

---

# The New Englander

*APRIL 2025*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

## *NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION*

**President**  
**Gregory Howard**  
Riverbend Cemetery  
Westerly, R.I.

*Honoring the Past*

*Serving the Present*

*Preparing for the Future*

[www.newenglandcemetery.org](http://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.

Vice-President  
David Raposa, Jr.  
Fall River Catholic Cemeteries  
Fall River, MA.

Treasurer  
Joseph Swift  
Highland Memorial Park  
Johnston, RI



---

### *President's Message Gregory Howard*

---

Dear NECA Cemeterians & Suppliers,

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a healthy and happy new year, I just cannot believe it is now the year 2025! Honestly, where does the time go? I would also like to thank everyone that offered their support throughout 2024, including all of my fellow members of our Board and to our trusted vendors. In addition to the Annual Meeting & Conference in Salem, MA and the Laffond Management

Seminar in Sturbridge, MA both having gone incredibly well, with attendance and membership also seeming to be headed in the right direction, we were also able to ratify amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws at the Annual Meeting in June. I think it is safe to say that 2024 was a great year for the association!

We are currently working on the planning of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference, which will be held on June 16-18 at the Marriott Providence Downtown in Providence, RI. On the afternoon of Monday, June 16, we will be offering several different networking opportunities, including the Annual Nick Pahoulis Memorial Golf Classic, The Shot Gun Shoot with Gene Kinnel, as well as a Trolley Tour of Swan Point Cemetery. On Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Meeting & Conference will be held throughout the day, with great speakers, the supplier showcase, and concluding with the President's Dinner. The conference will conclude on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> with a tour of St. Ann's Cemetery, including their Mausoleum of Sts. Peter & Paul, which was completed by McCleskey Mausoleums in 2021. Please watch your email and the website for updates and registration when it becomes available. We look forward to seeing everyone in June!

Finally, 2025 Cemetery & Supplier Membership Renewals have been sent out. If you have not renewed as of yet, please go to our website [www.newenglandcemetery.org](http://www.newenglandcemetery.org) and download the forms. Thank you.

Greg Howard, NECA President

---



# **NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

# **SAVE THE DATE**

55<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar  
Monday December 8- Wednesday December 10, 2025  
The Publik House Historic Inn  
277 Main Street  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts

Please join seminar chair David Raposa Jr. for two days of education, experience, networking, and laughs at this wonderful event.

Speaker information to follow at a later date.  
Go to [WWW.NEWENGLANDCEMETERY.ORG](http://WWW.NEWENGLANDCEMETERY.ORG) for updates



---

## STATE NEWS

---

### MASSACHUSETTS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

President: Alan MacKinnon—The Gardens Cemetery, Boston  
Vice President : William Monahan—Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett  
Past President : David Boyle—Chelmsford Cemetery, Chelmsford  
Secretary & Treasurer: Gwen Gustafson—Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett  
Directors: Tom Johnson—Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston  
            Ryan Milley—Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston  
            Rich Carey—Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston  
            David Raposa, Jr.—Diocese of Fall River, Fall River

### MAINE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

President: Steven Libby—New Gloucester  
Vice President : Hugh LeMaster—Lewiston,  
Secretary & Treasurer: Joanne Mason—Auburn, ME.  
Past Presidents : Craig Cunningham—Freeport  
                    Debbie Allen Grover—North Yarmouth  
Directors: Wesley Brumbaugh—Portland  
            Stephen Burrill—Bangor  
            Scott Fraser—Auburn

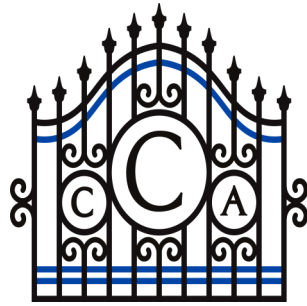
### NEW HAMPSHIRE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Acting President: Jill Huckins—Concord  
Secretary & Treasurer: Mike Horne—Hooksett  
Assistant Secretary & Treasurer: Marie Grella  
Directors: Bob Edwards—Antrim  
            Lauren Hargrave—Boscowen  
            Thomas Lawrence—Laconia  
            Kevin Woods—Raymond  
            Roger Lessard—Greenfield  
            Pat Delisle—Amherst

### VERMONT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

President: Tom Giffin—Rutland  
1st VP & Grants Administrator: Dianne Leary—Charlotte  
Secretary: Janet Ladd—Benson  
Webmaster: Bailey McLaughlin  
Treasurer: Chris Book—Rutland  
Assistant Treasurer: Whit Mowrey—Windsor  
Membership Coordinator: Jane Fletcher—Brattleboro  
Newsletter Editor: MJ Hochberg—Wallingford

# State Associations News



EST. 1942

CONNECTICUT  
CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION

Hi All,

Spring is knocking at our door, and the warm air is soon to arrive.

Our Supplier Expo was a remarkable success thanks to all the Board members that pitched in and helped. We couldn't have such success without our vendor partners and all of the members who attended the event! This year we have 20 suppliers at our Expo all providing us with valuable information about their services and how they will work in partnership with our cemeteries. And, we all thank them for their generous raffle prizes!



Our Vice President Pam Brown is working on a June event which will be informative, relaxing, and fun (we've put a little teaser here to "whet your appetite"). Details to follow in the next few weeks.

*Bones, Books and Brew*  
CT Cemetery Association Summer Meeting

Early June, 2025

We currently have a spot vacant on our Board. If you know of anyone interested, please let me know. A simple email to [braffone@ccacem.org](mailto:braffone@ccacem.org) with their contact information is what I will need.

I want to thank everyone for their continued support of our association. Your membership renewals and attendance at our various events is important for the overall success of the Association.

We are always looking for ideas for new events and ones that would enhance our current events. Articles for our newsletter are always welcomed. Kerry Ann Mullen O'Hazo and Tyler O'Hazo at Mullen Construction have offered to write an article showcasing the construction work they are finishing up in one of our Connecticut cemeteries. That article (with accompanying photos) will be included in an upcoming newsletter. Any other projects out there that you'd like to promote and highlight? We'd love to promote work that's being accomplished in our cemeteries!

As always, should you have any question, please give me a call at (203) 376-2275.

Best,

William Raffone

President

# RHODE ISLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

On March 20, 2025, the RICA held its Annual meeting and Welcome Spring Dinner. The event was held at the Swan Point Cemetery Gray Coale Reception Hall. A special thank you to Wilson Hood, Grief Counselor with Hope Health Grief Support, who presented important and timely information on Vicarious Grief. Cemetery and death care industry professionals are at an elevated risk of experiencing this type of grief. For more information about Vicarious Grief, Mr. Hood can be reached at [whood@hopehealthco.org](mailto:whood@hopehealthco.org).

Congratulations to the newly elected Slate of RICA officers!

## RICA Board of Directors 2025

Greg Howard, President, Riverbend Cemetery, Westerly, RI

Karin Sprague, Vice President, Karin Sprague Stone Carvers, Scituate, RI

Annalisa Hepner, Secretary/Treasurer, North Burial Ground, Providence, RI

Kelly Perry, Immediate Past Pres Director, Swan Point Cemetery, Prov, RI

Joseph Swift, Director, Highland Memorial Park Cemetery, Johnston, RI

James Bessel, Director, R I Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Exeter, RI

Beth Veltri, Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick, RI



Keep in touch with RICA and watch for upcoming events at Elm Grove Cemetery, North Kingstown, RI, and Island Cemetery, Newport, RI.

## **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 Mary Anne Hawthorne NECA Membership Chair—send her an email at [mhawthorne@cedarhillcemetery.org](mailto:mhawthorne@cedarhillcemetery.org)*

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.

### **CALLING ALL ACTIVE NECA MEMBERS!!!**

**Have you ever considered serving on the Board of Directors of  
The New England Cemetery Association?**

**If so, now is your chance to let us know if you are interested in  
getting involved in the future!**

**Please contact Nominations Chair**

**Past President: David Boyle**

**[dboyle@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:dboyle@chelmsfordma.gov)**



NECA is guided by a Board of Directors which is elected every year at the Annual Meeting and Conference. Serving on the current Board are:

President – Gregory Howard, Riverbend Cemetery, Westerly, RI

Vice President – David Raposa, Jr., Fall River Catholic Cemeteries,  
Fall River, MA

Treasurer – Joseph Swift, Highland Memorial Park, Johnston, RI

Secretary – Dan Krueger, Beaverdale Memorial Park, New Haven, CT

Past President Director – Mary Anne Hawthorne, Cedar Hill Cemetery,  
Hartford, CT

Past President Director – Kelly Perry, Swan Point Cemetery,  
Providence, RI

Director – Stephen Dean, Newton Cemetery and Arboretum, Newton, MA

Director – Ryan Milley, Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, MA

Director – Patrick Healy, Green Mount Cemetery, Montpelier, VT

Director – Pamela Brown, Hillside Cemetery, Wilton, CT

Director – Annalisa Heppner, North Burial Ground, Providence, RI

Director – Robbin Kelley, Town of Harwich, Harwich, MA

Continuing to serve will be Immediate Past President David Boyle,  
Chelmsford Cemeteries, Chelmsford, MA

