

ACFDA

ALLEGHENY COUNTY FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

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July

2025

JANUARY

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JULY

July 1 is Canada Day, a Canadian federal holiday that celebrates the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

July 4 is Independence Day (U.S.). On the fourth of July, we celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

“Just for Fun” Days

July 11: International Town Criers Day

July 17: National Hot Dog Day

July 22: Spooner’s Day

July 23: National Day of the Cowboy

July 27: Take Your Houseplants for a Walk Day

July 30: National Cheesecake Day

The Buck Moon

July’s full Moon, the Full Buck Moon, occurs on Thursday, July 20. It reaches peak illumination at 4:37 P.M. (EDT).



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From The Board Room

Remember Your Why

Throughout your career, have you ever been asked, “What on Earth made you want to do that?” or “Wow, that takes a special person!” when telling others of your profession. Do you remember when you first knew that funeral service was your desired career? Whether it be that you were from a legacy firm and chose to follow in your family members footsteps, or did you just feel called to the vocation, like me, to serve people in the most vulnerable time in their lives... the event of the death of their loved one.

I have always believed that this calling was such a blessing, to be able to help guide families through their darkest days, and care for the decedent as we do, as one of the last acts of service to be provided for someone.

Each workday can be extensive and grim, accomplishing all the tasks for the funeral services, normally in such a short time frame, and with all the attention to detail required. However, we provide our best because we owe it to the families we serve. We show up at all hours of the day or night, we are there from the first call, to their first step into the funeral home for their first visitation to say goodbye to their dear loved one, and until the last person leaves the funeral home or cemetery.

On your most challenging days, the kind of days when dealing with difficult family members, or when the preparation of the decedent takes longer and requires more vessels to be raised, or when the obituary needs to be corrected multiple times because the family cannot agree who should be mentioned or removed... I encourage you all to Remember Your Why.

From The Board Room

We only get one opportunity to make the celebration of one's life perfect, there are no re-do's or second chances. Our frustrations and burnout should not be passed along to the families we serve. We all took the Funeral Service Oath which states, "That I shall not let the constant relationship and familiarity with death give me cause to yield to carelessness or to violate my obligation to society or to the dignity of my profession".

Remember Your Why, because I guarantee the families you serve will never forget YOU and the service you provided (hopefully good, or even unfortunately bad) for their family during this unprecedented time in their lives.

"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do." – Steve Jobs

Be Blessed,

Emily V. Lowe
ACFDA Board of Directors Trustee



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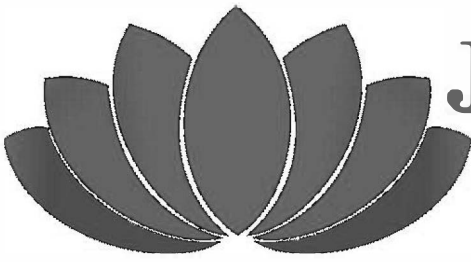
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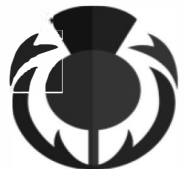
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About Brochures

Resources for the Journey of Grief is a series of informational brochures that focuses on educating and supporting families and community professionals on the needs of grieving children and families. The purpose of the brochures is to help parents, as well as teachers and other professionals who work with children, to be better equipped when interacting with grieving children. These user-friendly brochures, brief and easy-to-read, and available without cost, capture the essence of the issues and provide guidance in supporting a grieving child or adult.

Please check out our website or scan the QR code to learn more about the
Caring Place program and resources.

www.HighmarkCaringPlace.com

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The Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association
Continuing Education Opportunity

Date: October 15th , 2025

Location: : *The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science*
5808 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Course: “Pennsylvania State Police – Ceremonial Unit: Its role in
Department Ceremonies, Funeral Protocol & Etiquette”

Course Start Time: 4:30 pm

Presenter: Tpr. Gregory L. Brown

Credit Hours: 1

Course: “ Succession Planning: Ready, Set, Go”

Course Start Time: 5:30 pm

Presenter: Frank Perman

Credit Hours: 1

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.



**The British Institute of
Embalmers
North American
Division**



Greetings Fellow BIE Members and Interested Funeral Service Practitioners,

As a member of the BIE for many years, I am honored to currently serve as Chair of the North American Division (NAD) of the British Institute of Embalmers (BIE). We are a dedicated association committed to funeral service and the science and art of embalming. I am pleased to invite you to our 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Professional Enrichment Conference (PEC) to be held at my Alma Mater, the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS) where I retired as Dean and COO. The Institute's current leadership under the direction of Dr. Barry Lease, president and CEO, has been very gracious in hosting our conference for 2025.

Pittsburgh, known as The City of Bridges, is an amazing city with numerous activities and sites. It has been named "the most livable city in the United States" on two different occasions. You will be impressed with all that Pittsburgh has to offer including its close accessibility to the airport – about a 20-minute Uber ride to the host hotel – and the ease of exploring the city. Our hotel is also just about a mile from PIMS.

We have an exciting program planned; starting as always with our Sunday FUN DAY – a day filled with enjoyable educational activities. Monday and Tuesday will have numerous experienced professional practitioners presenting. Also joining us will be the "Future of our Profession", the PIMS Students.

Please mark your calendars for this event and be prepared to experience a very worthwhile visit with the North American Division of the British Institute of Embalmers 2025.

Respectfully,

Joseph A. Marsaglia

Joseph A. Marsaglia, MBIE, CFSP
Chairman
North American Division

JM/slb

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Families can capture a cherished memory or highlight a loved one's spirit, passion and personality for a meaningful tribute that will be admired and appreciated by all who attend the service at the cemetery.

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Stainless Steel Triune® Urn. Wilbert Stainless Steel vaults and urn vaults commemorating First Responders customized with a Wilbert Legacy hero's profession (if available) personalized with photos.

Commemorating First Responders provides families of firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical personnel who have died in the line of duty with a tribute worthy of their valor and sacrifice.

At no charge to the family, Wilbert will donate

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For more details about the program to honor fallen heroes in your community, contact your local Wilbert representative or visit www.wilbert.com.

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*Happy Birthday to the following ACFDA members
Enjoy your day*

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Sharon Ryave Brody
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John J. Gmitter, Jr.
Richard R. Jablonski, Jr.
John J. Karafa Jr

Catherine Lesko
F. Jay Nation Jr.
Frank R. Perman
William Snyder
Don Strathmann
Paul J. Urban
William F. Wylie

Lifetime Member Search

The Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association is looking for candidates to honor as lifetime members

The person should meet the following criteria to be considered:

- Be a licensed funeral director
- Been a member of the ACFDA for 20 + years
- Held an officer's position on the ACFDA's Board of Directors
- Been licensed and rendered distinguished service to the profession for 40+ years

If you or someone you know qualifies and would like to be nominated please contact Ashley at 412-678-3434 by August 1st, 2025

Did you hear???

*ACFDA has a new
Facebook page. Scan
the QR code below to
stay up to date on
the Association.*

***We will be glad to
share the good news
and works of your
funeral home on our
page. Feel free to
share the page with
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.....

***A funeral professional only, private group, moderated by
the ACFDA board, will be started soon. Be on the look out.***

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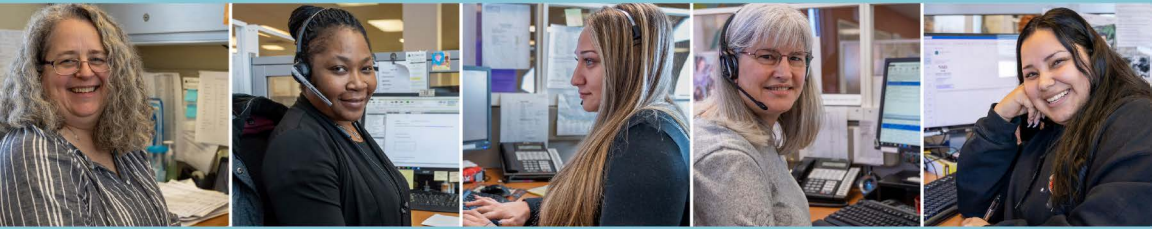
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