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Experience the Past, Look Toward the Future in Williamsburg



The 105th annual meeting of The International Conference is almost upon us. February 26th will be here before we know it and final preparations for the meeting are falling into place. With engaging presentations focusing on generational differences in the workforce within the death care profession and pre-need pitfalls and successes, the material is sure to captivate and educate those in attendance. We are also excited to share the findings of Dr. Robyn Gershon's study on Avian Influenza preparedness. Dr. Gershon was the 2008 – 2009 recipient of The Conference's research grant.

Nestled on 3,000 acres next to the James River, the Kingsmill is the perfect backdrop for this year's convention. The lush resort is just minutes away from nearby Colonial Williamsburg, which allows visitors to step back in time to experience what life was like on the



The Kingsmill Resort

eve of the American Revolution. With more than 500 restored and reconstructed buildings spread across 301 acres of land, and a staff of 3500 archaeologists, researchers, historians, and

historical interpreters, Colonial Williamsburg truly presents a different time and place. Visitors can explore the homes and buildings where men like Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Patrick Henry inspired a nation's fight for independence.

Once the convention presentations have come to a close on Friday, attendees will be treated to dinner at Chowning's Tavern. Situated in the heart of Colonial Williamsburg, Chowning's is a true 18th-century rum and ale house adapted for family enjoyment, serving light fare, local ales, and Colonial Williamsburg's own draft root beer. Saturday morning The Conference will host its first ever Golf Invitational which will occur at 9:00 a.m. Attendance is open to all. If you are interested in playing, please contact The Conference by January 15th for further details.



To register for the 2009 convention, please fill out the enclosed registration form or apply online at www.theconferenceonline.org. The deadline for registration is January 30th, 2009. Please contact Sarah at The Conference if you have questions regarding any aspect of the convention. We look forward to seeing you in Williamsburg where we will learn from the past while preparing for the future of funeral service regulation.

A Letter from the President

Happy Holidays,

I hope you are all enjoying a festive holiday season. This past year has been fantastic. The Conference has undergone a complete turnover in staff with the exception of our terrific Executive Director, Dalene Paull and Assistant Director, Toni Ashcraft.

This new group of professionals immediately went to work and with Dalene's leadership has taken the Conference to a whole new level. I can't say enough good things about the change.

As I reflect back, the year has been a terrific adventure for me personally. Being privileged to speak at Cincinnati and Dallas Institute's commencements, was the highlight of the year. Being able to meet and talk with students across the country has been eye opening. They are so enthusiastic about their educational experiences.

I am grateful to everyone for such a warm welcome, wherever I represented the Conference. The networking

opportunities in Canada and China were fruitful. We have gained another member from Canada, Manitoba and we are looking forward to a great relationship with them.

As we approach the coming of 2009, it is with great anticipation that the Commonwealth of Virginia will host the Annual Convention in Williamsburg; a city rich with many old Colonial attractions as well as modern day spas.

There is something for everyone. So if you haven't already done so, register today – February will be here before we know it. Golfers, don't forget, the tournament on Saturday, February 28th. The Kingsmill Resort is renown for its courses.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the volunteer members of The Conference Board and Exam Committees for your dedicated service. We accomplished a lot this year with the new study guide, revised tests and practice



Billie Watson Hughes,
President

exam. It's been truly a team effort. Have a blessed holiday season.

Billie Watson Hughes
President
The Conference

The 2009 Conference Invitational Golf Scramble

The 2009 Conference Invitational Golf Scramble will take place Saturday, February 28th on the Plantation Course at the Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Virginia. The cost to play is \$60 per



person, which includes the greens fee, cart fee, warm up range, and tax. The daily club rental fee is \$55 or you may bring your own. Please contact Sarah at The Conference by January 16th to signup or for more information. You can also visit www.kingsmill.com details about the course.

Please contact Sarah at 479-442-7076 or admin@theconferenceonline.org by January 16th to sign up or for more information.

The 106th Annual Convention

Please join us in
Orange County, California
February 2010

Stay tuned for updates!



2009 Price Increases

<i>Item</i>	<i>Previous Price</i>	<i>New Price</i>
<i>SBE Study Guide Volume IV</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>
<i>NBE Study Guide Volume X</i>	<i>\$26.00</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>
<i>Practice National Board Exam Arts Section</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>\$45.00</i>
<i>Practice National Board Exam Science Section</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>\$45.00</i>

Price increases for the study guides will take effect after previous stock has sold out.

Price increases for the practice exams will take effect after January 1, 2009.

Examination Statistics January 1, 2008 - November 30, 2008

NBE Arts Committee

Harvey Leavitt III, Chair (2000)
 Ernest C. Adams, Jr., CFSP (2005)
 Robert N. Barnes, CFSP (2007)
 Steve Gordon (2004)
 Barbara Kazmierczak (2007)
 Patrick C. "Pat" Obarzanek (1999)
 Edward O'Sullivan, CFSP (2008)
 Jay Seibel, CFSP (2005)
 Billie Watson Hughes, CFSP (2005)

NBE Science Committee

O.C. "Chet" Robbins, Co-Chair (2005)
 E. Gene Allen, CFSP, CPC (2007)
 Gail Thomas DeWitt, CFSP (2008)
 Mark E. Fisher (2008)
 Clarence Glover, CFSP (2008)
 Richard "Dick" Pace (2001)
 Thomas E. "Tom" Sanderson (2004)
 Patricia A. "Pat" Traffas (2006)
 Laura Zabel (2003)

SBE and LRR

SBE CBT	Arts: 357	Science: 1
LRR CBT	321	
Other CBT Exam	(NC Pathology) 34	
SBE Paper/Pencil	Arts: 93	Science: 5
LRR Paper/Pencil	166	

SBE News

Alabama and Hawaii will be switching to computer based testing starting in January 2009.

National Board Examination (NBE)

National Board - Arts Examination (NBA)

	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #	Absent %	Total Number
First Time	1260	1026	80%	234	18%	24	2%	1284
Repeater	307	118	36.42%	189	58.33%	17	5.25%	324
Total	1567	1144	71.14%	423	26.31%	41	2.55%	1608

National Board - Science Examination (NBS)

	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #	Absent %	Total Number
First Time	1243	1001	80%	242	19%	16	1%	1259
Repeater	338	140	40%	198	56%	15	4%	353
Total	1581	1141	71%	440	27%	31	2%	1612

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF FUNERAL SERVICE
EXAMINING BOARDS**

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theconferenceonline.org

Executive Officers

President

BILLIE WATSON HUGHES, CFSP (2nd Term, expires 2011)
Alexandria, VA

Vice President

LISA M. MOORE (2nd Term, expires 2010)
Sacramento, CA

Secretary/Treasurer

ROBERT N. BARNES, CFSP (1st Term, expires 2009)
Portland, ME

Past President (2007-2008)

O.C. "CHET" ROBBINS (2nd Term, expires 2011)
Austin, TX



CUSTOMER/CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Please circle the one which applies to you:

Exam Candidate School Regulatory Agency Board/Committee Member Other _____

On a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 is Unfavorable and 4 is Most Favorable; please rate the following questions to help the conference provide the best in client services.

- 1. Did the staff person answer the phone in a polite manner? 1 2 3 4
- 2. Did we listen well to you? 1 2 3 4
- 3. Did we communicate with clarity and answer your questions? 1 2 3 4
- 4. Did we respond to your questions and concerns in a timely manner? 1 2 3 4
If not, please explain _____
- 5. Did you feel that we provided accurate information? 1 2 3 4
If not, why? _____
- 6. How would you rate our Customer Service? 1 2 3 4

Do you have any comments about the services of The Conference or any suggestions about how we can improve our services?

NAME (optional) _____ Contact Info _____

**It's important for The Conference to know how we perform in order to meet your expectations. We are grateful for your time to provide us with your insight by completing this survey. Your response will be reviewed by The Conference so we may continue to improve our services. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to serve you.

**Please fax to 479-442-7090
or mail to:**

**The Conference
Attn: Toni Ashcraft
Asst Executive Director
1885 Shelby Lane
Fayetteville, AR 72704**

**Take the survey online at:
<http://theconferenceonline.org/Survey.shtml>
Thank You!**