

THE THANA GRAM

Spring 2022

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

IN THIS ISSUE

**2022
TFDA/TFSSC
119TH
MEMORIAL
SERVICE**

OBITUARIES

**2022
TFDA/TFSSC
119TH
CONVENTION**

President's Message

Marc Sims • TFDA Board of Directors



Greetings Fellow Funeral Professionals,

It is hard to believe that my year as President is almost over. As I look back over the course of serving the TFDA members, all I can say is “Wow, what a ride!” As your President, it has been such a humbling experience and I have been honored to serve this association. Although there have been many challenging times, long hours and travels across this great state, this role has played an especially important part in my life. It has helped to open my eyes to every challenge we, as funeral professionals, face in our industry. It has increased my desire to help push forward and make our association more resilient.

With the board and membership working together, it has provided a better understanding of what we as an association do and how we can make it better. From the numerous issues addressed during my tenure, such as the Master Trust, Legislation issues and Continuing Education; the TFDA Board has worked diligently to provide for the best interest for this association. Our goal is to be a stronger voice in our ever-changing profession with the help of everyone from our lobbyist and their staff and you, the members.

I look forward to serving the role of Past President to help guide our incoming President and Board as we keep facing the issues at hand. Serving TFDA has been one of the greatest fulfillments in my funeral profession career. Thank you for this opportunity and your support.

Respectfully,
Marc Sims



The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association Board of Directors and Staff are here for you.

Our Mission:

To be the Tennessee Funeral Professional leadership advocate, through communication, education and legislation, thereby empowering the licensed funeral professional the ability to serve at the highest level.



2021–2022 TFDA Board of Directors



PRESIDENT
Marc Sims
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TFSD Board of Directors



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2022 TFDA/TFSSC Memorial Service

Sunday, June 5, 2022

Embassy Suites Hotel, Franklin, TN

What a great honor for our association to participate in celebrating the lives of our deceased loved ones who have left us this past year.

Please contact the TFDA office if there is a loved one not listed that should be included. Phone (615) 321-8792 or by email Rosemary Harrison, Memorial Service Chairperson rosemary.mc@gmail.com.

Loved ones we will be honoring at this year's 2022 TFDA/TFSSC 119th Annual Convention.

Clara E. Spann
Grover C. Brown
Terri Jane Buckner
Wendell Moore
Robert "Frank" Lockard
Dorothy Gray Sowell
Sheila Rose Scarborough

Jeanne Sue Brown
Bobb Dean Bowen
James Robert "J.R" Bass
Edith Whiteside Delk
Gus Barrett "Bart" White IV
Anthony "Tony" South

Anyone that would like to participate in the TFDA Choir for the Memorial Service, please contact Rosemary Harrison, rosemary.mc@gmail.com



Make It Personal

At Batesville, we don't cut corners. We personalize them. Choose from Image medallions, LifeSymbols® designs and more.



Shown: Montgomery casket with Butterfly decorative panel and Image medallion.

Make it personal at [Batesville.com/FamilyChoices](https://www.batesville.com/FamilyChoices)



Obituaries



Tony South has been a long time TFDA member and served many years on the TFDA Convention Committee.

Anthony Wayne “Tony” South, age 66, passed away on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

Tony was a longtime member and really enjoyed his time at High Places Community Church and was also a licensed

minister. Tony was loved by all who knew him, especially in his community of Oak Ridge where he spent many years serving the community in various different ways. He was a longtime and devoted member to the Lions Club, also served many years on the board of the Oak Ridge Playhouse. He was a graduate of John A. Gupton College where he got his degree in Mortuary Science and found his calling in becoming a licensed funeral director. Tony served families in the Nashville area and surrounding communities for years before eventually finding his home as Manager of Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home. Tony was preceded in death by parents, Chester and Geraldine South; He is survived by his loving wife of 4 years, Pamela Vilardi; Siblings, Terry South, Judy Paananen and husband Steve, Joyce Lasse and husband Clark; Children, Patty Spencer, and Candice Smith, Grandkids, Anna Grace Watson, Avery Watson, Cam Spencer, Ainsley Smith and Wyatt Smith; Niece, Marni Vilardi; Nephew, Frank Vilardi; Best friends, Brian Neal and wife Christy or “kid,” whom he thought of as his own daughter; Special Friends, Ellis Galyon and Stan Hatmaker; His special dog, Coco.



Husband of Tonya Shoemaker, Aftercare & Preplanning Consultant for Kyker Funeral Home, Sweetwater, for over 17 years.

David B. Shoemaker, age 56, of Sweetwater, passed away on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, in Nashville,

after being diagnosed with A.M.L. Leukemia on February 12, 2022. David was an avid hunter, fisherman, he loved to camp, and anything outdoors. He loved spending time with his wife and family get togethers. He was an employee of Crescent Sock Company in Niota. He was of the Baptist Faith. Preceded in death by his parents: Albert and Carolyn Powell Shoemaker, grandparents: Marion and Ruby Powell, James and Nettie Shoemaker, several aunts, uncles and special cousin: Charles “Chuck” Wilkins. Survivors include his loving wife of 30 years: Tonya J. Buckner Shoemaker, of Sweetwater, brother and sister-in-law: Jeff and Lisa Shoemaker, of Oak Ridge, mother-in-law: Barbara Shaffer and Ralph Bostic, of Sweetwater, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Alan and Stephanie Buckner, of Sweetwater, Jerry Curtis and Nikki Buckner, Mitchell Buckner all of Etowah, Debra Robinett, of Rockwood, Donna “Susie” Svedberg, of Loudon, several nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews, special nieces: Brittanie Stiles, Ace Buckner, nephew: Ryan Buckner, several aunts, uncles, and cousins. Kyker Funeral Homes, Sweetwater, in charge of arrangements.

www.kykerfuneralhomes.com

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Hats off to Funeral Service



TFDA & TFSSC 2022 Convention

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And the Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club

119th Annual Convention
June 5 – 7, 2022
Embassy Suites Hotel, Franklin, TN

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DEADLINE FOR THE TFDA ROOM BLOCK IS MAY 4TH, 2022.

Please be sure to bring our TFDA Membership for proof of membership.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022



10:30 am – 11:30 am
Interfaith Service with
Bro. John Coleman
ROOM: Iris-Magnolia



12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
SEMINAR Presented by
Scott Serafin, CSRIC,
Senior Vice President -
Wealth Management, The
770 Group “Principles of
Investing”

TOPIC: The TN Master Trust and how it works for
the Proposed Applicant, Funeral Home, as well as
the Association.

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TN State Approved for 2 CEUS

ROOM: Azalea



2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
SEMINAR
Mary Russell
Wow Them! With Service
They'll Never Forget
TN State Approved for 1
CEU
ROOM: Azalea

SPONSORED BY



3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

SEMINAR – Mary Russell – What Now? The
Virtual Reality of Funeral Service
TN State Approved for 1 CEU

SPONSORED BY MATTHEWS AURORA
FUNERAL SOLUTIONS

ROOM: Azalea

4:30 pm

Family Gathers for Memorial Service
ROOM: Cool Springs Board Room

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

TFDA/TFSSC Memorial Service
REMEMBRANCE GIFTS SPONSORS:



MEMORIAL SERVICE VIDEO SPONSOR:



ROOM: Junior Ballroom

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Grand Opening Exhibit Hall
TN State Approved for 1 CEU

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022

9:00 am – 11:00 am

TFDA Business Meeting
TN State Approved for 2 CEUS
ROOM: Iris-Magnolia

10:00 am – 11:00 am

TFSSC Business Meeting
ROOM: Azalea



11:00 am – 1:00 pm
JOINT LUNCHEON

Presented by Mike Squires
of Southern Calls magazine
Always Follow Your Passion
“A Funeral Directors Perspective”
TN State Approved for 1 CEU
ROOM: Hickory-Maple- Oak

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1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Exhibit Hall open
TN State Approved for 1 CEU



5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

MONDAY NIGHT LIVE
AND SILENT AUCTION
Comedian Henry Cho
ROOM: Birch-Hickory-
Maple-Oak



TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022



**Accessorize
your
Evening
Ensemble**

Make it - Take it - Wear it

Attention Ladies of All Ages:
You are invited to a Complimentary Corsage Bar
Tuesday, June 7th 11am - 1pm
Cool Springs Board Room

If you would like a corsage to wear for the Grand Banquet's Evening of Elegance, come to the Cool Springs Board Room. Bring out your inner designer by picking your own flowers and creating your corsage.

CONVENTION GOLF TOURNAMENT

8:30 am Shot Gun Start
(Golf Packet included in Registration)

LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY

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1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

SEMINAR

Presented by Valerie Wages
TOPIC: "Perception By Your
Community is Everything in
Determining If You will be
Selected or Not"

TN State Approved for
3 CEUS

ROOM: Iris-Magnolia



**SPONSORED BY HERITAGE FAMILY
SERVICES**

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Past President's Reception
ROOM: Birch- Chestnut Lobby

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
GRAND BANQUET

"An Evening of Elegance"

Honoring One of Our Own & Cash Give Away
DJ (soft instrumental during meal) – Dance
Music afterwards

Photo Booth

**- DRESS: FORMAL BLACK TIE
HAT OPTIONAL (HAT CONTEST) -**

HAT CONTEST:

Best Men's Hat: 1 FREE GRAND BANQUET
TICKET FOR 2023

Best Woman's Hat: 1 FREE GRAND BANQUET
TICKET FOR 2023

Best Dressed Couple/Family: 2 FREE CONVENTION
REGISTRATIONS FOR 2023

Best Decorated Exhibitor Booth Space: 1 FREE
BOOTH SPACE FOR 2023

ROOM: Birch-Chestnut

DJ AND PHOTO BOOTH SPONSORED
BY ATLANTIC COAST LIFE



**ABOUT THE PRESENTERS AND
SPECIAL GUEST**



Bro. John Coleman
Convention Chaplain

Bro. John Coleman is the Senior Pastor of the New Bethlehem Baptist Church in Dyer, Tennessee since June of 2000. He has served in many levels in Southern Baptist Life and on many committees such as the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, the Education Committee, and the Strategic Relations Committee. Bro. John has also participated in Disaster Relief through the Southern Baptist Convention including chainsaw ministry, rescue and recovery from hurricanes, tornados, and ice storms. He has been actively involved in

Tennessee Baptist Brick Layers for Christ, stonework, and construction of handicap ramps across West Tennessee. Bro. John has been involved in missions from the local, state, national and international level traveling to Jamaica, Canada, and Brazil.

Bro. John has been very active in the community by serving on the Ridgley Volunteer Fire Department, previously coaching and umpiring with the Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball Leagues and speaking at Fellowship of Christian Athlete events. He is an avid outdoorsman where he is passionate about crappie fishing and all types of hunting. He also enjoys wood working and making Turkey and Duck calls.

Bro. John is a proud graduate of Huntingdon High School in Huntingdon, Tennessee and a graduate from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. He has furthered his education with Seminary Studies from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Bro. John is married to his wife Denise and they have two grown children, Rachel Bearden and husband Travis and Matt Coleman and wife Rachel. He and Denise have four grandchildren, Bane, Bo, Kyleigh, and Avery who get much of Bro. John's time.

Bro. John simply loves people, and he states, "I have been blessed to work with some wonderful Funeral Homes and Directors. This is a real ministry, and it is so important." Bro. John loves Jesus and he often says, "If you don't remember me that is fine, but don't ever forget about Jesus."



**Scott Serafin, CSRIC,
Senior Vice President -
Wealth Management,
The 770 Group
"Principles of Investing"**

Seeking to deliver the highest level of financial advice and client service, Scott has a passion for his clients, their families and their financial well-being. His goal is to be their trusted advisor for the most important financial decisions in their life. Scott leads with financial planning, and he believes planning should guide investment strategies. He is diligent about understanding his clients' goals and concerns, and anticipating

what risks could stand in the way of accomplishing those goals. Scott is committed to continuous education in order to provide sound advice about shifting taxes, regulations and economic conditions. While there is much more to life than money, Scott finds it rewarding to see the freedom that a sound financial plan can provide. He enjoys helping people pursue their retirement goals, send their children and grandchildren to college and build a legacy for the future. At The 770 Group, Scott works with clients to execute the financial and investment strategy that the team crafts for them after extensive information gathering and communication. He is proud to be part of a practice that is large enough to allow each person to focus on a specific role. Scott bought his first stock, Advanced Micro Devices, at 10 years of age, after his fourth grade teacher explained compound interest. While he's not sure he understood the concept, he remembers being blown away by what a dollar could turn into if it was allowed to grow. Scott has been a Wealth Management Advisor since age 25. He began his career with Smith Barney and joined The 770 Group in 2008. Credentials that build confidence – B.S. marketing, Terry School of Business, University of Georgia – Series 7 and 63 securities licenses – Chartered Sustainable and Responsible Investment CounselorSM (CSRIC®) – Forbes Top 250 Next-Generation Wealth Advisors, 2020 – Forbes Best-In-State Next Generation Wealth Advisors, Georgia, 2019, 2020.

Outside the office Scott and his wife, Sabrina, are the parents of two children, Perri and Jack. Scott coaches youth basketball, and is an active golfer and soccer player. He enjoys fishing, sports, travel and reading. But Scott's favorite thing to do is be a dad.



**Mary Russell
Professional Development
Director - Matthews
Aurora Funeral Solutions**

"Our goal for each seminar is simple – to delight, inspire and transform. We challenge funeral directors to adapt to the changing marketplace; we share best practices rooted in professional excellence and high stan-

dards; and it absolutely has to be fun!” Mary is a highly regarded professional with 30+ years of experience in training and marketing in funeral service and non-profit organizations. As Professional Development Director for Matthews Aurora, she leads funeral directors through innovative seminars and creates learning through engaging discussion. Mary joined Matthews Aurora in 2016 after a decade-long dedication to character-building in the Cincinnati area. She also helped establish a charitable foundation to support hospice care for children. Her first exposure to funeral service began early in her career where she produced grief support resources, helped roll out cremation products and became a sought-after speaker, delivering hundreds of presentations in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Mary is a graduate of the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University and serves on the Board of the Character Council of Greater Cincinnati. She resides in Lawrenceburg, Indiana with her husband Mike.



**Mike Squires CFSP, CCO
Publisher & Editor, Southern
Calls Magazine**

Mike Squires’ career in funeral service has spanned five decades, from the earliest days at a funeral home in rural South

Carolina to managing South Carolina’s state association for 19 years. In between, Squires served families at McEwen Funeral Service in Charlotte – one of the largest firms in North Carolina – and was vice president and general manager of Wilson Funeral Service, also in Charlotte.

In 2013 Mike created and founded Southern Calls, a southern publication with a national audience. A licensed funeral director, Squires resides in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina with his wife Gloria.



**Valerie Wages
HERITAGE FAMILY
SERVICES**

Valerie has worked with Tom M. Wages Funeral Service, served as a Na-

tional Training and Development Specialist and as a Commencement Speaker. Her career has included consulting with and developing funeral home personnel throughout the United States, as well as in Europe. She is recognized as a sought-after public speaker in the death care profession for her passion for serving families and being able to communicate to funeral service professionals the important role they play in the lives of people when a loved one has died.

Valerie graduated from Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, Georgia, in 1971 with a bachelor’s degree in education and was an honor graduate from Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service in Atlanta, Georgia on August 19, 1977.

She is a licensed Embalmer & Funeral Director in the State of Georgia and holds the designation of Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP) through the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice (APFSP).

Valerie has received numerous awards and recognitions in her career, such as, serving as the first woman President of the Georgia Funeral Directors Association (1988-89) and first licensed woman Embalmer and Funeral Director to serve on the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service.

Valerie was a recipient of the Initiative Award given through the National Funeral Directors Association Professional Woman’s Conference in recognition of outstanding leadership and commitment to funeral service. Valerie’s committed to provide exceptional customer service, provide each family with meticulous attention to detail and help family members and friends begin the next journey of their lives without their loved one physically with them on this earth has been her the most rewarding work in her life.

She received her 40 years Achievement Award from the Georgia Funeral Directors Association on June 6, 2018. Valerie resides in Lawrenceville, Georgia where she still sees families that ask for her at Tom M. Wages Funeral Service in Lawrenceville and Snellville, Georgia, as well as speaking at various seminars and conventions.

Congratulations Pam Stephens

TFDA President 2013 - 14, Pamela Stephens, a funeral director of Franklin, has been appointed by Governor Bill Lee to the Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers representing the Middle Grand Division. Ms. Stephens was nominated by the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

The appointment of Pamela Stephens was effective March 1, 2022. Ms. Stephens replaces W. Clark McKinney, of Lebanon.

Congratulations to Ms. Stephens on her new role. We are grateful to Mr. McKinney for his years of service to the Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers and the citizens of Tennessee.



Dear TFDA/ TFSSC Members & Exhibitors/Sponsors:

The TFDA Government Affairs and Convention Committees are once again hosting a Silent and Live Auction at the TFDA Convention in Franklin. Like in the past, this is a wonderful way for you to support the TFDA PAC. We need your help! Please help us make the auction worthwhile and FUN again this year. In previous years, we have noted that themed baskets, sports items, gift certificates, framed prints, tools, funeral related collectables, and electronic items have been very popular.

Be creative! Remember... we need items for the funeral director... the ladies... the kids... our pets... EVERYONE! And don't forget big-ticket items! Larger donations are great live auction items and bring in even more money for this cause. Tickets for sporting events, concerts, autographed memorabilia, vacations, airline tickets or time shares are GREAT ideas.

This is the main fundraiser for our PAC Fund. Please give TFDA the ability to help us all by participating and making this year's auction even a larger success than last year! Feel free to contact me at 423-736-3473 or eric.carpenter@charter.net – or any of the Auction Committee members – if you have any questions or an item to donate.

Thank you very much for your support! See you in Franklin!

S. Eric Carpenter, CFSP, CCO • Auction Committee Member • East District



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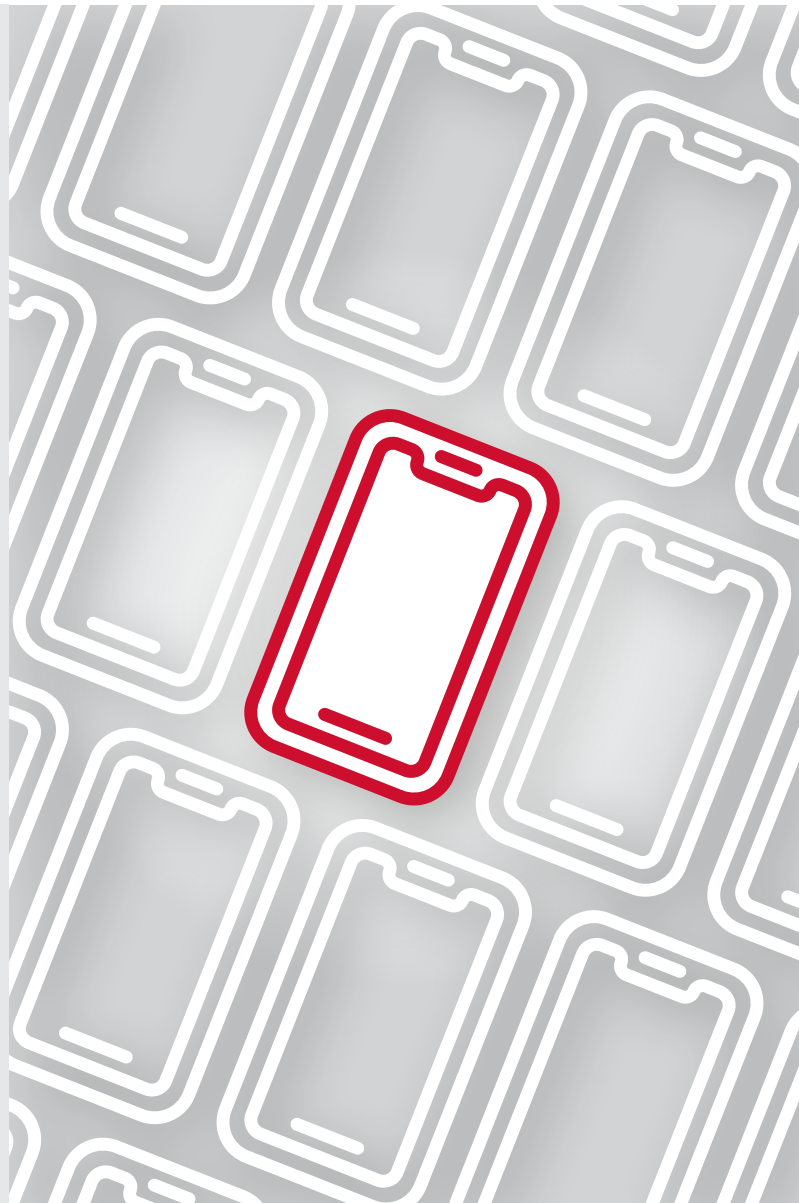


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What is the Matthews Aurora Difference?

As families' needs evolve, funeral technology needs to evolve with them. That's why Matthews Aurora is focused on creating solutions that make it easy for you to serve families in today's digital world. Our *Family Connections* technology enables your firm to help families make arrangements from anywhere. Our *Arranger* software offers a simple presentation system to educate families about all your service and merchandise options. And our Solution Center is your one-stop-shop for quick and easy online ordering, product customization, digital merchandising and much more. Contact us today for a demo and learn how our technology solutions can help you grow your business.



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An aerial photograph of a lush green forest with a stream winding through it. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding trees. The sky is visible through the canopy in some areas.

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THE FUTURE.

We believe in treating everyone with respect, regardless the size of the funeral home. That's why — unlike many of our competitors — we still offer in-person service to all of our funeral home partners. Plus, many of our field team are funeral directors, so they understand your business needs and are able to offer rock-solid advice on everything preneed.

Learn more about our new Canopy Preened and why Investors Heritage's customer service is unrivaled in the industry:

investorsheritage.com/canopy-preened/service



INVESTORS HERITAGE™

Your Legacy. Our Life's Work.

Products underwritten by Investors Heritage Life Insurance Company, 200 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601. The product, certain features and benefits, including growth tiers may vary by state and may not be available in all states. Growth and commission rates are subject to change.

TFDA is pleased to announce the Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust Fund is now operational. TFDA members now have a funding option when preneed opportunities arise, Investors Life for insurance funding, and TFDA Preneed Trust to fulfill trusting needs.

The Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust Fund is a secure pooled trust comprised from TFDA member funeral establishments. Any TFDA member firm may participate in the Trust. Participation in the trust allows TFDA members the ability to deposit funds for an intended funeral beneficiary's preneed arrangement ensuring compliance with all preneed laws and regulations. Those funds earn competitive rates of interest and can be accessed quickly when a funeral becomes at-need.

The Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust a service available to all TFDA members in good standing, and:

- Meets all state and federal requirements
- 2% Minimum Crediting Rate or market value whichever is greater
- No Minimum Deposit Requirements, Age Restrictions or Chargebacks
- Online Quarterly Reports and Account Balances through Administrative Systems Inc. provides monthly preneed reports,
- Affords access to online account balance information, summary statements and monthly activity reports

Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust funds are pooled with many other accounts in secure investments earning the highest possible rate of return. The return earned over time will assist offsetting rising costs should the price of the future funeral increase. One hundred percent of the principal and interest accrues to the benefit of the intended funeral recipient. All Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust accounts are fully portable, meaning you may transfer your account to another funeral home at any time. Some traditional saving accounts may close or become inaccessible at your time of death. Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust accounts will be available immediately to apply toward or pay for final funeral expenses.

We would also like to remind everyone of our recommendation of Investors Heritage Life Insurance Company for all your preneed insurance needs. TFDA, through Tennessee Funeral Security, Inc. began this affiliation in 2017 and it has been an absolute delight working with these fine folks. We hope this relationship will remain for many years,

Investors Heritage has been assisting funeral professionals with insurance funded preneed since the 1980's. And, Investors Heritage has not stopped increasing products and compounding services since. their products, and compounded services been compounding and increasing their product offering since then.

Here are some of the many benefits provided by Investors Heritage Director of Tennessee's preneed division Jay Slatton.

- Service Based Support
- Field Management Team
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- Marketing Team
- Multiple products on same application
- Multiple tax-free growth levels with corresponding commission schedules
- Industry Leading Premium Rates
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Membership Development

**Contact the TFDA Office if you have any questions.
Why do I need to be a TFDA Member?**

Professional Educational Seminars

TFDA Education Committee annually provides TFDA members the opportunity of learning from nationally and internationally funeral professionals and providing additional continuing educational opportunities in more technical areas.

Leadership Opportunities

As a member of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, you are presented several opportunities to enhance your leadership abilities.

- Committee Involvement
- Leadership Training Seminars through the National Funeral Directors Association
- Advocacy Summit in Washington
- NFDA Leadership Summit
- Board of Director Opportunities
- President's Retreats
- Speaker Opportunities

TFDA Master Preneed Trust

TFDA is pleased to announce the Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust Fund is now operational. TFDA members now have a funding option when preneed opportunities arise, Investors Life for insurance funding, and TFDA Preneed Trust to fulfill trusting needs.

The Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust Fund is a secure pooled trust comprised from TFDA member funeral establishments. Any TFDA member firm may participate in the Trust. Participation in the trust allows TFDA members the ability to deposit funds for an intended funeral beneficiary's preneed arrangement ensuring compliance with all preneed laws and regulations. Those funds earn competitive rates of interest and can be accessed quickly when a funeral becomes at-need.

The Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust a service available to all TFDA members in good standing, and:

Meets all state and federal requirements

2% Minimum Crediting Rate or market value whichever is greater

No Minimum Deposit Requirements, Age Restrictions or Chargebacks

Online Quarterly Reports and Account Balances through Administrative Systems Inc. provides monthly preneed reports

Affords access to online account balance information, summary statements and monthly activity reports

Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust funds are pooled with many other accounts in secure investments earning the highest possible rate of return. The return earned over time will assist offsetting rising costs should the price of the future funeral increase. One hundred percent of the principal and interest accrues to the benefit of the intended funeral recipient.

All Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust accounts are fully portable, meaning you may transfer your account to another funeral home at any time. Some traditional saving accounts may close or become inaccessible at your time of death. Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust accounts will be available immediately to apply toward or pay for final funeral expenses.

Government Affairs

The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association is Tennessee's largest funeral organization for legislation that is introduced for the success of funeral service. TFDA also serves as a regulator for legislation introduced potentially adverse to funeral service.

Professional Website

TFDA now offers vital information for members all at the touch of a button. TFDA membership entitles you to everything from government compliance forms to dues structures when you want it. This website is also designed to update you on the latest information concerning the funeral profession. Our website also offers members state approved forms for all your preneed requirements. Please visit us at www.tnfda.org.

Educational Opportunities

Continuing education credits are available throughout the year with various opportunities to achieve the credits required. In addition to CEU's, it is a time to learn from your colleagues as well.

Professional and Ethical Practices

Identifying that you are affiliated with an association that has a common goal for best practices of professionalism and ethical practices for families that we serve.

Professional Communication

Anytime events unfold in the funeral profession TFDA members are instantly informed. Information on breaking news, updates on coming events, or even the death of TFDA members are all immediately conveyed via broadcast email from the TFDA office.

The Thanagram

The official bi-monthly TFDA magazine. The Thanagram is designed to keep you updated on the most current information in funeral service.

TFDA/TFSSC Annual Convention

The TFDA/TFSSC Annual Convention with exhibits is held in June of each year. The Annual Convention is designed to advance the funeral profession through educational opportunities and recognizing both funeral and funeral supply providers. The exhibits are created with state-of-the-art information regarding funeral service. The Tennessee convention has been recognized as one of the nation's best.

District Meetings

Held twice annually in West, Middle, and East districts for the advancement of Association business. Each District Meeting also offers CEU approved educational seminars as well as networking opportunities.

Legal Advice

TFDA annually retains legal services for any funeral related issue requiring legal consultation.

What has TFDA Done for Me?

TFDA has been in existence as an association of professionals for over 100 years. You don't stay in business that long without accomplishments beneficial to the survival of the profession. Most of these accomplishments, although subtle, make a huge impact on allowing funeral professionals the freedom to care for giving families with the least amount of outside interference.

There are too many achievements to list in such a short space; listed below are just a few of the most recent actions.

TFDA sponsored legislation:

Reduction of legal liability—Funeral directors cannot be sued, criminally or civilly, when following instructions from someone acting as next of kin, when there is no reason to believe otherwise.

Majority of legal next of kin— Now cremation can be performed with the majority of next of kin, i.e., siblings, as opposed to permission from every next of kin, with no legal backlash.

Disposition of unclaimed cremains—Funeral establishments are responsible for 180 days, and a standardized procedure of disposal, for unclaimed human cremains where before there was no time limit on possession.

Increase of Available Funds for Funeral Expenses— Increased the amount from \$10,000 to \$15,000 that a bank may pay for funeral expenses when no executor or administrator qualifies, and from \$7500.00 to \$15000.00 for insurance claims with a copy of death certificate and funeral director statement.

Reinstatement Insurance Assignment to Funeral Establishment— At one time TN law prohibited the assignment of proceeds from a life insurance policy to any funeral establishment; TFDA was responsible for removing this prohibition.



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