



District Meeting Minutes (Districts 1, 4, & 6)

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL

Present:

*Kortney Adams, NS Board of Registration of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
Robert Barnes, ICFSEB District 1 Director/ME State Board of Funeral Service
Derek Bogner, OH Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
Kim Bourk, OH Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
Lauren Budrow, Wayne State University
Joanie Cartwright, Cedar Crest Memorial Chapel
Frank Downing, IN Professional Licensing Agency
Mark Evely, Wayne State University
Cheryl Grossman, OH Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
Kori Mahieu, IA Funeral Directors Association
Kathleen Matuszak, IN Professional Licensing Agency
Dale Niewoehner, ND State Board of Funeral Service
Kevin Patterson, Des Moines Area Community College
Mark Ransford, ICFSEB Past President
Jon Rettig, ICFSEB District 4 Director/OH Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
Martin Rieken, ICFSEB District 6 Director/IA Board of Mortuary Science
Gabriel Schauf, Milwaukee Area Technical College
Mack Smith, ICFSEB Past President
Craig Stires, OH Funeral Directors Association
Debbie Thao, MN Department of Health
Pat Traffas, ICFSEB Exam Committee
William Wappner, OH Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
Carlena Weiland, MN Department of Health
Jarrod Williams, OH Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors*

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Conference District 4 Director, Jon Rettig, called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. CST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors from Districts 1, 4, and 6, as well as introductions of all present attendees.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Rettig and Conference Candidate Services Manager, Allie Sparkman, provided an overview of recent Conference initiatives including upcoming volunteer opportunities, as well as forthcoming updates to the Regulations in Licensing publication. Board staff was encouraged to complete the upcoming survey to provide the most accurate information for the publication. Ms. Sparkman, as well as former ICFSEB Exam Committee Member, Craig Stires, and former ICFSEB Item Writing Committee Member, Mark Evely, also explained what can be expected when serving on Conference volunteer committees.

III. Disciplinary Database

Participants overall were interested in the possibility of a disciplinary database. Most in attendance were in favor of exploring options and thought it would be helpful for licensees seeking reciprocity; however, they believed the information in it would only be as effective and valuable as the data that

states were willing to enter. One state recommended ICFSEB administer a survey to see which regulatory authorities would be committed to its success, while another state was worried about where the responsibility for it would lie.

IV. Current Regulatory Issues

Representatives discussed the many challenges faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendees reviewed the varying emergency orders from state to state, as well as allowances made for CEU requirements, virtual meetings/hearings, and the modification of rules and/or regulations throughout COVID-19. Participants also discussed a third party provider and various problems they have encountered, as well as the inability to combat the issues. Members from Indiana inquired about other jurisdictions' rules regarding "unethical behavior" after some recent problems. Other members provided examples on how misconduct is handled in their states. Ohio also provided updates about the preneed recovery fund.

V. District 1 and 6 Election to Board of Directors

Robert Barnes, from the Maine State Board of Funeral Service, was re-elected as District 1 Director of The Conference and Martin Rieken, of the Iowa Board of Mortuary Service, was elected as District 6 Director.

VI. Adjournment

The meetings of districts 1, 4, and 6 adjourned at 3:53 p.m. CST.

Present:

Duane Calloway, University of D.C.

Christy Collins, MD Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors

Sarah Georgen, VA Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

Kristel Hennessy, PA State Board of Funeral Directors

Randolph Horton, D.C. Board of Funeral Directors

Angel King, University of D.C.

John Kirksey, University of D.C.

John McGuire, D.C. Board of Funeral Directors

Blair Nelsen, ICFSEB Vice President, VA Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

Melanie Oppat, MD Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors

Kelley Palmatier, VA Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

Angela Pearson, VA Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

Rosemarie Riley, Eastwick Community College

Eleanor Rudolph, NJ State Board of Mortuary Science

Robert Smith, American Board of Funeral Service Education

Corie Tillman Wolf, VA Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

Heather Wright, VA Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Conference Vice President, Blair Nelsen, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. CST. The meeting began with introductions of representatives present.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Nelsen shared an update on Conference activities over the past year and noted opportunities to volunteer through committee service for exam and model document development. The update to the Regulations in Licensing comparative data is set to be completed this summer so all attendees were reminded of the importance of participating in that survey.

III. Disciplinary Database

The idea of a professional registry that could help track discipline cases across jurisdictions was discussed. While there are many appealing elements to implementing a system, there were concerns expressed about staff time and the process of importing the data.

IV. Current Regulatory Issues

Changes to board operations during the pandemic were discussed. Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia all noted their meetings are virtual and going well. Some noted a suspension of inspections in the beginning but investigations continued. The schools shared that it was harder to place interns during the past year but that enrollments were up in general. New Jersey now allows interns to transport bodies in response to the pandemic.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. CST.

Present:

*Amy Acord, North Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Randy Anderson, National Funeral Directors Association
Kenneth Baxter, South Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Howard Beckham, Florida State College at Jacksonville
Don Brown, North Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Annie Bushelon-Holt, Alabama Board of Funeral Service
Brad Coman, George State Board of Funeral Service
Stephen Davis, North Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Ebene Dukes, Northwest Mississippi Community College
Denise Grogan, Alabama Board of Funeral Service
Thomas Hilderbrand, North Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Amy Holleman, South Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Matalie Mickens, South Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Jeffrey O'Keefe, Mississippi State Board of Funeral Service
Charles Perine, ICFSEB President, Alabama Board of Funeral Service
Ellen Simon, Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery & Consumer Services
Della Smith, Mississippi State Board of Funeral Service*

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Conference District 3 Director, Charles Perine, called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m. CST. The meeting began with introductions of representatives present.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Perine gave an update on Conference initiatives and discussed the efforts of upcoming committee opportunities. He encouraged everyone to volunteer if they are able. Mr. Perine noted the upcoming revision of the Regulations in Licensing book and explained its usefulness as a great state-by-state reference. He encouraged participation in the upcoming survey to produce the best resource possible.

III. Disciplinary Database

Participants discussed the potential of a disciplinary database. Most attendees were interested and agreed that such a system would be helpful. Attendees also expressed some potential concerns such as: how long will the information be stored and kept up-to-date, accountability, making sure the shared information does not overstep, time and effort to update the system and staff size, linking with existing systems, reliance on information input by other jurisdictions, and retroactive record keeping.

IV. Current Regulatory Issues

The participants began discussing the numerous emergency orders issued by jurisdictions during the pandemic. Members from Alabama and North Carolina discussed orders within their jurisdictions including one order that exempts funeral services as a religious gathering. South Carolina and Florida both shared information about deadline extensions as well. There was a discussion on virtual hearings. Alabama didn't have hearings for a few months. Virtual hearings and meetings were discussed by participants allowing participation from the public. Obstacles of virtual meetings were noted including meeting quorums, ensuring public knows how to participate, and making sure everyone knows they will

most likely be on a live camera. The group briefly discussed the member polls and Mr. Perine encouraged everyone to take advantage of this member service The Conference offers.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. CST.

Present:

Glenn Bower, TX Funeral Service Commission

Brant Davis, Amarillo College

Darriel Ezell, AR State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, & Burial Services

Chris Ferguson, OK Funeral Board

Amy Goode, AR State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, & Burial Services

Robert Gribble, TN Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers

Keri Haines, ICFSEB Exam Committee

Lori Hayes, MO State Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors

Shantelle Holts, Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service

Steve Spann, John A. Gupton College

Amelia Vestal, AR State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, & Burial Services

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Conference District 7 Director, Chris Ferguson, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. CST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from Districts 5 & 7.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Ferguson gave an update on recent Conference initiatives, which included a reminder about the Regulations in Licensure publication that The Conference provides on its website. He also shared there will be upcoming volunteer opportunities for exam-related committees and workshops. Keri Haines, Chair of the NBE Arts Committee, provided more detail about serving on those committees.

III. Disciplinary Database

Attendees discussed the interest and need for an industry-wide disciplinary database. Overall, most attendees agreed that it would be beneficial, but the implementation and success of the service would hinge on what would be involved at the state level. It was noted that, due to privacy and legal hurdles, The Conference would need to adapt to each jurisdiction's protocols and timelines which could present a challenge in collecting uniform and current data.

IV. Current Regulatory Issues

The district attendees focused on issues that have been affecting their jurisdictions throughout the last year, which were primarily related to the continued pandemic. It was noted that overall the jurisdictions present were experiencing very similar concerns due to COVID-19. The primary topics discussed were issues regulating state mandates that limited funeral attendance, the need to expedite reciprocal licenses, and the challenge of adapting to virtual events along with new technology. Most attendees reported they were still holding meetings virtually, with the exception of Arkansas which has continued meeting in person since May 2020. It was the general consensus that every jurisdiction has seen an uptick in consumer complaints, as well as an increase in unlicensed practice. Other topics discussed included tattoo removal and the Netflix reality show, Buried by the Bernards, which was recently filmed at a Tennessee funeral home.

V. Election

There were no elections for Districts 5 or 7.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m. CST.

Present:

*Pete Burns, OR Mortuary & Cemetery Board
Pete Cameron, WA Funeral & Cemetery Board
Karen Carruthers, AB Funeral Services Regulatory Board
Brevin Clifford, ICFSEB Exam Committee
Greg Crandall, WY State Board of Funeral Service Practitioners
Kim Eberts, Funeral & Cremation Services Council of SK
Craig Geary, ID Board of Morticians
Pamela Grieser, WA Funeral & Cemetery Board
Rick Little, WA Funeral & Cemetery Board
Sandy Mahon, Funeral & Cremation Services Council of SK
Thomas Mowery, WA Funeral & Cemetery Board
JoAnn Reid, WY State Board of Funeral Service Practitioners
James Sommer, ID Board of Morticians*

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Conference District 8 Director, Sandy Mahon, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. CST. The meeting began with introductions of representatives present.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Mr. Mahon provided an overview of recent conference initiatives including volunteer opportunities for the coming year and an update to the Regulations in Licensing publication. Board staff was encouraged to complete the upcoming survey in order to include accurate information for the publication.

III. Disciplinary Database

Participants had mixed reviews when discussing the possibility of a disciplinary database. One state indicated they rely upon other jurisdiction's websites to seek out this information, while another noted discipline is not a large issue in their state. Two provinces expressed their interest in the system, but noted the cross-border barriers.

IV. Current Regulatory Issues

Representatives from Saskatchewan shared their success with conducting virtual inspections through FaceTime amidst the pandemic over the last several months. Other states noted their adaptations to either telephonic inspections or relying on photographs, but noted the challenges encountered since the adjustments. Members from Alberta and Saskatchewan explained how hearings have been handled in their province since the pandemic. The disadvantages of virtual hearings were discussed and the lack of emotion and physical reactions that are missing when the proceedings are not in person. Lastly, the attendees listened to the membership inquiries that were presented over the past year and further discussed the requirements between the manager of record vs. the establishment owner.

V. Election

Karen Carruthers was elected as the District 8 Director.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. CST.

Present:

*Michelle Arthur, CA Cemetery & Funeral Bureau
Tom Beard, UT Board of Funeral Service
Lemuel Cannon, AZ Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers
Carla Esquivel, CA Cemetery & Funeral Bureau
Jolena Grande, Cypress College
Cheryl Jenkins, CA Cemetery & Funeral Bureau
Jana Johansen, UT Board of Funeral Service
Jennifer Kandt, NV Funeral & Cemetery Services Board
Gina Sanchez, CA Cemetery & Funeral Bureau
Steve Schacht, ICCFA
Kurt Soffe, CFSP, UT Board of Funeral Service
Judith Stapley, AZ Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers*

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Conference District 9 Director, Jennifer Kandt, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. CST. The meeting began with introductions of representatives present.

II. Update on Conference Initiatives

Ms. Kandt provided an overview of recent conference initiatives including volunteer opportunities for the coming year and an update to the Regulations in Licensing publication.

III. Disciplinary Database

The participants discussed the possibility of a national discipline database and there was interest, but concerns about additional data entry. There were questions on how far back in time people would submit discipline, i.e. 10 years, 5 years, or current moving forward and would the system only be for regulators or could the public as well. Lastly, it was also expressed that states seem to differ with reporting various information.

IV. Current Regulatory Issues

Emergency pandemic orders were discussed including California issuing licenses for 90 day periods for people who had been licensed in another state for at least three years. It was noted that Nevada legislators have questioned boards on how they are able to reciprocate licenses so easily and quickly during a pandemic and why can't boards work toward national mobility outside of the pandemic?

California and Nevada discussed air quality control restrictions being lifted during the pandemic to allow for operation of longer hours and more days per week. It was mentioned that there are some funeral homes that have had to require embalming even for cremations, or turn away the family as they no longer have refrigeration space. A representative from Cypress College mentioned large increases in applications to mortuary and health science programs as people want to be in "essential" professions.

Utah shared an overwhelming process of having to review all laws pertaining to all professions by June 30th and justify any rules that appear to be outside the scope of protecting the public. There was also discussion on storefronts and effects of the pandemic for that business model. Virtual meetings were discussed with Arizona participants stating they have mostly operated as usual with live meetings and options for virtual

attendance. California representatives indicated they may continue with virtual meetings as they get more attendance and it lowers cost for those who attend.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. CST.