

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF:

District 1	Mark N. Craddock
District 2	Joe E. Lewis
District 3	Samuel Seroyer
District 4	Bart Kirtland
District 5	John C. Rudder
District 6	Calvin Meadows
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Quarterly Examination

The Alabama Board of Funeral Service will administer its quarterly state law examinations on **Monday, April 1, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.**, in **Room 123 of the Alabama State House, 11 South Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama, 36104**. Those who applied by the deadline and will be admitted to the exam are the following:

Cora D. Surge, Tommie Lynn Smith, Bree Emily Puckett, Jason Wayne Meadows, Billy Joseph Martin, Joe Daniel Hester, Kamilah C. Johnson, Belinda Diana Kennedy, Daniel James Price, James Marion Martin, Jr., Roger Dale Clecker, Teresa Ann Sharpley, Marcus Albre White, Joe Tom Hooks, Jr., Ashley Pauline Anthony, Megan Desmia Marshall Tessler Lenora Williams, Darnell Gardner, Janie Relynn Daugherty, Willie T. Mayberry, Michael Joe Ellis, John Robert Grubbs, Kelly Coleman Karrh, Jr.

The Conference

As stated in previous notices, the funeral director and embalmer exams will be given by The Conference through Pearson VUE testing centers at five locations statewide. All applications may be obtained from our office but exam fees and applications will be submitted to The Conference, while the license fees, applications, and affidavits will be submitted to the Board office. Each applicant still must pass the state law exams given by the Board quarterly in Montgomery before being approved for licensing.

The Conference: www.theconferenceonline.org

Phone: 479-442-7076

Pearson VUE:

Birmingham: 205-982-2063

Decatur: 256-552-0667

Dothan: 334-671-7007

Mobile: 251-343-2601

Montgomery: 334-271-8995



The Board

The Board will hold its second regular meeting of calendar year 2013 at 10a.m. in Room 123 of the Alabama State House. Anyone who would like to appear before the Board or have matters discussed should notify the Board office by March 20, 2013, in order to be placed on the agenda. Matters or subjects not on agenda are not guaranteed for discussion at the meeting.

Please Note

The state law test and board meeting site has changed to the following:

Alabama State House
Room 123
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

***** PLEASE MAKE NOTICE AVAILABLE TO ALL EMPLOYEES.

Board Staff

The Alabama Board of Funeral Service would like to thank Mr. Warren S. Higgins for his 30 years of service to the funeral profession within State of Alabama as the Executive Secretary. Mr. Higgins has been instrumental over the years with making necessary changes to the funeral service law as the profession dictated such changes. The Board wishes Mr. Higgins great success in his future endeavors.

As the Board says good –bye to Mr. Higgins, they welcome Mrs. Evelyn Denise Grogan as the new Associate Executive Secretary. Mrs. Grogan is a 2006 graduate of Jefferson State Community College. She is a licensed funeral director and embalmer, who began her career in funeral service at Laughlin Service Funeral Home in Huntsville under the supervision of Mr. John Purdy. Mrs. Grogan is a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner, and a Certified Cremationist. Mrs. Grogan will begin on April 1, 2013. The Board welcomes Mrs. Grogan and looks forward to working with her for many years to come.

REMINDER

Anyone who has not renewal their funeral establishment, funeral director, embalmer or practical embalmer license, may still do so with a \$50.00 late penalty until March 31, 2013. If you failed to submit your paperwork and fee, including late penalty, for renewal by the March 31st deadline, the license(s) will be considered lapsed. At which time the establishment (s) or individual must cease operations and or practice. Any paperwork and fees received after the March 31st deadline must go before the Board for reactivation approval.

Congratulation Licensees

*"If I can stop one heart
from breaking, I shall
not live in vain; If I can
ease one life the
aching, Or cool one
pain, Or help one
fainting robin Up to his
nest again, I shall not
live in vain."
~ Emily Dickinson*

At its last meeting, the Board approved the following for licensure:

Funeral Director:

Veronica Peel
Melissa Mixon Smith
Sarah Spencer Chappell

Embalmer:

None

**Funeral Director &
Embalmer:**

Zachery Allen Ferrell
Christopher Lateef Gladys
Janice Rose Houston
Amber Evers O'Ferrell

Establishment:

Frederick-Dean Funeral Home
Opelika

Acacia Funeral Home
Hartford

Good Luck to you all!

A NEW DAY!

Change has become a theme of the Alabama Board of Funeral Service over the past two years. All change is not welcome or accepted and sometimes *Change* can be disappointing, but no matter how or why *Change* happens, it is sometimes necessary to have *Change* in order to promote growth and the betterment of the profession.

Many funeral directors, embalmers, and operators have said repeatedly that, “The Alabama Board of Funeral Service is a joke?”, “There is no need in calling the Board because nothing will be done.”, “The Board picks and choose who they are going to enforce the laws with.”, etc..... Well, it’s A NEW DAY at the Alabama Board of Funeral Service. Many changes have already taken place and there are still other changes to come.

Changes that have taken placed:

1. The Board members are being trained in their duties as Board members. The Board members will be taking a more active role in some of the functions of the board office.
2. On January 28, 2013, Mr. Warren Higgins submitted his resignation/retirement.
3. On January 28, 2013, Mr. Charles M. Perine was appointed as Mr. Higgins successor.
4. On March 8, 2013, Mrs. E. Denise Grogan was appointed as the new Associate Executive Secretary.
5. In February 2013, Mr. Cameron McEwen was appointed as the Board’s new legal counsel.

The dynamics of the Board has changed, and with that change has come a new way of doing business.

1. Complaints – ALL complaints are to be in writing and sent to the Board’s office. The Board will **NOT** accept any anonymous complaints. ALL complaints will be investigated and the findings will be reviewed by the executive secretary, one board member and legal counsel. After the complaint is reviewed, further action will be taken as deem appropriate.
2. The Law – Code of Alabama, 1975, Title 34 Chapter 13 and Administrative Code 395 (Alabama Funeral Service Law and Regulation) will be enforced fairly and consistently among all funeral establishments. Please understand titles, position and/or acquaintances do not exempt any funeral establishment from following the Alabama Funeral Service Laws.
3. Inspections – In the past, some leniency has been extended to establishments concerning inspection. Over the years, some funeral establishments have abused that leniency. Under the new administration that leniency will no longer be extended. If the law requires it, then the funeral establishment should have it. If the funeral establishment does not have it, then the funeral establishment is in violation of the law.

Winston Churchill said, “There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.” The Alabama Board of Funeral Service is making changes in order to “raise the bar” in the funeral profession within the State of Alabama. Mr. Perine’s mission is to make the funeral profession in Alabama better by enforcing the Alabama Funeral Law through constant and fair regulating, prompt attention to problems and concerns, being observant and proactive in order to recognize and promote ways to make the funeral profession in Alabama better and a model for other states. Everyone will not agree with are like the changes, but understand that the changes are for the betterment of the funeral profession in the State of Alabama as a whole. With change comes an opportunity, an opportunity to set a new goal, an opportunity to make things better, an opportunity to do what is right and an opportunity to make a difference.

Alabama Board of Funeral Service
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