



Holiday 2020

# 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL EDITION

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## Calendar of Events 2021

### February 3

Winter MFDA Board Meeting-Virtual  
3 PM

### February 4 3 CE's

Mid-Winter Conference  
Virtual Event  
4 PM-7 PM

### February 18 3 CE's

Mid-Winter Conference  
Virtual Event  
4 PM-7 PM

### February 24 1 CE

Free Webinar  
*Managing Your Stress in Difficult Times*  
Presented by Dr. Jerry V. Teplitz, JD, PhD  
Twice, Amazon Bestselling Author

### April 9

Spring Board Meeting  
Andrus Hotel  
11 AM  
Dillon

### May 13 2 CE's

MFDA Spring District Meeting  
Virtual Event

### April

NFDA Advocacy Summit  
Washington D.C.

### June 10

MFDA Board Meeting  
12-4 PM  
Copper King Inn  
Butte

### June 10-13 up to 12 CE's

MFDA Convention and Trade Show  
Copper King Inn  
Butte

### August

NFDA Leadership Conference  
Date- TBD

### September 16

MFDA Board of Directors *and guest* Dinner  
Celtic Cowboy/Hotel Avron  
Great Falls

### September 17

MFDA Board Meeting  
Historic Hotel Avron  
8:00 AM  
Great Falls

### November 2 CE's

Fall District Meeting –Live  
Dates- TBD

### Oct 17-20

NFDA Convention – Nashville, TN.

**Available anytime to members**

OSHA Employee Training- Stericycle

## REMEMBERING A LIFE

Holidays are often difficult for anyone who has experienced the death of someone loved. Rather than being times of family togetherness, sharing, and thanksgiving, holidays can bring feelings of sadness, loss, and emptiness. Dr. Alan Wolfelt offers suggestions to help you better cope with your grief during this joyful, yet painful, time of the year. Remember that by being tolerant and compassionate with yourself, you will continue to heal. ♥

Visit <https://rememberingalife.com/.../helping-yourself-heal...>

to learn more.



remembering a  
**life**

## Helping Yourself Heal During the Holiday Season

[RememberingALife.com/Blog](https://RememberingALife.com/Blog)



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ASSOCIATION

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY CHRIS HOLT

Greetings and Happy Holidays. I hope everyone is staying safe and well.

I hope most of you attended the Virtual Fall District Meeting. The opportunity for 2 CE credits was possible, if you have not received your CE Certificate please contact Terri. Thank you to Terri and Jim for setting this up. What an informative session we had, a lot of great information from Dr. Robert Kurtzman that will help all of us and our communities

A couple things that I am sure you are aware of: The Governor issued new directives on November 17 that went into effect Nov. 20., limiting gathering to less than 25 people where it is not possible to practice social distancing or where social distancing is not being practiced. Also limiting spaces to 50% capacity, which we all must deal with in planning funerals and gatherings. The Governor also required face coverings in all counties.

We have heard about the COVID-19 Vaccine coming to Montana. Jim, our executive director, sent a letter out to Governor Bullock addressing death care workers as top tier of essential services that need to receive the vaccine. Jim asked on our behalf that Funeral Professionals be prioritized with healthcare workers in consideration of the vaccine. We all are aware that this has been a challenging time for all of us in the death care field. And now, as we are closing in on the end of the year it seems our communities are experiencing a surge in COVID related deaths and illness. Consequently, this is putting a stress on us as death care professionals and a stress on our families and communities we serve. Thanks to Jim for sending this out. A copy of this letter is included in this issue of the Directors Digest

The NFDA also sent out an email about delays in obtaining Military Documents for Eligibility. I know that there are times when a deceased veteran and family do not have any Military paperwork. This hinders us in helping them attain benefits, eligibility for honors, and burial in veteran cemeteries. As of now, there really is no solution or end to this problem so far.

Some other news, The Senate recently passed the Brave Act, unanimously, as part of a larger Veteran's Bill. It will now go to the House floor and, if approved there, on to the President's desk to become law. When passed into law, the BRAVE Act will update the current burial benefit to treat all non-service-connected deaths equally, regardless of where the veteran passes away. Under current policy, survivors of certain veterans who die in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility are provided greater funds to cover the cost of a funeral than veterans who die in their home or another medical facility. There are also other benefits that are included. Look the NFDA website to learn more.

Upcoming is the Mid-Winter Conference, virtually, of course. It is scheduled for Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> and again February 18 offering up to 6 CE's. The current line up looks promising and informative. More information is provided to you in this digest. Mark your calendars.

MFDA membership renewals are coming out, please be on

the lookout for them. We all need to try to look for new members and associate members to become part of the MFDA, ask for details. Also, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some funeral homes are experiencing a higher caseload than normally they would have, consequently, the MFDA is offering your firm to use your 2019 reported numbers for your dues.

Holidays can be a very trying time for our families that have experienced a loss this year. We need to let our families and communities know we are there for them to help plan future gatherings and celebrations of their loved one's Life, or even point them in the direction of grief support groups or clergy to help navigate the tough path of the holidays without their loved one.

As we look to the future, we can only hope that the New Year will bring a little more stability and clarity for us all. I wish everyone and their families a safe and happy holiday season. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Blessings.

*-Chris*



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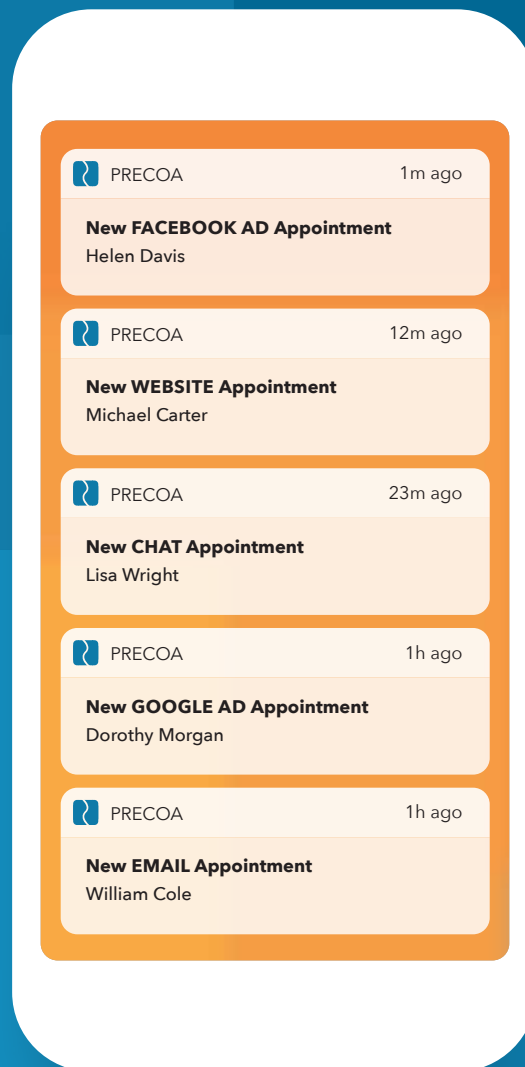
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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT BY JAMES BROWN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Welcome to our special holiday edition of the magazine.

What a challenging year professionally and personally the year 2020 has been for each of us. However, as this year comes to a close, we can be thankful for the opportunity the industry provides to help families in need and to help those who have suffered loss to navigate the grieving process. The events of the past year have demonstrated the value of the industry, not only in terms of final disposition but also in terms of protecting community health.

With a new year comes new opportunity, and we here at MFDA are looking forward to the new opportunities 2021 will present. While we are unable to meet in person for our biannual mid-winter conference this coming February, we are hopeful that we can resume our annual convention and live districts meetings. After all, personal interaction with our peers and community is the highest member benefit MFDA can provide.

Some things to note as we enter the new year. First, be on the lookout for MFDA's member and associate member renewal packets. Those packets should be hitting your inboxes and mailboxes around January 1st. Second, in 2021, MFDA member coordinator Terri James will be spending most of her work time at my legal office in Dillon. Therefore, we have opened a second PO Box in Dillon to which you can send your communications to the Association. The new alternate mailing address is PO Box

1003, Dillon, MT 59725. I know Terri will appreciate your directing your mail to that PO box address moving forward. Third, with my election to the Montana PSC in November, the Association will be hiring a lobbyist for the 2021 Montana Legislative Session to advocate on behalf of the MFDA membership. That person will be working under my and the Board's direct supervision.



All this being said, on behalf of the MFDA Board, officers, and staff, we are most thankful for your hard work on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic and for those suffering due to this difficult time period. You have our support, appreciation, gratitude, and respect for what you do for your local communities, your families, and for your businesses.

May you have a peaceful, safe, and happy holiday season.



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# LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR FROM JIM BROWN

November 20, 2020

Office of the Governor  
PO Box 200801  
Helena MT 59620-0801

Re: Take Action Now – Make Funeral Directors a Priority for COVID-19 Vaccine

Dear Governor Bullock:

These last few months have been exceptionally challenging for all of us in the state of Montana. We applaud the critical steps Montana has taken at your directive to limit the spread of COVID-19; to mitigate the impact of illness, suffering and death; and to sustain critical infrastructure and key resources. In particular we are grateful for all you have done to keep funeral directors safe as they carry out their sacred duties on the front lines of this pandemic.

There is another key decision on the horizon – vaccine allocation – that significantly impacts the well-being of funeral directors.

Due to the high-risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, I urge you to include death care workers in the top-tier of essential services to receive a vaccine when it becomes available. Doing so protects the health, not only death care professionals, but the entire community in which they work.

Death care professionals face the same risk of exposure to COVID-19 as healthcare workers when they enter hospitals, nursing homes, and residences to take the body of a decedent into their care; as they meet with surviving family members who may have been exposed to the coronavirus; and as they prepare the bodies of pandemic victims for burial or cremation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, death care professionals have provided critical services by caring for the dead and their grieving families, but they cannot continue to do so safely without priority access to an approved vaccine.

In early October, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, at the request of the CDC and NIH, released a framework to inform decisions made by health authorities, including the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), as they create and implement national and/or local guidelines for COVID-19 vaccine allocation. The final framework puts funeral directors in Phase 1a for vaccine allocation, which is the phase for high-risk healthcare workers, and is based, in-part, on the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency designation of funeral professionals as critical infrastructure workers. (CISA Critical Infrastructure Worker Guidance: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>; NASEM Vaccine Allocation Framework: <http://nap.edu/25917>.)

Prioritizing death care workers is not without precedent. In 2008, when facing the H1N1 pandemic, the CDC elevated "Mortuary Service Providers" to the Tier II level for vaccine prioritization. There were six tiers to the system, with the most critical workers and personnel in Tiers I, II, and III.

As you determine how Montana will distribute of its allocation of vaccine doses from the federal government, we ask that funeral professionals be prioritized with healthcare workers.

On behalf of our members and the more than 200 death care professionals in Montana, we are grateful for your leadership and stand ready, as always, to care for the dead and the families left behind.

Sincerely,

James Brown  
Montana Funeral Directors Executive Director  
CC: Montana Funeral Directors Association Board of Directors



## Leighton Arthur "Lee" Jewell

Leighton Arthur "Lee" Jewell, 64, died Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at Powell County Memorial Hospital.

He was born March 6, 1956, in Butte, Montana, to Clayton and Marguerite Jewell, a birthday present to his mother.

The family moved to Deer Lodge in 1964. He was educated in Deer Lodge schools, graduating from PCHS in 1974.

Lee attended Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon, graduating with a degree in Mortuary Science. He then joined the family business, Jewell Funeral Home, in Deer Lodge, with his father and brother-in-law.

Lee and Joy Hamilton were married May 19, 1979, and later divorced. Together they had three children: Stephanie, Stuart, and John. Lee was very active in the Deer Lodge Community. He was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 1810 in Deer Lodge, serving as funeral secretary for many years, a 4th Degree member of Thomas Francis Meagher Council #585 in Anaconda. Other involvements included the Rialto Theater, Powell County Progress, Trustee of School District #1, and presently Chair of Powell County Medical Center. Lee was elected Powell County Coroner in the 2014 general election after serving as Deputy Coroner for 26 years.

Survivors include his daughter, Stephanie; grandsons, Oscar and Otto; son, Stuart (Erin); grandchildren, Tristan, Jerrika, Alex, Kaiden, and Emily; son, John; grandson, Jason; sister and brother-in-law, Cecilia "Cele" and John Pohle; nephew, Greg Pohle; and family in Billings.

A visitation with viewing was held from 12 PM to 5 PM on Saturday, October 24, 2020, at Jewell Funeral Home, 601 Missouri Ave, Deer Lodge, MT 59722. A graveside service was held at 11 AM on Monday, October 26, 2020, at Hillcrest Cemetery, on West Milwaukee Avenue. After the burial, a celebration of his life will be held at The Pen, 1106 Main Street in Deer Lodge.

In honor of Lee Jewell, memorials are suggested to the donor's choice.

Please visit [www.buttefuneralhome.com](http://www.buttefuneralhome.com) to offer a condolence or share a memory of Lee. Axelson Funeral and Cremation Services has been privileged to care for Lee and his family.



## Audrey (Von Bargaen) Uhlenkott

Audrey (Von Bargaen) Uhlenkott was born September 2, 1932 and passed away at her home from cancer surrounded by her family November 16, 2020. Mom was ready to say her own farewell as she struggled through her very difficult neck injury this past year. These are our dear sweet Mom's words.

"I was born into the family of Harry and Louise (Hattrup) von Bargaen, the third of seven children in Cottonwood, Idaho. I graduated from Greencreek High School in 1950 and started work at the post office in 1951 where I met my husband to be, Larry Uhlenkott. We were married in 1954. I left the post office after 3 1/2 years to have and take care of our eight wonderful children, Marlene (Jake) Forsmann, Duane (Marilyn Lustig) Uhlenkott, Roy (Denise Kuther) Uhlenkott, Carla (Steve) Schnider, Della (Tim) Gehring, Julie Uhlenkott (deceased), Ted (Lisa Schmidt) Uhlenkott and Shirley (Ken) Stubbers.

After 12 years, I returned to work at the post office for a total of 31 years. After I retired, Larry and I had some great years together until he passed away in 2002.

"The thing that I am most proud of is the beautiful family God blessed me with; not only the children but 24 grandchildren and 49 great grandchildren with two more on the way. They are my precious jewels. I want to thank all the wonderful people who have helped me throughout my life and ask your forgiveness if I ever hurt anyone.

Lots of love, Audrey Uhlenkott"

In honor of this wonderful, humble woman's request, we will refrain from embellishing in death the wonderful qualities we know our prayerful Mom lived daily. She was truly an angel here on earth.

She was preceded in death by her husband Larry; her daughter Julie; her granddaughter Karissa, her parents and all of Larry and Audrey's siblings. Audrey's sibling were Harriet Harrison, Gene von Bargaen, Richard von Bargaen, Joan Schultz, Lee von Bargaen and Denis von Bargaen.

In addition to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, Audrey is survived by her sister-in-law Ellen von Bargaen.

The rosary was recited on Saturday, November 21, at 10:00 am at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Cottonwood, Idaho with the funeral liturgy following at 10:30 am. A private reception for the family was held following the mass. Services are under the direction of the Blackmer Funeral Home, Grangeville. Send condolences to the family at [Blackmerfuneralhome.com](http://Blackmerfuneralhome.com).





## Dorothy (Klimper) Malisani

Clay came from a long line of Montana gold mining pioneers, yet her true treasure was found in faith and family. Faith and trust in the will of God sustained her in all the seasons of life and formed the foundation of her family.

Dorothy Clay (Klimper) Malisani, 81, died Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at her home in the presence of her family and prayers from near and far. Clay was born July 8, 1939 in Malta, MT to Max and Dorothy (Whitcomb) Klimper. She had fond memories of her childhood spent at Ruby Gulch and Beaver Creek near the Zortman mining operation where her grandparents Charles and Katie B. Whitcomb pursued their dreams. Later in life Clay independently ensured the publication of their story Top O' the Mountain was preserved and continues to this day.

In 1957 she graduated from Fromberg High School and was a member of the class of 1960 Columbus School of Nursing in Great Falls. While in Great Falls Clay caught the eye and stole the heart of Arthur Malisani. They were married June 18, 1960 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fromberg. Seven children were blessed to be born to this union. Clay became wholly Italian by marriage. Eventually, she became the beloved Nonna to 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Art and Clay's 41 years together were a shining example of love, faith and devotion.

Together they built upon the family business Malisani, Inc., raised the family they cherished and enjoyed simple pleasures like golf, travel, and a glass of homemade vino.

Clay was a colorful, multifaceted gem: a talented and stylish seamstress ahead of the curve in design and fashion; an epic entertainer where every event was cause for celebration; an elegant hostess of high teas and hats; infamous for her Halloween witch cackle and character; gritty, witty, gracious, clever, ingenious, generous; quite a gal!

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Arthur; infant son Angelo; siblings Louis Klimper, Charles Klimper, Kathleen Larum and Maxine Stevens.

Survivors include her sister Marlene Klimper; children Angie (Guy) Beck of Couer d'Alene, Idaho, Arthur (Renee) Malisani, Jr. of Great Falls, Linda Malisani of Great Falls, Tony (Karen) Malisani of Great Falls, John (Laura) Malisani of Havre, Ann (Shane) Salisbury of Billings.

Services was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Great Falls with viewing at 6 pm on Friday, November 20 followed by a Rosary and Vigil Service at 7 pm. The Funeral Mass was held at 8 am Saturday, November 21 followed by the Rite of Committal at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Masks and social distancing will be observed. Donations can be made in honor of Dorothy Malisani to Benefis Peace Hospice of Montana. <https://www.benefis.org/benefis-foundation/giving/donate-foundation>

Condolences may be shared online at [m.schniderfuneralhome.com](http://m.schniderfuneralhome.com).



### Scones

## *Sour Cream Scones with Luscious Lemon Curd* by Dorothy Malisani

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees  
 Lightly spoon into a measuring cup..... 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour  
 Combine flours with..... 2/3 cup whole wheat flour  
 .....1/3 cup packed brown sugar  
 2 tbsp granulated sugar  
 2 tsp baking powder  
 ½ tsp baking soda,  
 ¼ tsp salt

In a separate bowl combine..... 2/3 cup sour cream  
 3 tbsp. melted, cooled butter 1 egg white

Mix sour cream and flour mixtures together until well blended.

Stir in ..... 1/3 cup currants or raisins

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured board and knead 10 to 12 times.

Divide dough in half and pat out into a 6" circle on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray or lightly greased.

Cut each circle into 6 wedges. Do not separate. Combine 1 tablespoon sugar with ¼ tsp. cinnamon. Sprinkle over the top of scones.

Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Yield: 1 dozen scones.

### Luscious Lemon Curd

In a medium, heavy, saucepan combine, stirring with a whisk  
 1 cup plus 2Tbsp sugar  
 1 Tbsp cornstarch  
 1/8 tsp. salt

Stir in and bring to a boil over medium heat. Stir constantly.  
 1 cup fresh lemon juice  
 3 large eggs

Reduce heat and simmer 1 minute or until thick, stirring constantly

Remove from heat and add

2 tbsp. butter  
 1 tsp. grated lemon rind

Stir gently until butter melts and is thoroughly mixed.  
 Spoon the lemon curd into a medium bowl, cool. Refrigerate at least 6 hours or overnight.  
 Serve with scones.

Use to fill mini filo tarts for a great dessert

# congrats MIFDA



## TISSUE DONATION CHAMPION AWARD





### **Dennis Schoepp Scholarship \$2,500 Winner**



### **Donna Dawson**

Donna Dawson is the Office Manager for Smith Funeral Chapels at the Red Lodge Location. She started working there in May of 2019 when she decided to explore a career change. After working there for a few months and with encouragement from staff, Donna decided to pursue a degree in Mortuary Science and become a licensed Funeral Director and Mortician. She was accepted and has been in the program for a year and a half and expects to finish the program in the summer of 2021. She is excited to be part of Smith's family and to begin the next stage of her career as a funeral professional.

Before starting at Smith's, Donna spent 24 in the Marine Corps before retiring and just recently retired from teaching special education in the local school district. She believes that her compassion, dedication to duty while in the military, as well as her love of helping others in time of need, will serve her well in the funeral profession. Additionally, living in the community she works and serves provides for those connections that families need and want during what can be a stressful time.

Donna is married to her wonderful husband Ralph for 24 years who also works for Smith's Funeral Chapels as a removal technician and various other tasks to include graveside set-up and maintenance of the site and vehicles. They share a love of hunting, reading, and watching old movies.

Donna was awarded the Dennis Schoepp Memorial Scholarship recently and is thankful for the assistance it will provide her in finishing her degree program.



# **MEMORIAL**

## **— MONUMENTS —**



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Jasmine Washington  
Funeral Director  
Garden City Funeral Home

## Growing Up I Never Imagined I Would Embark on The Journey of Becoming A Funeral Director

To me, there is nothing more meaningful in life than being able to be there for someone at one of the most difficult times in their lives. Not everyone is capable of putting all of their emotions aside and taking on those of others. Losing a loved one is just one of the many troublesome experiences in life that we all must endure. Being a funeral director allows me to be present and aid those who have lost someone in transitioning to a life without that loved one.

Growing up I never imagined I would embark on the journey of becoming a funeral director. I remember my mother explaining to me what exactly death was; she refrained from using euphemisms as parents typically do with children. She made it clear to me that our time on this earth is limited and should never be taken for granted; and that dying is something we all experience one day. My mother's intentions were never to scare me but to give me the harsh reality. Her lack of concealment and heartfelt conversations are what shaped me into the person I am today and how I cope with death.

The first experience I had with death was around the age of five when my uncle Charlie passed away. When I arrived at his funeral, the first thing I wanted to do was see him. I remember sneaking away from my mother's side and going directly up to his casket. My mother caught a glimpse of me touching him and she walked over to see exactly what I was doing. It was a shock for her to see that I was

fixing his collar and adjusting his tie. For some reason I felt a sense of peace being by his side, I didn't cry or fear what I was seeing in any way. I then found myself looking around the room at all of my family having conversations and lots of tears being shed. All I wanted to do was help; the thing that bothered me the most wasn't the fact that Uncle Charlie passed away, it was seeing the people around me hurting. At five years old there didn't seem like much I could do besides pass out tissues and offer hugs, so that's just what I did.

As time went on my curiosity and passion for wanting to help others never stopped. During my childhood up until now, I loved watching investigative crime shows and TV series. Not all episodes had a positive outcome, but I noticed that at least some of those families who lost one of their members due to a tragic event were able to receive justice. I started thinking maybe I could become a criminal investigator or medical examiner. With so many injustices or things that can simply go wrong in this world, I wanted to find a career path that allowed me to truly help people.

Throughout my high school years, I kept thinking progressively about what I wanted to do in life and how I could positively impact others. In my sophomore year, I joined the Interact Club and remained a part of it throughout the rest of high school. That organization provided me with an opportunity to reach out to businesses and members of my community to

see how I could assist them. During my senior year, the Interact Club put together a group of businesses that were willing to let students job shadow them. I gravitated towards someone who was part of a criminal investigation division or a person who worked in a medical examiner's office but unfortunately, I could not find anyone in that category. With limited options, I decided to look for people with similar job aspects. It seemed the only other option was a funeral director. I thought back to my experiences with death in my childhood and figured that would be a great way for me to see all that happens when a person dies.

I had no idea how much work, patience, compassion, and listening skills you had to have in order to care for a family.

I job shadowed a wonderful lady who was a fairly new funeral director. She took me around the funeral home and showed me all the processes and procedures and I was in awe of everything. I had no idea how much work, patience, compassion, and listening skills you had to have in order to care for a family. She let me sit in with a family to make arrangements and even ask them questions about their daughter who died. I felt honored that they allowed me to be in that room and open up to me. It was then I felt like I was right where I was supposed to be and that maybe funeral service was the career

Continued on page 14



 *Looking for unique and inspiring ideas for remembering loved ones at Christmas?*

Whether you have recently suffered the loss of a loved one or you are simply missing his or her presence, there are special ways to include him or with special 'in memory' at Christmas decorations and gifts.

We have compiled 45 of the best ideas for honoring your loved one's life, love and legacy this holiday season. (We are quietly confident that you will find an idea that you and your family will love.)

**Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas With Special Decorations**

1. Purchase or make your own personalized 'in memory' at Christmas ornament with your loved one's name or photo on it to commemorate your loved one. Gather the family together and share memories of your loved one while you hang the ornament on the Christmas tree.

2. Tie a beautiful ribbon around the trunk of your Christmas tree in your loved one's favorite color. This is an activity that the youngest members of the family can participate in.

3. Remembering loved ones at Christmas is simple to do by hanging stockings with their names embroidered on them. On Christmas Eve, have your family members fill the stockings with cards and letters to or about your loved ones. You can all take turns reading the

memories out loud on Christmas Day. This is sure to become a beautiful and meaningful family tradition.

4. Make an angel tree topper in memory of your loved one to top your Christmas tree. You could make the angel's clothes or wings out of your loved one's clothing.

5. Dedicate a small Christmas tree to your loved one and decorate it with photos, notes, and special 'in memory' at Christmas ornaments.

6. Make a memory wreath dedicated to your loved one and hang it on your front door. Decorate the memory wreath with ribbons in your loved one's favorite colors, sentimental objects and photographs.

7. Buy a special candle and dedicate it to your loved one's memory. Keep it lit throughout the Christmas season (but do not leave it unattended).

8. If you enjoy doing crafts, try making a memory candle with a treasured photograph of your loved one. Again, keep it lit throughout the holiday season.

9. At your place of worship, light candles in your loved one's name or remember him or her in prayer.

10. Set up a memorial table in your home for remembering loved ones. When friends and family come over for Christmas dinner, ask them to bring a small memento to place on the memory table that reminds them of someone special that has passed away.

11. Buy your loved one's favorite holiday flowers or plants (as examples, poinsettias or amaryllis) to display in your home over Christmas. For an extra special touch, make a homemade plant marker with your loved one's name on it.

12. If your loved one loved the ocean, carve his or her name onto a smooth rock and throw it into the ocean, or use the rock to create an inukshuk on the shore. (An inukshuk is a human-made stone landmark that was traditionally built by Inuits to say: "Someone Was Here".)

13. Find a poem that reminds you of your loved one, or compose an original poem. Use your best penmanship to write the poem, frame the poem and displayed it in your home over the holiday season.

### **Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas at the Dinner Table**

14. Set a place for your loved one at the Christmas dinner table. This will be an especially poignant 'in memory' at Christmas tradition if your loved one usually sat at a particular place.

15. Prepare your loved one's favorite dish to add to the Christmas feast.

16. If your loved one was a baker, or enjoyed cookies, bake his or her favorite holiday treat with your family. These can be the cookies that are left out for Santa...

17. Dedicate some time before you and your family start eating Christmas dinner for remembering loved ones. You and your guests can take turns toasting them and sharing special memories.

18. Purchase or make your loved one's favorite holiday treats, whether it be a certain kind of chocolate, candy canes, or their favorite Christmas cookies and cakes. On Christmas Eve, set a beautiful table filled with sentimental holiday treats to enjoy with your family and friends.

### **In Memory' at Christmas With Special Cards & Gifts**

19. If your family takes a photo every year for your Christmas card, start a tradition of including an angel, dove, butterfly, or some other symbol to represent your loved one.

20. Send a holiday card to someone that was special to your loved one, for example, an old friend that too is missing him or her during the holidays.

21. Parting with your loved one's belongings can be an emotional experience. Wrap a keepsake that belonged to your loved one and give it as a gift to another grieving family member. (This is one of our favorites 'in memory' at

Christmas traditions.)

22. Make a scrapbook celebrating your loved one's life and give it as a gift to someone who also loved him or her.

23. Frame your favorite photos of your loved one and give them as Christmas gifts.

24. Remembering loved ones at Christmas is easily accomplished by hanging a ribbon with charms containing their photos from the mistletoe.

25. Make a commemorative bracelet that you can give to family and friends. Make the bracelet extra special by creating your own beads using petals or leaves from your loved one's favorite flower, plant, or tree.

### **In Memory' at Christmas With Charitable Giving & Acts of Kindness**

26. Donate your loved one's personal belonging to a charity or make a cash donation in his or her honor.

27. Create a scholarship at a local school, technical college, or university in your loved one's memory.

28. Remember loved ones at Christmas by asking your family members to purchase gifts in your loved one's honor and place them under the Christmas tree. After Christmas, donate the gifts to a charity that was important to your loved one or to neighbors in need.

29. Decorate a wreath and donate it to a local hospital, nursing home, or homeless shelter in your loved one's name.

30. Purchase your loved one's favorite holiday story book and donate it to your local library or school. You can place a label in the front cover indicating that the book was donated in your loved one's name.

31. Volunteer your time to help those in need during the Christmas holidays is a great way for remembering loved ones at Christmas. If your loved one was passionate about a particular cause, choose a related charity to volunteer for. As an example, if he or she was an animal lover, volunteer at a local animal shelter.

32. Invite someone who is lonely to spend Christmas with you and your family. He or she will appreciate having people to spend the holidays with. This is beautiful 'in memory' at Christmas tradition.

33. Instead of the "Twelve Days of Christmas," do "Twelve Days of Random Acts of Kindness" instead. Each day, do one random act of kindness in your loved one's name, such as paying for the coffee of the person standing behind

you in line, or sponsoring a child from another country in need of basic necessities. Kindness is a wonderful way to celebrate the positive impact your loved one had on the world.

34. Knit a scarf or pair of gloves in your loved one's favorite color and donate it to a local charity or homeless shelter. You can even create a tag that indicates that you made the gift in his or her memory.

### **More Great Ideas for Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas**

35. During the holiday season, surround yourself with people that you love and who also loved the person you lost.

36. Sing your loved one's favorite Christmas carol with your family on Christmas Eve or while caroling. If you play a musical instrument, learn to play the song and have your family sing along.

37. Create a Christmas music playlist full of your loved one's favorite holiday songs. Have the music playing in the background during your family dinner.

38. Host a movie night with family and friends where you watch your loved one's favorite holiday movie.

39. Watch old family home movies, especially of past Christmas holidays. It can be comforting to see your loved one, hear his or her voice, and relive wonderful memories.

40. Gather around the fireplace with a cup of steaming hot chocolate. Have everyone in the family write down a

special memory of your loved one, or special messages to him or her. Then take turns letting the messages burn in the fire as a symbol of sending the messages onto your loved one.

41. Remember a loved one by taking a trip to a place that he or she always wanted to visit, or that was special to him or her.

42. Start a new tradition during the holidays where you and your family take part in your loved one's favorite hobby. For example, if he or she loved board games, have a games night with family and friends in his or her memory.

43. Build a snowman in your yard and dress it in your loved one's old scarf, hat and mittens. This is a great activity to get the kids involved in honoring your loved one's memory.

44. Visit your loved one's resting place and leave a Christmas wreath that incorporates family photographs and mementos.

45. Plant a memorial tree and dedicate it to your loved one. You can then decorate the outdoor tree each Christmas in memory of your loved one.

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Continued from Page 11

path for me. In doing further research about the funeral industry and talking to more people in it, I decided that being a mortician was what I was going to do in my life.

After graduating from Austintown Fitch High School, I moved from my hometown Youngstown, Ohio to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and attended Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. It was a very challenging as well as rewarding experience. I'm forever grateful for the staff at P.I.M.S. and how they've prepared me for where I am today. Following receiving my associates degree in the mortuary program, I decided to further



my education and obtain my bachelor's degree from Point Park University. Shortly after graduation, I began searching for internships all over the United States. I always said to myself that it didn't matter where I went as long as the job provided a safe and significant work experience. While searching I came across a funeral home who was looking to hire an intern in Missoula, Montana. I'd never even been to the west coast of the United States, but I figured why not take a chance. I applied for the position, was flown out for an

interview, and a couple days later I received a job offer. I accepted that position and I'm now a licensed mortician for Garden City Funeral Home in Missoula.

My experience has been a taxing adjustment but I'm still till this day thankful and blessed to have been given the opportunity to work for this company. I've been able to respectfully serve, build a connection, and positively impact so many families at one of the most difficult times of their lives. That is all I've ever wanted to do, and what I'll continue



# NFDA POLICY BOARD UPDATE



KYLE ZIMMERMAN  
MFDA Policy Board Representative

The Policy Board met prior to the Virtual Convention with not a lot to really report on.

The Board of Directors of NFDA has approved the issuance of a letter to the States Associations which requested the States Association's to consider, if possible, extending the terms of their current Policy Board member so that each could continue being involved in the deliberation of the recommendations of the National Work Group. If the term limits or state association bylaws restricted extending a Policy Board member's term, he or she could serve as an alternate. It was also recommended that the same person attend both days of the two-day Policy Board meetings for consistency of information and discussion. When our State Board met a few weeks, it was discussed, and they voted to extend my term to go with the request of the Board of Directors of NFDA.

General Counsel Scott Gilligan gave an update of the FTC review of the Funeral Rule and the possible impact of the presidential election to the composition of the five-member Federal Trade commission. Scott also discussed the handful of states that have adopted laws to protect businesses against COVID liability claims. NFDA will have a model law available for state associations to use in lobbying their state legislatures.

CEO Christine Pepper noted that NFDA has several new public service announcements available for funeral homes to download along with NFDA's new website, the rememberingalife.com program, and NFDA's public relations initiatives.

**MEDALLION**  
*Vault & Casket Co.*

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At Medallion Vault & Casket, we're a second generation family-run funeral supplier providing personal, friendly, and professional service to our funeral home clients.

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The advertisement features a scenic background of mountains at sunset. In the center, three product images are displayed in rounded rectangular frames: a silver casket on the left, a glass urn in the middle, and a wooden casket on the right. The text is elegantly styled, with the company name in a large serif font and the tagline in a cursive script.



**CHRISTI JACOBSON  
MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE**

"Montanans chose Christi Jacobson as their 22nd Secretary of State with the largest vote count margin of any Secretary of State since 1988. Secretary Jacobson's reputation precedes her with decades of experience in the private and public sectors. She earned her bachelor's degree from Carroll College and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Montana. Jacobson and her husband, Eric, are native Montanans and they have five children. As the newly elected Secretary of State, she is looking forward to partnering with the business community."



**HENRY JOHNSTON**

Henry is a graduate of the Arapahoe Community College Mortuary Science Program, a Past President of the Inland Empire Funeral Directors Association and president-elect of the Ellensburg Downtown Rotary Club.

In March 2019, Henry and his team assisted with the funeral arrangements for Kittitas County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan S. Thompson who was killed in the line of duty. This presentation will focus on what small town funeral homes (those with a combined staff of less than 4 full and part-time associates) might be able to expect should a tragedy of this nature occur in their community. The presentation will also provide resources for firms to develop a contingency and action plan - one that Henry hopes you'll never have to use.

**Mid-Winter Conference  
2021**

**February 4- 3 CE's  
4:00 PM- 7:00 PM**

**Incoming Montana Secretary of State  
Christi Jacobson  
4 PM-4:25 PM  
*4:25 questions and answers***

**Henry Johnston  
Fallen Soldier/Officer Service  
4:30 PM- 5:15 PM  
*5:15 questions and answers***

Short break-5 min

**Leli McMurrough  
"FTC Funeral Home Compliance"  
5:30 PM- 6:20 PM  
*5:20 question and answers***

**DC Legg  
Federated Insurance "Drive Safe"  
6:30-7:00 PM**

**February 18- 3 CE's  
4:00 PM- 7:00 PM**

**Special Guest-TBA  
*4:20 questions and answers***

**Leli McMurrough  
"Avoiding Cremation Litigation"  
4:30 PM- 6:20 PM  
*6:20 questions and answers***

**Justin Hurley  
Bio-One  
"Suicide, Crime Scene, Extreme Clean-up in  
Unattended Deaths"  
6:30-6:50  
*6:50 questions and answers***

MONTANA FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



**LEILI MCMURROUGH  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR,  
WORSHAM COLLEGE**

Leili McMurrough is a licensed funeral director and embalmer and a licensed attorney. Leili received her B.A. from Lehigh University, her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law and her Associate degree from Simmons Institute of Funeral Service. Leili is the Program Director at Worsham College and works at McMurrough Funeral Chapel in Libertyville, Illinois. She is also a member of the American Board of Funeral Service Education Committee on Accreditation.



**DC LEGG  
FEDERATED INSURANCE**

DC LEGG is an Experienced Marketing Representative with a demonstrated history of working in the insurance industry. Skilled in Property & Casualty Insurance, Customer Service, Sales, Commercial Insurance, and Marketing. Strong marketing professional with a Bachelor of Science (BS) focused in Kinesiology and Exercise Science from California State University-Bakersfield.



**JUSTIN HURLEY  
BIO- ONE  
IDAHO FALLS**

Justin is the owner of Bio-One Idaho Falls. Justin grew up in Twin Falls Idaho where he received an Associates Degree from the College of Southern Idaho, and was also on the basketball team there. He received a Bachelor's Degree from Brigham Young University-Idaho in healthcare administration. Bio-One, crime scene cleanup, homicide, suicide, and hoarding services.



*we look forward to seeing you in Helena in 2023*

# Thank you!

## FIRMS

Anderson Stevenson Wilke  
Funeral Home and  
Crematory  
Asper Funeral Homes, Inc.  
Axelson Funeral &  
Cremation Services  
Austin Funeral Home  
Bell Mortuary  
Benton Funeral Home  
Big Sky Cremation  
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Burial Service  
Dokken-Nelson Funeral  
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Funeral Home  
Franzen Davis Funeral Home  
& Crematory  
Garden City Funeral Home  
Gorder Jensen Funeral  
Home  
Hi-Line Funeral Services  
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Johnson-Gloschat Funeral  
Home & Crematory  
K&L Mortuaries

Longfellow Finnegan Riddle  
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Poplar Chapel  
Remington Letcher Funeral  
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Inc.- Dickenson  
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Sunset Hills Memorial  
Funeral Home & Cemetery  
The Lake Funeral Home &  
Crematory  
Wayrynen-Richards Funeral  
Home  
Whitesitt Funeral Home  
Whitted Funeral Home  
Wier Funeral Home  
Wilderness Funeral Homes-  
Chinook  
Wilderness Funeral Homes-  
Malta

Wilderness Funeral Homes-  
Havre

## NON-FIRM MEMBERS

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W. Kent Bell  
Matt Coon  
Robert Ross  
Dave Fulkerson  
Pastor John Fauerbach  
David Fulkerson  
LIFETIME MEMBERS  
Gary Bidwell  
William Bray  
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Niles Nelson  
Gary Croxford

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