

Nassuff Newsletter

Fall | 2024



Swinging for Success: Highlights from the Vincent and Toni Romeo Golf Outing

The 2024 Vincent & Toni Romeo Memorial Golf Outing was a resounding success, bringing together colleagues, friends, and supporters for a day of camaraderie and fun. Held on Monday, September 30, 2024, at the picturesque Stonebridge Country Club & Golf Links in Smithtown, participants enjoyed a perfect day on the greens, followed by a delightful dinner that capped off the event in style. Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and supported this cherished event. Your contributions ensure its continued success and honor the memory of Vincent and Toni Romeo. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Left to Right: Peter D'Arienzo NYSFDA Region 9 Director, Scott C. Hendrix NYSFDA President, Ken Lysak President NSFDA, Michael J. Gorton Jr., Immediate Past President NSFDA & President Elect NYSFDA, John O. D'Arienzo Immediate Past President NYSFDA





2024 Vincent & Toni Romeo Memorial Golf Outing

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Want to see more photos of the Annual Vincent & Toni Romeo Golf Outing?
Click on the link below!

[Golf Outing Photos](#)

A Message From The President Kenneth Lysak, Jr.

I hope everyone enjoyed a warm and fulfilling Thanksgiving,



surrounded by those who bring you joy. As we move into the holiday season, I know many of you are looking forward to the special moments that come with this time of year—especially if you have young children or grandchildren who bring an extra spark to the festivities.

Unfortunately, we had to make the tough decision to cancel this year's Holiday Party due to low response. While this news is disappointing, it brought to mind a reflection on how things have changed over time, and I wanted to share a bit of that perspective with you.

The Past

Years ago, the NSFDA's Holiday Party was a cherished tradition. It wasn't about CEUs or professional development; it was simply a chance for colleagues and friends to gather, enjoy good food, dance, and share the spirit of the season. These events were always well-attended, and they gave everyone something to look forward to as the year came to a close.

The Present

Recently, we've been working to bring back that sense of connection with a renewed version of the Holiday Party. Last year, we had a decent turnout, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. I even made it my company's holiday event, which turned out to be a great success, despite some initial hesitation.

This year, however, the interest just wasn't there. Despite sending out emails and text reminders well in advance, only ten people signed up. I understand there could be a variety of reasons for this—whether financial, scheduling conflicts, or something else entirely. While it's disappointing, it also gives us a chance to reflect on how we can move forward in a way that better serves our members.

The Future

As officers and board members of the NSFDA, we're always looking for ways to engage and inspire the next generation of funeral directors. It's essential that we encourage younger professionals to take an active role in the association, as they are the future of both our organization and our profession.

It's no secret that our industry is facing challenges. The steady flow of new funeral directors entering the field has slowed, and potential changes to licensing regulations—such as the introduction of certified transporters and dual licensure—may impact how we approach our work. These changes could either reduce or reshape the demand for traditional funeral directors.

This is why I encourage all of you; young or old(er), to get involved as much as you are able. We value your input and your opinions.

Looking forward; we will be offering a free webinar early in 2025 as a member benefit as well as a full day symposium where you will be able to obtain up to 6 credits towards our required

minimum of 12 credits every two years. Please keep an eye out for dates and information to come.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a happy Holiday and a healthy New Year. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in 2025.

Ken

Paid Prenatal Leave Law going into effect January 1, 2025

Governor Hochul is committed to making sure all pregnant New Yorkers can get the care they need. Beginning January 1, 2025, New York will become the first state in the nation to offer paid time off for prenatal care or any medical care related to pregnancy.

Under this new policy, any privately-employed pregnant New Yorker will be able to receive an additional 20 hours of paid sick leave for prenatal care in addition to their existing sick leave, ensuring they can receive the care they need without putting their employment at risk.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

A Message from the Executive Director



It is hard to believe that fall is almost behind us and the holidays are upon us. The NSFDA has been very busy the last few months. We started off with a general membership meeting on September 10th at the Irish Coffee Pub. The meeting was very well attended and a big thank you to Cara Booth, LFD and Sales Representative from Dodge for the interactive program “Back to Basics with Airbrushing, Hands on Techniques and Restoration”. It was nice to see everyone and catch up after the summer months.

The Annual Vincent & Toni Romeo Memorial Golf Outing was held on Monday September 30, 2024, at the beautiful Stonebridge Country Club & Gold Links in Smithtown. The weather was superb and the venue was perfect for golf, lunch and dinner. Congratulations to all the winners of the golf skill prizes, the raffles and the three winners of the Mega Raffle. This event would not be possible without all the sponsors. A big thank you to PrePlan Funeral Trust, Acrisure-The Whitmore Group, Cooperative Funeral Fund, Matthews Aurora Funeral Solutions, Catholic Cemeteries of Brooklyn and the Romeo Family. A special thank you to all the vendors and members who purchased tee-signs and donated to our golfer goody bags. I also want to thank

Melissa Schmidt our Vice President, Linda Hogan-Florenzie, Nassau Representative and Bea Lewanduski, member events chair for spending the day with me checking in golfers, selling raffle tickets and taking pictures. I really appreciate everything they do for the NSFDA and the outing to make it a huge success.

The NSFDA offered a 2-credit law program on November 12th, at the Irish Coffee Pub. Thank you to Nance Schick, Esq for providing these two programs, “Improving your Conflict, Resolution Skills and Managing Employees Compliance & Clear Objectives.

There will be a free webinar on Tuesday, February 12, 2025, and the NSFDA Symposium & Networking Event will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at The Larkfield. Please watch your emails for information to register for these upcoming events or visit our website at [nsfda.org](https://www.nsfda.org).

Wishing you all Happy Holidays & Healthy New Year!

Regards,
Holly

IMPORTANT NSFDA DATES:

February 12, 2025

Webinar 4-6pm
Joanne Harpell, Speaker

March 11, 2025

Board Meeting Only

May 13, 2025

NSFDA Symposium & Networking Event at The Larkfield

September 9, 2025

Board Meeting & General Membership Meeting with CEU's

November 11, 2025

Board Meeting & General Membership Meeting with CEU's

NYSFDA State Report

Peter D'Arienzo - Region 9 Representative

Greetings,

As we closeout this year here a few items and trends that I can update our membership on both the national and New York State levels.

The 2024 NFDA consumer survey has been released and the items that caught my eye were:

- an increase in online shopping via posted price information on funeral home websites

(where allowed or mandated) and the use of google or yelp reviews where the family either confirms an appointment or chooses not to visit a particular location based on what information and pictures are posted online.

- stronger reliance on funeral home websites and social media platforms to obtain the obituary and the funeral service information.
- a decrease in the utilization of traditional clergy and a corresponding uptick in the use of funeral celebrants.
- more families are requesting to incorporate the livestreaming of either the visitation, funeral ceremony or the committal service.

Here in New York State we continue to look at two key issues regarding the workforce issues:

- the transporter issue went to the advisory committee and we are now awaiting feedback from the Department of Health on its status.

- NYSFDA President Scott Hendrix formulated an Ad-Hoc committee to investigate the split licensure option which has become more popular on a national level. New York remains one of only eight states without this option and two of those eight states are in the process of changing their laws to introduce it which lowers the number of states without it across the country to just six. I have been appointed to be a member of this committee. A survey was sent out to all members of NYSFDA in November and those results are being tabulated and the information and responses that were received will allow us to present potential licensing options in the future that work for all parties involved.

By the time this is published I will have traveled to Albany for three days of meetings in December and will report back to our board on any updates that I receive. That is all I have for now.

The holiday season is one of my favorite days of the year and I sincerely hope that you can spend some quality time with family and friends and share some delicious food together and take a moment to be grateful as we all have something to be thankful for! Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday and happy new year!

Peter N. D'Arienzo

NYSFDA Upcoming Events & Training

Understanding NYS Medicaid Law and Funeral Pre-Planning

Wednesday, January 15 | 1-2pm

Registration Open

Your Funeral Homes Financial Health

Wednesday, February 19 | 1-2pm

Registration Open

2025 Certified Celebrant Training

October 20-22, 2025 | 1-2pm | NYSFDA Headquarters, Albany, NY

\$900/NYSFDA member; \$1,000/Nonmember

Registration opens Monday, January 6, 2025

Catch up on all NYSFDA news! There is no log in required!
Click below for the December newsletter:

NYSFDA NEWSLETTER

ATTENTION!

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EACH MONTH.

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It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of:

Jack R. Clifford

Loving father of Michael Hoddinott, LFD for the Brueggemann Funeral Home in East Northport

Dorothy L. Crowe

Beloved mother of Patrick Crowe, member of the NSFDA and Manager of Vernon C. Wagner Funeral Home

Beverly A. Walker

Beloved wife of Jame Walker, LFD and member of the NSFDA.

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

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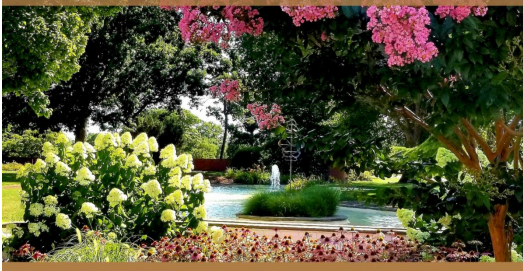
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