

ACFDA

ALLEGHENY COUNTY FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

February
2026

Bulletin

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04.	Monthly Mentions
06-07.	From the Board Room
11.	Announcements
12-13.	Upcoming Events
16-18.	State and Local Boards
20.	In Memorium



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MONTHLY MENTIONS

- **February 2** is Groundhog Day—the day we find out whether winter will last 6 more weeks or call it quits early
- **February 8** is the Super Bowl
- **February 14** is always Valentine’s Day
- **February 16** brings Presidents’ Day, a federal holiday also known as Washington’s Birthday that is celebrated on the third Monday in February
- **February 17** is also Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.
- **February 17** is Mardi Gras (aka “Fat Tuesday” or Shrove Tuesday), which is the final feasting day before the Christian tradition of Lent begins on the following day, Ash Wednesday.
- **February 18** is ash wednesday which marks the start of Lent.

The Full Snow Moon

February’s Full Moon reaches peak illumination on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Look skyward on that night to catch the best view of this Full Moon!

It’s known as the Snow Moon due to the typically heavy snowfall that occurs in February.



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FROM THE BOARD ROOM

February 2026

Hello everyone! My name is Mya Konieczny Garrett, and I am now your 2026 ACFDA President. My Father, Patrick Konieczny who was your 2015 President and I co-run the 4 locations of Thomas-Little, which serve the Washington Co. and lower Allegheny Co. areas. I am very excited, nervous and humbled to step into this role. But I believe that this is the next chapter in my story. As my term as president, I would like to bring back the sense of community and fellowship ACFDA was based on. This means really providing you with different avenues of meeting your acfda board and members with new approaches from the board, giving you the most of your dues.

Continued on pg. 7

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

February 2026

I have served on the board in different positions as a student, intern and then licensee, I am truly most excited to serve as president and see what we can all accomplish within the next year. Please always feel free to call or email me. I am more than happy to answer any questions, go over any concerns and I would love to hear how ACFDA can better serve you.

Mya Garrett
ACFDA President

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John C Neil
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Laura M Tatko

THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Date: March 18th , 2026

Location: : *CORE Center for Organ Recovery & Education
204 Sigma Drive, RIDC Park
Pittsburgh, PA 15238*

Course: “Donations and the Funeral Directors”

Course Start Time: 4:30 pm

Presenter: TJ Roser

Credit Hours: 1

Immediately following the course all participants will have an opportunity to tour the facility.

Light refreshments and an open bar will be available beginning at 4:00pm.

The State Board of Funeral Directors has approved each program for 1 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 acfda2020@gmail.com or call 412-678-3434.

GRIEF TALKS

EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS FROM THE HIGHMARK CARING PLACE

JANUARY 7, 2026

What is a Death Doula? Holding Space for Life's Final Chapter

BETH MONTGOMERY, CERTIFIED DEATH DOULA

This talk will explore how death doulas transform fear into connection by supporting both the dying and the living through end-of-life transitions, offering valuable insights and practical skills to reshape your perspective on death.

MARCH 11, 2026

Holistic Grief Experiences: An Integration of Mind, Body, and Spirit
GRIEF TALKS CONFERENCE

Save the date for our virtual Grief Talks Conference! A full day of learning where we will explore the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit in navigating loss.

APRIL 1, 2026

Beyond the Behavior: Relationship-Based Behavior Management for Grieving Children
MELISSA REAGAN, MSW, LSW, CT
KRISTEN HUBER, MS, LPC, FT

Do you run peer support groups for grieving children? Join us to learn more about building meaningful relationships and creating emotionally safe environments.

MAY 6, 2026

When Grief Takes a Toll: Supporting Those Who Support Others

HIGHMARK CARING PLACE & SPECIAL GUEST

This webinar will explore the concept of how personal experiences and past struggles can be transformed into powerful tools for empathy and professional growth.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

Helping Children Navigate Grief: When Community Tragedies Make the World Feel Unsafe

HIGHMARK CARING PLACE & SPECIAL GUEST

Discover practical strategies for supporting children as they navigate grief, particularly when community tragedies disrupt their sense of safety and security.

OCTOBER 7, 2026

How to Work with Grief & Loss, from the Inside Out
GINA GOTH, M.ED., CAC, LPC

This workshop offers attendees a supportive space to explore and process the grief they personally carry, providing essential knowledge, practical tools, and reflective opportunities to better understand grief and loss.

NOVEMBER 19, 2026

CHILDREN'S GRIEF AWARENESS DAY

Join us for a special Children's Grief Awareness Day edition of Grief Talks.

For more information, join our mailing list at bit.ly/grieffalksinfo



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IN MEMORIAM

Findlay C. Wylie III, age 73, longtime resident of Penn Hills passed away Friday January 2, 2026 in the comfort of his home after an illness.

He was born on September 5, 1952 as the beloved son of Findlay C. and Phyllis (Oliver) Wylie. He was the husband of 42 years to Jodi L. (Ferguson) Wylie; loving father of Josh Wylie and the late Katelyn Rae Wylie; brother of Evelyn Wylie, William (Bath) Wylie, late Janice Pasinski (Rich, surviving), and late Terry Wylie. He is also survived by two uncles, Ty Swartzlander and Bill Taylor; brothers-in-law, Kevin (Ann) Ferguson, E.J. (Bobbi) Ferguson, and Kyle (Erika) Ferguson; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and his beloved dog Gio. His family has peace that Findlay is now reunited with his dearly loved and missed daughter, sister, brother, and parents.

Findlay was a graduate of Penn Hills High School class of 1971 and then attended the University of Pittsburgh where he played baseball as pitcher nationwide. He continued his education at CCAC and later the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He was a licensed Funeral Director for almost 30 years, having become licensed in 1976, and worked alongside his family at their funeral home in Penn Hills. He dedicated his life to serving families in times of loss and spent much of his time at the funeral home that his father opened in the 1950s. He also retired as a conductor for Norfolk Southern Railroad.

He made many friendships and memories as a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hampton Lodge #1004, a 30+ year member of Infinity Masonic Lodge No. 546 Penn Hills, and member of the Penn Hills Caravan No. 20 of the Syria Shrine. He formerly was a member of the Moose and Penn Hills American Legion. He was a member of Kerr Presbyterian Church and former member of the Steel City Funeral Directors Association and the Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association. He was charitable to many different organizations. In his younger years he was active in coaching his son's baseball teams and was the Vice President of the Penn Hills High School Football Boosters. In the springtime he always looked forward to the first day of fishing with his friends at his camp in Boggsville and in the fall and winter months enjoyed hunting at camp in Tionesta. He liked to play golf, travel to Myrtle Beach, and enjoy golf trips there with the guys. Family and friends will remember "Footsie" forever.

The Wylie family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to William Schliefer, father and son, and family, Larry Powers, Keith Getz, and Footsie's cousin, Korynne Young for their unwavering support, kindness, and willingness to help whenever needed, offering not only help, but friendship, loyalty, and care to him and his business. Their kindness and dedication meant so much to him and to all of us. His family also wishes to thank Three Oaks Hospice for their care.

September 5th, 1952- January 2nd 2026



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