

Nassuff Newsletter

Winter | 2024



Oh, What Fun it is to Celebrate the Holidays! "The NSFDA 2nd Annual Holiday Social"





A Message From The President Kenneth Lysak, Jr.



Before I commence with my presidents message I would like to remind everyone of a few important items related to our association. The association will be hosting a General Membership Meeting at the Irish Coffee Pub in East Islip on March 12, 2024 (check in is at 6:00 PM) where you can obtain 2 CEU's. The presenter will be Matthew Binkewicz and the topics are "Renewing the spirit of the Funeral Director" and "Hospice and the Funeral Director's Role". The registration must be done online through our website at [NSFDA.org](https://www.nsfda.org) or you can check your email for the reminder. The cost is \$85.00 which also includes dinner. Again I remind you of the benefits of getting together with your fellow funeral directors to

share and exchange ideas. We are also approaching the end of our licensing biennium. Make sure that you have your 12 credits required by New York State to maintain your license.

So now I am sitting at my computer and I am trying to think of something to say in my President's message other than the housekeeping items mentioned above. I am literally coming up empty. The only thing I can think about is the fact that Winter is rapidly drawing to a close and very soon Spring will be upon us. I am not a big fan of Winter; with the cold, the snow and my least favorite thing is the short amount of daylight. We have had a pretty mild winter so far with the exception of two snow storms. All in all that's not too bad compared to some of our previous winters. Hopefully we can make it to Spring without too many more cold or snowy days.

Spring brings more hours of daylight and truly makes us feel alive and re-energized. Nothing compares to seeing the crocuses popping up followed by the forsythia as it blooms yellow, especially on my commute to work on the parkway. The birds will soon be chirping and the sun will make us feel happy to be alive. Too many times the best part of my day is driving to work with a cup of coffee watching the world come into bloom, not knowing the chaos that awaits in the office. Rest assured, it is there waiting. How many times do you think that you walk into the office looking forward to getting a list of things accomplished only to have the phone ring incessantly throwing all of your well laid out plans into the garbage. It is amazing how many times you arrive at work in a good mood to start the day and suddenly it all goes out the window. Yet we deserve to be and feel happy even though many times we go to work and end up dealing with misery and sadness all day long. Our profession sees things daily that people rarely experience in their lifetimes. As funeral directors we have the opportunity to assist families as they deal with what is probably the worst moment in their lives, and we help to get them through the first few days of grieving, and we literally set them up to move forward in the process of death and it's aftermath. That is why our job is so vital, we provide the first real help to people after their loved one has died. Some days are easier than others, just like some of the families that we serve. To me there is no greater feeling than having that "difficult" family that has experienced a death come back after the funeral and convey how grateful they are for everything we did for them. We sometimes need to have extremely thick skin in our industry, we cannot take the initial reactions from families to heart because they are not really processing things the way they normally would. If we are focused and committed to our mission we can certainly do more to help people than if we just go through the motions without care or concern for the sensitivity of our position as funeral directors.

At the end of the day our job is to help families to go from that cold, dark wintry place and show them the path to Spring. No, it's not always easy, not even pleasant but it can be very rewarding when you realize that what you did mattered. Keep up the good work and remember you can always get to that list of things to do tomorrow. Perhaps!

Warm regards,

Ken

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & CEU PRESENTATION/DINNER

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 - 6:30pm
at The Irish Coffee Pub

Presentations:

*Renewing the Spirit of the Funeral Director
Hospice and The Funeral Director's Role*

Registration deadline: March 8, 2024

For more information and to register click on the link below

[Register](#)

A Message from the Executive Director



Happy New Year and I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. Last year went by very quickly and the NSFDA was very busy. We offered a webinar on February 8th that was very well attended by the membership. The NSFDA Symposium & Networking Event sponsored by The Whitmore Agency was held on May 9th at The Larkfield and was a huge success as we offered 6 CEU credits including 2 Law credits, held annual elections and awarded a scholarship funded by Cooperative Funeral Fund, to student Susan E. Bua who attends the mortuary science program at Nassau Community College. Two in-person general membership meetings were held in 2023, one on September 19th and the other on November 14th at the Irish Coffee Pub.

The annual Toni & Vincent Romeo Memorial Golf Outing was held on October 2, 2023, at the Stonebridge Golf Links, thank you again for all who attended and supported the event. Our annual Holiday Social was held on December 13, 2023, at The Larkfield. The Holiday Social was attended by 102 members, guests and vendors and it was a fun night that was enjoyed by all.

Curt Schmitt, owner and manager of the Charles G. Schmitt Funeral Home and a NSFDA Board Member was honored at the St. William the Abbot RCC golf outing on October 30, 2023, at The Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course in Woodbury. Congratulations to Curt on a well-deserved honor.

This year the NSFDA has many events planned. We started off the year with a webinar on January 23rd and the topic was in regard to the Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease. Ninety-eight members attended the webinar, and it was extremely educational. Thank you to the Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease Foundation for offering this to our members.

The next in-person general membership meeting and two credit CEU is being offered on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. You can register for this meeting and the CEU through the website using the following link: [General Membership Meeting & CEU - NSFDA.](#)

Rev. Matthew P. Binkewicz is coming from Lansing New York to present these 2 credits for us, Renewing the Spirit of the Funeral Director & Hospice and the Funeral Director's Role. On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at the Irish Coffee Pub we will have our Annual Membership Meeting offering 2 CEU credits, having our annual elections and a scholarship presentation. Monday, September 30, 2024, will be the Annual Toni & Vincent Romeo Memorial Golf Outing and we are returning to the Stonebridge Golf Links for the event. More information to follow for both events.

Just a reminder that if you have not paid your 2024 membership dues to please use this link to renew [NSFDA.org/membership](https://www.nsfda.org/membership).

Looking forward to seeing everyone at all of the events the Board of Directors has set up for its members and supporters for 2024.

Holly

A Message from NYSFDA Officers

Richard J. O'Shea, Jr., Region 9 Director

Michael J. Gorton Jr., Immediate Past President & Treasurer of the NYSFDA

The NYSFDA continues to move forward with the Northeast Regional Partnership – a collaborative affiliation of the New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Massachusetts Funeral Director's Associations. A recent summit meeting of representatives from the various associations was well-attended and showed enthusiastic support for establishing this organization.

It was decided to survey all funeral directors within the NYSFDA on the topic of a 'Registered Transporter'

and we are currently awaiting the results of the survey. The December meeting also gave us the opportunity to set forth our legislative agenda. In 2024, we will focus on the following three items:

- A Capstone Exam – An alternative to the National Board Exam. (Historically, New York State had its own exam for students.) This exam will allow for NYS funeral directing students to have the option of taking a state-specific test in addition to, or in place of the National Board Exam. Students who pass the Capstone Exam would not need the NBE for licensure in New York State. Students who wish to practice in other states would still need to take the National Board Exam.

- Hospice and Death Certificates – The Association will pursue legislation &/or regulations which will make Hospice Organizations responsible for signing the Death Certificates for patients in their care.

- Cremation Burials – The Association will also pursue legislation &/or regulations which will require a Licensed Funeral Director for the burial of Cremated Remains.

As we near the end of the licensing biennium, the NYSFDA is offering up to 5 CEU's free to members. Online webinars will be offered on the following topics:

Mar 27 (1-2pm) Wed, Apr 17 (1-2pm) Wed, May 15 (1-3pm)

Topics in Human Resources (1 CEU)*

Bringing Children and Teens into the Funeral (1 CEU)*

Compliance 101 (1 CEU)*

NYS Law: Misconduct in the Business and Practice of
Funeral Directing (2 Law CEUs)*

*Please note, each course can only be taken once per biennium.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Dues must be paid to attend webinars and CEU seminars.

[Click here to register.](#)

In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we announce
the passing of:

Phillip Halpin

Licensed Funeral Director of 60 years

and former owner of the Howard E. Williams Funeral Home in Hempstead.

Anthony C. Assande

Retired Funeral Director, member of NSFDA, certified celebrant and former employee of Nagys Monuments.

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.



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Town of Brookhaven Clerk's Office Holiday Calendar

Please take note of the upcoming closing

For detailed information on holiday closing

dates for the Town of Brookhaven Clerk's Office. Stay organized and mark your calendars accordingly to ensure any necessary transactions or inquiries are handled in a timely manner.

dates, please refer to document by clicking on the link below.

2024 Holidays



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DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS THE MONDAY BEFORE THE
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