

**MARYLAND BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2016**

The meeting was called to order with a quorum by D. Lynn Newman, 1st Vice President.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

D. Lynn Newman, 1st Vice President
James Govoni, 2nd Vice President
Vernon Strayhorn, Sr., Secretary
Gladys Sewell
Wayne Cooper
Robert Bradshaw Jr.
Mark Bailey
Lynn Shuppel
Dr. Ahmed Elzaree
Dr. Camille Bryan

ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS

Victor C. March, President

STAFF

Ruth Ann Arty, Executive Director
Darlene Cline, Licensing Chief
Thomas Anderson, Health Occupations Inspector
Anthony DeFranco, Board Counsel

In Mr. March's absence, D. Lynn Newman chaired the meeting. Mr. Newman began by thanking everyone for attending the meeting and asked for approval of February's minutes. A motion was made and approved for February's minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Ms. Arty, Executive Director, reported Mr. March would be returning this evening and had asked Ruth Ann to publically thank Mr. Newman for chairing the meeting for two months in a row. She also reported she attended the National Conference Board meeting February 23rd -26th and there were several topics that came up. Nationally, there is a lot of concern about third party brokers, and Ms. Arty was asked to make sure licensees are dealing with someone reputable. There was also a lot of concern about apprenticeship programs nationally and how to strengthen them. We have looked at our own apprenticeship regulations and have gotten input from our licensees that have concerns that after serving apprenticeships, apprentices aren't ready to practice independently. There have been questions to the Board on how we can strengthen apprenticeships. It is being looked at as a national issue, and at next year's Conference Board meeting there will probably be a presentation on the topic. There was also a lot of discussion on cremation. Barbara Kimmer, Executive Director of CANA spoke and there was a lot of input from the states that are in the middle of cremation regulations. There was a conversation on transportation regulations as well. There are other states looking at transportation permits. Lastly, there was talk on exams and whether all states should be testing clinical expertise before licensure.

We have gotten communication from vital records as we continue to have issues with out of state funeral establishments that are not owned by licensees, coming into the state illegally, removing bodies and then have no one to sign the death certificate. Vital Statistics is now through their first year of the EDRS System, and they appreciate everyone's learning curve and cooperation with the system. They would like everyone who is not signed up to please consider signing up, and if you need training you can call the help desk and they can do the training.

Renewal is coming up. The law says we have to send out notices at least 30 days in advance. The notices will come out the last week of this month. We are waiting for the Comptroller's list before the licensing process can be started because we are not allowed, by state law, to issue a license to anyone who has issues with the Comptroller's office. The renewal applications will be posted as soon as we receive the Comptroller's list and licensees are notified.

We received a joint letter from the National Home Funeral Association and the National Consumer Alliance saying they got a lot of complaints from licensees with problems with home funeral care. If you are having a problem or any confusion with home funeral law, or the Board's interpretation please email the Board and we will get information out to you.

There is a bill in the Senate giving added authority to the Secretary of DHMH over anti-competitive behavior, not just of one board, but all health care boards in response to the North Carolina situation. SB1083 is the bill for feedback. This bill will give additional authority to the Secretary to refuse decisions by any board that can be construed as anti-competitive.

The transport individual identifications will soon be available, and we will be working with a group of soldiers that will be doing community service to help us get the identifications out on a Saturday in May.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

FAMILY SECURITY TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gladys Sewell, Chair reported there is currently \$946,268.04 in the fund.

PRE-NEED COMMITTEE REPORT

As Mr. Newman is chairing the meeting, Gladys Sewell will giving the report. The Board continues to receive information on pre-need accounts that are set up as personal accounts versus business accounts, which is how they should to be set up. We have on-going investigations regarding the pre-need forms. If you have any questions regarding the form, please give the office a call.

FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT/INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

James Govoni, Chair reported on the following establishments.

New Establishments

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Freeman Funeral Services, P.A. located at 7201 Old Alexandria Ferry Road, Suite 4C/D Clinton, Maryland for a full service establishment. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of McPherson Funeral Service, P.A. 12827 Old Fort Road Suite 103 Fort Washington, Maryland for arrangements only, restricted out of Freeman Funeral

Services, P.A. 7201 Old Alexandria Ferry Road Suite 4C/D Clinton, Maryland. A motion was made and approved pending final inspection.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Gonce Funeral Service, P.A. 802 Nursery Road Linthicum, Maryland, for arrangements, ID and selection of urns. This location will be restricted out of their full service establishment at 4001 Richie Highway, Baltimore, Maryland. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Wiseman Funeral Home, P.A. for a full service establishment moving from 7527 Old Alexandria Ferry Road Clinton, MD to 7529 Old Alexandria Ferry Road Clinton, MD. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Ross-Bluford Funeral Service 7527 Old Alexandria Ferry Road Clinton, MD for a full service establishment. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Kirkley-Ruddick Funeral Home, P.A. to be restricted out of Fink Funeral Home while repairs are being made to the funeral home. Mr. Ruddick's temporary arrangement office will be located at 406 S. Camp Meade Road, Linthicum, Maryland. A motion was made and approved pending paperwork.

LICENSURE COMMITTEE REPORT

James Govoni, Chair reported on the following applicants.

Apprentice

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Joshua Stevenson of Resthaven Funeral Service. A motion was made and approved.

Mortician

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Jill Armentrout for mortician. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Anita Pollard Grant for mortician. A motion was made and approved.

Courtesy Card

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Alan Fries for a courtesy card. A motion was made and approved.

Crematory Operator

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of James Litz of Fletcher Funeral & Crematory Service for crematory operator. A motion was made and approved for a six month license pending a cremator training certificate.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Russell Thompson of Montgomery Crematorium Inc. for crematory operator. A motion was made and approved.

Registered Transporters

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Gloria Leonard of RKB Inc for mortuary transporter. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Dennis Swann of RKB Inc. for mortuary transporter. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Ronnie Johnson of RKB Inc. for mortuary transporter. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Ryan Stuart of RKB Inc. for mortuary transporter. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Joshua Franker of Franker Removal Services. A motion was made and approved.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS COMMITTEE

Dr. Alzaree reported on the following CEU's.

David Bednar – Various pre-approved courses. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Arraigner Training – April 19, 2016 – 6 CEUs. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Certified Crematory Operator Program – July 21, 2016 – 6 CEUs. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Focus on OSHA Hazard Communication & Blood Borne Pathogens – April 7, 2016 – 2 CEUs. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – PWC Win Win- Thinking in a Win Lose Market – 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Seeing is Believing Facial Reconstruction Techniques - April 10, 2016 – 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Round Table Discussions, Funeral Service Topics – April 9, 2016 – 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Community and Family Engagement Filling the void – April 9, 2016 – 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Leading the Conversation Connecting with Seniors- April 9, 2016 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

Ed Ranier – Required OSHA Removal Compliance April 5, 2016 – 3 CEUs. A motion was made and approved.

Sol Levinson – Preneed 2016 – June 13, 2016- 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

Jeffrey L. Gair/Tri-State County Funeral Directors Association - Death Investigation in Maryland A Review of the Maryland Examiners System – May 12, 2016 – 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

MSFDA – Annotated Code of Maryland Health Occupations Title 7, Learning Morticians and Funeral Directors Act. Know the Code. A motion was made and approved pending review of materials.

Sally Balenger/ The Dodge Institute – The Dodge Technical Seminar Repeat Course – May 12-13, 2016 and November 10-11, 2016 – 9 CEUs.

Epsilon Delta Fraternity – Making Your Prep Work Stand Out. April 8, 2016 – 1.5 CEUs. A motion was made and approved.

Epsilon Delta Fraternity – Priceless Presentation FTC Compliance- April 8, 2016 – 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

Epsilon Delta Fraternity – Acting on Cremation Challenges Together – April 9, 2016 – 2 CEUs. A motion was made and approved.

NFDMA – Course approved for 4 CEUs. A motion was made and approved.

SCI/ Dignity University's previously approved courses. All approved for 1 CEU.

Blood borne Pathogens

Complaint Resolution

Cremation Theory

Effective Telephone Communication

Formaldehyde Monitoring Training

FTC Funeral Rule

Hearing Observation

Hospice Explained
Jewish Funeral Traditions
Lock Out/Tag Out
Respiratory Protection
Securing Payment
The Cremation Consumer

OLD BUSINESS

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Arty reported vital records has changed their addendum to death certificate procedure as of April 1, 2016. It is very important it gets disseminated through the Associations. No longer can you make arrangements at the window.

If you are a transporter that needs your vehicle inspected please email Tom Anderson at Thomas.anderson@maryland.gov.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jim Govoni reported Nancy's Law asks for a change in the current statute in which the Anatomy Board would hold human remains for 14 days instead of 72 hours, which it does now.

The only bill the Board has had any formal input on was a bill that said Cemeterians can borrow against perpetual care funds. The Board wrote a letter of concern and it was passed to the Senate and the House and referenced during testimony. The Board is concerned that if the Sole Proprietor of a cemetery should die after borrowing the funds, they may never go back for consumer use.

AJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Maryland State Government Article, Code § 10-501 et. Seq., on a motion by D. Lynn Newman, 1st Vice President, and seconded, the Board unanimously voted to close its meeting.