



From the MFDA Board

Summer is often one of the busiest times of the year for funeral professionals. While serving families remains our first priority, it is also an important time to look ahead. The work we do today, whether investing in education, mentoring the next generation, strengthening professional relationships, or planning for the future of our Association, helps ensure a strong profession for years to come.

This month's newsletter highlights several opportunities to do just that. Registration is now open for the 2026 MFDA Fall Fest Convention, where members can earn continuing education, hear updates on issues affecting funeral service in Maine, and reconnect with colleagues from across the state. But the Fall Fest Convention is about more than earning CEUs. It is an opportunity to strengthen professional relationships, invest in the future of funeral service, and support the next generation of funeral professionals. Proceeds from this year's golf tournament will once again benefit the MFDA Scholarship Fund, helping provide financial assistance to those pursuing a career in funeral service.

We also encourage funeral homes to share information about the MFDA Scholarship Program with eligible employees and students considering a career in funeral service. By encouraging and supporting future funeral professionals today, we help ensure a strong, vibrant profession for generations to come.

Behind the scenes, the Board continues to monitor legislative and regulatory developments, expand member resources, and prepare new features for our website. While much of this work happens quietly throughout the year, it is all focused on one goal: providing meaningful value to our members and supporting funeral service in Maine.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Association. We welcome your suggestions, ideas, and feedback throughout the year as we continue working to

strengthen the MFDA and better serve our members. We look forward to seeing many of you in Freeport this October.

— *The MFDA Board of Directors*

- *Adam Walker – President*
- *Jason Smart – President Elect*
- *Christopher Ladner – Immediate Past President*
- *Erik Tiner – Secretary*
- *Lisa Pate – Treasurer*
- *Brian Coffta – Board Member*
- *Shawn Descoteaux - Board Member*
- *Joe Kiley – Board Member*
- *Eric Nelson – Board Member*
- *Casey Smith – Board Member*

In this issue:

- 2026 MFDA Fall Fest Convention
- MFDA Scholarship Application Announcement
- From the Maine State Board of Funeral Service
- Legislative Update - National
- Scam Alert
- NFDA Educational Events
- NFDA Expands Licensing Program



Registration Now Open for the 2026 MFDA Fall Fest Convention

Registration is now open for the 2026 Maine Funeral Directors Association Fall Fest Convention, taking place October 13–14 in beautiful Freeport, Maine.

This year, we're excited to welcome members to our **new convention home, the Harraseeket Inn**, one of Maine's premier destination inns. The charming New England setting provides an ideal backdrop for learning, networking, and reconnecting with colleagues. Members planning to stay overnight are encouraged to make their lodging reservations early. Rooms are available at the MFDA group rate through **September 14, 2026**, subject to availability.

Fall Fest brings together funeral professionals from across the state for two days of education, networking, fellowship, and fun. Whether you're looking to earn continuing education credits, stay informed on issues affecting funeral service in Maine, reconnect with colleagues, or simply enjoy time with fellow professionals, Fall Fest offers something for everyone.

The event begins Tuesday, October 13, with the annual MFDA Golf Tournament at Val Halla Golf Course, followed that evening by our **"Meet Us in Freeport" Welcome**

Social at the Harraseeket Inn. Wednesday's convention program features educational sessions, Association updates, exhibitors, and opportunities to connect with industry partners and fellow members.

The annual golf tournament has become more than just a great day on the course. Thanks to the generosity of our golfers, sponsors, and volunteers, proceeds from the tournament help support the MFDA Scholarship Fund, providing financial assistance to individuals pursuing a career in funeral service. Every golfer, sponsorship, and raffle ticket purchased helps invest in the next generation of funeral professionals.

Whether you're joining us for golf, the convention, or both, we encourage you to register early and reserve your overnight accommodations before the **September 14** lodging deadline.

We look forward to welcoming you to Freeport this October.

[More Info & Registration Form](#)

MFDA Scholarship Applications Open July 1

Investing in the future of funeral service has long been a priority of the Maine Funeral Directors Association. One way we demonstrate that commitment is through the MFDA Scholarship Program, which assists individuals pursuing a career in funeral service.

Scholarship applications for 2026 will be accepted from **July 1 through August 1**. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply, and funeral home owners and managers are asked to share this opportunity with apprentices, interns, employees, and students who may be interested in pursuing a career in the profession.

The scholarship program is made possible through the generous support of MFDA members, sponsors, donors, and participants in the annual Fall Fest Golf Tournament. Their continued support allows the Association to invest directly in the future of funeral service in Maine.

We encourage all eligible candidates to apply before the August 1 deadline.

[More Information](#)

Contact the Maine Funeral Directors Association at
207-729-9100 or email carolgay@mainefuneraldirectors.org.

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors:



CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Powerful Futures Start Here

COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE *of Funeral Service*



- Online AAS Degree in Funeral Service
- Completion in 12-15 Months
- Minimal Campus Lab Requirements

- Financial Aid for Qualified Students
- Total cost Under \$21K
- NO Out-of-State Tuition

Houston, TX

www.commonwealth.edu

281-873-0262



**Caring for our community.
It's what we do.**

Jones, Rich & Barnes
Portland

The Fortin & Pinette Group
Lewiston/Auburn

Crosman
Lisbon

Lindquist
Yarmouth

Thibault Remembrance Center
Rumford

Every Detail Remembered®

Dignity®
MEMORIAL

FINE Mortuary College

Knowledge. Leadership. Service.



Funeral Directors Life

Homesteaders Announces Second Double-Digit Growth Increase

- WHAT MATTERS**

Introduces Casket Price Protection Program • Homesteaders

- TO YOU, MATTERS TO US**



WHAT MATTERS

TO YOU,

MATTERS TO US

LEARN MORE



Experience the Matthews Aurora™
DIFFERENCE.

**Conveniently capture more
memorial product sales,
anytime, anywhere.**

cherished
memories™
KEEPSAKES STORE



MILESTONE
FUNERAL PARTNERS

Leadership Team:

Michael Martel, Chief Executive Officer, Co-Founder

Timothy Smart, Chief Operating Officer, Co-Founder

Chris Sasso, Chief Development Officer

Stephen Lynch, Vice President of Finance

Brian Coffa, Vice President of Operations



NGL®

Legislative Update

NFDA Senior Vice President of Advocacy Lesley Witter was honored to testify on behalf of NFDA before the U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, today, continuing the association's longstanding role as a trusted voice on veterans issues.

NFDA was the only national funeral service association invited to provide testimony during the hearing. Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs regularly rely on NFDA as a trusted resource on veterans' funeral, burial and memorial benefits. Through decades of advocacy and collaboration, NFDA has helped shape conversations about how our nation honors veterans and supports their families at the end of life.

Throughout her testimony, Witter emphasized a principle that guides funeral service professionals across the country: no veteran should be forgotten, no family should be denied meaningful access to earned benefits and every veteran deserves a dignified final resting place.

[Read More...](#)

Click the image below to watch Witter's testimony before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs:



From the Maine State Board of Funeral Service

From Peter Arsenault, State Board Chair

The Maine State Board of Funeral Service exists to protect the public health and welfare by regulating the practice of funeral service in the State of Maine. Its primary duties include overseeing and enforcing state laws and rules, examining and licensing qualified applicants, inspecting funeral establishments, reviewing consumer complaints and disciplining licensees, including revoking or refusing to renew licenses when warranted after proper notice and hearing.

There are currently two vacant seats on the Board for Public Members. Public members are not required to have technical expertise or experience in funeral service.

If you know someone who may be interested in serving, please encourage them to follow the application process below:

To be considered for appointment to this personal board, candidates must submit a letter to the Governor expressing their interest, along with the following:

- Updated Resume
- Application for Gubernatorial Appointment Form (MS Word).
- Tax Clearance
- Personal Release Form (MS Word)
- Conflict of Interest Form (PDF): if applying for a Licensing and Regulatory Board

Send all materials to:

Office of the Governor

Boards and Commissions

1 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Personal board appointments do not require a public hearing or legislative approval. Appointees must be sworn in by a Dedimus Justice within 30 days of appointment. If they are not sworn in within that timeframe, they may not serve until reappointed by the Governor.

Peter Arsenault

Chair, Maine State Board of Funeral Service

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors:

A | C | C | E | S | S
FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

Interment
TRUST
Services



DIGNIFIED
CEMETERY SERVICES

MSCC
M. SOLOMON CASKET COMPANY

 *Memorial*
PRODUCTS

INSPIRATION BEGINS HERE
New & Pre-Owned Hearses, Limousines, First Call Vehicles, Flower Cars

4 Generations of Serving Maine
Michael C Nathan Parks

SUPERIOR PARKS
EST. 1952
SALES


inventory

Call Today 1-800-229-5008 - www.parkssuperior.com    



OUR SERVICES

After Death Cleanup
Biohazard Remediation
Crime Scene Cleanup
Homicide Cleanup
Suicide Cleanup
Decomposition
Unattended Death

Scam Alert

NFDA received an alert from the Ohio Funeral Directors of a phishing scam that has been occurring in their state. We want to share the information should the scam begin spreading to other states.

In the case of each funeral home that was targeted, the scam followed a similar pattern:

- A consumer contacts the funeral home through an online form or email requesting electronic information about services, packages, pricing, or related options. The message is well-written and appears legitimate, including the email address.
- The funeral home responds with the requested information.
- The consumer then asks to schedule a virtual meeting to discuss options in greater detail.
- After the funeral home agrees, the consumer sends a virtual meeting link that appears legitimate.
- When the link is clicked, the webpage states that an update must be installed in order to access the meeting software and a download link is provided. If clicked, a software program is downloaded. This is a phishing attempt designed to give the scammer access to the funeral home's device.

Funeral homes should remain vigilant and take proactive steps to protect their systems. When scheduling virtual meetings, funeral homes should control the process by setting the meeting date and time and sending the meeting link directly to the consumer.

Free versions of many popular virtual meeting platforms are available, with upgraded options typically offered at a low cost.

Please share this information with your staff and use caution when opening meeting links or downloading software updates from unknown sources.

QR Code Scam

[Don't fall for the QR code mug scam.](#)

The Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts Funeral Directors Associations Present ...



2026 ANNUAL OSHA TRAINING WEB SERIES

**Ensure Your Staff Is Certified —Register
Today!**

We are pleased to once again offer our annual OSHA training sessions via live Zoom webinars. This convenient one-hour program allows your entire staff to complete their required annual OSHA certification simultaneously—efficiently and cost-effectively.

OSHA training is mandatory for all licensed funeral home staff, apprentices, and Massachusetts-registered funeral home assistants. This program is approved for 1 CEU credit by the Massachusetts State Board of Embalming and Funeral Directing, as well as by the APFSP for participants in Connecticut and Maine. It fully satisfies all annual OSHA training requirements, including those related to bloodborne pathogens.

Choose from any of our upcoming 2026 sessions!

Registration Fees:

\$125 per session for FDA member firms in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts (covers unlimited staff per location)

\$250 per individual participant for non-member firms

Questions?

We're happy to help:

Phone: 781.335.2031 | Email: events@massfda.org



Massachusetts FDA | 536 Broad Street #4, Weymouth, MA 02189
T: 781-335-2031 | www.massfda.org | events@massfda.org

Choose from Four Available Sessions!

*Please be reminded that
the licensing year for
Massachusetts licensees
will conclude on
October 31st.*

All Training Done via Zoom @ 2 PM

June 11, 2026

September 10, 2026

October 8, 2026

October 22, 2026

December 10, 2026

**Connecticut, Maine, and
Massachusetts FDA
Members Can Train Your
Entire Staff for One Low
Price: \$125 per Funeral
Establishment!**

OUR TRAINERS ARE EXPERIENCED FUNERAL DIRECTORS!

**Barbara A. Kazmierczak
Jesse Gomes**

[More Info](#)

Thank you to our Silver Sponsors:



Inform Spouses of Veterans: Their Benefits are Waiting

Many spouses of veterans don't realize they may qualify for VA burial benefits. Eligible veterans have earned no-cost burial benefits for themselves and their spouses at VA national cemeteries. Spouses are eligible for interment even if they pre-decease the veteran or if the veteran is interred in a non-VA cemetery.

Make sure veterans and their spouses know that planning ahead is one of the best things they can do for their family. Here's what they may be entitled to at no cost.

- Burial in a VA national cemetery
- Headstone or marker (inscription included)
- Perpetual care (gravesite maintained forever)

New Resources to Share

The National Cemetery Administration has developed a collection of free, ready-to-use materials to help you engage veterans and their families about VA burial and memorial benefits:

- Social Media Graphics: Download these graphics to pair with your social media posts. Each image is available in full size; simply click to download and post directly to your social channels.
- Digital Posters: Display them in your lobby, on your website or post across your social media channels to inform veteran families of their earned VA burial benefits and promote advance planning. Digital posters are also a simple way to signal that your business is veteran-family ready.
- Flyer: Contains information on VA burial benefits for veterans spouses. Keep printed copies to hand to Veterans or save digitally and email.
- Infosheets: Download infosheets explaining VA memorial and burial benefits and end-of-life costs. Keep printed copies to hand out to veterans or save digitally and email.

These and other resources are available at [Cem.VA.gov/Industry](https://cem.va.gov/Industry).

Thank you to our Bronze Sponsors:



NFDA Educational Events

Strengthen Your Arrangement Skills From Anywhere

Arrangements are at the heart of meaningful funeral services, and NFDA's Virtual Arrangement Solutions Academy is designed to help you approach them with greater confidence, clarity and connection. Led by NFDA trainer Lanae Strovers, the Academy brings together funeral professionals in a small-group setting to explore real-world strategies you can apply immediately. [Learn more and sign up today.](#)

Upcoming Events

On Demand Learning

The NFDA educational programs have been designed with you in mind. NFDA makes it easier for you to get continuing education credits by offering education opportunities that are convenient for you. Choose online courses or home study programs to learn at your own pace from the comfort of your own home or office. NFDA courses are approved for CE through December 31 of the year of purchase only. Before the end of the year, students receive an email reminder to complete outstanding CE courses on time.

Several Options are available on Subject Matters such as:

- Business Management/Operations
- Compliance and Ethics
- Professional Skills/Career Development
- Embalming
- Grief and Bereavement
- Marketing

[Learn More](#)

Conferences & Events

- August 2-5, Leadership Conference, Louisville, KY
- October 25-28, NFDA International Convention & Expo, Charlotte, NC – registration opens June 2

[Level Up Webinar Series](#) – free for NFDA members and \$79 for nonmembers

- July 29 - When a Child Dies: Compassion in Life's Fragile Moments
- August 19 - Attract, Retain and Empower Your Workforce
-

NFDA Cremation Certification Program

- July 9, 2026 - Birmingham, AL
- July 24, 2026 - Pittsburgh, PA
- August 27, 2026 - Chester VA

Earn cremation certification from the comfort of your home or office with our [online certification option](#).

NFDA Arranger Training

- September 14 - October 5

InSight Institute's Certified Celebrant Training

- June 24 through 26 at NFDA Headquarters in Brookfield, Wisconsin

NFDA Certified Preplanning Consultant Program

Earn your CPC designation from the comfort of your workplace or home with our self-study option.

Other NFDA Events

Visit our events calendar, [NFDA.org/Events](https://www.nfda.org/events)

NFDA Expands Music Licensing Program to Provide Broader Music Coverage for Funeral Services and Livestreams

Brookfield, Wis. – The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) has expanded its longstanding music performance and livestreaming license member benefit, providing funeral homes with access to broader music coverage for funerals, memorial services, celebrations of life and livestreamed services.

For several decades, NFDA has offered members access to music performance and livestreaming licenses covering music represented by BMI, SESAC and ASCAP, collectively representing approximately 90% of commercially licensed music. Now, funeral homes can also purchase additional licenses covering music represented by Global Music Rights (GMR) and AllTrack Performing Rights, providing broader access to contemporary artists and music frequently requested by families across genres. Every piece of music played or performed by a funeral home must be in the catalog of one of the copyright organizations from which firm holds a music license; additional licensing can help funeral homes are fully compliant with copyright law.

GMR's catalog alone encompasses over 100,000 works, including songs by John Lennon, George Harrison, Bill Withers, the Eagles and Bruce Springsteen. To see the

complete list of works represented by GMR, please visit GlobalMusicRights.com. All Track's catalog can be viewed at AllTrack.com.

"Music is deeply personal and often central to how families remember and honor someone's life," said Chris Farmer, NFDA general counsel. "Funeral professionals work hard to create meaningful experiences for families, but they also need to ensure they are operating within copyright law. Expanding these licensing options gives funeral homes greater flexibility while making increasingly complex music rights requirements easier to navigate."

NFDA's music performance license allows funeral homes to legally perform live or recorded copyrighted music in the catalogs of its partners during funerals, memorial services and related ceremonies, whether services occur in the funeral home, a church, graveside setting, private residence or other location.

Funeral homes that livestream their services online also need separate livestreaming coverage. NFDA offers livestreaming licenses designed specifically for funeral professionals who livestream services for families.

"Many funeral professionals may not realize that livestreaming music, playing music at offsite services or using copyrighted music in certain settings can require separate permissions," Farmer continued. "These expanded offerings help make compliance simpler while providing broader access to the music families request most often."

Music performance licenses are issued per funeral home location. Livestreaming licenses are issued per website. The existing BMI, SESAC and ASCAP music performance license remains available for \$350 annually for 2026. Livestreaming coverage for those catalogs is available for an additional \$65 annually.

Music performance licenses are issued per funeral home location. Livestreaming licenses are issued per website. The existing BMI, SESAC and ASCAP music performance license remains available for \$350 annually for 2026. Livestreaming coverage for those catalogs is available for an additional \$65 annually.

New optional licenses covering the GMR and AllTrack catalogs are available for:

- Music performance licensing: \$199 annually
- Livestreaming licensing: \$45 annually

These licensing programs are available to members of NFDA, participating Funeral and Memorial Information Council (FAMIC) organizations and NFDA federated state associations. NFDA negotiates these rates on behalf of members and participating associations to provide funeral professionals with competitively priced licensing options designed specifically for the profession.

For more information about NFDA music licensing programs, visit [NFDA.org/Music](https://nfda.org/Music) or call 262-789-1880.

NFDA is the world's leading and largest funeral service association, serving 20,000 individual members who represent nearly 11,000 funeral homes in the United States and 49 countries around the world. NFDA is the trusted leader, beacon for ethics and the strongest advocate for the profession. NFDA is the association of choice because it offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals. NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., and has an office in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [NFDA.org](https://nfda.org).

This email was sent to << Test Email Address >>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Maine Funeral Directors Association · PO Box 926 · Gardiner, ME 04345-0926 · USA