

CFDA NEWS

CFDA

Volume 2, Issue 1

January/February 2007

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Advertiser Index

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CFDA at Work on New Licensing Bill

CFDA's Board of Directors and Legislative Committee are already at work to consider new legislation that will affect the funeral service profession. The new legislative session began January 10 and will end May 9, 2007.

A key supporter in the past, State **Rep. Debbie Stafford** (Dist. 40), will introduce new legislation in the coming weeks that will regulate funeral service practitioners in Colorado. CFDA representatives have worked closely with Rep. Stafford on the "**Mortuary Science Licensure**" bill to determine criteria and standards that will ensure reasonable standards of practice for funeral service providers and protect the health and safety of the public. With a new Democratic Governor and the Democratic party in control of the State Legislature, it is widely believed that licensing and regulation for funeral directors is inevitable.

Since the state legislature abolished licensing for funeral directors and embalmers in 1982, the CFDA has worked to maintain high standards and to mediate disputes and misunderstandings between its members, the public and our government. In recent years, we have noticed a growing number of complaints and ethical improprieties reported from citizens about the mishandling of funeral cases. There are also concerns that an unfortunate incident might occur which will generate laws that have a severe impact on the operation of funeral establishments in Colorado.

The association supports the need for a strong and trustworthy funeral service industry that involves many professionals working together at many levels. The objective of a licensing bill is to implement standards and criteria that acknowledges widely-recognized competencies for funeral service practitioners.

(Continued on page 6)

Listen & Learn

CFDA will present a member teleconference on Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. MST to explain the key points of the new "Mortuary Science Licensure" bill and discuss how it will affect funeral service providers in Colorado.

Watch your email and check the CFDA web site for more information about how to register for this informative program.

CFDA Education Seminar on Tuesday, March 6

The Colorado Funeral Directors Association in partnership with **Pierce Chemicals/Royal Bond** will offer a one-day education program on Tuesday, March 6 at the Olinger Crown Hill Reception Center in the Denver metro area.

The program will be offered in two parts: the morning seminar will focus on Embalming while the afternoon seminar will discuss Funeral Directing issues. The instructor will be **Nelson Hayes**, CFSP, MBIE, ASE, FSL, sales representative for Pierce Chemicals Royal Bond and secretary of the British Institute of Embalmers, North American Division.

The Embalming Seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and will cover difficult case embalmings including drug Interactions and edema, the 4C's and 5 P's of embalming and a case analysis. Three contact hours will be awarded by the Colorado Funeral Service Board for the Embalming Seminar.

The Funeral Directing Seminar will be held from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. and will address funeral ethics, the funeral director's role in the next pandemic and funeral directors as barriers to infection and disease. Three contact hours will be awarded by the CFSB for the Funeral Directing Seminar.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided for seminar registrants, sponsored by **Donor Alliance** and **Si Funeral Services/Colorado Wilbert**.

Employees of CFDA member firms and currently certified CFSB individuals are offered discounted fees of \$99 for the full-day and \$69 for a half-day registration.

Registration is limited on a first-come, first-serve basis. **See the seminar flyer enclosed with this newsletter for details and a registration form.**

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2006-2007**

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President's Message

Steve Vessey, MSP, Vessey Mortuary Service, Fort Collins



Steve Vessey, MSP

Happy New Year to all members of the Colorado Funeral Directors Association and all of my friends who have yet to join.

As we embark on a new year, I am reminded of the tremendous progress this association has made during the past few years and I am excited about what is to be in the year 2007. We are planning to offer several continuing education opportunities this year – the first seminar to be held on Tuesday, March 6 in the Denver metro area, and a second program on the western slope later this year. It seems that we sometimes forget one of the most beautiful parts of our state because of the division of the mountains, and we fully intend to include western Colorado in our planning for this year. CFDA seminars will include time to network with fellow funeral directors in a social setting, as well as continuing education. Whether at our annual convention, or at a local meeting or one of our formal seminars, it is heartwarming to see colleagues (and competitors) from around the state sharing ideas with each other in an honest effort to further the quality and professionalism of funeral service in Colorado. This is what makes this association so special.

I recently was asked by a family member to help with arrangements for my cousin who was terminally ill in Colorado Springs. Thanks to one of our association members and old family friend, Bert Reissig, I was able to assist my cousin's husband during the most trying time of his life. I consider this just another benefit of our association membership – friends helping friends. Because of the friendships I have developed through my involvement with CFDA, I knew that my family would be dealt with in a fair, honest and ethical manner. When she died, I knew that she was treated with the utmost respect and was able to convey this to her immediate family in Colorado Springs. The benefit received from my association... PRICELESS!

I am often reminded of an old saying, "The only thing constant about the world today is change." Change is everywhere, including funeral service. Yet, I see that the more things change, the more they remain the same...case in point, the traditional funeral rite for former President Gerald Ford.

As we approach the 80% cremation rate in the state of Colorado, I wonder what reaction the citizens of the United States would have had should the body of President Ford been cremated immediately without any opportunity for the thousands of mourners to stroll past the flag-draped casket containing the body of a departed leader. The American people deserved that opportunity and it added to the beauty of the whole process of mourning, and the dignity of the presidency. I hope that we, as funeral professionals, are offering the same opportunity to each of our families as we make arrangements for a person who is the most important person in their life. I hope that every family we deal with this year deserves the same fanfare and dignified services provided to the former president of the United States.

As I watched the respect that was given to the remains of our former president, I had to ask myself: Don't all of our families deserve the same process that takes place for a former head of state? I hope that each one of us offers this kind of service to all of our families and allows them to make an educated decision based on a full array of services available to them by our professional firms. The true service in funeral service comes when we truly educate and serve the family to fulfill their needs during a difficult time.

I am looking forward to the coming year and hope to see you at a CFDA networking and education event in 2007. Happy New Year!

The CFDA News is published
by the Colorado Funeral
Directors Association.

CFDA

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cfda@ascentmeetings.com

CFSB certifications renewals due by January 31

If you haven't already, please return your CFSB renewal to maintain your certification through December, 2007. Evidence of six (6) contact hours of continuing education is required to renew at ACTIVE status. Your renewal may be renewed at INACTIVE status without CE documentation.

An additional \$25 will apply for renewals received after January 31.

CFDA Allied Member Reference

Is your establishment looking for a specific product or service? Please consider these CFDA Allied/Supporting Members first!

Charter Management Associates, dba AFCTS

Charles Wetmore 800-769-9363
8305 SW Creekside Place Suite A
Beaverton, OR 97008-7153

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Davis Whitehall Company (The)

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Eric Bolduc 800-527-5999
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Glendale, AZ 85306

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The Passing Bell provides a free web site presence to the funeral home industry.

Wright Products / Messenger

Gerry Wright 303-530-7552
P.O. Box 11338
Boulder, CO 80301

Did You Know...?

In December, Arapahoe Community College underwent a comprehensive evaluation for re-accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). The maximum 10-year re-accreditation was granted through the year 2016. CFDA President Steve Vessey represented the Mortuary Science Advisory Committee in a meeting hosted by the visiting NCA team.

The last comprehensive evaluation of the Mortuary Science Program by the American Board of Funeral Service Education was in 2004. The next re-accreditation cycle of the Mortuary Science Program won't occur again until 2011.

* * * *

The Arapahoe County Sheriffs Administration and Coroners Facility recently hosted a continuing education opportunity on "Recovery, Acceptance, and Handling of Radiologically Contaminated Human Remains." In attendance were funeral directors, embalmers, educators, hospital personnel, pathologists, scientists, and coroner investigators.

There is little to no exposure of radiation to funeral service personnel. Before burial a radiation authority will release the human remains based on levels of radiation and contamination. This presentation was based upon normal radiation episodes such as radiation seed implants for cancer treatment. The use of radiation and the implications of it as a terrorist weapon were discussed, but was an objective of the course.

As a result of the positive response to the program, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment will be developing a continuing education unit on the subject specific to funeral service.

* * * *

The website www.funeralwire.com is a great resource for funeral professionals wanting to get funeral service news from across the country. The site contains newspaper articles from across the country in categories such as funeral, cemetery, and insurance news. It even hosts a section on Industry Stock Quotes. Looking for a specific topic? The sites comprehensive search engine will find multiple articles for you in seconds.

Colorado Professionals Earn CFSP Designation

Eighteen individuals from Colorado have earned the Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP) designation from the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice:

Charles T. Bowman, CFSP, Littleton
Darrel D. Brenner, CFSP, Akron
Donald G. Heer, CFSP, Brush
Michael R. Heflebower, CFSP, Castle Rock
John J. Horan, CFSP, Denver
George A. Malesich, CFSP, Denver
Marianne Snoke Monagle, CFSP, Arvada
Raymond L. Penick, CFSP, Delta
William Michael Reager, CFSP, Sterling

J. Michael Rogers, CFSP, Alamosa
Kevin M. Rogers, CFSP, Alamosa
James L. Schmidt, CFSP, Wray
Chalmer S. Swain, CFSP, Delta
Martha Lynn Thayer, CFSP, Littleton
Gary M. Thomas, CFSP, Broomfield
Eric A. Wolverton, CFSP, Littleton
Laura J. Zabel, CFSP, Lakewood
Steven L. Zabel, CFSP, Lakewood

The Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice is a voluntary certification program that recognizes both personal and professional development to help insure a better funeral service professional. Members inform the Academy office of their activities and the Academy office evaluates these activities to determine continuing education credit one of three categories: Academic, Professional Funeral Service, and Civic. Members proceed at their own pace and, once 180 hours of activities in these categories have been achieved, the member is eligible for certification and the designation of Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP) may be awarded. Once certified, the CFSP member must remain active by attending at least 20 hours of events each year in order to maintain certification. For more information go to www.apfsp.com or contact the Academy toll-free at 866-431-2377.

Post Job Openings on the CFDA Web Site

The CFDA web site offers a free option for funeral establishments to post job openings.

Funeral service companies may include information about positions available by completing and submitting the information included on the positions available form. The data will be posted on the web site for up to 30 days.

Individuals who are seeking employment are referred to the CFDA web site.

These listings are offered as a free service to funeral service professionals and are available for viewing by all web site visitors. All content posted on this web site is subject to review and removal at the discretion of the CFDA. The association makes no warrants or claims to the accuracy of these postings and does not endorse the individuals and/or companies listed here.

Go to www.cofda.org and click on *Funeral Service Employment* in the left column, or type in the following URL in your web browser: <http://www.cofda.org/jobs/positions.htm>

Colorado Funeral Service Board Statistics as of January 15, 2007

Mortuary Science Practitioners	68
Certified Funeral Directors	20
Certified Embalming Technicians	3
Dual CFD/CET Certifications	14
Certified Intern/Trainees	13

Total Certified Individuals 118

There were 181 certified individuals at the end of the 2006 fiscal year.

Miscellaneous News

Florida Hospice Seeks to Enter the Funeral Business

A recent application by a Florida hospice to operate a funeral business has been withdrawn amid protests from health care groups, funeral directors and consumers. Horizon Funeral Home would have become Hope Memorial Care, a wholly owned division of the non-profit Hope Hospice of Southwest Florida, which provides hospice care to about 800 patients each day in Lee County, FL. Mark Davis, an independent funeral director who opened the funeral establishment more than 8 years ago, would have become an employee of Hope Hospice. The funeral home would continue offering services to any family that called on them and Hope's nurses and social workers would present Hope Memorial Care on a list of local funeral-service providers.

Some funeral groups viewed the admission of Hope Hospice into funeral service as a direct assault on their livelihood. They asserted that allowing the non-profit entity to compete with for-profit funeral homes would create an inequitable and uneven playing field with the advantage going to the non-profit.

Hospice providers enjoy a reputation for service and integrity that is unrivaled in healthcare. By venturing into funeral services, hospices could draw more public and media attention to their financial affairs.

Indiana Funeral Director Sentenced to 6-Years in Prison

The former director of a Morocco, Indiana funeral home has been sentenced to six years in prison after pleading guilty to forgery and multiple counts of theft. H. Robert Lang, owner of former Lang Funeral Home, was sentenced to the maximum prison term permitted under a plea agreement. He admitted that he sold numerous prearranged funeral plans, but instead of purchasing annuities, he pocketed the proceeds rather than forwarding the money to the insurance companies. The fraud, which police suspect had been going on since 1995, swindled more than \$100,000 from victims. Lang agreed to make full restitution to the multiple victims.

Thief With Conscience Returns Boy's Cremains

A burglar broke into a family's home in New Port Richey, Florida on January 8, snatched on Cheerios and tracked mud all over the house as he filled pillowcases with about \$10,000 worth of valuables - including the ashes of their 4-year old son who died from cancer in 2005. The parents appealed to the burglar to keep the valuables but return the cremated remains. Two days later, someone left the urn containing the ashes at the end of their driveway.

Colorado Funeral Home Owner Accused of Fraud

According to an article from the Colorado Springs Gazette on January 3, an arrest warrant was issued for Nolan Funeral Home owner Neva Nolan for theft from elderly customers, along with three other lesser charges.

The charges from the 4th Judicial District Attorney's Office against Nolan, 70, result from 61 complaints it received alleging customers paid her funeral home in advance for future funeral arrangements that were either not provided or for which they could not get a refund.

Nolan also faces misdemeanor charges of selling future funeral services without a required state license, failing to put money paid for those services in special trust accounts as required by state law and violating state law on such contracts. Nolan admitted Nov. 14 that she sold the contracts without a license and transferred the money to "an offshore account," the affidavit said.

The district attorney's investigation also found that Nolan deposited money from the contracts into the funeral home's checking account rather than the required trust account, the affidavit said. Nolan estimated nearly \$190,000 in such contracts remain unfulfilled.

Nolan faces up to 12 years in prison and up to \$750,000 in fines on the felony theft charge, and up to six months in prison and up to \$750 in fines on the other charges. The funeral home could face \$25,000 in fines and be ordered to refund money from the contracts and halt such sales as a result of the agency's Nov. 22 request.



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CFDA Establishment Members for 2007

Many thanks to the following funeral establishments who have already renewed their commitment to CFDA for 2007. If your name is not on this list, contact the CFDA Office now to request an application.

Advantage Chapel of Memories, Colorado Springs
 Ahlberg Funeral Chapel And Crematory, Longmont
 Archdiocese of Denver Mortuary, Wheatridge
 Bohlander Funeral Chapel, Fort Collins
 Caldwell - Kirk Mortuary, Denver
 Chaney-Reager Funeral Home, Sterling
 Comi Funeral Home, Trinidad
 Darrell Howe Mortuary and Crematory, Lafayette
 Ellis Family Services LLC, Highlands Ranch
 Ertel Funeral Home and Crematory, Cortez
 Everett Family Funeral Home & Crematory, Gypsum
 Evergreen Mortuary, Evergreen
 Fairmount Mortuary, Denver
 Heer Mortuary & Crematory, Brush

Heer & Jolliffe Mortuary, Fort Morgan
 Horan & McConaty Funeral Service, Aurora
 Jeffers-Baucke Funeral Home, Holyoke
 Lewellen Longmont Memorial Chapel, Longmont
 Monarch Society, Inc., Denver
 Moser Funeral & Cremation Service, Evans
 Rogers Family Mortuary, Manassa
 Rogers Family Mortuary, Alamosa
 Rogers Family Mortuary, Monte Vista
 Roselawn Funeral Home, Pueblo
 Snell-McLean Funeral Home, Fruita
 Spellman-Schmidt Funeral Home, Wray
 Tennant Funeral Home, Sterling
 Ustick Donelson Johnson Funeral Home Inc., Rocky Ford
 Vessey Mortuary Service, Fort Collins

Consider serving on a CFDA Committee!

Budget & Finance • Convention • Education • Legislative

Contact the CFDA Office at cfda@ascentmeetings.com or call 303-791-2336.

You must be currently employed at a CFDA member firm to participate on a committee.

NFDA 2006 Pursuit of Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the following 2006 Pursuit of Excellence award winners selected by the National Funeral Directors Association:

- Aspen Mortuaries of Lakewood, Golden, CO
- Olinger Chapel Hill Mortuary & Cemetery, Littleton, CO
- Olinger Crown Hill Mortuary and Cemetery, Wheat Ridge, CO
- Olinger Hampden Mortuary & Cemetery, Denver, CO
- Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery, Thornton, CO
- Resthaven Funeral Home and Memory Gardens, Fort Collins, CO
- Stoddard Funeral Home and Sunset Memorial Gardens, Greeley, CO



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As people age, they are more likely to suffer from chronic illnesses such as strokes or Alzheimer's. Statistically, Americans over the age of 65 face a 40% risk of entering a nursing home for Long Term Care services. Long Term Care insurance typically covers a broad range of services including nursing home care, assisted living facilities and adult day care. It allows the insured to pay an affordable premium to protect an unaffordable catastrophic event. **CFDA offers Association members a sponsored Long Term Care insurance product** at a significant discount through one of the industries highest rated carriers.

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Colorado Funeral Directors Association

Colorado Funeral Service Board

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(Continued from page 1)

Visit the
CFDA web site
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ongoing
Legislative Alerts
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programs for
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www.cofda.org

ners. CFDA supports legislation that will achieve these objectives and also ensures the well-being of funeral businesses, consumer protection and the health and safety of the public.

CFDA will continue to be an active participant in discussions and decisions that will impact the future of funeral service in Colorado. The association will keep its members informed by posting updates on the CFDA web site — www.cofda.org, issuing fax and email alerts, as well as featuring articles in the *CFDA News*. Make sure your firm is a member of the Colorado Funeral Directors Association to ensure you stay updated and informed of these developments.

CFDA Change of Address

The CFDA moved to a new office in January 2006 and the mail forwarding order is about to expire. Checks for membership dues and CFSB certification have been received more than a week after posting because they were addressed to the old CFDA office.

To avoid delivery delays and other potential problems, be sure to change the CFDA's mailing address in your accounting system to reflect CFDA's new address:

**Colorado Funeral Directors Association
P. O. Box 631664
Highlands Ranch, CO 80163-1664**

Also, be sure your mailing items have sufficient postage to ensure delivery; postage due items will be returned to sender.

Calendar

March 6, 2007
CFDA Education Seminar
Denver, CO



March 20-23, 2007
ICCFA 2007 Convention & Exposition
Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino,
Las Vegas, NV

August 15-18, 2007
CANA 2007 Annual Convention
Fairmount Hotel, San Francisco, CA

August/September 2007
CFDA/CAC 2007 Combined Convention
Denver, CO

October 7-10, 2007
NFDA 2007 Convention & Expo
Las Vegas, NV

In Memory

Rudolph Malesich, age 92, passed away on December 28, 2006. Mr. Malesich was the father of CFDA Vice President George Malesich, Archdiocese of Denver Mortuary, Wheat Ridge.

The Colorado Funeral Directors Association



A CFDA Education Seminar in partnership with Pierce Chemicals/Royal Bond Company

Tuesday, March 6, 2007 – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Morning Seminar: Embalming

Tuesday, March 6, 2007 – 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Afternoon Seminar: Funeral Directing



Seminars will be held at Olinger Crown Hill Reception Center, 7777 West 29th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
 Refreshments and lunch sponsored by Donor Alliance and Si Funeral Services/Colorado Wilbert

Morning Seminar – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 Lunch served 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.

Afternoon Seminar – 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
 Lunch served 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.

- Difficult Case Embalming including Drug Interactions & Edema
- The "Not So Normal" case and how to effectively treat it
 - Street Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and how they affect your long term preservation
 - Edema treatment following long-term care and life support intervention

- 4C's and 5 P's of Embalming
- Consideration, Calculation, Combination, Circulation
 - Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance

- Case Analysis - Your Preservation Choices
- All cases cannot be treated with the same chemical solutions and procedures
 - Addressing problems of obesity, diabetes, jaundice, renal and liver failures

3.0 contact hours approved by the Colorado Funeral Service Board

- Funeral Ethics
- We are bound by professional codes to "Do What Is Right and Proper"
 - "One bad apple can spoil the entire barrel"
 - State laws; Are they sufficient? Can we make effective changes?
- The Next Pandemic - The Funeral Directors Role
- Are we as a Profession ready for a Mass Disaster or Pandemic?
 - Assigning roles for the jobs at hand
 - Preparedness is everyone's job
- Funeral Directors as Barriers to Infection and Disease
- The "deadly functions" we perform for client families we serve
 - Do we guard public health effectively?
 - How are we suited for the jobs we do?

3.0 contact hours approved by the Colorado Funeral Service Board

Instructor: Nelson Hayes, CFSP, MBIE, ASE, FSL

Secretary, British Institute of Embalmers, North American Division; Sales Representative, Pierce Chemicals Royal Bond

CFDA Seminar Registration – Tuesday, March 6, 2007



Print company information below:

Establishment Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip code _____

Primary Contact Person _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Print registrant names below:

1. Name _____	CFSB certification _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Name _____	CFSB certification _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Name _____	CFSB certification _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Name _____	CFSB certification _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Name _____	CFSB certification _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Morning Seminar	Afternoon Seminar
	Embalming	Funeral Directing

Method of Payment

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Credit Card # _____ Exp. date _____ Security code _____

Cardholder's signature _____

- _____ Both Seminars at CFDA/CFSB Discount Price \$99
- _____ Both Seminars at Non-Member Price \$139
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