

The New Englander

OCTOBER 2026

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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

Honoring the Past

Serving the Present

Preparing for the Future

www.newenglandcemetery.org

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Cedar Hill Cemetery
Hartford, CT.



David Raposa, Jr.

President 2026—2028

Greetings, New England Cemetery Association membership and suppliers,

First, I would like to say that I am honored and grateful for the confidence that the membership has placed in me by electing me to serve as President of the New England Cemetery Association for the next two years. Our association is strengthened by the dedication, experience, and professionalism of its members and suppliers, and I look forward to helping build a stronger foundation for the organization. I am committed to working collaboratively with our Board of Directors, committee members, and membership to advance our mission, address the challenges facing our profession, and build upon the strong foundation established by those who have served before us. Along with the Board of Directors, we are working on an educational and information packed agenda over the next two years. Thank you for your trust, support, and commitment to the association and the communities we serve.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all our suppliers for their continued support of our association. Without them we would not be as strong as we are today.

I would also like to thank the membership, whether you are a longtime member or new to the cemetery profession, I encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities our association offers like the Laffond Management Seminar and the annual Conference. Your participation helps build a stronger association and ensures that cemeteries continue to be places of beauty, history, remembrance, and respect.

Thank you for your commitment to this important work and for being part of the New England Cemetery Association. I look forward to seeing you all at our events to come, starting with the Laffond Seminar in December!

Sincerely,
David J Raposa Jr.
President



EVENT PAGE

SAVE THE DATE

56th Annual

Frederick R. Laffond Cemetery Management Seminar

Monday, December 7 through Wednesday December 9, 2026

The Publick 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 for updates



Interesting excerpts from past newsletters



THE NEW ENGLANDER

PUBLISHED BY

THE NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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VOLUME XXI

JANUARY 1967

No. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

At this time it is customary for the President of the Association to greet the members in a special message.

The year 1967 finds a clergyman at its head, and, naturally, the message slants towards the spiritual aspect of our cemetery work which I call a "vocation," a distinct calling to accomplish a very special work.

A cemetery superintendent, director, sexton, overseer, manager, whatever title you may give him, is called upon to preside at man's last journey on earth. The cemetery may be religious, secular, municipal or private. No matter which, the underlying motif is a spiritual one. We may be Catholic, Jew, or Protestant, yet the same care must be given to the trust placed in us by the bereaved families.

In a word, all those who have some official function in a cemetery should be known for their reverence. Reverence begets sympathy, kindness, patience and, above all, understanding. We need all of these to properly fulfill our "vocation" as excellent cemetery men.

I welcome this occasion to express in writing my deepest affection for the Association and its members. I have been favored by my election as president having received more than I can give. Meeting with the members over a period of thirty years has convinced me of their sincerity and eagerness to please and help in any way possible.

Of course, my admiration embraces the other "halves," the pleasant wives of our lay members - co-workers and in a way co-members.

To all, a very happy New Year. As goes the old Irish salutation: "May God keep you in the hollow of His hand!"

Fr. Brassard, O.M.I.

MASSACHUSETTS MEETING

On December 7, 1966, the Massachusetts Cemetery Association held one of its informal evening meetings at the Charter House Motel in Waltham with a record crowd of more than eighty present.

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After the dinner, Herbert Philpott, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, announced that the Association had filed in the House and the Senate similar bills calling for exemption from the Sales Tax of material sold to and by all cemeteries. Under the present law, some cemeteries are exempt while the status of other cemeteries is left in doubt. The proposed legislation would clarify this situation. W. Barry MacDonald, Attorney for the Massachusetts Cemetery Association, explained the nature of the two bills and the procedure that would be followed in working for the passage of this legislation.

Barrett Adams, Field Representative of the Barre Granite Association, displayed a film entitled "The Story of Barre Granite." It is unfortunate that this film does place undue emphasis on that debatable object - the polished monument. Mr. Adams told of the efforts being made by his organization to encourage a better relationship between the cemetery and the monument industry.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

President Brassard has announced the following appointments to committees -

Membership: Martin E. Dugan, Jr., Chairman, William B. LaPlace, Herbert A. Jones, Frank E. Cofran, Gordon S. Ploulx, Conrad Kenerson.

Legal: W. Barry MacDonald, Chairman, Herbert C. Philpott, William E. Kennedy, Donald W. Kenneth.

Auditing: H. Stanley Peterson, Chairman, Charles L. Bartlett, Ernest Hansen.

Nominating: Stanley E. Robbins, Chairman.

1967 Meeting: Archie R. Jordan, Chairman, Arthur H. Perry, Oliver D. Sargent, Robert F. Hallbourg, William E. Kennedy, Martin E. Dugan, Jr., Raymond L. Moulen, William B. LaPlace.

1967 Ladies Committee: Elizabeth Jordan, Chairman, Meg Perry, Helen Sargent, Mrs. R. F. Hallbourg, Ruth Kennedy, Beverly Dugan, Wilma Moulen, Jean LaPlace.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

In our September issue we made an appeal to all members asking you to join in a drive to obtain new members for our Association. You were supplied with an application card to use in signing up that nearby cemetery man who does not yet enjoy the benefits of membership in N.E.C.A.

Have you used that card yet? Right now you are not too busy cutting grass, so why not spend a couple of hours to help N.E.C.A. to grow, and to help your neighbor to learn. Remember that a growing organization is a strong organization. Help to keep N.E.C.A. strong.

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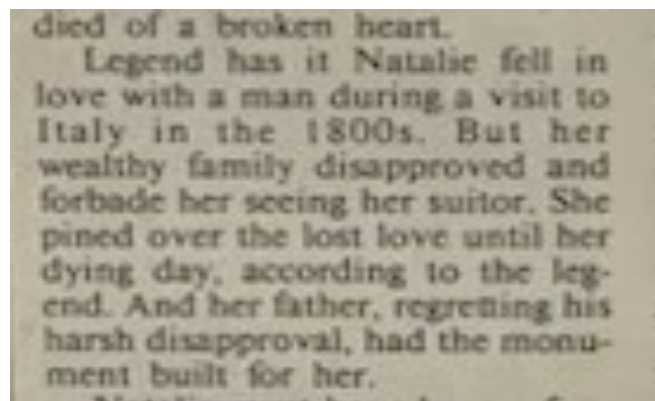
Members Page

Milford Cemetery, Milford, CT.

Restoration Project.

The Milford Cemetery Association has begun a restoration project on what has been referred to as “The Weeping Woman” (Natalie Baldwin Grinnell)

The real meaning of why she is weeping has not been truly known.



There was a child who died in 1831, perhaps she was weeping for him.

Fact is: Natalie married a man with the last name of Grinnell, so the real reason she is weeping may never be known. The monument has four caryatids, figures of women dressed in long robes with words: love, charity, hope & faith - one each on the forehead.

Another twist to this, is that it has been reported a “Lady In White” has been seen in the cemetery on certain evenings (perhaps her ghost?).

Restoration work is being done by Marc Ormerod from Monument Preservation & Restoration, LLC. Dayville, CT.

Submitted by Raymond Scholl



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

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

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:

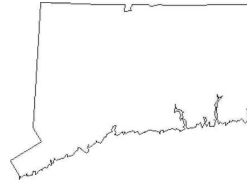
Dan R. Krueger, Secretary
New England Cemetery Association
158 Hoerle Boulevard
Torrington, CT 06790

www.newenglandcemetery.org



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Connecticut



Catholic Cemeteries of Hartford - Skilled Union Position

Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford - Operations Manager

Massachusetts



**Knollwood Cemetery, Sharon –
Memorial Plaque & Unveiling Coordinator**

St. Michael Cemetery Boston - Crematory Operator

Woodlawn Cemetery , Everett – Cemetery Laborer

**Further Information for applying for these positions is available on
our website.**

www.newenglandcemetery.org



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

Vice President – Pamela Brown, Hillside Cemetery, Wilton, CT

Treasurer – Mary Anne Hawthorne, Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, CT

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

Past President Director – Robbin Kelly, Town of Harwich, Harwich, MA.

Past President Director – David Boyle, Town of Chelmsford, Chelmsford, MA.

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

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

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

Director – Regina Harrison, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA

Director – Vasillios (Bill) Efthimiades, Swan Point Cemetery, Providence, R.I.

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

Continuing to serve will be Immediate Past President—
Gregory Howard, River Bend Cemetery , Westerly, R.I.



Supplier Directors:

Karin Sprague, Karin Sprague Stone Carvers, Inc., North Scituate, R.I.

Marc Lamb, Plotbox, Boston, MA.