



**AFCCA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Green Acres Mortuary & Cemetery • Scottsdale, AZ**

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**  
**10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

## **In attendance:**

### Board

Amie Gazda, President  
Ethan Bueler, Vice President  
David Walker, Secretary  
Paul Neville

### Staff

Heather Long, Executive Director

### Absent

Steve Palmer, Treasurer  
Hillary Adair  
Dan Salter  
Liz Zeig  
Greg Coury  
Russell Persinger  
Renee Corbelli  
Donna Backhaus  
Steve Handley

### Guest

Ann-Marie Harris

## **Call to Order**

Meeting Called to order at 10:43 AM by President, Amie Gazda

## **Reports**

### **1. Secretary's Report**

David Walker presented the March 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

**Motion to approve the minutes from the March 2019 meeting by Ethan Bueler, seconded by Paul Neville. Motion approved unanimously.**

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

a) Approval of P&L and Balance Sheet

**A motion to once again table the treasurers report until new CPA has reconciled our accounts was made by Amie Gazda, seconded by Paul Neville. Motion approved unanimously.**

### **3. Executive Director Report**

a) CPA Accounting Update

Still working with the new CPA to get our accounts reconciled. Heather has been working to make sure they have access to all the accounts they need. Heather has also been trying to

#### **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.



finalize tax documents with HBL CPA so that we can end the relationship with them as soon as possible.

John with GeneralCents will come to the next board meeting to give an update on our accounts and to meet the board members.

Heather spoke with Renee Wittrock and we have had a \$3500 gain on our accounts in the past month. The Wittrocks would also like to present at the next board meeting.

## 4. Legislative Update

- a) SB1245 – Death Certificate and Intern License Bill  
No updates on the result of this bill as of this date.

## 5. National Updates

Heather Long, Hillary Adair and Steve Palmer attended the NFDA Advocacy Summit to lobby on behalf of the BRAVE Act and the CDRI Act. They met with six offices: Sen. Sinema, Sen McSally, Rep Biggs, Rep O'Halleran, Rep Kirkpatrick, Rep Gosar

CDRI is a newer piece of legislation that will create a division under the Secretary of Health to regulate non-transplant body and tissue donation facilities. Currently there is no regulations and Arizona are at about 30% of families choosing this at time of death for loved one.

BRAVE Act will raise the non-service related death amount (\$300) for Veterans who die at a non-VA facility to be the same as those veterans who pass at a VA Facility (\$780) and will index for inflation. It will also index the service-related death amount (\$2000) for inflation.

Also, there will be two At-Large Representative seats for election this year at the NFDA Annual Conference. Running for these seats is Linda Allen from IL, Daniel Ford from CT and Beatrice Lewanduski from NY. Stay tuned for election information.

Finally, the NFDA Leadership Summit is in San Diego July 13-17. This summit is all about Association leadership and growth. Heather encouraged the board to send a few executive members if possible.

## 6. Supplier Representative Report

There will be one new supplier seat available as of the conference. The incoming President and the board will be welcoming new interested representatives for the seat.



## 7. Foundation for Children Report

The Foundation is ready for their spring golf tournament April 25<sup>th</sup>. They are also still looking for silent auction donations for the June fundraiser.

## 8. Education

A discussion was had on how to honor Dr. Taggart at luncheon for retirement.

Scholarship committee is still selecting a recipient.

Graduation is May 9<sup>th</sup> at the CGCC Pecos Campus.

## Business Items

### 1. 2019 Convention Planning

Conference is on track and we are hoping for a good turn out this year. Heather is actively working to get nominations for board seats as well as entries for the Excellence awards.

A promotional video for the conference is being produced and will be sent out shortly.

### 2. Other Business for the Good of the Order

Since the "Evening with Lacy Robinson" was so well received. Heather suggested that we work towards doing more of those that will work for CEUs and can also be sponsored by suppliers. Then we can turn the conference in June into a one-day seminar with a speaker and the annual business meeting. It's important to create an experience our members are looking for in order to keep them engaged. After new board is selected, a committee will be formed to put together a strategic plan for this new format of education for AFCCA.

Doug Ducey made Arizona the first state to recognize other state licensing requirements for many industries, including Funeral Directors and Embalmers. This could potentially help with the Funeral Director shortage in Arizona.

## Adjournment

**A motion to adjourn the meeting by Amie Gazda, seconded by Paul Neville. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:34 PM by President, Amie Gazda.

**Next Full Board Meeting – Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 10:30 AM; Green Acres Mortuary & Cemetery Market Office unless otherwise noted.**