



On Wednesday, October 8, 2025, the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (“LSBEFD”) conducted a regularly scheduled in-person meeting at the board office located at The Executive Towers 3500 N. Causeway Boulevard Suite 1232 Metairie, Louisiana 70002 in accordance with La. R.S. 37:831, et seq and other applicable law.

1) Call to Order

Chairman Stephen Boudreaux called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Opening remarks were given by Chairman Stephen Boudreaux stating the mission statement and the purpose of the LSBEFD.

2) Roll Call

Board Members Present

Stephen Boudreaux – Chairman
Anna Wilbert-Breaux
Willie Davis, Jr.
Troy Dennard
Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III
Terry Luneau
Kelly Rush Savoy

A quorum was present.

Board Members Present

Rev. Shelton C. Dixon
Gregory McKneely

Others Present

Kim W. Michel - Executive Director
R. DeMale Bowden, Jr. – Inspector
Carrie L. Jones – General Counsel

3) Invocation

Board Member Terry Luneau led the invocation

4) Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Charles Joseph “Joe” Eagan, III led the Pledge of Allegiance

5) Public Comments

Chairman Boudreaux asked if there were any public comments? *No public comment cards submitted, nor were there any public comment submitted online via Microsoft TEAMS from virtual participants.*

Board Member Terry Luneau moved to amend the agenda to receive an Admission and Consent in lieu of a formal hearings for agenda item #10 - Disciplinary Matters 23.24.0034 / 24.25.0004 Contempt Hearing in the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale and 24.25.0039 / 24.25.0044 Formal Hearing in the Matter of White Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale, which was seconded by Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Troy Dennard moved to accept the amended, which was seconded by Board Member Charles Joseph “Joe” Eagan, III. The motion passed unanimously.

6) Consent Agenda

Chairman Boudreaux presented the consent agenda including:

- a. Executive Director's Report
- b. Financial Report
- c. Inspector's Report
- d. Complaint Review Report

Board Member Terry Luneau moved to accept the consent agenda, which was seconded by Board Member Troy Dennard. The motion passed unanimously.

7) Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 2025 meeting

Chairman Boudreaux noted that the August 2025 Board Meeting minutes had been circulated to the board members via email prior to the meeting and asked if there were any changes.

Board Member Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III moved to accept the August 2025 meeting minutes as written, which was seconded by Board Member Kelly Rush-Savoy. The motion passed unanimously.

8) Unfinished Business

The was no unfinished business to come before the board.

9) New Business

a. Amendment to Contract for Chanel R. Debose

General Counsel Jones, Chairman Boudreaux, and Executive Director Michel presented the contract amendment for Prosecuting Attorney Chanel R. Debose.

Board Member Terry Luneau moved to amend the contract for Prosecuting Attorney Chanel R. Debose, which was seconded by Board Member Troy Dennard. The motion passed unanimously. Board Member Terry Luneau moved to allow Board Executive Director Kim W. Michel to sign on behalf of the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors and to enter into the approved contractual obligations with Prosecuting Attorney Chanel R. Debose on behalf of the Board, which was seconded by Board Member Kelly Rush-Savoy. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Inspections

i. Cameras in the embalming room

Inspector Bowden presented the Board with a recent inquiry regarding the use of cameras/video surveillance in embalming rooms. Discussion ensued. The Board members agreed that this should be addressed by the Laws & Rule Committee. No Board action was taken. Chairman Boudreaux directed staff to let the licensee know that the inquiry would be submitted to the Laws & Rules Committee.

ii. New establishment covered areas

Inspector Bowden presented the Board with photos of new establishment covered areas and sought guidance as to whether the coverings complied with the requirements of 1107(B)(7). Discussion ensued. The majority of the Board members concurred that the covered areas depicted in the photos were not professional for a funeral establishment; however, it met the minimum requirements in the law and that the issue should be submitted to the Laws & Rules Committee. No Board action was taken. Jackie Winemiller provided a public comment.

iii. Refrigeration at stand-alone crematories

Inspector Bowden discussed the issue of refrigeration at stand-alone crematories and sought guidance from the Board. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bowden explained that only funeral establishments, coroners, hospitals, medical schools, and anatomical boards should have refrigeration by present law and referred to La. R.S. 37:848 and Louisiana Administrative Code Title 51 XXVI-103. The Board advised that stand-alone crematories should be contacted about their refrigeration.

c. Discussion regarding fee increase

Inspector Bowden presented a spreadsheet of initial and renewal fees for the following states: Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Oklahoma. The board asked Inspector Bowden to find other states that are self-supported boards and make a comparison of their fees versus the present LSBEFD fees.

d. Discussion regarding restructuring of Complaint Review Committee

General Counsel Jones and Inspector Bowden gave comments regarding the present complaint review committee. After discussion, it was suggested that the complaint review committee consist of the Board Chairman, the Executive Director of the Board, and the Inspector/Investigator, which now removes the Prosecuting Attorney from participating in the complaint review process. A clear outline of the suggested complaint review committee and process will be presented to the board at the December meeting.

e. Website and database

Inspector Bowden presented updates on the Board's new website and database. Inspector Bowden reported that the website seems to be working well, and the licensees like it. Renewals are being done online and interns are submitting monthly case reports online. The Inspector has visited meetings of LFDA South District and LFDA Southeast District Meeting, as well as LFD&MA state association to provide information about the website and to address any concerns that licensees may have. He is scheduled to present to LFDA about the new website and database during its general membership meeting in November, and LFDA's Southwest and North Districts during their regular meetings, TBD.

f. Election of new officers

The election of new officers was tabled until the December meeting, as Chairman Boudreaux asked the board members to review the Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer duties and see who might be interested in those positions.

g. Notarization requirement for the board's continuing education roster

Executive Director Michel discussed the notarization requirement on continuing education rosters submitted to the board. Discussion ensued. *Board Member Kelly Rush-Savoy moved to amend/revise the board's continuing education roster, allowing only the signature of the person or group sponsoring the continuing education course so that the form no longer requires notarization. The motion was seconded by Board Member Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III and passed unanimously. Executive Director Michel will work on the revised continuing education roster form to reflect the Board's action.*

Board Member Terry Luneau moved to go into the executive session to discuss investigative proceedings and disciplinary matters regarding allegations of misconduct, ongoing litigation, and personnel matters, which was seconded by Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 10:35AM.

10) Disciplinary Matters*

- a) 23.24.0034 / 24.25.0004 Contempt Hearing in the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale
- b) 24.25.0039 / 24.25.0044 Formal Hearing in the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale

11) Executive Session (pursuant to LA R.S. 42:17)

a. Report on Litigation

- 1. Marybeth Harrington v LSBEFD - Nicholas Oshea Barber-Cypress Funeral Services, CDC Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana, Docket # 20124-00124
- 2. Gary Lewis, New Orleans Funeral and Cremation Service v LSBEFD, CDC Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana, Docket # 2024-06195
- 3. Gary Lewis, New Orleans Funeral and Cremation Service v LSBEFD, CDC Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana, Docket # 2024-06196
- 4. Gary Lewis, New Orleans Funeral and Cremation Service v LSBEFD, CDC Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana, Docket # 2025-00465

b. Personnel Matters

i. Evaluations

The Board returned from executive session at 12:54 PM. A roll call was conducted following executive session. Present were Chairman Stephen Boudreaux, Anna Wilbert-Breaux, Willie Davis, Jr., Troy Dennard, Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III, Terry Luneau, and Kelly Rush Savoy. Board Members Rev. S.C. Dixon and Gregory McKneely were absent.

The Board made several motions following its discussion of disciplinary matters during executive session. In considering the consolidated Admission and Consent in the Matters 23.24.0034 / 24.25.0004 Contempt in the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale and 24.25.0039 / 24.25.0044 Formal Charges in the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale are as follows:

- 1. Board Member Willie Davis, Jr., moved to accept the Admission and Consent submitted by White Oaks Funeral Home and Gregory Strother (collectively referred to as Respondent), which was seconded by Board Member Troy Dennard. The motion passed.
Board Members Stephen Boudreaux, Kelly Rush-Savoy and Terry Luneau recused themselves.

2. Board Member Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III moved that the Board fine Respondent a total of \$1,800 for violating La. R.S. 37:846(A)(5) (unprofessional, unethical, or dishonest conduct) – 11 counts, which was seconded by Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. The motion passed.
Board Members Stephen Boudreaux, Kelly Rush-Savoy and Terry Luneau recused themselves.
3. Board Member Anna Wilbert-Breaux moved that the Board fine Respondent a total of \$4,500 for violating La. R.S. 37:865(B)(2) (restrictions on use or disposition of funds) – 4 counts of failing to deposit funds into a preneed insurance policy, which was seconded by Board Member Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III. The motion passed.
Board Members Stephen Boudreaux, Kelly Rush-Savoy and Terry Luneau recused themselves.
4. Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. moved that the Board fine Respondent a total of \$4,500 for violating La. R.S. 37:865(B)(1) (restrictions on use or disposition of funds) – 4 counts of failing to deposit funds into a funeral trust account, which was seconded by Board Member Troy Dennard. The motion passed.
Board Members Stephen Boudreaux, Kelly Rush-Savoy and Terry Luneau recused themselves.
5. Board Member Troy Dennard moved that the Board fine Respondent a total of \$4,500 for violating La. R.S. 37:865(D) (restrictions on use or disposition of funds) – 14 counts of failing to file annual report of funeral trust account with the LSBEFD, which was seconded by Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. The motion passed.
Board Members Stephen Boudreaux, Kelly Rush-Savoy and Terry Luneau recused themselves.
6. Board Member Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III moved that the Board fine Respondent a total of \$4,500 for violating La. R.S. 37:865(B) (restrictions on use or disposition of funds) – 4 counts of having access and use of personnel funds contrary to law, which was seconded by Board Member Anna Wilbert-Breaux. The motion passed.
Board Members Stephen Boudreaux, Kelly Rush-Savoy and Terry Luneau recused themselves.
7. Board Member Anna Wilbert-Breaux moved that the Board assess Respondent with all attorney fees associated with this Admission and Consent and preparing the Board Order, which was seconded by Board Member Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III. The motion passed.
Board Members Stephen Boudreaux, Kelly Rush-Savoy and Terry Luneau recused themselves.
8. Board Member Troy Dennard, moved that Respondent be ordered to pay the total of all fines and attorney fees within 45 days of issuance of the Board Order and that failure to pay will result in the automatic suspension of the establishment's license for a minimum of sixty (60) days and the license shall not be reinstated until the fine and fees are paid in full, which was seconded by Board Member Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III. The motion passed.
Board Members Stephen Boudreaux, Kelly Rush-Savoy and Terry Luneau recused themselves.

12) Closing Remarks

Final statements and closing remarks were given by Chairman Boudreaux. The next board meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

13) Adjournment

Board Member Terry Luneau moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.