



Arizona Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Association

BOARD MEETING

St. Francis Cemetery • Phoenix, AZ

Thursday, January 14, 2016 • 10:30 am

MINUTES

In attendance:

Board

Paul Neville, President

Hillary Adair, Vice President

Amie Gazda, Secretary

Mike Darus, Treasurer

Jim Ahearne

Donna Backhaus

Liz Zeig

Steve Handley

Absent

David Long

Butch Hampton

Jeff Cruz

Greg Coury

Steve Palmer

Staff

Heather Long, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:53 AM by President Paul Neville.

2. Reports

a. President's Report

Nothing to Report

b. Secretary

Amie Gazda presented the minutes of the November 12, 2015 meeting.

Motion to accept the September 10th, 2015 report made by Jim Ahearne, seconded by Hillary Adair.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Treasurer

The investment account is down \$6000 due to a withdrawal made in November to cover a tax payment. As of December 31st, we are down \$4000 in our bank accounts, making us down \$10,000 over year prior. Outstanding invoices from convention, though, will bring us even with the bank accounts from last year, so we are not actually down, just waiting on funds still. Heather reported that the check was mailed to wrong address and she is working with the vendor on getting the payment sent in to the correct address.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report as of December 2015 made by Jim Ahearne, seconded by

Amie Gazda. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Executive Director

Nothing new to report.

e. Legislative Updates

We have not been made aware of any upcoming legislation that will affect our industry. Heather will reach out to John Mangum to find out if anything is happening with the SCI bill.

f. **NFDA Update**

Steve Palmer was at NFDA headquarters in Wisconsin in early December where he was on a task force helping the Leadership Development Committee establish criteria for promoting, vetting and organizing potential candidates. It was very interesting to be part of this process. Candidates will be interviewed and will submit a complete application and will not be accepted if they don't meet base requirements. This helps attract serious candidates early and organize a balanced ballot. They followed up with a long conference call last week. The Leadership Development Committee will have past presidents and other committee members and other active funeral directors. Steve is not a member of the committee but just served on the task force.

Findings go to the Board of Directors in late January. Candidates for At-Large Representatives need to be set for the Advocacy Summit in Washington DC in April. Election is in July at Leadership Summit in July. Board of Directors are elected in October.

NFDA also discussed how the electronic voting by all NFDA members would be handled. Steve will inform the board all facets once the board of directors makes the final decisions.

Steve will be attending Advocacy Summit with Heather in Washington DC on behalf of the board.

g. **ICCFA Update**

ICCFA Annual Convention will be in New Orleans April 13-16. Several board members, and our executive Director have plans to attend on behalf of the state of Arizona.

h. **Supplier Representatives Update**

No updates

i. **Foundation for Children Update**

The Foundation has decided to table the grief camp project and start focusing on fundraising to get the investment account higher.

There are two large requests in right now. We will be donating \$750 to a child through MSP for medications for C Diff and IBS. Another student needs surgery for a detached retina, but we are requesting further information before we give any money.

Golf Tournament will be in April with location and exact date TBD.

j. **Education Committee**

Scholarships have started to trickle in. Heather will be asking board members for volunteers to read the entries and to select a recipient.

3. **Continuing Business**

a. **Maintenance Seminar**

We are in need of speakers, Steve Handley has a contact for someone that could come speak on how to manage people. Amie Gazda recommended something on Pest Control – Executive High Reach. Otherwise the seminar is moving along and we are looking forward to seeing the remodel at Mountain View Funeral Home.

b. Investment Account Withdrawal

We had to make a \$6,000 withdrawal from the Investment Account in order to pay our taxes in November.

Motion to approve the withdrawal from the investment account made by Jim Ahearne. Seconded by Amie Gazda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business

a. Scholarship Committee

We received six applicants for the William Aaron Scholarship in December. Mike Darus, Paul Neville and Amie Gazda volunteered to read the applicants to pick a recipient.

5. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 made by Jim Ahearne. Seconded by Amie Gazda. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Amie Gazda; prepared by Heather Long .The next full board meeting will be Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 10:30 AM, to be held at St. Francis Cemetery unless otherwise noted.