
The New Englander

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

President
Anthony Hollingshead
Swan Point Cemetery
Providence, RI

Honoring the Past Serving the Present Preparing for the Future

www.newenglandcemetery.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I've had the good fortune of being involved with the New England Cemetery Association for close to 20 years, and I consider it to be an important part of my life.

Over the past month I have wondered what I might say this evening. And every time I began to think about what it would be, my thoughts would invariably go to all of the members of this organization that I have met....that I've worked with over the years.... those who have impacted my life in a positive way.

This opportunity may not have happened if I did not work for cemeteries with progressive leaders, who believed in not only supporting the organization, but also recognized the importance of becoming involved in this organization. Just about 20 years ago there were two special individuals who helped to start my career in cemetery management...Bud Hanson and Charlie Adams of Forest Hills in Boston.

I worked with Charlie, who was the superintendent at the time, to learn the operational elements of the cemetery. Charlie had spent most of his life working at the cemetery and had a true devotion to the cemetery. Charlie was particularly detailed and had this unending respect for his co-workers but more importantly, a respect for those that were entrusted to the cemetery, whether they were being buried or cremated.

Bud set the bar high for Forest Hills. He expected his entire team to provide the most professional service possible. Bud's wealth of experience allowed him to be a great leader. The community and the funeral directors that the cemetery served were important to Bud. He worked hard to keep the cemetery's history alive, while educating the community about the current role of the cemetery. Bud still today has a passion for this work and continues to set the example of how-to be a great leader.

More recently I had the chance to work with Sadie Barran at Swan Point in Providence. Sadie was a lot like Bud, setting the bar high and wanting to provide those we serve with the highest level of service and professionalism. They both constantly instilled in all of

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STATE NEWS

Rhode Island: by George Boardman

We held our annual lobster bake in Newport on July 22nd. It turned out to be another success! The weather co-operated and the bake was outstanding. As usual we had people from all over New England. Thanks to Dale Fiore, Immediate Past President of NECA for attending. Also to Tom Daly, NECA Past President, who has always supported the Rhode Island Cemetery Association.

We would like to congratulate Anthony Hollingshead on his election to President of the New England Cemetery Association. We are especially excited that he is planning to bring the NECA Annual Meeting and Conference for next year to Providence. He can certainly expect a strong show of support from Rhode Island.

Also elected to serve NECA as Treasurer is our own Joe Swift. He follows Barbara Brooks after many fine years of service to the New England Association. Congratulations to both!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th. This will be our Annual Meeting with the election of officers and directors. More information will follow.

Connecticut: by Ray Scholl

The Connecticut Cemetery Association congratulates our Past President, Dale Fiore for a job well done serving as the President of the New England Cemetery Association this past year. Through Dale's efforts the recently completed conference offered a variety of educational opportunities along with much camaraderie and was well received.

We are also proud that our Vice President, Craig Neal was recognized as a New England Certified Cemetery Professional by the New England Cemetery Association during their annual meeting. We all know Craig for his hard work, knowledge and dedication and are not surprised that NECA would recognize such attributes. Congratulations to both Dale and Craig!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15th at the Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange, CT. This will be the Annual Meeting and everyone is certainly invited.

Massachusetts: by Bray Walsh

The Massachusetts Cemetery Association held its Annual Meeting on April 7th, 2009 in Boston, MA. An election of Officers and Directors took place that day and the Board of Directors for 2009-2010 is as follows. **President, James Shattuck**, Wildwood Cemetery, Winchester; **1st Vice-President, Angela Snell**, Mountain View Cemetery, Shrewsbury; **2nd Vice-President, William Monahan**, Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett; **Treasurer, Edward Butland**, Boston Catholic Cemetery Assoc., Roslindale; **Secretary, Brian Killelea**, Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton; **Immediate Past President, George Milley**, Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston; and **Directors, James Holman**, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge; **Lawrence Dauphinee**, Highland Cemetery, Dover; **David Boyle**, Chelmsford Cemeteries, Chelmsford; **Ron Nestor**, Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton; **Alan MacKinnon**, The Gardens at Gethsemane Cemetery, West Roxbury; **John Cobill** Rural Cemetery, Worcester. Congratulations to the entire Board on their election.

The Board has been working diligently on the schedule for the upcoming year. The current agenda is our **New England Clambake and Suppliers Day Exposition** to be held on Wednesday, September 16th, at the VFW Hall, 123 Holliston St., Medway, MA from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. The menu for the day will be coffee and baked goods in the morning with steamers, clam chowder, choice of steak or lobster for lunch with corn on the cob, baked potato and watermelon for dessert. Please come join us to meet and support the Supplier Members who will be displaying their goods and services.

Our Fall Luncheon has been planned for Thursday, November 5th, at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA. Their website address is: www.towerhillbg.org. We hope to have someone from the University of Massachusetts or the US Department of Agriculture, speak to us on the Asian Long-horned Beetle which has greatly impacted the entire Worcester area. Further details and reservation forms for these events will follow and will be posted to our website at www.macemetery.org.

The entire Board of Directors and Membership of the Massachusetts Cemetery Association wishes Tom Santillo well on his new venture with Matthews Bronze. Your support of and dedication to our Association over the years is truly appreciated. Thank you again Tom, be well and we all look forward to seeing you sometime in the near future.

STATE NEWS

Maine: by Debbie Allen Grover
The Maine Cemetery Association will hold its Annual Meeting and Conference on October 13th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport.

We have a full agenda this year with a variety of topics and speakers. The program will focus on how to prepare for the future with an understanding of the past. Also, new this year is our vendor area where you will be able to view products and speak with company representatives.

The program will begin at 9:00 in the morning with David Ward of Grever & Ward presenting "Cemetery Planning for the Years Ahead". He will be followed by a presentation on preparing for a pandemic outbreak. Kristine Perkins from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention will most certainly raise some eyebrows. The morning session will conclude with our own Stephen Burrill presenting a program on Arlington National Cemetery.

Following a lunch with the vendors, Judy Colby George of Spatial Alternatives will offer a lesson on using GPS to aid in mapping your cemetery. Also, Kai Nelenz of Gravestone Services of New England will explain the meanings behind early gravestone symbols as well as report on the restoration this summer of Colonial Pemaquid's Olde Fort Burial Ground.

The day will conclude with a tour of the Old Parish Burying Ground conducted by Christina White of the Freeport Historical Society.

We hope to see you in Freeport as it is a great place to visit in the fall with the foliage, sites and shopping. This historic coastal Maine village boasts 170 retailers, upscale outlets, designer shops, eclectic boutiques, charming B&B's, hotels, fantastic restaurants and casual cafes. It is also the home to world famous L.L. Bean.

With that in mind you might just want to extend your holiday weekend (Columbus Day) and make overnight accommodations. Please contact Steve Burrill at 207-945-6589. We look forward to seeing you there.

In their latest Wireless Newsletter the ICCFA has published a source for unbiased information related to the national debate on the health care issue. The Kaiser Family Foundation has produced a side-by-side comparison of all the plans currently offered. Simply visit http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/healthreform_sbs_full.pdf.

Please consider joining ICCFA to receive their timely publication at <http://www.iccfa.com>.

FOREST HILLS EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Marble Gravestone Conservation Workshop
Friday, September 25, 2009 (Rain date October 2)
8:30am – 4:00pm

Please join the Forest Hills Educational Trust for a one-day marble conservation workshop at historic Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston's famed rural cemetery. This workshop will focus on conservation techniques of nineteenth century marble gravestones. The morning session will cover assessment, documentation procedures, and preservation techniques. The afternoon session will consist of a demonstration on how to properly clean outdoor marbles, as well as hands-on cleaning, basic stone repair, and resetting techniques.

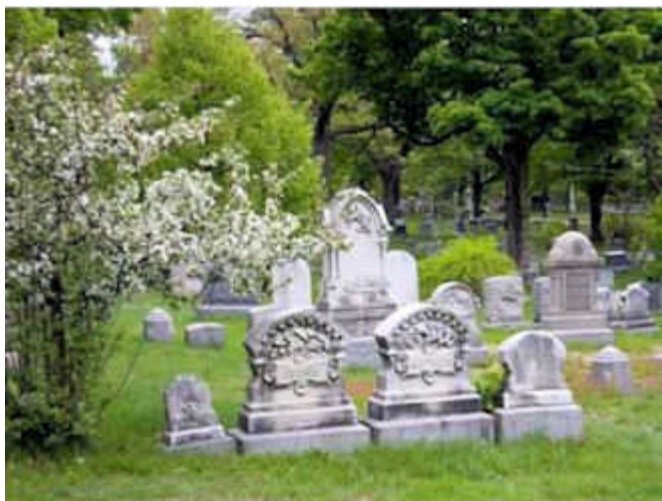
Ivan Myjer, nationally known stone and masonry conservation expert, will lead the workshop. Elise Ciregna, Curator of Historic Collections at Forest Hills and Mary Bulso, masonry preservation specialist, will also help lead the workshop.

Participants should be physically able to kneel and lift up to 30 lbs. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes, and (optional) bring work gloves, hat, and sun block.

Participation is limited to 20. Pre-registration required; no refunds after September 21. Fees cover all costs, including: handouts, coffee and donuts, box lunch, and supplies. The fees are \$75.00 per individual with AIC members and students at \$60.00.

To register, please call Elise Ciregna at 617-524-0128 during business hours and leave a message, or e-mail eciregna@foresthillscemetery.com. Your message will be returned promptly.

For more information about Forest Hills Cemetery and the Forest Hills Educational Trust, please visit us on-line at: www.foresthillstrust.org.



“MOLLY” TAKEN, BUT THEN FOUND

Sometime prior to July 22nd someone found the epitaph on Mary “Molly” Fowler’s memorial irresistible and absconded with the over 200 year old slate headstone. While Molly is not the oldest burial in Milford, Connecticut’s historic Milford Cemetery it was unique and a favorite stop for tours conducted by City Historian, Richard Platt.

As Platt was conducting a tour during the week of July 20th he discovered that someone had lifted the two foot tall by 18 inch wide headstone straight out of the ground. Superintendent Ray Scholl and the Milford Cemetery Association were quite concerned and immediately offered a \$500.00 reward for the safe return of Molly’s memorial, no questions asked. Because of the method of removal they were quite concerned that this was a premeditated act and that they would never recover the headstone.

What makes the stone so unusual is the epitaph. It reads “Sacred to the Memory of Miss MARY FOWLER daughter to Mr. WILLIAM & EUNICE FOWLER who died Feby 1st AD 1792 in the 24th year of her age. Molly tho pleasant in her day Was suddenly seiz’d and sent away How soon she’s ripe how soon she’s rott’n sent to her grave and soon forgot’n.”

This story ends on an upbeat note. Several days after the reported theft Mr. Platt discovered the headstone in the woods along the outskirts of the cemetery. Mr. Scholl has retrieved the memorial and will take steps to prevent any future theft. Of course the Milford Police Department is continuing its investigation and hopefully they will apprehend the thieves.



FALL CALENDAR

September 16, 2009: MCA
Suppliers Day Exposition and Clambake
Medway VFW, Medway, MA

October 13, 2009: MCA
Annual Meeting and Conference
Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, ME

October 14, 2009: RICA
Annual Meeting
TBA

October 15, 2009: CCA
Annual Meeting
Grassy Hill Country Club, Orange, CT

November 5, 2009: MCA
Fall Luncheon
Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Boylston, MA

December 1, 2, & 3, 2009: NECA
39th Annual Frederick R. Laffond
Cemetery Management Seminar
University of NH, Durham, NH



MORE STATE NEWS

New Hampshire: submitted by Jeff Snow **Painting for Preservation**

Keene, NH: by Lynn Smith

Raising funds for special projects in Keene's municipal cemeteries is a challenge, and a bake sale just won't cut it as a fundraiser. The Sumner Knight Memorial Chapel was donated to the City in the 1930's and is tucked away in Woodland NED Cemetery, one of the older cemeteries. It has limited use, but may be used by the public for such things as funeral services, musical performances and Easter sunrise services. While the department's budget runs to basic maintenance, over the years parts of the chapel have fallen into disrepair and need some TLC to restore the original beauty of the building.



In the fall of 2008, the cemetery division was contacted by a group of local "plein aire" artists with a unique event suggestion. Hold a 'paint out' in the cemetery followed by an auction of the completed works, proceeds to be donated to the chapel's restoration fund. (En plein aire paintings are created on-site, not in the studio, and paintings from the event are offered for sale wet – and unframed.) Artists would donate a minimum of 50% of painting sales.

"Painting for Preservation" was born. The weekend of June 6/7, 2009 was perfect painting weather, and over a dozen artists set up in the cemetery – some at the chapel, some by the marshlands, some by the run down but picturesque maintenance barns – and subjects ranged from aspects of the chapel to monuments in the cemetery to red winged blackbirds. Upwards of 250 people visited the chapel over the course of the two days, helping to raise awareness of this gem of a structure. The Sunday afternoon auction was well attended, for a first time event, and over \$1,000 found its way into the restoration fund.

The artists are already talking about an event for 2010 ... and the merchants' group that presents a summer Friday night concert series is considering the chapel as a venue. All around, it was a successful event.

NECA GOLF TOURNAMENT RECAP

I would like to thank everyone for their participation in our annual golf tournament, which was held at the beautiful Overlook Golf Club in Hollis, New Hampshire. Despite several raindrops, the day was a success with 32 players enjoying an afternoon hacking away on the links. Our first-place foursome of champions was: Sam Rubbo, Stanley Scruggs, Kevin Devlin and Jeff Hardy. Taking the runner-up position was: Rev. Msgr. David Walker, Brian Ricciardi, Bob Gambordella and Terry Gambordella.

In addition to the team prizes, we had several individual prizewinners. Mark Hemmann and Linda Faria won the men's and ladies' long drive contest respectively, while Mike Hanlon and Shay Neal won the men's and ladies' closest to the pin. Join us again next year for an exciting tourney in Providence, Rhode Island!

Respectfully submitted,
Craig S. Neal, Tournament Chair

*Winning team (left to right) K. Devlin,
S. Scruggs, S. Rubbo and J. Hardy.*



SANTILLO HONORED

During the 107th Annual Meeting and Conference the New England Cemetery Association presented Tom Santillo with a gift of appreciation for his service to NECA and its members. All of us have had the privilege to know Tom through his representation of Matthews International. He has always willingly helped many of our members as well as the association as a whole. As he continues in his career with Matthews we certainly wish Tom and his family much success and continued happiness. His presence will be missed and hopefully we will see Tom and his family from time-to-time at future NECA events.

Tom Santillo addressing the President's Banquet in Nashua. Below, a thank you card received by President Anthony Hollingshead.



Anthony,
On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to sincerely thank the New England Cemetery Association for the "special" time during the banquet. I was truly surprised and very humbled with everyone being so nice to me and my family. From day one, I realized what a special group this was. I respect and admire everyone that makes this association the success that it is today. Thank you for the gift, and thank you even more for making that night a night I will never forget! I am proud to be a member...
"My best to everyone"
Sincerely,
Tom Santillo

Photo Credits

All photographs of the 107th Annual Meeting (pages 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10) were provided by Bray Walsh.

NOTE FROM PAST PRESIDENT

Good day fellow Cemeterians and Industry Suppliers.

I would like to thank all the attendees of the 107th Annual Meeting and Conference for helping make our special time together a great success! We certainly had a wonderful, informative week in Nashua. From "Family Services" to "Finding Your Niche", Supplier spotlights and a tour of the Doric Vault Plant followed by a picnic lunch at the historic Lowell Cemetery, this conference was enjoyed by all and was one that will always be remembered. Our guest speaker Dr. Henry Lee with his interesting and entertaining presentation certainly was the highlight of the week.

I would like to congratulate Anthony Hollingshead, who has assumed the duties as President, and the Officers and Directors who volunteer their service to our association. I will now chair the Nominating Committee along with other Past Presidents looking for interested candidates willing to become part of our great association. If you are interested in serving on a committee or as a board member please let me know.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President for the past year.

Dale J. Fiore, CCE

CERTIFICATION

Craig Neal has been active in the New England Cemetery Association as well as the Connecticut Cemetery Association for over 10 years. As a leader within the Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford he has helped guide one of the largest cemetery companies in the country, positioning it for continued success well into the future. As an officer and director in CCA and as a director in NECA Craig has demonstrated his abilities and willingness to participate, share and, most impressively, to lead.

During the President's Banquet at the 107th Annual Meeting and Conference Craig Neal was recognized for this knowledge, commitment and skill by being designated a New England Certified Cemetery Professional. He is only the 43rd such individual to be designated as such.



To be so recognized an individual must be a member of both their respective state association as well as the New England Cemetery Association. They must also demonstrate their wealth of knowledge through participation in numerous NECA educational programs. It is also expected that the individual will have taken on a leadership role in his or her state association. Only after careful review by the Certification Committee is the designation awarded.

Those who have known Craig during his 14 years with the Catholic Cemeteries are not surprised by his achievements but are certainly pleased with the recognition he has earned. Congratulations Craig!

(President's Message continued)

their employees the fact that as Cemeterians, we play an important role in people's lives.

The **New England Cemetery Association** provides the framework to become better Cemeterians.... to help us learn, but also to let us contribute. We have board members that take the time out of their busy lives to bring new ideas to the table and work hard to keep this organization strong. We have members that faithfully attend and participate at all of our seminars and conferences. We have vendors that continue to support us, who also go to great lengths to bring us the latest products and technology.

I am privileged to say that the belief in this organization, and commitment to it, is evident in the members of this organization. The individuals that I have met over the years are caring, compassionate and dedicated to their mission. They strive to make this a better organization. They make cemeteries better places to memorialize the dead and provide solace to their families and friends. We are professionals and should remember that our responsibilities should never be taken lightly and always believe in the good of our work.

I feel particularly honored to take the position as president for it was over 100 years ago that Timothy McCarthy was elected the first president. Mr. McCarthy, a noted landscape architect worked for both Forest Hills and later at Swan Point. We've both had the good fortune of being associated with the same 3 leading institutions.

I will work as hard as I can to continue the fine work of our past president Dale Fiore and those that served before him. I ask that we all work together and continue to work at making this a stronger organization.

I would like to thank the board and all of you for your support and confidence in allowing me to serve as your president. I look forward to seeing you at this year's management seminar and next year's annual meeting in Providence.

(As presented at the 107th Annual Meeting and Conference)

107th Annual Meeting and Conference

The Annual Meeting and Conference of the New England Cemetery Association was held this past June 29th through July 2nd at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire. President Dale Fiore and the Board of Directors succeeded in presenting a program that encouraged all “To Embrace Change”.

The program began on Monday afternoon with Joe Swift and Charles Helly presenting programs in the Amherst room. Joe spoke of the importance of providing “family services”, especially during these trying economic times. As we all know families are asking for unique services and expecting value for their hard earned dollars. Charlie presented a power point program illustrating the changes that Flushing Cemetery has undertaken in their efforts to provide these changing requests from families.

Tuesday’s and Wednesday’s programs illustrated how many of our suppliers forecast the future of our industry and how they are changing so as to assist us in meeting these challenges. Much of the credit for this program is shared by Dave Crispin of BSC Group and the many suppliers who participated. Dave accepted the responsibility to organize the many short but concise discussions that were presented. They varied from the nuts and bolts of burial vaults and lawn crypts to the latest in data management through web based products; from creative grounds maintenance products to cemetery development; from equipment maintenance to cremation services. The association can not thank those who participated enough and encourages all members to support our supplier members in purchasing decisions.



As a special treat Wednesday afternoon the Hardy Doric Vault Company and the Lowell Cemetery opened their doors to NECA. A bus tour of over 60 members and suppliers visited both facilities while enjoying a picnic lunch on the beautiful grounds of the historic Lowell Cemetery. Please see the article on the next page and a special thanks to Bray Walsh and Jeff Hardy.

Of course the highlight of the event was the presentation made by Dr. Henry Lee. Dr. Lee is the world renowned forensic scientist who has been involved with many famous investigations. Within his field he is also

highly respected for his commitment to educating future forensic specialists as a professor of the Forensic Science Program at the University of New Haven. He has served as the director of the forensic lab for the State of Connecticut, as well as the Commissioner of the Connecticut State Police.



Dr. Lee spoke of the obstacles that he overcame and the perseverance that was required to reach the pinnacle of success. He reminded everyone of the importance of continually contributing to society regardless the rewards. He was certainly an inspiration to all who attended.

CONFERENCE TOURS: by Bray Walsh

On June 30th, about 60 cemetery and supplier members of the New England Cemetery Association boarded a bus in Nashua, NH and headed to Chelmsford and Lowell for tours of the Hardy Doric Vault facility and Lowell Cemetery.

The Hardy Doric Vault Company began its operation in 1930 by Frank Hardy. The business passed on to Gerry Hardy who continues to work daily while Gerry's two sons, Jeff, Treasurer and Rob, President participate in the daily operations of the company as well.

The group toured the state of the art concrete batch plant and watched the mixing of the concrete from materials stored in hoppers on site. Once the concrete was mixed, it was poured into forms of varying sizes to create burial grave boxes and vaults. After the concrete cured, the forms were stripped and the vaults were prepared for shipment to cemeteries.

After the tour of Hardy Doric, the group boarded the bus again for a short ride to Lowell Cemetery. Superintendent Bray Walsh greeted the group at the gate to the cemetery and led them to West Meadow where there was a tent and lunch awaiting them. The tent and tables were decorated in a patriotic theme since Independence Day was just around the corner.

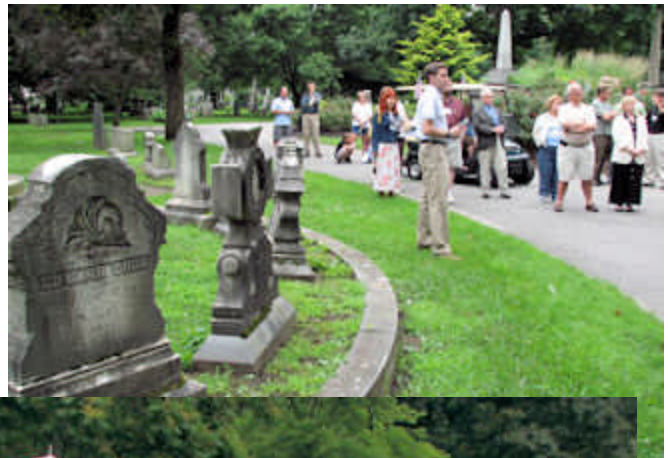
The walking tour led by local historian, Richard

Howe, began by visiting the grave of Oliver Moulton, who had been Superintendent of Lowell Cemetery from 1853-1858 and also Superintendent of Forest Hills Cemetery in Jamaica Plain from 1858 until his death in 1885. After 27 years at Forest Hills, upon his death, he was returned to Lowell Cemetery to be with his first wife and two children who had died before him.

The group also visited the graves of "mill girls", who had worked so diligently in the textile mills of Lowell in the 1800's. A monument that read "Cenotaph" was pointed out and the story was told of the young woman whose life had been lost at sea. The graves of the Abbott brothers, both Civil War veterans, were visited and their war experiences were described.

Superintendent Bray Walsh described some of the plant material used within the cemetery and how hillsides were planted for ease of maintenance. Monuments of interest that were viewed had been carved into the shapes of books, a granite chair and a beautiful marble lion.

I would like to thank President Dale Fiore and the entire Board of Directors of the New England Cemetery Association, on behalf of the Hardy family and the Trustees of Lowell Cemetery, for visiting and touring our facilities. It was an honor to exhibit our places of employment to our peers.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

During the 107th Annual Meeting of the New England Cemetery Association the following individuals were elected to serve the association for the coming year.

- President:* **Anthony Hollingshead**, Swan Point Cemetery, Providence, RI
- 1st Vice President:* **John Di Pietro**, Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton, MA
- 2nd Vice President:* **Kevin Cody**, Mount Calvary Cemetery, Manchester, NH
- Secretary:* **Raymond Scholl**, Milford Cemetery Association, Milford, CT
- Treasurer:* **Joseph Swift**, Highland Memorial Park, Johnston, RI
- Directors (3 years)* **Edward Butland**, Boston Catholic Cemetery Association, Roslindale, MA
R. Braybrook Walsh, Lowell Cemetery, Lowell, MA
- Director (2 years):* **Craig Neal**, Catholic Cemetery Association, North Haven, CT
Pam Metzner, West Cemetery Association, Bristol, CT
- Director (1 year):* **Richard Sacca**, Holyhood Cemetery, West Roxbury, MA
Jack Cobill, Rural Cemetery, Worcester, MA

Immediate

Past President: **Dale Fiore**, Evergreen Cemetery Association, New Haven, CT

These talented individuals have accepted the responsibility to manage your association for the next year. With your support they will be successful. Congratulations to all!

