



# MEETING MINUTES

**AFCCA Board of Directors Meeting  
St. Francis Cemetery • Phoenix, AZ**

**Thursday, November 9, 2017  
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

## **In attendance:**

### Board

Mike Darus, President  
Steve Palmer, Treasurer  
Paul Neville  
David Walker  
Ethan Bueler  
Steve Handley

### Guests

Trish Hart  
John Mangum

### Absent

Amie Gazda, Vice President  
Russell Persinger, Secretary  
Hillary Adair  
Greg Coury  
Dan Salter  
Joseph Lange  
Donna Backhaus  
Liz Zeig

### Staff

Heather Long, Executive Director

## **Call to Order**

Meeting Called to order at 10:36 AM by President, Mike Darus

## **Reports**

### **1. President's Report**

President's Letter – Mike asked for input on his letter to the membership. There was not much to add from the board, so Mike will finalize and it will be included with membership renewal packet.

### **2. Secretary's Report**

Mike Darus presented the September 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

**Motion to approve the minutes from the September 2017 meeting by Steve Palmer, seconded by Ethan Bueler. Motion approved unanimously.**

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Steve Palmer presented the Fiscal Year P&L and Balance Sheet as of 10/31/17.

#### **AFCCA Mission**

Encouraging the continuance of education of our members, promoting high ethical standards in our industry, and providing advocacy for death care professionals and the families they serve.

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Steve pointed out that we are in line, and even slightly better, than the previous year at this point. With a successful Fall Mixer, we should be covered through until dues start coming in.

**Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Paul Neville, seconded by Ethan Bueler. Motion approved unanimously.**

## 4. Executive Director Report

### a. Banking and Investment Account Updates

Our accounts are fully moved over from Chase Bank to Midfirst Bank and are in full use as of November 1<sup>st</sup>. We ran into a glitch with the investment accounts as the Chase accounts are in our accountant's name. They need to be switched over to Heather's name as the Executive Director, and then the Wittrock's will be able to transfer the funds. The goal is to have them fully managing our accounts by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### b. Fall Festival Report

Heather reported that we are going to have close to 150 people in attendance at the Fall Mixer. The location and venue were a huge attribute to the success of this event, so we will continue to look at the North Scottsdale/Phoenix area off of the 101 for our events.

## 5. Legislative Update – Trish and John Report

### a. Funeral Director License Issue SB 1296

It's likely that we can see that this issue come out again. We had one representative that helped us kill the bill in the house, but there is always the possibility that the dual license issue can revisit the legislative session next year.

### b. DAVE System

As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, there are 6000 Medical Certifiers on boarded, though we still will run into issues with doctors that don't usually have patients that die not being in the system. We have heard that Banner hospitals are having problems with the system and getting doctors to use it. The AFCCA is encouraging members reach out with any and all issues so that we can forward along to ADHS as we have created a good working relationship with the director. All issues that we have sent to ADHS were taken care of within a day. There is going to be a 6-month follow up meeting – if there are still any major concerns or issues in DAVE, members are encouraged to please let us know so we can make changes at this meeting. With negative publicity, Senator McGee and Senator Barto reached out to Trish Hart and other stakeholders to see what they can do to help the Funeral side. They have been instrumental in getting things shook up so that our members are able to do the job they need to do. The Association along with Trish and John have worked very hard to maintain relationship with ADHS.

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## c. **Refrigeration**

Several stakeholders have been asking the Association and John & Trish to move forward with a bill to require refrigeration in every funeral home and crematory. Arizona is one of the only states who do not require refrigeration. Association needs to discuss how this bill would work. Ethan will schedule a meeting with the legislative committee, John Mangum and Trish Hart to draft legislation to restore the requirement of refrigeration, embalming, or cremation within 24 hours. This proposal will be submitted to the board for approval.

## d. **Fetal Remains Issue**

In October, a joint letter with Attorney Generals of ADHS and Arizona State Board stating that there does not need to be a disposition transit permit for fetal remains. This is still causing concern for many cemeteries and funeral homes in the state.

John and Trish recommend that we change statute to state that you do not need a disposition transit permit for fetal remains under 20 weeks or under 350 grams. Legislative committee led by Ethan will meet to discuss how this can be accomplished. Heather will coordinate a meeting with the committee and with John and Trish.

## 6. **National Updates**

- a. ICCFA – We need to invite someone from ICCFA to attend our June conference in 2018
- b. NFDA – After eight years, Steve Palmer has stepped down as the NFDA policy board rep for Arizona. He was presented with a plaque of appreciation by NFDA President Ashley Cozine. Steve presented his report from his meeting in Boston, this full report can be found on our news page on our website and will be sent out to the membership.

## 7. **Supplier Representative Report**

Nothing to report in the state of Arizona. The national burial vault association is going through some changes. Steve Handley is the incoming President for this association.

## 8. **Foundation for Children Report**

The board agreed to adopt 2-3 families for Christmas. They also approved to donate \$1000 to an organization called Comfy Cozies, which specializes in making hospital gowns for children with cancer that have special port holes for Chemotherapy. In 2019, before the end of the school year, the board would like to again donate technology to another autism program somewhere in the state.

At the end of the year, the Foundation discussed using extra funds to hold a donor appreciation event at the convention.

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The Fall Mixer Fundraiser – the Foundation will have 90 mystery boxes to sell as well as holding a 50/50 Raffle.

## 9. Education Report

Nothing new to report.

## Business Items

### 1. Membership Drive

Heather will be sending out the Membership Renewal forms out by end of November. Including President's Letter, graphic showing what we've done. She asked about providing an incentive for renewing before 12/31, but the board did not come up with a final response, so she will email the board directly to discuss and get a final answer.

Heather will be getting an updated list of firms from the State Board. Once we look at this list, we plan to identify non-members and have AFCCA board members go visit to talk about benefits of joining in order boost membership growth.

### 2. Maintenance Seminar

Heather will work with Dan about the topics and schedule. The board needs to identify new ways to reach superintendents for attendance.

### 3. Convention Committee

Paul and Steve will help with Speaker Selection and developing the Theme for the Convention. We feel that perhaps a mass fatality speaker would be relevant and Steve recommended the Policy Board Rep from Texas and part owner of the funeral home in Vegas that handled all the shooting victims to come and talk about their experience.

The board decided to stick with Phoenix area for the 2019 location and Heather will be setting up site visits for early January.

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM by President, Mike Darus

**Next Full Board Meeting – Thursday, January 11, 2017 at 10:30 AM; St Francis Cemetery unless otherwise noted.**