

From: [Richards, Lucy](#)
Cc: [DLI BSD Funeral Service](#)
Subject: MT Board of Funeral Service - Quick Updates - January 2018
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A Word from the Executive Director

As some of you may remember, I instituted a board newsletter back in Fall 2016. The first issue was a success (or at least I like to think so). However, I have unfortunately not had the time to follow through with subsequent newsletters due to the realities of how many hours are actually in day. In order to try to keep the information flowing without taking the time necessary to produce a full-fledged newsletter I have decided to start a "Quick Updates" e-mail. There will be no specific schedule to these e-mails and there will be no fancy formatting. Rather, the updates are intended as short blurbs under 1000 words to keep you informed whenever there are things related to the board which are of interest to the you, the licensees. As always, feel free to contact me at the contact information below if you have any questions.

Upcoming Dates of Interest and Deadlines

- **March 1, 2018 – Annual Cemetery, Mortuary, and Crematory Trust Reports Due** – a reminder that annual trust fund reports under the new reporting rules are due to the board by March 1. I have created an [FAQ](#) based on questions I have received so far. Go to the [board's homepage](#) for more information. If you lost your links to the reporting forms, click here to [download the CEMETERY reporting form](#). Click here to [download the MORTUARY AND CREMATORY reporting form](#).

- **May 1, 2018 – Upcoming Board Meeting** – a final meeting agenda will be posted to website approximately two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. Recordings and agendas from past meetings can also be found by clicking on the "Board Information " tab and selecting "Board Events".

In Memoriam – Gary Refsland

Gary Refsland, the board's longtime funeral inspector, has passed away. Gary served as the inspector from 1993 up until the time of his death. His many years of service to the state and this board are greatly appreciated. A [copy of Gary's obituary](#) is available online at the *Big Timber Pioneer*.

Upcoming Changes to Administrative Rules

The board proposed various changes to rules pertaining to licensing, continuing education, and unprofessional conduct in [MAR 24-147-39](#). At its most recent meeting on 1/18, the board voted to move forward with the adoption and complete the rulemaking process. Licensees and interested parties will be notified when the adoption notice is filed with the Secretary of State and the rules become effective.

Make Sure Your Contact Information on File with the Board Is Current

Make sure your contact information on file with the board is current. Email is the board's primary form of communication so a current e-mail helps ensure you stay up-to-date on board information. You can update your information at any time by [logging into your online account](#). If you have trouble logging into your account you can call 406-444-6880 for assistance.

Survey from the International Conference of Funeral Examining Boards

[The International Conference of Funeral Examining Boards](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ICFSEB2018) has created a brief survey for state licensing boards and funeral professionals across the US and Canada. Among other things, The Conference is responsible for administering the national funeral service exam which is required for licensure in Montana. The stated purpose of the survey is to improve the services offered by The Conference to the state boards, associate members, and exam candidates. This survey is being conducted by The Conference and is not from this board or in any way connected to your Montana license. The Conference says it will keep all information collected confidential. The survey takes about 5 minutes (I took it myself). This is the link to the survey if you are interested in taking it: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ICFSEB2018>.

Lucy Richards

Executive Officer

Board of Funeral Service | Board of Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists | Board of Veterinary Medicine

Montana Department of Labor & Industry

Business Standards Division

PHONE (406) 841-2394

dlibsdfnr@mt.gov