

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am with a quorum present by Dr. Hari P. Close, President.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Hari P. Close, President
Michelle Huggins, 1st Vice President
Robert Bradshaw, Jr. 2nd Vice President
Lauri Cebula-Seaboch, Secretary
Renee Derketsch
Keith Downey
Victor March
D. Lynn Newman
Vernon Strayhorn
Dr. Ahmed Elzaree

STAFF

Ruth Ann Arty, Executive Director
Darlene Cline, Licensing Chief
Thomas Anderson, Health Occupations Inspector
Lisa Woods, Office Secretary III
Richard Bloom, Board Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Ms. Arty opened by thanking the Board for all there late evenings and hard work.

Licensing closed on November 30th and there are still establishments without completed applications. When an establishment does not have the hard copy of their license, it is not because Staff hasn't gotten them out; it is because the establishment is missing something from their application. It is almost time for morticians licensing for the licensees who were on the one year cycle. The letters will go out for renewals before the next Board meeting. We are encouraging all licensees to use the online process.

We are very busy in Annapolis. The Board had three bills in and they will move forward with hearings.

APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch, Apprenticeship Committee Chair, interviewed the following applicants.

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch moved for approval of apprentice license for Anita Pollard. Michelle Wiseman, sponsor. A motion was made and approved.

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch moved for approval of apprentice license for Stefanie Watkins. Tyler Klyner, sponsor. A motion was made and approved.

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch moved for approval of an extended (6 months) apprenticeship for Judy McComas and Robert Sherman with no additional fees. A motion was made and approved.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REPORT

Mr. Keith Downey, Chair reports the new application for continuing education credits is almost complete. It should be online by next week. There have been some changes in the new application. There is now a \$100.00 fee per year versus \$100.00 for life. Also, a licensee may only do 6 CEU's online. There was a misprint in the regulations that stated 9. The Board will discuss and vote on whether programs that have been approved for years will have to pay the fee yearly.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

FAMILY SECURITY TRUST FUND

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch reported the current total is \$602,708.07.

FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT/INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Huggins, Chair reported on the following establishments.

Name Change Approval

Victor March Sr. of March Funeral Home, P.A. is requesting a name change approval for his location at 5616 Old Court Road, Randallstown, MD from March Funeral Homes, P.A, to March Life Tribute Center – Mr. March recused himself from the vote. A motion was made and approved.

Name Approval

Victor March Sr. of March Funeral Home, P.A. is requesting a name approval for his new location at 7601 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD to March Life Tribute Center-Laurel, P.A..-Mr. March recused himself from the vote. A motion was made and approved.

Restricted Establishment License

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. is requesting a restricted license for it's location at 5616 Old Court Road for arrangements, viewings and services out of March Funeral Home-West, 4300 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland – Mr. March recused himself from the vote. A motion was made and approved.

Wilhelm-Eakin Funeral Home, P.A. is requesting a restricted license for its location at 19814 Big Lane, Midland, MD for arrangements, viewings and services operating out of Wilhelm- Eakin Funeral Home, P.A. 82 Main St., Lonaconing, MD. A motion was made and approved.

Pridgen Funeral Service, P.A. is requesting a restricted license for arrangements only out of Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home, P.A. A motion was made and approved.

Full Establishment License

Framptom Funeral Home by the Coles, P.A. located at 216 North Main St. is requesting a full service license. A motion was made and approved.

Intent to Purchase

G.W. Stauffer of Stauffer Funeral Home is requesting an approval for intent to purchase Ricketts Funeral Home (the business only) 504 Main St., Myersville, MD. A motion was made and approved.

Advent Funeral and Cremation Services, Inc. is closing its restricted establishment at 42 Hudson St., Annapolis, MD and intends to open a new full service establishment at 9013 Annapolis Road in Lanham, MD.

Courtesy Card

Denita M. Green of Green Funeral Home, Inc. Alexandria, VA is requesting a courtesy card. A motion was made and approved.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Kristen Neville is going to read into the record the wording agreed upon in terms of eliminating the floor drains from the regulations as they now read for holding rooms. Also, approved wording for holding rooms to eliminate OSHA specific standard ventilation systems and require only an exhaust fan that can move gaseous air to the outside.

PRE-NEED COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Newman, Chair, reported the pre-need committee met yesterday to review inspections, and all were fine.

Ms. Arty added due to the insurmountable problems with pre-needs from funeral home owners who have passed this year; we are proposing a regulation that will require a notice to the public via newspaper, in this instance.

OLD BUSINESS

Funeral Rule 21 – The Board is going to seek advice from the FTC on Funeral Rule 21.

Cremation regulations are pending.

The state law exam will be given February 20th for courtesy card holders who wish to become morticians. There will be a \$100.00 transfer fee, and \$265.00 exam fee.

The identification of remains for cremation – Ed Ranier requested that he be put on the agenda for general discussion. Mr. Ranier states the law requires there be identification by the person making the arrangements for the decedent before cremation. Mr. Ranier wanted to know if that could be done by photo. Mr. Bloom explained that it must be an in person identification, but that the next of kin can designate someone else to do the ID.

Holding rooms – There has been much discussion about holding rooms. Recently, the Board asked whether a funeral establishment can have a holding room if they have septic systems. Mike Eisner of Maryland Department of the Environment addressed the environmental concerns and that such matters would be looked into on a case by case basis with zoning and MDE.

MORTICIANS LICENSE

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch moved for approval of Mortician's license for Ascia Sawyer Durant. A motion was made and approved.

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch moved for approval of Mortician's license for Jessica Barefoot. A motion was made and approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Maryland State Government Article, Annotated Code § 10-501 et seq., on a motion by Dr. Close, President, seconded by Ms. Huggins, Board unanimously voted to close its meeting.