



# District Meeting Minutes (Districts 1, 3, 6)

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – 1:30 p.m.

Chandler, AZ

## **Present:**

*Marty Rieken, IA Board/ ICFSEB  
Brad Coman, GA Board  
Seth Williams, ICFSEB Committee  
Randy Brennick, SD Board  
Shawna Rodabaugh, Pierce Mortuary Colleges  
Dr. Steven Lyons, NC Board  
Kortez Boyd, ICFSEB Committee  
Jay Hodge, SC Board  
Kyle Tennis, SC Board  
Amy Holleman, SC Board  
Carlena Weiland, MN Board  
Debbie Thao, MN Board  
Damon Wenig, ICFSEB Committee  
Steve Brunkin, NE Board  
Paige Zeitz, ICFSEB Committee  
Amy Acord, NC Board  
Thomas Hilderbrand, NC Board/ICFSEB Committee  
Randy Anderson, NFDA  
Stephen Davis, NC Board  
Stephanie Gilman, ICFSEB Committee  
Kortney Adams, NS Board  
Robert Barnes, ME/ICFSEB  
Charles Perine, AL Board/ICFSEB*

## **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

District 3 Director, Charles Perine, called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. MST. Mr. Perine welcomed those in attendance and the meeting began with introductions.

## **II. Professional Standards in Funeral Service**

District attendees discussed generational challenges within the industry and their difficulties hiring. Some challenges include dress code, body art, and even social skills. State regulators shared that anyone can become licensed as a funeral director, they just have to be minimally competent. Leaving funeral home owners to sort through candidates who meet their level of professionalism. Educators continued the debate stating that students no longer have to go on campus and use their soft skills, they do most classes online.

Regulators discussed reasons for a shortage of funeral directors, some were questioning their internship programs. State regulators and funeral home owners discussed what they thought was successful about their internship programs. Which brought up the question: do we need education, exam requirements, and experience? Everyone agreed that all parts of the equation were needed and could not be done without the other.

### **III. Current Regulatory Issues Facing Membership**

Regulators agreed that people need to be educated about the benefits of regulation. Many spoke about the public protection issue that would be on hand if de-regulation were to happen. The profession is often the last one thought of, but any minor change as a result of regulatory issues can cause a major impact. The conversation continued with a discussion about an indefinite apprenticeship and the problems it could cause. States who do not have expiration dates are using the lack of an expiration as a workaround for licensure.

### **IV. Open Discussion**

The only item briefly discussed in this forum was the use of a death doula. The group agreed that using the trending death doula would be a form of deregulation.

### **V. District Elections**

There were no district elections in this meeting.

### **VI. Adjournment**

The meetings of district 1, 3, and 6 adjourned at 3:23 p.m. MST.