

MARYLAND BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 1:02 p.m. by Victor C. March, President.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Victor C. March, President
D. Lynn Newman, 1st Vice President
James Govoni, 2nd Vice President
Robert Bradshaw Jr.
Gladys Sewell
Mark Bailey
Dr. Ahmed Elzaree
Lynn Shuppel

ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Camille Bryan
Wayne Cooper, Esq.
Vernon Strayhorn Sr.

STAFF

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

Mr. March began by making a motion to approve January's minutes. A motion was made and seconded for approval of January's minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Ruth Ann Arty, Executive Director, reported half of the mortician licensees will be renewing in April. Licenses expire April 30th. With renewal upon us, we have received several phone calls regarding upcoming CEU's. So far, the Board has information on the following upcoming CEU's. There is a Transportation Regulations and Human Dignity class scheduled for February 21, 2017 at 4201 Patterson Avenue for a total of three CEU's at no charge. On February 23, 2017, the Board has been asked to present pre-need regulations for the Delmarva Association. Please call Delmarva to register. The Board has also been asked to provide all 6 CEU's in one setting at Heaven Bound Crematory. They will offer two sessions on the same date, cremation and funeral ethics in the late afternoon, dinner and then mortuary transport regulations and Human Dignity Act of 2012. On that same date in Waldorf, the Mid-Atlantic Region, District II of the Morticians and Funeral Directors Association is giving an all-day seminar. Details for that seminar have not been given to us, however the Board is presenting pre-need.

The first week in April CCBC will also offer a seminar, in which the Board will present, however, details have not been given. Lastly, The Anatomy Board (Ronn Wade) is planning to have classes in March and April.

The Jurisprudence exam was given last month, and was one of the largest classes given to date. Unfortunately, a handful of people did not pass. The practice of the Board is for Ms. Arty to give a tutoring session to those who didn't pass which will be held March 22, 2017 at 10:00 am to go over problematic questions.

We have had an influx of death certificates that were signed by non-licensees, that got kicked out by vital records then ultimately the Board has to sign so families don't get held up. If you do not have a mortician's license or courtesy card in Maryland you cannot sign a death certificate.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

FAMILY SECURITY TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lynn Shuppel, Chair reported there is currently \$1,055,299.99 in the fund. There have been two distributions to two families that were entitled to repayment.

PRE-NEED COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

ESTABLISHMENT/INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Bailey, Chair, reported on the following establishments,

Mr. Bailey moved for approval of Thibadeau Mortuary Service, P.A. located at 124 E. Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Bailey moved for approval of Walkers Life Memorial Center, P.A. located at 5310 Ritchie Highway. A motion was made and approved pending successful inspection.

Pumphrey Funeral Home of Rockville, Inc. had their inspection approved, and their license has been changed from restricted to full service.

LICENSURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim Govoni, Chair reported to the following applicants.

Extension of Apprenticeship

Mr. Govoni moved for and extension of apprenticeship of Brian Cable of Thibadeau Mortuary Service, P.A. A motion was made and approved.

Apprentice

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Kara Norris sponsored by Richard Graf of Keeney & Basford, P.A. Funeral Home for apprenticeship. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Brittany Vigar sponsored by Kathleen Santivaschi of Lee Funeral Home for apprenticeship. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Jacqueline Hagemeister sponsored by Tracy Stuver of Devol Funeral Home. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Melanie Boney sponsored by Lawrence Johnson of J. B. Jenkins Funeral Home. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Treshawwna Fayson sponsored by Sedale Green of Marshall-March Funeral Home. A motion was made and approved. Mr. March recused himself from the vote.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Dellarease Harvey sponsored by Deshawn Watts of Advent Funeral Home and Cremation Services. A motion was made and approved.

Mortician via Waiver

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Yvette Wills for her mortician's license via waiver of apprenticeship requirements. A motion was made and approved. Mr. March recused himself from the vote.

Mortician

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Maria Guevara for her mortician's license. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Vincent Roussey for his mortician's license. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Heather Richardson for her mortician's license. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Samantha Flanagan for her mortician's license. A motion was made and approved.

Crematory Operator

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Scott Hendershot for his crematory operator's license. A motion was made and approved.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS COMMITTEE

In Dr. Bryant's absence, Dr. Elzaree reported on the following CEU's.

Ed Ranier – OSHA/MOSHA Funeral Home Compliance – March 10, 2017 – 3 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

Greystone Associates – 27th Funeral Directors Skills II – April 25-27, 2017 – 7 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

Greystone Associates – Summit 2017 – February 13-16, 2017 – 14.5 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

Greystone Associates - Telephone Skills – February 20-23, 2017 – 7 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

Jeffrey Gair – The Drug Epidemic in Maryland – May 11, 2017 – 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA&MA District II – 2017 Educational Seminar – March 16, 2017 - 3.5 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – NFDA Cremation Retreat – March 15-16, 2017 – 10 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Establishing your Creditably as a New Funeral Director – February 23, 2017 - 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Meet the Mentors – March 12-14, 2017 – 9.75 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – NFDA Arranger Training – May 15, 2017 – 8 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Playing with Full Deck: How to Share Have the Talk of a Lifetime – March 9, 2017 - 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

Selected Independent Funeral Homes – 2017 Spring Management Summit – April 26-28, 2017 – 8 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

Warfield-Rohr Casket Co. – The History of Matthews Aurora Funeral Solutions York Wood Plant and Plant Tour – March 30, 2017, April 5th, April 13th, April 25th .

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. March reported the Office of the Chief Medical Examiners has issued a memo regarding payment for removal fee for deaths as the result of a homicide. They will pay a fixed amount of \$100 plus mileage. Their Comar regulations state that a funeral home can only accept that fee and not charge the family for any additional charges. This is OCME's regulation and this Board will not be addressing it.

Vital Records also sent out a memo regarding submitting of paper death certificates for filing versus those that have been filed through the EDRS System. You can still use paper filing, however it will take longer to receive the death certificate. Ms. Arty reported there have been some emails to Vital Statistics expressing frustration that they are not requiring doctors to enter death certificates on EDRS. The executive director of Vital Statistics ask that you forward the names of specific physicians that sign a lot

of death certificates and are not on EDRS. Vital Statistics will reach out to them and encourage them to be on EDRS.

The Board's proposed changes to the apprenticeship and Family Security Trust Fund regulations have been posted in the Maryland Register for comment. We have received two comments. The first comment was for the Family Security Trust Fund from the Funeral Consumer Alliance of Maryland and Environs, which supported the proposed changes, except they strongly believe one additional change is needed. The proposed change to the proposed regulation would be to remove the partial payment option and require full payment of a claim under normal circumstances. A motion was made and approved to accept the proposed changes. The second comment, also from the Funeral Consumer Alliance of Maryland and Environs, addresses the requirements for apprenticeship. A motion was made and approved to accept the amendments with the exception of the statutory allowance of only 1000 hours.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. March reported he wanted to remind everyone, under H.O. 7-316 (27). We cannot refuse service to an individual because they have HIV. The Board has had to deal with complaints for firms that are declining service because of HIV. This is not allowed in the State under the current laws.

It's been a recommendation that the Board revise its inspection forms indicating along with the items that are being inspected, the regulation/statute that are being used, so we have been looking at redrafting the form. A motion was made and approved to redraft the inspection forms to incorporate our regulatory statutes that apply to the inspections.

F.Y.I.

Thomas Anderson, Inspector reported there are no vehicle inspections currently scheduled. If you need your vehicle inspected, please email Mr. Anderson.

The next exam (written and clinical) will be held April 18, 2017.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There have been three House and corresponding Senate Bills that affect the Board of Morticians. HB660/SB643 regarding the duties of the executive director. HB 693/SB 642, regarding investigations and subpoenas, also revises the Board's authority and duties. HB 824/SB548 deals with the Sunset extension and program evaluation. HB 668, pertains with policy, regulation changes and requirements for open meetings.

Mr. March noted last month Mark Bailey, chased down a suspected armed robber, unarmed him, tackled and held him for police. We would like to commend Mark for taking action.

AJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Maryland State Government Article, Code § 10-501 et. Seq., on a motion by Victor C. March, President, and seconded by the Board unanimously voted to close its meeting.