



MASSACHUSETTS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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August 2008 Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I would like to preface my message by acknowledging the Board of Directors for their dedication and sacrifice to consistently provide our membership with quality educational programs, legislative awareness, and invaluable opportunities for networking with fellow cemeterians and suppliers.

The officers are: James Shattuck, 1st Vice President; Angela Snell, 2nd Vice President; Edward Butland, Treasurer; Brian Killelea, Secretary; and Bray Walsh, Immediate Past President. Continuing to serve as Directors are Robert Keller and John Cobill. Joining our team this year as Directors are David Boyle, Lawrence Dauphinee, Alan McKinnon and William Monahan. Thomas Daly will continue his dedicated service as Chairman of the Legislative and Consumer Affairs Committee.

The Board continues to provide interesting venues which enrich our meeting experiences. I would like to thank all cemeterians who have allowed us to utilize their facilities for Board meetings. Your generosity and support are very much appreciated.

More than ever, cemeterians are confronted with numerous challenges ranging from soaring fuel costs, poor investment returns, and lack of skilled labor to rising cremation rates and costly infrastructure repairs. We are constantly being challenged to create more efficient operating procedures. Legislative intrusion into our rules and regulations is on the horizon. We have a responsibility to keep our membership informed. To that end, we encourage increased participation of senior management personnel.

It is an objective of the MCA to maintain an informational network in which cemeterians can offer their support and experience to one another. The continuing education of our membership is crucial to the success of the industry. Being on the cutting edge of operational techniques, equipment upgrades, sales strategies and cremation policies, to mention but a few topics, is imperative.

Collectively, we possess all solutions to the issues surrounding our industry. I encourage and reach out to individuals who are not members or have been inactive to join with us and share their knowledge and experience with fellow cemeterians by attending the programs presented by the MCA.

This year, we are embarking on a course that will feature a variety of industry professionals and venues that are new to our members. Please take the opportunity to join with us on this adventure by visiting our website and examining the program listings.

The next meeting of the MCA will be on September 17th in Medway, MA. The annual Supplier's Day Clambake is a popular perennial event. If you are in the process of purchasing a new piece of equipment or service, this is a must-attend event. It will be our pleasure to have you join us and support our suppliers.

Sincerely,

George H. Milley – Forest Hills Cemetery President and Massachusetts Cemetery Association President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 17, 2008	MCA Suppliers Day Exposition and New England Clambake – Medway, MA
November 5, 2008	MCA Fall Luncheon – Tower Hill Botanical Gardens – Boylston - The Gravestone Girls
December 2-4	NECA Educational Seminar – University of New Hampshire – Durham, NH
February	TBA
April 8, 2009	MCA Annual Meeting – John F. Kennedy Memorial Library and Museum – Boston - Keynote Speaker, John C. Metzler, Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC

*******Please Note that the Annual Meeting Date was incorrectly published as April 7th*******

******APRIL 8TH IS THE CORRECT DATE******

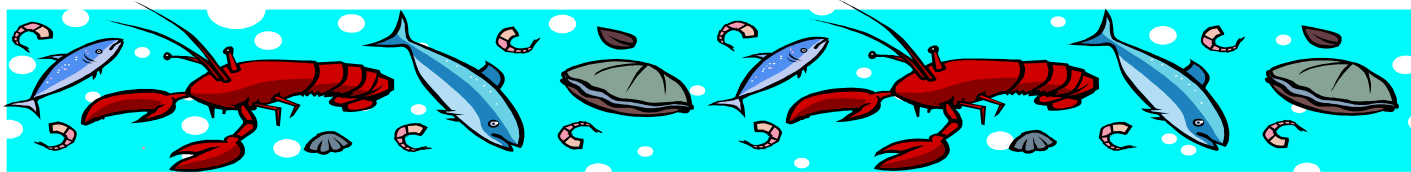
CALLING ALL MEMBERS !!!

Have you ever considered serving on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Cemetery Association? The Nominations Committee wants to hear from you if you are interested. Please contact R. Brabrook Walsh, Chairman of the Nominations Committee at 77 Knapp Ave., Lowell, MA 01852 or on my office phone at 978-454-5191. Also, feel free to speak with me at any of the meetings or speak with another Board Member and have them pass your interest along. The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Cemetery Association plays an important role for our membership and the current Board would like any of you to be involved!

Do you have any information that would fit into this space in future issues of our Newsletter? If so, I would be interested in receiving photographs, articles, cemetery experiences and the like that we could share with the entire membership.

Please contact the MCA Newsletter Editor
Bray Walsh
77 Knapp Avenue
Lowell, MA 01852
978-454-5191

SUPPLIER'S DAY EXPOSITION AND NEW ENGLAND CLAMBAKE



2008 ANNUAL SUPPLIERS EXPOSITION AND NEW ENGLAND CLAMBAKE
DATE: Wednesday, September 17, 2008

TIME: 8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: VFW Hall, 123 Holliston Street, Medway, MA

A majority of our Supplier Members will be exhibiting in both indoor and outdoor space for this event. Please show your support by attending.

MENU:

Early morning: Baked Goods and Coffee

Appetizers: Little Necks, Clam Chowder, Steamers

Entree: Choice of Lobster or Steak, Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob

Dessert: Watermelon



Jeff and Rob Hardy – Hardy Doric Vaults

Reservations must be received by Monday, September 8, 2008. Reservation forms may be downloaded from our website at www.macemetery.org Name tags will be available at the welcome booth for all paid attendees. Please make checks payable to the Massachusetts Cemetery Association and mail to:

Brian Killelea, Secretary
Massachusetts Cemetery Association
P. O. Box 282, Milton, MA 02186



**YOUR CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY THE RESERVATION FORM.
NO RESERVATIONS OR PAYMENTS
WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR
UNLESS A P.O. # SPECIFYING THE
AMOUNT IS RECEIVED BY FAX 508-
754-8598 PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 8th.**

Brian Killelea, MCA Secretary with Dan Kruger, Mark Hemmann and Raymond Scholl, from NECA and the State of Connecticut.



George Ux from Pepperell enjoys a lobster at the 2007 Suppliers Day Exposition and New England Clambake.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

August 25, 2008
Legislative Alert

Notice
House # 4927

Unclaimed Cremated Remains

Signed by Governor Patrick on August 20,
2008



Effective date: November 20, 2008

This enacted legislation will amend Chapter 114, Section 43 M by inserting after the third sentence the following 3 sentences:- Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a funeral establishment in possession of the cremated remains of a human body which is not claimed by a next-of kin or duly authorized representative within 12 months after the date of cremation may have the remains interred or placed in a common grave, niche, or crypt in a cemetery, or scattered in an area of the cemetery designated for that purpose; provided, however, that if the deceased is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces the deceased shall be interred at a veterans' cemetery. Each cemetery and funeral establishment shall maintain permanent records of such disposition. There shall be no liability for the funeral establishment, cemetery or crematory, or any employee or agent thereof that disposes of unclaimed cremated remains in accordance with this section.

Please note that this will not effect how you govern your cemetery. Your cemetery rules & regulations, fees and interment authorization will be maintained.

It is suggested that all cemeteries should review their Cemetery Rules & Regulations as to procedures for the possibility of this request from a funeral establishment. This may include rights of burial, number of human burials per grave, resident requirements, memorialization and many other cemetery policies.

The cemetery association will review this legislation at its next group meeting.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me by email or by phone.
In reference to MGL c. 82A section1 and 520CMR 14.00 Excavation and Trench Safety.

Please be advised that with the enforcement of the above (effective date January 1, 2009), we have received a letter from the Department of Public Safety that cemetery burials will be exempt from permitting. When this bill was filed we spoke on the importance of exempting cemeteries as the definition used for a trench would impact each grave opened for burial. In 520 CMR it did not show the exemption, however the letter states that the Department of Public Safety "does not consider cemetery burials as "construction related" and therefore do not require a permit for an excavation used for burial." The letter is signed by Mark F. Mooney, Chief of Inspections- Mechanical. A copy of the letter is attached to this report and can be copied for your cemetery records. With out this letter of understanding, cemeteries could have been required to obtain a permit before each opening at a fee established by the appointed municipal officer.

The texts of each are found by going to www.mass.gov/legis/bills/ . Bills are separated by Senate and House.

Respectfully submitted by Thomas Daly, Chairman of the Legislative and Consumer Affairs Committee

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR BRONZES ARE?

Tragedy at Forest Hills: Sculpture Stolen

Some people have already heard the devastating news: three works of contemporary sculpture were stolen from Forest Hills Cemetery this August. The works were part of the Cemetery's Contemporary Sculpture Path, enjoyed by thousands of visitors every year and organized by the Cemetery's nonprofit partner, the Forest Hills Educational Trust. The stolen pieces were: Garden's Edge (known fondly as "the rabbit by the lake") by Tim Cherry; Seated Ceres a charming goddess of the harvest by Kahlil Gibran; and Bark Balls by Carol Spack, a group of three spheres suggestive of tree spirits and sited under the landmark weeping beech near the cemetery's main entrance. All of these works were made of bronze; we believe they were stolen for the value of their materials and sold to a scrap yard to be melted down.

This is a terrible loss for cemetery families, the artists, and all the people who enjoy visiting Forest Hills. We have received many calls from individuals who loved these works – familiar favorites from strolling in these beautiful grounds. Both Bark Balls and Garden's Edge were featured in the Trust's Family Guide, and were particularly loved by children.

The Cemetery's president, George Milley, has posted a \$3,000 reward for information leading to recovery. However, he is not optimistic, and we suspect that the works have already been melted down. Because of the way it was fabricated, Seated Ceres is irreplaceable. Sadly, Kahlil Gibran passed away this year and the sculpture was part of his legacy; he is buried at Forest Hills. The Trust is exploring the possibility of commissioning new versions of the other two works. The Cemetery has upgraded its security procedures and will install security cameras at the two main entrances. Fearing more thefts, we have decided to remove the most vulnerable small bronze pieces remaining on the Sculpture Path.

Boston Globe calls for new regulation of scrap yards

The theft of three bronze sculptures here at Forest Hills prompted a great editorial calling for tougher reporting regulations for scrap metal yards. These regulations would reduce the theft of objects for the value of materials and is urgently needed as prices for metals soar. This type of theft is particularly devastating when a cemetery's sculpture is the target. Once melted down, there is no possibility of recovering the work; it has been destroyed for a fraction of its price as artwork and in vicious disregard for craftsmanship, meaning, and unique beauty. The Globe put it well in an editorial entitled "Stealing from the Dead":

"It's heartbreaking to learn that bronze sculptures in the Forest Hills Cemetery have been stolen from their eternal homes, possibly to be sold off for scrap metal. The beauty and serenity of the 19th century garden cemetery, enhanced by these contemporary sculptures, cannot be valued in price per ton."

MASSACHUSETTS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Education and Scholarship committee invites interested applicants to apply for the **Massachusetts Cemetery Association Scholarship Application**. Applicant must be a current member of the Massachusetts Cemetery Association and/or an employee of a current Organizational Member cemetery.

This scholarship will be awarded to the applicant that in the opinion of the MCA Scholarship Committee who is the best qualified. Scholarship will cover tuition and room and board at the University of New Hampshire "The New England Center" as provided by the NECA Program for the Management Seminar. Date is December 2-4, 2008. This 3-day event covers every imaginable topic relative to the operation, maintenance and management of today's New England cemetery. Applications are available on the web site and at the supplier's day. For more

information contact Angela Snell, Chair of the Education and Scholarship committee at asnell@th.ci.shrewsbury.ma.us or 508-841-8503.



MASSACHUSETTS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____ Received: _____

Name: _____

Tel: _____

Cemetery: _____

Number of years working in the industry:

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Applicant must be a current member of the Massachusetts Cemetery Association and/or an employee of a current Organizational Member cemetery.

This scholarship will be awarded to the applicant that in the opinion of the MCA Scholarship Committee who is the best qualified. Scholarship will cover tuition and room and board at the University of New Hampshire "The New England Center" as provided by the NECA Program for the Management Seminar. Date is usually December 2-4, 2008.

Please tell us about yourself.

Criteria considered but not limited to:

- Length of time in the industry,
- Position(s) held in the industry,
- Reasons stated by the applicant for attending the Seminar,
- Participation in the industry other than his/hers primary employment.

**Deadline:
Applications must be received no
later than October 1, 2008**

Please state, in the space below, the reason you would like to attend the New England Cemetery Association Management Seminar and please include all relevant information about yourself that you would like the committee to consider.

(If more space is needed please use the reverse side of this application)

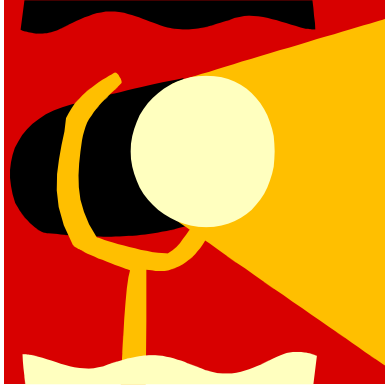
X _____ (Signature of applicant)

**Mail or Fax application to: Angela Snell, Education Committee, Mountain View Cemetery
100 Maple Ave, Shrewsbury, Ma 01545 Fax: 508-842-0587**

SPOTLIGHT ON TAUNTON CEMETERIES

Spotlight on Taunton Cemeteries

By Angela Snell



The City of Taunton, population 56,000 has 25 cemeteries that are maintained by the Department of Parks, Recreation, Cemetery, and Public Grounds. Commissioner Marilyn Greene, is the Director of this department and oversees a staff of 20 maintenance workers which includes 1 General Foreman for Parks & Cemeteries, and 4 foreman; one who is assigned directly to the cemetery operations. The department has 5 staff that are responsible for mowing all the public grounds in the city.

The Parks, Cemeteries & Public Grounds Department was established by City Ordinance in June, 2004. This ordinance resulted in the merger of three departments to include Parks & Recreation, Cemetery and Conservation Facility Maintenance as one department under the jurisdiction of a Commissioner of Public Grounds and a seven member board.

Taunton has 5 active cemeteries and one of which is used for current sale of lots. The Cemetery division does an average of 130 burials per year. Taunton sells approximately 25 double graves a year and 20 singles. The cemetery sells primarily to Taunton residents. Non residents are charged an additional \$150.00 per grave.

The biggest challenges facing Taunton Cemeteries, as with most municipal cemeteries, is keeping up with the maintenance of equipment. Replacing worn equipment takes funding and the department has to spend a lot of time doing repairs on trucks and mowers. Another issue is keeping up with the enforcement of the rules and regulations of the cemetery including the rules regarding memorialization.

The City of Taunton does recognize the important of its cemeteries. The city has approved funding for cemetery software that will link the GIS system to the cemeteries plot plans.

The city is also looking to purchase land adjacent to one of it's cemetery for future expansion. This is land formerly used by the municipal power plant. The land, once developed, would feature 150 new grave locations.

Due to the number of requests for genealogy the department has begun keeping copies of obituaries on file for future generations to research.

For more information on Taunton visit their web site at http://www.taunton-ma.gov/Pages/TauntonMA_Parks/index .

Thank you to member Marilyn Greene for information about her department. If you would like to be the next spotlight cemetery please contact Angela Snell at asnell@th.ci.shrewsbury.ma.us

Visit our website often at www.macemetery.org