



2024 Fall Conference Agenda

Sunday, October 20th

- 12:00 p.m.** **Past Presidents' Meeting**
The Conservatory at Laurel Hill West
- 12:30 p.m.** **Lunch**
The Conservatory at Laurel Hill West
- 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.** **PCCFA Board of Directors' Meeting**
The Conservatory at Laurel Hill West
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** **Welcome Reception**
Lark, at the Ironworks at Pencoyd Landing
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** **Dinner**
Lark, at the Ironworks at Pencoyd Landing

Monday, October 21st

All meeting sessions and lunch take place in the Conservatory at Laurel Hill West
215 Belmont Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA

- 8:00 a.m.** **Light breakfast, Conservatory at Laurel Hill West**
- 8:30 – 8:45 a.m.** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 8:45 – 9:15 a.m.** **Burial Trends and Consumer Expectations in 2024**
How are burials trending across the country and in Pennsylvania in 2024? In this session, Nick Timpe, CEO of webCemeteries and Dean of ICCFA University College of Technology, will provide a quick evaluation of real burial trend data, and discuss consumer expectations that feed into these trends.

9:20 – 10:20 a.m. Act 135: A Strategy for Saving Cemeteries

In 2008, Pennsylvania established the Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act (Act 135) to tackle the challenges many older communities suffered from blighted properties that were abandoned by their owners and posed a public safety threat and nuisance to their communities. But could this law also apply to cemeteries across the Commonwealth? Hear from Thaddeus Squire, a leader in the field of systems design for nonprofit resource sharing and the Chief Commons Steward at Social Impact Commons, on his experience testing Act 135's application at Mt. Vernon Cemetery in Philadelphia.

10:20 – 10:40 a.m. Stretch & Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:00 p.m. To Honor a Life: The Roles of Doulas, Directors and Celebrants

We expect care, compassion and celebration when bringing a new life into the world. Shouldn't we expect the same in death? Learn about the complementary roles that a death doula, funeral director and celebrant play in death care in this thought-provoking panel discussion led by Laurel Hill Funeral Home's Supervisor, Patricia Quigley. Joining her is death doula Russ Alexander, cofounder of Sunset Companions; Tasha Dugan, Laurel Hill's funeral director; and Rosemary Connors, who for over 13 years has been a privileged partner in officiating celebrations of life with meaning and depth.

12:00 – 12:45 p.m. Lunch

A Taphophile's Tour of Laurel Hill

12:45 – 2:45 p.m. West

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. East

Laurel Hill is a taphophile's dream, so lace up your shoes and join an afternoon tour of this historic cemetery, arboretum and sculpture garden. This 265-acre open space in both Philadelphia and Montgomery counties is the permanent home of about 200,000 residents, from Civil War generals and signers of the Declaration of Independence to titans of industry, famous athletes, artists and academicians. Besides enjoying the grounds (and our state champion trees), you will get a first-hand look at Laurel Hill's aquamation center, green burial areas, and original 1836 gatehouse, currently under rehabilitation.

4:30 p.m. Conference Concludes