



# Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

## Meeting Minutes

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On Wednesday, March 11, 2026, the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (“LSBEFD”) conducted a scheduled in-person meeting at the board office located at The Executive Towers 3500 N. Causeway Boulevard Suite 1232 Metairie, Louisiana 70002 in accordance with La. R.S. 37:831, et seq and other applicable law.

### Call to Order

Chairman Stephen Boudreaux called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Opening remarks were given by Chairman Boudreaux stating the mission statement and the purpose of the LSBEFD.

### Roll Call

#### Board Members Present

Stephen Boudreaux – Chairman  
Troy Dennard  
Terry Luneau

Anna Wilbert Breaux  
Gregory McKneely  
Kelly Rush Savoy

Willie Davis, Jr.  
Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III

Board Member Rev. Shelton C. Dixon was absent A quorum was present.

#### Others Present

Kim W. Michel - Executive Director

R. DeMale Bowden, Jr. – Deputy Executive Director/Inspector  
Carrie L. Jones – General Counsel

### Invocation

Board Member Troy Dennard led the invocation.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III led the Pledge of Allegiance

*Board Member Troy Dennard made a motion to accept the agenda for today, which was seconded by Board Member Terry Luneau. The motion passed unanimously.*

### Public Comments

Chairman Boudreaux asked if there were any public comments?

An in-person public comment card was submitted by Bono Pulido and there was no public comment requests submitted online via Microsoft TEAMS by virtual participants.

Chairman Boudreaux granted Mr. Pulido time to speak, and he spoke on agenda item 10e. Esperanza Family Funeral Home – Cease and Desist. Mr. Pulido gave a summary of his funeral home operations in the state of Texas and the services his firm provides to Louisiana residents who have lost loved ones.

### Consent Agenda

- a. Executive Director’s Report
- b. Financial Report – FY 25.26 Budget Projection v Actual to Date
- c. Inspector’s Report
- d. Complaint Review Report

*Board Member Kelly Rush Savoy made a motion to accept the reports listed in the consent agenda, which was seconded by Board Member Troy Dennard. The motion passed unanimously.*

### Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2025, meeting

*Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. made a motion to accept the December 10, 2025 meeting minutes with necessary changes, which was seconded by Board Member Anna Wilbert Breaux. The motion passed unanimously.*

### Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2025, meeting

*Board Member Kelly Rush Savoy made a motion to accept the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes with necessary changes, which was seconded by Board Member Terry Luneau. The motion passed unanimously.*

### Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to come before the board.

## **New Business**

- a. Resolutions – Clyde McGuire, Shirly Curry, Eugene Washington, Janis Jones, Margaret Shehee Cole, & Albert Laville, III.  
Deputy Executive Director/Inspector Bowden gave remarks about the Resolutions of Respect in the recent passing of licensees.
- b. Formation of the Inspector/Investigator Search Committee  
Because of the retirement of Executive Director Michel in June of this year, LSBEFD's present Inspector R. DeMale Bowden, Jr., will be moving into the Executive Director position, making the inspector/investigator position soon to become vacant. The board will need to begin a search for a new inspector/investigator. Charman Boudreaux appointed Board Members Troy Dennard and Anna Wilbert Breaux to serve on the Inspector/Investigator Search Committee to begin accepting and reviewing resumes for the inspector/investigator position.
- c. Proposed Rule Changes from the Laws and Rules Committee (Chapters 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 & 23)  
The board was presented with updates from the Laws and Rules Committee - Chapters 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 & 23. Chairman Boudreaux asked the board to review and have any questions about the proposed changes ready for the next board meeting.
- d. Approval to Re-Enroll in the LA DOJ Occupational Licensing Review Program FY 26-27  
The board had discussion about re-enrolling in the LA DOJ Occupational Licensing Review Program FY 26-27. Board Member Troy Dennard made a motion to re-enroll in the LA DOJ Occupational Licensing Review Program FY 26-27, which was seconded by Board Member Gregory McKneely the motion passed unanimously.
- e. Esperanza Family Funeral Home - Cease and Desist  
Deputy Executive Director/Inspector Bowden and General Counsel Jones gave information to the board as to why a Cease and Desist was issued to Esperanza Family Funeral Home. The cease and desist was issued because of Esperanza Family Funeral Home advertising their services on the radio, local newspapers and in commercials here in the state. They also conducted a service here in the state of Louisiana which was attended by a Louisiana licensee and found the service to have no Louisiana licensed funeral director on the service.
- f. Review of House & Senate Bills  
Board Staff and General Counsel Jones presented to the board possible bills that were being presented in the legislature pertaining to LSBEFD. Chairman Boudreaux asked the board to review, and this was for informational purposes only,

## **Disciplinary Matters\***

25.26.0019/25.26.0016 - Admission and Consent

In the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale

**Mr. Gregory Strother was not present to give comments.**

25.26.0024 - Admission and Consent

In the Matter of Geesey-Ferguson Funeral Home, Justin Lee, Crowley

**Mr. Justin Lee was not present to give comments.**

24.25.0039 AND 24.25.0044 / Contempt Matter: 24.25.0004 – Show Cause

**In the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale**

**Mr. Gregory Strother was not present, even thou he was subpoenaed to appear for the show cause.**

23.24.0033 – Show Cause

In the Matter of Darlene St. Romaine and the entity operating as St. Edwards Funeral Home, Bunkie

**Ms. Darlene St. Romaine was present and addressed the board as to the issues that she was having in paying the board order in reference to complaint 23.24.0033.**

*Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. made a motion to go into the executive session to discuss Disciplinary Matters and agenda items 11. a. Report on Litigation and b. Personnel Matters, which was seconded by Board Member Gregory McKneely. The motion passed unanimously. The executive session began at 10:55 AM. A roll call was done, and all board members were present except Board Member Rev. S. C. Dixon, who was absent.*

**Executive Session (pursuant to LA R.S. 42:17)**

Report on Litigation

- i. Marybeth Harrington v LSBEFD - Nicholas Oshea Barber-Cypress Funeral Services, CDC Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana, Docket # 20124-00124
- ii. Gary Lewis, New Orleans Funeral and Cremation Service v LSBEFD, CDC Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana, Docket # 2024-06195
- iii. Gary Lewis, New Orleans Funeral and Cremation Service v LSBEFD, CDC Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana, Docket # 2024-06196
- iv. Gary Lewis, New Orleans Funeral and Cremation Service v LSBEFD, CDC Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana, Docket # 2025-00465

Personnel Matters

General Administrative Matters

The board came out of the executive session at 1:27 PM with a roll call to reflect on the board members present following executive session. Present was Chairman Stephen Boudreaux and Board Members Anna Wilbert Breaux, Willie Davis, Jr., Troy Dennard, Charles Joseph "Joe" Eagan, III, Terry Luneau, Kelly Rush Savoy, and Gregory McKneely. Rev. S. C. Dixon was absent. Further, Board Member Kelly Rush Savoy excused herself from executive session for all discussions pertaining to 25.26.0019/25.26.0016 - Admission and Consent In the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale and 24.25.0039 AND 24.25.0044 / Contempt Matter: 24.25.0004 – Show Cause In the Matter of White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother, Oakdale.

The Board deliberated on the disciplinary matters listed in Agenda Item # 11 during executive session. With respect to the Admission and Consent offered in the White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother matter. *A motion was made by: Board Member Gregory McKneely and second by: Board Member Willie Davis, Jr. that after consideration of the Show Cause Order on March 11, 2026,*

**IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that White Oaks Funeral Home and Gregory Strother make both complainants whole in the mentioned in the admission and consent and Board staff follow up with the complainants to see if they had been paid by the next meeting. *A roll call vote was done, Board Members Breaux, Davis, Dennard, McKneely, and Eagan voted yes, with Board Members Savoy and Luneau recusing themselves, and Board Member Dixon was absent.*

With respect to the show cause order issued to White Oaks Funeral Home, Gregory Strother. A motion was made by: *Board Member Troy Dennard and second by: Charles Joseph Eagan, III that after consideration of the Show Cause Order on March 11, 2026,*

**IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that Board staff is to pursue legal action on the NSF check.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that White Oaks Funeral Home's license is suspended effective March 23, 2026, for a minimum of sixty (60) days and the license shall not be reinstated until the fine and fees in the amount of \$46,646.95 set forth in the December 10, 2025, Board Order are paid.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** THAT all payments shall be made in the form of cashier's check or money order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** THAT White Oaks Funeral Home shall be assessed all attorney fees associated with Show Cause Order in the amount of \$1,230.00. *A roll call vote was done, Board Members Breaux, Davis, Dennard, McKneely, and Eagan voted yes, with Board Members Savoy and Luneau recusing themselves, and Board Member Dixon was absent.*

With respect to the Admission and Consent offered in the Geesey-Ferguson Funeral Home, Justin Lee matter, a motion was made by: *Board Member Anna Wilbert Breaux and second by: Board Member Willie Davis, Jr., that after considering the Admission and Consent,*

**IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** THAT the Admission and Consent offered by Justin M. Lee and Geesey-Ferguson Funeral Home, Inc., is accepted.

**IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that Justin M. Lee and Geesey-Ferguson Funeral Home, Inc., are fined \$1,000.00 plus attorney fees.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that the combined fine and attorney fee assessment totals \$2,830.00.

**IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** THAT the fine and attorney fee assessment is due within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Board Order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** THAT all payments shall be made by cashier's check or money order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that failure to comply with this Board Order shall result in automatic suspension of the establishment license, which may be imposed by the Executive Director subject to ratification by the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. *A roll call vote was done, the motion passed unanimously. Board Member Dixon was absent.*

With respect to show cause order issued to Darlene St. Romaine and the entity operating as St. Edwards Funeral Home, a motion was made by: *Board Member Kelly Rush Savoy and second by: Board Member Troy Dennard that after consideration of the Show Cause Order and Ms. St. Romaine's testimony,*

**IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that St. Edwards Funeral Home pay the outstanding balance, \$11,867.03 plus the attorney fees associated with the Show Cause Order and hearing.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** THAT the total fine and attorney fees shall be paid by cashier's check or money order on or before September 30, 2026.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that monthly installment payments are acceptable.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that failure to submit payment in full for all outstanding fines and fees by September 30, 2026, shall result in automatic revocation of the establishment's license by the Executive Director subject to ratification by the Board.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that the combined outstanding fine and attorney fees assessed against Respondent total \$13,157.03, which is inclusive of the additional attorney fees associated with the show cause order and hearing. *A roll call vote was done, the motion passed unanimously. Board Member Dixon was absent.*

### **Closing Remarks**

Announcements were given by Deputy Executive Director/Inspector Bowden, which consisted of LFDA Day at the capitol which will be going on today from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM and he also thanked all licensed professionals present and viewing for their service as today is Funeral Directors & Morticians Recognition Day. Closing remarks were given by Chairman Boudreaux. The next board meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2026, at 9:00 AM

### **Adjournment**

*Board Member Charles Joseph Eagan, III made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM*



*Stephen G. Boudreaux, Chairman of the Board*



*Gregory J. McKneely, Secretary of the Board*