

The New Englander

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

President
David Boyle
Town of Chelmsford
Chelmsford, MA

Honoring the Past

Serving the Present

Preparing for the Future

www.newenglandcemetery.org

Editor: Donna Hemmann
Cedar Hill Cemetery
453 Fairfield Ave. Hartford, CT. 06114
860-956-3311 fax 860-956-3997
dhemmann@cedarhillcemetery.org

Secretary
Dan Krueger
Beaverdale Memorial Park
New Haven, CT

First Vice-President
Mary Anne Hawthorne
Cedar Hill Cemetery
Hartford, CT

Treasurer
Joseph Swift
Highland Memorial Park
Johnston, RI

Second Vice-President
Kelly Perry
Swan Point Cemetery
Providence, RI

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear NECA Cemeterians,

As we all continue to maneuver through 2020, I hope everyone is doing as well as can be expected. Now that we are eight months into the Covid-19 pandemic, we all have certain protocols in place that we must follow, hopefully it will pay off sooner than later with the lifting of more restrictions as we approach 2021.

As Cemeterians we need to continue to take all the necessary precautions to limit the possibility of being exposed to the virus. Each state association continues to work in conjunction and is in regular contact with their state and local agencies, along with following all guidelines set by the CDC. The association will continue to monitor all Federal, State, and Local guidance and will update our membership as necessary.

Unfortunately, due to the inability to hold in person events and for the safety of both our Cemetery members and Supplier members the 51st Annual Frederick R. Lafond Management Seminar has been rescheduled to 2021. As the planning for the 2021 Management Seminar comes together, we will be updating you all by email and our website.

As a Board, we continue to move forward and stay in close contact, be it through Zoom meetings or conference calls. With the Lafond Management Seminar postponed to 2021 we are in the planning stages of hosting a Webinar in early December, once confirmed we will email the membership.

We are optimistic that plans for next year's Annual Meeting & Conference to be held at the Inn at Mill Falls on Lake Winnepesaukee in Meredith, NH June 21 – 24 will occur. I have reached out to the speakers that were confirmed for the 2020 Annual Meeting and they have all committed to our 2021 meeting.

A reminder for everyone, NECA memberships will be renewing on a calendar basis as of 2021. Cemetery and Supplier renewals will be going out in December along with being available on our website www.newenglandcemetery.org

Stay Well

David J. Boyle, NECA President



CONNECTICUT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Officers and Directors have been appointed for the upcoming year and they are:

President - Jeff Pelletier, Evergreen Cemetery, Watertown

Vice President & Treasurer – Maureen Crick Owen, Newtown Village Cemetery, Newtown

Secretary - Lisa Vaeth, Association of Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Hartford, Hartford

Directors:

Pam Brown, WCC and Hillside Cemetery, Wilton

Maryanne Hawthorne, Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford

J.H. Torrance Downes, Cypress Cemetery, Old Saybrook

T.J. Jeanette, Pine Grove Cemetery, Waterbury

Anthony Puglisi, Evergreen Cemetery and Cremators, New Haven

Mathew Flader, Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport

CCA Ambassador: Martha Smart, Pine Grove Cemetery, Ansonia

Supplier Liaisons: Chris Gehrke, Cooperative Funeral Fund, Inc., Madison

Kerry Ann Mullen, Mullen Construction Co., Inc., Gaylordsville

Immediate Past President:

Dale Fiore, Evergreen Cemetery and Crematory, New Haven

It is with sadness that we inform you that Klas Hemming Bjork of Branford, CT passed away peacefully at home on July 29, 2020. He was the beloved husband of Dorothy Larson Bjork. He was an active, lifelong member of Tabor Lutheran Church in Branford and also served as the Superintendent of Tabor Cemetery for many years. He was also a previous member of CCA. We extend our sympathies to Mr. Bjork's family.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWS

The NH Cemetery Association (NHCA) Board decided to not hold the annual NHCA Fall meeting in October due to required COVID-19 social distancing requirements and concerns with the health of our members. All NHCA officers and the few directors with terms ending in October agreed to serve until the next Association meeting can be held, hopefully in early CY2021.

Ongoing communications continue with NHCA members, sponsors, and suppliers via email, connecting members with cemetery related questions and issues to other NHCA members. Our information sharing and collaboration continues in these challenging times.

Submitted by Mike Horne

Let's have some fun- outside of the Cemetery Business to lighten things up

1. What's the name of Luke Skywalker's troll like advisor in the *Emperor Strikes Back*?
2. What sport uses a piton hammer and nylon rope, with a crash helmet optional?
3. What's the hardest substance in the human body?
4. How many sheets of paper are there in a ream?
5. What is the fastest land animal?

From Trivial Pursuit— Answers within

NECA NEWS

NECA Membership Benefits

Professional Recognition— —Shared Knowledge— —Answers to Questions

Broader Access to Resources— — Industry Links to Vendors & Cemeterians

Added Value to your Board of Trustees & Cemetery Associations

Opens Doors to National & International Cemetery Associations

Know a New England Cemeterian who isn't a NECA member? Have them

Get in touch with Robbin Kelly, NECA Membership Chair

rkelly@town.harwich.ma.us or call Robbin at 508-430-7549



PLEASE NOTE: Based on feedback from our members, the NECA Board of Directors made a change to member benefits. A member who is unable to attend either the Laffond Seminar or Summer Conference may send another individual from the cemetery in their place, without incurring the non-member fees.

VERMONT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Nothing new to report- Meetings on hold due to COVID-19

MAINE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Spencer J. Stonemetz who served for 22 years as Superintendent of First Parish Cemetery in York, ME., passed away on October 23, 2020 at the age of 81.

RHODE ISLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWS



From Joe Swift— a project that Highland Memorial Park has recently completed

NOW AVAILABLE CREMATION NICHE COLUMBARIUMS

To continue to serve the needs of our families, Highland Memorial Park Cemetery has developed and installed Cremation Niche Columbariums. Constructed of solid granite inside and out, the exterior construction is solid gray granite with black granite exterior panel doors. Each unit holds one or two cremations.

MASSACHUSETTS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Report for the New Englander from MCA:

It has been quite a challenging year for all organizations with the inability to hold in person events due to Covid-19, it's unfortunate, but we continue to move forward, be it through Zoom meetings or conference calls. Planning is underway for the Massachusetts Cemetery Association Annual Meeting to be held the first Friday in April 2021, at the Renaissance Place Hotel at Patriot Place in Foxborough MA, we are currently putting together a program and look forward to welcoming back our fellow Cemeterians and Suppliers.

The MCA is currently updating our website and looks forward to its debut in the upcoming weeks. It will be more interactive and easier to navigate. Our address will not change, so please check the website out at www.macemetery.org

The 191st General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is coming to a close soon, as of October 14 we have had a favorable outcome to any bills that were opposed by the MCA, due to the hard work of our Legislative Committee President Tom Daly and our Legislative Lobbyist Guy Glodis.

The 2021 MCA Cemetery and Supplier Membership renewal forms will be emailed out in late November/ early December along with being available on the website, www.macemetery.org.

As always, if anyone has interest in serving on the MCA Board of Director's please feel free to contact any board member (see web site) for more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Board for all its assistance and support throughout this year and look forward to continue working together to grow the MCA.



Join us for a NECA Webinar

Tuesday December 8, 2020

1-2 pm (alternate date, Tues Dec 15)

Topic:

COVID-19—The Pandemic and its Effects
On the Cemetery and Q&A

Speaker— From Green-Wood Cemetery
Brooklyn, NY

Limit of 100 Attendees —so sign up to register early
(email will be sent to all members)



Save the Date !!!!!

Mill Falls

AT THE LAKE



Save the Date

June 21-24 2021

*New England Cemetery Association
118th Annual Meeting & Conference
www.newenglandcemetery.org*

New England Cemetery Association Newsletter

Editor: Donna Hemmann
Cedar Hill Cemetery
453 Fairfield Ave. Hartford, CT.
06114
860-956-3311 fax 860-956-3997
dhemmann@cedarhillcemetery.org