

Louisiana State Board of Embalmers And Funeral Directors

Minutes of the Meeting

For

May 11, 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

Shelton R. Dixon, Consumer Representative via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by the Board's President, Mr. McFarland at 9:05 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, Jude Daigle, Inspector, Ryan Seidemann, General Counsel and Chanel R. Debose, Prosecuting Attorney. Edward Muhleisen was not present at today's meeting.

Meeting of the Board via Zoom

NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE PERMITTED

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ldeChpzlvGtV0u9AukU9R8Cf4RTIAbyz4](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJ0ldeChpzlvGtV0u9AukU9R8Cf4RTIAbyz4)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Resolution

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

Karen Trass Teamer

funeral director license U-1583, Lake Providence, who departed this life on March 30, 2021;

Whereas: *Karen Trass Teamer 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: *Karen Trass Teamer offered her counsel, judgment and time to the funeral profession for over ten years; and,*

Whereas: *Karen Trass Teamer 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 Karen Trass Teamer 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.*

COMPLIANCE, HEARING and/or ADMISSION AND CONSENT

An update with regard to the Laws and Rules Committee meeting which was held on Monday, May 10, 2021 was discussed with the Board.

There were several items that are being discussed with regard to renewals and branch locations. It was noted that all of the regulations need to be restructured as the current language is outdated.

The President, Mr. McFarland, requested that Mr. Brasseaux chair the Laws and Rules Committee in order to progress forward with the considerably needed changes.

A request was made by Jason Dickinson for his temporary license to be extended beyond the expiration date in order to prepare for the exam.

A motion was made by Mr. Southall, seconded by Ms. Aquillard, and unanimously passed that the request be denied.

Ms. Michel presented her report, noting that Certemy has completed the initial development for the website portal system and now they are working on the progression to begin the “live” phase.

Ms. Michel presented the Board with the licensing report for new licenses, reinstatements and interns registered.

License & Registry Update

Updated on 5/10/2021

Funeral Establishments - new issue

Establishment Ownership/Location/Name Change

Crematory Establishment - new issue

Embalmer and Funeral Director License - new issue

Paige Aymond E-2920

Funeral Director License - new issue

Toni Palestina U-1728

Retort Operator License - new issue

Davis Eidson	384
Darrell Darden	385
Kevion Haynes	386
Aason Fortune	387

Internships Registered

Eric Outley	0530	Heather Jenkins	534
Robert Smith	0531	Earl Richardson	535
Travis Smith	0532	Alexis Balfantz	536
Laura Aldrich	0533		

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

Mr. Daigle presented his inspector's report as; 83, 200 miles is the total mileage on the 2017 Ford Fusion. Since the beginning of 2021 a total of 222 inspections have been done so far this year. 57 Inspections since the last meeting. This represents the total number of inspections since the beginning of 2021.

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

The minutes of April 13, 2021 were presented for review and approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Brasseaux and seconded by Mr. Luneau and unanimously passed that the minutes be modified to reflect the appropriate city with the Findings of Fact from Gonzales to St. Martinville and once the correction has been made the minutes can be approved.

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

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

Mr. McFarland, Chair, requested that the financial information be emailed for preview prior to the meetings.

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

Ms. Debose reiterated that the complaints are presented anonymously in numerical format to the Board with the Complaint Review Committee's decision based upon the information presented at the time of review. The numbered complaints presented in an open meeting remains anonymous while a complaint is pending further investigation and/or until such time as the complaint file has been closed.

There were thirteen complaints of which eight complaints were recommended for informal hearings and/or further discovery, three complaints were recommended for formal hearings, one complaint is pending legal proceeding in civil court and one complaint was recommended as no apparent violation.

Motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Luneau and unanimously passed that the complaint report be accepted as presented per the recommendations of the Complaint Review Committee.

A discussion ensued with regard to online funeral service operations by funeral homes and clarity needing to be given with referencing such services to a specific funeral home name. Cremation Society of Acadiana, although operating via Martin and Castille Funeral Home, CSA is not specifically associated with the Martin and Castille Funeral Home name noted upon the website and several comments and concerns were addressed to the Board for clarification for this operation.

Mr. Seidemann was standing in for Mr. Lento at today's meeting. Through the discussions with Mr. Seidemann it was decided that the situation be reviewed and if determined for cause, a cease and desist letter should be drafted and forwarded to Martin and Castille Funeral Home.

Motion was made by Mr. Southall, seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously passed that a cease and desist order be served to Martin and Castille Funeral Home, Lafayette who serves as the owner of the online business which appears it is not licensed to operate as such.

NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting of the board will be on June 22, 2021 and July 20, 2021 and there will be a Laws Rules Committee meeting scheduled for June 18, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 11:00 AM.

Willie Davis, Jr.

Willie Davis, Jr., Secretary

Rodney McFarland, Sr.

Rodney McFarland, Sr., President

