

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

SUMMER 2026

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the Pennsylvania Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association!

Our association is your voice in Harrisburg, providing insight, guidance and expertise to our elected law makers. Several new bills have emerged regarding our industry and our association is working to inform both elected representatives and PCCFA members as to their status. We are working with the Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association to bring clarity to these bills, before they become law.

Your Board of Directors has been very busy charting the course of our association for the next several years. We recently met in person to develop a plan to encourage participation and provide our membership with strong, industry leading programs in several important areas in our industry.

Our membership has recently increased substantially, with the membership addition of Everstory Partners, one of the nation's largest owners and operators of funeral homes, cemeteries, and crematories. They have more than 460 cemetery, funeral, and crematory locations, which serve more than 66,000 families a year, across the United States. Welcome back, Everstory!

This year's Fall Conference will be held with the New York State Association of Cemeteries at the elegant Hershey Hotel from Oct 19 – Oct 22, 2026. It is packed full of fantastic speakers, lots of opportunity for networking, and the ability to check out some new vendors, as well as those we already know. We cannot thank the vendors enough as they are a major part of helping us make the convention successful. The best way to get the most out of your membership in PCCFA is by participating in our programs which are held throughout the year. I hope to see all of you in Hershey in October!

Sincerely,

Paul Simms, President

2026 FALL MEETING

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By Paul Simms, President

The PCCFA is joining together with the New York State Association of Cemeteries for our Annual Fall Meeting! It's been many years since our state association has joined another to network and learn from each other. This is a unique opportunity as we gather industry professionals, cemetery operators, and suppliers for learning, networking, and sharing best practices between friends and colleges.

Fall Conference Details:

- Oct 19 – Oct 22, 2026
- The Hotel Hershey, [100 Hotel Rd, Hershey, PA 17033](#)
- [Please register through the NYSAC website](#) where you will find a PCCFA ticket category
- Meals are included with your hotel reservations. Reservations may be made by contacting the hotel and advising them you are with the New York State Association of Cemeteries. Call 1-800-HERSHEY or dial [844-330-1711](#). Hotel arrangements are done directly through the hotel, not with your registration.

Please use the button below to register and view the full agenda.

These events are specific to PCCFA that you may want to join. We will release more information ahead of the conference.

Monday Oct. 19, 2026

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 12:00 p.m. | PCCFA Past Presidents' Meeting |
| 12:30 p.m. | PCCFA Lunch |
| 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. | PCCFA Board of Directors' Meeting |

[Register & View the Agenda](#)



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

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By Paul Simms, President

Notice of Annual Meeting

This notice is to all members of the Pennsylvania Cemetery, Cremation & Funeral Association setting forth the date, time and place of our 96th Annual Meeting. The PCCFA Annual Meeting will be held during the Fall Conference in Hershey, PA.

More details will be announced separately. The agenda includes, but is not limited to, the President's report as to the state of the association, the Treasurer's report on the financial condition, Past Presidents' nominations for the directors' class of 2028, and the election of new directors.

Please email to confirm your attendance at the Annual Meeting to pccfa.exec.team@gmail.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

PCCFA Membership Committee

The PCCFA Membership Committee extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

New Members

1. Mount Olivet Cemetery Association
2. Fairview Cemetery of Bethlehem PA
3. Heffner Funeral Chapel & Crematory, Inc.
4. Washington Memorial Chapel
5. Everstory Partners

New Suppliers

1. Carrier Mausoleum Construction

Members of the PCCFA have special obligations to the families and public we serve and are regarded as "Guardians of a Nation's Heritage." We thank you for participating in our association and know that you will get value from connecting, learning, and progressing with others in our profession and industry.

**PAC
AND
LEGAL
DEFENSE
FUNDS**

Who works with our state representatives to protect your business, consumer grievances and protects us from overly burdensome laws? PCCFA does!

Support our efforts with your personal donation to the PCCFA PAC Fund. If you want to support PCCFA, with a business contribution, consider donating to the Legal Defense Fund.

For more information, contact Paul Simms at (412) 614-0736 or e-mail pccfa.exec.team@gmail.com

PCCFA Board of Directors



Many members may be aware of a renewed surge in cremation regulation. As of late August, legislation to regulate Pennsylvania's pet cremation has stalled, with Sen. Patrick Stefano (R-Fayette County) commenting his thoughts that the issue extends beyond pets. "Pennsylvania has very limited regulations regarding the cremation of human remains... and I believe this points to the need for a more comprehensive solution," his statement said (Source: CBS Pittsburgh). Pennsylvania actually has substantial regulation of human cremation through the Funeral Law, cremation statute, licensing requirements, authorization, identification, waiting periods, etc. The bill referenced is known as the Companion Animal Cremation Consumer Protection Act (House Bill 1750 and Senate Bill 950) which aims to establish strict industry standards, recordkeeping requirements, and penalties for the mishandling of deceased pets even when mishandling is done by a third-party crematory and not directly by a cemetery or funeral home. Notably, violations would constitute violations of Pennsylvania's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, enforceable by the Attorney General or district attorneys. As many of you may anticipate with the push from representatives like Sen. Stefano, the government is aiming for not just pets, but human cremation regulations outside of current DEP and funeral law requirements. What many may not be aware of is the **1994 Legislative Budget & Finance Committee report to the General Assembly**. In the 32 years since its production, not a single recommendation has been implemented. Some of its findings include that there should be one deathcare board covering cemeteries, funeral homes, crematories, monument dealers and independent sellers of products or services for any those covered segments of the deathcare industry. Each segment would have 2 professional members in addition to 2 consumers making up the board, each contributing their individual expertise. That setup would be a positive direction for both professionals and the consumers of Pennsylvania. The full 245 pages is a lot to read. You will see multiple references to the need for a board for the entirety of the Death Care Industry. Read at your leisure: <https://www.palbfc.gov/Resources/Documents/Reports/12.pdf> (The report will open in your downloads.)



AmeriServ Is Redefining How Cemeteries and Funeral Homes Manage Trusts

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FOLLOW PCCFA ON FACEBOOK!



Follow along for more information on events, news, happenings, tips, stories and more.
Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/pccfaAssoc/.

PCCFA members can renew online instantly – no waiting, no paperwork. New members, once your application is reviewed and approved, your account gets created automatically after your first payment goes through. One ask to all members, please log in and double-check your contact info annually – phone, email, and company address – so you never miss an update.

➤➤➤ BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- **The KeyNews** – our quarterly publication, delivered straight to your inbox and mailbox.
- Two conferences a year with continuing education credits for funeral directors at PA locations (every other year, our fall conference joins forces with four other states in Atlantic City, with credits and certifications included)
- A discount on MemorialPro insurance through the Regan Agency, Inc.
- Constant Contact access for fast, direct communication – suppliers, this one's for you.
- A built-in network of supplier members ready to connect.
- The PCCFA complaint hotline – support when cemeteries need to navigate consumer issues.
- An Annual Legislative Reception – so your representatives know exactly who to call when legislation or constituent issues come up.
- A lobbyist in Harrisburg, working to protect your interests.
- A community of fellow cemeterians to network, trade ideas, and tackle what's changing in death care – green burials, litigation, invasive species, cremation trends, and more.

ADVERTISE IN THE KEYNEWS

Do you want to reach the decision-makers? As a valued provider of merchandise or services to the Pennsylvania death care industry, utilize the Key News to reach your audience!

You may reserve your ad placement online or for more information call Paul Simms at (412) 614-0736 or e-mail pccfa.exec.team@gmail.com. New this year, feature a sponsored article to push your message further!



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Board of Directors - Three Year Terms

Class of 2025

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JOHN YEATMAN

Forest Lawn Cemetery

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Past Presidents

Immediate Past President

(Two Year Term)

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8 Additional Past Presidents

(One Year Term)

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