

OMCB E-NEWS

FEBRUARY 2015

Hello to all licensees of the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board and other interested persons!

It has been a while since our last newsletter, but we are back to provide you with important and interesting information relating to the death care industry in Oregon and beyond.

Continuing Education

The Board continues to have discussions with industry and public members regarding the upcoming continuing education program's structure. Thanks to the participation of all of you, the Board continues to gather additional information and revise the proposed program based on everyone's input.

We expect to send out an update in late March and the full program should be implemented during license renewal in 2016.

Thank you for all of your comments and participation.

If you want to receive updates, please send an email request to the Board: (mortuary.board@state.or.us).

Legislative Happenings

How an Oregon bill becomes a law (a simplified explanation):

After a bill's first reading in the House, it is assigned to a committee for review and the committee holds public hearings & work sessions. Once the committee signs off on the bill and the bill has two more readings, it must receive a majority of affirmative votes. If the bill is passed by a majority of the House members, it is sent to the Senate for the same process. After the third reading (and the bill is passed in the Senate without changes), it is sent back to the House for enrolling. Assuming the bill passes both the House & the Senate in identical form, the enrolled bill is sent to the Governor for signature. The 2015 Regular Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly convened on February 2nd. We have introduced 3 bills—our budget bill for 2015-2017 as well as two policy bills, both based on stakeholder input and needs:

- **HB 2471:** Would implement an improved education program, address requirements for apprenticeship, internship, testing & industry entry. (Link to follow bill status: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB2471>.)
- **HB 2472:** Would remove restriction that a Board inspector could not be "actively engaged" in the profession or a Board member and allow the Board to implement a self-inspection program & hire individuals who may have a background in the industry and hold a license. (Link to follow bill status: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB2472>.)
- **HB 5023:** OMCB's biennial budget. (Link to follow bill status: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Measures/Overview/HB5023>.)

Oregon Burial Site Guides available FREE from Oregon Heritage

The **Oregon Burial Site Guide**, a 1,200-page book with information about 2,500 burial sites in Oregon, is now available for free. The book compiled by Dean Byrd, Stanley Clark and Janice M. Healy includes basic historic cemetery information with names and locations organized by counties, photographs, and a statewide index. It does not include burial lists. This resource is valuable for genealogical organizations, historical societies and for libraries.

The books are available for pick up from Oregon Heritage, 725 Summer St. NE (part of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department) from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, contact Kuri Gill at kuri.gill@oregon.gov or 503-986-0685.

Oregon State Governor's Employee Food Drive

Hopefully you have never had a shortage of food for you or your family, but unfortunately many do.

Each February provides a great opportunity for all of us to help those in our community who are less fortunate by donating food and money to the Oregon Food Bank.

You can place nonperishable food items in our food barrel located on the 4th floor lobby of the Portland State Office Building (800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, OR 97232) or mail/drop off checks or money orders payable to **Oregon Food Bank** to:

OMCB, Food Drive
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 430
Portland, OR 97232

We must receive all donations by March 5, 2015.

Here are some startling stats from the Oregon Food Bank (OFB):

- For the third year in a row, the OFB statewide network of regional food banks distributed **more than 1 million emergency food boxes**.
- Since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2008, food box distribution has increased **41%**.
- The OFB network of regional food banks now distribute about **350,000** more food boxes annually than it did before the recession.
- **270,000 people** per month ate meals from emergency food boxes – about half of Portland's population.
- In an average month, **92,000 children** eat meals from emergency food boxes.
- **3.9 million** emergency meals were served at soup kitchens and shelters.

The Oregon Food Bank's website provides a wealth of information: <http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/>.

*Did you know that the Governor's State Employees Food Drive was started by Governor Vic Atiyeh in 1982? Since its inception, state employees have raised the equivalent of 70 million pounds of food.

*Due to the recent passing of Gov. Atiyeh, this year's Food Drive is dedicated to his memory.

2015 OMCB Board Members

Here is a list of our esteemed Board Members:

Dwight Terry, President (Funeral Service Practitioner/Embalmer)

Jane Woodward, Vice President (Funeral Service Practitioner)

Laurie Goolsby, Secretary/Treasurer (Public Member)

Nancy Corr (Public Member, Senior Citizen)

David Noble (Cemetery Operator, For Profit)

Sirpa Duoos (Cemetery Operator, City/County)

Larry Gyure (Cemetery Operator, Special District)

Kevin Loveland (Crematorium Operator)

Morris Pearson (Embalmer)

Two public member seats are currently open.

OMCB Staff Changes

After many years of dedicated service, Lynne Nelson has retired. She tirelessly served licensees and the public and even acted as interim Executive Director. She will be missed and we wish her the best.

Chad Dresselhaus was recently hired as the Education & Compliance Program Manager. He has worked in the death care industry for almost 10 years and previously was the Compliance Manager for an Oregon-based Master Trustee. He previously served on the Board as a public member and as Vice President.

Merrill Creagh, one of our Compliance Specialists, will be retiring at the end of February. She began working for the Board as an Investigator in November of 2005, left to work for another health-related board, and then returned to work for the OMCB. We wish her the best as she travels around the world.

Bold Predictions for the Funeral Industry in 2015

In a recent article by Jeff Harbeson ("The Funeral Commander"), he makes some predictions for 2015:

- Cremation will continue to rise at a rapid rate which applies pressure to traditional funeral service provider revenues.
- Consumers will continue to educate themselves about the funeral business online and will make choices (just like any other consumer choice) based on their research from their screen.
- Funeral service providers that offer complete and transparent information online (including pricing, remember only 9% of US firms have their prices online) will reap benefits.
- Social media used by funeral homes will continue to emerge as the preferred communication to consumers.
- New funeral service provider models will continue to evolve and flourish.
- Consolidation will continue and we'll see some strange alliances from funeral service providers, suppliers, pre-need companies and even funeral related organizations. It's called survival.
- The relevance of DNA to funeral consumers (because a deceased person's DNA is destroyed when cremation occurs) will continue to emerge as a subject of importance.

What do you think?

OMCB Website

Our website has a wealth of information and is a wonderful resource. We are in the process of updating and redesigning it, so welcome any suggestions and/or requests.

Registered Name(s) with the Board

As a reminder, all licensed facilities – including exempt operating cemeteries that perform less than 20 interments, inurnments and entombments in two years – are required to register both their **true name** and **assumed business name** (if not identical as the true corporate name) with the Secretary of State Corporation Division, in accordance with rule.

***OAR 830-040-0030:** Each licensed facility shall be registered with the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board by its true corporate, firm or individual name. In addition, one assumed business name, as registered with the Secretary of State Corporation Division, may be used by such licensed facility and shall be promptly reported to the Board.*

Upcoming OMCB Meeting

The next OMCB Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 in Salem (Room 103 in the State Library). An agenda will be issued for the Board's regular meeting and will be available on our website under the "Meetings" link.

For those who are unable to attend, the Board is piloting a new service which will allow you to virtually attend our general session meetings.

Phone Number: 1-866-244-8528

Access Code: 736028

The system will allow you to call in approximately 10 minutes before the start of the meeting.

Also, when you call in, please mute your phone – noise from those calling in can be distracting.

Examinations Schedule Update

Another Death Care Consultant and Funeral Service Practitioner Exam has been scheduled for April 24, 2015. More details will be available from the Board's website, under the Examinations link.

Past Newsletters

If you enjoyed reading this newsletter and were interested in reviewing previous ones, here is the link on our website:

http://www.oregon.gov/MortCem/Pages/Compliance_Issues.aspx

If you have any suggestions for future newsletters, please feel free to contact us.

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