



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## *Thank You!*

Many of you have heard the phrase “funeral service is constantly changing”. No one would have thought 25 to 30 years ago that “cremation” would be an embraced word during the arrangement conference. In some areas of the country and world, Alkaline Hydrolysis and Human Composting have become the new norm as a form of disposition. Regardless of the form of disposition, no one could have comprehended that a family would not be able to participate in the services and rituals that our society holds sacred to the celebration of life and completing the final good-bye of a loved one.

March 2020 brought with it the first case of COVID-19 to the state of Alabama resulting in several health orders that changed the practice of “business as usual” for the funeral profession. We all found ourselves with the task of trying to interpret what the latest order meant and how to comply within the funeral profession. Funeral professionals were then faced with the hard task of having to tell a family only 25, followed by an order that further limited gatherings to 10 people, could attend the service. Causing the families to make yet another decision, of who could attend, along with the many other decisions that come with arranging a funeral. Although families, clergy, friends, and funeral professionals disagreed with the orders, at times, that placed everyone in a tough spot, but in the end, we understood that we were fighting a beast that had begun to take the lives of those we hold dear.

Your stress level tripled, because you were not only dealing with the stress of making sure every detail was in place according to a family’s wishes, but now you have the added stress of trying to ensure the families you serve are safe, your employees are safe due to the lack of PPE and disinfectant items, and most importantly the family you return home to each night would remain safe. Many people seem to forget that funeral directors and embalmers are human also; although, death is a daily occurrence, it can take an emotional and mental toll on you. The lay person, unless they are experiencing a death, forgets the role you play in giving the closure many people need when death strikes and the duty that comes with your license to protect the public health and welfare. They do not fully understand and appreciate your role as the “Last Responder”. You are left off the list of consideration for PPEs that you need to preform your duties. You are left off the list of thank you meals and cups of coffee. You are left off the list of consideration to have first pick of supplies to protect your homes. You are left off the list of thank you fly overs, drive-by and drive-ups. You are even often left off the many prayer lists. You never get the true recognition you deserve. And yet, regardless of the lack of gratitude you deserve or being left off the many different lists, you show up every day to prepare a loved one, to console the grieving, and carry out their wish to honor the one they will never see again on this earth. You show up with a shortage of supplies, hardly any consideration, and very little recognition. Every day you show up to answer the call that was placed on your life and the “creed” we live by:

“When The Bells Toll”

“When GOD in His infinite wisdom  
has seen fit to call back to HIS fold a human soul.  
And when the earthly remains of one beloved  
must be laid to eternal sleep.  
Then it becomes the sacred duty of our profession  
to assist the bereaved living in this,  
the last task of their love for the departed.  
In carrying out this sacred duty we will do our part,  
With Sympathy, With Dignity, With Reverence.”

**Thank Each of You** for all that you continuously do for our communities and the funeral profession in Alabama!!

## COVID- 19

The Board continues to recommend that everyone follows the recommendation issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The ADPH advised the Board that the CDC Funeral Guidance were updated on May 11, 2020. Please review the links below:

The CDC guidelines can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/funeral-guidance.html>

The ADPH guidelines can be found at: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>

## Board Meeting

The April 6, 2020 quarterly board meeting was canceled due to the State Health Order as a result of COVID-19. The Board will hold its third regular meeting of fiscal year 2020 on **May 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** in the **Alabama Room located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of 400 South Union Street**. Matters or subjects not on the agenda are not guaranteed for discussion at the meeting. **Due to the inability to ensure social distancing guidelines are met as a result COVID-19, the public will not be allowed to attend this meeting in person, but may participate in the meeting via Zoom using the following access information:**

**(The Board will not issue continuing education credits for the May 18, 2020 Board meeting.)**

Topic: ABFS Quarterly Board Meeting

Time: May 18, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A\\_us02web.zoom.us\\_j\\_87128657709&d=DwIFAg&c=8K0mnSt5E4j4U\\_dMGxZxbA&r=3W9laBBZoOB-1-gqiYqRTJBcJPCGw2Ebb-k7mfAxkRQ&m=gaeBV7QAaGIgpBfXGZqJ5R2r0LHFazbu1Xs0KKKHifo&s=707HII3Y8KvySIDr9S6se5AxFHeQqjPgu9AauXd91\\_l&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_us02web.zoom.us_j_87128657709&d=DwIFAg&c=8K0mnSt5E4j4U_dMGxZxbA&r=3W9laBBZoOB-1-gqiYqRTJBcJPCGw2Ebb-k7mfAxkRQ&m=gaeBV7QAaGIgpBfXGZqJ5R2r0LHFazbu1Xs0KKKHifo&s=707HII3Y8KvySIDr9S6se5AxFHeQqjPgu9AauXd91_l&e=)

**Meeting ID: 871 2865 7709**

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87128657709# US (Germantown) 13126266799,,87128657709# US  
+(Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 871 2865 7709

Find your local number: [https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A\\_us02web.zoom.us\\_u\\_kcgQ6BdDQM&d=DwIFAg&c=8K0mnSt5E4j4U\\_dMGxZxbA&r=3W9laBBZoOB-1-gqiYqRTJBcJPCGw2Ebb-k7mfAxkRQ&m=gaeBV7QAaGIgpBfXGZqJ5R2r0LHFazbu1Xs0KKKHifo&s=aTs5g82sQmqzsPR0ArG9\\_cu6foc-WdVtiY9epxpQw5c&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_us02web.zoom.us_u_kcgQ6BdDQM&d=DwIFAg&c=8K0mnSt5E4j4U_dMGxZxbA&r=3W9laBBZoOB-1-gqiYqRTJBcJPCGw2Ebb-k7mfAxkRQ&m=gaeBV7QAaGIgpBfXGZqJ5R2r0LHFazbu1Xs0KKKHifo&s=aTs5g82sQmqzsPR0ArG9_cu6foc-WdVtiY9epxpQw5c&e=)

## ***Board of Directors***

Mark N. Craddock, Chair  
*District One*

Bart Kirtland  
*District Four*

Annie Bushelon-Holt  
*District Seven*

Lorenzo Wright, Treasurer  
*District Two*

John C. Rudder, Secretary  
*District Five*

Ed Hines  
*Consumer Member*

Lance Brooks  
*District Three*

Calvin Meadows, Vice-Chair  
*District Six*

Bobby Burt  
*Consumer Member*

## ***Please Pardon our Progress***

Some features on the Board's website have been disabled since October 1, 2019. Features, such as the license verification link and the "Online Services" link, have been disabled due to the installation of a new licensure system.

The Board would like to thank all new applicants, licensees, and continuing education providers who have attempted to conduct business with the Board, for being patient with us through this process. User instruction will be emailed to all licensees in the coming weeks for the new system.

## ***Examination***

The Alabama Board of Funeral Service has certified the following individuals with The Conference as having met the qualifications to take the Alabama State Law Exam and the Alabama Funeral Director and/or Embalmer Exam:

***Tara L. Lewis***

***Jeremy A. Dupree***

***Betty S. Miller***

***James G. Davis***

***Horace A. Carson***

Steps to taking the Alabama State Art, Science, or Law exam:

1. Submit application to the Board office for permanent license.
2. Eligibility will be verified and sent to The Conference by the Board staff.
3. Applicants must then go to The Conference website at [www.theconferenceonline.org](http://www.theconferenceonline.org) to submit their exam application and payment.
4. Please keep in mind, processing takes anywhere from 2-3 business days. The Conference must have your eligibility, application, and payment to schedule. You will be notified through email once you have been processed and you are able to schedule.

## ***The Conference***

The Funeral Director and Embalmer's exams are given by The Conference through Pearson VUE testing centers at five locations statewide. The exam fees and applications are to be submitted by the applicant to The Conference. The state license fees, applications, and affidavits shall be submitted to the Board office.

The Conference: [www.theconferenceonline.org](http://www.theconferenceonline.org)

Phone: 479-442-7076

|              |              |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Pearson VUE: | Birmingham   | Decatur      | Dothan       | Mobile       | Montgomery   |
|              | 205-982-2063 | 256-552-0667 | 334-671-7007 | 251-343-2601 | 334-409-9355 |

## State Law Exam

The 2020 dates for the LRR Exam and the deadline for registration are as follows:

| <b>Alabama State Laws, Rules, and Regulations (LRR) Exam Schedule</b> |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Deadline to Qualify</b>  | <b>Exam Date</b>  |
| June 2, 2020  | June 8, 2020      |
| July 2, 2020  | July 9, 2020      |
| August 3, 2020  | August 10, 2020   |
| September 2, 2020   | September 9, 2020 |
| October 2, 2020   | October 9, 2020   |
| November 2, 2020  | November 9, 2020  |
| December 1, 2020  | December 8, 2020  |

\*Funeral Director/Embalmer LRR Exam Time: 9:00 a.m.

\*Cremationist Exam Time: 10:30 a.m.

\*The candidate must arrive at the exam location no later than 30 minutes prior to the exam.



At the last meeting, the Board approved the following for licensure:

### **Funeral Director**

Gordon A. White

Wesley R. Henderson

Sophia L. Ruffin

Lacey G. Bovaird

Amy Steltenpohl

### **Embalmer**

Philip Curran, Jr.

### **Cremationist**

Philip Box

Charles E. Turner

Jasson A. Thomas

Gregory Sowell, Jr.

Rachel S. Cotton

Antonia T. Perryman

Shanie Deese

Billy J. Martin

Laurie M. Klootwijk

### **Funeral Director & Embalmer**

Steve E. Rushton

Joshua A. Myhan

Jeffrey A. Bonner

Jacquelyn C. Hightower

**Reactivation**

Apprentice Funeral Director & Apprentice Embalmer: 1

**Establishments**

|  |         |                |
|--|---------|----------------|
| Hughes Funeral Home and Crematory (Daphne) | New     | Daphne         |
| Holloway Funeral Home & Cremation Services | New     | Alexander City |
| Ashely’s Lee & Rollins Funeral Home        | Buy-out | Marion         |
| Glencoe-Hokes Bluff                        | Buy-out | Glencoe        |
| Scott’s Chapel Hill Mortuary               | Buyout  | Ozark          |
| Community Funeral Home                     | New     | Sylacauga      |

**Laws, Rules, and Regulations Exam**  
**(December 1, 2019 – April 1, 2020)**

Given: 26 Passed: 23 Failed: 3

**Background Checks**

**12/01/2019 – 04/01/2020**

**YTD**

57

110

| <i>Active Licenses as of November 1, 2019*</i> |                         |                          |                  |                            |                                     |                             |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Establishments</i>                          | <i>Mortuary Service</i> | <i>Funeral Directors</i> | <i>Embalmers</i> | <i>Practical Embalmers</i> | <i>Apprentice Funeral Directors</i> | <i>Apprentice Embalmers</i> |
| 466  | 2                       | 1517                     | 838              | 50                         | 159                                 | 97                          |
| <i>Crematory</i>                               | <i>Cremationist</i>     |                          |                  |                            |                                     |                             |
| 60   | 190                     |                          |                  |                            |                                     |                             |

\*Current numbers not available due to system upgrades.

## Continuing Education Providers

### Onsite Providers

#### Academy of Graduate Embalmers

P.O. Box 1248  
Dallas, GA 30132  
770.445.3180  
staff@ageg.org

#### Alabama Funeral Directors Association

#7 Clayton St. #200  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
334.956.8000  
alabamafda.org

#### Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company

6550 Directors Parkway  
Abilene, TX 79606  
678.522.1845  
terri.bannister@funeraldirectorslife.com

#### International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association

107 Carpenter Dr. Suite 100  
Sterling, VA 20164  
703.391.8400  
danielo@iccfa.com

#### Jefferson County Funeral Directors and Mortician Association

115 62<sup>nd</sup> St  
Fairfield, AL 35064  
205.746.4153  
Fredrickscott131@bellsouth.net

#### Life Celebration

125 Hartman Road  
North Wales, PA 19454  
888.887.3782  
bgivnish@lifecelebration.com

#### National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, Inc.

6290 Shannon Parkway  
Union City, GA 30291  
770.969.0064  
membership@nfda.com

#### Smalls Mortuary Inc. and Cremation Services

8822 County Rd 64  
Daphne, AL 36526  
251.990.3929  
smallsmortuary.com

#### The Independent Funeral Group

503 National Drive  
Maryville, TN 37804  
865.997.0027  
info@theindependentfuneralgroup.com

#### Alabama Board of Funeral Service

P O Box 309522  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
334.242.4070  
denise.grogan@fsb.alabama.gov

#### Environmental Biological Services, LLC

3813 4<sup>th</sup> Terrace North  
Birmingham AL 35222  
205.445.1037  
johnf@ebsalabama.com

#### Georgia Funeral Directors Association

P O Box 1865  
Roswell, GA 3007  
770.592.8002  
christie@gfda.org

#### International Order of the Golden Rule

9101 Burnet Road  
Suite 120  
Austin, TX 78758  
512.334.5504  
jridlesperger@org.org

#### Jefferson State Community College

2601 Carson Road  
Birmingham, AL 35215  
205.856.7847  
vriley@jeffersonstate.edu

#### Matthews Aurora Funeral Solutions

10944 Marsh Road  
Aurora IN 47001  
812.926.5684  
mrussell@matw.com

#### National Funeral Directors Association

13625 Bishop's Drive  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
800.228.6332  
nfda.org

#### Stericycle, Inc.

342 Robin Hill Drive  
Williamsville, NY 14221-1638  
716.435.8179  
RLBestNY@gmail.com

#### Alabama Funeral Directors & Morticians Association, Inc.

PO Box 2687  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

#### Funeral Compliance, LLC

P O Box 20818  
Knoxville, TN 37940  
865.405.7085  
brad@365osha.com

#### Homesteaders Life Company

5700 Westown Pkwy  
West DesMoines, IA 50266  
515.440.7739  
wsizemore@homesteaderslife.com

#### Dr. Jason Troyer

865.748.0582  
DrJasonTroyer@gmail.com

#### Kates-Boylston Publications

3349 Hwy 138 Bldg. D Ste. B  
Wall, NJ 07719  
732.746.0201  
tparmalee@katesboylston.com

#### Memoriams, by Ancestry

391 Inverness Parkway Ste. 100  
Denver, CO 80112  
720.863.3811  
sheintz@memoriams.com

#### Selected Independent Funeral Homes

500 Lake cook Road Ste 205  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
847.236.9401  
stefanief@selectedfuneralhomes.org

#### The Dodge Company, Inc.

9 Progress Road  
Billerica, MA 01821  
800.443-6343  
www.dodgeco.com

**Online Providers****APEX (Continuing Education Solutions)**

4520 S. 1st Street  
Austin, TX 78745  
800.769.8996  
[www.apexces.com](http://www.apexces.com)

**Dignity University**

1929 Allen Parkway  
Houston, TX 77019  
844.431.4357  
Dignity.university@Sci-us.com

**Funeral Continuing Education**

45 Page Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10309  
718.608.6000  
[www.funeralcontinuingeducation.com](http://www.funeralcontinuingeducation.com)

**International Order of the Golden Rule**

9101 Burnet Road  
Suite 120  
Austin, TX 78758  
512.334.5504  
[www.ogr.org](http://www.ogr.org)

**Batesville Casket Company**

One Batesville Blvd  
Batesville, IN 47006  
812.934.6751  
[www.batesville.com](http://www.batesville.com)

**Elite Professional Education, LLC**

26 N. Beach Street, Ste. A  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174  
888.857.6920  
[www.elitecme.com](http://www.elitecme.com)

**Funeral Direct Ed**

2054 Brian Ave  
South Dayton, FL 32119  
727.505.8746  
[www.Funeraldirected.com](http://www.Funeraldirected.com)

**National Funeral Directors Association**

13625 Bishop's Drive  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
800.228.6332  
[www.nfda.org](http://www.nfda.org)

**Cremation Association of North America**

499 Northgate Parkway  
Wheeling, IL 60090  
312.245.1077  
[www.cremationassociation.org](http://www.cremationassociation.org)

**WebCE**

**12222 Merit Drive, Ste. 500**  
**Dallas, TX 75251**  
**877.332.8480**  
[www.webce.com/products/funeral-ce](http://www.webce.com/products/funeral-ce)

**Funeral Service Academy**

P O Box 449  
Pewaukee, WI 53072  
888.909.5906  
[www.pdhacademy.com](http://www.pdhacademy.com)

**Practicum Strategies**

11 Erindale Drive  
Marlton, N.J. 08053  
800.731.4714  
[www.pshomestudy.com](http://www.pshomestudy.com)

**Cremation Training****American Crematory Equipment Company**

14530 Anson Ave.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562.926.2876  
david@americancrematory.com

**National Funeral Directors Association**

13625 Bishop's Drive  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
800.228.6332  
nfda.org

**B & L Cremation Systems**

7205 114<sup>th</sup> Ave North  
Largo, FL 33773  
727.541.4666  
epazos@blcremationsystems.com

**Matthews Environmental Solutions**

2045 Sprint Blvd.  
Apopka, FL 32703  
800.327.2831  
cmorales@matw.com

**Cremation Association of North America**

499 Northgate Parkway  
Wheeling, IL 60090  
312.245.1077  
[www.cremationassociation.org](http://www.cremationassociation.org)

**US Cremation Equipment**

528 Northlake Blvd. Ste. 1040  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701  
321.282.7357  
llorens@americanincinerators.com

\*\*\*CONTACT THE PROVIDER FOR DETAILS ON APPROVED COURSES\*\*\*

No endorsement is intended or made of any link, product, service or information either by its inclusion or exclusion from the Alabama Board of Funeral Service website.