



Inside

A Letter From
The President..... 1

Think Big In Dallas At The
11th Annual Meeting..... 2

Continuing
Education Credits..... 2

2015 Meeting
Registration Form..... 3

2015 Tentative
Meeting Agenda..... 4

Board Member
Training Program..... 5

Delegate
Grant Program..... 5

Membership Corner..... 6

Dallas: Where Optimism
Meet Opportunism..... 6

Model Practice Act
Nears Completion..... 7

39th Annual
FARB Forum..... 7

National Board
Exam Statistics..... 8

Upcoming Jurisdiction
Board Meetings 8

A Letter From The President

As we approach the New Year moving forward with new goals and working through existing challenges, I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow board members, committee members, and Conference staff. It has been an eventful and harried year, and these individuals consistently rise to the occasion and meet every obstacle with diligence and determination, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve with each of them.

It seems like it was just yesterday that I was welcoming you to Orlando for the 110th Annual Meeting, and now it is my distinct pleasure on behalf of the Board of Directors to invite you to the 111th Annual Meeting in the “city where big things happen,” Dallas, Texas. The meeting will be held February 25-26, 2015, at the Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre. We have put together an outstanding program for Dallas and if you haven’t already registered, you will find registration information within this newsletter. 2015 promises to be an exciting year and the Annual Meeting agenda reflects current issues and challenges facing funeral service regulation.

The Model Practice Act Committee has been hard at work and I am eager for you to see the final product at the Annual Meeting. Comprised of board and staff members of funeral service regulatory boards throughout the country, this committee was tasked with compiling a singular resource for legislatures and funeral service boards to reference in

policy and decision making. I would like to thank each of them for their hard work and commitment. You should receive a draft of this useful tool in the coming weeks, and a final vote will be held at the Annual Meeting to approve the publication.

The Conference is an active member of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards and the Council on Licensure Enforcement and Regulation. In addition, we also had representatives attend the Funeral Service Association of Canada Annual Meeting as well as ICE Exchange for the Institute of Credentialing Excellence. These meetings and organizations provide a valuable learning experience as well as an opportunity to network with other regulatory professionals and credentialing exam developers.

We have accomplished a great deal this year and it has been an honor to serve as president. As we approach the Annual Meeting, I would like to issue you a challenge: think about where we have come from in funeral service, think about what we can still accomplish, *Think Big!* I hope to see all of you in February in Dallas, but until then, have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Thank You,

Bart Burton



'Think Big' In Dallas At The 111th Annual Meeting

Join The Conference as we "Think Big" in Dallas, Texas this February at the 111th Annual Meeting! This year's meeting, to be held at the Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre in the affluent area of North Dallas, is sure to be a great time for all in attendance. Attendees will hear speakers covering a wide range of regulatory topics and participate in the debut of The Conference Model Practice Act for Funeral Service.



The Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre

The elegant Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre offers hourly transportation to the Dallas Galleria Mall and complimentary shuttle service within a three-mile radius, including over 350 restaurants. Near a host of Fortune 500 companies, this property includes a four-acre

lake with a walking trail along the perimeter and is only a short 20 minute shuttle ride from both DFW and Dallas Love Field Airport.

The 2015 agenda, a culmination of recommendations, trends, and current events in funeral service, contains popular key sessions you've come to expect, including the group exercise, district meetings and the always popular session, *Recent Legal Cases*. Other noteworthy topics include: *Statutory Authority*, *Alternative Certifications*, *Legal Principles of Examination Security*, and *Moral Character Clauses*. Please see page four for the full agenda.

After receiving positive feedback from last year's reception format, the extended networking reception will return in 2015. Please join The Conference board and staff for heavy hors d'oeuvres on Wednesday evening and interact with fellow regulators and funeral service colleagues!

More information on the



Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre Meeting Space & Guest Room



upcoming meeting is available on our website, including hotel reservation details at The Conference rate of \$159 per night. Please visit www.theconferenceonline.org, and click on "Annual Meeting" under "Events" for more information. An early bird registration fee of \$300 is available for attendees who register before December 31, 2014. Additional attendees can register for \$275 each. Registrations received after that date will be charged the on-site fee of \$325.

For more information regarding the meeting, contact Lauren Thomas at services@theconferenceonline.org or 479-442-7076 Ext. 6.

Continuing Education Credits

The Conference is an approved provider of continuing education credits for many of our member jurisdictions. This year, The Conference will host the 111th Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas on February 25-26, 2014, at The Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre. As an added service to our attendees, we provide continuing education credits/units for the programs included in the convention agenda (see the 111th Annual Meeting agenda on page four).

Making a return to the Annual Meeting will be the online CEU registration program. The system allows attendees the freedom to register for continuing education credits from a mobile device by filling out and submitting a simple online form.

The Conference will be mailing out requests to be an approved CEU provider this month. Jurisdictions that

previously accepted CEU's from the Annual Meeting include:

Alabama	Kansas	Oklahoma
Arizona	Kentucky	Tennessee
Arkansas	Louisiana	Virginia
Florida	Minnesota	Washington
Idaho	Nebraska	West Virginia
Illinois	New Mexico	Wyoming
Indiana	North Carolina	

Our goal is to be as inclusive as possible and provide a program that exceeds the standards of your jurisdiction. For more information, please contact The Conference office at 479-442-7076.

2015 Registration Form - 111th Annual Meeting

Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre—Dallas, TX - February 25-26, 2015

Name _____

Title _____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province & Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

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

BOARD MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAM:

2/24/15 2:00—6:00 PM & 2/25/15 8:00—11:30 AM

Yes, Register me for the board member training session.

Note: You will also need to submit the separate board member training registration form.

Please check ONE of the following meetings that you will attend on Wednesday morning, February 25, 2015:

Association of Executives of Funeral Service Boards (7:30—11:30 AM)

Funeral Service Education Forum (10:30—11:30 AM)

Please remember you are responsible for making your own hotel reservations.

Contact the **Hilton Lincoln Centre** no later than **February 2, 2015** at **800-245-3304**

Mention the group code “**ICF**” to ensure the guestroom rate of \$159 (plus tax & fees).

2015 REGISTRATION FEES:

Early Bird Fees: Through December 31, 2014

(\$25 addition to each registration after 12/31/14)

ICFSEB Member: \$ 300.00

(includes Associate Members)

Additional Member Registrations: \$ 275.00

(\$275 for each additional)

Non-Member: \$ 400.00

Board Member Training: \$ 100.00

GUEST FEES:

FUNCTION:

2/25 — Opening Session & Luncheon \$30.00/person

2/25 — Networking Reception \$40.00/person

2/26 — Awards Luncheon \$30.00/person

Guest(s) Name _____

Total Guest Fees: \$ _____

2015 TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Check (Make payable to “The Conference”)

Visa MasterCard Discover

Card No: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Exp. date: ___ / ___ (mm/yy) CSC _____

Signature: _____

Note: Registration forms SUBMITTED TOGETHER from the same regulatory board or school will qualify for a discount. The first registration is \$300, All additional registrations will be \$275. Early Bird Registration Form & Payment must be received by 12/31/2014.

Are you a licensed Funeral Service Practitioner subject to Continuing Education Requirements? Yes No

Please list state(s) you are licensed in:

111th Annual Meeting Agenda

Hilton Lincoln Centre - Dallas, Texas

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

2:00 pm–6:00 pm Board Member Training

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

7:30 am–10:00 am Convention Registration

7:30 am–11:30 am Funeral Service
Administrators Forum (AEFSB)

8:00 am–11:30 am Board Member Training

10:30 am–11:30 am Examination Services Forum
*Sarah Gill, Examination Services
The Conference*

11:45 am–1:00 pm Business Meeting
& Luncheon of the
111th Annual Meeting
(Welcome, Roll-call, & Intros)

1:15 pm–2:15 pm Model Practice Act
*Lisa Moore, MPA Committee Chair
Bureau Chief, CA Cemetery & Funeral Bureau*

2:15 pm–3:15 pm Legal Principles of
Examination Security
*Jennifer Semko, Partner
Baker & McKenzie, LLP*

3:30 pm–4:30 pm Recent Cases & What
We Need to Learn From Them
Dale Atkinson, Atkinson & Atkinson

4:30 pm–5:00 pm Executive Session
*Bart Burton, ICFSEB President
Dale Atkinson, ICFSEB Counsel*

5:30 pm–7:00 pm Welcome Reception

Thursday, February 26, 2015

7:00 am–8:00 am Past Presidents Breakfast

8:15 am–9:15 am Statutory Authority-
Examining the Scope of the Board
*Mark Evely, Program Director
Wayne State University*

9:15 am–10:15 am Multi-Board Collaboration for
Joint Rulemaking
*Ruth Ann Arty, Executive Director
Maryland Board of Morticians & Funeral Directors*

10:30 am–12:00 pm District Meetings

12:00 pm–12:30 pm Board of Directors
Meeting and Photos

12:30 pm–2:00 pm Awards Luncheon
& Reports

*District Reports
AEFSB Report
ABFSE Report
President's Distinguished Service Award
Recognition of Board members
Recognition of President
Installation of Board of Directors
Installation of Officers for 2015–2016
Presentation of Gavel*

2:00 pm–2:15 pm Break

2:15 pm–3:00 pm Alternative Certifications
What's on the Horizon?

3:00 pm–5:00 pm Group Exercise
Dinner on your own

Board Member Training Program Set

The Conference is pleased to announce it will be offering the board member training program for the third consecutive year in conjunction with the 111th Annual Meeting. The seminar will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 24, and continue through Wednesday

morning, February 25, at the Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre in Dallas, Texas.

The Board Member Training Program is designed to help new members of regulatory boards become familiar with the roles and responsibilities of serving on a funeral service regulatory board. The training program is open to any

member of any board regardless of how many years served as well as any board staff member. The overall goal of the Board Member Training Program is to educate funeral service regulatory board members in becoming an informed regulatory assembly of leaders with a public-protection mindset. The attendees will be provided with interactive scenarios that highlight the day-to-day complications regulatory boards are faced with. Participants will be asked to assess the situation, determine a cause of action, and make recommendations to the entire group on what should be done.

“The board member training is very helpful. It is full of information and a good reminder of the role we play as

board members. I recommend this training for all of your board members so that you are on the same page and can avoid future hassles from the public and possible law suits,” said Gregory Searls from the Wyoming State Board of Embalming. The Board Member Training Program is chaired by Mack Smith, Executive Director of the Kansas Board of Mortuary Arts, and is lead by Dale Atkinson, of Atkinson & Atkinson, LLC. There were 10 jurisdictions represented at the training seminar held in Orlando, FL last February.

limited spots are available! Please visit the board member training page at www.theconferenceonline.org/ events for more information and the registration form or contact the office at 479-442-7076.

2014 Graduates of The Conference’s Board Member Training Program:

Robert Carter, Ohio
Dr. Hari P. Close, II, Maryland
J. Cooper, Oklahoma
Cameron Davis, Alberta
Mark Evely, Wayne State Univ.
Denise Grogan, Alabama
Randolph Horton, Washington DC
Shannon Leson, Saskatchewan
Edward Mulheisen, Louisiana
Verna Rock, Alberta
Gregory Searls, Wyoming
Jeffrey Temples, South Carolina
Chad Vice, Oklahoma

“Very, Very informative. Especially for a new board member such as myself! Excellent conference! Continue the work!”

“Everyone needs this Training - Kudos!”

“So much information and thankfully we have copies to take home!”

Now Accepting Delegate Grant Program Applications

The Delegate Grant Program for the upcoming Annual Meeting will be available for the third year. The Board of Directors is dedicated to the goal of full participation by the member boards in the Annual Meeting of the delegate assembly. Through the program, The Conference provides the opportunity to apply for assistance to attend the Annual Meeting.

The number of grants are limited and will be awarded by the Board of Directors. The delegate(s) accepted must adhere to the policies and procedures of the Delegate Grant Program.

More information on the Delegate Grant Program including the policies and procedures of the program, and the formal application can be found on the Annual Meeting page on The Conference’s website. All applications are due by December 31, 2014.

Membership Corner

Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board Files Proposed Rulemaking Notice

The Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board has filed Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Hearing with the Secretary of State.

The amendments relate to the creation of a continuing education program, reporting and content requirements, and relating procedures; adds requirement for completion of continuing education for license renewal. The proposed program will require 10 units of continuing education each calendar year. Practitioners will need to maintain records related to courses taken, and will be required to complete a form at license renewal with this information.

The CE requirement shall apply to: a. Licensed funeral service practitioners, b. Licensed embalmers, c. Licensed death care consultants, d. Registered funeral or cemetery preneed salespersons, e. Managers of a cemetery, crematory or alternative disposition facility licensed by the Board.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed rule amendments, please contact Michelle Gaines at 971-673-1502 or email michelle.gaines@state.or.us.

This Article was provided by the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board.

Members Utilize The Conference as Information Clearinghouse Resource

As a member board of The Conference you can utilize The Conference's resources to disseminate inquires to other member boards. The Conference is proud to act as a clearinghouse of information for, and assist your board in obtaining the information you are seeking.

Please email your inquiries to Member Services Manager Lauren Thomas at services@theconferenceonline.org. Responses will be forwarded to you as we receive them back from member boards.

Recent inquires that were sent out include the following:

Does your jurisdiction charge a flat fee for renewals of funeral homes and/or crematories or a fee that is based off call volume or the number of death certificates filed?

- All charge a flat fee with the exception of one who charges renewals of funeral homes based upon the number of death certificates filed. (31 states responded)

Does your jurisdiction include a photo on a license and/or permit?

- All said they did not. (28 states responded)

Dallas: Where Optimism Meets Opportunity

When in Dallas, a visitor will enjoy the best shopping in the southwest, four-and five-diamond/star hotels and restaurants, the largest urban arts district in the nation, 14 entertainment districts and much more. Blend in moderate weather, year-round sports and true Southern hospitality for a true "taste" of the Dallas difference. Visitors are exposed to a city of success ... where optimism meets opportunity. Its pioneering spirit is alive and well, and the philanthropic contributions from its many residents continue to enrich the community and quality of life.

Dallas plays host to some of the most lauded attractions in the nation, and visiting places such as the Dallas Zoo, Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Rory

Meyers Children's Adventure Garden at the Dallas Arboretum, Dallas World Aquarium, and Six Flags Over Texas are practically mandatory. Grab the kiddos and hit the town!

Our pride and joy is premier barbeque and authentic Tex-Mex, but it doesn't end there. From gastronomy and farm-to-fork, to soba noodles and wild game, Dallas dining is one unique experience to savor. Various cultural and entertainment districts in and around downtown Dallas offer visitors an exciting assortment of activities. From family-friendly offerings and quaint settings to vibrant nightlife and exciting atmospheres, you can do and see it all in Dallas.

Continued on page 7

The Conference Model Practice Act Nears Completion



As the Model Practice Act Committee nears completion of their work on The Conference Model Practice Act for Funeral Service, we will be asking Conference member boards to provide feedback on the publication. The draft will be distributed to The Conference membership in mid-November and the final version of the Model Practice Act will be

presented to the delegate assembly at the 111th Annual Meeting for a vote with a board recommendation for adoption.

In June of 2013, The Conference Board of Directors appointed the committee from a pool of qualified candidates across the United States. The committee members represent single and dual license states, agency and bureau governed boards, autonomous boards, board consumer members, as well as health regulated and business regulated boards. These volunteers have been instrumental in bringing The Conference Model Practice Act to life through their dedication and knowledge of funeral service regulation.

Constructed as a best practice mechanism, The Conference Model Practice Act for Funeral Service will provide a resource for legislatures and funeral service

boards when addressing issues related to public protection regulation. The Model Practice Act will promote standardization of terminology and regulation which will facilitate public understanding of the profession. In addition, it will increase licensure portability through uniformity and consistency in legal decisions related to board activities.

The committee met in person December 5-6, 2013 and August 26-27, 2014 with a series of interlaced conference calls throughout the 16 month period to discuss, construct, and review.

The Conference asks that you please review and share your comments by Friday, December 12th with Lauren Thomas, Member Services Manager. You can reach Lauren by email at services@theconferenceonline.org.



Members of the Model Practice Act Committee break for lunch before retuning to work at the committee meeting held August 26-27, 2014.

Dallas Continued

Dallas boasts the largest contiguous urban arts district in the nation, top museums, performance halls and award-winning architectural designs, arts and culture. The festivals, exhibitions, shows and performances featured in the city throughout the year are sure to enhance any trip to Dallas.

Celebrate sports Dallas-style by catching a game with one of five cheer-worthy professional teams, including America's Team the Dallas Cowboys, baseball's Texas Rangers, puck-wielding Dallas Stars, the Dallas Mavericks, and soccer's FC Dallas.

Regardless of what choose to do while you're in town, you can be assured that you will find unique experiences available only in and around Dallas. For more information please visit www.visitdallas.com.

This Article was written by and compiled from the Dallas Convention & Visitor Bureau.

39th Annual FARB Forum

The 39th Annual FARB Forum will be held Friday, January 23, 2015 through Sunday, January 25, 2015 at the Westin La Paloma in Tucson, Arizona.

The Forum Friday Focus will take an in-depth look at the question, "What Do Boards Need to Know About Licensure?" Sessions will cover applications, citizenship status, The Americans with Disabilities Act, and competence assessment as attendees explore the overall concept of professional licensure. This year attendees will engage in small group scenario discussions and explore a variety of regulatory issues.

The Forum will address top recent regulatory cases and a comprehensive look at administrative sanctions and will include a discussion of default judgments, technology and practice, and new legislation. For more information on the 39th Annual FARB Forum, including registration details, please visit www.farb.org.

NBE Quarterly Statistics

January 1, 2014- September 30, 2014

National Board Arts Examination

	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #
First Time	1159	892	77%	267	23%	11
Repeater	245	93	38%	152	62%	13
Total	1404	985	70%	419	30%	24

National Board Science Examination

	Total Tested	Pass #	Pass %	Fail #	Fail %	Absent #
First Time	1160	903	78%	257	22%	15
Repeater	227	71	31%	156	68%	19
Total	1387	974	70%	413	30%	34

For a full listing of quarterly stats, please visit
www.theconferenceonline.org/resources/nbe-statistics

Upcoming Jurisdiction Board Meetings

- Arizona - 11/19, 12/16
- Delaware - 12/9
- Florida - 12/4
- Georgia - 11/4,
- Massachusetts - 11/25, 12/2, 12/16
- Nebraska - 11/17
- New Jersey - 12/2
- North Carolina - 11/12, 12/10
- Pennsylvania - 12/3
- South Carolina - 12/11
- Tennessee - 12/9
- Saskatchewan - 11/20, 12/18

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

**Please Take the Customer Satisfaction Survey
Online at:
www.theconferenceonline.org/survey
Thank You!**



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