



DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS

1ST DISTRICT
DAVID CAMPBELL
(912) 234-7226

2ND DISTRICT
JOHN FLUKER
(912) 283-6161

3RD DISTRICT
DARRYL BENTLEY
(478) 862-3634

4TH DISTRICT
JAMES E. SHIPP, JR.
(229) 776-1355

5TH DISTRICT
VIRGINIA L. HILL
(706) 672-4243

6TH DISTRICT
DAVID C. HURT
(478) 747-1776

7TH DISTRICT
DAVID T. BATTS
(706) 543-3623

8TH DISTRICT
RENATA BOSTON
(706) 792-1381

9TH DISTRICT
EDWIN SHELTON
(404) 210-6768



OFFICIAL FAMILY OF 2012-2014



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MARIE A. GOOLSBY, CFSP



1ST VICE PRESIDENT
QUENTIN BARRETT



2ND VICE PRESIDENT
DAVID H. JONES



3RD VICE PRESIDENT
JEFFERY WAKEFIELD

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
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DAVID D. TOWNS, II

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TREASURER EMERITUS
JAMES GRIFFIN, JR.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS EMERITUS
ALFRED WILSON
JOHNNIE BENTLEY, JR.

SERGEANT-AT-ARM
EDWARD J. SOLES

PARLIAMENTARIANS
CLAYBON J. EDWARDS
RONALD LOGAN

CHAPLAIN
DAVID D. TOWNS, II

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

IRVIN K. TRICE, WALTER E. SMITH & RONALD K. NIXON

GEORGIA FUNERAL SERVICE
PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION, INC



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THE BEGINNING

IN THE YEAR OF 1925, MR. ROBERT R. REED, THE ORGANIZER OF THE NATIONAL NEGRO FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, VISITED THE STATE OF GEORGIA WITH THE IDEA OF ORGANIZING THE NEGRO FUNERAL HOMES OF GEORGIA INTO A STATE ASSOCIATION; AND THUS HAVING THE STATE ASSOCIATION BECOME A PART OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION. MR. REED CALLED A MEETING OF ALL NEGRO FUNERAL DIRECTORS TOGETHER IN MACON, GEORGIA TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES OF FORMING A STATE ASSOCIATION. THE FIRST MEETING WAS HELD ON MAY 11, 1923 IN MACON. THUS "THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COLORED FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS OF GEORGIA CONVENED AT KYLES HALL, 527 HALF COTTON AVENUE, MACON, GEORGIA AT 2:00 P.M. R.E. HARTLEY, SR. OF MACON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER. AT SUCH TIME TEMPORARY OFFICERS WERE ELECTED R.E. HARTLEY, SR., CHAIRMAN AND F.J. HUTCHINGS, SECRETARY. THE FOLLOWING PERMANENT OFFICERS WERE ELECTED TO SERVE FOR ONE YEAR: R.E. HARTLEY, SR., PRESIDENT; PAUL J. STEELE, VICE PRESIDENT; F.J. HUTCHINGS, SECRETARY; MRS. B.M.B. SIMMONS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY; JOHN BYRD, TREASURER; L.M. POLLARD, CHAPLIN. DURING THE COURSE OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WERE PASSED. THE ORGANIZATION SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE GEORGIA COLORED FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS ASSOCIATION. THE DUES WERE \$1.00 PER YEAR PER MEMBER. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE WAS COMPOSED OF N.D. JONES, MRS. B.M.B. SIMMONS AND JOHN L. SCONIERS. COLUMBUS, GEORGIA WAS SELECTED AS THE PLACE OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING. BUT BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1926, PRESIDENT HARTLEY ISSUED A DIRECTIVE CHANGING THE LOCATION OF THE SECOND MEETING TO WAYCROSS, GEORGIA IN ORDER THAT THE MEMBERS MIGHT SEE THE WAYCROSS CASKET COMPANY; THE ONLY OWNED AND OPERATED CASKET COMPANY BY NEGROES IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

THE NAME CHANGE

THE ORIGINAL NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION WAS THE GEORGIA COLORED FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS ASSOCIATION. IN 1939 THE SAME NAME WAS CHANGED TO THE PRESENT NAME THE GEORGIA FUNERAL SERVICE PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION. THE ASSOCIATION WAS INCORPORATED IN JULY 1959 AS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION WITH NO CAPITAL STOCK.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GFSPA OFFERS QUALITY ACCREDITED CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES NEEDED TO REMAIN LICENSED. WE HOST A 3-DAY ANNUAL CONVENTION PROVIDING MANY DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS IMPACTING FUNERAL SERVICE. THE EXPOSITION KEEPS YOU UP-TO-DATE ON THE LATEST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES WHILE INTRODUCING THE LATEST IN INDUSTRY TRENDS. IN ADDITION, GFSPA HAS MANY COMMITTEE POSITIONS THAT PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS THAT IMPROVE YOUR PERSONAL CAREER. GIVING A WORKSHOP OR DISCUSSING YOUR WORK AT A CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY GFSPA OFFERS PRACTICE IN COMMUNICATING ORALLY IN AN EFFECTIVE MANNER, AS WELL AS BUILDING A REPUTATION IN FUNERAL SERVICE. AS AN ASSOCIATION MEMBER, YOU ARE IN THE UNIQUE POSITION TO GAIN A COMPETITIVE EDGE BY UTILIZING OF ALL THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU.

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE VALUABLE, EXPERT INPUT TO PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT POLICIES THAT WOULD AFFECT MEMBERS OF THAT PROFESSION, WHETHER PROPOSED BY A GOVERNMENT ENTITY OR AN INDUSTRY-GUIDING BODY. GFSPA HAS A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE THAT MONITORS LEGISLATION THAT CAN AFFECT THE FUNERAL SERVICE PROFESSION IN GEORGIA AND NATIONALLY. WE ARE A RECOGNIZED VOICE IN GEORGIA OF FUNERAL SERVICE PUBLIC POLICY. BEING A PART OF GFSPA GIVES YOU A VOICE IN SHAPING FUNERAL SERVICE IN GEORGIA.

NETWORKING

IN ADDITION TO MAKING LIFE-LONG CAREER CONTACTS, MEMBERSHIP IN GFSPA PROVIDES MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING AND INTERACTION WITH YOUR FELLOW FUNERAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS. WHETHER IT'S THROUGH WORKING TOGETHER ON A COMMITTEE, ATTENDING MEETINGS, OR WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES, YOU CAN MAKE MANY CONNECTIONS THAT CAN LEAD TO INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OR A BETTER POSITION. MEMBERSHIP ALLOWS YOU TO SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH OTHERS WHO UNDERSTAND YOUR UNIQUE CHALLENGES IN A CHANGING FUNERAL SERVICE WORLD.



YES, PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT GEORGIA FUNERAL SERVICE PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE #:

EMAIL:

I AM CURRENTLY:

- LICENSED GEORGIA FUNERAL DIRECTOR OR EMBALMER
- LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTOR OR EMBALMER IN ANOTHER STATE
- APPRENTICE
- STUDENT