

**MARYLAND BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
JANUARY 11, 2017**

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 1:03 p.m. by Victor C. March, President.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Vernon Strayhorn Sr., Secretary  
Dr. Ahmed Elzaree  
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 wishing everyone a Happy New Year. A motion was made and seconded for approval of December's minutes.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Ms. Arty began by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. She reported there is a memo from Vital Records stating effective February 15, 2017, the Division of Vital Records in Baltimore prefers to only issue copies of death certificates that have been registered through MD-EDRS, the Department's electronic system for registering deaths. Funeral establishments that continue to file death certificates on paper copies will not be able to obtain certified copies of the record until after the record is keyed into MD-EDRS by DVR staff, which will take up to three business days. Certificates filed using MD-EDRS are generally available within 24 hours. If you haven't made arrangements for training, please contact Vital Record's help desk at 410-764-4671.

There has been an imposter investigator/inspector who showed up at an area funeral home demanding to get into the embalming room, and when questioned, he said he was the old investigator's replacement, and the Board sent him, and that it was illegal to keep him out. The funeral home in question was a lock door funeral home and said they were calling the Board. The imposter left in a black SUV. He was very specific about the embalming room, which holds serious concerns as there are embalming chemicals and decedents in the embalming room. We do not have a replacement in investigator/inspector. Mr. Anderson or Ms. Arty would be the only people you would see. If someone else comes please call the Board and request a State ID. This

has been reported to the police department in the jurisdiction and all funeral homes within 20 miles of the funeral home that reported it.

WE have a continuing issue with establishments not knowing the difference between good standing with DAT and clearance from the comptroller's office. The law is very clear that we cannot give any establishment a license without clearance from the comptroller's office and a DAT good standing does not replace a clearance from the comptroller's office. They are different agencies with different issues. Please understand the difference.

The next renewal is in April, and if you need to be renewed there will be opportunities upcoming for free CEU's with the Board and Catonsville Community College. The first free CEU class coming up will be January 20, 2017 at 11:00 AM for Transportation Regulations and The Human Dignity Act of 2012. The first pre-need from the Board will be in Cambridge, sponsored by Delmarva Funeral Directors Association on February 23, 2017.

Reminder, next Monday is a State holiday. If you have an emergent issue, please text the Board cell phone at 443-618-3040. Also, with snow coming, if the State is two hours late, this building opens two hours late. If it is liberal leave one of us will be in the building, if the State is closed, none of us will be here.

#### **EXEUCTIVE REPORT**

No report.

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

Lynn Shuppel, Chair, reported there is currently \$1,066,550.70 in the fund.

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

Gladys Sewell reported even though the Fund is over a million dollars, it does not exclude new establishments from paying into it. Every new establishment is required to pay the \$375.00.

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

Mark Bailey, Chair reported on the following establishment.

Roman Coale is purchasing Ostrowski Funeral Home, located at 312 Talbot Street, St. Michaels, Maryland. It will be Framptom Funeral Home by the Coales, P.A. To be restricted out of the Federalsburg location. A motion was made and approved pending paperwork.

#### **LICENSURE COMMITTEE**

Jim Govoni, Chair reported on the following applicants.

##### Morticians

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Eileen Taylor-Moore for her mortician's license. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Kavita Pavamani for her mortician's license. A motion was made and approved.

##### Crematory Operator

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Connor Eline of Carroll Cremation Inc. for crematory operator. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Lawrence George of Mid Atlantic Crematory for crematory operator. A motion was made and approved.

#### Courtesy Card

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Matthew Strano for courtesy card. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Mary Abdul Rasheed for courtesy card. A motion was made and approved.

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Travis Nesselrodt for courtesy card. A motion was made and approved.

#### Mortuary Transporter

Mr. Govoni moved for approval of Avion Stegail of Wells Night Watchman. A motion was made and approved.

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS COMMITTEE**

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

David L. Bednar – 2017 Annual OSHA Training – Dates TBA – 2 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

David Bednar – OSHA Initial Safety Training – Different closed locations 7 locations. A motion was made and approved.

International Order of the Golden Rule – 5 Webinar Courses. A motion was made and approved.

Funeral Service Academy – Various online Courses and CEU's – a motion was made and approved.

NFDA – NFDA Arranger Training 1 CEU.

NFDA – NFDA Certified Crematory Operator Program – 2/24/17, 3/17/17, 3/30/17 – 6 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – NFDA Home Study – Open dates – 2-10 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – NFDA various online learning courses – Open dates 1-6 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

NFDA – NFDA Cremation Certification Program 3/7/17 – 6 CEU's. A motion was made and approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. March reported the proposed changes in the Family Security Trust Fund and Apprentice regulations have been posted in the Maryland Registry and is available for comment.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. March reported the next law exam is scheduled for January 17, 2017 at 10:00 AM, registration will end tomorrow (1/12/17).

There was a memo issued from the Medical Examiner's office dated 2/21/16. Many people have received this memo instructing funeral homes, in the event of a death by homicide, the Medical Examiner's office will be issuing a payment of \$100.00 for the removal and the funeral homes cannot charge the family any amount other than the payment received from the Medical Examiner's office, and any violators will be reported to the State Board of Morticians and Funeral

Directors. The Board has been in contact with the Medical Examiner's office and from the Boards' perspective this is a regulation of the Medical Examiner's office. This Board will not be addressing those regulations. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the OCME. This Board will only address issues that it believes may be in violation of our regulations.

Thomas Anderson, Inspector/Investigator reported all inspections done for transportation companies throughout the state have been completed. Anyone who still needs a vehicle inspection can email Mr. Anderson at thomas.anderson@maryland.gov and he will set it up.

The Secretary of DHMH has resigned and we have a new Secretary of DHMH, Dennis R Schrader.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ms. Arty reported there were only two bills that were of interest to the Board. SB 50, the cemetery bill which has to do with who's in charge of perpetual care and who's responsible for what. The other bill calls for all health care providers to state their full charges for service.

### **AJOURNMENT**

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