



NEWSLETTER

Issue One



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**Welcome to the
Tri State Association
Newsletter! Keeping
Mississippi,
Louisiana, and
Alabama connected.**

MISSISSIPPI CEMETERY, CREMATION & FUNERAL ASSOCIATION



Brittany Maugh
Natchez Trace Funeral Home,
Cemetery & Crematory

Welcome to the first newsletter for the newly formed Tri-State Association. All three states have rebranded with a new logo. I invite you to check out our new website (TheTriState.org) which is still a work in progress. If you have not joined the association yet, this can also be done online thru our new website, or you can print the form and mail your check.

The joint convention, hosted by Alabama, will be at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, AL. Who doesn't love that we are at the beach? Select the Events tab on our website for information and to register. The date format has changed to a Thursday thru Saturday this year. The golf tournament will be held Thursday a.m. prior to start of convention.


Please make an effort to attend the convention as we will be discussing upcoming legislative changes being presented this year.

I will say that being apart of this association has really pulled me out of my shell and allowed me to confidently talk with other professionals whether they have been in the industry for 30 years or 2 years. Everyone brings something different to the table and pulls out the individuality for each person, business or owner. The industry has changed a lot within the years that I have been here. It shows how we as professionals need to adapt to these changes to honor each individual family's uniqueness.

I have enjoyed representing the great state of MISSISSIPPI for the past two years as President. A special **THANK YOU** to each of you that has helped me along the way. Now to pass on the gavel...

Brittany Maugh
MSCCFA President



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REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

Tri State Joint Conference

AUGUST 10-12, 2023

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LOUISIANA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Louisiana Cemetery Association, we are looking forward to the growth of our Association and the Tri-State as a whole. Big things are happening in Louisiana, and I am sure the same can be said in Mississippi and Alabama. The Tri-State annual meeting is the best way to stay informed with the quickly evolving industry. We are excited to meet with industry leaders and friends in Orange Beach for this year's convention. See everyone in August.



*Ryan Chedotal
Restlawn Park Cemetery*

Ryan Chedotal
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BRONZE AGE CEMETERY DISCOVERED NEAR STONEHENGE

Sarah Kuta
Daily Correspondent
Smithsonian Magazine
June 20, 2023

While preparing land for a new housing development, archaeologists outside of Salisbury, England, uncovered a large Bronze Age cemetery.

The site is roughly ten miles from Stonehenge. But despite the close proximity, the cemetery does not appear to be connected to the mysterious stone monument.



Archaeologists found skeletal remains, cremation burials and artifacts. Cotswold Archaeology

The burial ground includes more than 20 barrows, or circular mounds. “Barrows tend to be associated with burials—some contain only single individuals, others a sequence of burials and occasionally multiple burials,” according to a statement from Cotswold Archaeology, the private firm working on the project.

Most of the barrows were built between 2400 and 1500 B.C.E. The smallest is 33 feet across and the largest is 165 feet, though most are between 65 and 100 feet.

While centuries of farming have flattened the mounds, archaeologists discovered ten intact burials, plus three cremation burials. They also found evidence suggesting that groups from several different eras inhabited the site over many years.

The barrows are grouped in “pairs or small clusters of six or so,” says Alistair Barclay, an archaeologist at Cotswold Archaeology, to Live Science’s Tom Metcalfe.

So far, the team has excavated five of the barrows, including three that seem to have been reshaped over time. One such barrow likely started as an oval, but was later reworked into a shape that was more circular. Beneath this barrow, archaeologists found a mass grave, which held the remains of both children and adults. Researchers plan to use radiocarbon dating to determine the grave’s age. But for now, they say that the original oval shape indicates that the barrow may date to the Neolithic period, making it older than the others.

BRONZE AGE CEMETERY DISCOVERED NEAR STONEHENGE



Archaeologist Jordan Bendall excavates red deer antlers at the site. Cotswold Archaeology

This barrow also cuts across pits containing red deer antlers, which Neolithic groups used to make tools, combs, pins, weapons and ritual objects. Specialists will soon be conducting a close study of the antlers, looking for evidence of “deliberate breakage” or “patterns of wear” that could hint at their use.

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objects. Specialists will soon be conducting a close study of the antlers, looking for evidence of “deliberate breakage” or “patterns of wear” that could hint at their use.

In another barrow, researchers found the remains of a child who’d been buried with a so-called “handled food vessel” that was common in northern England, per the team’s statement. Finding this artifact in southern England suggests that its owners may have traveled long distances. “Whoever made the pot buried with the child was familiar with pottery of non-local character,” write the researchers.

This same barrow also contained a type of late Neolithic pottery called “grooved ware” that first arose around 3000 B.C.E. and later spread throughout Britain and Ireland. Stonehenge’s builders also used this type of pottery.

In another part of the site, the researchers found “what may be traces of an Iron Age cultivation area,” writes Live Science. There, they unearthed 240 pits and postholes, some of which may have once stored garbage or grains.

The team also found evidence dating to the early medieval period, including a small sunken building, a watering hole and artifacts such as knife blades and pottery.

TRI-STATE



GOLF

TOURNAMENT

2023

**TEE GIFTS SPONSORED BY:
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**AUGUST 10,
2023**

TEE TIME: 9:15AM

Register at: TheTriState.org



Lost Key Golf Club
Penscola, Florida

***Ticket Price: \$150
Lunch Provided***



ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA CEMETERIES



Eddie Seal
Jefferson Memorial Gardens

Alabama has experienced some changes in preneed oversight. Legislation was introduced to move oversight from the Alabama Department of Insurance to the Alabama Board of Funeral Services. It is our understanding that the ALDOI was in favor of this change. The legislation was passed and as of October 1, 2023, preneed regulation will be under the funeral board. There will be a committee made up of two preneed sales people employed by a cemetery, two funeral directors, and a consumer


appointed by the governor. This committee will be responsible for initiating regulations to govern the sale of prearranged funerals and cemetery products and services. The positions on this preneed committee are voluntary. Two members of the Association of Alabama Cemeteries have volunteered to fill these positions. All four of the industry members must meet certain qualifications to be eligible. The names of qualified applicants will be submitted to the governor for her selection.

More legislation concerning cemeteries may be introduced in the 2024 legislative session.

Presently we are preparing for the Tristate Meeting at Perdido Beach Resort in August. It looks like we are going to have a very organized and well attended convention. The speakers will be bringing us important information about our industry. There are still a few rooms available so if you haven't made reservations you had better hurry. This convention will be like old times where we can catch up and enjoy the beach.

We have a lot to cover and discuss in our state meeting on Saturday, August 12th. Please make plans to attend this meeting. See you there!!!



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ICCFA ANNOUNCES ONLINE CREMATORY OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING BEGINNING IN JUNE 2023

STERLING, VA (June, 15, 2023) – The International Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association has announced that it will begin offering online, on-demand Crematory Operator Certifications beginning on June 28.


The extensive training program will be led by cremation experts Poul Lemasters, Esq. and Larry Stuart Jr. through pre-recorded sessions. The training will conclude with an online, open book exam that attendees must

pass to earn their Certified Crematory Operator certification. The curriculum will cover topics such as principles of combustion, incinerator criteria and design, general maintenance and troubleshooting, exposure control, forms and record keeping, liability concerns, and more.


Starting on Wednesday, June 28, the program will be available for on-demand purchase and can be completed year-round. ICCFA members can register to attend the on-demand training for just \$395, while non-members can register at \$545.

“This online training option will open doors for deathcare professionals all over the world,” said Poul Lemasters, Esq. “The ability to retain Cremation Operator Certifications remotely and on your own time will be a fantastic resource and I’m excited for this opportunity to become available.”

More information for the ICCFA’s online Crematory Operator Certification training, including registration links, can be found at [iccfa.com/cocp](https://www.iccfa.com/cocp).

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CORNHOLE

TOURNAMENT

Get excited for the Cornhole Tournament with lunch Friday afternoon, sponsored by Argent Trust. No experience necessary, and if you don't want to play, you can join the team of spectators/cheerleaders.



FOLLOW

US ON FACEBOOK

THE TRI-STATE ASSOCIATION



NFDA INTRODUCES EXCLUSIVE BUSINESS CREDIT CARD FOR MEMBERS

Brookfield, Wis. – Members of the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) can save money as they spend with the new NFDA business credit card built by Mercantile. Created exclusively for NFDA members, this card offers unparalleled benefits including up to 10% cash back on purchases made with NFDA, and up to 2% on all purchases.

“When we asked our members about new benefits they wanted from NFDA, a business credit card was among the top four requests,” said NFDA President Jack Mitchell, CFSP, CCSP. “Having access to a powerful credit card is critical for small businesses and Mercantile’s NFDA business credit card will not only help NFDA members expand their purchasing power but save them money with cash back and other exclusive discounts and rebates designed for funeral directors. In fact, I have already applied for the NFDA business credit card.”

Like NFDA’s other Endorsed Provider Partners, Mercantile’s NFDA business card offers association members exclusive benefits, including:

- Up to 10% back on all NFDA purchases, such as membership dues, convention and conference registration fees, webinars, etc.
- Up to 2% back on all purchases
- As more funeral directors use the card, Mercantile is able to negotiate better and better deals with funeral home specific vendors
- No annual fee
- Free, unlimited cards for members of a funeral home’s staff
- No impact on personal credit
- Mastercard® World Elite business credit card that comes with a host of best-in-class benefits, to include insurance, business concierge, and many more
- Spend management platform that syncs with QuickBooks

Mercantile offers funeral home owners an exclusive card management platform on which they can create credit cards and set spending limits for funeral home staff, redeem rewards and vendor offers, view expenses charged to company cards, pay balances, and more.

“The response from NFDA members has surpassed our expectations, and we are excited to work with funeral homes to ensure the best-in-class business card meets their business needs,” said Joseph Fargiorgio, general manager, Mercantile. “We have the tools and resources to help funeral homes better track their spending, earn money back, and make their business more profitable. We’re thrilled to make this credit card available now to NFDA members.”

More information about the NFDA business credit card available through Mercantile, including details on how to apply, is available on the NFDA website, www.nfda.org/endorsedproviders.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ICCFA 2023 PET LOSS & INTEGRATION SHORT COURSE

Atlanta, GA
July 21–23, 2023

ICCFA UNIVERSITY 2023

Atlanta, GA
July 21–26, 2023

TRI-STATE ASSOCIATION JOINT CONFERENCE

Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach, AL
August 10–12, 2023

NFDA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & EXPO

Las Vegas, NV
September 10 – 13, 2023

ICCFA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

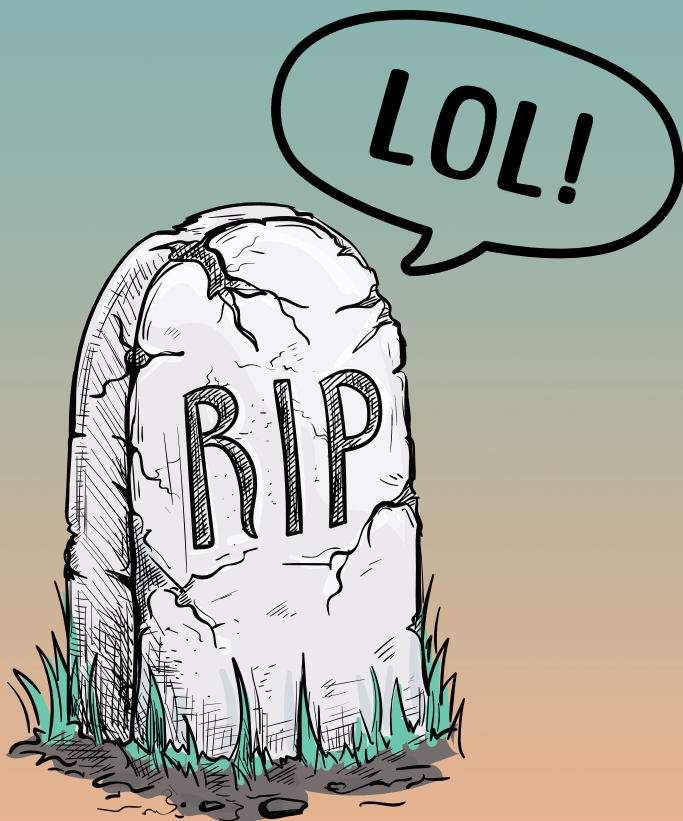
Tucson, AZ
October 24–26, 2023



MEMENTO MORI

*Will glass coffins be a success?
Remains to be seen.*

THANKS TO OUR FUNERAL DIRECTOR
FOR BEING THE LAST PERSON TO
LET US DOWN.



I thought about opening up a cemetery, but it seems like it would be a large undertaking.