

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL  
DIRECTORS  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
JANUARY 8, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am with a quorum present by Victor C. March, Sr., President

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Victor C. March, Sr. President  
Michelle Huggins, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
D. Lynn Newman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Dr. Hari P. Close  
Dr. Ahmed Elzaree  
Gladys Sewell  
Vernon Strayhorn

**ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Lauri Cebula-Seaboch, Secretary  
Renee Derketsch  
Keith Downey

**STAFF**

Richard Bloom, Board Counsel  
Ruth Ann Arty, Executive Director  
Darlene Cline, Licensing Chief  
Edward Fox, Health Occupations Investigator  
Marc Ware, Compliance Officer  
Thomas Anderson, Health Occupations Inspector

Mr. March opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. A motion was made and seconded on the November and December minutes and corrections.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Ms. Arty wished everyone a Happy New Year. Ms. Arty also thanked everyone for their tolerance of the State's December schedule, as there have been several days off including holiday and liberal leave days. It has been a very busy month at the Board. Session is beginning in Annapolis, and the Board will be introducing two new bills. The Board received an email this morning stating so many regulations were sent to the State for the January 24<sup>th</sup> issue of The Maryland Register that they were trying to remove them, however, the Board prevailed and they will be in that issue.

Transport comments are now closed. There was one comment, and the Board answered it. Now we are going for signatures.

It has been brought to the Board's attention that consulting services have been showing up in numerous states. It has come to the Board's attention that in Maryland, Carend Funeral Consulting, LLC is operating. The business is being marketed as a consultanting

firm to funeral consumers. The consultant meets with families, the Board is not sure where, selling merchandise such as caskets, vehicles, and flowers. The consultant is telling consumers she can get the merchandise at a discounted rate. She takes the consumer to a funeral establishment and informs them that nothing is needed from the establishment except embalming and perhaps a hearse. The funeral establishments and families are reporting problems with products. The Board is concerned the consultant could be crossing the practicing without a license line. Mr. March added the consultant charges a fee of \$650.00 in addition to the charge for the merchandise.

Ms. Arty distributed an article from Lincoln Memorial Life, who committed fraud with over 97,000 customers in 16 states to the total of 15 million dollars for FYI.

Most establishments paid the Family Security Trust Fund on time and the Board thanks them. There were 9 establishments that have not paid. The Board will have to see where we go from here, and take whatever action is appropriate.

### **LICENSING COMMITTEE REPORT**

In Mr. Downey's absence, Ms. Gladys Sewell reported the following:

#### Morticians License

Ms. Sewell moved for Morticians license via waiver of apprenticeship for Kenya Stewart. A motion was made and approved pending final paperwork.

Ms. Sewell moved for approval of Morticians license via reciprocity for Johnnie L. Palmer. A motion was made and approved.

Ms. Sewell moved for approval of Morticians license via reciprocity for Lori V. Lincoln. A motion was made and approved.

Ms. Sewell moved for approval of Morticians license for Danielle Higgins. A motion was made and approved.

Ms. Sewell moved for approval of Morticians license for Stefanie Watkins. A motion was made and approved.

Ms. Sewell moved for approval of Morticians license for Marche' Morris. A motion was made and approved.

#### Courtesy Card

Ms. Sewell moved for approval of Courtesy Card for Carlin O. Stewart Sr. A motion was made and approved.

Ms. Sewell moved for approval of Courtesy Card for Steven V. Polinski. A motion was made and approved.

Ms. Sewell moved for approval of Courtesy Card for Yvette Wills. A motion was made and approved pending paperwork.

Ms. Sewell moved for approval of Courtesy Card for James T. Chandler IV. A motion was made and approved.

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Dr. Ahmed Elzaree, Continuing Education Committee Chair reported the following:

The International Order of the Golden Rule requested 1 CEU for their webinar, Understanding the Female Funeral Service Customer on February 27, 2014.

NFDA requested 1 CEU for their webinar, The Art of Cremation Phone Inquires: 3 Steps to Better Client Decisions on January 9, 2014.

NFDA requested 1 CEU for their webinar, Pet Loss Services and Your Funeral Home: Cobranding to Create Success on February 13, 2014.

NFDA requested 2 CEU's for their webinar Update on the Affordable Care Act for Small Businesses on January 23, 2014.

International Order of the Golden Rule requested 4 CEU's for their course A Lifetime for Funerals: Attracting Families that are Slipping Away February 13, 2014.

Practicum Strategies request 4 CEU's for their course Maryland State Law Governing Funeral Services. On going dates.

International Conference of Funeral Service Examiners Boards, Inc. requested 15 CEU's for their 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, February 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made and approved for the above CEU's.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report.

### **FAMILY SECURITY TRUST FUND**

In Lauri Cebula-Seaboch's absence, D. Lynn Newman reported the following: There is currently \$713,583.07 in the trust. Nine establishments have not paid the Family Security Trust Fund.

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

Dr. Hari P. Close, Chair reported the following establishments:

### Establishment License

Andrew Cole applied for restricted establishment license for **Cole's Rock Creek Funeral Center, P.A.** A motion was made and approved.

Victor C. March, Sr. applied for a full service license for **The March Life Tribute Center of Laurel, P.A.** A motion was made and approved.

### Name Approval

Abraham Teah applied for name approval for **Teah Funeral Services, P.A.** A motion was made and approved.

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

D. Lynn Newman, Chair reported a licensee gave the Board an Irrevocable Assignment Trust form from HomeSteaders Life Insurance Company. After reviewing the form, the Board realized it is technically only a change in ownership form, not an Irrevocable Assignment Trust form. Licensees should be careful as it is in violation of our Title 7. The Board will check with HomeSteaders about using the Maryland form to make it legal for Maryland funeral homes. Mr. March stated the Board will meet with the Insurance Commissioner to discuss the fact of many insurance companies refusing to use the form the Board provides.

### **BOARD COUNSEL**

No report.

### **AJOURNMENT**

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