



District Meeting Minutes (Districts 5, 6, 7)

Thursday, February 20, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

Palm Coast, FL

Present:

*R. DeMale Bowden, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Glenn Bower, Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service
Virginia Bryant, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Catherine Dittbner Lloyd, MN Dept. of Health, Mortuary Science Section
Michael Eldringhoff, Eldringhoff Funeral Home
Chris Ferguson, OK Funeral Board
Robert Gribble, ICFSEB District 5 Director/TN Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers
Keri Haines, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Lori Hayes, MO Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Michelle Larson, MN Dept. of Health, Mortuary Science Section
Edward Muhleisen, ICFSEB District 7 Director/LA Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
Susan Reynolds, IA Dept. of Public Health – Board of Mortuary Science
John Rice, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Mack Smith, ICFSEB District 6 Director/KS Board of Mortuary Arts
Steve Spann, John A. Gupton College
Patricia Traffas, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Damon Wenig, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Arvid Wiest, NE Board of Funeral Directing & Embalming
Seth Williams, IA Dept. of Public Health – Board of Mortuary Science
Paige Zietz, ICFSEB Exam Committee*

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Conference Past President, Edward Muhleisen, called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. EST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from Districts 5, 6, & 7.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Muhleisen and Conference Member Services Manager, Lauren Thomas, gave an update on recent Conference initiatives. An overview of the updated ADA policies and handbook was given and the health professional requirements when submitting ADA documentation. The request for volunteers for upcoming 2020 committees and projects was noted as well as the announcement of The Conference Delegate Grant expansion to include one individual from each member board for the 2021 Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas.

III. Current Regulatory Issues

A. Single vs. Dual Licensed vs. Other Licenses – Pros and Cons

Discussion amongst members included alternative licensure pathways such as a non-degree seeking apprenticeship in Wisconsin and certificate only programs for funeral directors in Texas. Conversations regarding finding the right balance of education necessary for all licensure types were had by participants. In regards to discipline, it was concluded the level of education of a licensee does not impact disciplinary instances.

B. Legislative Updates

The group shared various licensure and regulatory issues that many boards are currently facing. Concerns regarding the de-regulation environment and nationwide barriers were discussed including sunset proposed bills. One jurisdiction noted a proposed bill that would grant licensure within 10 days.

C. Internet Sales

Action taken against a licensee who conducted business with an unlicensed third party provider was mentioned by one state. Education to all licensees was encouraged as well as asking the right questions regarding licensing when working with these providers. Concerns about social media were discussed along with the movement away from newspapers that are now charging for obituary space.

D. Update on Membership Polls

Throughout the year, member boards can request for The Conference to poll other jurisdictions on various regulatory and licensure questions. The results of the recent polls were shared with the district representatives during the meeting.

IV. District 7 Election to Board of Directors

Chris Ferguson, from the Oklahoma Funeral Board, was elected as District 7 Director of The Conference Board of Directors.

V. Adjournment

The meetings of districts 5, 6, & 7 adjourned at 11:50 a.m. EST.