

# North Carolina Board of Funeral Service

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[www.ncbfs.org](http://www.ncbfs.org)

*E-NEWS* March 2015 Volume 11, Issue 3

Next meeting of the Board is 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at the Board office, 1033 Wade Avenue, Suite 108, Raleigh, NC 27605. The agenda will be posted by April 3 and can be viewed by [following this link](#).

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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS-

### LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The 2015 "long session" of the NC Legislature is underway. We will update the newsletter with progress reports regarding legislation affecting funeral service in North Carolina as it becomes available.

### INSPECTION STAFF

The Board of Funeral Service now has four full-time inspectors on staff: Inez Green is the inspector for the Northeast region, which includes Durham, Person, Franklin, Nash, Johnston and counties to the east of these.

David Hall is the inspector for the Southeast region, with Anson and Montgomery counties the western boundary; Harnett, Lee, Sampson, Duplin, Jones, Craven and Pamlico the northern boundary.

Brett Lisenbee is the inspector for the Western region, which includes Ashe, Watauga, Caldwell, Catawba, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly and Union counties the eastern border.

Susan Mitchell is the inspector for the Central region, which is bordered by Caswell, Orange and Wake counties to the east, and Alleghany, Wilkes, Alexander and Iredell to the west.

### PROTOCOL

As a matter of protocol, questions/issues/concerns regarding any Board business, legal issues etc. are to be directed to Board staff, not directly to Board members.

### EBOLA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued guidelines for the handling of human remains of Ebola victims. The information can be found on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-safe-handling-human-remains-ebola-patients-us-hospitals-mortuaries.html>

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has also published information which can be found at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ebola/standards.html>

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LAWS AND RULES REVIEW:

Preneed Annual Report  
Authority: 21 NCAC 34D .0302

Funeral Establishments holding a preneed license are required to file an annual report. This is the second year that the annual report has been available online. Most firms now take advantage of this capability. It is likely that online filing will be a requirement in the next year or two. If you have not already filed your 2014 Annual Report, do so now. Time is running out!!!

Each preneed funeral establishment licensee shall file an annual report with the Board. The report shall include the following:

- (1) the total number of standard and inflation-proof trust-funded and insurance-funded preneed funeral contracts maintained by the licensee;
- (2) the number of contracts sold in the reporting period;
- (3) the number of contracts which expired, including contracts performed, revoked and transferred, in the reporting period;
- (4) the total year-end balance of all preneed trust accounts maintained at each financial institution;
- (5) the total year-end balance of all insurance-funded preneed contracts written with each insurance company;
- (6) for each preneed contract sold, whether the preneed contract is active, performed, cancelled, or lapsed; and
- (7) for each active preneed contract, the current insurance policy value or trust account balance.

The annual report shall be verified as correct before a notary public by the location manager registered under G.S. 90-210.25(d)(2)a. or by a corporate officer of the preneed establishment licensee. **The annual report shall be filed not later than March 31 each year** by each firm holding a preneed establishment license at any time during the preceding year ending December 31.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Hard to believe, but almost 25% of 2015 is in the books! There is a plethora of continuing education opportunities available to you now – don't wait until the last minute. Do it *now!*

**CREMATORIES TAKE NOTE**

KNOW who is contacting you if you are called to perform a "trade cremation."  
Verify the establishment that contacts you. Is it a North Carolina or NC border state licensee? Have you done business with them before????

**BY THE NUMBERS**

There were 35,499 cremations performed in North Carolina in 2014. Mecklenburg County's 3,616 were the most performed, followed by Guilford (2,999) and Wake (2,580). Of the state's 54 counties with at least one crematory, Northampton had the fewest cremations in 2014 (21); Yadkin had 49 and Richmond had 52. There are currently 120 crematories licensed in North Carolina.

**SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THE FAMILIES OF:**

**Deborah Baker Griggs**, sister of Kenneth Caulder of Leavitt Funeral Home, Wadesboro, who died December 21, 2014

**Lois Jeanette Mumpower**, sister of Ruth Penland of Penland Family Funeral Home, Swannanoa, who died on January 16, 2015.

**R. Ward Sutton**, founder of R. Ward Sutton Cemetery Services, Rocky Mount, who died February 24, 2015.

**Dennis L. Graves**, brother of Board member Charles J. Graves of Groce Funeral Home, Asheville, who died on March 4, 2015.

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**DISCIPLINARY MATTERS:**

CASE FILE NUMBER: M14-001

LICENSEES: Plenty Funeral Home (FE #470, PNE #098).

SUMMARY: The parties did not submit a financial statement that was required in a previous Board order, and did not submit a 2013 preneed annual report.

BOARD ACTION: The Board accepted the voluntary surrender of their preneed licenses. The parties may apply for a new preneed license.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 11, 2015.

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CASE FILE NUMBER: M14-023.

LICENSEES: Timothy Batten (FD #3575).

SUMMARY: Mr. Batten operated a preneed business without first obtaining a preneed license.

BOARD ACTION: The Board adopted a consent order placing Mr. Batten on two (2) years' probation with a \$1,000.00 civil penalty.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 11, 2015.

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