

Nassuff Newsletter



Winter | 2025

**Register Now for the NSFDA Symposium & Networking Event
Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at The Larkfield, Sponsored by Acrisure!**

REGISTER HERE

As a Funeral Director, you've chosen a profession that demands compassion, attention to detail, and unwavering commitment. Now, take the next step in your journey of growth and mastery by joining the NSFDA for our upcoming **Symposium and Networking Event on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at The Larkfield in East Northport, NY.**

This is more than just an event—it's an opportunity to connect with fellow professionals, earn 6 continuing education credits (including 2 Law CEUs), and collaborate with industry vendors and Mortuary Science students. Together, we'll shape the future of our craft, reaffirm our dedication to serving families in need, and strengthen the bonds of our community.

Enjoy a day of networking, professional development, and a relaxed dinner with colleagues—all while earning credits and honing the skills that define us as the compassionate experts we are. Don't miss out on this chance to be a part of something greater for the future of our profession.

Register today through the new [NSFDA website](#). We can't wait to see you there!

A Message From The President Kenneth Lysak, Jr.



A very personal perspective on the importance of our work

As funeral directors, we operate in a truly unique industry—one that revolves around guiding families through some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Over time it can become easy to get somewhat desensitized to the emotional weight of our work. That is, until we find ourselves sitting on the other side of the desk. That is when we snap back to reality and we get a clearer perspective on what we actually do.

As many of you are aware, my father passed away last month. In that moment I was no longer the funeral director— I was the grieving family member, relying on the compassion and professionalism of those around me. I cannot express enough gratitude for the services that my funeral directors provided me and my family. Everything from the

transfer from the home to the embalming and layout and even the supervision of the committal service and interment was handled with the utmost dignity and respect.

Having experienced the services that we provide firsthand I can honestly say that I have an enlightened appreciation of our importance to people. It is sometimes easy to lose sight of how people perceive what we do for them. I am sometimes surprised how grateful people are after the funeral but now I can truly appreciate how they feel because their appreciation is real and heartfelt. I want to thank my partners and staff for all that they did for me and my family. The next time a family showers praise upon you or your staff, do not take it for granted. They are doing it because what you do makes a difference. Thank you to all of you for doing your job and for doing it well. Even on the days when you may feel unfulfilled, remember that the services you provide play a vital role in the grieving process.

Now let's turn to some brighter news. Spring is just about here! Hopefully we get through the rest of the season without too much cold or snow. Your association continues to work hard to provide as many valuable member benefits as possible. We recently hosted a free 2 CEU credit webinar as a member benefit and we have more opportunities coming up. On May 13th we will be hosting a symposium at the Larkfield Manor in East Northport that will allow you to receive up to 6 credit hours towards the 12 hour state requirement. This event will include our annual election of officers for the association. Keep an eye on your mailbox and I look forward to seeing many of you there. As always, please remember that your officers and board of directors are here to support you. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call.

Here's to the meaningful work we do, the families we serve, and a bright and warm season ahead.

Ken Lysak

Nominations Are Now Open!

To my fellow members of the NSFDA, As the chairman of the nominating committee I am informing you that all members in good standing and must have been a member for no less than three years are eligible to be members of the board of directors. Let it be known that there are positions available on the board in both Nassau and Suffolk County.

Please let me know if you would like to join the board to help guide the future of your association.

Thank you,
Jeff Davis
Jeff@rockypointfuneralhome.com

A Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to 2025 and I hope the new year has been good to everyone so far and continues that way. The Board of Directors have been busy over the last few months planning all the upcoming events for 2025. We are offering the Nassau-Suffolk Funeral Directors Symposium and Networking Event sponsored by Acrisure (The Whitmore Agency), that will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at The



Larkfield in East Northport. This event will offer continuing six (6) education credits (including 2 law credits), the annual meeting with elections of the incoming board of directors, two (2) graduating students in a mortuary science program will be presented with the John M. Lieblang Mortuary Science Award and there will be a networking portion which will consist of dinner with colleagues, students and sponsors. All registrations are through the NSFDA website at: NSFDA Symposium - NSFDA. There are sponsorship opportunities for this event. All interested parties please call me at 631-765-3737 or email me at Hollynsfda@yahoo.com

If you have not renewed your membership for 2025 with the NSFDA, that too is processed through the website using this link: [Membership](#)

The Annual Toni & Vincent Romeo Memorial Golf Outing is scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2025 at the Stonebridge Country Club & Golf Links in Smithtown. More information to follow.

There will be general membership meetings containing continuing education credits on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 and November 11, 2025. Information will be posted on the website in the summer.

Congratulations to our Vice President, Melissa Schmidt on her well-deserved honor being featured in People.com on February 19, 2025. Read the full article here: [Mortuary Cosmetologist Breaks Down Biggest Misconceptions of the Job \(Exclusive\)](#)

Regards,

Holly



Sponsorship Opportunities!

Presenting The NSFDA Symposium & Networking Event Sponsored by Acrisure

Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at The Larkfield

For Sponsorship Opportunities please contact Holly at Hollynsfda@yahoo.com or 631-765-3737



IMPORTANT NSFDA DATES:

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,

There are some updates regarding the registered transporter and split licensure issues. In February; the survey on the transporter issue came back split with the membership at 50% for vs 50% against (with more support indicated in the comments than in the actual voting). Historically the NYSFDA moves forward with legislation when the membership is in favor of the proposal in the 75% to 80% range, so it went to Tom Fuller's office who was originally in favor of the concept. Mr. Fuller sent the proposal to the Funeral Advisory Board who could not achieve a quorum virtually for months.

Finally, after some concern from members of this board in supporting this issue, Mr. Fuller removed his support and without it and no overwhelming support from membership the NYSFDA Executive Board has tabled this for our 2025 legislative agenda.

- **The ad-hoc committee on split licensure of which I am a member has met a few times with no clear path moving forward being established. Reasons the committee was formed include but are not limited to:**
- **Declining enrollments in mortuary school programs.**
- **Difficulty in passing both parts of the national boards.**
- **New York State is one of only 8 states in the country that do not offer the split licensure option with 2 of those 8 states including neighboring New Jersey in the process of reducing that number to only 6 states nationwide.**
- **Our industry is not attractive to students based on compensation, working weekends,**

being on call overnight and the timeframe required to earn money to pay off student loans vs traditional colleges & occupations.

Split licensure provides the option to students who have only passed one part of the boards (usually being the part they prefer and will focus on in their career) to immediately begin their residency limited to the specialty they passed. This keeps them in the industry while they continue their education and start earning compensation and benefits.

This remains a hot topic as the "devaluation of my license" argument remains a strong proponent while at the same time the staffing shortage and retention of employees remains a valid concern. The consensus is the current employment model is not sustainable but a consensus on addressing and correcting it is nowhere in sight. I will continue to update our membership on these key issues with our next Executive Board meeting in Albany being held from March 4th to March 6th.

Peter N. D'Arienzo



It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of:

Kenneth E. Lysak, Sr.

Beloved father of NSFDA President Kenneth Lysak Jr. and grandfather of Kenneth R. Lysak, LFD.

George Wischerth

NSFDA Member who served countless families in Copiague & Amityville communities in his 50+ years of service for D'Andrea Bros. Funeral Home.

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Save the Date!

**Join us for the Toni & Vincent Romeo
Memorial Golf Outing on Monday,**



**September 29, 2025, at Stonebridge
Golf Links & Country Club!**

**Registration details coming soon –
don't miss out! ☐**



FUNERAL DIRECTOR RESIDENT VACANCY

The J.F. Goode Funeral Home is seeking a full-time resident to fulfill his/her residency requirements to prepare to become a licensed Funeral Director. J.F. Goode Funeral Home is a small, well-respected, privately owned funeral home that has been in the community for over 60 years.

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Interested candidates must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Have completed all mortuary science course work and passed their National Board Funeral Director Examination.
- Provide two mortuary science professors' letters of recommendation.
- Have a valid (clear of violations) driver's license.
- Physically able to assist in all aspects of maneuvering human remains.
- Be proficient in the use of a MAC-Book Pro laptop, MacOS and FoxPro system software and social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram.
- Able to perform embalming protocols with supervision.

Though not required, special preference will be given to bi-lingual Spanish/English candidates.

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Interested candidates can send their resume by email to decarmen5272@gmail.com

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Vice President: Melissa Schmidt 516-462-0463 mjschmidt23@yahoo.com

Immediate Past President: Michael J. Gorton Jr. 631-732-1112 michael@mcmanuslorey.com

Secretary: Michael Hoddinott: 516-852-8698 Mike@bfhli.com

Treasurer/LIFE/Finance: Rich D'Andrea 631-589-2345 raynor.dandrea@mac.com

Region 9 Director: Peter D'Arienzo. 917-865-2460 Peter.dariento@dignitymemorial.com

Nassau Representatives: Michael Cecere Jr. CFSP 516-223-4200 mikemadison278@aol.com

Joe Bernaudo 516-724-4479 josephmbernaudo@live.com

Curtis Schmitt 516-785-3380 schmittfuneralhome@verizon.net

Linda Hogan-Florenzie 516-621-4545 Ashlady@aol.com

Suffolk Representatives: Fred Bryant 631-473-0082 fredbryantfh@gmail.com

Sean Ward 631-664-8289 seanward@gmail.com

Jeff Davis (631) 744-9000 Jeff@rockypointfuneralhome.com

Andy Powell (631) 691-0172 andy@powellfh.com

Committees

Membership: Curtis Schmitt / Jeff Davis

Health Care Facilities: Joe Bernaudo / Sean Ward

Medical Examiner: Philip Taglia 516-599-0041 ptagliadirector@aol.com / David Romeo 631-475-0098
deeromeo@gmail.com

Cemeteries: Michael Cecere Jr. CFSP / Michael Hoddinott

Programs/Continuing Ed: Holly O'Brien

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Member Events: Bea Lewanduski, CFSP 631-691-5700 Beatrice.Lecesse@dignitymemorial.com

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Emergency Response: Douglas Brueggemann 631-368-1235 drbrueggemann@msn.com

Scholarship/NCCC Liaison: Joe Bernaudo

Honorary: Michael Mastellone michael.mastellone@ncc.edu

Executive Director: Holly O'Brien 631-765-3737 hollynsfda@yahoo.com

Editor: Karen Romanelli 631-901-8111 karenrome9@gmail.com

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