



1st Edition
Winter 2007

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Agenda Set for Annual Convention in “Music City” April 21-22

Preliminary Activities

Long before the majority of delegates arrive for the annual convention, our Board of Directors and Exam Committee are hard at work. The Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, April 18 to discuss business that has come up since their October, 2006 meeting.

The Exam Committee will spend two long days, Thursday and Friday, on the tedious but crucial task of reviewing items for the National Board Exam. At least twice each year, this group of dedicated individuals takes time away from their many other responsibilities to review and update the exam, assuring it is always relevant to current best practices.

Also on Friday, the Association of Executives of Funeral Services Boards will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Their annual meeting provides a forum for sharing ideas, processes, concepts and information. Speakers will address topics related to the enhancement of consumer protection.

For those who are on hand Friday evening, April 20, Steve Spann and John A. Gupton College are hosting a tour of the school and reception.

Also on Friday evening, the Grand Ol' Opry show begins at 8:00 p.m. A limited number of tickets are available through The Conference for \$47.50 each. The show is already almost sold out, so you need to contact our office ASAP (no later than February 1).

Friday evening and Saturday morning are set aside for delegates to sign in for the convention and settle in to their hotel rooms. For those who

have the time, this will be a good time to relax in the hotel's indoor pool, explore downtown Nashville, visit the Parthenon, or check out the shopping.

Saturday

At 12:30 p.m. Saturday, the Convention kicks off with a luncheon, followed by opening remarks. At two o'clock, the featured speaker for the afternoon will be Tom Talisman of Pearson VUE. This session will be extremely informative for all attendees, particularly for representatives of the accredited schools. Mr. Talisman will provide an inside look at Pearson VUE, as well as the testing process in place for the National Board Exam. He will also provide details on how Pearson testing experts work with the Exam Committee to validate and update the exam. After a break, delegates will adjourn to their respective District Meetings where election of Directors will be held for Districts 3, 5 and 9.

Saturday evening, following the day's meetings, there will be a reception honoring outgoing Vice President Chet Robbins at 6:30. At 7:30 the festivities will continue with the President's Banquet honoring outgoing President Jerry Griffin. Bob Boetticher, Senior Director of Special Projects at SCI, will be the featured speaker for the evening. Among other noteworthy accomplishments, Mr. Boetticher directed the arrangements for President Ronald Reagan's funeral. He is certain to have some fascinating stories to share.

Recipients of the Academic Achievement Awards will be recognized at the banquet, and several other awards will be made. Every year the banquet always proves to be a delightful mix of fun, inspiration, good food, and good company.

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NBE Statistics January-November, 2006

National Board - Arts Examination (NBA)								
	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #	Absent %	Total Number
First Time	1,352	1,118	82.7%	234	17.3%	18	1.3%	1,370
Repeater	250	95	38.0%	155	62.0%	11	4.2%	261
Total	1,602	1,213	75.7%	389	24.3%	29	1.8%	1,631
National Board - Science Examination (NBS)								
	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #	Absent %	Total Number
First Time	1,337	1,075	80.4%	262	19.6%	23	1.7%	1,360
Repeater	410	162	39.5%	248	60.5%	13	3.1%	423
Total	1,747	1,237	70.8%	510	29.2%	36	2.0%	1,783

SBE Statistics January-November, 2006

State Board Examination Program Examinations Given January 1, 2006 thru August 31, 2006		
SBE CBT	Arts: 189	Science: 1
LRR CBT	35	
SBE Paper/Pencil	Arts: 168	Science: 9
LRR Paper/Pencil	248	
State Board Examination Program Paper/Pencil		
SBE (Arts/Sciences)	Laws, Rules, & Regulations Exam	
Alabama	Arkansas	
Arizona	Delaware	
Hawaii	Maine	
Missouri	Missouri	
Oregon	New Mexico	
	West Virginia	

State Board Examination Program CBT	
SBE (Arts/Sciences)	Laws, Rules, & Regulations Exam
Alaska	Nevada
Idaho	South Carolina
Louisiana	Tennessee
Mississippi	Indiana (under development)
Nevada	Maryland (under development)
North Carolina	
Ohio	
South Carolina	
Tennessee	
Texas	
Vermont	



Convention Agenda, continued

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday

Sunday morning the past presidents of The Conference will meet for breakfast. The general assembly will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. for a presentation on current legal issues facing the funeral service industry from attorney Joseph Hayes. At 9:30 Dale Atkinson, Executive Director of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) will speak on a model code of conduct for board members. Both of these presentations are highly pertinent to the daily operation of any state regulatory board.

Reports of the year's activities will be given by The Conference committees. Reports on their Saturday afternoon meetings will be made by each of the nine districts. The AEFBS will report

on their Friday meeting. Following a luncheon, the 103rd Annual Convention will adjourn.

Attending The Annual Convention of The Conference is a unique experience. Those who have never attended before will return home having made many new friends. "Old faithfuls" will reconnect with lifelong colleagues and make new friends. Everyone will learn much about their profession and be inspired to embrace the challenges of the coming year.



Pearson VUE Handling Exam Programs

We did it! We successfully made the switch to Pearson VUE as our testing services provider! Candidates began contacting Pearson VUE to schedule their exam appointments on December 26 of 2006, and began testing at Pearson Professional Centers on January 8, 2007.

From the feedback we have gotten so far, the transition was relatively painless for most, and by now most of the "kinks" have been worked out.

For all candidates who have registered through The Conference for their CBT examinations, the new contact information is:

www.pearsonvue.com/icfseb

or

1-800-709-0180

Candidates should contact The Conference with any questions.

Ivy Tech Teaches Dress for Success

East Chicago, IN—Local funeral directors Michelle Tracy-Katsaros and Kevin Knaga conducted a "Dress for Success" presentation for Ivy Tech mortuary science students. Michelle graduated in 1995 from Worsham College and has been a licensed funeral director and monument representative for the past five years. Kevin received his funeral director's license in January 2004 after obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Mortuary Science from Cincinnati College.

Students in Mr. Burns' and Mr. LaHayne's classes learned that how they present themselves is very important, and is a good indication to families of how they will take care of a loved one.



(L/R): **Michelle Tracy-Katsaros**, 1st year student **Sarah Dawson**, Adjunct Professor **Jim Burns**, 2nd year student **Gloria Eldridge**, and **Kevin Knaga**.

School News

Let us know when your school has news to share!

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We're on the Web!

There is lots of useful information about The Conference, the National Board Exam, State Boards, the Association of Executives of Funeral Service Boards, and much more on our Web site.

Check it out at
www.cfseb.org.

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF INDIANA

Ivy Tech is proud to add three successful alumni to the list of newly licensed Indiana funeral directors. Ivy Tech graduates Ami Crawford, Apollo Moreno and Craig Morris each graduated from the inaugural class of Ivy Tech's mortuary science program in 2003-2005, served a 12-month internship, and successfully passed the state director's exam.

All three graduates are fifty-two years old, and finished Ivy Tech with honors, as members of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.



(L/R): **Rick Soria**, Program Chair; **A. Craig Morris**, **Ami Crawford** and **Apollo Moreno**, graduates; and Adjunct Professor **Elden LaHayne**.

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The first ever Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Holiday Service of Remembrance was many things to many people. For some it's a time to remember loved ones who are gone.

For Bill Harvey, Funeral Services Technology director at Gulf Coast, it's a chance help console those who've lost loved ones, and it gives his students some on-the-job training.

"We're grateful to provide some solace during this holiday season," Harvey said. "It's our deepest wish that this service will help ease the pain of losing a loved one."

The service took place at the Gregory Chapel at the college's Perkinston Campus. Attendees provided the names of those they want to remember. These 45 names were put on ornaments that were placed on a Christmas tree at the front of the chapel. At the end of the service, those who had ornaments received them as keepsakes.

Featured speaker **Rev. Patrick Mockler**



Fourteen Funeral Service Technology students participated in the service.

State Board News

Let us know when your board has news to share!

MICHIGAN

Allison Cosgrove has been named Assistant Licensing Administrator, replacing Suzanne Jolicoeur, who has moved to a different position within the department.

ILLINOIS

Todd Robertson has been named Board Liaison for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.