiring an individual to work in a funeral home to be licensed was posed to the group. It was noted that in some states, to practice, you must be tied to a funeral home. You can hold a license, but to practice an individual must be affiliated with a funeral home. In North Carolina an individual can get a license to freelance practice (unaffiliated license).

#### **B. Issues Facing Your Board**

Mr. Perine opened the discussion by asking participants what issues their boards are facing. One state is dealing with the issue of a governor who wants to lower the standards to ease licensure transfer. Robb Smith mentioned that the ABFSE receives an average of one letter a week from an incarcerated individual and in most cases the individual does not understand reciprocity. Representatives from North Carolina mentioned a few issues in their state and prompted discussion on program pass rates, pending death certificates, sunset legislation, theft of preneed money, and enforcement of unlicensed practice. One participant noted that there is a program in their state that discourages students from taking the NBE if they don't believe they will pass it and instead steers them to the SBE.

#### **C. Unlicensed Practice/Third Party Providers**

Representatives from North Carolina and Alabama discussed a few issues in their jurisdictions and prompted attendees to discuss unlicensed practice. Attendees discussed death doulas and how to enforce unlicensed practice from third parties. It was mentioned that in a few states establishments know there are consequences if they carryout third party services.

#### **D. Updates on Membership Polls**

Due to time constraints, a brief update was provided on membership polls and attendees were encouraged to review the polls in the meeting app. Mr. Perine encouraged members to utilize this member service offered by The Conference to disseminate important questions when seeking information

### **IV. District 3 Election to Board of Directors**

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

### **V. Adjournment**

The meetings of districts 2, 3, & 6 adjourned at 11:55 a.m. PST.