



# NEWSLETTER

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Issue Two



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



# LETTER FROM THE MSCCFA VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Fellow Tri-State Members,

It has been a wonderful year of growth and new beginnings for all of us. From bringing on a new management company to dealing with legislative issues. We all have done very well this past year and I know we will be even more successful this coming year.

*Shay Chedotal  
Natchez Trace Funeral Home,  
Cemetery & Crematory*

I'd like to thank LaDarion, Julie & Lauren (Harrison in the background) with TenOne Strategy for their proven knowledge and experience in putting on a fun and very successful convention. They have also made it so much easier to communicate with our

boards and membership (in person and virtually) which has allowed each of us to really try and get each member state more actively involved. It will only get better from here. Each board member has chosen to volunteer their time, which shows your devotion to your individual state and the industry as a whole. Thank you for your time and efforts.

We will be returning to the IP in Biloxi in August and returning to our normal Sunday thru Tuesday program. We will be in a larger venue this time which will allow us to go back to the vendors and general session to be in the same space. With that being said, I'd like to challenge each association to bring on 3 new vendors that have never been to a Tri-State Convention to join us in Mississippi. What are some of the obvious missing vendors...lawn equipment (lawn mowers, haulers, backhoe's, shovels, weed eaters, edgers, etc....). We have the room, let's get them there. If you know of a unique small business that may be helpful in our industry, this may be the opportunity they need, and we want. Keep your eyes open.

While each association will work diligently in promoting their states, we all still have the challenges as a group and individually as a business. If you have a speaking subject you would like to hear about, please let LaDarion know. I know we all have specific legislative issues happening. Possibly even a breakout specific for each state. Let's make this the best year ever. Thank you for all you do, see you soon in MS!

Shay D Chedotal  
Vice President  
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# MEET THE MSCCFA BOARD



# From the National Cemetery Association: VA Awards More Than \$51 Million in Grants to State Veterans Cemeteries

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WASHINGTON — This month, VA's National Cemetery Administration awarded \$51.3 million in grants to Arizona, Arkansas, Nebraska, New York, Louisiana, Texas, and Virginia for the establishment, expansion, and improvement of state Veterans cemeteries. These grants will help these states deliver timely and accessible burial and memorial services to Veterans.

Since beginning in 1978, the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program has provided more than 480 grants to 122 state, territorial, and Tribal Veterans cemeteries — leading to over 800,000 total interments for Veterans. In fiscal year 2022, these cemeteries and VA national cemeteries conducted nearly 200,000 interments combined. Veterans interred in state, territorial, or Tribal Veterans cemeteries receive the same burial and memorial benefits provided to Veterans in VA national cemeteries, at no cost. This includes a gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

"NCA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program is critical in our effort to provide burial options to Veterans and their families closer to where they live," said Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Matt Quinn. "These grants and the enduring partnerships they create with states, tribes, and territories recognize the sacrifices made by Veterans and our nation's obligation to honor them for their service."

For a full list of the cemeteries receiving grants, visit [www.cem.va.gov/pressreleases/VA-awards-more-than-51-million-in-grants-to-state-Veterans-cemeteries.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/pressreleases/VA-awards-more-than-51-million-in-grants-to-state-Veterans-cemeteries.asp)

Between grant-funded cemeteries and VA's national cemeteries, the department is now providing 94% of Veterans who live in the U.S. with the option of burial in a VA or VA-funded cemetery within 75 miles of their homes.

Veterans interred in most VA-grant funded cemeteries are also memorialized on the Veterans Legacy Memorial site. This allows family, friends and others to preserve their Veteran's legacy by posting tributes, uploading images, and sharing their Veteran's achievements, biographical information and historical documents.

Learn more about VA's burial benefits and memorial services or watch [this video](#).

# MEET THE LCA VICE PRESIDENT

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Boyd Mothe Jr is a Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer. He is a graduate of National Selected Mortician Funeral Service Academy and a Past President and District Governor of the Louisiana Funeral Directors Association. Along with numerous other accolades and industry leadership roles, Boyd is also the owner of Mothe Funeral Homes LLC, Falgout Funeral Homes, Smart/Mothe Funeral Home, and Westlawn Cemeteries.



*Boyd Mothe, Jr.  
Westlawn Cemeteries, Inc.*


Boyd is married Denise Mothe and has three children who are all in Funeral Service.

"I grew up in funeral service as a young man as my family has enjoyed 127 years in funeral service in New Orleans. I have been licensed since 1981 and have remained active in our family business and state associations.

I have continued to serve our community, train staff and be the death care authority in my area."

Boyd Mothe, Jr.  
LCA Vice President



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# MEET THE LCA BOARD





# Cremation & Permanent Placement: Educating Families About the 'Whys'

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*Published in the August/September 2021 Issue of Memento Mori  
By Alan D Wolfelt, PhD*

Today's families lack an understanding of the importance of permanent placement and memorialization. This unfortunate trend goes hand-in-hand with the rise in cremation, which, in and of itself, is a perfectly acceptable choice. The problem I am addressing in this article lies in what happens next.

More and more families are taking cremated remains home with them, often without a plan of what to do with them. In the long run, home storage of remains creates some unique challenges:

- What do people do with the cremated remains they are accumulating in their homes?
- When they move out of their homes, perhaps into a retirement community or assisted living, do they take all the remains with them?
- And when they, too, are gone, what will happen to all the remains?
- Will their children or nieces and nephews become caretakers?

Other families are choosing to scatter cremated remains, which also can create long-term problems.

In a 2019 National Funeral Directors Association consumer study, 48 percent of cremation customers indicated they prefer the idea of scattering remains in a sentimental place. But without a final resting place to know about and visit, many grieving people end up feeling adrift and lost, not knowing where to direct their grief.

As a cemetary or funeral director, you are a professional with a time-tested, honored solution to this widespread and growing problem. You are the key. You are the person in the position to help families understand the value of permanent placement and memorialization.

If you educate the families you serve, you have the power to help them make transformative choices. Through education, you can help families make decisions that are good for them.

[Read the full article here...](#)

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## Recording of the ICCFA Speaking at the FTC Funeral Rule Workshop Available for Playback

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The ICCFA was invited to be a panelist during the Federal Trade Commission's public workshop on Thursday, September 7, 2023. The purpose of the workshop was to seek further input on proposed changes to the Funeral Rule.

If you missed the live airing or want to rewatch the workshop, it is available for playback [here](#).

# LETTER FROM THE AAC 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

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*Clarence Haynes  
Pine Hill Memorial Park, Inc.*

First of all, I would like to thank Eddie Seal for all the hard work during his term and I am looking forward to working with Julie Currie. A vision for our future would be to try to change the direction of our industry and its culture. Initially this may seem impossible, but I would like to find a way to institute the necessary changes to advance our chosen field along with the products and experiences for those we serve. As a former legislator, I believe if we band together and try to make a big push to

overcome some of the unnecessary strains that we are under, in my opinion this could make it easier for us to attend to our customers and their needs.

I would be remiss if I didn't express heartfelt gratitude to the vendors and sponsors that help us on a regular basis. Your commitment to this industry and our associations makes it possible for us to engage with our peers and see into the future of the cemetery industry and the solutions we may offer our clients.



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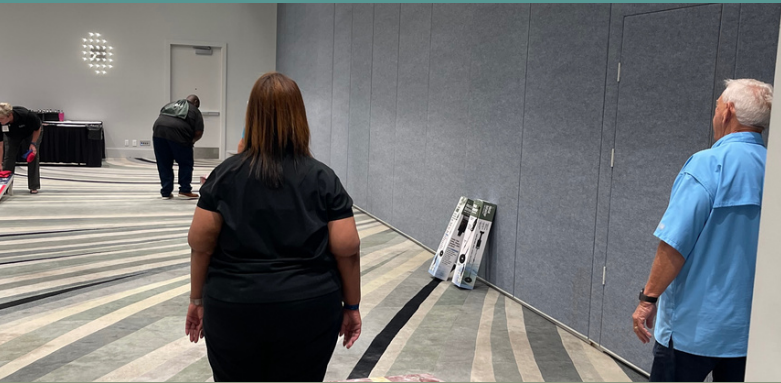
Brian Reed  
Vendor Rep



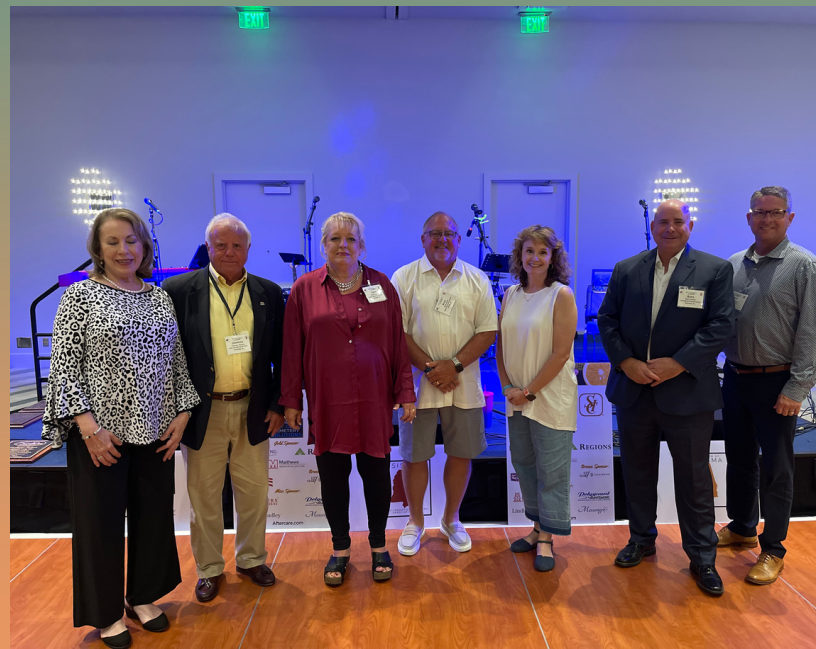
# MEET THE AAC BOARD



# Conference Recap!!



# Conference Recap!!



# Conference Recap!!



# Conference Recap!!







# SAVE THE DATE



**AUGUST 11-14, 2024**

**IP RESORT & SPA**

DON'T FORGET YOUR LOST SHAKER OF SALT  
- JIMMY BUFFETT



# ICCFA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TO AWARD 50 SCHOLARSHIPS TO 2024 DEAD TALKS SALES CONFERENCE ATTENDEES


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STERLING, VA (September 29, 2023) – The International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association’s (ICCFA) Educational Foundation is proud to announce that 50 scholarships will be awarded to attendees of the ICCFA’s upcoming sales conference, DEAD Talks. These scholarships are made possible thanks to the generous donors who support the principle that education is critical to the well-being and future of the deathcare profession.


DEAD Talks 2024 will be taking place January 16-18 in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Park MGM Hotel and Casino. Scholarship recipients receive a complimentary registration to the event, which features two and a half days of education and networking. Sessions will focus on enhancing and refining the skills of sales professionals and family counselors within deathcare.

“Providing deathcare professionals with the opportunity to attend DEAD Talks without the cost of registration is an incredible initiative that I’m very proud to be a part of,” said Gino Merendino, ICCFA Educational Foundation President. “I have attended many ICCFA events myself, and I know the incredible impact that they have had on me and my career. Being able to pay that forward to the future leaders of our profession is an honor.”

ICCFA members in good standing can apply for a scholarship to attend DEAD Talks from now until November 29, 2023, at <https://iccfa.com/sales/>.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**ICCFA DEAD Talks**  
**January 16–18, 2024**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

**NFDA Consumer Trends Conference**  
**February 22–23, 2024 | Virtual Event**

**ICCFA Annual Convention & Exposition**  
**April 10–13, 2024**  
**Tampa, FL**

**2024 SCCFA Convention**  
**July 15th – 17th**  
**Hilton Head Island, SC**

**2024 Tri-State Joint Conference**  
**August 11–14, 2024**  
**IP Resort & Spa, Biloxi, MS**



 TRI STATE ASSOCIATION

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 601-398-2281  [TheTriState@TenOneStrategy.com](mailto:TheTriState@TenOneStrategy.com)

**COMING**  
**SOON**

# MEMENTO MORI

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**SPEAKING ILL OF THE DEAD IS  
A GRAVE MISTAKE.**

**WHY DID THAT ONE GUY LIKE  
CEMETERIES SO MUCH?**

**HE JUST DIGS THE GRAVES.**



WHAT HAPPENS  
IF YOU PLAY  
BEETHOVEN  
BACKWARDS?

HE DECOMPOSES!



**FOLLOW**

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THE TRI-STATE ASSOCIATION

