

February 9, 2015

## Statement of Reasons for Seeking the Position of Secretary **Chuck Bowman, CMSP, CFSP, CCO**

As an At-Large Representative on NFDA's Executive Board since 2013 and a member of NFDA's Policy Board for 6 years, serving the NFDA has been a very rewarding experience and working with the true professionals of this assembly is simply inspiring.

### **I want to continue my commitment to leadership, education, advocacy and preparedness as Secretary of the National Funeral Directors Association.**

NFDA plays an important role by mentoring funeral directors at all levels to become future leaders of the profession. By creating opportunities to educate and train funeral home employees, NFDA will help its members to provide meaningful end-of-life services and demonstrate a model of excellence and integrity for future leaders in funeral service.

My experience in advocacy for the state of Colorado can be a valuable asset as I continue to serve NFDA. As Legislative Chair for the Colorado Funeral Directors Association since 2004, I am proud to have helped create legislation that promotes standards of practice and fairness, improves oversight of preneed contract sellers, and protects consumers from the worry of unlawful situations. I am frequently called upon by the Department of Regulatory Agencies to answer questions about the practice of funeral service and often testify before the state's legislature to advocate for funeral directors. I've also taken an active role in the development of Colorado's Electronic Death Registration system that will be launched statewide in 2015.

My years of experience in disaster response – as a police officer, as retired Deputy Commander of DMORT Region VIII, and as chairman of CFDA's Disaster Team – can be of great assistance to the NFDA as we continue to advocate for mass fatality preparedness.

I am honored to be a part of this caring business and hope to be able to continue to serve and support the members of the National Funeral Directors Association. I humbly ask for your vote as a candidate for NFDA Secretary.

## State and National Experience

### **Charles T. "Chuck" Bowman, CMSP, CFSP, CCO**

In the early 1980's while working part-time in a small, family-owned funeral home, I was introduced to the Colorado Funeral Directors Association. I became interested in the issues facing the association after the Colorado legislature "sunsetting" the mortuary licensure laws in 1982.

The Colorado Funeral Directors Association has worked diligently to maintain high standards of practice and ethics in a state with limited regulation. The CFDA created the Colorado Funeral Service Board, a voluntary certification program for funeral service professionals based on requirements that are comparable to licensure in other states. CFDA was also instrumental in helping to establish the accredited Mortuary Science Program at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton (CO).

After a career in law enforcement, I began full-time employment in the funeral industry in 1990. I was approved as a Certified Funeral Director (CFD) by the Colorado Funeral Service Board in 1995 and was elected to serve as a director for the association's certification program soon thereafter.

Although Colorado does not require mortuary college as a practical requirement, I went back to school and earned an Associate of Applied Science in Mortuary Science from Arapahoe Community College in 1998. After passing the National Board exam, I was certified as a Mortuary Science Practitioner by the Colorado Funeral Service Board in 1999. I am also a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP), awarded by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice.

I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Colorado Funeral Directors Association in 2000 and served consecutive terms as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President. I have also served on several committees and task forces for the CFDA.

Since 2004, I have served as CFDA's Legislative Chair and have learned a great deal about state laws and the legislative process. I have testified in support of funeral service on numerous occasions and continue to serve as a liaison with state regulatory authorities as a resource for funeral service in Colorado.

Working in a state without licensing, the practice of funeral service is dependent upon the committed professionals within the industry to maintain high standards of fairness and ethics. I have led the charge towards reinstating a funeral service license system in Colorado and helped to introduce several (unsuccessful) licensure bills, including one that passed through the state legislature but was vetoed by the Governor in 2006.

Our efforts were finally rewarded in 2009 when House Bill 1202 was signed into law. Since 2010, funeral establishments and crematories must register annually with the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), consumers may file complaints with DORA, and disciplinary measures can be taken. CFDA has also helped to craft and pass other important funeral service legislation, such as instituting laws to define standards of practice and control disposition rights; create an electronic death registration system; clarify disposition rights for last remains of members of the armed forces; and allow for the disposition of abandoned cremated remains. Our current legislative efforts will strengthen the laws regarding preneed funeral plans.

I was elected as Colorado Representative to the NFDA Policy Board in 2007, and elected as At Large Representative to the NFDA Executive Board in 2013. I have served on the NFDA Disaster Committee and the Metals Recycling Committee.

I continue to study policy issues from the NFDA Policy Board and incorporate them into standards of operation for the state of Colorado.

## Background in Funeral Service

### **Charles T. "Chuck" Bowman, CMSP, CFSP, CCO**

My funeral service career began as a teenager when my family lived one block away from a small, family-owned funeral home in Castle Rock, Colorado. I worked at the funeral home part-time for 20 years learning about all aspects of the funeral business.

After earning a degree in law enforcement administration, I worked as a deputy sheriff, patrol officer, sergeant, lieutenant, detective and captain until my retirement from law enforcement in 1989.

I began my second career in funeral service in 1990, working full-time as a funeral director at Chapel Hill Mortuary and Cemetery in Littleton, Colorado. I enrolled in the Mortuary Science Program at Arapahoe Community College in 1996 and I am proud to be a member of the program's first graduating class, earning an Associate of Applied Science degree in 1998.

In March 1997, I began working for my current employer, Horan & McConaty, where I started as a funeral director, assistant manager, then building manager, and now Vice President. My duties include handling high-profile funeral services for community leaders, public safety officers, and local armed forces members killed in the line of duty. I am blessed to work for a firm that recognizes the importance of advocacy for the funeral service profession and that generously supports my participation in local and national activities.

I am a Certified Mortuary Science Practitioner, awarded by the Colorado Funeral Service Board in 1999. I am also a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP) awarded by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, and a Certified Crematory Operator (CCO) by the National Funeral Directors Association.

I credit my professional involvement to my friend and mentor, Bob Gibson, owner of the Castle Rock funeral home where I began my career. An active member of the Colorado Funeral Directors Association for many years, Bob educated me about the state of the funeral business in Colorado without licensing (eliminated by the state legislature in 1982). I have actively participated in CFDA for many years and have served in numerous leadership roles for the association:

- Colorado Funeral Service Board (certification board) – 1995 to 2000
- Disaster Committee Chair – 1999
- Secretary/Treasurer – 2000
- Vice President – 2001
- President Elect – 2002
- President – 2003
- Immediate Past President – 2004
- Legislative Chair – 2004 to present
- Director at Large – 2005 to 2007

I represent CFDA as a liaison to the Department of Regulatory Agencies and have engaged in several key legislative initiatives during my term as chair of CFDA's Legislative Committee. I am often called upon to testify before the state's legislature regarding funeral service issues and serve as CFDA's media spokesperson.

I served as Colorado's representative to the NFDA Policy Board from 2007 to 2013, and was elected to the NFDA Executive Board as At-Large Representative in 2013. I have also served on NFDA's Disaster Committee and Metals Recycling task force.

I was a member of the Region VIII Disaster Mortuary Operations Recovery Team (DMORT) for 20 years. Starting as funeral director in 1984, I worked through the ranks of training officer and recently retired as deputy commander. I was deployed to New York (NY) after the 911 tragedy; to New Orleans (LA) after Hurricane Katrina; and to Joplin (MO) for tornado recovery.

I have served for the past 14 years on the Arapahoe Community College, Mortuary School Advisory Board and currently serve as chairperson. I was appointed in 2006 to serve on the Colorado Mortuary Practices Committee to develop standards of practice in the event of a mass fatality situation and a pandemic flu outbreak. Since 2007 I have served on a task force with Denver (CO) metro area coroners to develop and maintain standard operating procedures for handling mass fatalities.

I have actively served with Littleton (CO) Rotary Club since 1995, the Rotary Board in 2010-2011 and on the Rotary's foundation board in 2005-2006.

For 16 years, I also served as a host site/director for the 9Health Fair, a community non-profit organization that provides free and low-cost health awareness and educational screenings at more than 150 health fair locations across the state.