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**"Maybe Christmas"**  
*the Grinch thought,*  
**"doesn't come from a store."**  
**"Maybe Christmas,**  
*...perhaps...*  
**means a little bit more."**  
**-Dr. Seuss**



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**MONTANA FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

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**James Brown**  
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**Terri James**  
 Executive Assistant

## A MESSAGE FROM MFDA PRESIDENT



Greetings and Happy Holidays. I am stunned that we are at that time of year. It seems we just started 2021, burned through summer, and now here we are looking to close the year and look to 2022. I hope all of you are safe and well.

What a year we have had. From COVID lockdowns to no lockdowns and then COVID return. I suspect all of us have had mixed feelings on the whole year and what has transpired. We here in Helena are facing multiple COVID deaths a week and it now seems to have reached a pinnacle and is tapering off somewhat.

Just a reminder that the Board of Funeral Service is auditing for CE's; make sure you and your staff are up to date and ready for audit. Inspections are happening, so be prepared for that also. It is nice just to be prepared and not have to worry about anything.

It was great to have the in-person Fall District meetings in Billings and Missoula. The chance to reconnect and have "face time" with those that came was great. I hope in the Spring we can do this again and maybe have the meetings in each district, we will see, it might provide more of an opportunity for more people to take advantage of being in person and getting their CE's without having to travel so far.

I did have the great opportunity to join the NFDA in Nashville, Tennessee. What a great city. The NFDA put on a really awesome event. Plenty of CE opportunities, mingling with other funeral service professionals from all over, some great seminars, and of course some awesome food. For the CE's, there was a variety of information: Decomp restoration and the long process to become viewable and have an open casket at the service; there was a recap of the FTC rules and what is expected from us; some information of family-owned business and the procedures of turning the reins over to the next generation; there was a good presentation of the LGBT issues we are facing and will continue to face in the future; just to name a few.

The seminars were very well presented to everyone attending. One was motivational and insightful with thoughts and ideas for us, our staff, and the families we help. Another on the effects of drugs and suicides on families and how they see us as professionals and how they view us as we present ourselves and our services. (Remember, it is always the little things people really notice or grasp onto.) The last presentation was from "The Buried Life", very interesting info on that. The Service of Remembrance was very well done and listed all the funeral members that have passed from each state, with a gospel choir.

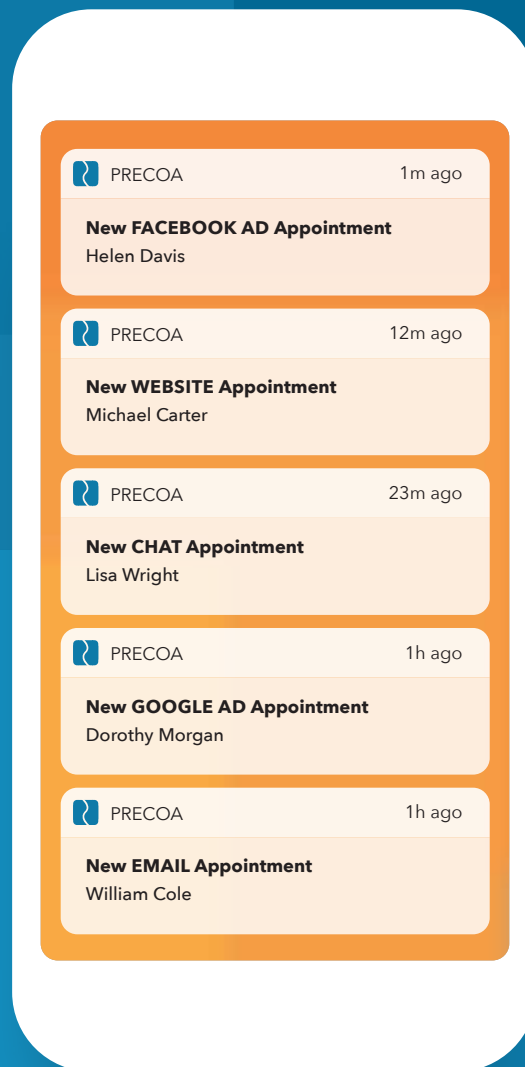
As for the Convention itself with tons of vendors. Some interesting products and services out there. There were the usual vendors: Messenger, Batesville, Mathews, Funeral One, Precoa, Eagles Wings, Inman Shipping, Legacy Touch, Bass Mollett, etc. A lot of other different Preneed companies, funeral funding companies, Insurance Assignment companies, etc. Some new ideas: a company turning ashes to solidified remains (stones), Aroma Therapy for the funeral homes, Ashes to diamonds, dried flowers into keepsakes, some cool new hearses, and even custom vintage hearses. A lot to take in but well worth the trip and the city.

I hope each and every one of you, your staff, and your loved ones have a blessed holiday season. Let's all count our blessings and be thankful and mourn those that have passed. God Bless and peaceful Holidays to you and yours. Thank you for the privilege to serve as your President.

**Chris Holt**  
**MFDA President**

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## A MESSAGE FROM MFDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to our final edition of the MFDA Directors Digest for 2021. It's hard to believe another year has come, has been experienced, and is on its way out. I always appreciate a year's end because it presents a time to reflect on all the blessings I have received for the past 12 months. It is also a time to plan for what is to come in the new year.

I write this article on a beautiful, bluebird fall day here in Montana. This beautiful 'fall' has been a welcome relief from one of the hottest, driest, and smokiest Montana summers I can recall experiencing. I am sure many of you would agree with that sentiment.

The fall of 2021 was another busy time for the Association. In September, the MFDA Board met virtually to discuss, among other things, the financial performance of the Association in 2021, whether to hold a live state convention in 2022, the status of federal and state policies and legislation, changes being proposed by the NFDA to the policy board, and the content of the Fall District meeting.

And, in October, the Association hosted its annual Montana dinner during the NFDA national convention held in Nashville. After having the 2020 MFDA national convention canceled, it was heartening for MFDA's members to be able to gather again and to enjoy good company in a less formal setting.

In addition, I write this article on the heels of our fall district meetings. I am pleased that the Association was able to return to a live format for our fall district meetings after being forced to go to an all-online format in 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic.

For the fall district meetings, which were held in Billings and Missoula, MFDA was fortunate to have Dominick Astorino come to Montana to present in person. Mr. Astorino is no stranger to MFDA's membership as he has put on education programs for our membership during our previous state conventions.

Mr. Astorino gave an informative and heartfelt presentation on Reading Between the Lines: Formaldehyde Facts, Fallacies and Bias, and a second presentation on Practical Restorative Art.

In addition to Mr. Astorino's presentation, MFDA's President Chris Holt provided to the district meeting attendees a comprehensive update on his efforts on behalf of the Association. If you attended the fall district meeting, you are entitled to 2 CE credits. To ensure that you receive your continuing education credit, please contact MFDA membership director Terri James with your license information.

We here at MFDA make it our goal for every member and associate member who attends one of our association events to come out of the event with a 'takeaway'. That is, we structure our Association events so that you 'takeaway' some information or knowledge that you can use in and apply to your career and/or personal life. I believe our district meeting speaker gave our attendees several excellent 'takeaways'.

If you or someone from your home attended our Fall 2021 District Meeting event, please take a few moments to discuss with your colleagues what they or you took away from the presentation and consider how the knowledge learned will help your customers, your business, and your professional advancement. And keep in mind the 'takeaways' you may garner by attending MFDA's future events, including MFDA's planned 2022 convention to be held in Helena in June.

Speaking of events, as 2022 is an even-numbered year and not a Montana legislative year, the Association will not be hosting a mid-winter conference. However, as requested by you, our membership, we will be holding our in-person district meetings once again in the Spring of 2022.

Barring any setbacks due to covid, Christ Holt and I will travel the State together and look forward to seeing you in person. We are looking at hosting the district meetings in early May and will be in touch with MFDA District Governors regarding times, dates, and locations. The Association will make those meeting details known to you once we know them.

Our 2022 membership renewal notifications and information will go out in December. When you receive your 2022 MFDA membership notice, we trust that the Association's efforts over the last year and a half to tighten the Association's spending belt while expanding member services and programs will be foremost on your mind.

As always, we here at the MFDA, both at the staff and board level, encourage you to let us know if you have any questions about your membership or the benefits you received therefrom. Further, if there is anything 'we' can do to assist you with, or if there are additional benefits we can add that would be of service to your business, please let us know. Our goal is to help ensure that you have the resources to compete and thrive in today's challenging business environment.

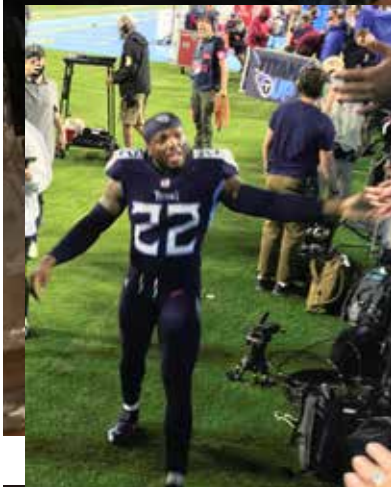
Thank you for your continued support of the MFDA. And thank you for the underappreciated service you provide to Montana's communities. As proven by the events of the last two years, you and your work are valued and needed.

Terri James, MFDA Assistant, and I wish you and your families the best in the 2021 holiday season and hope 2022 brings you joy, good health, and happiness.

**Jim Brown**  
MFDA Executive Director



# NFDA CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW NASHVILLE 2021



## 2021 NFDA GENERAL PRICE LIST STUDY SHOWS FUNERAL COSTS NOT RISING AS FAST AS RATE OF INFLATION

November 04, 2021

For Immediate Release:  
November 4, 2021

Brookfield, Wis. – While the prices for many goods and services are increasing rapidly, the cost of a funeral is not growing as fast as the rate of inflation. According to the 2021 National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) Member General Price List Study, the median cost of a funeral has increased only 6.6% over the past five years to \$7,848 and the median cost of a funeral with cremation has increased 11.3% over the past five years to \$6,970. The overall rate of inflation was 13.98% for the same period.

“Funeral homes offer a wide variety of options to meet financial needs and wishes. The primary role of funeral directors remains helping families understand the many options available to help them in order to commemorate the life of their loved one in meaningful way,” said NFDA Research Manager Deana Gillespie. “Every funeral home offers a unique services and pricing structure.

Families should look for a funeral home that has a strong reputation with licensed funeral directors who understand their emotional needs and will be sensitive to their budget.”

National Median Cost of an Adult Funeral with Viewing and Burial Since the 1960s, NFDA has calculated the national median cost of a funeral with burial by totaling the cost of the following items: basic services fee, removal/transfer of remains to funeral home, embalming and other preparation of the body (casketing, cosmetology, dressing and grooming), a metal casket, use of facilities and staff for viewing and funeral ceremony, use of a hearse, use of a service car/van, and a basic memorial printed package (e.g., memorial cards, register book, etc.). The cost does not take into account cemetery, monument or marker costs or miscellaneous cash-advance charges, such as for flowers or an obituary.



## Survey Methodology

A survey was mailed to 5,328 NFDA-member funeral homeowners on July 29, 2021, to gather General Price List and other related data. Members also had the option of completing the survey online. A link to complete the survey was emailed to all main contacts with a valid email address, posted for three consecutive weeks in the NFDA Bulletin (electronic newsletter), and a reminder to complete the survey was emailed to all main contacts as well.

Of the potential respondents, 814 members anonymously completed the survey, which accurately reflects NFDA's total membership (with 95% confidence) within a range of +3.4%. Responses also accurately reflect NFDA's membership by U.S. census district.

Order the 2021 GPL Survey Report  
Funeral professionals interested in purchasing a digital copy of the survey report should call NFDA at 800-228-6332 or visit [www.nfda.org/store](http://www.nfda.org/store). The full report is free to NFDA members and \$175 for nonmembers.



# Survey Continued

Item	2021	2016	% Change
Nondeclinable basic services fee	\$2,300	\$2,100	9.5%
Removal/transfer of remains to funeral home	\$350	\$325	7.7%
Embalming	\$775	\$725	6.9%
Other preparation of the body	\$275	\$250	10.0%
Use of facilities/staff for viewing	\$450	\$425	5.9%
Use of facilities/staff for funeral ceremony	\$515	\$500	3.0%
Hearse	\$350	\$325	7.7%
Service car/van	\$150	\$150	0.0%
Printed materials (basic memorial package)	\$183	\$160	14.1%
Metal burial casket	\$2,500	\$2,400	4.2%
<b>Median Cost of a Funeral with Viewing and Burial</b>	<b>\$7,848</b>	<b>\$7,360</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
Vault	\$1,572	\$1,395	12.7%
Total with vault	\$9,420	\$8,775	7.6%

## National Median Cost of an Adult Funeral with Viewing and Cremation

NFDA calculates the national median cost of a cost of a funeral with cremation by totaling the cost of the following items: basic services fee, removal/transfer of remains to funeral home, embalming and other preparation of the body, use of facilities and staff for viewing and a funeral ceremony, use of a service car/van, basic memorial printed package, cremation fee, cremation casket, and urn. The median cost does not include the price of interment in a cemetery, monument/marker costs or other miscellaneous cash advance charges.

Item	2021	2016	% Change
Nondeclinable basic services fee	\$2,300	\$2,100	9.5%
Removal/transfer of remains to funeral home	\$350	\$325	7.7%
Embalming	\$775	\$725	6.9%
Other preparation of the body	\$275	\$250	10.0%
Use of facilities/staff for viewing	\$450	\$425	5.9%
Use of facilities/staff for funeral ceremony	\$515	\$500	3.0%
Service car/van	\$150	\$150	0.0%
Printed materials (basic memorial package)	\$183	\$160	14.1%
Cremation fee (if firm uses a third-party)*	\$368	\$350	5.0%
Cremation casket	\$1,310	\$1,000	31.0%
Urn	\$295	\$275	7.3%
<b>Median Cost of a Funeral with Viewing and Cremation</b>	<b>\$6,970</b>	<b>\$6,260</b>	<b>11.3%</b>
<i>*59.9% of respondents use a third-party crematory (i.e., the funeral home does not own a crematory)</i>			

Other national median costs reported in the survey for 2021 include:

- Rental casket: \$995
- Metal Burial Casket: \$2,500
- Wood Burial Casket: \$3,000
- Green Burial Casket: \$1,500
- Cremation Casket: \$1,310
- Alternative Cremation Container: \$150
- Vault: \$1,572
- Urn: \$295

## Regional Costs

Costs for goods and services vary by region. Many factors contribute to the final determination of how an individual funeral home prices its goods and services, including the firm's business philosophy and the market in which it operates.

# Survey Continued

	Median Cost of an Adult Funeral with Viewing and Ceremony Followed by Burial	Median Cost of an Adult Funeral with Viewing and Cremation
<b>New England</b> <i>CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT</i>	\$7,881	\$7,069
<b>Middle Atlantic</b> <i>NJ, NY, PA</i>	\$8,093	\$7,463
<b>South Atlantic</b> <i>DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, WV, VA</i>	\$7,800	\$7,070
<b>East South Central</b> <i>AL, KY, MS, TN</i>	\$7,271	\$6,314
<b>West South Central</b> <i>AR, LA, OK, TX</i>	\$7,334	\$6,405
<b>East North Central</b> <i>IL, IN, MI, OH, WI</i>	\$7,868	\$6,953
<b>West North Central</b> <i>IA, MN, KS, MO, ND, SD, NE</i>	\$8,500	\$7,560
<b>Mountain</b> <i>AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY</i>	\$6,888	\$5,694
<b>Pacific</b> <i>AK, CA, HI, OR, WA</i>	\$7,225	\$6,028



**MEMORIAL**  
— MONUMENTS —





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— MONUMENTS —



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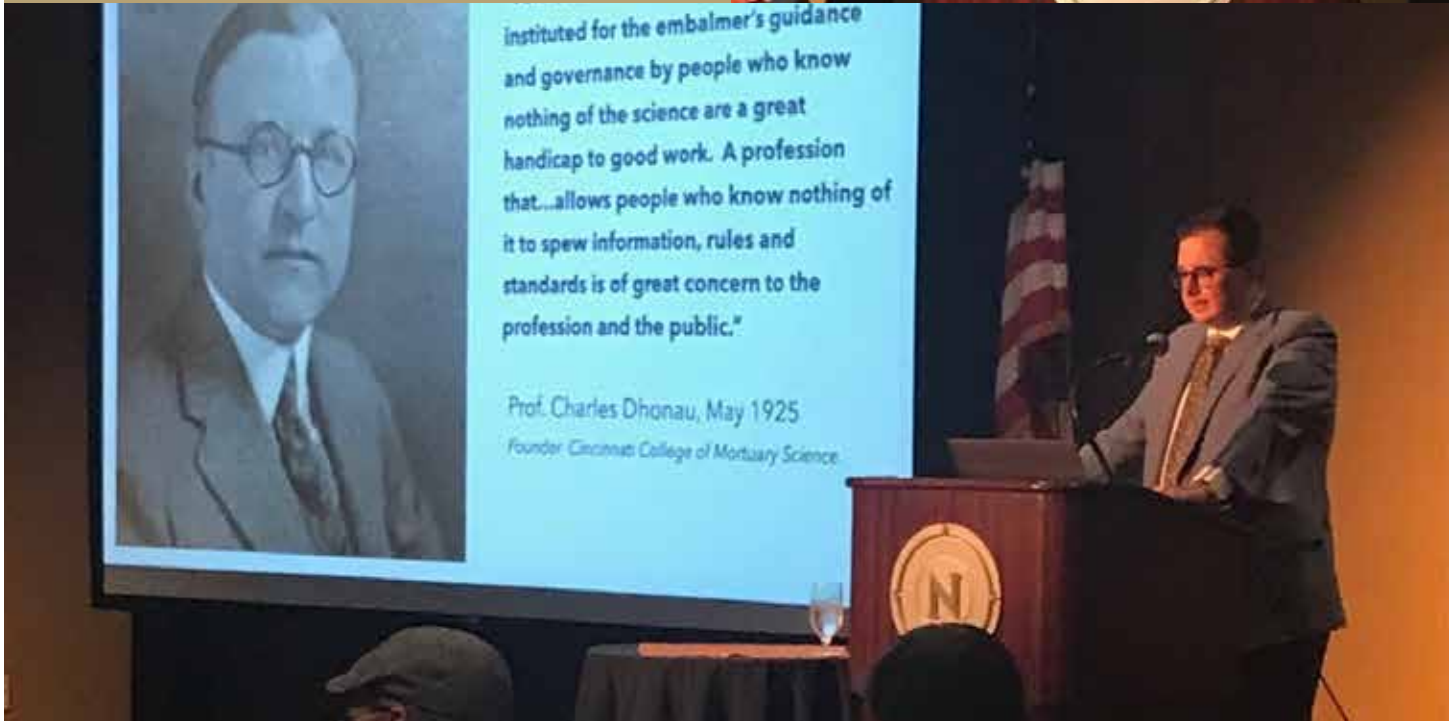
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2021  
Fall District  
Meetings



instituted for the embalmer's guidance and governance by people who know nothing of the science are a great handicap to good work. A profession that...allows people who know nothing of it to spew information, rules and standards is of great concern to the profession and the public."

Prof. Charles Dhonau, May 1925  
Founder Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science





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## What is the goal?

To improve the access and entry point into treatment, and ultimately, get more people into treatment.

## What does the program do?

The Angel Initiative allows someone who is struggling with addiction and substance use to come into any participating law enforcement office and receive assistance in locating and being connected with treatment, without consequences or questions (subject to certain limitations).

# MONTANA ANGEL INITIATIVE

With support from Governor Gianforte, the initiative is a collaboration with DPHHS, treatment providers, and participating law enforcement entities.

## What are limitations to participation?

**Potential participants are screened for the following disqualifiers:**

- (1) An outstanding arrest warrant or a non-extraditable arrest warrant in another jurisdiction,
- (2) Participant is a registered sex offender in any state,
- (3) There is a reasonable belief that the coordinator or others could be harmed by the participant,
- (4) An unaccompanied minor,
- (5) Must be voluntary (not court ordered, or for people encountered during investigation or response).

## What is the process for the participant?

1. Participant lets officer or other staff know they need help.
2. Participant is screened for disqualifiers .
3. Get photo ID and Insurance if available.
4. Turn in any drugs or paraphernalia (won't be charged or investigated).
5. Call the 1-800 number on this page to coordinate treatment.

## Questions? Contact:

Zoe Barnard  
Administrator, Addictive & Mental Disorders Division  
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services  
(406) 444-7044 or [zbarnard@mt.gov](mailto:zbarnard@mt.gov)





## DPHHS Launch Angel Initiative To Increase Access to Treatment



Governor's Office

November 09 2021

GREAT FALLS, Mont. – Today with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Director Adam Meier, Cascade County Sheriff Jesse Slaughter, and Rimrock CEO Lenette Kosovich, Governor Greg Gianforte announced a new initiative by the state to address Montana's substance abuse crisis.

Launched today at the Cascade County Sheriff's Office, the Angel Initiative improves access to substance abuse treatment for Montanans through increased entry points to treatment and coordination with participating law enforcement partners.

"Montana faces a substance abuse crisis, and we must do all we can to connect Montanans who need help to treatment," Governor Gianforte said. "Under the leadership of Director Meier, DPHHS is thinking outside of the box to reduce the stigma associated with treatment and guide individuals on the path to recovery."

A collaborative effort among Governor Gianforte, DPHHS, participating law enforcement entities, and treatment providers, the Angel Initiative allows someone who is struggling with addiction and substance use to go into any participating law enforcement office and receive assistance to connected with treatment. To date, nearly 20 Montana sheriff's offices have committed to join the effort.

"We're pleased that the Cascade County sheriff and other sheriffs across the state are participating in the Angel Initiative," DPHHS Director Meier said. "We're thrilled to be partnering with law enforcement and treatment providers to guide folks on the path to recovery and save lives."

*Cascade County is considered the first site to launch the new effort. Other participating sites will become active after state-coordinated trainings scheduled for November and December, with the goal of having all sites trained by the new year.*

"I believe this program has great potential, and we're excited to join the effort," Sheriff Slaughter said. "In the end, we all have the same goal: keep our communities safe and help connect Montanans with the treatment they need. When that happens, we all win. Families stay together, children are safer, and people stay out of the judicial system."

A toll-free number connects law enforcement to the Angel Line where a mental health professional will assess the level of care an individual may need. If there is no availability in the local community, the Angel Line will provide alternate options for treatment in nearby communities. A placement for treatment is not guaranteed, and the participant may be placed on a wait list.

Kosovich said Rimrock is committed to working directly with law enforcement and other providers to help connect Montanans with treatment.

“We fully understand the toll that substance use disorders continue to take on Montanans, and this is yet another tool that can help connect people with the treatment they need,” Kosovich said. “We are eager to work with law enforcement and with all treatment providers as we work together to move this initiative forward.”

The state is also working with the Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana to enroll substance abuse providers. To date, a total of nine providers representing over 20 counties have joined the Angel Initiative.

Meier said similar programs have been successful in other states, citing the Kentucky State Police starting a similar initiative in 2016 with all 16 Kentucky State Police Posts participating. The program has helped placed several hundred individuals seeking assistance in treatment programs.

Information about the new program is available at [angelinitiative.mt.gov](http://angelinitiative.mt.gov). The website features a map of participating locations, including specific contact information for each location.

The governor cited several key statistics describing the impact in Montana:

- DPHHS estimates that approximately 90,000 Montanans have a substance use disorder, but realistically only a fraction of these people seek treatment in any given year.
- While opioids still account for the largest percentage of drug overdoses in the state, methamphetamine-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits in Montana have increased over the last few years. Approximately 12,900 adolescent and adult Montanans used methamphetamine between 2009 and 2019.
- In 2019, the annual methamphetamine-related death rate in Montana was 7.2 per 100,000 people, exceeding the national average of 5.7 per 100,000 people.
- Furthermore, over 65 percent of Child and Family Services Division substance-use related placements list methamphetamine as the primary drug.

From January through September 2021, the state averaged 69 opioid overdose calls per month. And, from late spring through summer 2021, Montana saw some of the highest opioid overdose monthly call volumes in the last three years, with 82 calls in July as the highest during that time frame.

## What are limitations to participation?

Potential participants are screened for the following disqualifiers:

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4. An unaccompanied minor,

Must be voluntary (not court ordered, or for people encountered during investigation or response).



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1. Participant lets officer or other staff know they need help.
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3. Get photo ID and Insurance if available.
4. Turn in any drugs or paraphernalia (won't be charged or investigated).

**Call 1-877-264-3585 to coordinate treatment.**



# Scammers are sending fake IRS emails about Economic Impact Payments

October 27, 2021

by Cristina Miranda

Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC



There's a fake IRS email that keeps popping into people's inboxes. It says that you can get a third Economic Impact Payment (EIP) if you click a link that lets you "access the form for your additional information" and "get help" with the application. But the link is a trick. If you click it, a scammer might steal your money and your personal information to commit identity theft. It's yet another version of the classic government impersonator scam.

Here are ways to avoid this scam:

Know that the government will never call, text, email, or contact you on social media saying you owe money, or to offer help getting a third Economic Impact Payment (EIP). If you get a message with a link from someone claiming to be from the IRS or another government agency, don't click on it. It's a scam. Scammers will often send fake links to websites or use bogus email addresses and phone numbers that seem to be from the government. Your best bet is to visit the IRS's website directly for trustworthy information on EIP payments.

Say no to anyone who contacts you, claiming to be from a government agency and asking for personal or financial information, or for payment in cash, gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency. Whether they contact you by phone, text, email, on social media, or show up in person, don't share your Social Security, Medicare ID, driver's license, bank account, or credit card numbers. And know that the government would never ask you to pay to get financial help.

Report government impersonators to [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud). Your report makes a difference. Reports like yours help us investigate, bring law enforcement cases, and alert people about what frauds to be on the lookout for so they can protect themselves, their friends, and family.

Visit [ftc.gov/imposters](https://www.ftc.gov/imposters) to find out more about government impersonators. And to learn more about the signs of a scam, what to do, and how to report it, check out [ftc.gov/scams](https://www.ftc.gov/scams).

# Policy Board Meeting in Nashville

The General Membership voted on the elimination of the Policy Board this past September.

We had our last meeting in Nashville at the National Convention. Some of the Policy Board Members called it the "Last Supper".

It will be called the Leadership Development Committee which will be comprised of 9 Past Policy Board members that ran in a contest who were voted on by the Policy Board members that were present.

There are only 2 members that are on the Westside of the Mississippi River. The rest of the members are from the bigger states. So, it might be interesting to see how this might change or affect things down the line. They had their first meeting right after ours to try to figure out what their goals or guidelines might be. It will be new territory for them and for NFDA.

Scott Gilligan gave his last report serving as the NFDA Legal Council. Over the years, NFDA has periodically surveyed State Laws on Cremation, Right of Disposition, and Preneed Consumer Protection Laws.

On behalf of the NFDA Board of Directors and Staff:

Thank you for your service and dedication to the National Funeral Directors Association and funeral service.



NFDA Policy Board, October 16, 2021

*Randy Anderson*



*R. Bryant Hightower*

*Christina Peppers*

Regarding the State of Montana for the State Laws on Cremation, the PreNeed Law Consumer Protection Laws and the State Right of Disposition Law, we are listed in the excellent ratings.

It was great to serve the MFDA as the policy Board Rep and I hope to continue down the line to represent. MFDA.

Sincerely  
Kyle Zimmerman



JUNE 2-5, 2022  
HELENA, MT

406.449.7244  
INFO@MONTANAFDA.ORG

IN LOVING MEMORY

# *Memory*

DONNA R. (HOLT) EASTWOOD



Donna R. (Holt) Eastwood was called home into the arms of Jesus on Aug 30th, 2021 of natural causes surrounded by her loving family.

Donna was born the oldest of 6 kids to Bud and Dorthey Raden on May 19, 1944 in Washington D.C. The family would move to Glendive, Montana where she spent her childhood and finished high school.

Donna married David Holt on June 10, 1966. The two eventually settled in Oregon to raise their children. They later divorced but remained friends until David's passing in 2000. It was not an easy life by any means, however she walked it with grace, love, and a strength that shined through. These things she passed to each of her kids. We are all who we are today because of the amazing women she was.

While raising a gaggle of kids, Donna against all odds, went to college and got her degree in HR. Donna moved to Great Falls Montana in 1992. She worked a few jobs until she found her dream job as a teachers aid at Riverview elementary and a substitute teacher for the city of Great Falls. Besides raising her own kids, this was her biggest passion and joy: to shape the lives of so many young kids brought her an amazing amount of joy.

The staff, teachers, and students of Valley View elementary school held a very special place in her heart for the past 18 years.

Donna met and fell deeply in love with an amazing man, Medwin (Med) East Wood, the two were married on April 18, 2003. Med filled her life with so much love, joy, laughter, and adventure. He made Donna incredibly happy. A gift her kids can never repay. Donna leaves a legacy bigger than she could have known. The lives she touched will forever be better for having had her in it.

Donna is survived by her husband Med Eastwood; children: Julie (Bob) Barrett of Welches, OR, Tricia (Larry) Oxley of Great Falls, MT, Brian (Luisa) Holt of Salem, OR, Chris (Kelly) Holt of Helena, MT, Heather (Jim) Lamoreaux of Kinross, Michigan, Bernadette (Scott) Mader of Great Falls, MT, and Jody (Morey ) Foster of Great Falls, MT; a sister Diane Tresscott, brothers Doug Raden, Dennis Raden, and Jim Raden; many grandkids and great grandkids as well. She was welcomed into heaven by her son David Holt; great-grandson Kayson Harrison; both her parents, her brother Richard (Dick) Raden, sister-in-law Hazel Raden, brother-in-law Gary Tresscott and many more.

There will be a service later sometime in the spring. In the words that live on with in each of us "Bye for now". Please visit [www.aswfuneralhome.com](http://www.aswfuneralhome.com) to offer a condolence to the family or to share a memory of Donna.



# IN LOVING MEMORY

# *Memory*



## PAULA SUZANNE (KIMPLE) WHITAKER



Paula Suzanne (Kimple) Whitaker was born in Salem, Oregon on December 26, 1936, to Donald and Delpha Kimple. She came from a heritage of pioneer stock, as many of her ancestors were part of 1845 great migration who travelled west in covered wagons. They were among the earliest settlers of Oregon. She grew up in Eola, Salem and Keizer.

Paula graduated from North Salem High School in 1955. After graduation, she was hired at "Ma Bell", the phone company. She worked a total of 40 years before retiring.

Paula met the love of her life, Laurence "Larry" Whitaker on a blind date. The two were smitten with each other and married on September 7, 1957. One week later, the two moved to San Francisco, where Larry went to mortuary school. Paula typed all of his notes and at the end of the school year, she was confident she could pass the state boards! In 1958, Larry graduated and the two began life in the Funeral Industry.

In 1958, they welcomed their first daughter, Debbie, and 22 months later, their son Scott was born. Soon after, they purchased a funeral home and ambulance service in Albany, Oregon. The family lived in the funeral home when their youngest daughter, Lynn, was born.

Paula would comment on the challenges of raising young children while living in the funeral home. She would also say the kids had excellent manners and knew how to use their "funeral voices" (speaking very quietly). While Larry ran the funeral business, Paula was also involved, particularly taking calls.

In the late '60s, the funeral home was sold, and the family moved to Beaverton, Oregon. Paula transferred with "Ma Bell" and loved working in downtown Portland. She loved the hustle and bustle of the city. She and her good buddy, Judy, would hit the streets running during lunch hour to go shopping.

Paula was a fantastic homemaker. Although she worked full-time and had three kids, her home was always very neat, tidy, and clean. Paula loved music and was an accomplished pianist. She was a talented seamstress and made the majority of her and the girls' clothes. She also was very talented at knitting, embroidery, needlepoint and later in life began a love affair with beading. She made all holidays very special for her family. The home was always decked out for each holiday. She would do her Christmas shopping throughout the year and would look for just the "perfect" gift and would gift wrap them with flair.

In 1978, Larry took a traveling sales job and was often out of town. Paula was quite the independent lady and would hold down the fort at home for weeks at a time. She was often taking phone orders when funeral directors would call. She could even guide funeral directors over the phone on how to clean the filter in their embalming machines!

Paula was a die-hard Trailblazer fan and they had season tickets for well over 30 years. She would rarely miss a game and if Larry was out of town, she would take one of her kids or a friend. She was not going to miss a game just because Larry was out of town!!! Paula loved big cities - Portland, Seattle, and San Francisco. She also enjoyed trips to the Oregon Coast. By far her favorite vacations were the month-long trips Larry and Paula would take to the Hawaiian Islands.

Paula has been described as feisty, a fireball, a spitfire. She was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She was loyal and a champion of all she loved. She often could be heard exclaiming, "Oh! Isn't that wonderful!"

Paula is pre-deceased by her husband, Larry; daughter-in-law, Deon; and, grandson, Forest.

She is survived by her children Debbie (Jerry) Van Kirk; Scott (Alicia); Lynn (Paul) Szasz; grandchildren Brook and Steven; her brother, Steven (Brenda Pace) Kimple and a host of nephews, nieces, and friends.

Funeral services were held at 11:30 am Monday, August 23, 2021, at River View Cemetery in the Adams Chapel, 300 South Taylors Ferry Road, Portland, OR 97219. Private family entombment to follow in River View Cemetery Mausoleum.

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Gary Bidwell  
William Bray  
Donald Hoffman  
Niles Nelson  
Gary Croxford

## NON-FIRM MEMBERS

David Fulkerson  
Matt Coon  
Robert Ross  
Richard Hall  
Brian Bell  
W. Kent Bell  
Jesse Billquist-Jette  
Hunter Keller  
Ann Salisbury  
Shawnee Krauszer

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Batesville  
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Northern Hotel  
Dodge Company  
Federated Insurance  
Hat Creek Urn Company  
LifeNet Health  
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Memorial Monuments  
Montana Med Express  
Messenger  
Mountain Arts Pottery  
OpusXenta  
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Select Bankcard  
SightLife  
SinoSource International  
SLC Community College  
Mortuary Science Program  
Timeless Traditions  
Trost Wealth Management

## 2021 MFDA MEMBERS

## MFDA FIRM MEMBERS

Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home and  
Crematory  
Asper Funeral Homes, Inc.

Austin Funeral Home  
Bell Mortuary  
Benton Funeral Home  
Big Sky Cremation  
Blaine County Funeral Chapel  
Brundage Funeral Home  
Bullis Mortuary  
Clayton Stevenson Memorial Chapel  
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Creel Funeral Home, Inc.  
Cremation and Burial Society of the Rockies  
Dahl Funeral and Cremation Service  
Dahl Funeral Chapel  
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Stevenson Funeral Home Inc. Dickenson  
Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home  
Sunset 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

*Thank  
you*