



Arizona Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Association

BOARD MEETING

St. Francis Catholic Cemetery
Phoenix, AZ
Thursday, May 15, 2014
11:00 am

MINUTES

In attendance:

Board

David Long, President
Paul Neville, Vice President
Amie Gazda, Secretary
Mike Darus, Treasurer
Joe Salyards
Jim Ahearne
Bill Addison
Jeffrey Cruz
Hillary Adair
Steve Palmer
Butch Hampton
Steve Handley
Liz Zeig

Guests

Trisha Hart and John Mangum, Law Offices of John K. Mangum
Matt Knowles, Judicial Real Estate

Staff

Heather Long, Executive Director

Absent

Donna Backhaus

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 11:19 AM by President David Long.

2. **Reports**

a. **President's Report**

David Long made mention that while at the beginning of this fiscal year, meetings every other month seemed a good idea, he feels that it creating a disconnect with the board members. He proposed that the next board of directors consider moving the meetings back to every month starting in July.

b. **Secretary**

Amie Gazda presented the minutes of the April 16th, 2014 meeting.

Motion to accept the April 16th report made by Jim Ahearne, seconded by Steve Palmer. Motion carried unanimously.

c. **Treasurer**

Mike Darus asked when an appropriate time to approve the 2014-2015 Association Budget; the Board agreed that the budget can be voted on at the July 2015 meeting.

Part of this new budget would be a pay increase for the Executive Director as part of the new contract. A 6% increase was proposed and will be put to vote at the July 10th meeting.

Mike reported that the profit and loss reports are looking healthy with only one change, that the a \$5000 debit placed under the Top Level Convention GL be moved to its appropriate account. Heather will do this before the next financial report is pulled.

■ **Motion to wait to approve the new fiscal year budget was made by Jim Ahearne. Seconded by Paul Neville. Motion carried unanimously.**

d. Executive Director

Heather Long reported that things were coming together nicely for convention. The Adairs have been extremely helpful with their connections in Tucson, so thank you to them.

In June, our mailbox rental will expire and Heather asked if there was any objections to moving the mailbox out to Mesa so that she can avoid the 60 mile round-trip she currently drives to check mail. The board expressed no objections. The new address will go into effect mid-June, after convention.

e. NFDA Update

The Funeral Rule Improvement Act of 2014 was introduced in the House of Representatives at the request of NFDA, this bill would amend the definitions of "funeral provider" and "funeral services" in the FTC Funeral Rule to include all for-profit sellers of funeral or final disposition goods or services. This bill ended unsuccessful and was pulled from legislation. It could be revisited next year.

The NFDA is continuing its active involvement with all relevant federal or state departments, agencies and private organizations to insure that the role of funeral service in any natural or man-made mass fatality disaster is clearly defined and adequately reflected in their policies and continue to advocate for a federal mass fatality plan

Federal Cargo Screening Program for Human Remains: That NFDA will work with TSA, other relevant federal agencies, the airlines, and related organizations to develop an appropriate and acceptable program for cargo screening of human remains as well as explore potential alternative shipping options.

The NFDA is working to establish or support uniform international shipping standards for human remains.

NFDA strongly supports acceptable federal legislation that would allow any employer to make compensatory time available as an option for any and all employees regardless of their status under the Wage and Hour law and regulations.

f. ICCFA Update

The ICCFA strongly opposed the Funeral Rule Improvement Act of 2014. We have described H.R. 3655 as creating a minefield of relatively minor offenses that are punishable by crushing fines starting at \$16,000 per violation. Under the rules of procedure, the FTC would have relatively little discretion imposing the fines, even on the smallest of funeral homes or cemeteries.

More troubling, if this legislation becomes law, it would create something that does not currently exist – a statute section in the U.S. Code that specifically regulates funeral homes, cemeteries, crematories, monument builders, and related businesses. As with other sections of the U.S. Code, this

could be amended endlessly by the introduction of new legislation by any of the 535 members of Congress, anytime there is a problem with a local funeral home, cemetery, crematory, monument dealer, etc. in their district. Remember, the FTC Funeral Rule is not a federal statute and currently there is no federal statute that specifically regulates our profession. H.R. 3655 would change that.”

Mike Darus would like the board to strongly consider both sides of this act before it is presented again.

g. Supplier Representative Update

Nothing new to report.

h. Foundation for Children Update

The Foundation for Children Board extended a few of the board of directors seats either one or two years to level the amounts of individuals leaving the board over the next three years. There will be three seats open as of June 2014.

New Foundation Officers were presented to be voted on at the Business Meeting at the upcoming convention.

President: Karen Ritz

Vice President: Liz Zeig

Secretary: David Long

Treasurer: Steve Handley

i. Education Committee

Donna Backhaus was not in attendance as she had just had surgery the previous day. Several of the board members attended the graduation ceremony on May 8, 2014. The year’s students were very impressive.

3. Continuing Business

a. 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Budget

This was discussed in the treasurers report and has been tabled until the July 10th meeting.

b. Legislative Updates / Follow Up on the SCI Bill

John Mangum and Trish Hart were in attendance to give the report of the 2014 Legislative Session. This year’s session lasted 101 days, longer than typical sessions.

There were many many issues that were focused that were not directly related to our Industry, and a lot focused on the 9.2 Billion Dollar Budget approval. The large issue for the year was DES and CPS and the separation of the two entities.

2014 is also an election year with big leadership changes. Arizona will be voting on a new governor, attorney general, Secretary of State, Treasurer, as well as changes for the Congressional Offices.

The Arizona State Funeral Board was approved through the year 2022.

[Arizona House Bill 2267 "Burial; Instructions"](#) received a do pass recommendation from the House Commerce committee on February 5, 2014. On 2/20/2014, The bill was amended on the floor of the house by adding, "3. THE INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT VIOLATE THE WRITTEN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT, CREMATORY OR CEMETERY." The bill was transmitted to the Senate on 2/24/2014 and assigned the Commerce, Energy and Military committee where it is currently being held. 4/21/14 Update: The bill H2267 is in the Senate awaiting committee of the whole action and third reading in the Senate. 4/22/14 Update: The bill H2267 was stopped by it's sponsor. It may be revisited in 2015.

A full legislative report will be made at the June 5th, 2014 Membership Business Meeting, held at the Omni Tucson National.

c. 2014 Convention Updates

David Long and Hillary Adair are working together to finalize the opening ceremonies. This year the focus will be honoring fallen heroes as it is the one year anniversary of the Yarnell Fire. They have been in contact with several local fire departments to secure a color guard and bag piper. The last alarm fire truck will also be displayed at the entrance of the hotel. Speaker Andy Tobin has been invited to give commendations to all who were involved in laying the Yarnell 19 to rest.

We had one change to speakers, George Owen will be replacing a speaker and will talk about JD Power Scores.

Golf registration is slow. We need to encourage pre-registration.

4. New Business

a. Scholarship Deadlines

The question of whether we should change deadlines for the scholarship programs came up and whether we should change the way the Son & Daughter scholarship is presented. The meeting ended before a decision could be made.

5. Future Agenda Items

6. Adjourn

■ **Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Steve Palmer. Seconded by Hillary Adair. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amie Gazda; prepared by Heather Long

The next board meeting will be Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 4:00 PM at Omni Tucson National.