

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am with a quorum present by Dr. Hari P. Close, President. Ms. Michelle Huggins made a motion that the previous minutes, pending spelling and grammar errors were corrected.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hari P. Close, President
Michelle Huggins, 1st Vice President
Lauri Cebula-Seaboch, Secretary
Renee Derketsch
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
John P. French, Health Occupations Investigator
Lisa Woods, Office Secretary III
Richard Bloom, Board Counsel

Dr. Close began by congratulating Ms. Arty on being elected the Secretary of the National Association of Executives and Regulatory Boards.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Ms. Arty, Executive Director reported, she and Dr. Close had the privilege of traveling to the Conference Board, which had very valuable information.

The Delmarva Association called to say they were having problems on the Eastern Shore with death products insurance that was not being accepted by Social Security. They invited Ms. Arty to teach pre-need, CEU and talk about the Irrevocable Assignment form.

The licensing period for those people who were on a one year cycle is almost over. We have gotten many phone calls regarding CEU's. When a licensee renews, they must

prove that the CEU requirements (12 CEU's per renewal cycle) have been fulfilled. When morticians' licenses were renewed in 2012, they used CEU's earned from May 1, 2010- April 30, 2012. This renewal cycle 6 CEU's are due earned between May 1, 2012- April 30, 2013, no pre-need and no more CEU's due until renewal in 2015.

As you know this Board has instructed the Staff to be available and to educate licensees in the last couple of years. In the coming years, the Board will not be concentrating on the education of licensees; the concentration will be on the consumer. There will be various public speaking events to consumers, so they are educated and we are all on the same page.

APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Ms. Tynesha Snuggs, and her sponsor George Kalas III. A motion was made and approved by the Board.

Mr. Samuel Moon and his sponsor Richard Mattingley, Jr. (Mr. Newman reclused himself from the vote). A motion was made and approved by the Board.

Mr. Eduardo Jackson and his sponsor Lawrence Johnson. A motion was made and approved by the Board.

Ms. Tina Wiseman and her sponsor Thomas Zizos. A motion was made and approved by the Board pending transcripts.

Ms. Danielle Higgins and her sponsor Thomas Shaw. A motion was made and approved by the Board.

Mr. Keith Nagata and his sponsor Dwayne Bartley. A motion was made and approved by the Board.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REPORT

No report.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

No report.

FAMILY SECURITY TRUST FUND

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch reported the current total is \$603,458.07.

FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT/INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Huggins, Chair reported on the following Establishment.

Restricted Establishment License

Roger J. Mason Funeral Services, P.A. is requesting a restricted license for its location at 7527 Old Alexandria Ferry Road, Clinton, Maryland out of Wiseman Funeral Home, P.A. A motion was made and approved pending signage.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Arty noted it had been a very active session in the Legislature. Dr. Close then stated it had been a fruitful session.

PRE-NEED COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Arty reported that a regulation is to go in requiring public notice when the owner of a funeral establishment passes, so that the Board is not put in a situation where they get multiple claims if the pre-need holders miss the filing date to make a claim against the estate of a deceased mortician. Lynn Newman, Chair, then reported that we have been closely watching the ownership and beneficiary of insurance policies, and there have been a couple of morticians' deaths that have involved ownership of the policies, where their personal representatives have closed their estates. We are looking at what direction we can take in order to help these consumers get their pre-need funds back.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch moved for approval of a Mortician's license for David Madock pending additional paperwork. A motion was made and approved by the Board.

Ms. Cebula-Seaboch moved for approval of Mortician's license for Mathew Shehan. A motion was made and approved by the Board.

F.Y.I.

No Report.

COUNSEL REMARKS

No Report.

AJOURNMENT

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.