



Dear Fellow Funeral Service Regulators, Educators and Licensees:

On behalf of the entire board of directors and staff, welcome to the 119th Annual Meeting of The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards. And, welcome to beautiful Arizona, home of the greenest desert in the world. We hope you are able to get out and enjoy the unique landscape of the Sonoran Desert and witness the breathtaking Arizona sky during sunrise or sunset. It is a great honor to have served as Conference president over the past year and an even greater honor to end my tenure as president here in this amazing state. Thank you to everyone who has taken their time to be here and show their commitment to The Conference and its mission. We are truly grateful for your presence and input during the days ahead.

The Conference continues to be quite busy with its small staff, but large number of people who continually volunteer their time and extensive expertise. A nationwide job task analysis was conducted to ensure The Conference exams are representative of the tasks required of funeral directors and embalmers in these evolving times. A committee of professionals also met to set the new standards for the National Board Exam. In an effort to continue to provide regulatory bodies with model documents, a group of dedicated volunteers worked on the creation of Model Disposition Standards. Because state laws vary considerably, this was not an easy task. We invite you to visit The Conference website to view these standards and many other resources available to you through the efforts of The Conference. A huge thank you from The Conference to all of the volunteers who continually give their time to serve their profession and the regulatory community.

This year has not been without challenges for The Conference. Workforce shortage issues have plagued almost every industry in America, and it becomes easy to point fingers at what might be the root of the problem. The Conference has been fortunate to have such a strong membership standing in support of ensuring high standards in the profession, despite a few vocal critics.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to The Conference staff who work tirelessly for the benefit of the regulatory community. They truly are an amazing group of people. We look forward to productive meetings, dinner with new friends, and enjoying the warmth of the Arizona desert. Welcome.

Jennifer Kandt, President

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