

MARYLAND BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm with a quorum by Victor C. March, Sr., President.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Victor C. March, President
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

ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Ahmed Elzaree
Camille Bryan

STAFF

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

Victor C. March, President called the meeting to order. He began by thanking everyone for coming, considering the change in the meeting date due to the federal holiday, and state offices are closed. A motion was made and seconded to approve last month's minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Ms. Arty reported one third of the Family Security Trust Fund payments are in, however, there was one problem. A reminder email was sent by our Board member to the Delmarva Association, who in turn sent it to their members telling them to send the payment to them. We have corrected the mistake. All Family Security Trust Fund payments should be sent to 4201 Patterson Avenue.

The irrevocable assignment form is being utilized very well by many funeral homes and being accepted by many insurance companies, however there are some insurance companies giving funeral directors a difficult time with them. Licensees have started to

send insurance companies comments and forms to us, and we have begun to review them. If anyone has any forms from an insurance company that you believe is not consistent with Maryland law, please forward them to the Board. Mr. March and Ms. Arty met this week legislatively, and there is a legislator looking at reviewing some things with the insurance commission because so many funeral homes are having difficulty.

We have had many problems with lineage and who has the right to disposition. It is very clear in Health General 5-509 and the Board is very consistent in its interpretation, however there are families that are calling the Board asking questions, so we feel it is time for a lineage CEU that the Board will offer free of charge. The class will be in January with a date forthcoming. We will also do a pre-need CEU at that time. With licensure coming in April, this will create some free in-person CEU's.

The mortuary transit training and dignity act training occurred on October 28, 2015, which yielded a very large attendance including a large number of morticians. The next training will be December 30, 2015 at 12:30 pm.

Ms. Arty acknowledged Veteran's Day and all the veterans in the meeting, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. March reported the Executive committee met to address the pre-need regulations. We indicated in previous board meetings that the Board would be submitting pre-need regulations to coincide with the changes in the pre-need statute that are currently in place now regarding the writing and acceptance of pre-needs. However in reviewing what the pre-need regulations say, it was obvious to the committee that the statute was so well written that a regulation would just mirror the language of the statute. Rather than have a set of regulations that mirror the statute, the committee made the recommendation that the existing regulations be repealed to allow the statute to stand on its own. The committee made a motion that the Board repeal the existing pre-need regulations, and let the pre-need statute stand on its own. A motion was made and approved.

FAMILY SECURITY TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gladys Sewell, Chair, reported there is currently \$876,708.07 in the fund, and as long as there no major claims against the trust we should be able to take a hiatus on the payment after the next cycle.

PRE-NEED COMMITTEE REPORT

Lynn Newman, Chair, reported the committee has been reviewing insurance forms. A few companies do accept the Maryland form, and the committee is still working with companies that do not.

FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT / INSPECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

James Govoni, Chair, reported on the following establishments.

Name Approval

Valerie Grant is requesting name approval of Grant Funeral Service for a restricted establishment. A motion was made and approved.

J.B. Jenkins is requesting a name approval of J.B. Jenkins Funeral Service for a full service establishment. A motion was made and approved.

LICENSURE COMMITTEE

James Govoni, Chair, reported on the following applicants.

Apprentice

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Kasi Hughes for apprenticeship at McComas Funeral Home pending the background check. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Amy Mitzel for apprenticeship at Hines Rinaldi Funeral Home pending the background check. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Eileen Taylor for apprenticeship at Randolph P. Moore Funeral Home pending the background check. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Kenyatta Clinton for apprenticeship at Joseph H. Brown Funeral Home. A motion was made and approved pending the background check.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Vernell Love-Young for apprenticeship at Pope Funeral Home. A motion was made and approved pending the background check.

Reciprocity

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Jonathan Fedora for mortician via reciprocity. A motion was made and approved pending CEU's and background check.

Reinstatement

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Danielle Daughtery for reinstatement of mortician's license. A motion was made and approved.

Courtesy Card

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

Mortician

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Jarita Banks for approval of mortician license. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Ashley Anders for approval of mortician license. A motion was made and approved pending background check.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Candice Cannon for approval of mortician license. A motion was made and approved pending background check.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Tara Gradoville for approval of mortician license. A motion was made and approved pending final paperwork.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Celia Kipp for approval of mortician license. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Joshua Willet for approval of mortician license. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Adam Koch for approval of mortician license. A motion was made and approved pending background check.

Mortuary Transporters

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of William Cave for mortuary transport with Drew Removal Service. A motion was made and approved.

CEU COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Shelton Hackett/Funeral Directors Association of Metropolitan Washington D.C. is requesting 6 CEU's for Trauma/Delayed Waterless Embalming, December 15, 2015. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA is requesting 6 CEU's for NFDA Certified Crematory Operator Program Seminar, December 2, 2015. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA is requesting 6 CEU's for NFDA Certified Crematory Operator Program Seminar, January 30, 2016. A motion was made and approved.

Richard Neuman /KBSTM, CPA's is requesting 2 CEU's for Funeral Industry Seminar, December 16, 2015. A motion was made and approved.

Selected Independent Funeral Homes is requesting 8.5 CEU's, January 24-28, 2016. A motion was made and approved.

Edward Ranier is requesting 3 CEU's for OSHA Prep-room and Removal Compliance, January 8, 2016. A motion was made and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Arty reported there has been an increased number of unlicensed practice complaints being reported to the Board and the Board is investigating.

This Board will not be submitting any bills this year, but as previously stated, we are still in the process of reviewing our regulations.

AJOURNMENT

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

