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January

Table of Contents

Monthly Mentions4

From the Board Room.....6

ACFDA Announcements.....7

Upcoming Events.....11-12

Holiday Social Highlights.....14-15

State and Local Boards.....16-18

In Memorium.....20

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Dates To Remember

January 1 is New Year's Day.

January 5 brings Twelfth Night, an English folk custom that marked the end of Christmas merrymaking and, in ancient Celtic tradition, the end of the 12-day winter solstice celebration.

January 6 is Epiphany. According to the New Testament's Gospels, on this date, the Magi—the three wise men or kings—venerated and brought gifts to the infant Jesus.


January 17 is Benjamin Franklin's birthday. He was not only a world-renowned statesman, inventor, and scientist but was also fascinated by agriculture.

January 19 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed). This holiday is held on the third Monday in January and honors the principles of this civil rights leader and Nobel Prize Winner dedicated to nonviolence.

THE WOLF MOON

JANUARY'S MOON IS CALLED THE WOLF MOON. THE SAXON WORD FOR THE MONTH WAS WULF-MONATH OR "WOLF MONTH."

THIS YEAR, THE FULL MOON REACHES PEAK ILLUMINATION ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, AT 5:03 A.M. EST. IT CAN BE SEEN RISING FROM THE HORIZON AROUND SUNSET THAT EVENING.



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From the Board Room

New year, new you...

Happy 2026! Along with the new year comes all the familiar clichés, well-wishes, and hopeful resolutions. At ACFDA, we want to be part of those resolutions but maybe not in the way you'd expect. We're also thinking about the new year with some fresh faces on the Board, new initiatives, and new opportunities ahead.

So, what are we asking for? Of course, we'd love to see continued participation and strong attendance at meetings and events. And your ongoing support of our PAC efforts at both the state and national levels truly matter. But more than anything, we're asking for your feedback. Help us help you...there we go with the clichés again!

For your professional resolution this year, speak up. Ask for help or guidance. Share your ideas and suggestions. We are actively looking for ways to better serve the Association as a whole, as well as our members individually and at the firm level. As the makeup of the Board continues to evolve, as the face of our profession does, we want to be sure needs are being met and that we don't grow complacent.

The start of a new year is the perfect time to look ahead at what's possible. Use the resources ACFDA has to offer, and don't hesitate to reach out. As one of the largest and oldest local associations in the country, our reach is wide, so don't be shy about stepping into our embrace, consider this your formal invitation! Stay warm this winter, and remember, change begins with you. Speak up, get involved, and let's make 2026 a year of real impact.



Happy **Birthday**

to the following ACFDA members
Enjoy your day!

John M Bacha

Paul Borgony

Mark D Bradley

Gerald Bryan

Kristan Russo Courtney

Kevin R Dieterle

David J Gabauer

Kristin L Hauman

James R Huntsman

Valerie Long

David Mahlstedt

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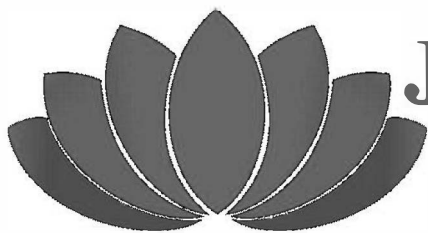
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Date: January 21st , 2026

Location: : *The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science*
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Course: “Technology-Providing a More Convenient Experience to the Funeral Consumer”

Course Start Time: 5:00 pm

Presenter: Adam Shaffer

Credit Hours: 1.5

Course: “ Funeral Director Burnout”

Course Start Time: 6:30 pm

Presenter: Shelby Ogozaly

Credit Hours: 1.5

Light refreshments and an open bar will be available beginning at 4:00pm. The courses will begin after a short memorial service with **Bishop Eckman** followed by the installation of oncoming board members.

The State Board of Funeral Directors has approved each program for 1.5 PACE credit. The entire meeting must be attended to receive your certificate for this CEU. ACFDA members are free. Non-members will be charged \$100.00.

Please register with Ashley at acfd2020@gmail.com or call 412-678-3434.

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2025 ACFDA Holiday Social

Thanks to the evenings generous participants and sponsors the association raised \$3,185.00 to support Emmas Footprints and the important work they do to support grieving families.

Wishing you all the joys of the season and a Happy New Year

*The Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association
Board of Directors*



2025 ACFDA Holiday Social

Emma's Footprints is a support community for families grieving infant and pregnancy loss, providing emotional support, compassionate guidance, and financial assistance for burial, cremation, memorialization, and counseling services.

In 2024, Emma's Footprints served 381 families and spent \$262,956 on mission expenses.

Burial/Cremations: \$134,581

Headstones/Urns: \$34,150

Counseling Sessions: \$65,368

Care Packages: \$15,415

Couples Retreat: \$13,442

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IN MEMORIUM

Clyde Frank Villa Jr. "Butch" Clyde Frank Villa Jr., known to friends and family as Butch, passed away peacefully on December 15, 2025, at the age of 81. He was born on August 5, 1944, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, where he was raised and graduated from Uniontown High School. Clyde went on to attend Duquesne University, where he was a member of Alpha Phi Delta. It was at Duquesne that he met the love of his life, Jane, beginning a partnership that would span 54 years of marriage. Clyde is survived by his devoted wife, Jane Villa; his sons Clyde Villa (Kara) of Canonsburg, PA, Matthew Villa (Shelbie) of Frederick, MD, and Michael Villa (Mary Ann) of Wake Forest, NC; and his beloved grandchildren Charlie, Cecilia, Olivia, Lianna, and Jack. He is also survived by his sisters Elisa (Bruce) Carsia and Rachel Hinish, as well as his many nieces and nephews, along with extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Helen Falco Villa and Clyde Frank Villa Sr., and his brother-in-law, Richard Hinish. After college, Clyde began his professional career as a special education teacher with Pittsburgh Public Schools, where he served students on the North Side of Pittsburgh for 35 years, leaving a lasting impact on countless students and families. Prior to continuing his long career in education, he also owned The Boardwalk, a bar in Castle Shannon. In 1971, Clyde co-founded M.V. Company Advertising Specialty with his father, Clyde Sr., a business that proudly served the funeral home industry for over five decades until his retirement earlier this year. Clyde could often be found walking in South Park or enjoying a cup of coffee at Bruegger's Bagels at South Park Shoppes. He enjoyed gardening, tending to his pond, smoking cigars, cheering on Pittsburgh sports teams, and was always quick with a one-liner. Above all else, Clyde cherished time spent with his children and grandchildren. A man of strong faith, Clyde generously volunteered his time at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park, serving others in a way that reflected how he lived his life every day. Clyde will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, faithful servant, and a steady presence to all who knew him. His legacy of kindness and love lives on through his family and the many lives he touched

Clyde F. Villa Jr.

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