

AGENDA

North American Death Care Regulators Association (DCRA)

Virtual Annual Meeting & Training Seminar

October 20 – 21, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. CDT

Attire – Business Casual

Conference Host:



Texas Department of Banking
Division of Non-Depository Supervision

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *Not Just Another Bag of Dirt*
- Pamela Griese and Thomas Mowery
Funeral Inspectors, Investigators, and Trust Examiners
Washington State Department of Licensing
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *The Grave Reality of Family Cemeteries: Relocating Remains from Previously Unidentified or Discovered Cemeteries*
- Kristin D. Tips, President and Funeral Director, MPIL, Inc.
- Michael Hoffman, Jr., CFSP, General Manager, MPIL, Inc.
- 12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. *BREAK*
- 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. *Roundtable Discussions: State and provincial reports of new legislation and regulations, enforcement, and regulatory issues. (Closed Session: Members Only)*

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *Death in the Time of COVID-19: The New Laws and Logistics for Final Arrangements, Funeral Homes, and Cemeteries*
- Ryan M. Seidemann, Assistant Attorney General, Louisiana Department of Justice
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Executive Committee Meeting Reports*
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. *BREAK*
- 12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. *Roundtable Discussions: State and provincial reports of new legislation and regulations, enforcement, and regulatory issues. (Closed Session: Members Only)*

ADJOURN

Speakers

Tuesday, October 20th

Pamela Griese and Thomas Mowery: “Not Just Another Bag of Dirt”

Pamela Griese has 20 years of experience at the Department of Licensing as an Inspector, Investigator and Trust Examiner for the Washington Funeral and Cemetery Board. Ms. Griese is a Washington Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer with 15 years Funeral Home and Crematory operator experience in the Seattle area. While at the Department of Licensing, Ms. Griese has written rules, made rule revisions, and helped write State Law examination questions. Her duties include inspecting Funeral Homes and Crematories, Investigating Funeral, Crematory and Cemetery complaints, and examining Funeral Prearrangement contracts and Cemetery Trust Funds. Ms. Griese currently serves as a Funeral Service Education Program Advisory Committee Member for Mount Hood Community College and Lake Washington Institute of Technology. Ms. Griese was the President of the North American Death Care Regulators Association in 2016-2017. Ms. Griese graduated from the Funeral Service Education Program at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon in 1986. Ms. Griese worked as a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer at Evergreen-Washelli Funeral Home from 1986 to

AGENDA

1992, then went to work for Bonney-Watson Funeral Home until taking the Inspector position for the Department of Licensing in 1999. Ms. Griese is pleased to see more disposition options available to consumers and is looking forward to addressing the changes to the Death Care profession in Washington State.

Thomas Mowery has been with the Department of Licensing for over a year as an Inspector, Investigator and Trust Examiner for the Washington Funeral and Cemetery Board. Mr. Mowery attended mortuary school in Fayetteville, NC and there began his funeral service career more than 20 years ago. Thomas is a certified crematory operator by the NC Funeral and Cemetery Board. Mr. Mowery became a Washington Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer in 2013 with Funeral Home and Crematory operator experience in eastern Washington. He was location manager at Valley Hills Funeral Home and Crematory in Yakima, WA for nearly 5 years. While at the Department of Licensing, Mr. Mowery has written rules for the new disposition methods and helped make rule revisions. His duties include inspecting Funeral Homes and Crematories, investigating Funeral, Crematory and Cemetery complaints, and examining Funeral Prearrangement contracts and Cemetery Trust Funds. Mr. Mowery currently serves as a Funeral Service Education Program Advisory Committee Member for Mount Hood Community College and Lake Washington Institute of Technology. Thomas is a fourth generation Kentucky Colonel and a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Kristin D. Tips and Michael Hoffman, Jr.: *“The Grave Reality of Family Cemeteries: Relocating Remains from Previously Unidentified or Discovered Cemeteries”*

Kristin Tips is President and Funeral Director of MPIL, Inc., and Mission Park Funeral Chapels, Cemeteries, Crematories and Memorials, managing 28 operations in Texas. She is also CEO of Mission Park Investments, Inc., a private investment firm, and serves on the board of directors for International American Life Insurance Company. Kristin is honored to be appointed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbot as Texas Funeral Service Commissioner and confirmed by the Texas State Senate in spring of 2019 for a six-year term to oversee statewide activities and licensees of the Texas Funeral Service Commission. She also serves as Trustee for the Texas Biomedical Research Institute, Trustee for the World Affairs Council, serves on the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Center and serves on the advisory committee of the San Antonio Mortuary School. She is a member of NFDA, ICCFA, CANA, TFDA and TCA.

Michael Hoffman has worked in the Funeral and Cemetery profession since 1988. He is graduate of San Antonio College of Mortuary Science and licensed in 1991 as a Funeral Director/Embalmer. Michael held many positions from 1988 – 1998 from location manager to area manager in South Texas. He joined the Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery family of firms in 1999 and currently holds the position of General Manager overseeing 23 funeral chapels, cemeteries, and crematory operations. Michael is a current member of the Texas Funeral Directors Association for over 30 years having served on most committees and chaired several committees for the Association as a member. He enjoys working with the local ownership of Mission Park and various governing agencies to promote the good in our profession and ensuring that families are treated with the utmost respect and courtesy in their time of need.

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 21st

Ryan M. Seidemann: *“Death in the Time of COVID-19: The New Laws and Logistics for Final Arrangements, Funeral Homes, and Cemeteries”*

Ryan Seidemann holds a B.A. (Florida State University) and M.A. (Louisiana State University) in anthropology as well as a B.C.L. and a J.D. in law (Louisiana State University). He is the Section Chief of the Lands & Natural Resources Section, Civil Division, Louisiana Department of Justice, an adjunct professor of law at Southern University Law Center, and a death investigator for the West Baton Rouge Parish Coroner’s Office. He is currently enrolled as a doctoral student in the Department of Planning and Urban Studies at the University of New Orleans. He is also a Registered Professional Archaeologist. Ryan is the author of more than 80 publications on cemeteries and human remains law, environmental and mineral law, and human skeletal biology.