

## Report of the Board

Embalmer/Funeral Practitioner License Holders: 311  
Funeral Establishment Licenses: 77  
Chapels (buildings without preparation rooms): 31  
Crematoriums: 7

New Embalmer Licenses Granted from 7 October 2011 to 10 October 2012 : 6  
( 3 by intern program and 3 from other states)  
Official Drops for the 2012 Year: 5 Dormant: 2  
Intern Embalmers as of 10 October 2012 - 6

### Accomplishments During the 2011 Year

Disposal Schedule of Board documents and files with the authority of the North Dakota Information and Technology Department continues.

The inspection program of funeral establishments is a contracted service of the North Dakota Department of Health and continues. The inspection process finds that most funeral establishments are in good form, but some minor updates are brought to the attention of the owner and they are given a reasonable amount of time to comply with regulations. The failure to have aspirators at all locations still seems to be a matter of concern. All safety requirements are for the benefit of the embalmer.

A website for the Board, [www.nd.gov/funeral](http://www.nd.gov/funeral) was developed several years ago. This website can be visited for occasional updates of news of the Board. **Practitioners can find a current copy of all codes and rules pertaining to funeral service on this website.**

The Board has reviewed and acted upon several consumer complaints during the past year. The Board finds that most of the complaints are non-violations but find poor communication and business practices of the families served. The complaints are few in comparison to the license holders.

The Board has met many times on conference call for operation of the Board. Meetings are always posted at the Secretary of State's Office in Bismarck and are conducted under the open meetings laws of the State of North Dakota.

On a daily basis, the hired Executive Secretary, Dale G. Niewoehner, monitors the files of licensees, funeral establishments, crematoriums, and interns. The Secretary also reviews all applications and provides applicants with the necessary materials during their intern embalmer program.

On an annual basis license renewal forms are mailed to all licensees.

At this time the Board is **still working** on the modification of many of the Administrative Codes that govern the practice of mortuary science in the state of North Dakota. These modifications will include publication in regional newspapers and public hearings when the process has advanced to this point.

The officers of the Board for 2012 are: Gregory Everson, President, Dale G. Niewoehner, Secretary, Jeffrey Brose, Treasurer, and Dr. Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer. The required audit of the Board has been completed and everything found in good order.

*As of 10 October 2012*