

The New Englander

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NEW ENGLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Honoring the Past Serving the Present Preparing for the Future

www.newenglandcemetery.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

Let's thank Vermont's Patrick Healy for his valuable contributions as President of the Association over this past year, his efforts culminating in another successful June Conference in York. Patrick made sure we visited Director Todd Frederick's First Parish Cemetery for a traditional NECA "field day" and that we all made the rounds to visit our dedicated Supplier Members. Our 2019 Annual Meeting and Conference will move to Vermont, but we hope to first see all of you at a new venue in Sturbridge, MA this coming December 3rd through the 5th.

Welcome Kelly Perry, our newest Director from Rhode Island's Swan Point Cemetery! Lastly, I wish to thank Debbie Grover and Katie Murphy for their years of hard work producing our Membership Directory and Resource Guide. This illustrated guide has been invaluable to us all and we hope to continue to take pride in it as members.

We are a truly unique Association, and as our 111th President I invite you to emulate the groundbreaking work of our predecessors and effect change of our own. We must adapt to the times to remain relevant. Over the course of the next year, join me in reexamining comfortable, timeworn approaches. If we keep an open mind, we might learn something new from an unexpected source and put this new way of thinking to our own good use. The tools for advancement are surely out there – together we can find them!



New Hampshire: —submitted by Mike Horne

Old North Cemetery Preservation Team

Established July 2016

Old North Cemetery is the city's oldest cemetery, dating back to 1730.

We have hired a two person Preservation Team who started in 2016. The work that they performed in that year included straightening nearly 160 leaning or fallen slate monuments. Some required resetting in the bases, and some were reset directly in the ground, using a learned technique for a long lasting effect, as well as conducting repairs and straightening approximately 30 marble monuments. At the close of Season 1 we have successfully preserved approximately 190 monuments.



In 2017 the Team focused their monument preservation project in the Minot Enclosure, which is located within Old North Cemetery. 128 monuments and markers have been preserved. Most of the monuments within this enclosure are of great magnitude, and have had to be disassembled. This involves removing the monuments from their bases and removing the bases. At that point the foundations need to be removed and the ground leveled. Many of the foundations are larger than the monuments themselves, weighing as much as 400 – 500 lbs. The foundations are then reset and the base and monument are reset.

So far in 2018 the Team has completed the first three rows, along N. State Street. This included the Stickney Lot that dates back to one of the first monuments placed in Old North Cemetery.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

During the 116th Annual Meeting the following were elected to serve the association :

President – James Holman; Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA

1st Vice President – David Boyle; Town of Chelmsford Cemetery Department, Chelmsford, MA

2nd Vice President – Mary Anne Hawthorne; Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, CT

Secretary – Raymond Scholl; Milford Cemetery Association, Milford, CT

Treasurer – Joseph Swift; Highland Memorial Park, Johnston, RI

Director (3 years) – Kelly Perry; Swan Point Cemetery, Providence, RI

Continuing to serve are:

Immediate Past President – Patrick R. Healy; Green Mountain Cemetery, Montpelier, VT

Director (2 years) – Tracy Taylor; Oak Grove Cemetery, Springfield, MA

Director (2 years) – Todd J. Frederick; First Parish Cemetery, York, ME

Past President Director (2 years) – Robbin Kelley; Town of Harwich Cemetery Department, Harwich, MA

Past President Director (1 year) - Dan Krueger; Beavertdale Memorial Park, New Haven, CT



Above—Past President Bud Hanson swears in the newly elected Officers and Directors. Front row from the left Tracy Taylor; Director, Robbin Kelley; Past President Director, Jim Holman; President, Kelly Perry; Director and Joe Swift; Treasurer. Back row from the left Todd Frederick; Director, Dave Boyle; First Vice President, Patrick Healy; Immediate Past President, Ray Scholl; Secretary and Dan Krueger; Past President Director. Not present , Mary Anne Hawthorne; Second Vice President.

116TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

Did you attend the 116th Annual Meeting and Conference? If you did you left York Maine that June afternoon richer and wiser. Patrick Healy and your Board of Directors presented a timely, informative educational program for the association's benefit.

The program kicked off with Marc Yearsley from Ensure-A-Seal presenting a program titled "Death Care, Media and the 21st Century". Marc writes a blog centering on the death care industry and he brings an interesting perspective to our industry. His discussion was not only informative but very thought provoking.

Dr. Susan Kelly, PhD shared her knowledge, experience and philosophy on green burials and how they may be incorporated in conventional cemeteries. She used as an example the municipal cemetery of Rhinebeck, New York. There, a 10 acre parcel was dedicated to green burials only. As stated in the brochure for the cemetery, "Burial is simple, with no embalming, no concrete vaults, and no treated or metal caskets. Burial shrouds are permitted". This subject is one that we all should be knowledgeable in as it is a philosophy for final disposition that may one day truly take hold.



The next morning began as Director Todd Frederick welcomed us at the First Parish Cemetery in York for a hands-on morning of learning. First, Northland JCB demonstrated the JCB 3CX backhoe that is being marketed specifically to cemeteries. He demonstrated how the tool that holds the actual backhoe can be shifted from side to side. Later, the machine was

available for attendees to actually operate.

Next, Robert Perry, (in white hat in photo to the right) owner of Topographix, demonstrated using ground penetrating radar to survey areas within a cemetery to assist in locating unmarked burials, buried memorials as well as open space for future interments. He scanned several areas within the historic First Parish Cemetery identifying unmarked graves.



Also during the visit Jonathan Appell, principle of Atlas Preservation from Southington, CT demonstrated the cleaning of monuments along with a discussion on the proper repair of damaged memorials. Pictured here is Jon dicussing proper cleaning agents for monument washing. In no time at all and with minimal effort he had one of the monuments in the center of the photo quite clean, considering its age.

116TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE CONTINUED

Interdispersed throughout the program were many Supplier Spotlights. During these brief but informative presentations our supplier members highlighted the changes within our industry, offering solutions that are helpful in our day-to-day operations.



Many of our supplier members set up table top displays illustrating the products and services they provide to today's modern cemeteries. As part of the program each supplier is offered an opportunity to briefly address the group explaining their products or services. Above, Bill Walsh, principal of Walsh Engineering. In the photo to the left Bill Wilson from Watertown Engineering discusses his products with two Cemeterians.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Thank You Everyone for this honor of serving as President of NECA for the past year. I encourage everyone to contemplate serving on this board.

At our 2018 summer conference, I initiated, with board approval, presenting a Presidential Award to one of our members. This award was a granite clock courtesy of the Rock of Ages Corporation. The definition that I came up with is as follows:

Given to a lifelong, contributing NECA member who epitomizes the loyal, hardworking, dedicated and delicate nature that one needs to portray the professionalism of being a Cemeteryan

This Award went to **Martha Smart of Pine Grove Cemetery in Ansonia, Connecticut. Well Deserved MARTHA!**

During this time as President and being a Director, I have come to the conclusion that we need more engagement from you – our members. We need to hear what you have to say about the direction of NECA. Are you going to our meetings and if not Why? If you are going – Why? In the near future, I am planning to put out a survey to find out the answers to these and additional questions. For now if you have anything to comment on – please let me know at patrickh468@gmail.com.



Thank you for all you do for New England Cemeterys and their families!

MAKING IT PERSONAL AND MEANINGFUL—THE IDEAS ARE ENDLESS

I read an interesting press release from a trade journal that I receive at work each month. Handful of Home, a Boston based business created by Dublin, Ireland's Original Irish Dirt, Ltd. offers American families the chance to include a touch of Ireland in their funeral services. For just under \$100.00 you can purchase a decorative ceremonial tin containing 2 lbs. of Irish soil from the finest fields across all of Ireland. As their website explains "This beautifully designed Ceremonial Canister filled with pure Irish earth allows families to place a handful of the Old Country on top of the urns or caskets of loved ones, laying them to rest on the land of their forefathers. A new take on an old tradition that has meaning beyond words".

It only goes to show that in these changing times many people are creating a myriad of ways to personalize services in an effort to make them more meaningful for the surviving families and friends. Visit the company's website at www.handfulofhome.com.



"Patrick", Jim says "you can loosen that tie now".

Pictured above, newly installed President, Jim Holman presents outgoing President Patrick Healy with a framed certificate commemorating his year serving as the President of NECA.