
The New Englander

2023 *FALL EDITION*

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: Raymond C. Scholl
Milford Cemetery Association
P.O. Box 227, Milford, CT 06460
203-915-9547 fax 203-876-2073
Rcscholl627@gmail.com

Secretary
Dan Krueger
Beaverdale Memorial Park
New Haven, CT.

First Vice-President
Gregory Howard
River Bend Cemetery
Westerly, R.I.

Treasurer
Joseph Swift
Highland Memorial Park
Johnston, RI

Second Vice-President
Maureen Crick-Owen
Newtown Village Cemetery
Newtown, CT.



President's Message

David J. Boyle

The Importance of Networking

In 2003, I was hired for the position of Superintendent of Cemeteries with the Town of Chelmsford, I don't know where the 20 years went but here we are. From the beginning I was encouraged by my commissioners to attend the meetings held by both the Mass Cemetery Association and the New England Cemetery Assoc. My first experience was the 2004 Frederick R. Laffond Management Seminar, back then held at UNH in Durham. NH . It was a great learning experience and every year since has not disappointed.

The ability to network with fellow Cemeterians is invaluable. I now have an amazing group of colleagues to converse with, be it an operation question, development question etc.

Over the years, I have gathered a wealth of knowledge, along with having the ability to put in place measures learned at numerous events.

To have the opportunity to network with other professionals, be it from a municipal cemetery, private cemetery, or our very loyal Supplier members, the amount of information you can learn is limitless.

While speaking of attending meetings along with networking, for those of you reading this message, I encourage you all to become actively involved in your own State Association and the New England Cemetery Association, it is imperative that we continue to increase our memberships into the future.

With that, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to the **53rd NECA Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar, being held December 4 – 6, at the Public House in Sturbridge, MA.** See our website for Registration info www.newenglandcemetery.org

State News



New Hampshire Cemetery Association

The NHCA Fall morning meeting (through lunch) was held on October 11th at The Derryfield in Manchester, NH.

Eighty five (85) members and guests attended, representing cemeteries from 40 NH towns and cities.

The keynote speaker was Bob Perry of Topographix from Hudson, NH. Bob's presentation was about his nitch business: cemetery mapping, cemetery drafting service, and ground penetrating radar.

A second speaker, Mel Bennett from Life Forest, spoke on becoming a hybrid cemetery (i.e., offering green burials).

NHCA elections were held for officers (a two year term) and elected were:

Mike Grab (Fitzwilliam), President, Jill Huckins (Concord) Vice President,

Mike Horne (Hooksett) Secretary / Treasurer, and Marie Grella (Amherst), Ass't Secretary/Treasurer.

NOTE: The NH Cemetery Association currently has 148 members, 8 sponsors, and 4 suppliers.

Mike Horne

Secretary/ Treasurer

NH Cemetery Association (NHCA)

Connecticut Cemetery Association

Annual Meeting

On October 12, 2023 the Connecticut Cemetery Association held their annual meeting at Casa Mia in Berlin, CT. We welcomed over 70 cemeterians, suppliers and guests.

The following officers and directors were sworn in:

President: Lisa K. Vaeth, Association of Jewish Cemeteries

Vice-President: J. H. Torrance Downes, Cypress Cemetery

Treasurer: Anthony Puglisi, Evergreen Cemetery and Crematory

Secretary: Pamela Brown, Hillside Cemetery

Directors:

Margaret Clarke, Oak Lawn Cemetery

Jacob Jennings, Grove Street Cemetery

Mark Johnson, South End Burying Grounds

Charlotte Maher, Mountain View Cemetery

William Raffone, Catholic Cemetery Association

Immediate Past President: Maureen Crick Owen, Newtown Village Cemetery

Supplier Liaisons:

Chris Gehrke, Cooperative Funeral Fund

Doak Marasco, The Davey Tree Expert Company

THE NEW ENGLANDER

CCA (Cont'd)

Maureen Crick Owen was thanked for her incredible leadership and presented with a gift from the Board by Dale Fiore.

We had three speakers make thoughtful presentations:

Cemetery Safety for All: Presented by Craig Neal, Regional Vice-President, New England/Metro NY, The Wilbert Group

CT Special Act 23-25/Upkeep of Veterans Graves: Presented by David Evans, Evans and Associates LLC and Ronald Shea, Business Manager, Saint John Bosco Parish

Best Practices for Cemeteries: Presented by Chris Gehrke, Regional Manager of Cemetery Services, Cooperative Funeral Fund

We appreciate everyone who took the time to participate in our annual meeting. Please look for a save the date for our annual Suppliers Expo coming March 2024!



Back row, left to right: Charlotte Maher, Chris Gehrke, Bill Raffone, Margaret Clarke, Jacob Jennings, Doak Marasco

Front row, left to right: Anthony Puglisi, Lisa Vaeth, Maureen Crick Owen, Pamela Brown.

Missing from photo: J.H. Torrance Downes & Mark Johnson



If anyone has something you would like to share, please email me at Rcscholl627@gmail.com

It could be an event, project, a new piece of equipment, Vandalism, storm damage an unusual memorial, Etc.



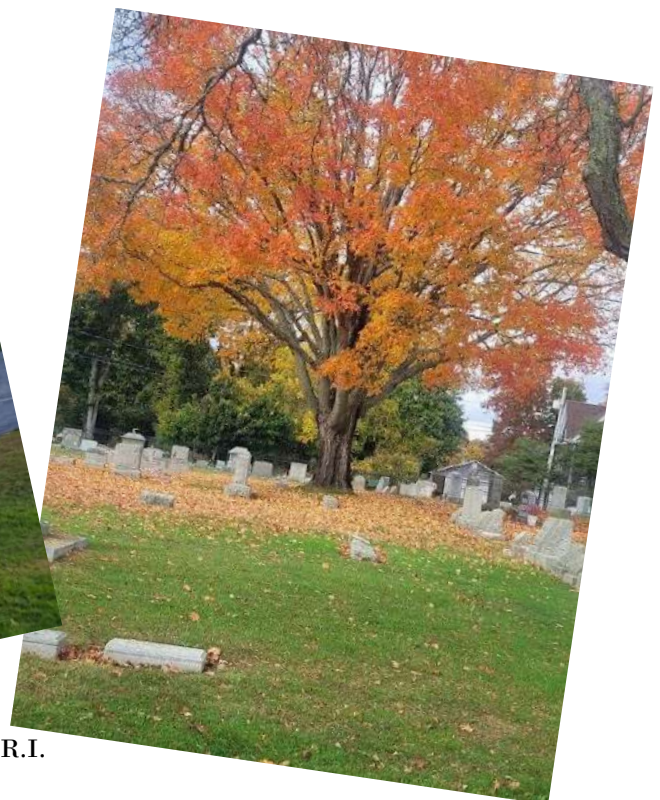
As Cemeterians, we are privileged to see first hand the beauty mother nature has to offer throughout the four seasons in New England. Here are some Fall season cemetery photos from our fellow members



Beaverdale Memorial Park—New Haven, CT.



River Bend Cemetery , Westerly, R.I.



FREDERICK R. LAFFOND CEMETERY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

December 4-6, 2023



New England Cemetery Association is holding its Laffond Management Seminar on December 4-6, 2023. The seminar covers every imaginable topic relative to the operation, maintenance and management of today's cemetery.

This year's seminar will be held at the **Publick House** in Sturbridge, MA.

Some of our speakers this year will be:

- Poul Lemasters, Lemasters Consulting – Mr. Lemasters provides proactive prevention, reactive counseling, and education and support to the deathcare profession.
- Vince Roberge, Johnson Consulting – Johnson Consulting focuses on the funeral profession and provides guidance to their clients in how to improve their business, provide valuable insights and resources.
- David Ward, Grever & Ward Inc. – Grever & Ward are highly trained and experienced in all aspects of cemetery planning and site development. They have the capability to do whatever is necessary to convert cemetery land to attractive, usable and salable interment space.
- John Rudolph, Map Agency LLC - Map Agency is a strategic brand and graphic design agency. They provide marketing and advertising services for start-up businesses, established corporations, educational services, and non-profit organizations.



NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Contact David Boyle, President for registration, cost and other information about the seminar.

Tel: 978-250-5245

Email: DBoyle@chelmsfordma.gov

Important, please note a significant change from previous seminars. This year we are asking participants to arrange their own lodging at the Inn (like the Annual Conference). This will allow you to manage your own personal preferences. The Publick House has set aside a block of rooms for our participants. The rate is \$99.00 (plus tax and fees) per night. Our registration fees cover the cost of the facility, speakers and the associated meals.

Please contact the Publick House (508-347-3313) to reserve your room.

When completing the registration form please indicate if you will attend the complete event (Full Seminar) or are commuting. If commuting, please indicate which day(s) and which meals you will be partaking in.