

**MARYLAND BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
MARCH 8, 2017**

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 1:02 p.m. by Victor C. March, President.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Victor C. March, President  
D. Lynn Newman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
James Govoni, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Gladys Sewell  
Mark Bailey  
Dr. Ahmed Elzaree  
Wayne Cooper, Esq.  
Lynn Shuppel, CPA  
Camille Bryan, Ed.D

**ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Robert Bradshaw, Jr.

**STAFF**

Ruth Ann Arty, Executive Director  
Darlene Cline, Licensing Chief  
Thomas Anderson, Health Occupations Inspector  
Anthony DeFranco, Board Counsel

Mr. March began by welcoming and introducing the newest Board member, Kathy Blue, who will be completing Vernon Strayhorn, Sr.'s term. Mr. March moved for approval of February's minutes. A motion was made and seconded for approval of February's minutes.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Ms. Arty reported about seventy-five people were at Delmarva for the pre-need CEU class with a lot of participation and positive comments to the Board. The Board encourages everyone to take the CEU class in person, even if you've done it online. Licensees gave feedback to Mr. Govoni, who taught the class at the University of Maryland, that when they took it online, they didn't get to ask questions. Please take advantage of the class given by the Board free of charge. Mr. March and Ms. Arty will give a pre-need class on April 3, 2017 at Catonsville Community College. We will also be doing an update on the statute and reviewing the Sanctioning Guidelines. Mr. Burke also has CEU's that he is giving and in total it will be 5.5 CEU's free of charge. On March 16, 2017 there are two CEU opportunities in Waldorf. Both events are being sponsored privately. Ms. Arty will be speaking, in part, at both. The daytime schedule includes representatives from Maryland and the surrounding states who will be talking about their own pre-need laws and the differences from state to state. The Maryland pre-need begins at 9:00 am. That evening Heaven Bound Crematory and Transport Service is sponsoring a seminar that will be a total of 6 in person CEU's. The courses will be on Cremation, Funeral Ethics Scenarios, Mortuary Transport Regulations, The Human Dignity Act of 2012 and a Tour of the Crematory. We are also planning

to offer a free seminar on Pre-need and Lineage at March Funeral Home's Randallstown location on April 10, 2017, 7pm – 9pm. This seminar will offer 2 CEU's.

The reminder postcard for renewals will go out next week. The renewal form will be online either for you to download and mail in or to complete online. Please do not forget to send your CEU's in as well.

The Board was deeply saddened to learn of two deaths in the mortuary profession. Mr. Richard Goody, who has been licensed with the Board for 61 years. Additionally, Mr. Joseph Zaninno, who was licensed for 63 years. Our sincerest condolences go to the Goody and Zaninno families. Ms. Arty recently returned from the Conference Board, which was held in Hilton Head, SC. The Conference Board hosts Board Presidents, Educators and Executives in the death care industry, and gives information on the changes in the industry. Representatives of different mortuary schools were in attendance. There was also discussion on what has been referred to as the super bills, which would create an Executive Director over all Boards and their Directors, as well as sharing some staff. There was also some discussion of Heritage and Legacy and what states can do or not do regarding them practicing. The possibility of aiding and abetting laws being utilized was discussed.

On a lighter note, we just received the Comptrollers List, and currently there is no one on it.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report.

#### **FAMILY SECURITY TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Lynn Shuppel, Chair, reported there is currently \$1,057,270.37 in the fund.

#### **PRE-NEED COMMITTEE REPORT**

Gladys Sewell, Chair, reported the Pre-need Committee met on February 27, 2017. They continue to see accounts that are not titled correctly with the name, address and social security number of the buyer. Also, regarding firms that use insurance forms for pre-need, the Board does not automatically approve forms from insurance companies. If you are using the insurance companies' forms, please make sure they are in compliance.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT/INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mark Bailey, Chair, reported on the following establishments.

##### Establishments

Mr. Bailey moved for approval of Walkers Life Memorial Center, P.A., for a full license. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Bailey moved for approval of John L. Williams Funeral Directors, P.A.- Midtown Location for a full license. A motion was made and approved pending inspection.

##### Mortuary Transport Permit

Mr. Bailey moved for approval of R. A. Ferris & Co., located at 899 Fern Hill Road, West Chester, PA. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Bailey also reported we are currently working to make corrections to our inspection form, it is in the process of being finalized and on the Board's website for a period of 30 days. There will also be an email blast with the inspection form to get everyone to review the form and provide input, so that we may make changes pending the Board's approval. We would like comments and feedback sent to the Board's email, [stateboardinfo@gmail.com](mailto:stateboardinfo@gmail.com) prior to April 12, 2017.

### **LICENSURE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Jim Govoni, Chair reported on the following applicants.

#### **Apprentice**

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of John Paul Watts, sponsored by William Pumphrey of Robert A. Pumphrey Funeral Home for apprenticeship. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Brandon McNair, sponsored by Sedale Green of Marshall-March Funeral Home for apprenticeship. A motion was made and approved.

#### **Mortician via Waiver**

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Linda Behlin of McGuire Funeral Service for her Mortician License. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Melissa Reichart of Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home for her Mortician License. A motion was made and approved.

#### **Mortician**

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Joshua Stevenson for his Mortician License. A motion was made and approved.

#### **Reactivation of Surviving Spouse License**

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Joyce O. Walley for reactivation of her Surviving Spouse License. A motion was made and approved.

#### **Courtesy Card**

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Latanya Simms for a courtesy card. A motion was made and approved.

#### **Transporters**

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Walter Morris of R. A. Ferris & Co. for Mortuary Transporter. A motion was made and approved pending final paperwork.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Francis Woolfrey of R. A. Ferris & Co. for Mortuary Transporter. A motion was made and approved pending final paperwork.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Keith Hicks of Drew Removal Service, for Mortuary Transporter. A motion was made and approved pending final paperwork.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Eric Muse of Drew Removal Service, for Mortuary Transporter. A motion was made and approved pending final paperwork.

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS COMMITTEE**

Dr. Camille Bryant, Chair, reported on the following CEU's.

NFDA – Pursuit of Excellence Award Winning Customer Service Ideas – 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

David Bednar – 2017 Annual OSHA Training to be held at Mitchell-Wiedefeld Funeral Home, McNabb Funeral Home, Loudon Park Funeral Home, Brudzinski Funeral Home and Eckhardt Funeral Chapel, - 2 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

DFDA – Using Photos to Enhance Personalization and Merchandising Memorial Products – April 20, 2017 – 2 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

DFDA – Embalming and Post Mortem Reconstruction Techniques for Trauma Cases – April 20, 2017 – 6 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

Matthews International – Thriving in Today's Changing Market Place – Pending dates – 6 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Certified Preplanning Consulting CPC Program Seminar – April 12, 2017 – 6 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA Worsham College of Mortuary Science – Certified Preplanning Consulting CPC Program Seminar – May 12, 2017 – A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Cremation Certification Program – May 22, 2017 – 6 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Professional Woman's Conference – Complying with the FTC Funeral Rule 1.5 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Professional Woman's Conference – Powerhouse Panel Discussion - 2 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – Professional Woman's Conference – Secret Tech Weapons for Funeral Directors – April 8-9, 2017 – 1 CEU - A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – The Chemistry of Embalming - 1 CEU. A motion was made and approved.

5 Sessions will be held at CCBC on April 3, 2017 for 5.5 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

12 Sessions will be held by Regulatory Support Services for several CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

10 Online courses will be offered by Apex C.E. Solutions – Various CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. March reported there were some comments the Board received on the proposed changes to the Apprenticeship and Family Security Trust Fund Regulations. The hiatus on the Legislative Session has ended and those two sets of regulations will be re-filed and published in the Maryland Register for any additional comments. Comments will be accepted for thirty days. The Jurisprudence and Practical exam will be given on July 18, 2017. The registration deadline is April 12, 2017. Ms. Arty will hold a tutoring session in her office on March 22, 2017 at 10:00 am. Vehicle inspection stations that were planned have been completed. If you still need to have your vehicle inspected, please email Thomas Anderson at [Thomas.Anderson@maryland.gov](mailto:Thomas.Anderson@maryland.gov).

There were three legislative bills specifically regarding the Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors, including the review of the Sunset Committee, duties of the Executive Director and inspection forms etc. Those three bills have gone through the Senate. The Senate has voted approval of the Sunset, the other two were withdrawn. The House will have the sub-committee address the Sunset Bill.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Maryland State Government Article, Code § 10-501 et. Seq., on a motion by Victor C. March, President, and seconded by the Board who unanimously voted to close its meeting.