

**MARYLAND BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
MAY 8, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. with a quorum present by Dr. Hari P. Close, President.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hari P. Close, President
Michelle Huggins, 1st Vice President
Robert Bradshaw, Jr. 2nd Vice President
Renee Derketsch
Victor March, Sr.
D. Lynn Newman
Keith R. Downey
Vernon Strayhorn, Sr.
Ahmed Elzaree

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Lauri Cebula-Seaboch, Secretary

STAFF

Ruth Ann Arty, Executive Director
Darlene Cline, Licensing Chief
Thomas Anderson, Health Occupations Inspector
Lisa Woods, Office Secretary III
Richard Bloom, Board Counsel

A motion was made and seconded for approval of the prior month's minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Ms. Arty reported that the licensing renewal period for the morticians who renewed for a one year cycle in 2012 is now over. Licensees, who still have not renewed, have until May 15th before the late fee will be charged. Ms. Arty did caution that anyone that had not renewed is expired and can not practice until their renewal fee is received by the Board.

APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

In Lauri Cebula-Seaboch's absence, Vernon Strayhorn, Sr. presided.

Mr. Strayhorn interviewed the following applicants for apprenticeship.

Mr. Strayhorn moved for approval of Patricia Shea Given for apprenticeship. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Strayhorn moved for approval of Clifton Greene for an extension of his apprenticeship. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Strayhorn moved for approval of Romaine Gibbs for apprenticeship. A motion was made and approved.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Keith Downey, Chair reports we are getting a lot of continuing education applications, and he is going through them as quickly as possible so they can be added to the spreadsheet. He also adds if the correct paperwork is not received with the application, they will not be processed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

FAMILY SECURITY TRUST FUND

In Ms. Cebula-Seabock absence, Mr. Vernon Strayhorn, Sr. presided. Mr. Strayhorn reported there is \$604,833.07 in the Family Security Trust Fund.

FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT/INPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Huggins, Chair reported there were a few items on behalf of the Establishment Committee.

Advent Funeral and Cremation Services, Inc. is requesting a full service license at there 9013 Annapolis Road, Lanham, Maryland location. A motion has made and approved pending some final paperwork.

Peter S. Ashton is seeking approval of the sale of Bradley Ashton Funeral Home, P.A. at 2134 Willow Spring Road in Baltimore effective, May 9, 2013 to Beth Kehl. There has been an audit of the pre-needs and everything is satisfactory. A motion was made and approved for the sale.

Ricketts Funeral Home at 504 Main Street in Myersville, Maryland (the business only) was sold to G. Douglas Stauffer, owner of Stauffer Funeral Homes, P.A. (effective 5/1/2013). All pre-needs will be honored, so the Committee is simply making an announcement that the sale was done. A motion was made and approved.

Beth A. Kehl is seeking approval of a full service establishment license for Bradley-Ashton-Kehl Funeral Home, P.A. 2134 Willow Spring Road Baltimore, Maryland. A motion was made and approved.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATION COMMITTEE REPORT

No Report.

PRE-NEED COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Newman, Chair reported we have in the past months had questions regarding the statement that is required on insurance policy pre-needs. The statement of goods and services from the funeral home is the first statement that should be required on pre-needs because of the FTC requirements of the name of the funeral home, address or addresses of all locations, and phone number, which insurance company statements do not include. So, whenever a funeral home is using insurance for pre-need, they would be required to do both statements so that the funeral home is covered by the FTC requirement. If the insurance company accepts the funeral home statement of goods and services, that's fine. If not, then the funeral home would just need to take the time to transfer the figures onto the insurance company statement as well. So in many cases, there may be two statements, one that has all information required by FTC, the other that possibly only the insurance company requires.

Also, last month legislation was passed out on a recommendation for possible legislation when a deceased funeral director of a sole proprietorship or a supervisor of a closely held corporation may pass with regard to notification of that person's death, and then the notification of their pre-needs shortly thereafter. After much discussion, we are asking for a person from each of the funeral associations and consumer associations to get together to work on the draft of legislation for the July meeting. The basic suggested changes would be changes in the length of the time in notification. We would change the notification of the actual death of the funeral director from 5 days following the death to 7 days and the pre-need account holders would be notified within 30 days so that they have a chance of either staying with the successor, transferring to another funeral home, or receiving a refund of any refundable revocable account.

NEW BUSINESS

In Ms. Cebula-Seaboch's absence, Vernon Strayhorn presided.

Mr. Strayhorn moved for approval of Morticians license for Thomas Cimino. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Strayhorn moved for approval of Reinstatement of Morticians license for Janelle Williams. A motion was made and approved.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Huggins reported the Nominations Committee has come up with a slate of new officers that would please everyone. They are as follows: Victor C. March, Sr. for President, Michelle Huggins for 1st Vice President, Lynn Newman for 2nd Vice President, and for Secretary, Laurie Cebula-Seaboch. A motion was made and approved by the Board.

F.Y.I

Ms. Arty reported appointments to the Board are pending. The Board does not know who the final candidates are.

BOARD COUNSEL

Mr. Bloom reported this session produced a new bill, House Bill 905, Senate Bill 335, which amended the Morticians and Funeral Directors section 7-310 by the following: a funeral establishment that uses a central preparation room at another funeral establishment of the same firm is not required to have its own prep room or holding room, effective October 1. He also asked that everyone be familiar with Health General Article 5-513 as it is important for everyone to be familiar with its provisions.

Those establishments that were issued restricted licenses that had previously been issued full service that have no holding or prep rooms remain restricted.

AJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Maryland State Government Article, Annotated Code § 10-501 et. seq., on a motion by Dr. Close, President, seconded by Ms. Huggins, Board unanimously voted to close its meeting.