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the INSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WASHINGTON CEMETERY,
CREMATION & FUNERAL ASSOCIATION

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

Page

3

A Message from the President

4

BONNEY WATSON Announces President Transition

6

Meet our Board Member: Lindsay Fischer

7

Meet our Board Member: Christopher Smith

8

Save the Date! 2025 WCCFA Spring Conference &
2025 WA Death Care Professionals Convention

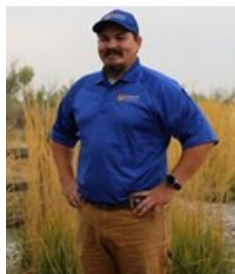
MORE GREAT ARTICLES INSIDE!

Check Them Out!



WCCFA

WASHINGTON CEMETERY, CREMATION
& FUNERAL ASSOCIATION



Contents:

Page

3

A Message from the President

4

BONNEY WATSON Announces President Transition

6

Meet our Board Member: Lindsay Fischer

7

Meet our Board Member: Christopher Smith

8

Save the Date! 2025 WCCFA Spring Conference &
2025 WA Death Care Professionals Convention

A Message from the President

Dear Members of the Washington Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association,

As I step into the role of president of WCCFA, I carry profound gratitude for Candace Aramburu's dedication and contributions over the past year. Her leadership, and those before her, have set a remarkable foundation upon which we will continue to build.

My own journey in the funeral industry began at the age of 16, and over the past 18 years, I have had the privilege of learning from incredible mentors such as Phil White of White-Emerson Mortuary and Russ Weeks of Weeks Funeral Homes. Their guidance and support have been instrumental in shaping my career, and I am deeply thankful for their mentorship.

On a personal note, my family is preparing to welcome our second child, a son. This upcoming birth brings a sense of rebirth, growth, and development that parallels the journey I envision for WCCFA. Just as a new life symbolizes wonder and possibility, our association, too, stands on the threshold of new and meaningful endeavors. For example, our industry is experiencing changing demographics within our workforce, presenting us with a unique opportunity to grow and better serve families in their time of loss. Embracing this diversity will enable us to bring fresh perspectives and ideas that will strengthen our association and the services we provide. It will be up to us to willingly choose to mentor this new generation of professionals.

As we look toward the future, I am filled with a deep sense of humility and commitment. This esteemed organization has long served as a pillar in our industry, and it is my honor to guide us forward. My primary goal is to enhance our service to our membership, the wider funeral and deathcare industry, and the general public through more frequent dialogue and relevant training and educational opportunities.

Together, let us embrace this moment of transformation with optimism and dedication. I look forward to working closely with each of you to continue the vital work we do, ensuring that we serve our communities with compassion and excellence.



Humbly Yours,

Don Diego Patlán

President

Washington Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association

Don Diego Patlán
WCCFA Board President

BONNEY WATSON Announces President Transition

Laura Frampton Promoted to President of Washington's Oldest Business
Cameron Smock Retiring After 36 Years with the Organization

Today, **BONNEY WATSON** the funeral home and cemetery company that is Washington's oldest continually operating business, announced that Laura Frampton, previously Vice President of Operations, will ascend to the role of President of the 156-year-old firm. BONNEY WATSON also announced that current President and CEO Cameron Smock, who has served in the position for the last 17 years, will transition to the role of President Emeritus to provide support to Frampton.

"We are excited that Laura has accepted the challenge of leading BONNEY WATSON and have the utmost confidence in her ability to write the next chapter in our firm's long history. We are grateful for the 36 years that Cameron devoted our firm and to serving the Seattle community, including his 17-year tenure as President. Cameron's caring approach, passion and dedication will leave a lasting impact on our organization and the families we serve. We are particularly grateful that he mentored Laura to be his successor and has passed her the reins to carry forward his and BONNEY WATSON's legacy," said Greg Welch, Board Chair, BONNEY WATSON.

Frampton's appointment is effective October 1, 2024. Frampton joined BONNEY WATSON in 2018 overseeing its Care Center operations. Shortly after, she was promoted to Director of Operations overseeing all of BONNEY WATSON's funeral homes, crematory and cemetery operations. In recognition of the outstanding service she provided to the company and the community throughout the COVID pandemic, in 2023, Frampton was promoted to Vice President of Operations. Prior to BONNEY WATSON, Laura worked in the funeral and cemetery profession for eight years and as a certified nursing assistant before that. She sits on the board of the Washington Cemetery, Cremation, Funeral Association and End of Life Washington.

"In my new role as president, I am committed to bringing the same unwavering dedication and passion to BONNEY WATSON as the leaders that came before me. I'm deeply honored to be given the opportunity to build upon BONNEY WATSON's rich legacy and eager to lead us forward through these transformative times," said Frampton.

Smock, a licensed funeral director and embalmer, has been with BONNEY WATSON since 1988. He has helped families through some of the most challenging times in our nation's history, from the HIV/AIDS epidemic to most recently the COVID-19 pandemic. Deemed an "essential service," Smock led the organization through the challenges of supporting families with end-of-life rituals and memorials while under COVID-related restrictions. Under Smock's leadership,

BONNEY WATSON embraced technology so more family members and friends could participate in a funeral, memorial or committal ceremony even when lockdowns and social distancing were in effect. Cameron also spearheaded the consolidation of BONNEY WATSON's headquarters from its traditional location on Capitol Hill to its cemetery operation in SeaTac.

"It has been an honor and privilege to be part of this legacy company for 36 years and to be entrusted with its leadership for the past 17 years. BONNEY WATSON has an incredible legacy of service to those during one of the worst periods of time in their lives, and it has been a humbling experience to be entrusted with the care of their loved ones. As has been true throughout our 156-year history, it is the talent and dedication of every staff person I have been privileged to work beside that deserves the credit for upholding our unwavering legacy of service," said Smock.

BONNEY WATSON is Washington state's oldest continually operating business, providing meaningful funeral and memorial services. For more information on BONNEY WATSON, its services and history, visit <https://bonneywatson.com/>

About BONNEY WATSON

Located in the Puget Sound area, BONNEY WATSON is proud to be Washington State's oldest continually operating business, providing meaningful funeral and memorial services to our community since 1868. Our willingness to adapt to the changing needs and preferences of people in our region is the primary reason for our company's success and longevity. Our family-owned company has been honored to serve families in the Tacoma and Seattle area for more than 150 years, and we will continue evolving in order to serve them well into the future. For more information, visit <https://bonneywatson.com/>

Meet our Board Member: Lindsay Fischer



Lindsay was born and raised in the Vancouver, WA area. In 2003 she graduated from Washington State University with degrees in Hospitality Business Management and Business Management. After college she joined the hospitality industry which took her to sunny San Diego and Seattle. While managing a hotel in Seattle, she felt a calling to join the family business and has been with Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory in Vancouver, WA since February 2006. She obtained her funeral directors license in August of 2012 which made her a third generation funeral director.

Lindsay enjoys traveling, concerts and spending time with her friends and family. She is involved in many community service activities and various boards and committees. In 2007 she was elected to the board of the WCCFA and is excited to be returning to serve on the board again and support funeral professionals in our state. Lindsay has been married to her husband, P.J., since 2005 and together they have two sons.

Meet our Board Member: Christopher Smith



My name is Christopher Smith, and I am a new board member to our organization. I'm currently the Superintendent at Sunset Gardens in Richland WA. I have had the great honor of serving in this capacity for the last two years. I am a Washingtonian, but I have lived in many places before coming back to Washington. I graduated from Prosser High School in 2006 and joined the US Air Force shortly thereafter. I served for eight years as a crew chief on fighter jets. In that time, I learned many leadership, organizational, and personal Motivation skills that have proved to be the bedrock of my personal ethos and skills that I take to my current position at sunset gardens. After the Air Force I worked in a management position at an HOA company in California that managed over 10,000 housing units, it was my responsibility to ensure that all customer requests, repairs, and complaints were handled in the professional and quick manner. The customer relationship skills that I learned in this position have also proved to be very important in my current position as dealing with grieving families is a delicate process that requires the utmost professionalism. I originally moved back to Washington from California to work with my father but tragically my father's business burnt down to the ground a year after moving up here. I met Pat Hollick, who is the general manager at Sunset Gardens as I was doing some repairs at the Funeral Home. Since then, it's been an amazing journey learning all about the death care profession and the amazing the facility and grounds that we have here at sunset gardens. As a director in our organization, I will bring the best of my abilities to help us thrive!



WCCFA

WASHINGTON CEMETERY, CREMATION & FUNERAL ASSOCIATION

2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

25 MARCH **2025**

R I C H L A N D , W A



DEATH CARE PROFESSIONALS
CONVENTION

**SAVE THE
DATE**

2025 Washington State Death Care Professionals Convention

Jul 29 to Jul 31, 2025

The Centennial by Davenport Hotels Spokane, WA

More information coming soon!

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