

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

February 11, 2015

The North Carolina Board of Funeral Service met for a duly scheduled Board Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on February 11, 2015, at the Board's office, 1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 108, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Present: Ken Stainback, President; Stephen Aldridge, Vice President; Elizabeth Williams-Smith, Secretary; Charles Graves, Joe Clay, Valdus Lockhart and Broadus Combs; Kelly Byrd via teleconference. Absent: John Shields.

Also Present: Peter M. Burke, Executive Director; Stephen N. Dirksen, General Counsel; Varsha Gadani and Bruce Thompson with Parker Poe; Fred Jordan with Miracles in Sight; Dorman Caudle of Carolina Donor Services; Board staff members Lyn Cochrane and Dara Lyon Warner.

Mr. Stainback called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. and read the Ethics Statement. Ms. Smith recused herself from the 10:00 a.m. hearing.

Mr. Stainback led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Graves had the prayer.

Mr. Stainback asked the guests to introduce themselves and moved the Public Comment from the end of the meeting. Bruce Thompson spoke on behalf of Anthony Bracy.

Ms. Smith stated the minutes had been previously submitted to Board members and made the motion to approve them. Mr. Graves seconded and the motion carried.

Preneed Committee: Mr. Byrd stated the report was for information only.

There are 656 licensed preneed funeral establishments and 1,699 individuals licensed to sell preneed as of February 9, 2015. There are 172,703 active contracts as of February 9.

Disciplinary Committee: Ms. Smith stated the committee met via teleconference on February 5, 2015 and presented the report. There is an addendum. Ms. Smith recommended acceptance of C14-045, C14-058, C14-025, C14-048, and M15-001. Mr. Graves made the motion to accept the recommendations and Mr. Clay seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Smith made the motion to accept the recommendation for the addendum for cases C13-052, C13-065 and M13-001 and C14-039, M14-020, and M15-002. Mr. Graves seconded and the motion carried.

Exam Committee: The committee met via teleconference on February 6 to discuss information related to examination scores of a license reciprocity candidate.

Laws & Rules: The committee participated in an online demonstration related to web-based contracting presented by Neptune Society on January 27, 2015.

The committee met via teleconference February 9 to review and discuss the January 27 demonstration and to discuss possible legislative action in the 2015 long session.

The committee does not support the proposal for online arrangements and contracts since there is no direct contact with a licensee during the process. The process lends itself to negotiating preneed online with the Board has not permitted and there is no assurance that the company representative is a licensee. Since the proposal goes beyond obtaining an electronic signature, the Committee does not recommend endorsement. Mr. Aldridge made the motion to accept the recommendation and Mr. Lockhart seconded. The motion carried.

The committee supports charging the Board staff with preparing draft legislation for the 2015 long session. Such draft is to include some of the provisions which were included in the 2013 bill H-11, as well as a few other items which would amount to modernizing some of the existing funeral service laws.

Finance & Personnel Committee: Mr. Aldridge stated the committee met via e-mail January 15 and February 3 with discussions involving personnel matters. Mr. Aldridge and Mr. Burke discussed the finance report.

Attorney Report: Mr. Dirksen presented his report for information only. Discussion ensued regarding consent orders.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Burke presented the following information.

New Funeral Establishments: Kenly Funeral & Cremation Service, Kenly; Monroe Mortuary Services, Monroe; Peacock, Newnam & White, Southport (ownership change); Robinson-McLean Funeral Service, Maxton; White Funeral & Cremation Service, Shallotte.

New Chapel: Hunter's, Murfreesboro.

New Funeral Director Licensees: Jon Andrews, Robert Dodson, Courtney Holland, Douglas Huntley, Simone Richmond.

New Funeral Service Licensees: Elizabeth Brasco, Jessica Dillon, Fred Fish, Jr., Ronald Prioleau, Kelly Runke, Amanda Williams.

New Trainees: Hakeem Brown, Johnny Carpenter, Jr., Rebecca Dayne, Shirl Galloway, Davonta Pearsall, Kaylee Plunkett, Krista Sands, Kyle Sledge

New Transport: Nicholas Clark, Aaron Hines, Tori Morgan.

Mr. Burke discussed the 2015 renewals of funeral homes, crematories, chapels, licensees, unaffiliated and transporters. Mr. Burke also included a graph showing the trend for Cremation and Preneed Contract Fees from 2011-2015.

Board members were reminded to complete the Statement of Economic Interest for the State Ethics Commission by April 15th. Mr. Burke presented a continuing education class in Jacksonville for the North Carolina Funeral Directors Association District 1 on January 20, 2015.

Mr. Burke attended the FARB Forum in Tucson, Arizona, January 22-25. Mr. Dirksen and Mr. Burke attended an Occupational Licensing Agency meeting presented by Allen Pinnix & Nichols. The Office of State Budget and Management report due February 13 was submitted February 3. ICFSEB 2015 Annual Meeting is February 23-27.

There are 656 preneed establishments. 397 (approximately 63%) are using online reporting this year. To date fourteen firms have filed.

Mr. Aldridge stated he had had several telephone calls requesting a training class on how to prepare the online annual report. Mr. Burke will follow-up on this.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

At 9:45 a.m. the Board recessed to prepare for hearings.

The hearing the Board meeting resumed at 11:30. At this time Mr. Caudle entered the meeting. Mr. Stainback made the motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and Mr. Aldridge seconded. The motion carried.

At 12:20 Mr. Aldridge made the motion and Mr. Graves seconded to go back into open session. Mr. Burke highlighted a civil matter related to litigation between International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards and American Academy-McAllister Institute of Funeral Service.

Mr. Graves made a motion to adjourn at 12:30 and Mr. Aldridge seconded. The motion carried.

Kenneth D. Stainback, President

Elizabeth Williams-Smith, Secretary