

THE BULLETIN

JULY | AUG | SEPT | 2020

*Mr. Jerry Andrews
Virginia Funeral Directors Association
2019 - 2020 President*

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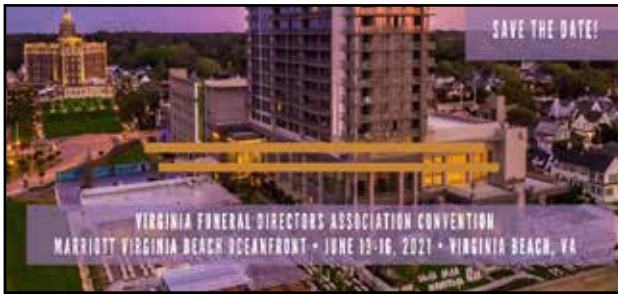
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Thank you Jerry Andrews for your service and dedication!

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Save the Date ~ VFDA Convention ~ June 13-16, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

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*Virtual Continuing
Education Day
11.12.20*

**Homesteaders
Life Company**

Join the VFDA online on November 12, 2020 for the Virtual Continuing Education Day. This event is sponsored by Homesteaders Life Company.

We are the Virginia Funeral Directors Association



Greetings,

I would like to begin with a special thank you to Jerry and Ann Andrews for their dedication during this past year. They have led us with passion and dedication, and we are grateful for their sacrifices. Sharon and I look forward to joining with them in Virginia Beach next year as we come together as an association for our 133rd annual convention.

As I begin to process the honor of being installed to serve as President of an association that dates back to 1887, I want to express just how honored and humbled I am by the trust that you have bestowed upon me to lead the Virginia Funeral Directors Association.

The greatest of the great in the funeral industry are those whom we are honored to call our members. We are an organization filled with creative ideas, inspiring thoughts, and the determination to reach higher goals, which is what makes us the unique body that we are.

As we begin this journey together, as your President, I want you to be assured that each and every one of you are an important part of the Virginia Funeral Directors Association, and your voice really does matter greatly to me and us all. The VFDA is only as valuable as the voices that are heard. I believe that in every issue

there is common ground that we all must seek and establish in our efforts to continue to make us stronger as an association.

Changes are inevitable in every profession, especially the funeral industry. Some is good, some may not be so good. However, we as an association must be able to look back and know that our efforts were for the best with the cards we were dealt.

In moving forward as an association, let us rise to the occasion and build bridges, establish relationships, connect and excel to new heights, and be able to say that we are still all in this together!

I challenge you to join with me this year with your ideas, your thoughts, and your passions about the future that lies ahead. Let us build a stronger association and make some reconections that will make us all better at who we are.... and we are the Virginia Funeral Directors Association.

May blessings be abundant in your lives,

Marty White, CFSP
President
VFDA

Join the Virginia Funeral Sales Association!

HOW THE VFSA CAN HELP YOU:

- Exclusive networking opportunities at convention
- Provide support to customers throughout Virginia



The mission of the VFSA consists of member firms that specialize in products and services specifically for the funeral home industry. The VFSA is growing its membership, financials, and support over the coming year, so they can be more active and support funeral service associations across Virginia. The VFSA will meet quarterly (two conference calls and two face-to-face meetings) each year. This is a great opportunity for us to discuss ideas, issues, and

topics of concern. At our first in-person meeting at The Quirk Hotel in Richmond, we discussed future convention sponsorship opportunities, scholarships, and other networking opportunities the VFSA could support in the future. I encourage you all to participate in the VFSA and share your ideas. Please "like" us on our newly created Virginia Funeral Sales Association (VFSA) Facebook page! This is a great way to network and share information with each other and customers.

For more information visit www.vfda.net/about/virginia-funeral-sales-association/



How are you doing?

As we continue to move through the days since the coronavirus pandemic began in late February/early March, “How Are You Doing?” is a familiar phrase, but now a serious answer is usually given. We didn’t expect a serious answer in pre-pandemic days, but now it’s a different story.

I know this time has been difficult and challenging for many to say the least. Everyone is dealing with their own struggles and dealing with challenges we have never had to deal with before. But, how are you doing? As funeral service professionals you have been on the front lines and dealing with grieving families during an uncertain time, that is challenging. You have had to tell families it could be weeks to bury their loved one and/or they can only have 10 people or less at the funeral. This is stressful and hard for a profession that takes care of families and loved ones wishes.

Even with all of the challenges, you have managed to serve your families (creatively I may add), and you’ve never forgotten to ask a family, “How Are You Doing?”. You have...

- ✓ **Listened**
- ✓ **Been Creative**
- ✓ **Been Innovative** and
- ✓ **Embraced New Technology**

We are highlighting your efforts in this Bulletin and in future newsletters. We thank you for your service and dedication to the funeral service profession. I would like to thank Dr. Leah Bush, Former Chief Medical Examiner of the Commonwealth of Virginia, for submitting a letter to the editor in the Richmond Times Dispatch (May 7, 2020 issue). We have included this letter on page 22.

“How Are You Doing?” Take Care of Yourself!

See you soon.

Lacy S. Whittaker
Executive Director

District Meeting Planning? - We're here to help!

Are you in charge of planning your district meeting? Let the VFDA help you plan your next district meeting.

Lacy Whittaker, VFDA Executive Director will help you plan your meetings, speaker, and invite special guests.

If your district is in need of planning or continuing education programs, contact Lacy at lwhittaker@vfda.net.

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VFDA Elects Marty White, President

The Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA) welcomes the 2020-2021 Board of Directors. The association held its first virtual installation of officers on June 18, 2020. The Association's Inaugural Banquet and installation of officers will take place at next year's convention in Virginia Beach.

The 2020-2021 President of the VFDA is Marty White. White is President/General Manager of Stover Funeral Home and Crematory in Strasburg, Va. Mr. White became a part of Stover Funeral Home in March 2007. He was born in Abingdon, Va where he started his funeral service career in 1993. He is a 1997 graduate of Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service in Atlanta, Ga where he became a member of the Phi Sigma Eta National Morticians Honors Fraternity. Marty is married to Sharon White, an English and Theater Arts teacher at Strasburg High School. They are members of Cornerstone United Pentacostal Church.



Marty White, VFDA President, 2020-2021

The 2020-2021 Virginia Funeral Directors Association Board of Directors members:

- Marty White, President, Stover Funeral Home, Strasburg, Va.
- Jay McIntyre, CFSP, President-Elect, Reynolds Hamrick Funeral Home & Crematory, Harrisonburg, Va.
- Bobby Gardner, Jr., Vice President, Gardner Funeral Home, Floyd, Va.
- Gerry L. "Jerry" Andrews, Immediate Past President, Andrews Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc., Gloucester, Va.
- Leslie "Les" Powell, III, Secretary-Treasurer, Powell Funeral Home, Inc., South Boston, Va.
- Wayne Lovelace, At-Large Director (Two-Year), Lotz Funeral Home - Vinton Chapel, Vinton, Va.
- Jeff Wright, At-Large Director (Two-Year), Oakey's Funeral Service, Roanoke, Va.
- Clint Oxendine, At-Large Director (Two-Year), Mountcastle-Turch Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc., Dale City, Va.
- John Saville, Heritage Funeral Service & Crematory, Lynchburg, Va.
- Russ Teffner, Blue Ridge District, John M. Oakey & Son Funeral Home and Crematory, Salem, Va.
- Krystina Diman, Central District, Morrissett Funeral & Cremation Service, N. Chesterfield, Va.
- Gary Maxwell, Northern District, Mountcastle-Turch Funeral Home, Annandale, Va.
- Daniel Chapman, Shenandoah District, Johnson Funeral Service, Inc., Grottoes, Va.
- Larry Joines, Southside District, Bassett Funeral Service, Bassett, Va.
- Matthew "Matt" Perry, Southwest District, Frost Funeral Home, Abingon, Va.
- Gregg Faulkner, Sr., Tidewater District, Faulkner Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Saluda, Va.
- Raymond "R.D." Monson, FSL, Virginia Funeral Sales Association, Treasured Memories, Powhatan, Va.
- Larry Spiaggi, CFSP, CCO, CPC, NFDA Policy Board Representative, Morrissett Funeral & Cremation Service, N. Chesterfield, Va.

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Share Your News With the VFDA

Do you have any professional or personal news that you would like to share with your fellow members in the "Member Moments" section of our newsletter? If so, please send it to the association office for publication in the next issue of THE BULLETIN. To be published in the next issue, please send to the VFDA office by October 15, 2020.

- News about significantly completed renovations to a member's business property.
- Address changes, moving updates, etc.

Please note that news should be about members only.

We welcome:

- Wedding and birth announcements (of VFDA members only).
- Updates on member's certifications, honors, promotions, or retirements.

Space is limited. All submissions are restricted to two to three sentences. VFDA reserves the right to edit or publish items based on content and available space.

Victor Connor, Co-Owner and Manager, Conner-Bowman Funeral Home Named Mayor of Boones Mill



Victor Conner, co-owner and manager of Conner-Bowman Funeral Home and longtime member of the Virginia Funeral Directors Association, becomes Mayor of Boones Mill, Va. Conner ran unopposed for this opportunity. Conner has lived in Boones Mill since 1984 with his wife, Matilda (Tillie). Conner is a past member of the Boones Mill Town Council.

He wants to serves as mayor "because I know that Boones Mill is alive and growing with new people, new businesses and new opportunities. We have come a long way since I first came here, but the progress can stop if we do not have strong leadership. I have the passion to unite the community and unleash the town's potential."

A part of that, Conner said, would be helping fulfill Boone's Mill's need of additional businesses in the area, as well as creating a greater trust cohesiveness between residents and town mangement.

"Empowering community involvement creates a place where people want to live, work, learn and play," Conner said. "Increasing public engagement and involving resident participation helps gain more community buy-in and support when final decisions are reached by town management."

The Virginia Funeral Directors Association congratulates Victor Conner on his victory and know that he will do a great job serving the residents of Boones Mill.

Thacker Caskets Relocates Headquarters

Thacker Caskets is excited to announce that they have relocated their headquarters to Monrovia, MD, a suburb of both Baltimore and Washington DC. The brand new, custom-designed building will be entirely occupied by Thacker Caskets and will meet the needs of Thacker's rapidly growing organization.

Founded in 1939 by Carl Thacker, Thacker Caskets spent its first 50 years located in the heart of Washington DC. In 1989, under the direction of Audrey and CJ Thacker, the company's continous growth provided an opportunity to relocate their headquarters to Clinton, MD, just 7 miles outside of Washington DC. 30 years later, the company has yet again outgrown its current location. The new building has been specifically designed and built to meet the needs of the business as they continue to expand and grow. CEO of Thacker Caskets, CJ Thacker, said "I have been so fortunate to see the progression of Thacker Caskets and we're excited about our next transition! At the heart of this decision were our employees and their needs as we continue to grow our internal team"

The new building is 41,000 square feet - 33,000 dedicated to the warehouse space and 8,000 of it being dedicated to office space. The office space features an open concept, sit/stand desks, private office space, and professional conference rooms. In addition, there is a large, multipurpose space that will be used for showing and displaying products and conducting training sessions with both internal staff, as well as funeral directors.

The location of the new headquarters was carefully selected based on the business's needs as they continue to expand. Danielle Thacker, Executive Vice President of Sales, said "The new building is located right off Interstate 70 in Frederick County. Frederick County is a growing area and is easily accessible to many of the funeral homes we work with. It also keeps us close to the Baltimore-Washington metro area and allows us to be closer to Harrisburg, PA, which will be beneficial for our growing business." Relocating to a more central area will allow Thacker to enhance their already exceptional customer service.

Thacker Caskets Relocates Headquarters continued to page 9.

Thacker Caskets Relocates Headquarters continued from page 8.

Not only does the new headquarters meet all the code requirements, but it was constructed with a high level of environmentally friendly standards as well. Thacker Caskets would like to thank their architects, Proffitt & Associates Architects; their general contractor, Waynesboro Construction Company; and their civil engineer, Daft McCune Walker.

Thacker Caskets is the funeral industry's leading family-owned supply company. To learn more about Thacker and their new headquarters, please call 800.637.8891 or visit www.thackercaskets.com.

Drive-Thru Funerals Keep Celebrations of Life Center Stage in Altavista

In early April, Robert "Trey" Finch found himself cutting carpet to fit a stage he had just built. Not a typical duty of a funeral director, he considered the task as important as any other in his day-to-day responsibilities at Finch and Finch Funeral Home in Altavista.

The stage would soon house a pulpit his grandfather, Robert "Bob" Finch, used many times during the funeral he led throughout the 65 years of his career. And it would serve as a place from which to lead Finch and Finch's first drive-thru funeral - the funeral for Bob Finch himself.

The far-reaching impacts of coronavirus have swept through our way of life in more ways than we can imagine, including how we honor and say goodbye to the ones we love. Funeral homes across the Commonwealth have had to adapt and change many long-standing traditions and customs to continue to serve families in their communities as best they can.

"We didn't want to delay a service two or three months for anyone, including our own family. How can you begin to grieve without a service?" said Trey Finch, who now serves as treasurer for the firm and is the fifth generation of the Finch family to go into funeral service.

To practice social distancing and respect gathering limitations, Finch and Finch introduced the drive-thru funeral. Using outdoor speakers, a wireless microphone, a musician seated inside at the piano, and a stage under the portico at its Altavista location, services were able to go on as normal as possible.

Those in attendance were invited to tune into a local radio frequency using their car radios to listen to the service to limit contact. After the service, employees guided cars through the parking lot so mourners could pay their respects to the grieving family from a safe distance.

Bob Finch, a past president of the Virginia Funeral Directors Association, was known for his strong belief in the celebration of a life. As for the celebration of his life, his grandson says, "He would be proud because we were able to have a traditional funeral just in a different way."

VFDA Receives 1,000 KN95 Masks From the NFDA Funeral Service Foundation

In May, the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) purchased 42,000 CDC-approved KN95 masks thanks to a \$103,750 grant from the Funeral Service Foundation's COVID-19 Crisis Respond Fund. The fund directly supports funeral service and grieving families in this time of loss and uncertainty.

Because our members and association are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, NFDA provided the VFDA with a shipment of 1,000 masks for distribution to those in need in our state.

These masks provide respiratory protection in the preparation room. When used properly, they protect the wearer from airborne particles and from liquid contaminating the face.

The Virginia Funeral Directors Association would like to thank the NFDA staff, the NFDA Board of Directors and the Funeral Service Foundation for providing masks to our funeral service professionals across the Commonwealth, so that we can continue to support the communities and grieving families we serve every day.

Turn to page 10 to see how the VFDA distributed the 1,000 masks across the Commonwealth!

Virginia Funeral Directors Association Distributes 1,000 Masks to Members Across the Commonwealth

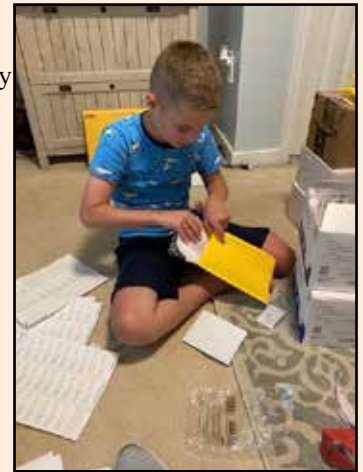
During the COVID-19 crisis the Virginia Funeral Directors Association has worked closely with the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) to provide our members with up-to-the-minute information and updates. The National Funeral Directors Association's Foundation recently received a grant that provided 1,000 masks to state associations who applied. The VFDA applied and received 1,000 masks to distribute across the Commonwealth to members who were in need of PPE.

We are happy to say that all 1,000 masks were distributed within one-week span to our members. A special thank you to Fisher Whittaker, who helped box and ship masks, while he worked towards completing his community service hours.

Jerry Andrews, VFDA past president and Lacy Whittaker, executive director, submitted a letter to the National Funeral Directors Association as follows:

"On behalf of the Virginia Funeral Directors Association and Board of Directors, we would like to thank you, the NFDA staff, NFDA Board of Directors and the Funeral Service Foundation for providing masks to the association to assist our members in need during these very trying times. We were able to distribute the 1,000 masks that were mailed to us to our members. Our members appreciate receiving these masks to help their staff stay safe while serving their communities and grieving families."

Thank you for the critical work the NFDA is doing and continues to do on behalf of the funeral service profession. We wish you, your family, staff and members all the best and THANK YOU!



Fisher Whittaker helped box and ship masks to VFDA members.

Blue Ridge Funeral Directors Association

President:

Mike Rorrer

McCoy Funeral Home

mccoymccoyfuneralhome@verizon.net

Vice President:

Jonathan Stilwell

John M. Oakey & Son, Inc.

jonathan@johnmoakey.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Jeff Wolfe

John M. Oakey & Son, Inc.

jeff@johnmoakey.com



Beautiful Buchanan, Va in the Spring. Photo credit <http://www.visitbotetourt.com>.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday in January, March, May, July, and September. Installations in July.

Holiday Recipes

We want to share your favorite holiday recipes in the October-December issue of The Bulletin! Email your favorite recipe to info@vfda.net before October 15, 2020. Please include your name and any fun facts you want to share on the history of the recipe! For example, "This recipe that we've been enjoying around my Mama's table for 20 years."

Bill Black

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You Can Strengthen the Funeral Profession in Virginia. Here's How.



Do you remember your first day on the job? Was it a sweltering summer day and you were nervous about sweating through your suit? Maybe you encountered a family experiencing a tragic, unexpected loss. Or perhaps the flowers fell apart on the way to the cemetery. Whatever the case, we hope you had a mentor or a trusted adviser you could turn to when things got tough.

Unfortunately, many of our up-and-coming funeral professionals do not.

That's why the Virginia Funeral Directors Association is excited to roll out a new mentorship program this Fall, and we would like to invite you to be a part of it.

Mentorship isn't just about answering questions and building confidence. A recent study showed companies that offer mentorship programs see improved employee engagement and retention, reduced conflict, improved productivity, and a better sense of clarity on where the business is going. In short, employees who are mentored are invested in the future of their profession.

For us at the VFDA, it means building a stronger, more engaged association dedicated to our core values of serving the communities of Virginia well and advocating for our profession at all levels of government. It means creating a pipeline of thoughtful leaders and embracing innovation. It means ensuring the funeral profession is equipped for whatever the future holds.

And it can start with you.

Your experience and knowledge of the important work we do can enhance the professional lives of those just starting out in our business.

If you're interested in being part of our new mentorship program or you have questions, please contact Lacy Whittaker, VFDA Executive Director. Mentor Application can be found on pages 13, 14, and 15. We hope you'll join us!

Best,

Lacy Whittaker
Certified Celebrant
Executive Director
Virginia Funeral Directors Association
P.O. Box 395
Hanover, VA 23069



VIRGINIA
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 395, Hanover, VA 23069
P: (804) 264-0505 • F: (804) 264-3260 • www.vfda.net

Virginia Funeral Directors Association Mentor Program Mentor Application

Dear VFDA Volunteer Mentor,

We are delighted that you've chosen to be considered as a role model for funeral service professionals through the Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA) Volunteer Mentor Program. This is an opportunity for professionals like yourself to serve as a trusted and experienced adviser to other funeral service professionals. The VFDA mentors work to shape their mentees into future leaders, rather than simply good followers. The long-term impact of mentoring can offer life- and career-changing benefits to you both. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the following in-depth application for consideration.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Firm Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Current job responsibilities:

Brief description of career background and skills:

Have you ever volunteered as a mentor before? ____ Yes ____ No

What experiences have you had as a mentor/positive role-model to professionals?

What do you hope to accomplish as a VFDA Mentor?

Continue to next page



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How would you describe your personality? Check all that apply.

Encouraging Friendly and Outgoing Talkative Funny Laid Back
Serious Motivational Reserved Quiet

What do you do in your free time?

Watch movies/Listen to Music/ Enjoy the Outdoors/ Play Sports/ Garden/ Read/ Enjoy Your Hobby/ Other (Please List):

Three horizontal lines for listing free time activities.

Please rank your confidence in your ability to mentor on items listed below (1 lowest-5 highest):

___ Financial Reports (understanding them to make business decisions)
___ Team Building / Growing Team Success ___ Managing Change
___ Networking (creating meaningful industry connections) ___ Time Management

Please prioritize the following criteria you would prefer in a mentee:

___ Same gender ___ Same ethnicity ___ Similar personal interests
___ Similar background ___ No preference Other: _____

Mentors in the VFDA Volunteer Mentor Program will be required to attend an intensive training session, are you willing to attend this training? ___ Yes ___ No

How did you learn about the VFDA Volunteer Mentor Program? _____

REFERENCES (no relatives please):

Provide complete information below.

(1) Reference

Name: _____
Relationship: _____
Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____

(2) Reference

Name: _____
Relationship: _____
Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____



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The information provided above is accurate and I understand that the VFDA will contact the references listed above. ___ Yes ___ No

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please contact the Virginia Funeral Directors Association office at (804) 264-0505 if you have questions.

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR MESSAGE



Good Day members! In this current bulletin article, I want to touch on a few items that your legislative committee and the VFDA are working on. They include the committee for SB1044, the Legislative Agenda for 2021, and continued changes and work on EDRS.

First and foremost, I want to discuss the VFDA participation on the committee to create the new license structure after the passing of SB1044 – McPike. By the time you read this article, we will have sent out an email detailing the parts and pieces we are fighting for to be included and/or excluded. This information has been compiled from the results of the survey sent, emails that have been sent to the association, and suggestions made during meetings of the local associations. We also recognize that there will be components we just have to live with. Each party represented at this meeting will have a similar list, and likely there will be things that overlap. This issue will not be resolved in the first meeting, or even the second. But we will be more diligent than ever in our reporting to you the progress that is made.

Second, I want to continue to discuss two other pieces of legislation that passed during the 2020 session. HB 479 – Kilgore – allows for the families of veterans to receive one free copy of the death certificate through the funeral home. Previously, the surviving family had to complete the application at the local or state health department to receive the copy. Now the funeral director can do that for you. The other key piece of legislation I wanted to review is HB 641 – Hurst. This bill now changes who can sell caskets pre-need. The changes regarding the sale of caskets dates back to the July 2018 meeting of the State Board, when they recommended the change of at-need sales of caskets from a funeral service licensee to any individual. This change takes that one step further and allows the sale of caskets pre-need by any one. This change will be closely monitored over the course of the two years to see if there are circumstances which arise that adversely affect the consumer.

Third, I want to discuss our legislative agenda for 2021. This upcoming General Assembly Session will likely mirror the happenings of the 2020 session. With that said, the legislative committee held their first conference call of the year on July 9 and decided to focus on one single piece of legislation, our Next of Kin bill. We decided in the late moments leading up to the 2020 session to pull that legislation. We also hope to have the support of the Virginia Bar Association on this legislation. They were very instrumental in the re-writing of this bill during the summer months of 2019. We feel very strongly about this legislation and what the benefits will be to our profession. We have been reviewing the Next of Kin laws from other states, and several of them are working to make them even stronger than they already are. Now is the time for this association to make a strong push forward and make this legislation happen. We have spoken to our patrons and hope to move forward sooner than later with this legislation to have it pre-filed. By doing so, not only can the legislative committee work with both Senators and Delegates, so can you as a member.

Lastly, I want to review issues within the EDRS. I know there are still instances where doctors are refusing to sign the death certificate electronically. **THEY DO NOT HAVE THAT OPTION ANY LONGER.** I cannot stress that point enough. If you as a funeral home are continuing to take doctors paper copies because it may be easier, please stop. The VFDA will reach out to any doctor who is not signing electronically and we now have a user manual and also can provide the link to the VDH Training video. If you are able, please help you doctors get comfortable with the usage of the EDRS. Again, the VFDA will still help any doctor sign as many death certificates as he or she needs until they are at ease with how it works.

As the summer progresses, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or the VFDA Office for any assistance we can provide. The legislative committee is revamped for 2020-2021 and its members are readily available when issues arise. The legislative committee also wants to thank Jerry Andrews for his year as VFDA President. We also wish Marty White the best as he begins his year as President!

Thanks,
Jay McIntyre, CFSP
VFDA President Elect
VFDA Legislative Committee Chair
Shenandoah Valley FDA Vice President
Licensed Funeral Director
Reynolds Hamrick Funeral Homes & Crematory
540.421.6585-Cell



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July 1, 2020 Laws

Virginia Funeral Directors Association
Lacy Whittaker, Executive Director
lwhittaker@vfda.net

Bills	Committee	Last action
HB 210 - Hurst - Historical African American cemeteries; adds a cemetery in Montgomery County and City of Radford.	(H) Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	03/02/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 82 (effective 7/1/20)
	(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	
HB 314 - Gooditis - Historical African American cemeteries; adds a church in Loudoun County.	(H) Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources	03/02/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 83 (effective 7/1/20)
	(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	
HB 379 (Incorporated into HB1523 McQuinn) Historical African American Cemeteries and Graves Fund; created	(S) General Laws and Technology with substitute	03/25/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 455 (effective 7/1/20)
HB 479 - Kilgore - Death certificate; veterans, fees.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	03/18/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 360 (effective 7/1/20)
HB 641 - Hurst - Funeral service providers; caskets provided by third parties.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	03/03/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 97 (effective 7/1/20)
HB 661 - Bell - Exposure-prone incidents; Secretaries of HHR & PSHS to establish a work group.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	03/18/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 362 (effective 7/1/20)
HB 666 - Mullin - Vital records; expands the definition of "dead body."	(S) Finance and Appropriations	04/09/20 Governor: Approved by



**VIRGINIA
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION**

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		Governor-Chapter 922 (effective 7/1/20)
HB 905 (Incorporated into HB 1523-McQuinn) - Historical African American Cemeteries and Graves Fund; created.	(S) General Laws and Technology with substitute	03/25/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 455 (effective 7/1/20)
HB 950 - Ransone - Professional and Occupational Regulation, Department of; cemeteries, exemptions.	(H) Committee on General Laws	03/02/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 27 (effective 7/1/20)
HB 1234 (Incorporated into HB 1523-McQuinn) Historical African American Cemeteries and Graves Fund; created.	(S) Reported from General Laws and Technology with substitute	03/25/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 455 (effective 7/1/20)
HB 1688 - McQuinn - Cemeteries; grass cutting.	(H) Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns	04/02/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 597 (effective 7/1/20)
SB 422 - Petersen - Health regulatory boards; clarifies the meaning of "license."	(H) Health, Welfare and Institutions	04/08/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 885 (effective 7/1/20)
SB 445 - Edwards - Cemeteries; acquisition of abandoned lots in cities and certain towns.	(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	04/06/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 669 (effective 7/1/20)
SB 519 - McDougle - Professional and Occupational Regulation, Department of; cemeteries, exemptions.	(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	03/02/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 33 (effective 7/1/20)
SB 881 - Locke - Historical African American Cemeteries and Graves Fund; created.	(H) Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources with substitute	03/25/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 456 (effective 7/1/20)



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SB 1044 - McPike - Funeral directors and embalmers; Board to promulgate regulations for licensure.	(S) Committee on General Laws and Technology	04/09/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 943 (effective 7/1/20)
SB 1070 - Dunnivant - Cemeteries, special interments; pets.	(H) Assigned GL sub: Professions/Occupations and Administrative Process	03/31/20 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 537 (effective 7/1/20)

Questions contact the VFDA office (804) 264-0505 or info@vfda.net

Virginia Funeral Directors Association Hosts FREE Virtual Continuing Education Class to Members

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States and changed the way we did things. The Virginia Funeral Directors Association shifted gears and began to think of creative ways to offer its scheduled traveling continuing education caravans to its membership, so that members could complete their required hours before the March 31st deadline. Although, the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers extended the deadline to complete your continuing education credit hours, many of you wanted to complete the requirements on time. The response and support of the virtual traveling caravan was overwhelming, said Lacy Whittaker, Executive Director, "our members really put on their technology hats and jumped right in to our virtual classroom offerings." It was fantastic to see so many getting on board, said Whittaker.

A very special thank you to all of our presenters for adjusting their schedules and taking their time to present programs for our members.

- James Ruggerio, Lakeland Preneed Planning, LLC, 540-470-0611
- Angie Bezik, [Principle Advantage Government Relations Group](#)
- Theodore A. Hoch, Ed.D., B.C.B.A.-D., L.B.A., Northern Virginia Applied Behavior Analysis, LLC, [Virginia Autism Project](#)
- Rebecca S. Morse, PhD, Associate Professor, Director of Research Training, Institute for the Psychological Sciences
- Mary Andres Russell Professional Development Director — East, [Matthews Aurora Funeral Solutions](#)
- Nate Hoyle, [Federated Insurance](#)
- Paul Harris, [Regulatory Support Services](#)
- Anne Moss Rogers, [Emotionally Naked](#)

FTC Releases Funeral Home Compliance Results, Offers New Business Guidance on Funeral Rule Requirements

June 8, 2020

For Release

Federal Trade Commission investigators, working undercover in five states, found failures to disclose timely itemized pricing information, as required by the Funeral Rule, in 17 of the 90 funeral homes they have visited since 2018.

The FTC periodically conducts undercover inspections to monitor funeral homes' compliance with the Funeral Rule. The Rule gives consumers important rights when making funeral arrangements, requiring funeral homes to provide itemized information about the price of funeral goods and services. The Funeral Rule enables consumers to compare prices and buy only the goods and services they want.

Funeral homes that violate the price disclosure requirements for the first time may be eligible to enter the Funeral Rule Offender's Program (FROP), a training program run by the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) designed to increase compliance with the Rule.

All of the homes found to have violated the Rule in these inspections have chosen to enter the FROP rather than subject themselves to the possibility of an FTC enforcement action seeking civil penalties, which can be as high as \$43,280 per violation. The FROP provides participants with a legal review of the price disclosures required by the Rule and ongoing training, testing, and monitoring for compliance.

Funeral homes that participate in the program make a voluntary payment to the U.S. Treasury in place of civil penalty, and pay annual administrative fees to the NFDA.

The results of the inspections for failure to comply with price list disclosure requirements by region are as follows:

In Marietta and Gainesville, Georgia, seven of the 13 funeral homes inspected failed to comply.

In Lafayette, Louisiana, three of the 20 funeral homes inspected failed to comply.

In Las Vegas, Nevada, three of the 23 funeral homes inspected failed to comply.

In Northern and Central New Jersey, none of the 11 funeral homes inspected failed to comply.

In Beaumont, Texas, four of the 23 funeral homes inspected failed to comply.

In addition, the FTC identified a number of funeral homes within the tested areas with minor compliance deficiencies. In such cases, the FTC sent letters noting the concerns and requiring the funeral homes to provide evidence that they have corrected the problems.

The FTC wishes to thank the Nevada Office of the Attorney General and the Nevada Office of Consumer Affairs for their assistance with the inspections in Nevada.

To promote compliance with the Funeral Rule, the FTC has issued a new tip sheet for businesses, Funeral Rule Price List Essentials, to help funeral providers comply with the Rule's price list disclosure requirements. The FTC also offers a comprehensive business guide. Complying with the Funeral Rule.

The FTC provides information in English and Spanish, about consumers' rights under the Funeral Rule: Shopping for Funeral Services and Paying Final Respects, Your Rights When Buying Funeral Goods and Services.

The public is reminded that the FTC is seeking comment on whether to make changes to its Funeral Rule as part of the agency's systematic review of all current FTC rules and guides. The notice has been published in the Federal Register, and the comment period will be open until June 15, 2020. Instructions for filing comments appear in the notice.

The Federal Trade Commission works to promote competition, and protect and educate consumers. You can learn more about consumer topics and file a consumer complaint online or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357). Like the FTC on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, read our blogs, and subscribe to press releases for the latest FTC news and resources.

Contact Information:	Media Contact:	Staff Contact(s):
Contact for Consumers:	Jay Mayfield	Patti Poss
Consumer Response Center	Office of Public Affairs	Bureau of Consumer Protection
877-382-4357	202-326-2656	202-326-2413

[FTC Releases Funeral Home Compliance Results, Offers New Business Guidance on Funeral Rule Requirements](#)

Central Virginia Funeral Directors Association

President:

Stephanie Bell

Woody Funeral Home
stephanie.bell@dignitymemorial.com

Vice President:

Kaylinn Bezenar

Morrissett Funeral & Cremation Service
kaylinn@morrissett.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Margaret Edie

Morrissett Funeral & Cremation Service
margaret@morrissett.com



Main Street in Richmond, Va in the spring.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Installations in November.

IN REMEMBRANCE

SHENANDOAH VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Betty Jean Simmons Young - April 26, 2020
Joseph William Teague - May 26, 2020

SOUTHSIDE FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Elwood Wright Byrum - May 4, 2020
Mary Louise Gentry Byrum - May 4, 2020
Beatrice Anne Finch "Pug" - May 27, 2020

VIRGINIA FUNERAL SALES ASSOCIATION

Martha Groves Harris - April 24, 2020
Nasa Farrow Jennette, Jr. - April 27, 2020

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Virginia Funeral Directors Association is on Facebook and Instagram!

Did you know the Virginia Funeral Directors Association is on Facebook and Instagram?

Follow us on [Facebook](#) by searching for Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA). You can find us on [Instagram](#) by searching for @virginiafuneraldirectors.

Following us on social media helps you to stay up-to-date on the latest association happenings!



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Recently, Dr. Leah Bush, Former Chief Medical Examiner of the Commonwealth of Virginia wrote a Letter to the Editor which was published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch on May 7, 2020. We appreciate and thank Dr. Bush for the letter she wrote!

Richmond Times Dispatch
May 7, 2020
Letters to the Editor

Last responders face many dangers in pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been much focus on our front-line responders, including emergency medical responders, police and firefighters, health care workers, bus drivers, grocery store employees and the like. They are receiving hard-earned recognition for the jobs they must perform for the public while exposing themselves to possible COVID-19 infection. Also facing daily exposure during the pandemic are the people who work in the funeral service industry and those at the Virginia Medical Examiner's Office, who interact, manipulate and open bodies infected with the coronavirus as part of their day-to-day jobs. These folks are putting their lives on the line in order to respectfully process and make final disposition of the contaminated remains COVID-19 decedents.

Medical examiner employees and funeral service workers go to work every day knowing that they will interact with deceased patients who still are infectious. There have been reports of a medical examiner who contracted the coronavirus from a deceased COVID-19 patient.

It is time these workers receive recognition for their dangerous work. I applaud them for their dedication, compassion and fearless attention to their hard and often unappreciated jobs. God bless our front-line workers and our last responders. They all deserve recognition.

Leah Bush, Former Chief Medical Examiner of the Commonwealth of Virginia, New Kent.

Northern Virginia Funeral Directors Association



President:
Jae Turner
Cunningham-Turch
jeromialmorgan@gmail.com



Vice President:
Benjamin Hinkle
National Funeral Home
benjamin.hinkle@dignitymemorial.com

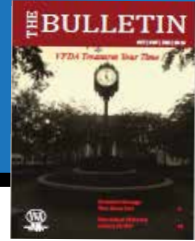


Secretary-Treasurer:
Tyra Baker Thompson
Chinn and Baker Funeral Home
tyrabt@yahoo.com

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday in March, June, September, and December. Installations in June.



ADVERTISER OPPORTUNITIES



The **VFDA** is the leading state trade association for the funeral profession. Advertise today in our online membership directory, website: www.vfda.net, and in our Bulletin magazine! The Bulletin is one of our most popular member benefits, reaching over 400 member firms. Don't miss out on these opportunities to reach Virginia's funeral professionals with your product and service messages! **All funeral homes as well as suppliers can advertise with us.**

THE BULLETIN MAGAZINE

- Full Page Ad.....\$1,000
- Half Page Ad.....\$900
- Quarter Page Ad.....\$650

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY (includes online)

- Full Page Ad.....\$1,000
- Half Page Ad.....\$900
- Quarter Page Ad.....\$650

BOTH DIRECTORY & BULLETIN (all four issues)

- Full Page Ad.....\$1,500
- Half Page Ad.....\$1,350
- Quarter Page Ad.....\$975

CONVENTION BROCHURE

- Full Page Ad.....\$350
- Half Page Ad.....\$200
- Quarter Page Ad.....\$125
- Business Card Ad.....\$85

WEBSITE ADS

Contact the VFDA Office for website advertising only.

ADVERTISER PAYMENT FORM (Place a check next to the ad size you want.)

Organization Name _____

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Phone _____ Email _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

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Check Enclosed (payable to VFDA, VFDA Federal Tax ID #54-0419116)

VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover Expires: _____ Security Code: _____

Card #: _____ Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

<u>PUBLICATION</u>	<u>ADS DUE</u>
The Bulletin OCT NOV DEC	10-13-2019
132nd Annual VFDA Convention Brochure	11-01-2019
The Bulletin JAN FEB MAR	01-17-2020
The Bulletin APR MAY JUN	04-17-2020
VFDA Membership Directory	01-17-2020
The Bulletin JULY AUG SEPT	07-10-2020
The Bulletin OCT NOV DEC	10-09-2020

*Prices will be prorated based on ad run date.

INSTRUCTIONS:
Mail this form with payment information to:
VFDA, P.O. Box 395, Hanover, VA 23069 or email to info@vfda.net.

ART FILE FORMATS:
Please send your ad as an email attachment in one of the following high resolution formats: PDF or JPG (300 dpi at print size) to info@vfda.net. Microsoft Word format is not preferred.

QUESTIONS?
Virginia Funeral Directors Association Office
804-264-0505
info@vfda.net



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Holiday Photos

Share your favorite
holiday photos with us!

We would like to include family holiday photos in the October-December issue of The Bulletin. Make sure include names to include with the photos or a caption. Please email your photos and information to info@vfda.net by **October 15, 2020**.

Shenandoah Valley Funeral Directors Association

President:

Neal Wong

Johnson Funeral Service
Nwong@johnsonfs.com

Vice President:

Jay McIntyre

Reynolds Hamrick Funeral Homes & Crematory
jrmcintyre685@gmail.com

Secretary:

Charlie Rimel

Henry Funeral Home
charlierimel89@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Daniel Chapman

Johnson Funeral Service
dchapman@gmail.com



Main Street in Appomattox, Va at dusk. Photo credit Mike Doss.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday in January, March, May, September, and November. Installations in May.



Please join us on November 12, 2020 for the Virginia Funeral Directors Associations "Virtual Continuing Education Day."

At this virtual event, you will receive all of your required Virginia continuing education credits in one day in the comforts of your own home or office. You can sign-up for the entire day or if you only need one or two credits, you may choose our a la carte option.

Thank you to our sponsor, Homesteaders Life Company!

Special thanks to:

- Lakeland Preened Planning, LLC
- Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Emblamers
- Regulatory Support Services

[Virtual Continuing Education Day Registration](#)



Save the date and start making plans to join us for the Virginia Funeral Directors Association Convention next Summer in Virginia Beach! The convention will be held at the Marriott Virginia Beach Oceanfront (4200 & 4201 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451).

Start making your [sleeping room reservations](#) today!

Sleeping Rooms \$239 per night. Reservations are due to the hotel by May 17, 2021. Rates are good from June 8, 2021 until June 19, 2021. If you are booking room nights outside of the dates listed above, please email [Lacy Whittaker](#), VFDA Executive Director for assistance.

We can't wait to see you in 2021!

Southside Funeral Directors Association

President:

Paul Spiggle

Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox
spigglefam@aol.com

Vice President:

Butch Gatewood

Norris Funeral Services
butch.1947@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Les Powell, III

Powell Funeral Home, South Boston
lespowell111@gcronline.com



War Memorial in Halifax, VA. Photo credit Steve Rust.

Meetings are quarterly and determined by district. Installations in May.

Southwest Funeral Directors Association

President:

Tyler Bailey

Frost Funeral Home
tylersbaileyfh@gmail.com

Vice President:

John Britton

Mullins-Sturgill Funeral Home
monumentsservices@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

P. Martin Hagy

Hagy & Fawbush Funeral Home Inc.
info@hagyfawbush.com



Powell Valley as viewed from Benge's Gap in Norton, Va. Photo credit J654567.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday in March, June, September, and December. Installations in June.

Tidewater Funeral Directors Association

President: Ron Vance
Holloman-Brown
ron.vance.fsl@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Lynda Harris
Kellum/Smith & Williams Funeral Homes
lynda.harris@dignitymemorial.com

2nd Vice President: Eric Wray
E Vaughn Wray
evaughnwray@gmail.com

Secretary: Jamie Karpa
R. Hayden Smith Funeral Home
jamiekarpa@gmail.com

Treasurer: Bryan Graves
H.D. Oliver
hdofh@aol.com



Freemason Abbey in Norfolk, Va. Photo credit www.norfolk.gov.

1st Year Director: Stephanie Smith
sgs.rhsfh@gmail.com

2nd Year Director: Reneé Battle
TE Cooke Overton
tecofh@gmail.com

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month except in June, July, August, and November. Installations in April.

Virginia Funeral Supply Association

President:
RD Monson
Homesteaders Life Company
rmonson@homesteaderslife.com

1st Vice President:
Todd Abshire
Batesville Casket Company
todd.abshire@batesville.com

Secretary/Treasurer:
Sherry Noble
Messenger
sherrynoble@me.com



Meetings and installations held in June during VFDA Annual Convention.



**VIRGINIA
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION**

VFDA Calendar of Events*

**subject to change*

September 24, 2020	District Officers Meeting	4:00 pm - Zoom Conference Meeting
October 18-21, 2020	NFDA International Convention & Expo	Virtual Event
November 12, 2020	VFDA Virtual Education Day	
January 21, 2021	District Officers Meeting	4:00 pm - Zoom Conference Meeting
May 13, 2021	District Officers Meeting	4:00 pm - Zoom Conference Meeting
June 13-16, 2021	133rd Annual VFDA Convention	Marriott Virginia Beach Oceanfront - Virginia Beach, VA
June 12-15, 2022	134th Annual VFDA Convention	Marriott Virginia Beach Oceanfront - Virginia Beach, VA
June 11-14, 2023	135th Annual VFDA Convention	Marriott Virginia Beach Oceanfront - Virginia Beach, VA