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A Letter From The President

I bring you greetings from The Conference. As I embark on my year as President of the ICFSEB, I want to take this opportunity to say how honored I am for the trust and confidence that you have placed in me to lead this great organization. Many thanks also go out to Lisa Moore for her outstanding leadership and commitment over the past year.

It's hard to believe that the 106th annual convention is behind us, and now we must focus on the new year. My first priority was to submit the 2010-2011 committee appointments to the board for ratification. The Executive Committee met in early April for a planning session and the committees have been tasked with projects for the coming months. The by-laws committee will be working diligently to address some gaps that have been identified and make clarifications where necessary. Updates will be forthcoming as they become available.

I attended the ABFSE Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California along with Lisa Moore, Dalene Paull and Eric Forsbach from the office. The Conference continues to work with the mortuary science programs to address issues of exam security and the protection of intellectual property. The integrity of our exam program is priority one and we appreciate the partnership we have with those who help us monitor exam activity.

It is my promise, to uphold the standards that are expected by our profession to preserve the quality of the National Board Exam. We have very dedicated and committed professionals who work diligently to make the exam what is today. I salute the Exam Committee for their efforts.

As an organization, we need to keep our focus as we strive to make improvements while adapting to the changes that are effecting the funeral service profession. The Conference has a publication entitled "What Can We Do for You?" It speaks about FEAS-Ability - F is for Flexibility, E is for Experience, A is for Accountability, S is for Service, and A is for Ability. With that said, it's clear and simple, tell us what you want and we'll do everything to find a way to provide it for you.

In closing, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Dalene and her staff at the Conference for their commitment and dedication to provide service excellence. Let's all join together as we work to take The Conference to the next level. I hope to see you all at the next annual meeting in Myrtle Beach in March 2011.

Sincerely,
 Robert N. Barnes,
 CFSP, President



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 Online at:
<http://theconferenceonline.org/Survey.shtml>
 Thank You!

Convention Wrap-Up

This year, The 106th Annual Convention of The Conference met February 25-26, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County in Southern California. The convention was attended by industry professionals who represented funeral service licensing and regulatory agencies throughout the United States and Canada, as well as many of the accredited mortuary schools from across the country.

The convention began on Thursday morning with simultaneous sessions for administrators and board members. The Association of Executives of Funeral Service Boards held their annual meeting in one session while Amy Richardson of the law office of Atkinson & Atkinson gave an outstanding presentation on "Legal Basics for Regulatory Board Members," in the other session. President Lisa Moore, of Lodi, Calif, officially kicked off the convention Thursday afternoon with the welcome luncheon and opening ceremonies. Following the luncheon were presentations on ethics, by Dwayne Spence, and exam security, by Amy Richardson.

Attendees chose between three presentations held during Thursday afternoon's concurrent sessions. Past President Billie Watson Hughes presented an orientation for first time attendees titled "Everything You Wanted to Know About The Conference But Were Afraid to Ask." ABFSE Representative Jacquelyn Taylor gave a presentation on "Trends in Funeral Service Education" to a packed house, and Dalene Paull, Executive Director of The Conference, held a session on "Exam Construction." The evening ended with a welcome reception, which gave attendees an opportunity to network with other funeral service regulators and educators.

Friday began with back to back presentations, "Inspection Procedures," by President Lisa Moore, and "Cremation Regulation," by Dennis McPhee, Program Manager of the Washington Funeral and Cemetery Office. District meetings were held following the morning presentations with elections taking place for districts three and five. Gail Thomas-DeWitt of Florida was elected director of district three, and Letricia Chandler of Kentucky was elected director of district five.

The awards luncheon was held on Friday afternoon where new officers were installed for the 2010-2011 term. Past President Billie Watson Hughes swore in the new slate of officers including President Robert Barnes of Portland, Maine, Vice President Randal Bangert of Lincoln, Neb, Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Richer of Toronto, Ontario, District 3 Director Gail Thomas-DeWitt, of Florida, and District 5 Director Letricia Chandler of Kentucky.



From Left:
Lisa M. Moore,
Randal R. Bangert,
Robert N. Barnes,
Joseph G. Richer

The President's Distinguished Service Award was presented to Joseph Richer from outgoing president Lisa Moore, for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of funeral service regulation.

Friday continued with an afternoon spotlight on pre-need regulation, moderated by Paul Harris, Executive Director of the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service. Scott Gilligan of Gilligan Law Offices, started off with a presentation titled, "Pre-need: How Does Your State Rank?" To finish up the afternoon the assembly broke into seven groups and analyzed different scenarios. That evening attendees were able to socialize and relax as the convention concluded with a dinner function overlooking beautiful Southern California at the Orange County Mining Company.

The ICFSEB annual convention provides a valuable opportunity for those interested in furthering funeral service regulation to come together for exchange of information, problem-solving strategies, and goals for the future of the funeral service profession. The 2011 convention is slated for the first week of March in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. For more information on the convention or The Conference, call 479-283-6875, or visit www.theconferenceonline.org.

Board of Directors Welcomes New Members

District 3 Director

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Puerto Rico

Gail A. Thomas-DeWitt, CFSP
First term expires 2013

Professional Affiliation: Funeral Director/Owner, Gail & Wynn's Mortuary, Inc.

Regulatory Affiliation: Florida Financial Services, Division of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services



District 5 Director

Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee

Letricia R. Chandler
First term expires 2013

Professional Affiliation: Executive Director of Kentucky Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

Regulatory Affiliation: Kentucky Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors



District 9 Director

Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah

Bart R. Burton
Appointment expires 2011

Professional Affiliation: Care Center Manager of Palm Mortuary

Regulatory Affiliation: Nevada State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.



At A Glance: The 107th Annual Meeting



Summer is in full swing and that means two things here at The Conference. First, President Robert Barnes and the Board of Directors are hard at work (see page 1) setting and achieving various goals as we build towards the latter half of the year.

Second, preparation for the 107th Annual Convention has begun. We invite all regulators, educators, and funeral service professionals to join us March 3rd and 4th, 2011 at the Marina Inn at Grande Dunes in fabulous Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Tucked away in peaceful seclusion on 2,220 acres, this uniquely designed golf resort and convention center is ideally situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, yet just minutes away from all from all Myrtle beach has to offer, including attractions, restaurants, and entertainment. The Grande guestroom is specially priced at just \$129, which is an amazing value for this AAA four diamond rated property.

There will be a wide range of speakers, presentations, and events. The tentative agenda will be posted this summer and the final agenda will be available in early October. We always welcome any suggestions for convention speakers and topics. In the coming weeks you will receive much more information on the annual meeting including, a brochure, tentative agenda, and registration information, so save the date!

This and That

The Conference Welcomes New Member

The Conference is excited to have the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) as its newest member. As a result of Colorado House Bill 09-1202 - Registration of Funeral Homes and Crematories, all Colorado funeral homes and crematories are now required to be registered with Office of Funeral Home and Crematory Registration. The Program Director of DORA is Wendy Anderson.

2010 Price Changes

As of April 1, 2010, The Conference implemented new fees for the products and services offered.

Certified NBE Scores to a State Licensing Board - \$50
 Student Copy of Scores - \$25
 Wall Certificates - \$30
 Wallet ID Card - \$20

ABFSE - Vacancy Announcement

The American Board of Funeral Service Education has announced they are conducting a search fill the position of Executive Director, which will become vacant in September when Michael Smith retires. For the complete position description and application information please visit www.abfse.org. Submission deadline is September 15, 2010

Regulatory News

The Conference is a proud member of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards and the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation. Please visit the following websites for more information on regulatory news.

www.farb.org
www.clear.blogs.com

NBE Statistics January 1, 2010 - May 31, 2010

National Board Arts Examination						
	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #
First Time	492	376	76 %	116	24 %	6
Repeater	163	50	31%	113	69%	3
Total	655	426	65%	229	35%	9
National Board Science Examination						
	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #
First Time	486	371	76%	115	24%	8
Repeater	155	48	31%	107	69%	7
Total	641	419	65%	222	35%	15

Executive Officers

President

ROBERT N. BARNES, CFSP
(2nd Term, expires 2012)
Portland, ME

Vice President

RANDAL R. BANGERT
(2nd Term, expires 2012)
Lincoln, NE

Secretary/Treasurer

JOSEPH G. RICHER
(2nd Term, expires 2011)
Toronto, ON

Past President

(2009-2010)
LISA M. MOORE
Sacramento, CA

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Upcoming Events

NFDA Leadership Conference

July 11th - 14th, Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort, Cambridge MD

NFD&MA Expo

August 3rd - 4th, Broward Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL

CANA 92nd Annual Convention

August 4th - 7th, Sheraton Waikiki Resort, Honolulu, HI

CLEAR Annual Conference

September 23rd - 25th, Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, Nashville, TN

FARB Attorney Certification Seminar

October 1st - 3rd, Hotel Palomar, Washington DC



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