

*The Annual Report of the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts, presented at
The 2016 Tri-State Convention, May 10, 2016, @ 8:30 a.m., in the Overland Park Convention
Center, Overland Park, Kansas
Presented by KSBMA Executive Secretary Mack Smith*

President Bill (Nicholson), the KFSA Board of Directors, the Sales Club, Licensees and Guests. On behalf of the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts, I welcome you to Overland Park, Kansas and to the 2016 Tr-State Convention. On behalf of KSBMA President Bill Cozine, it's my pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts.

Our five board members, who are appointed by the Governor, include: President Bill Cozine, a licensee from Wichita; our Vice President, Barry Bedene, a licensee from Arma; Board Member Steve Melby, a licensee from Mankato; Board Member Theresa Schwartz, a consumer from Lawrence, and Board Member Bob Steil, also a consumer from Lawrence, Kansas.

Our administrative staff consists of: Administrative Specialist and Office Manager Sherry Fergel, from Topeka. Sherry has been a member of our staff for more than two years now, and is the voice you hear for the greater majority of the time when calling our office. She has a good working knowledge of our rulebook and is able to assist licensees and consumers alike. Our Funeral Home/Crematory Inspector is Francis Mills, a licensee from Leavenworth. Francis has been with the Board for more than 30 years, and we'd be lost without him. He's like the energizer bunny and has quite the historical knowledge of Kansas funeral homes and the funeral industry here in the State. I am the Board's executive secretary, and I am a licensee from Silver Lake, and have worked for the Board for almost 36 years.

The Board's legal staff, appointed by the Kansas Attorney General, is: Assistant Attorney General Jan Arndt and Assistant Attorney General Lisa Mendoza. Jan serves as the board's attorney, while Lisa is our litigation attorney.

The Omnibus Session of the 2016 Kansas Legislature just concluded. The bill with probably the biggest impact on funeral service is House Bill 2518 which as of January 1, 2017 will require all death certificates to be filed electronically through the Kansas Electronic Death Registration System. The bill passed the House 111-11, passed the Senate 39-1 and was

approved by Governor Sam Brownback on March 29th. A lot of different bills concerning the budget, but I'm not aware of any bills that would sweep fee funds from the Mortuary Arts Fee Fund into the State General Fund—which is good news.

Some numbers I'd like to report to you this morning:

Since legislation was passed requiring written examinations for assistant funeral directors beginning in February of 2008, a total of 218 examinations have been administered with a success rate of approximately 71%. As was reported with our current budget report, there are 2,255 licenses on file with the Board—90 more than one year prior. 1,812 individual licenses including 734 funeral directors, 633 embalmers, 251 assistant funeral directors, and 166 crematory operators. There are currently 37 apprentices registered with the Board—up from 16 a year ago. Of those apprentices, there are twenty (20) embalmer/funeral director apprentices and seventeen (17) funeral director apprentices. There is a total of 388 facility licenses—including 207 establishments, 147 branch establishment and 34 crematories. With close to 1,000 non-licensee contacts to the office annually and more than 20,000 hits a month on our web site, our administrative staff remains extremely busy answering a wide range of questions from licensees, prospective licensees and consumers.

In calendar year 2015, 41 complaints were reviewed by the Board's Investigative Committee—with 16 of those complaints filed by consumers. Unfortunately, this represents an increase of 17 from 2014. Violations included four fines ranging from \$100 to \$750, denying three applications, one application approved with conditions, two requirements of additional continuing education, eleven advisory letters and one case where addition training was required for crematory staff members.

In Fiscal Year 2015, Francis conducted 767 funeral home/crematory inspections covering 28,486 miles. There were six new funeral homes and two new crematories licensed in FY 2015.

Our redesigned website has been operational since June 1, 2015. Features include a search engine that is nice and easy to use and makes it easy to locate different features if you're not using the site map on the website.

On behalf of the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts, I would like to thank the association for the opportunity to be with you today. There are multiple learning possibilities at the Convention this year—including listening and learning with the presentations and taking advantage of the opportunity to visit with each other to share best practices, thoughts and ideas. I wish everyone the very best during the course of the convention and in the days ahead. Please feel free to discuss any questions you may have with Mortuary Arts board members and administrative staff here at the convention this week.

Thank you very much!

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mack Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "S".

Mack Smith, Executive Secretary
Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts

Tuesday, May 10, 2016