

SPRING 2021

THE INSIDER

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

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MORE GREAT ARTICLES
INSIDE!



WCCFA

WASHINGTON CEMETERY, CREMATION
& FUNERAL ASSOCIATION



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Deathcon 2021

August 17th, 18th & 19th, 2021!



Register today and book your rooms now for DeathCon 2021!

Held at Icicle Village Inn and Resort in beautiful Leavenworth, WA!



Icicle Village Resort - Book Your Room
505 US-2, 505 US-2 Leavenworth, WA
98826 www.iciclevillage.com.

Book your room by calling 509-548-7000 or 800.961.0162 and ask for the DeathCon2021 group block or code: 01Z_730.

Join us on the patio Tuesday night for Supplier Night!

Complete with **FREE**
Mini-Golf,
hors d'oeuvres, and
Happy Hour.

Fun for the whole family!

Golf Tournament

Tuesday, August 17th at 10:00 am

Shotgun start with prizes for 'Closest to the Pin' men/women and 'Longest Drive' men/women. Held at the Leavenworth Golf Club - 9101 Icicle Road.

- \$95.00/player with lunch.

Click here to register for golf!

- Want to sponsor our golf tournament?

Click here for opportunities!

Questions or Comments? Contact Jeff Carter at 206-604-0030 or jeff.carter@batesville.com.

Not a golfer? Join the Day Hike!

Tuesday, August 17th

Sign up with Quiring President/General Manager, Jon Reece, and his wife Kathy on Tuesday, August 17th.

Hikers will meet in the lobby at Icicle Village at 8am. Lunch will be served for those who sign up.

Join us on a "Tubing Float"!

Wednesday, August 18th at 2pm

Enjoy a lazy gentle river tube float around the golf course and along downtown Leavenworth. Great for all ages, even the little ones. Each person receives their own tube. Clip together or be independent. Frisbee paddles and life vests are included. Leavenworth Outdoor Center also offers tubes to put your soft-sided cooler in and dog tubes for rent separately.

Only \$25/per person! Click here to register for the float and DeathCon!

Deathcon 2021

August 17th, 18th & 19th, 2021!

Attendee Fees:

- WCCFA/WSFDA Member (Tuesday Evening-Thursday) - \$395
- WCCFA/WSFDA Member + Golf (Tuesday Evening-Thursday) - \$490
- Non-Member (Tuesday Evening-Thursday) - \$495
- Non-Member + Golf (Tuesday Evening-Thursday) - \$590
- WCCFA/WSFDA Member 3+ people discounted rate (Tuesday Evening-Thursday) - \$345
- Thursday Only - \$195
- Guest meal fee (includes lunch and the banquet dinner) - \$50
- Live Zoom Webinar: Member Registration - \$195
- Live Zoom Webinar: Non-Member Registration - \$295

Click here to register to attend!
5 CEU Credits Offered!

Vendors:

Vendor tables - \$600.

Tables sold out quickly last year!
 Secure yours soon!

Click here to purchase your vendor table today!

Sponsors:

Click here to see all of the sponsorship opportunities available!

Thank you to our speaker sponsor!



Awards!

Do you know a Funeral Home, a Cemetery, or a Funeral Professional that has made an impact on their community, or the industry in the last year?

Did they host a great event that you would have never thought of? Have they made major changes, or created some amazing best practices? Is there a Funeral Professional at a location that has made an impact on you?

If you know of a Funeral Home, a Cemetery, or a Funeral Professional that meets any of these descriptions, please nominate them for 1 or all 3 awards!

- **Funeral Home**
- **Cemetery**
- **Funeral Professional of the Year award**

Please submit the name of the Funeral Home, Cemetery, or Funeral Professional and a short statement as to why you believe they should receive this year's award by email.

All Entries must be submitted by June 30, 2021.

Disclaimer: You cannot nominate yourself or your own business/location. Recipients of the award must be current members of the WCCFA and/or WSFDA.

President's Letter

Sandra Walker
WCCFA President



Dear Members,

It is May. Typically, a time of year that is most busy for cemeteries. In our organization, we call it the 'Super Bowl'. Who would have thought a year later, and we are still not sure what to do for Memorial Day weekend? Should we or should we not have our normal festivities? Regardless of how we choose to celebrate that weekend, remember there is a win in every situation.

The biggest lesson I learned from COVID for Memorial Day weekend last year was sometimes the little things are the big things. The focus on simply helping families find their loved one's space was received with so much gratitude. Perhaps people were just happy to be interacting with others after being on lockdown. I am looking forward to the lessons that are to be learned from this Memorial Day weekend.

All the best to our cemetery members on this special weekend.

"The focus on simply helping families find their loved one's space was received with so much gratitude."

How are we all feeling over a year into this? I am sure we are all ready to get on with the business of living. Part of the excitement is the hope that we can soon gather in August for our annual convention in person. We remain hopeful.

The committee has been working together to put on a nice conference. Speakers such as Welton Hong, Barbara Kemmis, and Dr. Troyer are just a few heading up this convention. There is some fun 'get to know others' events planned as well.

Registration should be opening soon.

Hope to see you there. Watch for communication that is forthcoming about the Convention.

Be well and stay safe!



Board Member Spotlight



Henry D. Johnston, CFSP
President & CEO
**Johnston & Williams Funeral Home
& Crematory**

Henry D. Johnston, CFSP, is a licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer and President & CEO of Johnston Funeral Parlors which owns Johnston & Williams Funeral Home and Crematory in Ellensburg and Cle Elum, Washington.

Henry began his career as an apprentice at Short's Funeral Chapel in Moscow, Idaho under tutelage of Dave Hutton, one of the most respected funeral directors in the state. It was there that Henry was taught attention to even the finest of details such as always washing and detailing the cars before every service, walking the grounds daily to pull even the smallest of weeds and an almost obsessive behavior of checking every light bulb in the building several times a day.

Following a brief hiatus from the industry, Henry returned to work at Kimball Funeral Home in Pullman and Bruning Funeral Home in Colfax as an intern Funeral Director and Embalmer. Here, Henry was mentored by Craig Corbeill and Bob Warnock, with additional guidance from former owners Howard Kimball and Walt Brost. Craig taught Henry the value of running a business where the main focus

is families – not corporate profits or dividends – and it is by this motto that Henry runs his funeral homes today. Bob was an extremely influential guide in the prep room and taught Henry the importance of a well embalmed and presented body.

In July 2016, Henry joined the staff of the Kramer Funeral Homes in Palouse and Tekoa, Washington, where he helped Mark and Robert Kramer with the operation of the firms. He led Kramer's Palouse location to earn the NFDA Pursuit of Excellence award in 2017. He also became trained in the proper embalming processes for anatomical cadavers through the WSU Willed Body Program.

In late 2017, Henry was recruited by the Gaffney Group of Tacoma to become General Manager of Steward & Williams Funeral Home in Ellensburg and Cascade Funeral Home in Cle Elum. Under the direction of Corey & Jen Gaffney, Henry was able to further develop his business operations talents and purchased the firms from the Gaffney family in July 2021. Henry is graduate of the Arapahoe Community College Mortuary Science program, a member of the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice (CFSP) and has been featured many times in American Funeral Director magazine and on Undertaking: The Podcast for his unique outlook on funeral service. He is also a Past President of the Inland Empire Funeral Directors Association (Spokane) and has made presentations on various topics at both NFDA National Conventions and at various regional and state association meetings.

When not working (which doesn't happen that often), Henry can be found volunteering his time as President-Elect of the Ellensburg Downtown Rotary Club, as a board member of the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce and a Gold Buckle Club Member of the Ellensburg Rodeo community. He also enjoys spending time with his dog, Veda, aptly named after the lead character from the movie "My Girl".

Memorial Day Program

Memorial Day is a time when we gather together to remember those who died to protect the United States. In observance of this federal holiday, Fairmount Memorial Association hosts several outdoor events to bring the local Spokane community together.

Like most Cemeteries, Memorial Day is the Superbowl of our industry. Our teams work hard leading up to the big event; trimming, mowing and cleaning to make our parks look beautiful for the families visiting over the holiday weekend. As an organization, we are always looking for fun and new events that would not only show off the beauty of our parks but also bring the community together. In the week leading up to Memorial Day, our grounds staff and local volunteers place more than 3900 full size American Flags throughout our properties to commemorate the weekend.

After having to cancel all our events in 2020, we were excited to plan a weekend full of safe, outdoor activities this Memorial Weekend. This year's events include a Race to Remember 5k run, a Salute to Service benefit concert, car show and beer garden on Sunday event and our Heroes' breakfast on Memorial Day. We are also hosting three Memorial Day services throughout the Memorial weekend.

Our hope for these events is to bring people into our beautiful parks, enjoy the view and support the local community through fellowship and raising funds for local charities.

This year's events:

- **Race to Remember 5k Run**
- **Salute to Service Benefit Concert**
- **Car Show**
- **Beer Garden**
- **Heroes' Breakfast**

We are also hosting three Memorial Day Services throughout the Memorial Weekend



The FEMA Covid-19 Reimbursement Program from the Client's Perspective

Hank Kerns

As many of you know, my mother passed away last November from Covid-19. First, I would like to thank all of you who offered you condolences to me and my family at that time. It is truly devastating to lose someone without being able to say the proper goodbyes.

I helped my father apply for the FEMA Reimbursement shortly after the telephone line opened. I have been asked to share with you how that process worked so you know how to best advise your clients who have had similar losses.

First, the FEMA representatives are very nice and sensitive to whom they are dealing with. They set up a registration number and a disaster number for each applicant. These follow the entire process. Information that they need from the family is vital information on the deceased and name, address, and social security number of the claimant. They also will ask for annual income of the claimant but there does not seem to be any stated reason for it and there is no income component to the reimbursement. Of course, all related documents must be faxed or emailed to them. Each page must contain the registration and disaster number(s) as well as claimant's name and the last four digits of their social security number. We just made labels with that information and affixed them top, and bottom of each document submitted. Both top and bottom because some of the documents were legal sized and print out on two pages of letter sized copy paper.

Some unknown/unadvertised items that

qualify for reimbursement are transportation costs for two persons to travel to identify the deceased. Airline ticket(s) and rental car(s) were added to our application as well as flowers for the casket purchased from an outside flower shop.

A follow up call to FEMA to check on the status and change my father's address as he has relocated to another state after mom's death was handled just as cordially as the first. I found out on this call that reimbursement has been taking at least ninety days. Our application was submitted mid-April and is still in the pending decision status. Once the decision is made a text and/or written letter will be sent notifying the applicant whether the application was accepted or rejected, reasoning for same and time frame for receiving the check/direct deposit.

Hopefully this helps you understand the process so you can inform your clients how it works. The most important thing is that the government employees handling this department of FEMA are so very nice and respectful that it gives me hope that the federal government really can be responsive and effective serving the people who have suffered through this pandemic.

"the FEMA representatives are very nice and sensitive to whom they are dealing with"

Job Opportunities

Funeral Director/Embalmer

Company: Evergreen Memorial Gardens

Location: Vancouver, WA

Evergreen Memorial Gardens is a family owned Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory in Vancouver, WA. We are a well-established leader in our profession for over 65 years. Seeking a caring, experienced individual with strong communication skills and someone that works well in a team setting. This person will interact directly with families during their time of need and will be responsible for creating and maintaining a premier level of family satisfaction. Must be licensed as both a Funeral Director and Embalmer in Washington State. Two (2) years experience is preferred. The successful candidate will start work immediately.

- Full-time career opportunity
- Competitive Compensation Package
- Excellent benefits
- Profit Sharing Plan

For immediate consideration please e-mail your resume to Lindsay Fisher: lindsay@evergreenmemorialgardens.com or call 360-892-6060.

Funeral Director

Company: Purdy & Walters at Floral Hills

Location: Lynnwood, WA

We currently have an opportunity for a full-time Funeral Director at Purdy & Walters at Floral Hills in Lynnwood, WA. This position offers a great opportunity for a qualified candidate. Floral Hills is a high volume funeral home/combo location, looking for a competent director to join our team. Compensation is commensurate with experience.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this position. Send application and/or resume to Randy King, Location Manager at RandallKing2@dignitymemorial.com.

PLEASE NOTE:

In accordance with SCI Company Policy, all applicants must notify their immediate supervisor before applying for this position.

Job Opportunities

Funeral Director/Embalmer

Company: Gilbertson Funeral Home

Location: Stanwood/Camano Island

Gilbertson Funeral Home in Stanwood/Camano Island area is looking for a qualified funeral director/embalmer and or funeral director wanting to make a difference in the community and the families we serve.

The position we are looking for a full-time Funeral Director/Embalmer and/or Funeral Director. Qualified candidates for Funeral Director/Embalmer will have completed Mortuary Science School and must have or be eligible to obtain a Washington State Funeral Director/Embalmer license. Qualified candidates for funeral director will have completed school must have or be eligible to obtain a Washington State Funeral Director License. Must be self-motivated to serve and help the families in our community. Detailed oriented, team player, proficient in computer, technology, typing and strong written and verbal communication skills. Clean driving record for an on-call rotation schedule and will need to be able to work holidays, weekends, and nights.

[Click here](#) for more information about this position.

Qualified applicants please e-mail resume to adam@hawthornefh.com



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advertising in our
quarterly
newsletter?*

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or email
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