

2003-2004 ICFSEB Officers Sworn In to Office



ICFSEB Officers for 2003-2004 were sworn in during the Awards Banquet held at the 99th Annual Convention in Anaheim, California.

Mr. John D. Runsvold, was installed as Secretary/Treasurer for the 2003-2004 term. Mr. Runsvold is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and a member and president of the North Dakota State Board of Funeral Service. John and his wife, Cydney, reside in Fargo where he is the owner and president of Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home. Mr. Runsvold was elected to the ICFSEB Board of Directors in 2000, representing District 6. John is Past President of Fargo-Moorhead Sertoma Service Club, Past Member of East Gate Masonic Lodge, Past SE District Governor and Past President of the National Funeral Directors Association.

Mr. John J. Michelotti, was installed as Vice-President for the 2003-2004 term. Mr. Michelotti is a member of the Montana State Board of Funeral Service and is a graduate of the California College of Mortuary Science and Marmion Military Academy, Aurora, IL. John and his wife, Alison, reside in Billings where he is president of Michelotti/Sawyers Mortuary & Crematory. John is the founder of Montana Chapter of National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and Project Lifesaver: a teenage suicide task force, Past Board Member of Yellowstone Boys and Girls Club, and a member of National Selected Morticians, serving as president

1998-1999. Mr. Michelotti was elected to the ICFSEB Board of Directors in 2000, representing District 8. Mr. Michelotti served the ICFSEB as Secretary/Treasurer during the 2002-2003 term.

Mr. John J. Kazlauskas, will lead The Conference as President for the coming year and will host the 100th Annual Convention in St. Louis, Missouri in 2004. Mr. Kazlauskas is a graduate of the New England Institute of Funeral Service, Past-Chairman of the Massachusetts State Board of Registration in Embalming and Funeral Service, former President of the Worcester Host Lions Club, and founder and first President of Greater Worcester Funeral Directors Association. Jack and his wife, Barbara, reside in Worcester where he is President of Dirsas-Morin

Funeral Homes, Inc. Mr. Kazlauskas is also an active member of Selected Independent Funeral Homes, British Institute of Funeral Directors, National Funeral Directors Association, Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association, and the National Foundation of Mortuary Care.

Mr. Kazlauskas was elected to the ICFSEB Board of Directors in 2000, representing District I. Mr. Kazlauskas served as ICFSEB Secretary/Treasurer during the 2001-2002 term and as Vice-President during the 2002-2003 term.



Pictured (Left to Right) John D. Runsvold, Secretary/Treasurer, John J. Michelotti, Vice-President, John J. Kazlauskas, President, & J. Terry Woodard, Past President pose for a picture after the swearing in ceremony at the 99th Annual ICFSEB Convention.

From the President

Welcome to the 2003-2004 Conference year!

With a very successful and productive convention in Anaheim California a recent memory, we look forward to putting in place the wishes of the delegates. This is a very exciting and challenging time for your Conference, the purchase of our Headquarters Building in Fayetteville will I hope shortly become a reality. The conversion of our Examination to CBT (Computer Based Testing) is scheduled for early next year. This alone is an idea whose time has come and will do much to enhance the security of this very important segment of what we offer. There are inherent to this change, challenges that I feel confident will be met head on, by our very talented Committee. My thanks to Past District Governor Tom Sanderson for all he has done for funeral service and the Conference, his friendship and expertise will be missed by all. I wish him well. I also want to welcome new District Governor Lisa Whitney from California, we look forward to her enthusiastic participation as we move forward. My sincere thanks to Past President J.Terry Woodard for his advice, counsel and calm, he has laid the groundwork for where we are headed in the future. Your Executive Committee including Mr. Woodard, Vice President Michelotti and Secretary/Treasurer John Runsvold provide the knowledge,

expertise and support to carry out the agenda of “your” Conference,” for the coming year.

Please accept our thanks for the confidence placed in us as we attempt to steer this proud ship forward with only minor adjustments in it’s course thanks to our predecessors. With these talented individuals, and your assistance, we stand ready to serve.

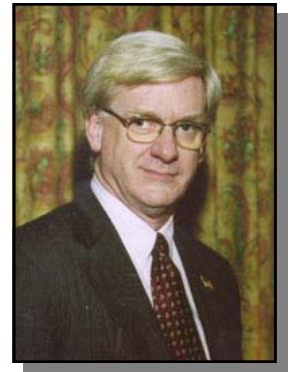
I encourage Board Members and members of individual State Boards to embrace any opportunity to tell our story. This association of experts, this federation of Regulators called The Conference, should and can be considered the source for regulatory issues that seem to constantly come to the surface throughout this and other countries. Recently I had the chance to address a Bio-Terrorism Conference here in Massachusetts sponsored by The University of Mass and The OCME, (Office of The Chief Medical Examiner) I had the opportunity to represent you in a discussion of where we stand as regulators within the aforementioned issues. It was well received and I came away feeling that a few more people knew about our Conference, and that we are more than just an examination source. There are many such opportunities out there, I hope you will avail yourselves of them and let the office know of them.

As President, I would also like to suggest to each of our Board Members that you within your districts try to visit NBE Exam Sites, to meet the candidates, the

proctors and view the sites. Putting a face and a name to what may be the only contact these candidates have with The “Conference” is an invaluable asset to us. Your presence will put at ease some fine candidates, answer their questions and perhaps allay their fears and apprehension. You will, I am sure, obtain a much clearer understanding of what we do, and its importance to these candidates.

We are not simply creators of “The Exam.” Although this is a very important component of what we do, We are indeed the most comprehensive federation of regulators anywhere! For many years we have in my opinion been an underused and minimally recognized resource of regulatory knowledge. Let the funeral service community at large know who we really are, and of our great potential to help in many areas. It will take all of you to make this happen, you are all part of “The Team.”

Sincerely,
John J Kazlauskas Sr. CFSP



Students Honored for Academic Achievement

During the 2002 Calendar Year twelve hundred and ninety-seven candidates sat for the National Board Examination. Of these candidates, two were honored for Distinguished Academic Achievement in recognition of their scores on the National Board Examination. The Candidates were honored during the annual banquet, held on April 13, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency, Orange County in Anaheim, California during the 99th Annual Convention. Past President J. Terry Woodard presented each candidate with a plaque

commemorating their achievements in Funeral Service Education.

Safi Alia Shabaik, of Brooklyn, New York & Daniel Dominguez of Houston, Texas were honored for academic achievement by having the top two scores on the National Board Exam in 2002.

Ms. Shabaik has a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (Magna Cum Laude) from the University of California, Los Angeles and graduated from American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service (Summa Cum Laude). She has received the John

McAllister Memorial Award, Silno Failla Memorial Achievement Award and the Mu Sigma Alpha Award.

Mr. Dominguez attended the University of Pennsylvania and graduated from Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Services where he was the recipient of the George Poston Memorial Scholarship. He is employed with Klein Funeral Home in Tomball, Texas.

The Conference is proud to recognize the achievements of these two individuals.

The National Board Examination (NBE) Performance Data 1st Trimester Results (January 2003-April 2003)

Table 1. NBE Arts Performance Data - 1st Trimester 2003

ARTS N=406	ARTS TOTAL	SOCIO/ FSH	PSYCH	FUNER DIR	BUS LAW	FUNER SER LAW	FUNER SER MER	ACCT/ COMP
No. of Items	150	21	21	27	24	21	21	15
Mean	80.97	85.72	84.05	77.09	78.17	81.15	80.66	80.41
Median	81.87	87.82	83.18	76.55	79.66	80.39	81.54	80.59
Stand. Dev.	7.68	8.63	9.40	9.38	10.08	9.95	10.55	12.61
Stand. Error of Meas.	2.46	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Minimum	56.08	51.82	53.18	50.22	50.50	45.24	48.54	41.66
Maximum	97.93	99.82	99.85	99.96	100.00	99.91	99.87	100.00
KR20	.90	.64	.62	.53	.63	.51	.63	**
KR20*	NA	.93	.92	.86	.91	.88	.92	**

Note: All Arts data (except KR20) are reported as scaled scores.

* KR20 adjusted for 150-item test using the Spearman-Brown Prophecy Formula.

** Reliabilities not reported for subcategories of less than 20 items.

Table 2. NBE Sciences, and Arts and Sciences Combined Performance Data - 1st Trimester 2003

SCIENCES N=474	SCIENCES TOTAL	EMBAL	REST ART	MICRO	PATH	CHEM	ANAT	ARTS & SCI- ENCES N=367
No. of Items	150	36	36	18	24	18	18	300
Mean	76.35	72.18	75.09	75.30	79.29	83.05	76.00	80.03
Median	76.78	73.96	74.95	76.11	79.82	84.75	77.92	81.00
Stand. Dev.	9.15	12.63	10.40	12.43	10.23	11.16	12.66	7.60
Stand. Error of Meas.	2.75	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Minimum	26.91	6.07	24.95	28.11	19.07	21.11	38.42	51.50
Maximum	97.85	100.00	97.87	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.86	97.50
KR20	.91	.74	.72	**	.59	**	**	NA
KR20*	NA	.92	.91	**	.90	**	**	NA

Note: All Sciences data (except KR20) are reported as scaled scores.

* KR20 adjusted for 150-item test using the Spearman-Brown Prophecy Formula.

Table 3. NBE Examinee Pass/Fail Summary - 1st Trimester 2003

EXAMINEE STATUS	N	PASS	FAIL
FIRST-TIME			
Arts	328	87.20% (286)	12.80% (42)
Sciences	323	74.30% (240)	25.70% (83)
Arts & Sciences	322	84.16% (271)	15.84% (51)
RETAKE			
Arts	78	32.05% (25)	67.95% (53)
Sciences	151	22.52% (34)	77.48% (117)
Arts & Sciences	45	22.22% (10)	77.78% (35)
FIRST-TIME and RETAKE COMBINED			
Arts	406	76.60% (311)	23.40% (95)
Sciences	474	57.81% (274)	42.19% (200)
Arts & Sciences	367	76.57% (281)	23.43% (86)

99th Annual Convention held in Anaheim, CA

The 99th Annual Convention of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc. was held in beautiful Anaheim, California April 12-13, 2003. The convention, held at the Hyatt Regency Orange County Hotel, featured open forums, educational presentations, various committee meetings, district meetings and the annual awards banquet. The condensed convention format allowed for family time, while still attending to the business of The Conference.

Following a buffet luncheon hosted by The Conference, President J. Terry Woodard greeted delegates from state board offices, regulatory agencies, and educational institutions across the nation. Mr. Vic Savino of the California Funeral Directors Association, Mr. Dwayne Spence, President of the NFDA, and Mr. Wayne Sparrow, President Elect of the National Funeral

Directors & Morticians Association were also on hand to welcome everyone to beautiful California. Dr. Edmundo Ferreol of the LifeNet Program delivered the Keynote Address.

Attendees left the opening sessions to attend the District Meetings where elections were held to re-elect the District Governors for Districts 1, 8, & 6. John J. Kazlauskas was re-elected to represent District 1, John D. Runsvold was re-elected to represent District 6, and John J. Michelotti was re-elected to represent District 8. Ms. Lisa M. Whitney, was elected to the position of District Governor for District 9, representing Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah to serve out the remainder of Mr. Tom Sanderson's term.

Saturday evening, members attended the Vice-President's Reception hosted by John J. Kazlauskas in honor of the 2002-2003 committee members and officers, followed by the President's Banquet in honor of James Terry Woodard.

During the Presidential Banquet, the 2003-2004 officers were installed. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Charlie Brown.

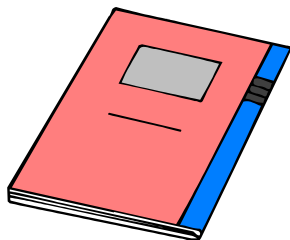
Mr. Paul C. Brush, President of the Association of FSB presented information regarding the complaint process. Steve Nettles from AMP conducted a seminar of Computer Based Testing (CBT). Gary Brooks, CPA moderated a discussion on leasing vs. purchasing office space.

Following the Continuing Education Sessions, the members attended the General Business Session where they heard reports from Conference committees, the 9 Districts that make up The Conference, and the Association of Executives of Funeral Service Boards. Past President, Mr. Terry J. Woodard closed the 99th Annual Convention during a luncheon hosted by The Conference.

Upcoming Change #1

During the 99th Annual Convention the Board of Directors approved a change in the scoring procedures for the National Board Examination. In January 2004 it will be necessary for candidates to obtain a minimum scaled score of 75 on both the Arts and Science sections of the NBE in order to successfully pass the NBE. The current rule allows candidates to receive passing status if their combined score on both sections averages a 75 minimum with a minimum scaled score of 70 on the Arts and Science sections. This new rule will take effect for all candidates who sit for the NBE after

January 1, 2004 and will present a more uniform code of scoring for the NBE as has been recommended by our psychometrician.



The Board of Directors has also given their approval to explore the possibility of converting the National Board Examination from a paper/pencil format to a computer based testing (CBT) format. Although this conversion is in the exploratory stage, it is the hope of the Board that this change can be completed some time in mid-2004. The idea of computer based testing was well received by the convention attendees. There will be more information distributed in regards to CBT as it becomes available.

Upcoming Change #2