



District Meeting Minutes (Districts 4 & 8)

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – 1:30 p.m.

Chandler, AZ

Present:

*William Wappner, OH Board
George Horne, OH Board
Cheryl Grossman, OH Board
Gay Patrick, SK Board
Greg Crandall, WY Board
Chelsea Cortez, WY Board
Stuart Murray, AB Board
Brian McBride, ID Board
Deborah Gust, AB Board
Steve Gordon, ID Board/ICFSEB
Mark Evely, Wayne State University
Ben Parker, MI Board*

I. Call to Order and Introductions

District 8 Director, Karen Carruthers, called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m. MST. Ms. Carruthers welcomed those in attendance and the meeting began with introductions.

II. Professional Standards in Funeral Service

Regulators discussed the obstacle of trainees having to do school and an internship at the same time. They are worried that juggling both will lead to burnout and suggest that some experience before attending school would help student decide if it is a profession they want to pursue. Attendees discussed how licensure exams, education, and experience are all important parts of the equation. There was discussion among the group about the importance of regulation in a deregulation climate and how it is imperative that jurisdictions need to be able to regulate bad actors. The group had a conversation about licensure requirements, licensure mobility, workforce shortages as a result of lower salaries in the field compared to other fields.

III. Current Regulatory Issues Facing Membership

Attendees spoke on the rising trend of natural organic reduction, alkaline hydrolysis, and composting and how/why it needs regulating. Attendees were in agreement that composting could cause harm to the public. They presumed that the best way to stop this conversation would be to educate regulators who may not fully understand the large issue that this could cause. Attendees again discussed the topic of deregulation and how it is a trend to get more people into the field. They agreed that this is concerning through the lens of public protection. Educators expressed that only when something bad happens, do regulators start to care about deregulation. Agreement among the group that although there is a sentiment that it is “just a dead body,” what they do is for the living. Therefore, what they do matters and public protection is necessary.

IV. Open Discussion

There were no items discussed in the open forum.

V. District Elections

Mr. Jon Rettig was elected District 4 Director.

VI. Adjournment

The meetings of district 4 and 8 adjourned at 3:05 p.m. MST.