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A Letter From The President

Season's Greetings from The Conference.

As I conclude my year as President of The Conference, I would like to mention how fortunate and grateful I have been for the opportunity. Since the 107th Annual Meeting,



The Conference has had a busy, yet productive year. I wish to thank Dalene Paull, and her staff; Sarah Gill, Eric Forsbach, and Dustin Wardlow, for their hard work in putting together the annual meeting in Myrtle Beach. I would also like to thank Past President Robert Barnes for his leadership during his term as President and for representing The Conference at the Funeral Service Association of Canada in New Brunswick in June of this year.

I would like to welcome the newly elected members to the Board of Directors; Hari Close II, representing District 2, Robert Carter of District 4 and Mark Riley of District 7. They have done an outstanding job in their first year of service. They join a dedicated group of current board members in their efforts in achieving The Conference's goals. I appreciate all of their hard work and continued commitment to the board. This year we addressed a diverse range of issues and topics, and through their knowledge, guidance, and experience, I feel The Conference will continue to be the premier source for examination services, information and regulatory support to the death care profession.

I had the opportunity to attend the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) leadership meeting in Chicago in July with Ms. Paull and Ms. Gill. The information and ideas obtained during the meeting consist of many best practice items important for regulatory boards to consider. The experience was highly informative and productive. I cannot describe enough the benefits and value that FARB provides.

To further our goals set forth in the strategic plan, The Conference is pleased to welcome back Lauren Harriman as Regulatory Support Coordinator. Ms. Harriman re-joined the staff in September and has experience within the death care profession. As Regulatory Support Coordinator she has been tasked with managing the State Board Exam and the Laws, Rules, and Regulations Exam programs. Ms. Harriman also works closely with our member jurisdictions to coordinate member services.

This year, The Conference has worked vigorously to complete a job task analysis. This analysis was designed to determine the significance of the various specific tasks funeral directors and embalmers must be proficient in. The data collected will be used to ensure that our examinations are relevant to current standards in the profession. In January 2012, members of The Conference's examination committee and volunteer educators from various ABFSE accredited schools throughout the country

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Getting Our Regulatory Ducks in a Row!

The 108th meeting of The Conference is drawing near and we hope that you can join us! This February we are delighted to bring the annual meeting back to The Conference office's home state with a two day gathering in Little Rock, Arkansas. The meeting begins at the renowned Peabody hotel on Wednesday morning, February 29 and comes to a close with a one-of-a-kind group dinner at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum on Thursday, March 1.

The Peabody Little Rock

Located in the heart of the bustling downtown River Market District, The Peabody Little Rock is a AAA Four-Diamond luxury hotel that offers its guests a balance of elegance and southern hospitality. Attendees will find shopping, dining, and entertainment just a few steps, or a trolley ride away.



The hotel is also home to the world famous Peabody Ducks, who march down the red carpet to the lobby fountain each day. With a complimentary shuttle to and from nearby Little Rock

National Airport, traveling to the meeting has never been easier.

The 108th Annual Meeting of The Conference

Three early bird sessions will kick off the meeting on Wednesday morning. The Association of Executives of Funeral Service Boards Meeting, The Funeral Service Education Forum, and the Presentation for Regulatory Board Members will meet simultaneously and provide an outlet for every attendee. Wednesday afternoon begins with a luncheon and official business meeting of The Conference. Presentations will follow the group lunch with topics focusing on the overview of the 2011 Task Analysis, as well as Alkaline Hydrolysis Regulation. A panel discussion on third party casket sales will round out Wednesday's presentations. That evening, attendees will have the opportunity to join together for a reception, which will provide a relaxed setting to unwind and network with other colleagues.

Thursday morning will open with a briefing on current issues in mortuary education, followed by legislative updates and a presentation on the legal right of disposition. District meetings will take place just before the awards luncheon, where elections will be held for districts one, six,

and eight. Thursday afternoon will begin with a review on current sunset issues and continue with a group exercise on the regulation of virtual funeral services. The event will draw to a close that evening with a casual dinner at the nearby William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum. Attendees will also have the chance to explore the museum on an exclusive after hours, self-guided tour.



Registration & Reservations

To take advantage of the \$275 attendance fee, be sure to submit your registration prior to January 25, 2012. Any registration received after that date will be charged the on-site fee of \$300. Discounted registration fees are available for multiple registrations submitted together.

In addition to the attendance of the meeting and access to meeting materials, the fee includes two lunches, the welcome reception, and Friday's evening dinner and museum entry fee. The Conference's discounted room rate at the Peabody Little Rock is \$129 per night, plus tax and fees. Reservations can be made by calling 501-906-4000 and mentioning the group name, ICFSEB.

For further information regarding registration, agenda topics, and hotel information, please contact Sarah Gill at The Conference by calling 479-387-0978, or visit us online at the www.theconferenceonline.org/convention-upcoming.shtml.





2012 Registration Form

Name _____ Title _____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____ Spouse/Guest _____

The above contact information will be shared with other attendees. If you do NOT want your contact information shared, please contact The Conference staff.

REGISTRATION FEE (Includes two lunches, reception, dinner function, and registration materials for ONE PERSON.) **\$ 275.00**

Note: Registration forms SUBMITTED TOGETHER from the same regulatory board or school will qualify for a discount. The first registration is \$275, all additional registrations will be \$250.

Please list the state(s) you are licensed in if you are seeking continuing education credits: _____

Would you like to receive text alerts pertaining to the Annual Meeting? Yes No

Cell Phone (This information will not be shared) _____

Please check ONE of the following meetings that you will attend on Wednesday, February 29, 2012:

- Association of Executives of Funeral Service Boards Meeting**
 7:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
 (Executive level regulatory staff)
- OR
- Funeral Service Education Forum**
 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
 (Mortuary Science educators)
- OR
- Presentation for Regulatory Board Members**
 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
 (State & Provincial Board Members)

If you are bringing a guest(s), please indicate the functions they will be attending and the total price.

FUNCTION:	No. of Guests:	Total Price
2/29 — Opening Session & Luncheon	\$30.00 / person _____	\$ _____
2/29 — Welcome Reception	\$20.00 / person _____	\$ _____
3/1 — Awards Luncheon	\$30.00 / person _____	\$ _____
3/1 — Clinton Library Dinner Function (Includes dinner & self-guided library tour)	\$40.00 / person _____	\$ _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

(Includes registration fee & guest fees)

All registrations received **after JANUARY 25, 2012** (including on-site) will be charged the on-site fee of **\$300.00** per individual.

By Mail: The Conference, 1885 Shelby Lane, Fayetteville, AR 72704

By Email: services@theconferenceonline.org **By Fax:** 479.442.7090

PAYMENT: Check (Make payable to "The Conference") Visa MasterCard Discover

Card number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. date: ____ / ____ (mm/yy) CSC _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note that you are responsible for making your own hotel reservations
 Contact the **Peabody Little Rock** no later than **February 13, 2012** at **501-906-4000** and mention that you are with **ICFSEB** to ensure the guestroom rate of \$129 (plus tax & fees).

108th Annual Meeting Tentative Agenda

The Peabody—Little Rock, Arkansas

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

7:30 am—12:00 pm	Meeting Registration	9:30 am—10:20 am	Legal Right of Disposition <i>Mack Smith, Executive Secretary Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts</i>
8:00 am—12:15 pm	Association of Executives of Funeral Service Boards Meeting	10:30 am—12:00 pm	District Meetings <i>Elections for districts 1, 6 & 8</i>
11:00 am—12:15 pm	Funeral Service Education Forum <i>Eric Forsbach, Examination Services</i>	12:00 pm—12:30 pm	Board of Directors Meeting and Photos
11:00 am—12:15 pm	Presentation for Regulatory Board Members <i>Dale Atkinson, Atkinson & Atkinson</i>	12:30 pm—2:00 pm	Awards Luncheon & Reports <i>District Reports AEFSB Report President's Distinguished Service Award Recognition of Board members Recognition of President Installation of Board of Directors Installation of Officers for 2012–2013 Presentation of Gavel</i>
12:30 pm—1:45 pm	Business Meeting & Luncheon of the 108th Annual Meeting <i>(Welcome, Roll-call, & Intros)</i>	2:00 pm—2:15 pm	Break
2:00 pm—3:00 pm	2011 Task Analysis Overview <i>Juli Goerend, Senior Test Developer Pearson VUE</i>	2:15 pm—3:15 pm	Sunset Review
3:00 pm—3:50 pm	Alkaline Hydrolysis Regulation		
4:00 pm—5:00 pm	Third Party Casket Sales Panel Discussion		
5:30 pm—6:30 pm	Welcome Reception		Afternoon Spotlight: Regulation of Virtual Funeral Services <i>Paul Harris, Moderator</i>

Thursday, March 1, 2012

7:00 am—8:00 am	Past Presidents Breakfast	3:15 pm—3:45 pm	<i>Joseph Richer, Registrar Ontario Board of Funeral Services</i>
8:15 am—8:30 am	Current Issues in Mortuary Education <i>Kevin Davis, ABFSE Past President</i>	3:45 pm—5:15 pm	Group Exercise
8:30 am—9:30 am	Legislative Updates <i>Dale Atkinson, Atkinson & Atkinson</i>	7:00 pm—9:00 pm	Dinner Function <i>William J Clinton Library & Museum</i>

From The Committees...

Professional Policy Committee

The Professional Policy Committee has completed several projects this year, including an update of the "Regulations Relating to Funeral Service Licensing, Continuing Education and Pre-need" booklet. During the district meetings at the 2011 Annual Meeting of The Conference, it was suggested that The Conference explore the option of creating an international database for licensed funeral directors.

The Committee surveyed member jurisdictions on their interest and ability to contribute to the international database project and after reviewing the results, decided to table it until there is a greater desire to move forward with it. They continued working on international outreach and reviewing the final report of the 2008 Conference grant recipient, Dr. Robyn Gershon.

The Professional Policy Committee is charged with the oversight of the examination program and has researched several policies concerning Conference exams. A job/task analysis project was completed this year which lead to a new examination blueprint for the National and State Board Examinations. The final JTA report was approved by the Board and will be sent to Conference membership in December. The Committee would like to thank all those who participated in this very important project as well as those within the profession who took the time to respond to the survey which was the foundation for the new blueprint.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has undertaken several tasks regarding The Conference's finances since being appointed last February. Aside from approving all financial and investment statements, the investment policy has also been updated this year.

The committee has completed the application to move The Conference to a 501 c 3 tax designation with the IRS which will be more in line with The Conference's membership and mission. The application will be filed by the end of the year with updates provided as soon as a determination is received from the IRS. They are also overseeing the 2011 audit process being conducted by Daniel, Means, and Flynt which allows The Conference to follow best practices in separating accounting and audit functions from one firm to two.

The 2012 budget was presented to the Board of Directors for approval in November and copies have been mailed to The Conference membership. In the coming

months, the Finance Committee will be working on a comprehensive insurance review as well as establishing a reserve policy for The Conference.

Examination Committee

With the implementation of the new National and State Board Examination blueprint on the horizon, the Exam Committee has been working on several tasks including mapping items from the current blueprint to the new one. It is a very arduous task and many thanks go out to those who participated in that project.

Once that was completed, a gap analysis was performed and an item writing session was scheduled for early January 2012. At that session a group of regulators, exam committee members and educators will come together to write items which will be used on future Conference exams. Again, The Conference cannot thank enough the people who graciously volunteer their time to participate in tasks such as this in order to ensure that the examination content is relevant to current standards of practice. The new blueprint will become effective in the fall of 2012 and the exact date will be set by the Board of Directors in the coming weeks. Further information regarding the blueprint will be mailed to The Conference membership at the end of December.

A Letter From The President

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will take part in our item writing workshop which will be held in Rogers, Arkansas. I would like to thank those participants for their time and involvement in sharing their experience and expertise for this workshop.

The staff has been busy finalizing plans for the 108th Annual Meeting at the Peabody hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 29 through March 1, 2012. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend an invitation to all those interested in attending. I think you will find the agenda topics interesting and thought provoking. If you have not already registered, please find the agenda and registration form within the pages of this newsletter.

It has been an honor to serve as President of The Conference for the past year. I look forward to seeing you in Little Rock in February for the 108th Annual Meeting. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Randal R. Bangert,
President

NBE Quarterly Statistics

January 1, 2011 - September 30, 2011

National Board Arts Examination

	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #
First Time	1273	971	76%	302	24%	16
Repeater	388	108	28%	280	72%	10
Total	1661	1079	65%	582	35%	26

National Board Science Examination

	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #
First Time	1258	960	76%	298	24%	25
Repeater	353	105	30%	248	70%	16
Total	1611	1065	66%	546	34%	41

For a full listing of quarterly stats, please visit
www.theconferenceonline.org/stats-2011.shtml

Please Take the Customer Satisfaction Survey
Online at:
<http://theconferenceonline.org/Survey.shtml>
Thank You!



1885 SHELBY LANE, FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72704

Upcoming Jurisdiction Board Meetings

- Delaware – January 31, 2012
- Georgia – January 10, 2012
- Idaho – January 17-18, 2012
- Kansas – January 12, 2012
- Massachusetts – January 10 & 24, 2012
- Mississippi – January 5, 2012
- Missouri – January 11, 2012
- Montana – January 26, 2012
- Ohio – January 23-24, 2012
- Oklahoma – January 12, 2012
- Saskatchewan – January 19, 2012
- Virginia – January 17, 2012
- Washington D.C. – January 5, 2012

* The Conference welcomes any contributions you might share from your jurisdictions. Please submit items to info@theconferenceonline.org.