

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards

Contact: Dustin Wardlow info@theconferenceonline.org

Photo Included: 2010-2011 ICFSEB Board of Directors (.jpg)

The Conference Holds 106th Annual Convention

Orange, Calif – The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc. 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 when 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 3, 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.

--MORE--

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 479-442-7076, or visit www.theconferenceonline.org.

###