

# Louisiana State Board of Embalmers And Funeral Directors

## Minutes of the Meeting

For  
March 9, 2021

### Board Members present:

Rodney McFarland , President  
Willie P. Davis, Jr. , Secretary  
Duplain W. Rhodes, III, Vice President  
Terry Luneau , Treasurer  
Lonnelle Aquillard  
S. J. Brasseaux  
Maurice Southall  
Dixon, Consumer Representative  
Edward Muhleisen

The meeting was called to order by the Board's President, Mr. McFarland at 9:00 AM, at the Board's office, located at 3500 N. Causeway Blvd. Ste. 1232 Metairie, Louisiana. Also present was Kim W. Michel, Executive Director, Heidi Penouilh, Administrative Coordinator, IV, and Chanel R. Debose, Prosecuting Attorney. Jude Daigle, Inspector was not present at today's meeting.

Meeting of the Board via Zoom  
NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE ALLOWED

### Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAucuyqqDluHtennpZ9atMxipJ6dkjxaF8RA>After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments made at today's meeting.

### PRESENTATIONS:

The Board's President, Mr. McFarland, read the following resolutions to be recorded into the minutes;

## Resolution

*Whereas: Almighty God in His infinite wisdom and wise providence has called unto himself our beloved former licensee,*

**Opeary Mae Hill Loche**

*funeral director license U970, Bastrop, who departed this life on December 26, 2020;*

**Whereas:** *Opeary Mae Hill Loche has always exemplified the attributes of high idealism by her courteous manner and personality and has made valuable contributions to our profession and to the interest and welfare of the people of her community;*

**Whereas:** *Opeary Mae Hill Loche offered her counsel, judgment and time to the funeral profession for over fifty seven years; and,*

**Whereas:** *Opeary Mae Hill Loche has further extended her energy to our state by having served in various capacities within her community;*

**Therefore, be it resolved** *that the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors extends to the family of the late Opeary Mae Hill Loche our deepest sympathy and condolences for their great loss which we so keenly feel; and,*

**Be it further Resolved** *that this tribute be written into the minutes of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors and suitable copies of this resolution be sent to the members of her family.*

## Resolution

**Whereas:** *Almighty God in His infinite wisdom and wise providence has called unto himself our beloved former licensee,*

### **George B. Tennant, Sr.**

*Embalmer and funeral director license E1510, Rayville, who departed this life on September 19, 2020;*

**Whereas:** *George B. Tennant, Sr. has always exemplified the attributes of high idealism by his courteous manner and personality and has made valuable contributions to our profession and to the interest and welfare of the people of his community;*

**Whereas:** *George B. Tennant, Sr. offered his counsel, judgment and time to the funeral profession for over fifty-six years; and,*

**Whereas:** *George B. Tennant, Sr. has further extended his energy to our state by having served in various capacities within his community;*

**Therefore, be it resolved** *that the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors extends to the family of the late George B. Tennant, Sr. our deepest sympathy and condolences for their great loss which we so keenly feel; and,*

**Be it further Resolved** *that this tribute be written into the minutes of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors and suitable copies of this resolution be sent to the members of his family.*

### **COMPLIANCE, HEARING and/or ADMISSION AND CONSENT**

By a subpoena request for Andrew Stevenson to appear before the Board at today's meeting, Mr. Stevenson was not present today.

Ms. Michel advised the Board that Andrew Stevenson, Golden Meadows Funeral Home, has not responded to the subpoena for his appearance at today's meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Southall, seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously passed that Andrew Stevenson be issued one more subpoena to appear before the board as requested and/or further action will be taken.

Ms. Michel presented the Board with an advertisement from Esperanza Funeral Home which is located in Texas. Esperanza Funeral Home has been reported on several occasions as operating in Louisiana without having a Louisiana license and that allegedly this funeral home is being referred by hospitals and hospices in Louisiana.

Motion was made by Mr. Dixon, seconded by Mr. Brasseaux and unanimously passed that this issue be referred to the Board's General Counsel for advisement in order for the board to move forward with a strategy.

Ms. Michel presented the Board with a Social Media Policy to review for its adoption as it has come to the attention of Ms. Michel that such a policy needs to be implemented for updating the employees and board members due to various social media issues.

Motion was made by Mr. Brasseaux, seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously passed that the Social Media Policy, as presented, be adopted by a Resolution as follows:

**Resolution of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers**

**BE IT KNOWN**, that during the meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, Metairie, Louisiana, was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. a quorum being present, the following resolution was introduced by Mr. Brasseaux and seconded by Mr. Davis, to wit:

**WHEREAS**, The Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors authorize Kim W. Michel, Executive Director, to implement the Social Media Policy, as presented, for the Board office staff and members.

**WHEREAS**, this board is of the belief that by implementing this additional policy to the current office policy and procedures, the Board will be providing an extra step for improved transparency and to provide enhanced management for the members and staff.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, Metairie, hereby authorizes Kim W. Michel to implement the Social Media Policy to the current office policy and procedures.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors agree to the addition of the Social Media Policy to the current policy and procedures for members and office staff.

The above and foregoing resolution was adopted by the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors of Metairie at its meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

YEAS: 8

NAYS:   0  Absent:   0  

Ms. Michel presented the Board with the her report; noting that Certemy has been doing a great job with moving forward for the website implementation and that the “live” date should be soon.

Ms. Michel presented the Board with the Conference report for exam statistics as well as licensing report for new licenses, reinstatements and interns registered.

## License & Registry Update

### Funeral Establishments - new issue

Affordable Funeral Home	2947
Patrick Sanders Funeral Home	2948
Precious Memories Funeral Home	2949
Dennard First National Funeral Home	2950

### Establishment Ownership/Location/Name Change

Pellerin Funeral Homes, Inc.	2955	-	-	-
Pellerin Funeral Homes, Inc.	2954	-	-	-
Pellerin Funeral Homes, Inc.	2951	-	-	-
Pellerin Funeral Homes, Inc.	2952	-	-	-
Pellerin Funeral Homes, Inc.	2953	-	-	-

### Crematory Establishment - new issue

### Embalmer and Funeral Director License - new issue

Morgan Ball	E2906	William Mobley	E2911
Savanna Jordan	E2907	Lara Yeats	E2912
Rosa Fondel Alfred	E2908	Trina Teixeira	E2913
Arthur Lewis	E2909	Kristen Vitrano	E2914
Jonathon Law	E2910	Haden Puma	E2915

### Funeral Director License - new issue

Chad Maggio	U1712	Kendall Smith	U1719
Kedrick Jenkins	U1713	Shelley Southall Smith	U1720
Donald Vercher	U1714	Jennifer Bourque	U1721
Theresa Singleton	U1715	Charlie Ray Jennings	U1722
Eligah Guillory	U1716	Tiffany Gongre	U1723
Diane Nata	U1717		
Mary West	U1718		

### Retort Operator License - new issue

Bryan Patterson	355	Kassidy Lemmons	363
Rachel Poole	356	Brian Sharp	364
Destiny Larkin	357	Milton Motichek	365
Colby Conner	358	Rodney McFarland	366
Raymond Foreman	359	Quinton McFarland	367
Trina Teixeira	360	Breann Clark	368
Whitney Rhodus	361	Kimberly Clark	369
Kristin Bourgeois	362		

### Internships Registered

Chantel Young	0466	Ethan Edwards	0485
Geoffrey Polson	0467	Devyn Broussard	0486
Charleston Demby	0468	Paula Rush	0487
Keionne Molizone	0469	Shontria Smothers	0488
Jeremy Wood	0470	Angela Almeida	0489
Marion Greene	0471	David Lassere	0490
Catherine Hunt	0472	Emily Truitt	0491
Melissa Scleson	0473	Corey Hughes	0492
Rachel Chaddrick	0474	Caney LeJeune	0493
Marcus Ownes	0475	Smietanko McCoy	0494
Chera Ward	0476	Linda McGarry	0495
AnnMarie Smith	0477	Parris George	0496
Adrien Berry	0478	Lance Leone	0497
Kimberly Jones	0479	Kourtney Kennedy	0498
Dakota Tucker	0480	Gwensolyn DeLong	0499
Paula Forrest	0481	Angela Jones	0500
Laura Garcia	0482	Kassidy Lemons	0501
Amanda Delaune	0483	Tywanna Kaigler	0502
Garrett Price	0484		

Motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Dixon and unanimously passed that the Executive Director's report be accepted as presented.

Ms. Michel presented the Inspector's report on behalf of Mr. Daigle's absence. Ms. Michel noted the report as there are 779,250 miles on the vehicle. Since the beginning of 2021, a total of 101 inspections have been completed so far this year, 84 inspections since the last meeting, and this represents the total number of inspections since the beginning of 2021.

Motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Southall and unanimously passed that the Inspector's report as presented be accepted.

The minutes of January 12, 2021 were not completed at the time of this meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Dixon and seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously passed that the minutes be tabled until they have been completed for review at the next meeting of the Board.

The financial report and budget for FY 20/21 was presented for review and consideration.

Motion was made by Mr. Luneau, seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously passed that the financial report be accepted as presented.

The Complaint Review Committee's report was presented to the Board by Ms. Chanel Debose, Prosecuting Attorney.

Ms. Debose reiterated that complaints are presented to the Board summarily by facts only. Names, funeral establishments and licensees remain anonymous during the summary presentation in an open meeting and remain anonymous while a complaint is pending further investigation and/or until such time as the complaint file has been closed.

Motion was made by Mr. Brasseaux, seconded by Mr. Rhodes and unanimously passed that 19.20.0024, be scheduled for a formal hearing, all as per the recommendations of the complaint review committee.

For the record, Mr. Muleisen recused himself from any discussion of this matter due to the fact that he was President at the time of discovery and a member of the Complaint Review Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Southall, seconded by Mr. Rhodes and unanimously passed that 19.20.0010, there appears to be no violation of the statutes, rules and/or regulations under which the Board is empowered to operate, all as per the recommendations of the complaint review committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Luneau and unanimously passed that 19.20.0011, be tabled pending the civil litigation.

Motion was made by Mr. Luneau, seconded by Mr. Brasseaux and unanimously passed that 20.21.0012, there appears to be no violation of the statutes, rules and/or regulations under which the Board is empowered to operate, all as per the recommendations of the complaint review committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Mr. Southall, seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously passed that 19.20.0013, that an informal hearing be scheduled to ascertain additional information in order for a decision to be made re this matter.

Motion was made by Mr. Brasseaux, seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously passed that 20.21.0014, there appears to be no violation of the statutes, rules and/or regulations under which the Board is empowered to operate, all as per the recommendations of the complaint review committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Luneau and unanimously passed that 20.21.0015, there appears to be no violation of the statutes, rules and/or regulations under which the Board is empowered to operate, all as per the recommendations of the complaint review committee.

appears to be no violation of the statutes, rules and/or regulations under which the Board is empowered to operate, all as per the recommendations of the complaint review committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Brasseaux, seconded by Mr. Dixon, and unanimously passed that the Board move into Executive Session at 10:30 AM for discussion of complaint matters.

Motion was made by Mr. Brasseaux, seconded by Mr. Luneau and unanimously passed that the Board move out of Executive Session at 11:30 AM.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 1:30PM.



Willie Davis, Jr.

Willie Davis, Jr., Secretary



Rodney McFarland, Sr.

Rodney McFarland, Sr., President

