

**State Board of Cemeterians
Minutes
July 31, 2007**

A meeting of the State Board of Cemeterians was held on Tuesday July 31, 2007, at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Room 1410-12 West Tower, Atlanta, Ga. 30334.

Members of the Board in attendance were:

- William (Micky) Couey
- Clift Dempsey
- Daniel (Dan) Green
- Emory Lamar
- Mike Lawrence
- Richard Parker
- Tim Smith

Staff Present:

- Bob Terry, Division Director, Securities and Business Regulation Division
- Debra Ferguson, Cemeteries Director, Securities and Business Regulation Division
- Mickey McGuire, Director of Budget, Office of Secretary of State
- Shawn LaGrua, Inspector General, Office of Secretary of State
- Roy White, Registration Supervisor, Securities and Business Regulation Division
- Robert Conway, Senior Investigator, Securities and Business Regulation Division
- Melissa Marlowe, Senior Investigator, Securities and Business Regulation Division
- Lori Young, Investigative Analyst, Securities and Business Regulation Division
- Whitney Halterman, Press Office, Office of Secretary of State
- Becky Wallace, Senior Examiner, Securities and Business Regulation Division
- Hazel Greer, Senior Investigator, Securities and Business Regulation Division
- Sandy Irving, Board Secretary, Securities and Business Regulation Division

Others Present:

- Sid Barrett, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
- Jeff Stump, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
- Larry Nikola (Savannah Cemetery Group)
- Don Raposu (Clark Grave Vault)
- Diane Yawn, Professional Licensing Board

Securities and Business Regulations Division Director Bob Terry called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Delegation of Responsibilities to the Board from the Secretary of State was presented by the Division Director Bob Terry.

Sid Barrett, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Jeff Stump, Assistant Attorney General presented duties and responsibilities to the Board Members. Sid Barrett, stated a quorum would have to be established at each meeting for voting purposes. All members being present, a quorum was established for this meeting.

Election of President

Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Couey seconded, and the Board Members voted to appoint Mr. Clift Dempsey as President of the Board.

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Budget Package

Mickey McGuire, Director of Budget, presented expense budget packets to the Board Members.

Monthly Meeting

Mr. Dempsey moved, Mr. Parker seconded and the Board Members voted to conduct regular meetings every fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Enforcement

Shawn LaGrua, Inspector General, discussed the procedure of Enforcement Cases.

Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Parker seconded and the Board Members approved the Secretary of State's office to open complaints and investigate matters.

Registration

Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Parker seconded and the Board Members approved for the Secretary of State's staff to receive and process registration applications and to approve non-deficient applications

Mr. Smith moved, Mr. Dempsey seconded and the Board Members approved application registrations for (2) two Funeral Homes with effective dates of August 1, 2007:

- Tante Funeral Home, LLC
- Brannon Funeral Services, Inc.

Becky Wallace, Senior Examiner, presented a letter to the Board from Memorial Gardens of Prayer requesting a ruling on O.C.G.A. 10-14-10 (b) (1) & (2). This letter was referred to the Attorney General's office for further review.

Other Business

Visitors in attendance were acknowledged. Larry Nikola addressed the Board concerning issues pertaining to his cemetery group's newly revised rules and regulations and the use of steel vaults versus concrete vaults. Mr. Raposu also addressed the board regarding the use of steel vaults in cemeteries.

Mr. Dempsey suggested that Mr. Nikola submit a written statement to the Board requesting a declaratory ruling from the board regarding this issue.

Secretary of State Karen Handel welcomed the Board of Cemeterians.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Board at its August 28, 2007 Board Meeting.

