



April 2008

Dear Friends,

Again this year, the Maine Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) continues to embrace a "Members First Attitude," and has continued to function in a state of continued transition throughout the past year. As in the past, this has resulted in a series of subtle, but positive changes in most cases. Sure, we've had one or two little setbacks, but even when we weren't 100% successful, we know that we at least tried something new. Based on the results of our recent member survey, the 2008 MFDA Convention will once again be held in December. It seems December is synonymous with convention ... at least here in Maine! Equally as important, the association has continued to stand firm in its belief in the need to focus on service and the future of funeral service, as well as fostering and perpetuating the high ethical standards of funeral service. Accordingly, the Maine Funeral Directors Association is proud to announce its 2008 tabletop exhibition which will be held in conjunction with the Association's 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention,

### *"MFDA ... Serving You Today And Into The Future"*

that will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, December 2-3, 2008 at the South Portland Marriott Hotel at Sable Oaks. This exhibit format is an extension of President Chris Crawford's theme for the year and exemplifies the fact the MFDA truly is built on a passion for service, as well as a commitment to success today and tomorrow. It is hoped that you will join us in this exciting endeavor where together we can share information, ideas, products and services; all the while, listening, growing and achieving the goals we have established for ourselves, as well as for the association.

For your consideration, a copy of the Rules And Regulations Governing The Exhibition has been enclosed, as well as a Contract For Exhibit Space, and a diagram depicting available exhibit space. We are proud to announce an exciting new feature insofar as exhibits are concerned this year in that nothing will compete with your exhibits either Tuesday evening, save for a welcoming reception which will be held in the exhibit hall, and

Wednesday morning when the convention luncheon will be held in the exhibit hall. And yes, I did say evening! Our entire convention format has been revamped. For starters, our Exec has been trying to convince us ever since she came on board that nothing should vie for the attention of convention participants while the exhibit hall is open. And you know, we all knew she was right on target, but couldn't quite figure out how we could make it work - that is up until now.

As you well know, we firmly believe that the tabletop format for exhibits provides an opportunity for our members, as well as the many funeral service professionals who are unable to attend other national or state funeral service exhibits to gain increased product knowledge. Additionally, it is our belief that this event will also allow you to interact with funeral service professionals in a convention atmosphere; hopefully at a somewhat reduced cost. You see, we appreciate the time, effort, and expense that goes into exhibiting your products and services.

As a gentle reminder, all contracts must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before August 31, 2008. Yes, I know that sounds early, but there's a lot going on the association this year. As in the past, exhibit space will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis based on the receipt of the exhibit contract and payment for booth space. All contracts must be forwarded to the association office via mail. In an effort to be fair to all prospective exhibitors, hand-delivered contracts, faxed contracts or phone requests for booth space will not be accepted.

It goes without saying, 2008 has been a year of ongoing change for the Maine Funeral Directors Association, but as Past President Katie Clay often said, "Change is good!" Without reservation, I can unequivocally say that 2008 will also offer many new and exciting changes that will serve our members, out-of-state funeral service professionals and funeral service suppliers throughout New England well.

I do hope you will plan to join us for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual MFDA Convention and find out exactly what is in store for the coming year! You'll be glad you did ... Promise!

Sincerely,

*Timothy R. Dolby*

Timothy R. Dolby  
Convention Chairman  
Enclosures

TRD/slb