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# The New Englander

*FEBRUARY 2026*

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  
4 Winesap Dr.  
Oxford, CT. 06478  
203-903-6270  
Rcscholl627@gmail.com

Secretary  
Dan Krueger  
Beaverdale Memorial Park  
New Haven, CT.

Treasurer  
Joseph Swift  
Highland Memorial Park  
Johnston, RI

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

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### ***President's Message      Gregory Howard***



Greetings fellow NECA cemeterians & suppliers,

I hope everyone's new year is off to a great start! We have had a lot of snow to deal with, which unfortunately can create a lot of problems, so I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe.

I want to thank everyone who had a chance to attend the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar, which was held on December 8-10 at the Publick House in Sturbridge. We had a solid turnout of 86 attendees, including 25 suppliers, over 60 cemeterians, and quite a few first timers as well. Our speakers included Johnathan Appel from Atlas Preservation, Nick Timpe from webCemeteries, and Wilson Hood from Hope Health amongst many others who all did an outstanding job. Overall, the program was very well received, and as usual, everyone seemed to have a wonderful time enjoying each other's company as well. So again, thank you to everyone who helped with the planning, especially my fellow officers and board members, and thank you to all of those who participate and help make this such an amazing event year after year.

For those of you that did not have the chance to attend, I do hope to see you at our Annual Meeting & Conference, which will be held on June 15-17 at The Mystic Hilton in Mystic, CT, as well as at next year's Laffond Seminar, which will be held once again at the Publick House in Sturbridge, MA on December 7-9.

Sincerely,

Gregory Howard

President



## 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar

This past December over eighty members of the New England Cemetery Association participated in the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of the Frederick Laffond NECA Cemetery Management Seminar. With a well-rounded program and plentiful networking, this year's event was a rousing success.

The program opened on the afternoon of Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with everyone departing after breakfast on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. During this time attendees had the opportunity to learn and share, leaving with more knowledge relative to our industry. This included creative ways to create additional space for the increasing cremation burials we are all seeing, learning how to be more innovative in meeting the unique challenges that this ever-changing world is presenting us with and how to best preserve the unique historical memorials that we all have. A human resources expert shared tips on how to make the right hire while a tech wiz shared his insights on current and future trends within our industry. We also learned about the concept of vicarious grief and how it can impact our wellbeing. Each day ended with participation programming that facilitated sharing of knowledge and experiences.

NECA would like to acknowledge and thank all the speakers who shared their valuable time and knowledge with us. Regina Harrison, Mount Auburn Cemetery; Nick Timpe, webCemeteries; Karin Sprague, Karin Sprague Stone Carvers; Kristin Sprague, Karin Sprague Stone Carvers; Patrick Healy, Green Mount Cemetery; David Nichols Sr, Quality Transitions, Inc.; Wilson Good, Hope Health and Jonathan Appell, Atlas Preservation.

Each day ended with a social hour prior to dinner during which attendees shared experiences and problems solved. On Wednesday evening Completely Different Note (CDN), Uconn's oldest lower note a cappella group entertained. Also, following each evening's meal attendees continued to network at the association's Hospitality Suite. As usual, the accommodation, food and hospitality presented by the Publick House were beyond expectations.

The Officers and Directors would like to thank and acknowledge the assistance provided by our members who generously sponsored events. With your support, we were able to produce this excellent event and better serve our members.

Lunch:           The Fort Miller Service Corp.  
                  Milestone Funeral Partners  
                  Mount Auburn Cemetery  
                  Rose Hill Memorial Park

Social Hour:   Means Precast / webCemeteries  
Entertainment (Clearly Different Note):   Watertown Engineering

Friends:       Riverbend Cemetery

Hospitality:   Karin Sprague Stone Carvers

Most importantly, we would also like to thank all who attended. Because you participated, this year's event was a resounding success. Please plan to attend the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar this coming December. You will be receiving news and information about the event throughout the year.





# News Of Interest

## HOME & CEMETERY *News*

February 2026

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YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44514

FEBRUARY 2026

### Farmstead Scattering Garden

*Continued from Front Page*



disposition—without competing for services or changing how they do business,” said **Amy Bridger**, founder of Farmstead Scattering Garden. “This is not a replacement for funeral service. It’s a quiet, practical solution for families who return later asking, “What do we do now?”

In addition to physical disposition, Farmstead Scattering Garden emphasizes process transparency and documentation. Clients receive email communication at key milestones, including receipt of cremated remains, scheduling confirmation, and completion of scattering. The process concludes with a written note of closure that includes a brief description of the day, a few photographs, and a map showing the scattering location on the farm.

The scattering garden is located on an active cattle and horse farm, integrating land stewardship with respectful final disposition. The land remains in continuous agricultural use, eliminating the need for memorialization infrastructure or perpetual care.

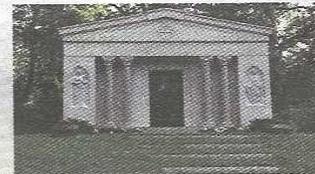
Farmstead Scattering Garden is designed to be easily referenced by funeral homes



as an additional option for families navigating delayed decisions, without disrupting established business practices or revenue streams.

For more information, funeral professionals may visit [www.farmsteadscattering.com](http://www.farmsteadscattering.com).

### Quincy Memorials Group Expands Services



See Page B8

### Farmstead Scattering Garden Introduces Mail-In Scattering Option Designed to Support Funeral Homes and Legacy Cremation Families



**CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, PA**— Farmstead Scattering Garden, a fourth-generation family farm in northwestern Pennsylvania, has launched a mail-in cremated remains scattering service intentionally structured to complement funeral homes and cemeteries without competing for traditional services, visitation, or ceremonies.

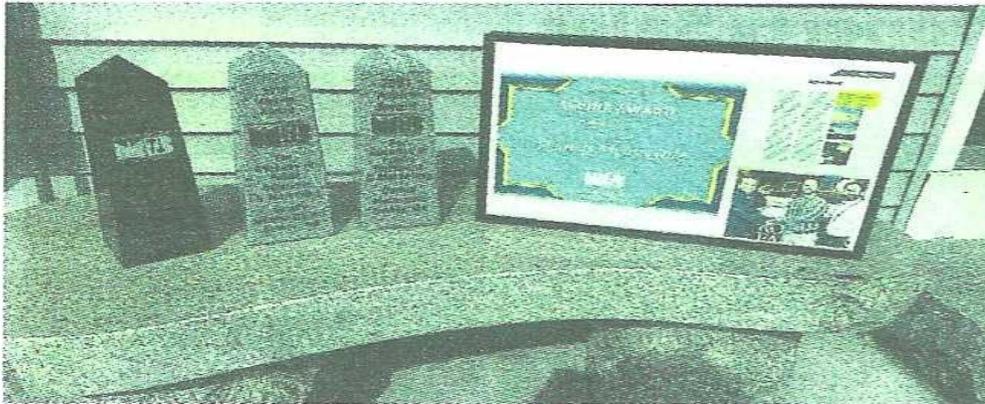
The service addresses a growing challenge faced by funeral professionals: families who completed cremation—either currently or often months or years earlier—but remain uncertain about final disposition options for the cremated remains. Farmstead Scattering Garden provides a practical referral option for these legacy cases, allowing families to complete disposition without requiring additional staff time or operational changes for funeral homes.

Farmstead Scattering Garden operates exclusively as a mail-in service. Families do not visit the farm, and no ceremonies, gatherings, or memorial events are conducted onsite, though home video quality recording is available upon request. Cremated remains are respectfully scattered at designated locations within a defined operational timeframe, allowing funeral homes to remain the primary service provider while offering families a clear path forward.

“We designed Farmstead Scattering Garden to give funeral homes a clear, documented way to help families complete final

CONTINUED ON PAGE A9

## Quincy Memorials, Inc Receives Fourth Monument Builders of North America Aspire Award



QUINCY, MA—The Quincy Memorials Group (Quincy Memorials) has announced it has received the 2024 Aspire Award from the *Monument Builders of North America* (MBNA). The coveted award recognizes companies that have significantly elevated the monument industry through innovative marketing and public relations efforts. Quincy Memorials also earned the award in 2021, 2019, and 2013.

“We are deeply honored to receive the Aspire Award,” said **Jeffrey M. Poirier**, president and CEO. “This recognition from MBNA is a testament to our team’s commitment to serving our communities with compassion and excellence.”

With locations in Quincy, Kingston, Abington, Newton Centre, Waltham, and Woburn, Quincy Memorials has been operated under the ownership of the Poirier family since 1979, when **Yves and Donna Poirier** purchased the business. Both Yves and Donna grew up in the granite industry in Barre, VT; and Quincy Memorials traces its roots back to 1950. Quincy Memorials continues its family ownership with the introduction of the next generation of family members. **Jeffrey and Bryan Poirier**, the oldest sons of Yves and Donna, presently serve as CEO/president and vice president/general manager, respectively.

Quincy Memorials was named to the Inc. 5000 List for Fastest Growing Private Companies in 2023 and 2024. The company is a member of the Quincy Quarry and Granite Workers Museum, the *Barre (VT) Granite Association*, the Vermont Granite Museum, and the Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston), and is active in many community service organizations. For more information, visit [www.quincymemorials.com](http://www.quincymemorials.com) or call 617-657-9808.

# SUPPLIER NEWS

## Short-Form Press Release

For Immediate Release Kutztown, PA - December 2025

## JMT Consulting Selects webCemeteries as Preferred Partner for Axiom Transition

**JMT Consulting has announced it will retire its Axiom cemetery management software as the company sharpens its focus on financial solutions for nonprofits. As part of this transition, JMT has selected webCemeteries as its preferred partner for cemetery technology moving forward. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to helping Axiom customers navigate the transition with clarity and confidence.**

**"Axiom has served many organizations well, but our future lies in strengthening our work with financial systems and nonprofit services," said Dr. Stephanie Rose-Belcher, Chief Operating Officer at JMT Consulting.**

**"webCemeteries is a leader in cemetery technology, and we're confident they will provide cemeteries with the modern tools they need."**

**Nick Timpe, CEO of webCemeteries, shared similar appreciation for the partnership. "We have tremendous respect for JMT and the work they've done with Axiom. We're honored to support their customers with a platform built for the future."**

### About webCemeteries

**webCemeteries provides cloud-based cemetery management software, digital mapping, sales tools, and public engagement solutions.**

### About JMT Consulting

**JMT Consulting delivers financial software, services, and strategies for nonprofits, helping organizations strengthen their financial operations.**

**Media Contact – webCemeteries Nick Timpe, CEO [nick.timpe@webcemeteries.com](mailto:nick.timpe@webcemeteries.com)**

**Media Contact – JMT Consulting Dr. Stephanie Rose-Belcher, COO [srosebelcher@jmtconsulting.com](mailto:srosebelcher@jmtconsulting.com)**

**NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

158 Hoerle Boulevard Torrington, CT 06790

860-480-1337 neca1902@gmail.com

**SUPPLIER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM 2026**

I hereby apply for a supplier membership in the New England Cemetery Association and agree to abide by the Constitution, Rules and By-Laws of the Association.

**ANNUAL DUES: \$50.00**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

As a supplier member I understand that there are certain privileges and limitations with this membership

**Privileges:** Listed as a Supplier Member in the Association website [www.newenglandcemetery.org](http://www.newenglandcemetery.org)

Preferential advertising in the Membership Directory and Resource Guide

Preferential status as an exhibitor at all Association meetings

Participation in Association committees and will have all rights and privileges that are granted under the Association's Constitution, Rules and By – Laws

**Limitations:** Supplier Members will not be eligible to hold any office and are not eligible to vote in any Association meetings. Membership applications are subject to review by the Board of Directors of the Association whose decision will be final.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

**MAIL APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT MADE PAYABLE TO**

**NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION TO:**

**Dan R. Krueger, Secretary**

**New England Cemetery Association**

**158 Hoerle Boulevard**

**Torrington, CT 06790**

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

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM 2026**

I hereby apply for active membership in the New England Cemetery Association and agree to abide by the Constitution, Rules and By-Laws of the Association  
**Annual Dues: \$50.00**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Cemetery (check all that apply)**

Non-Profit: \_\_\_\_\_ For Profit: \_\_\_\_\_ Municipal: \_\_\_\_\_ Private: \_\_\_\_\_ Mutual: \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternal: \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Religious: \_\_\_\_\_

Single Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Partnership: \_\_\_\_\_ Incorporated: \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Sectarian: \_\_\_\_\_ Crematory: \_\_\_\_\_ Columbarium: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mausoleum: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK WITH YOUR STATE ASSOCIATION REGARDING NECA MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

Applicants must be a member in good standing of a cemetery association from their respective state.

Please indicate below the name of that association of which you are a current member.

CT: \_\_\_\_\_ MA: \_\_\_\_\_ ME: \_\_\_\_\_ NH: \_\_\_\_\_ RI: \_\_\_\_\_ VT: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

**MAIL APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT MADE PAYABLE TO NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION TO:**

**Dan R. Krueger, Secretary**  
**New England Cemetery Association**  
**158 Hoerle Boulevard**  
**Torrington, CT 06790**

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





# SAVE THE DATE

New England Cemetery Association  
123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference  
June 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2026



*Elm Grove Cemetery, Mystic, CT*

## **The Mystic Hilton**

20 Coogan Blvd. Mystic, CT

860-572-0731

***Call the hotel to reserve your room today. Or even easier, go to***

***<https://group.hilton.com/ta43fy>***

***To reserve a room at the special NECA rate.***

***We hope to see everyone there for an amazing event!***

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



## 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)**