

Nassuff Newsletter



Spring | 2021

New Procedures at the SCME

Dear Members,

A number of months back, members had reached out to NSFDA for assistance with release times at the SCME. Holly and I had initially set up a meeting with Dr. Odette Hall, the new Chief Medical Examiner in Suffolk County, first to welcome her and then to see if we could resolve an ongoing issue with release times and procedures at SCME. Some important dialogue had developed from the meeting but true relief was not met.

After meeting with the board, and brainstorming after the first meeting, it was clear then that we knew we needed some more meetings. I wanted to get the pulse of the membership regarding SCME. I had had a few conversations with our members, and I knew that this system in place was not working. I created a survey and asked membership to complete. It was presented to the SCME and it helped get a better understanding of what we were looking for. Needless to say, it helped stress the need for expanded hours.

Holly and I are happy to provide you with new procedures for release at the SCME. This is a roll back to pre-pandemic times. Because of certain situations, we still ask that you keep in communication with medical records during normal business hours to help with release. I cannot thank Dr. Hall enough for her attention and open dialogue to help resolve the issues you brought to our attention. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey and we look forward to continuing dialogue and positive feedback moving forward.

Always know, your NSFDA is always working to help resolve local issues. Please bring them to us.

Yours truly,

Michael J. Gorton, Jr, CFSP
President, NSFDA

Upcoming Events

NSFDA Annual Meeting:

The Nassau Suffolk Funeral Directors Association Annual Meeting is being held on Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 5pm. The meeting will be live streamed. Login information will be sent out in mid-April. There will be a scholarship presentation, awards & recognition, committee reports and a chapter model update & discussion.

SAVE THE DATE:

The Nassau Suffolk Funeral Directors 2021 Toni & Vincent Memorial Golf Outing: August 2, 2021 at the Bellport Country Club
More information to follow.

BOARD MEETING DATES

April 13, 2021

Board Meeting Only at 5pm

NO MEETING JUNE, JULY and AUGUST

September 14, 2021

Board Meeting at 4pm, General Meeting at 5:30pm

October 12, 2021

Board Meeting Only at 5pm

November 9, 2021

Board Meeting at 4pm, General Meeting at 5:30pm

December 14, 2021



A Message from the NSFDA

Board President:

Michael J. Gorton

Dear Members,

A lot can happen in a year, alot did. Some things changed for the good and some for the bad. Nonetheless, change is good. We all knew what was about to happen, but we didn't. Looking back on what happened 365 days or so ago, it still seems surreal.

I remember that second Tuesday in March, we had a board meeting, not knowing what we were about to face and how long we would be facing it. It changed all of us. We lost some friends, we lost some family. We cried with families; we cried for families we never met before. We began conducting arrangement conferences over Zoom. Who knew what Zoom was before March 2020.

We helped families from outside our communities because other communities were overwhelmed and could not bury their dead. We saw cremations take weeks, we saw burials take months. We saw veterans buried with no family and no honors. We saw Catholics laid to rest without final sacraments. We saw people of Jewish faith buried without the Kaddish recited. We saw families bury multiple family members at the same time. We saw no one at gravesites except a cell phone on a tripod.

There were times we were undertakers, not funeral directors, because, when you really examine it, there was no traditional funeral to direct.

Funeral Director Position Available:

Team Dignity Memorial of Long Island has immediate licensed funeral director openings in Nassau & Suffolk counties. Comparable pay scale, OT, commissions, full benefits, additional compensation items and the best 401k in the industry plus the opportunity to advance your career enhance these positions.

Contact Peter D'Arienzo at peter.darienzo@Dignitymemorial.com or 917-865-2460 for additional information.

**Continuing Education Webinar
"Infant Loss Arranger Training; We Can Do Better"
Presenter: Monica H. Torres, LE, LFD, LC
1 CEU
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 3pm**

Learn how to create a powerful experience for parents on their journey through the most unimaginable sort of grief. This course challenges the professional to keep the focus on the body by offering arranger tips on how to talk to families sensitively and professionally about embalming and alternative preparations of the body. The course guides the Funeral Director/Arranger on how to present a unique and personalized modern baby service with confidence. Learn how to modify antiquated service options by exploring current trends in the birthing industry that directly relate to death care. The course offers powerful insight that professionals can utilize to serve the current birthing population of Generation X and Millennial parents and is packed with useful tips and resources for funeral professionals.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

There was nothing to prepare us for what we were about to see and do. There was no book to turn to. No one from 1918 we could reach out to and say hey, "what did you do?" We called our colleagues and said, "how are you doing?" We never got a clear answer through the mask, but if you did see their eyes, you knew.

We all needed hugs. Ever. Single. One. Of. Us. But we could not hug. We still do need them. We'll get them and even better give them soon.

I sit here and I write this message for our Newsletter. Thinking about what March 2020 meant for us Funeral Directors. Always looking to the past, to learn and prepare. I look now to the future and prepare for the good that we have, the life, the love and the passion to be the best we can for our families.

You all inspire me, you all amaze me and you all make me work harder to make NSFDA the best it can be. Thank you for your service. Thank you for all you did over the last year for funeral service. I look forward to seeing you all again soon, in person.

Until then, keep this song in your head, as it's been in mine for the better part of a year, "O-o-h Child" by The Five Steps and those iconic following lyrics:

Things are gonna get easier
Ooh child
Things'll get brighter

Yours truly,

**Michael J. Gorton, Jr, CFSP
President, NSFDA**

A Message from the Executive Director

This winter has been exceptionally long for most of us because of numerous snowstorms, children still having to attend school remotely or in a hybrid model, having to keep our distance from our loved ones as to keep them safe still and the exhaustion still dealing



with this virus one year later. I for one will be incredibly happy to welcome Spring on March 20, 2021. The sound of birds chirping in the morning, seeing the flowers blooming... minus the pollen and to have daylight longer each day is good for the soul. This past year has been difficult for all of us. I cannot believe that a year ago March 13, our world changed as we knew it, but the funeral industry kept on going and everyone adapted to the changes that were handed down. Each one of you that are in this industry need to be proud of yourselves for a job well done and always remember to take time to breathe and know how appreciated you are. I for one would like to tell each one of you, thank you. You have the toughest, most challenging, and sometimes gut-wrenching careers, but you all do it with grace, style and fortitude.

This winter our Program Committee Chairperson, Melissa Schmidt, LFD was busy researching the programs for the webinars that we are offering this year and she secured the best in the business. We had Glenda Stansbury, LFD from the Insight Institute present her programs in February and March and Monica Torres, LFD and owner of NXT Generation Mortuary Support LLC will be presenting her programs in April, June and September. Please see your emails for the information on registering for these webinars. The Annual General Membership Meeting will take place on Tuesday May 11, 2021 which will include the scholarship presentation to a student who will be graduating from Nassau Community College Mortuary Science Program. Also, that evening a 2-credit law program will be given by Mike Lanotte, the Executive Director of the New York State Funeral Directors Association. All information on both the meeting and program will be available to you in the next few weeks.

The Board of Directors regret to inform all of you that after many discussions, decided to postpone the Annual Symposium and Networking Event which is sponsored by the Whitmore Group this year because of the restrictions due to Covid-19. Information for the 2022 Symposium will be announced later this year. The Toni & Vincent Romeo Memorial Golf Outing will take place on Monday August 2, 2021 at the Bellport Country Club and the registration information will be sent out in May. There will be a few modifications to the event, but I know it will be a great day as always.

Thank you and please stay safe.

Holly

Honoring NSFDA Deputized Agents

During the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak, many of you had deputized agents to help you provide a special service in your funeral home to the families in your community. These people went above and beyond, under your direction, during a pandemic. We would like to take the time to honor them and thank them. Those agents helped our funeral directors and firms perform duties they normally could not do because of the pandemic.

Carol Ganzenmuller and Greg Monfiletto each served as deputy from March through July of 2020.

**If you know someone who was a deputized agent or had deputized agents for your firm, please send us their name and time served as an agent. We hope to recognize them in the future. Please send the information to: Hollynsfda@yahoo.com*

In Memoriam: Joseph Noll

NOLL, Joseph R., 68, of Rockville Centre, passed unexpectedly on January 22, 2021 as a result of Covid-19. Proud owner of Macken Mortuary of Rockville Centre and Island Park, Deputy Commander DMORT Region 2, Former President and 40 year member of the Nassau-Suffolk Funeral Directors Association.



Joe came from humble beginnings, growing up outside of Buffalo, NY, and having left home as a 14 year old to help support his mother and three siblings. Seeking a more stable future he decided on a career in funeral service and graduated from SUNY Farmingdale in 1972.

Following a stint in the Army National Guard as a combat medic, Joe finished his residency, and shortly thereafter established one of the first trade services on Long Island.

Over the next 20 years, and with the help of numerous directors who got their start at JRN Inc., he sold the business and purchased Macken Mortuary, in Rockville Centre. In 2002, along with the help of his family, Joe opened a secondary location in Island Park, and was very proud to have extended the

Macken brand.

Among his many accomplishments, Joe was a founding member of DMORT, serving as Deputy Commander for Region 2 and the New York State Executive Disaster Committee. He responded to the Avianca 052 air disaster, TWA Flight 800, US Air Flight 405, American Flight 587, Colgan Air Flight 3407 (Buffalo) and the Happy Land Social Club Fire, among others.

After the September 11th terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Joe and 600 DMORT colleagues worked at the New York City Medical Examiner's Office and at the Family Assistance Center. They assisted with identification, DNA sampling, evidence gathering, family interviews and administrative functions for the return of victims to their families.

In addition to his deployment after September 11th, Joe was part of DMORT operations in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, and in Joplin, Missouri, after the devastating tornado.

Joe took great pride in being able to extend the skills he perfected over years of service to the local community to a national level, and it is something he truly enjoyed.

Joe is survived by his four children, Kristen (Joseph) Honeycutt, Michael (Jaime), Lauren (Dave) Makowski, and Jenna (Nate), and three grand-children, Maddox, Kennsington, and Bella.

“Our father’s life was a testament to hard work paying off. He came from nothing and worked for everything he had - that is something we are all very proud of. His unexpected passing leaves enormous shoes to fill, but I am thankful to have had had the honor of working alongside him and encouraged by the strong example he set. The stories from the countless families he’s helped over the years and the respect he earned from his fellow funeral directors has been a much needed crutch during such a difficult time. My sisters and I will miss him greatly, but we look to the future with confidence given the foundation he built and the legacy he’s left behind.” Michael Noll



National Funeral Directors Day

This past year was a year like no other. The pandemic made this year challenging for funeral directors. In 2008, Congress made March 11, National Funeral Director Recognition Day. On March 11, this special proclamation was presented to all funeral directors in the State of New York for the continuing and unwavering support and service you provide to your communities. March 11th is a day that gives special recognition and accommodation to the "last responders".

Who is Eligible?

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

We are working with stakeholder groups to get their input on ways we can best provide this assistance, and to enlist their help with outreach to families and communities. FEMA will begin to implement COVID-19 funeral assistance in April.

Additional guidance is being finalized and will be released to potential applicants and community partners as soon as possible. In the meantime, people who have COVID-19 funeral expenses are encouraged to keep and gather documentation.

How to Apply:

- In April, FEMA will begin accepting applications. If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, we encourage you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:
- An official death certificate that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- Funeral expenses documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. We are not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance,

- To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:
- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

How are Funds Received:

If you are eligible for funeral assistance you will receive a check by mail, or funds by direct deposit, depending on which option you choose when you apply for assistance.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

Opportunity for Discounted Cremation Containers for Members

Recently, our Past President and current Vice President, Jeff Davis, began a program with New England Cremation Supply Company. This program is for members and is an opportunity to secure cremation containers at a discount. New England Cremation Supply Company will be coming down to Long Island on the 3rd Monday of each month. All orders must be made through Jeff Davis at 631-744-9000 or jeff@rockypointfuneralhome.com. Deadline for orders is the Monday before the scheduled delivery date. Keep in mind that this is a member benefit so please do not contact New England Cremation Supply.

Board Spotlight: Sean Ward

Spotlight Questions:

Favorite Food: A good bacon cheeseburger.

What's on my playlist: Mostly 90's/00's punk rock and ska. Bands like NOFX, Bad Religion, Social Distortion.

Person I admire the most: That's a tough one but I'd have to say my oldest brother Kevin. He's the person I go to for intelligent, thoughtful advice and wisdom. He's a supportive and helpful friend, and always manages to maintain a sense of humor.

Favorite place: My house when my kids are home.

An invention I couldn't live without is: My motorcycle keeps me sane and happy.

If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be: My girlfriend and I are planning a trip to the Isle of Man soon.

My words of wisdom are: The more you learn, the more you realize how little you know. Always try to stay humble and open to new knowledge.

What is one thing most people don't know about me: I made 3 solo flights in a Cessna 172 shortly after turning 16.

During the COVID crisis I really learned how to: Find a new appreciation for my coworkers at Overton Funeral Home and my colleagues in this industry. COVID made 2020 an incredibly trying time to work in the funeral industry, but as we all know, difficult times are often opportunities for positive traits like friendship and compassion to be shown.



NYSFDA Student Week

New York State Funeral Directors Association, Inc. (NYSFDA) is excited to announce the 2021 Student Week. Current mortuary science students and residents are invited to join us for educational workshops, connecting with students around NYS, and practical advice and tips of the trade from licensed Funeral Directors. Registration is open,

and it's **free**. **NYSFDA Student Week is April 19- 22** (live from 3 - 5 pm each day). There will be live demonstrations, games, Q&A, break out sessions and more. Please share this info with any student or residents you may know. Pre-registration is required. For more details and to register visit: <https://my.nysfda.org/studentweek21>

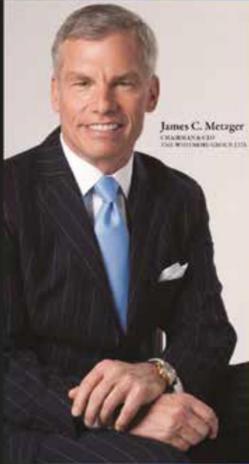


NYSFDA 2021 Student Week

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