

Independent Reporter

Winter 2011

www.IFDG.org

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of the IFDG
Independent
Reporter:**

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A Letter from Doug Henry, IFDG President

Fellow IFDG Members:

As your new Independent Funeral Directors of Georgia President, I would like to personally thank each one of you for the confidence and support you have shown me already. Being in this position is truly an honor, and I am looking forward to working with such a great slate of officers and directors in this upcoming year.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2010 Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Savannah in Savannah, Georgia. I hope everyone had a great time and learned a lot from our very informative speakers. Thank you to our conference sponsors who helped make this event a success. Our speakers and sponsors are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.

Please remember, your continued support of IFDG is so very important and very much appreciated. As we all know, the funeral business is changing and we must continue to promote the ideas and principals upon which this association was founded.

The 2011 IFDG membership dues were to be paid by October 1, 2010, but it is not too late to renew your membership or invite someone new to join the association. Please encourage your fellow funeral director friends who may not be a part of our association to join us. We offer opportunities for funeral directors to meet and have a great time together as well as learn about new trends and changes in our industry. New members are a key part of keeping the Independent Funeral Directors Association alive.

I hope everyone has a very prosperous 2011! And if there is anything I or the IFDG Board of Directors or staff can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact the association office, 770-455-3180 or ifdg@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Doug Henry

Doug Henry

IFDG President



2010-2011 Independent Funeral Directors of Georgia, Inc.
Board of Directors.

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Make the Right Moves Early in Your Business

You worked hard to create a successful, respected business. The opening moves of your exit strategy plan will ultimately help determine your final financial victory.

Many professional advisors suggest putting a succession plan in place at least five years before you intend to retire...10 years may be even better. In fact, some recommend that an exit strategy be built into the initial business plan.

Proper planning for your business and personal need should address:

- Retirement income
- The death and disability of an owner
- The departure of a business owner
- Family members involved in the business

Avoid a future problem and make the first move now. To help assure financial security for you, your family, and your business, contact your Federated representative or your association office for information on Federated's Financial Protection Services. The advantage will be yours.

It's Our Business to Protect Yours®



Thank You to Our IFDG Annual Conference Speakers

J. Ray Armstrong, Batesville Casket Company

Gary E. Lupinacci, Transportation Security Administration

Charles B. Pyke, Jr., JD, Pyke & Associates, P.C.

Myrtle Turner, PhD, MPH, CET, OSHA Training Institute Education Center at GA Tech

Thank You to Our IFDG Annual Conference Sponsors

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Aurora Casket Company, Inc.

Batesville Casket Company, Inc.

Bearden Funeral Home

Bill Head Funeral Homes & Crematory

Caldwell & Cowan Funeral Home

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Matthews Casket Division

Pierce Chemicals/Royal Bond & Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service

Shields Southeast Sales, Inc.

Southland National Insurance Corporation

Stanley Funeral Home

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Vantage Products Corporation

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS OF GEORGIA YAHOO! GROUP

You may ask yourself “What is a Yahoo! Group?”
It’s where people with a shared interest meet online, get to know each other and stay informed.

Your IFDG Yahoo! Group gives each IFDG Member instant access to:

- Other IFDG Members
- Event Calendars
- Immediate updates on Legislative Issues
- Questions regarding any funeral topic
- IFDG Members can post death notices and share funeral service news
- IFDG Members will have the information immediately and have the opportunity to respond
- It’s a great networking tool and will allow IFDG Members to stay in closer contact with the association and each other
- And best of all it’s free!

Since participation in the Yahoo! Group is voluntary, it is important that each member give the association permission to include their email address in the group. The larger the group, the more successful it will be.

To participate in the IFDG Yahoo! Group, please complete this form and return it to the IFDG office.

IFDG YAHOO! GROUP PARTICIPATION (PLEASE COMPLETE FOR IFDG OFFICE USE)

Name of Funeral Home _____

Contact Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Please complete this form and return it to the IFDG staff. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have or to opt out of this group at anytime:

Phone: 770-445-3180

Fax: 770-445-3893

Email: ifdg@aol.com

IFDG's Preferred Providers

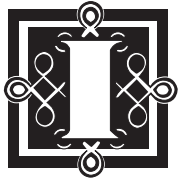
The following companies have been approved by the IFDG Board of Directors to participate in the Discount Buying Program for IFDG members.

Capital City Casket Co., Inc.
 Deaton-Kennedy Company
 Federated Insurance
 Kinsey Supply Company
 Matthews Casket Division
 Messenger Corporation
 Pierce Chemicals Royal Bond

For contact information on any these companies, please contact the IFDG association office by email, IFDG@aol.com, or phone, 770-445-3180, and they will give you any information you need.

IFDG appreciates each of these companies and the programs they bring to the association.

Each program is unique to the company; therefore, we encourage you to contact them directly for details regarding their programs.



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What DO We Teach Budding Funeral Directors?

Over the past few years, I have been asked, “What do y’all teach at that school? These students don’t want to work and can’t embalm.” There is a very involved process of curriculum development for funeral service education. The American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), which is the accrediting body for all mortuary colleges, is responsible for developing the curriculum taught in mortuary colleges. The ABFSE is comprised of representatives from the 56 accredited mortuary colleges (yes, I said 56), the National Funeral Directors Association, The National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, the International Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association, and appointed public members. The ABFSE has a Curriculum Committee comprised of members from NFDA, NFD&MA, ICCFA, and the educators. Every year in April the Curriculum Committee meets and reviews several of the 21 subject outlines. These 21 outlines, approximately 1700 pages in total, are on a five-year rotation for review. One-third of the curriculum is devoted to the Sciences, including Embalming, Restorative Art, Chemistry, Microbiology, Pathology, and Anatomy. The Arts, which includes Law, Funeral Service Management, Psychology and Counseling, Communications, Sociology, and Computers, comprises about 40% of the curriculum. The remaining 25% is devoted to General Education courses, such as English, History, and Math. The outlines for each subject area are designed to be the minimum information expected to be taught. However, every instructor has the autonomy to include more information deemed necessary, based on geographic location, cultural norms, or trends within the profession.

In April 2010, the Curriculum Committee decided that since all the outlines had been reviewed in the last five years that they would review the curriculum in its entirety as to the needs of today’s funeral professional. Representatives from the member organizations and colleges as well current students met in Cypress, CA. As president of the ABFSE, I attended that workshop. Based on the feedback we received from the students and the Expectation Survey authored by NFDA, mortuary colleges seem to be accomplishing their task of educating students for entry-level positions within the profession. We did discuss updating the curriculum to include more of the alternatives to a traditional service and disposition. The goal of mortuary science education is to equip students with basic knowledge and skills. The educators then rely on the practitioners to mentor and further develop the intern’s skills.

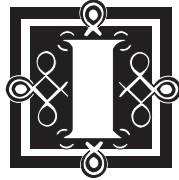
As to the statement that students don’t want to work. This may be a generational concern that is beyond the role of the college. I promise that we inform students that funeral service is 24/7 and that death does not take a holiday. We stress the need to complete more than the 12 embalming cases for more experience. We talk about the need for good communication skills and providing families with every option available. As educators we have a responsibility to the student and to the profession. The future of funeral service depends on having qualified, compassionate funeral personnel willing to go beyond the minimum expectations. We are striving to accomplish this goal. We hope you are willing to help us with this goal.

Patty S. Hutcheson, CFSP
President
Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service

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The Independent Funeral Directors of Georgia is a strong professional association of funeral home owners who have organized to provide education, to promote mutual needs and interests, and to advocate for our profession in the State Legislature.

Have You Paid Your 2010-2011 IFDG Membership Dues?

IFDG Membership renewals were due October 1, 2010.

You will not want to miss any important announcements, updates or meeting information, so please renew today. Please remember, your membership is always important to the success of Independent Funeral Directors of Georgia.

Recruit a New IFDG Member!

Is there a Funeral Director or Associate that you feel would benefit by joining IFDG?

If so, here's how you can get membership information directly to them:

- Refer them to the IFDG website, www.IFDG.org, where membership details, upcoming meeting dates and other valuable information is available.
- Refer them to the IFDG association office, 770-445-3180 or ifdg@aol.com, where the staff can answer any questions they may have and share membership details, upcoming meeting dates and other information with them.

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