

FROM THE DESK OF THE STATE

GENERAL SECRETARY

Post Office Box 11913
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
866 711-3103 (Voice Mail); 866 706-4529 (Fax)
Web Address: www.scmainsc.com;
Email: scmainc@gmail.com
September 2010

District governors, secretaries and members are reminded and requested to notify the General Secretary of the following:

- Any changes in member's address, fax, telephone, or email address;
- Continuing education workshops so all members can be informed;
- Extended illnesses of members
- Any other special meetings/events.

Please send all your notices including death notices to either one of the following:

Mailing Address:
SCMA, Inc.
Post Office Box 11913
Columbia, SC 29211
Fax: 1-866-706-4529
Email: scmainc@gmail.com

Please feel free to call me with any questions, suggestions or critiques. I hope your 2011 will prove to be a health, happy and prosperous year for you.

Lou Ann Pyatt
Lou Ann Pyatt

Find Us On The Web At;
www.scmainsc.com

Karl Bowman
Public Relations Officer
Fax # (843) 346-7503
E-mail Address: foetoemprints@bellsouth.net
Post PO Box 186
Timmonsville, SC 29161

Publication Date: 2-2011

Condolences

Prayers are offered to the families of the following:

Mr. Clarence Moultrie passed on October 16, 2010. Mr. Moultrie was the uncle of Past President and former District I Governor, Ms. Barbara V. Nelson.

Mr. Willie James Nelson passed on January 4, 2011. Mr. Nelson was the father of State Treasurer, Mr. Eddie J. Nelson.

"Look for the good in every person and every situation. You'll almost always find it."
~Brian Tracy

Too late to mourn ...

A man placed some flowers on the grave of his dearly departed mother and started back toward his car when his attention was diverted to another man kneeling at a grave. The man seemed to be praying with profound intensity and kept repeating, "Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die?" The first man approached him and said, "Sir, I don't wish to interfere with your private grief, but this demonstration of pain is more than I've ever seen before. For whom do you mourn so deeply? A child? A parent?" The mourner took a moment to collect himself, then replied, "My wife's first husband."



The Connection

Newsletter



SOUTH CAROLINA MORTICIANS ASSOCIATION

Reaching Back, Moving Forward with Ethics with the Next Generation.

Staying On Track With Constructive Planning



**FROM
THE
DESK
OF OUR
STATE
PRESIDENT**

James T. Flemming, Jr.

I would like to extend a Happy New Year to the SCMA family. I pray this New Year is filled with health, growth and prosperity. As we move through this year taking inventory of our lives, businesses and SCMA, we need to resolve to make improvements that will benefit us throughout the calendar year. Let us all bear in mind, resolutions not panning out has more to do with the fact that they are basically “just good ideas”. Often times these “good” ideas are not implemented because there is no plan of action put in place to make them effective. To make the necessary improvements, it is imperative to have a sound plan and commitment from all parties involved. Without the two, there is no tangible driving force to make our vision a reality.

This year I hope SCMA endeavor will be to make a pledge to our vision, marked by constructive strategic planning that results will ensue beyond 2011. With that said, our plan needs to be inclusive enough that all team members can grasp the agenda we have laid out. We also need to believe that the goal is worthwhile and all are free to engage in the thought process. If we establish this blueprint up front than we can pattern ourselves to think only of the best, work only for the greatest, and to expect the most excellent.

I am truly humble to serve SCMA and the state of South Carolina. I personally thank all of you for your support and prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,
James T. Flemming, President

South Carolina Consumer Affairs

Please note, the South Carolina Consumer Affairs office moved the end of December. When mailing any contracts, applications, etc., please continue to send to: Post Office Box 29250-5757.

The new location is: 2221 Devine Street, Suite 200, Columbia, SC 29205.

The telephone numbers remain the same: 803 734-4297 or 1 800 922-1594.

www.sconsumer.gov

**A Survey of Funeral Pricing Practices among Funeral Homes
Serving the Greater Columbia Area**

Gere B. Fulton, Ph. D., J. D.

Funeral Consumers Alliance of South Carolina

The seventh in a series of surveys of funeral pricing practices among South Carolina’s funeral homes; the fifth in the Greater Columbia area, was presented to the South Carolina Board of Funeral Service on December 15, 2010. The previous Columbia surveys were completed in 2001, 2003, 2005, and 2007. There have also been surveys of Charleston’s funeral homes (2005) and those in the Upstate (2009). All of the surveys have been conducted by and for the Funeral Consumers Alliance of South Carolina, a not-for-profit consumer education and advocacy organization that is one of more than one-hundred local affiliates of the national Funeral Consumers Alliance.

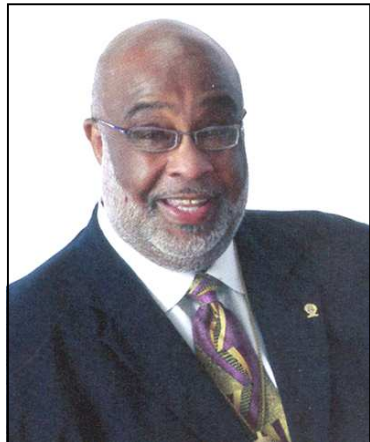
Contact Lou Ann Pyatt if you would like to have a copy of this surveyed forwarded to you.

Photos from The Sixth District Continuing Education Seminar on OSHA Training

Photographs taken and provided by

Mr. Raymond Davis of Davis Funeral Home, Marion, SC





FTC Funeral Rule----Do you really understand it????

For the past six years one of my jobs has been to review the GPL (General Price List), CPL (Casket Price List), OBCPL (Outer Burial Container Price List) and the SOGSs (Statement of Goods and Services Selected). We all know, or should know, the beginnings of the Funeral Rule –How it came into being, why it came into being and why we just don't believe we have got to do what is required by the rule.

Yes, you read that last phrase correct. Let me print it again—"why we just don't believe we have got to do what is required by the rule."

Six years ago the Funeral Service Board of South Carolina set on a course to ensure that the practitioners in the state would be in compliance with the funeral rule. Each licensed firm was mailed or given the FTC rule Book provided by the FTC. Each of the required lists was examined by board members and the practitioner was sent the corrections.

Now six years later, we still have practitioners that still don't get it! Throughout my travels across the nation I look at what other practitioners are doing and I find that there are non-compliance problems across our nation. What are some of the errors that make these lists non-compliant?

Here are some of the most common errors:

1. No physical address
2. No effective date
3. Not using the prescribed FTC Language
4. Not having the casket range and the outer burial range on the GPL match the Prices on the CPL and the OBCPL.
5. Not reviewing to see if the prices for the immediate burial and Direct Cremation match up with the merchandise.
6. Not using the disclosure on the OBCPL that begins "In most areas of the country..."
7. Not giving enough information in order for a consumer to know what merchandise they are purchasing.
8. Not having a supply of the list when asked for one.
9. Not having ever read the FTC Information and understanding it.
10. Waiting for me to come inspect and change it for them.

What do you need to do to make sure that you are in compliance?

1. Google "Complying with the FTC Funeral Rule." When you do this, you can print all the information provided by the FTC.
2. Read the information with understanding.
3. Use the samples provided by the FTC.
4. If you should have any problems, e-mail the FTC they will help.
5. Call me, I might help.

What is the penalty for not complying? The FTC fine can be upwards of \$10,000 per violation. That is a lot of money. There are other penalties and solutions but, I want to see if you will take time to read and understand the FTC Funeral Rule.

I hope the provided information will make you more aware of the obligations you have to comply with the regulations of the FTC.

Information provided by Ernest C. Adams, Jr. CFSP Inspector for the South Carolina Board of Funeral Service and President of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Associations, Inc.

Continuing Education Seminar.....

SCMA, Inc. members are invited to the continuing education seminar being sponsored by the Fifth District as outlined below:

The Fifth District of the South Carolina Morticians Association is sponsoring a Continuing Education Seminar on "Known Shipper/Shipping of Remains Internationally", from 6:30-9:30 pm, on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at Crawford Funeral Home, 410 W. Meeting Street, Lancaster, SC 29720.

The seminar is open to all Licensed Funeral Directors. The seminar is free to all members of the Fifth District, and \$35.00 for non-members. If you have any questions, you can contact Monique Ramseur of Mike Thornwell at (803)327-4245.



Member of N.F.D.M.A.

SOUTH CAROLINA MORTICIANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Post Office Box 11913;

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Web: www.scmainc.com; Email: scmainc@gmail.com

2011 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 2011

- January 1, Happy New Year!
- January 15-31, Submit Written Notice of Intent to Seek State Office
- January 21, Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observed

FEBRUARY 2011

- February 6-7, 2011, NFDMA, Inc., District III Tri-State Seminar & Conference Durham Marriott Convention Center, Durham, NC
- February 8, State Board of Funeral Service
- February 10-25, Submit Items for SCMA, Inc. Newsletter
- February 14, Valentine's Day
- February 21, President's Day
- February 24, 6:30 p.m., SCMA, Inc. Board Meeting*

MARCH 2011

- March 13, Daylight Savings Begins
- March 15-31, Submit Awards Information for Professional of Year, etc.

APRIL 2011

- April 1-15, Submit Annual Convention Registration
- April 1-15, Submit Annual Membership Dues
- April 14, 6:30 p.m., SCMA, Inc. Board Meeting*
- April 24, Happy Easter
- April 30-May 3, 2011, NFD&MA, Inc. Annual House of Representative Meeting Hilton Memphis Hotel, 939 Ridge Lake Boulevard, Memphis, TN 38120

- April 30, 2011, Submit Membership Applications

MAY 2011

- May Newsletter
- May 5, State Board Of Funeral Service
- May 9, SCMA, Inc. Board Meeting
- May 9-12, SCMA, Inc. 86th Annual State Convention, Columbia, SC

*Unless otherwise stated, the SCMA, Inc. Board of Directors Meetings will be held at the Benedict College Business Development Center, 2601 Read Street, (Corner of Two Notch Road and Read Street), Columbia, SC 29204.

"It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err."

[Mahatma Gandhi](#)

*Be my Valentine: What does that mean?
Each of us must walk through life alone,
More deeply desolate than we have known,
Yearning for a truth we've never seen.*

*Valentines are from beyond that dream,
Are like a sunrise on a world of stone.
Little on this journey can we own
Except as miracles might intervene.*

*No way but through loving might we give
The freedom of our being to another.
In such a sacrifice we hope to live
No longer bound by dreams of flesh and bone,
Even as we bind our lives together.*



SOUTH CAROLINA MORTICIANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Membership Year 2011 Renewal _____ New Member _____
 Choose One: Funeral Director/Embalmer: _____ Student: _____
 Apprentice Funeral Director/Embalmer: _____

Local, State and National Membership Form

Please Note: Must pay State and National Dues as mandated by SCMA, Inc. Constitution & Bylaws.
 (Please Print)

Title Preference: Mr. ___ Ms. ___ Mrs. ___ Rev. ___ Dr. ___ Other _____
 Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone (Hm): _____ (O) _____ (Fax) _____

Email Address: _____

*Funeral Director/Embalmer Information

Membership Fee: \$200 State; \$350 National; District Dues: \$ _____

*Member of District #: _____ District Officer: ___ Yes ___ No, Position _____

Funeral Home Affiliation: _____

Funeral Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Funeral Home Telephone: _____ Funeral Home Fax: _____

Funeral Director License # _____; Embalmer # _____

Funeral Home Owner: ___ Yes; ___ No.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

**Student information (Students Only)

Student Fee: First year, \$25 State Dues; Thereafter, \$50, until Apprentice (\$50 fee includes state and national dues.) District Dues: \$ _____

**Mortuary School: _____ Anticipated Graduation: _____

City _____ State _____ School Telephone (_____) _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

***Apprentice Information (Apprentice Only)

Apprentice Fee: First year, \$100.00; Thereafter \$150 until licensed (Second year includes \$75 national dues.)

District Dues: \$ _____

***Funeral Home Affiliation: _____

Funeral Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Apprenticeship Period: _____

Supervising Funeral Director/Embalmer: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Note: This Form is to be used for reporting your National, State and District Dues Only.

<u>District Dues</u>			
<i>District 1</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>	<i>District 2</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>District 3</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	<i>District 4</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>
<i>District 5</i>	<i>\$45.00</i>	<i>District 6</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **SCMA, Inc.**

Remit to: **SCMA, Inc.**

Post Office Box 11913

Columbia, SC 29211

Dues are considered late after April 30, 2011.

Our Mission:

To assist our members in furthering their funeral service knowledge through continuing education, to provide a professional environment for networking with other members of the funeral service industry, to provide a dignified ethical service when loved ones have been entrusted to our care, and to insure the safety and protection of our communities by caring for the living.

Awards Committee

Criteria:

1. No present member of the Awards & Honors Committee is eligible for the award.
2. The nominee must be a licensed funeral director and/or embalmer (a copy of license or pocket card must be submitted with nomination).
3. The nominee must have a minimum of five (5) consecutive years of membership with the SCMA, Inc.
4. The nominee must have been a registered attendee of at least two (2) state events consisting of the following: Annual Convention & Mid-winter conference within the past three (3) years.
5. The nominee should not have held the office of President of SCMA, Inc. if the tenure of office as President has been less than (3) years of the nomination of Professional of the Year.
6. The nominee must have documentation submitted on official stationary to contributions to SCMA, Inc. District Associations, other local associations, community involvement, and religious affiliations.
7. The nominee must submit a photo and resume.
8. The nominee must have received an endorsement from the district (governor, vice governor, secretary, or treasurer, or all) with a letter reflecting such endorsement submitted by each respective person on official stationary.
9. The nominee shall not have any legal infringement of the funeral profession and/or their individual funeral service license, which is regulated by the State licensing board within three (3) years of their submission for the award.
10. The recipient of SCMA, Inc. Professional of the Year will be the highlighted award for the evening of the awards banquet.
11. **Nominations are to be submitted between March 15-30 each year.**

Committee Members:

Elizabeth Simmons, Chairperson

B.J. Myers

Talitha A. Thomas

Willa Young

Hayes Samuels, Jr.

J. Monique Ramsey

Wallace McKnight, Jr.

SCMA, Inc.
86th Annual Convention
May 9-12, 2011

Location: Radisson Hotel Columbia
 2100 Bush River Road
 Columbia, SC 29210
 1 803 731-0300 or 1 800 333-3333
 Website: www.radisson.com/columbiase

Room Rate: \$109.00, King Non-Smoking; Queen-Queen
 Non-Smoking

Cut-off Date: Saturday, April 9, 2011

