

the INSIDER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WASHINGTON CEMETERY,
CREMATION & FUNERAL ASSOCIATION

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WCCFA

WASHINGTON CEMETERY, CREMATION
& FUNERAL ASSOCIATION



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A Message from the President



Henry Johnston

WCCFA Board President

Dear Friends,

We're at the end of another winter with spring right around the corner. In a few months, many of us will be outside, cleaning up our lawns and planting flowers. For those in our association who also have cemeteries, the heavy lifting of getting ready for Memorial Day is about to begin.

No matter what your spring-cleaning routine looks like, I do hope that each of you who has a desire to improve your embalming skills will join us in Ellensburg on **Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** as we host Dominick Astorino for an all day continuing education event focused on Restorative Art. Many members, both within the WCCFA as well as from our colleagues at the WSFDA, have asked for more embalming related education opportunities.

Friends, this is the main event. There are no other speakers out there, except for perhaps Vernie Fountain, that are as well versed, well-educated, and as dynamic as Professor Astorino. He spoke in Spokane at a district meeting back in 2017 and it was a huge success.

In an effort to keep the costs of this event reasonable for all to attend, the event will be held in the chapel of Johnston & Williams in Ellensburg. More information about the content of the seminar, pricing, and registration is found in this newsletter. I truly hope that we can get a great turnout for this event and that you'll walk away with renewed confidence in making sure that families get the chance they need to say goodbye to their loved ones who have died under traumatic circumstances.

As a parting thought, those that know me know that a discussion about viewing, regardless of disposition, is part of nearly every arrangement conference I conduct. About six months ago, I met with a family and after much back and forth and invoking the usual "feel-good" line people tell themselves about "remembering them the way they were", this family ultimately elected not to view.

Much to my surprise, I received a phone call last week from the lady's husband who told me, in relation to the viewing -- "You told me that I should, and I didn't want to. My wife's birthday was last week, and I didn't realize how important that time you offered me was until it was far too late."

Anyone can sit behind a desk and push papers to get the disposition done as fast as possible, without truly guiding the family in the way we should as professionals. We're the ones with specialized education, licensing and, quite frankly, unmatched life experience in observing and understanding death, dying and grief.

I encourage you to endeavor every day to be an "undertaker" and not an "order taker". Your families will thank you for having the tough conversations with them as you help guide them back to the active world of the living following profound loss.

I hope to see many of you in the spring!

Until next time -
Henry

Executive Director Spotlight

Amy Ohlinger, MSW



Amy Ohlinger joined WCCFA as their Executive Director in February of 2023. Amy grew up in Tacoma, WA. She spent a few years living and going to college in sunny San Diego. In 2012, she moved back to Washington and finished up her bachelor's and master's degree in Social Work from the University of Washington.

Amy is as an experienced Executive Director and has worked for Association Management Inc., since 2019. Prior to this, she has a history in medical social work, school social work, management, and event coordination.

In her free time, Amy enjoys spending time with her family. She and her husband have 2 kids, 2 cats, and 1 dog. She loves a PNW beach day, yoga, and going on adventures with friends and family.

You can reach Amy at wccfa@aminc.org or toll free at 1.877.460.5880.

2023 Spring Conference

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

Featuring Dominick Astorino

Adjunct Professor | Restorative Art, Microbiology & Pathology

Date: Saturday, April 29th, 2023

Time: 8:00AM - 5:00PM

Location: Johnston Williams Funeral Home
301 3rd Ave | Ellensburg, WA 98926

Fees:

- WCCFA Members | \$195
- Non-Members | \$249
- Student | \$95

Topics Include:

- The Relevance of Restorative Art
- Defending the Truth: Embalming, Social Media & Bias
- Principles & Methods of Reconstructive Embalming
- Reactical Restorative Art

Speaker Dominick Astorino

Adjunct Professor | Restorative Art, Microbiology & Pathology

Dominick J. Astorino is an adjunct professor of mortuary science both at Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Chicago and Wayne State University in Detroit where he wrote and teaches courses in embalming, restorative art, pathology, and microbiology. Innovations such as the creation of a hands-on cranial reconstruction lab as well as teaching advanced techniques by applying basic principles have earned him accolades and awards from students and colleagues alike.



His work in the field of restorative art and reconstructive embalming has been highlighted in numerous publications worldwide as well as by invitations to present lectures across the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. In 2019, Dominick started the Kenyan Embalming Education Initiative which brought a standard of care, education, and supplies to the underprivileged mortuary workers in Kenya; in 2020 Dominick presented the first embalming education seminar on the continent of Africa. A proponent of education, Dominick holds degrees in cellular biology and mortuary science and sits on the restorative art curriculum review committee for the American Board of Funeral Service Education.

Mr. Astorino is a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the states of Michigan and Illinois and is a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, Michigan Funeral Directors Association, Illinois Funeral Directors Association, and the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice.

[**Register Today!**](#)

Veterans Day



Veterans, spouses, and dependents were honored during a one-of-a-kind celebration held at Evergreen Washelli, in North Seattle on November 1, 2022

Through the efforts of the Missing in America (MIAP) project and Butterworth Funeral Home and Cemetery, 123 unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans, eligible spouses, and dependents were located and identified for interment. Among these were 88 veterans, 12 spouses, and 7 children. The oldest ashes discovered was the spouse of a veteran who served in the Indian Wars. He, at the time of his death, was interred in a veteran's cemetery. She later died at the age of 61 and remained unclaimed for 110 years.

This two-year-long project, done by volunteers resulted in the largest-ever placement of veteran ashes in the state. This event marks the day that 123 persons were recognized through the selfless work that was done to provide these individuals with a respectful and final resting place. Over 100 gathered, to include Joint Base Fort Lewis, various other Military organization, American Legion Riders, Patriot Guard, Police, and Firefighters, along with the public for a service like no other in the state's history.

Within days of this celebration 88 veterans, 12 spouses, and 7 children were put to rest at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery on November 16. 8 additional veterans were later placed at Tahoma National Cemetery, and 3 were buried at sea, with 2 spouses and 3 children also being placed with family at local Dignity Memorial facilities.

GO GENTLY"

Go Gently dear brothers, your wait is done,
 Your final rest is here and peace has come.
 Taps has sounded and you are dismissed,
 No longer forgotten, but you will be missed.
 The peace you were promised has finally arrived,
 Greet your brothers with arms open wide.
 Go gently dear brothers no more to fight.
 Go gently dear brothers into the light.
 You served your country with honor and pride,
 No longer forgotten or cast aside
 We are proud of what you have done,
 But sorry you were forgotten for so very long.
 Go gently dear brothers the Lord awaits you smiling,
 His arms wide open his heart is crying.
 Go gently dear brothers through the gates of heaven,
 You are gone from here but will never be forgotten.

Board Member Spotlight

Renee' Saunders



Renee' Saunders, is the General Manager of the Dignity Memorial locations in Yakima, Washington which includes, Keith & Keith Funeral Home, Langevin El Pariaso Funeral Home and Rainier Memorial Center. Formerly, Renee' Harpe had started her career in 20 with Harper 07 Ridgeview in Port Angeles Washington with the Keystone Group.

She worked every aspect in the industry from errands, cleaning, sales, admin, and then interned as Embalmer and Director. She left them being the

Sales Supervisor of 3 Cemeteries. Upon the divesting of Keystone, Renee' moved to Yakima and since has become the General Manager and

Licensed Director with SCI Dignity Group. Renee' is married to a retired CSM in the Army and they are very involved in the military community and serving veterans. Renee' has two beautiful adult daughters,

(1 being a veteran in the Marine Corp), has 5 grandchildren, 1 dog, 10 cows and 8 chickens and 4 parents that she still attends too. Renee' has

received many awards for excellent within SCI, she has received the Hispanic Chamber, Estrella Award.

Most recently Renee' time has been devoted to help with running a political campaign for her husband whom ran as a County Commissioner. In her free

time, Renee's passion is giving back to the community by serving families with the respect they deserve, giving education and developing herself and her team.

2023 Washington State Death Care Providers Convention

Tuesday, July 25th, 2023

Date: Tuesday, July 25th, 2023

Location: Hilton Vancouver Washington
301 West 6th Street | Vancouver, WA 98660

Lodging:

Discounted rooms are available at \$205+ per night.

Book Your Room Today!

Vendors and Sponsorship Opportunities

Premier Sponsor | \$2,000

Present welcoming remarks during Keynote, or show a 60-second video; Opportunity to include branded items or sway in attendee bags; 2 attendees (a \$700 value!); Exhibitor Table; included on all Conference communication (emails, website, agenda, signage etc.); Logo on screens during breaks; Logo on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; Hors d'oeuvre table at the Supplier Sponsored Social; and Pre & Post Event Social Media recognition.

Thank You to Our Sponsor!



Wine Tasting Sponsor | \$1,000

5 min presentation at Wine Tasting event; Logos and signage at Wine Tasting; Sponsor Logo Displayed on Video Screens during Breaks; Sponsor logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; Included in all Conference communications (emails, website, agenda, etc.); and Pre & Post Event Social Media recognition.

Vancouver Brewery Tour Sponsor | \$750

Logos on Brewery Tour Passport; Logos on Pint glass for attendees that complete the tour; Logos and signage at each brewery stop; Sponsor Logo Displayed on Video Screens during Breaks; Sponsor logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; and Pre & Post Event Social Media recognition.

Thank You to Our Sponsor!



Exhibitor Table | \$600

6ft table in Exhibit Hall; 1 attendee registration; Sponsor of Supplier Sponsored Happy Hour Tuesday Night; Exhibitor logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; Included in all Conference communications (emails, website, agenda, etc.); and Pre & Post Event Social Media recognition.

Register Today!

Vendors and Sponsorship Opportunities (Continued)

Additional Exhibitor Representative | \$200

For Exhibitors that have additional representatives that want to attend.

Coffee Sponsor | \$550

Sponsor Logo at Coffee Stations; Logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; Logo Displayed on video screens during breaks; Mentioned in Conference Agenda, and Pre & Post Event Social Media recognition.

Lunch Sponsor | \$550

Sponsor Logo displayed on lunch buffet lines; Logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; Logo Displayed on video screens during breaks; Mentioned in Conference Agenda; and Pre & Post Event Social Media recognition.

Speaker Sponsor | \$1,000

MC will share 30 seconds about the sponsor during speaker welcome; Logo displayed on the screen before speaker presents; Logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; Mentioned in Conference Agenda; and Pre & Post Event Social Media recognition.

Award Night Centerpiece Sponsor | \$350

Sponsor Logo on each of the table centerpieces; Logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; Logo Displayed on video screens during breaks; Verbal recognition during the Awards dinner; Company Name listed in Conference Agenda; and Pre & Post Event Social Media recognition.

Award Night Photo Booth Sponsor | \$750

Sponsor Logo sign next to photo booth; Sponsor Logo on all Photo Prints (conference guest giveaway); Logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; Logo Displayed on video screens during breaks; Company Name listed in Conference Agenda; and Pre & Post Event Social Media recognition.

Scramble Hole Sponsor | \$300

One Player in scramble (\$100 value); Name on Signage at one of the 18 holes; Logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; and Company Name listed in Conference Agenda.

Scramble Sponsor | \$200

Sponsor Prize for either Closest to the Pin or Longest Drive (Men's & Women's); Logo recognized on WCCFA/WSFDA websites; and Company Name listed in Conference Agenda.

Golf Player Fee | \$100

One Player in scramble (\$125 value); and Includes lunch during the scramble.

Thank You to Our Sponsor!



MEMORIAL
— MONUMENTS —

[Register Today!](#)

Job Opportunities

To submit a job listing or resume, please send an e-mail to the Association Office at WCCFA@AMInc.org.

Night Shift Crematory Operator/Removal Technician

February 7, 2023

Company: Columbia Funeral Home

Location: Seattle, WA

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Columbia Funeral Home is one of 7 locations within the Weeks Family of Funeral Homes. Since its inception in 1907, Columbia Funeral Home & Crematory has remained independent, and family owned.

We are seeking a full-time night shift Crematory Operator / Removal Technician. The shift would be Tuesday - Saturday from 12am - 8:30am performing cremations and carrying out first call removals. Compensation is \$24 - \$28 per hour DOE; Paid Time Off; Healthcare Benefits.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this position and apply today.

Removal Technician/Funeral Assistant (Part Time)

February 7 2023

Company: Columbia Funeral Home

Location: Seattle, WA

Columbia Funeral Home is one of 7 locations within the Weeks Family of Funeral Homes. Since its inception in 1907, Columbia Funeral Home & Crematory has remained independent, and family owned.

We are seeking part-time Removal Technicians / Funeral Assistants for 2-3 shifts per week. This would be on call at night with opportunities to funeral assist during the day as needed. Hourly wage is \$21 per hour with a \$50 bonus for residence removals.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this position and apply today.

Embalmer/Back-Up Crematory Operator

February 1, 2023

Company: Bonney Watson

Location: SeaTac, WA

Do you want to work for a company that makes a difference in our community? BONNEY WATSON is a family-owned company that has provided funeral, cremation and cemetery services to generations of families just like yours; forming solid relationships with both the people and the communities we serve. We are looking for an Licensed Embalmer/Back-up Crematory Operator to join our team!

Provides the highest quality of cremation services for the disposition of human remains, in accordance with all governing laws and company policies. Must have previous experience in this field and intern status.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this position and apply today.

Interested in Advertising in our Quarterly Newsletter?

Please call the WCCFA office at 253-525-5150 or email wccfa@aminc.org