

What is the Council of Funeral Association Executives?

The Council of Funeral Association Executives is a study group that began decades ago as a way for state funeral director association executive directors to exchange ideas, learn more about the issues facing funeral service, discuss common concerns, create friendships and network, thereby providing better service to and programs for their members.



COUNCIL
OF
FUNERAL ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVES

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Frequently Asked Questions



How often does the Council meet?

The council meets twice a year, once in the summer around the time of the state leadership conference; and once in January. In addition, a meeting is usually held during the NFDA annual convention.

Who can be a member?

Membership in the council consists only of the paid executives of the state associations affiliated with NFDA, plus the NFDA executive director.

Who may attend the meetings?

Attendance at council meetings is limited to the members. Spouses are included in the social events. An executive director may invite a member of his/her staff, such as an assistant executive director, to attend when s/he feels the topics to be discussed make it appropriate.

Why is attendance so restrictive?

To be effective and maintain its unique perspective on funeral service, the council must remain a group of peers. The council's focus is working to make its state associations stronger and therefore better able to serve their members.

Is the agenda information private?

No. Executive directors are encouraged to share the agenda with their officers as a way for them to further understand the importance of these meetings to their executive director and their state.

What happens at the meetings?

Participants make presentations on various programs or issues current to funeral service and that affect their state associations. Legislative successes and challenges are discussed.

Some presentations highlight membership programs that have been successful that might be implemented in other states. General discussions including all members usually follow.

An especially valuable portion of each meeting is called "state share," during which each state is given time to highlight what is happening there. Many future presentations come from these reports.

Adequate free time is built into the schedule for informal networking. As many business professionals have found, sometimes the most valuable discussions take place after the meeting over dinner.

How does an executive director become a member?

As a paid executive director for a state association affiliated with NFDA, an executive director is automatically considered a member of the council. S/he will be placed on the mailing list to receive information about the next council meeting. To remain in good standing, his/her state needs only to pay a modest assessment to help defray the cost of mailing and postage.

How is it decided what positions the council will take on various issues?

The council does not take positions on any issues, making every effort to stay "non-political." The purpose of the council is to exchange information and network, not make policy or take positions on funeral service issues.

How is it organized?

The council is rather unique because there is no formal organization, constitution or bylaws. Expressly an informational and networking group, there are no committees and no elections. Since no business is conducted, no minutes are kept. Since no policy statements are made, no motions are made.

The council selects a chairman who serves for two years. That person selects the meeting location, compiles an agenda of presentations and plans events for the group. The council "office" is in the state the chairman is located.

How is the council funded?

Each state pays for its portion of meeting expenses. A small treasury is maintained for miscellaneous expenses such as mailing and postage. States contribute a modest amount to the treasury on an annual basis.

What is the "brass apple"?

The brass apple is exactly that: A hollow apple made of brass that is awarded to the executive director selected as having made the best presentation to the group at that meeting. It simply serves as recognition of a job well done. At the subsequent meeting, it will be awarded to the next winner and thereby has traveled all over the country through the years.

Why should an executive director attend the meetings?

To become a better executive director. Participation is essentially continuing education for the executive director. Your state will benefit from the educational programming, exchange of ideas and information and the contacts made through networking gained by the executive director who is a part of this organization.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNCIL OF FUNERAL ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES.