



Maryland State Funeral Directors Association

Embalming Seminar

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

featuring

Carolyn Parsons

Chief Embalmer

Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Homes & Crematory

**Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel
Columbia, Maryland**

Seminar Sponsor

State Auto Insurance Companies

Program Content

The Maryland State Funeral Directors Association is pleased to host its annual embalming seminar and we are excited to welcome this year's presenter, **Carolyn "Carrie" Parsons**, Chief Embalmer at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Homes & Crematory in Greenwood, Indiana. As a member of the Fountain National Academy for post mortem reconstructive surgery techniques, Ms. Parsons comes to us very highly recommended. During this six-credit hour continuing education session, she will cover the following topics:

Opioid Embalming – Embalmers are asked to go back to the basics to better understand the cascading and compounding effects acute and chronic opioid abuse has on a body as well as additional complications upon death: delays in embalming, long term refrigeration, rigor mortis, changes in pH, etc. Under-educated embalmers can experience false positives for the results they desire. Bodies which have suffered with an addiction to opioids require embalmers who understand the narrative leading up to the preparations. This session will look at where we are now and how we arrived here, a case study lawsuit and how we can better prepare embalmers and prep rooms to handle our "new normal".

I'm Not Convinced – *I will not wrap up an embalming until I have convinced myself I have taken all measures to ensure thorough preservation and restoration.* This is all relative to skills and experience of course, however, if we learn to ask ourselves these questions pertaining to issues we encounter in the preparation room, we will start to look for and develop answers to some of our most frustrating situations. Whether you are a new embalmer or have been doing it forever, it never hurts to step into another embalmer's prep room to pick up a few new tricks and perhaps gain a deeper understanding of the "Why." In this session, attendees will "step" into her prep room and she will show you her "How" and "Why" of embalming general cases and the way it can be affected by today's medications and the opioid crisis; feature setting, building a mouth with cotton, new ways to use tissue builder; preventing leaks, major and minor restorations as well as using the lift and casketing tips. Not being convinced can be applied to so many areas of funeral service - "Is XYZ really a two-person job?" "Will the family notice XYZ?" "Will that hold, work, be seen, not leak, look natural?" You name it, there are so many details which need to be addressed – let's start that conversation and provide some solutions.

Where Do I Start? – More and more often, we are asking the question: "Where do I start?" Sometimes it's the intern who is unfamiliar with the landscape or the seasoned embalmer lacking the experience to attempt a restoration. Embalming is our practice and as practitioners, we need to develop an obsessive awareness of that foundation. This session will speak to that point and assure you that you have what it takes to give a loved one back to their family while developing new skills in the process, even without "special" training. This program will take attendees back to their roots in anatomy and embalming.

A Restorative Journey – Bringing it all together and reminding ourselves of our own personal "Why" in our chosen profession. Carrie will share her personal story about her "why" and focus in funeral service (including before and after photos of major trauma); an upbeat look and comparison at the origins of funeral service and embalming in our country and abroad; as well as an introduction into the work of a celebrant focusing on the restorative opportunities available for the family served and the celebrant heeding the call.

Program Timeline

7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast	Seminar Check-in & Continental
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<i>Opioid Embalming</i>
10:00 a.m.	Break (15 minutes)
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<i>I'm Not Convinced</i>
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Lunch
12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<i>Where Do I Start?</i>
1:45 p.m.	Break (15 minutes)
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<i>A Restorative Journey</i>

Morning and afternoon breaks are built into the program.

Continuing Education Credits

This seminar offers 6.0 continuing education credits that are approved by the Maryland Board of Morticians & Funeral Directors and accepted by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice.

Program Fees & Cancellation Policy

Please see registration form for fees, which include the continuing education program and materials, continental breakfast, breaks, and lunch. If canceled by August 30, 2019, a refund will be issued. No refunds will be granted for cancellations received after that date.

About the Presenter



CAROLYN PARSONS is a graduate of Hanover College with a Bachelor's degree in Communication, as well, a graduate of Norfolk State University's first graduating class of mortuary science students; a proud member of the Fountain National Academy for completing Post Mortem Reconstructive Surgery Techniques; Past Procurement Technician and Donor Coordinator with the Lions Medical Eye Bank of Eastern Virginia; Indiana Donor Network Funeral Advisory Board Member; Life Cycle Celebrant, completed training with the Insight Institute and the Celebrant Foundation and Institute; Trade embalmer. Carrie is currently the Chief Embalmer for Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Homes and Crematory out of Greenwood, IN. Her hobbies include yoga and stand-up comedy; she enjoys learning about astrology and spending time with family.

Hotel Information

Sheraton Columbia Town Center Hotel
(Across from the Columbia Town Center Mall)
10207 Wincopin Circle
Columbia, MD 21044
Phone: (410) 730-3900
www.sheratoncolumbia.com

Special Recognitions

We thank our seminar sponsor **State Auto Insurance Companies** for supporting our educational program. We thank our presenter, **Carolyn Parsons**, for taking time out of her schedule to share her knowledge, experience and expertise.

The Association also thanks **Jacki Rafferty**, chair of the embalming committee, for coordinating this program and we extend our gratitude to **Jim Bruzdinski, Kendra Harris, Daniel Pauley, and Lee Stallings** for their involvement on the committee.