



Current News and Comments from the Pennsylvania Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association /

President's Message

Hello PCCFA members and friends,

From the newsletter team and I, belated greetings to our members and supplier! It's hard to excuse an August newsletter arriving in October, but we appreciate your patience. Our team of volunteers has put an enormous amount of energy into the new website that we will soon unveil, and as a result, we are behind in the newsletters production. We believe that our work with webCemeteries will justify this delay in the long term.



Because we are behind in the production of the newsletter, it is fortuitous in that we can promote the upcoming conference in Gettysburg. In-person conferences are back! Woo hoo! Please join us so that you can network with your peers or reacquaint yourself with old friends at our Sunday night reception and dinner. Monday morning will be filled with the speakers listed inside this newsletter. If you haven't been to Gettysburg since elementary school in a yellow school bus, we encourage you to attend the conference where we will have a Monday afternoon private, guided tour of the battlefield.

Also, we are happy to note cemetery preservation efforts around the state. We think you will find that a lot is going on around the state relative to preservation. It is great to share such valuable information.

Another change is coming as your board has approved that the KeyNews will become a hybrid publication. Two of our four issues will be printed and mailed. As we analyzed our membership, ten percent have no e-mail on file with us, so every e-mailed newsletter or Constant Contact blast miss those members.

In closing, it is my pleasure to announce the 2023 MidAtlantic States Cemetery and Funeral Conference has been scheduled for November 8-10, 2023 at the Hard Rock Hotel in Atlantic City. Be sure to pencil this one on your calendar.

Don't get spooked this Halloween. Sign-up for the PCCFA Fall Conference!

All the best,
Dagny Neel Fitzpatrick
President

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Conferences & Conventions

Spring 2023: Open
Mid Atlantic 2023 Dagny Neel Fitzpatrick and Ernie Petersen

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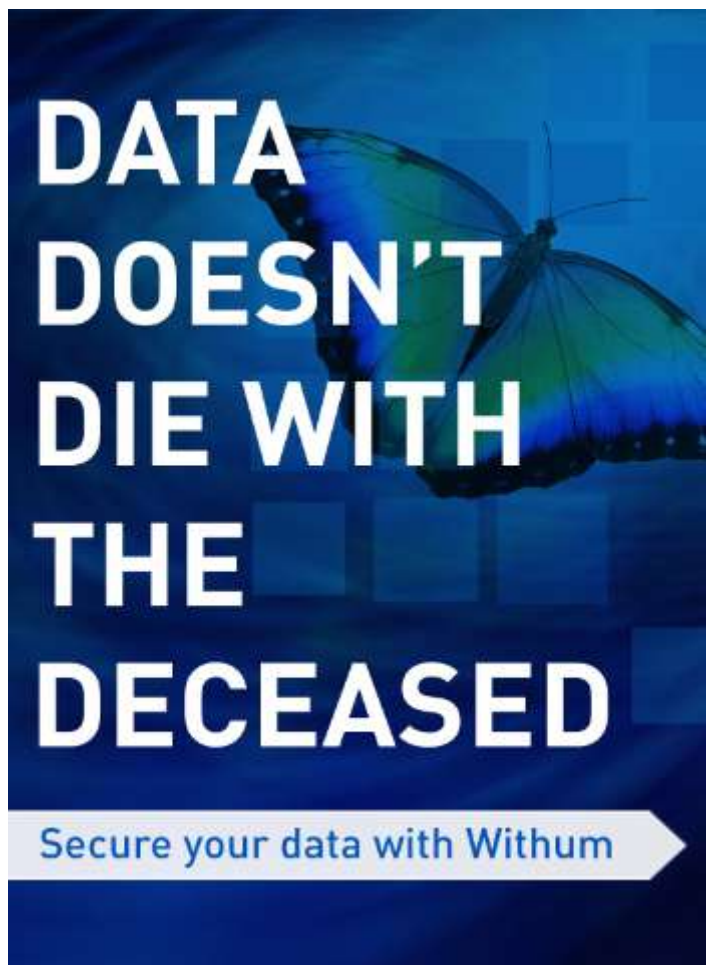
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Membership: Craig Schwalm

Nominating/Polling Committee David Michener with all Past Presidents

Political Action Committee Ernie Petersen

PCCFA Website-www.PCCFA.com Ernie Petersen and Brooke Neel



Benefits of Membership

By Craig Schwalm

- The eKeynews, a four times a year publication, delivered by e-mail.
- Two conferences a year with continuing education credits for funeral directors at PA locations. (Every other year, our fall conference is held in Atlantic City with four other states and there the education program provides credits and certifications.
- Access to the member only PCCFA Facebook page now with periodic updates about industry issues such as the pandemic.
- Constant Contact available for rapid communications. Suppliers take note!
- Access to our supplier members network
- The PCCFA complaint hotline helping us help cemeteries with consumer issues.
- An annual legislative reception, to make sure your representatives know they can come to us for assistance with pending legislation and constituent issues.
- A lobbyist looking out for our best interests in Harrisburg.
- Access to other cemeterians to network and brainstorm amid the changing and evolving death care industry. Green burials, spotted lantern fly, etc.

Cemetery Preservation Update

In 2018 during the term of President Frank Grabowski, a concerted effort was begun to address inquiries for assistance in the preservation of abandoned and neglected cemeteries and increase the sustainability of cemeteries challenged by forces not under their control. Cemetery administrators who manage their cemeteries like a park, rather than the tough business it is, simply will not survive.” says Andrew Conroy President of Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum in the Forward of A Cemetery Should be Forever by John F. Llewellyn. Llewellyn says in the book, “Cemeteries just don’t go away when they fail. . . They become eyesores, nuisances, or financial burdens to their communities.”

As we tell those that inquire to us for assistance, we can offer our professional expertise and access to other resources, but there is no magic bullet to give them and there is no calvary riding to the rescue. It is the community that is threatened by an eyesore, nuisance or financial burden that needs to act. The story of Sandyvale Memorial Gardens and Conservancy in Johnstown is a model that some may wish to embrace. For them, a wine dinner and wine festival has served to provide funds needed to stabilize a cemetery abandoned in the 1950’s. Others may like the one-night affairs at West Laurel Hill in Gravediggers’ Ball (Philadelphia) or Mount Bethel Cemetery’s Fete Noir (Columbia). Music, food, and dancing helps loosen the donations! The last two are “friends” group led activities where a nonprofit 501 c(3) exists to receive donations and these funds are passed at some time for the operation of the cemetery as a 501c(13) entity.

In the October 3, 2022 article, Perpetual Care Planned for Cemetery Where Thaddeus Stevens Rests, published in LancasterOnline, Jack Brubaker, the Scribbler Columnist, tells of efforts by Ross Hetrick, President of the Thaddeus Stevens Society, to establish an owner and an endowment fund for the Shreiner-Concord Cemetery. According to the article, the Shreiner family abandoned the cemetery mid-20th century leaving it ownerless. Currently, its maintenance is being addressed by volunteers of the Shreiner-Concord Cemetery Foundation and the City of Lancaster. They have engaged Saxton and Stump to assist them in this process. Many of you will recognize the firm Saxton and Stump as Jason Benion, Esq. Is a frequent contributor to this newsletter.

In the fall of 2021, the conference New Life for Old Cemeteries: Connecting Communities and Open Space took place virtually and provided some


excellent content and progressive approaches to many of the issues facing cemeteries and their workers today. The conference was sponsored by Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust, Historic Eden Cemetery, Laurel Hill Cemetery and West Laurel Hill Cemetery and Funeral Home, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, and The Woodlands. You can find their entire conference on YouTube:

Day 1: https://youtu.be/hBCuZp7rG_4

Day 2: <https://youtu.be/N2QmxTKEe3E>

In recent preservation news is the activity of Preservation Pennsylvania. Preservation Pennsylvania is a private organization that solicits funds to preserve and protect Pennsylvania places. Preservation Pennsylvania, in collaboration with Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds, is pleased to announce their pilot project, the Pennsylvania African American Cemetery Stewards Network, has been selected to receive grant funding from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The program will offer cemetery stewards site-specific preservation plans, financial advice, and direct support for site conservation and planning for future work.


Continued on Page 6



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Fall Conference 2022 at the Gettysburg Hotel

Co-chairs Harry Neel and Gary Buss want you to join with your association as they meet in Gettysburg this November.

Accommodation registration is now open and we encourage you to go to: http://pccfa.com/event_details.php?id=8 to get the registration form.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13TH, 2022

12:00 p.m.	Past Presidents' Meeting
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	PCCFA Board of Directors' Meeting
5:30-6:30 p.m. (Open Bar)	Welcome Reception <i>Sponsored by Ameriserv Trust and Roosevelt Investments</i>
6:30 p.m.	Banquet, President Welcome, prayer
8:00 to 8:20 p.m.	Speaker: TBA

MONDAY NOVEMBER 14TH, 2022

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast * <i>Sponsored by Coldsprings & Granite Bronze</i>
8:35 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance
8:40 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Dagny Neel-Fitzpatrick

EVENTS: The GOOD, the Bad and the UGLY

What happens when social media attacks you for doing a good thing.

9:30:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Kim Caughey Forrest - Bokeh Capital Partners, LLC on Investments – Your Captain through the Storm: Wild markets determine the value of professional money management
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Stretch and Coffee Break Sponsored by Batesville Casket Co.
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Jason Benion, Esquire – “Don’t do what they did. Lawsuits you don’t want to happen to you”
11:30 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Ross Hetrick, President of the Thaddeus Stevens Society The Historical Significance of Thaddeus Stevens during the Civil War & Reconstruction. The History of his Burial Cemetery and the efforts to preserve it.
11:50	Remarks
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch * Sponsored by Matthews International
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Afternoon private tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield * Sponsored By Thacker Caskets, Inc.
4:00 p.m.	Conference Concluded.



Cemetery Preservation Update

Con't from Page 4

Barry Rudel, Chief Executive of the Jewish Cemetery Burial Association of Greater Pittsburgh send us a link to their wonderful project taking you on a video tour of the cemeteries under the care of their association. Combined with the records located at the Heinz History Center this makes an integrated tribute to the Jewish legacy and heritage in western Pennsylvania. See for yourself (copy and paste into your browser.) <http://vimeo.com/showcase/jcba>.

The Ankeny Square Cemetery, Somerset, PA came under new care late last year. As reported in an article, "How this historic Somerset cemetery came to be under new care after more than 130 years" by by Dylan Johnson, for the Somerset Daily American. The Community Foundation of the Alleghenies is providing stewardship for the cemetery. Somerset County Director for the Foundation, Lladel Lichty has been actively involved in this project and several other cemeteries in Somerset County. While there may be other examples, this is the first time we have heard that a community foundation has committed to provide both financial and custody. The concern the previous association has is one that we at PCCFA hear a lot was their concern of an aging board,

It is reported in the article that the transfer was a long process that required approvals from local courts and the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. Now, foundation members will handle all of the funding and upkeep of the borough's oldest cemetery.

Finally, we have seen the press release from Saving Our Ancestors Legacy (SOAL). SOAL will be partnering with Messiah University and Harrisburg University to use photogrammetry to create a 3D story map of Harrisburg's oldest, extant, historically Black Cemetery: Lincoln Cemetery. By combining the use of drones to take many pictures of each gravestone in Lincoln Cemetery, historic aerial photographs, GIS data, the historic hand-drawn cemetery maps, SOAL Restoration Weekend photos, transcribed gravestone text, and maybe even Lincoln Cemetery genealogical research, we will be well on our way to setting the groundwork for using a new technology to preserve a Black Cemetery!

The issues of preservation and avoiding cemetery abandonment is of central importance to the PA cemetery industry. Expect more to come on these and other programs helping communities, associations and owners preserve their local cemeteries.

Final Responders Walk Beside Us on Our Most Difficult Days.

*We See You.
We Thank You.
We Appreciate You!*



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No, Trump Can't Take a Tax Break for Where His Wife Is Buried

Excerpts from an article written by Luke Lucas, CPA, as appeared in *Bloomberg Law and Bloomberg Tax*, published by The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

When former President Donald Trump's ex-wife, Ivana Trump, was buried at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster, theories surfaced that the grave's location could result in tax exemptions. Berkowitz Pollack Brant's Luke Lucas shares why the golf club doesn't qualify as a cemetery company and thus is not eligible for those tax breaks.

Theories quickly spread across [social media](#) and [news outlets](#) that the location of Ivana Trump's grave could result in tax exemptions from real property, income, sales and use, business, and inheritance taxes for the entity. While there might appear to be substantiation to the claims of massive tax benefits at face value by reading [NJ Publication ANJ-22](#), a deeper analysis based on New Jersey statute and public information reveals that as of right now, Trump National Golf Club Bedminster does not qualify and is not provided the tax benefits of being a cemetery company.

Generally, to qualify for any industry-specific benefit in the state and local tax realm, most or all of a business's activities need to be related to that industry to obtain the benefit. Although the Trump National Golf Club Bedminster does now have a gravesite located on the property, it is still a golf club and not a cemetery company.

Further, to be classified as a cemetery company, a business must be organized as a nonprofit corporation to operate a cemetery or be a for-profit business that provides management services for a cemetery. It also must obtain a certificate of authority from the New Jersey Cemetery Board.

While the decision by members of the Trump family to be laid to rest at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster may be puzzling to those of us on the outside, the research shows there is no loophole being taken advantage of at the time of this writing. The land that it sits on is not dedicated for cemetery use, and there is no official record of the business having a certificate to operate as a cemetery company—not yet, at least. Therefore, Trump National Golf Club Bedminster is subject to tax without preferential treatment like other golf clubs in New Jersey.

Keynote Speaker

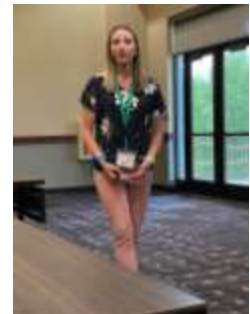
Your Captain through the Storm: Wild markets determine the value of professional money management". By Kim D. Forrest will give the group my thoughts on what elements of money management should be evaluated – in calm times and during times like now. We will touch on a variety of subjects including passive vs active management. The discussion can be applied to institutional managers as well as for personal investing. I am going to focus on a framework to decide if its worth it or not to hire a money manager.

Kimberly Forrest, Chief Investment Officer, Bokeh Capital located in Pittsburgh, PA Kim is a regular commentator on MSNBC, Fox Business, Yahoo Finance and other business and economy news outlets.

Spring Conference 2023

June 7–9, 2023

Location to be determined!



You don't want to miss this one!

Queen Elizabeth's Funeral

Here are some figures that have swirled around London and the rest of the United Kingdom in the aftermath of death on Sept. 8 at her summer retreat in Scotland of the only monarch most Britons have ever known.

- 2,000: Dignitaries and guests in Westminster Abbey for the state funeral, ranging from King Charles III and other royals to world leaders.
- 800: Guests at a committal service later in the day at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.
- 5,949: Military personnel deployed throughout the meticulously choreographed operation that began with the queen's death on Sept. 8. That number comprises 4,416 from the army, 847 from the navy and 686 from the air force. In addition, around 175 armed forces personnel from Commonwealth nations have been involved.
- 1,650: At least that number of military personnel will be involved in the pomp-filled procession of the queen's coffin from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch after her funeral. A further 1,000 will line the streets along the procession route. When the coffin reaches Windsor, 410 military personnel will take part in the procession, 480 will line streets, 150 will be in a guard of honor and line steps and 130 more will fulfill other ceremonial duties.
- 142: Royal Navy ratings who will pull the state gun carriage carrying the queen's coffin on Monday when it leaves the Houses of Parliament for her funeral.
- More than 10,000: Police officers. Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Stuart Cundy

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said the "hugely complex" policing operation is the biggest in the London force's history.

- 22: Miles (36 kilometers) of barriers erected in central London alone to control crowds and keep key areas around the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace secure.
- 1 million: The number of people London transport authorities expect to visit the capital on Monday. Around 250 extra rail services will run to move people in and out of the city.
- 5: Miles (8 kilometers) of people lining up to file past the queen's coffin in Westminster Hall. The number of people who viewed the coffin over four days is not yet known.
- 125: Movie theaters that will open their doors to broadcast Monday's funeral live.
- 2,868: Diamonds, along with 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds, 269 pearls, and 4 rubies, sparkle in the Imperial State Crown that rested on the queen's coffin as it lay in state.
- 2: Minutes of silence at the end of the funeral at Westminster Abbey.
- 1: Coffin. The silent eye in the days-long storm of pomp, pageantry and protection is a single, flag-draped oak coffin carrying the only monarch most Britons have ever known.

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Join us at Atlantic City November 2023



