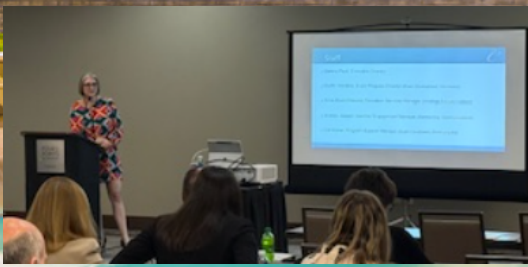




MidWinter Advocacy Summit was a hit!





Message from the President

Dear Members of the West Virginia Funeral Directors and
Crematory Operators Association,

A heartfelt thank you to each of you who attended our Mid-Winter Advocacy Summit on February 10th in Charleston. Your presence, enthusiasm, and active participation made it a truly wonderful time to learn from exceptional presenters, share insights with colleagues, and strengthen the connections that make our association so strong. It was inspiring to see both familiar faces and new members joining us, reflecting the continued unity and growth of WVFDCOA as we work together to advance excellence in funeral service across our state.

With that momentum carrying us forward, we are already looking ahead to our Annual Convention, set for June 3-5 at the beautiful Stonewall Resort. This summer gathering promises more valuable education, meaningful networking, and opportunities to celebrate our shared commitment to serving West Virginia families with compassion and professionalism. We hope you'll mark your calendars and plan to join us—your involvement helps keep our association vibrant and impactful.

Thank you again for your dedication, support, and fellowship. Together, we continue promoting excellence in every aspect of our vital work.

Message from the Executive Director

As we wrap up this legislative session, it has left me thinking about a lot of different things. I want to take a moment to recognize the strength and growth of our association. The progress we are seeing is not accidental, it is the direct result of members who are engaged, informed, and willing to stand together for the future of our profession. Growth does not happen in isolation. It happens when individuals choose collaboration over division, solutions over obstacles, and unity over personal agendas. Every call made, every meeting attended, every conversation held with a legislator reflects our collective commitment to protecting and advancing funeral service in our state.

I remember sitting in my office stunned that we would even have to discuss whether or not it is appropriate for a cemetery worker to take a decedent into their care, proceed to the cemetery and complete a burial without a funeral director. Our industry is under attack, and our license is subject to irrelevance unless we stick together. This session has reminded us of something powerful and that is our voice carries weight when it is unified. Advocacy is most effective when we speak clearly and consistently as one association. The success we are experiencing is not about any one individual it belongs to all of us who have chosen to move forward together.

I am proud of the professionalism, integrity, and leadership demonstrated by our membership. The momentum we are building now lays the groundwork for future generations of funeral directors and crematory operators. Let us continue to stand together respectful of one another, focused on our shared mission, and committed to strengthening our profession. Our greatest impact will always come from our unity. With all of that said, the only thing I have left is a sincere thank you. Thank you for all you do in your communities and all you do to continue to support this Association.



Legislative Update:

HB 4483 (passing) allowing emeritus licensees to renew every 4 years instead of 2

Funeral directors may serve a 1yr. apprenticeship

SB 1054: Killed in Committee

SB 1057: Killed in Committee



The International Conference of funeral Service Examining Boards is seeking volunteers to help with different facets of exam writing. We need some West Virginians to participate in the input! Scan the QR Code or Contact Dalene Paull at director@theconferenceonline.org

- Exam Development Team
 - Licensed and practicing
 - In good standing
 - Nation-wide scope
 - Range of experience, diversity
- Item Writing Workshops
 - Upcoming: June 9-11, 2026

Volunteer with us!



Administrative Systems, Inc

ASI has announced that your WV Preneed Trust Contracts can now be done ONLINE. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to ASI. The online contracts will calculate your totals!

Win-Win! Thanks to Chrissy and her team for always making things better for the funeral homes!

Insurance Policies

Insurance continues to be a pressure point for all. At this time, Thompson Group, is still providing policies for all our member firms. You can contact The Thompson Group directly for rates and policies (for full time and part time employees). 316-6510-7516 or email at Garrett.Thompson@ushadvisors.com

PAC Donations! Funeral service doesn't just happen in preparation rooms and arrangement offices it happens in legislative chambers. Every year, and now more than ever, decisions are made that affect licensure, public health standards, consumer protections, and how we care for the deceased. Just this year, we fought against allowing a cemetery to pick up a decedent and bring to the cemetery for burial...WITHOUT A FUNERAL DIRECTOR! These issues are not going away.

Your PAC contribution ensures funeral service has a voice where it matters most.

Protect the profession that protects families.

Consider donating to our PAC. Personal checks can be made to the WVFDA – PAC and mailed to the office at 400 Allen Drive, Suite 20, Charleston, WV 25302.





STONEWALL RESORT



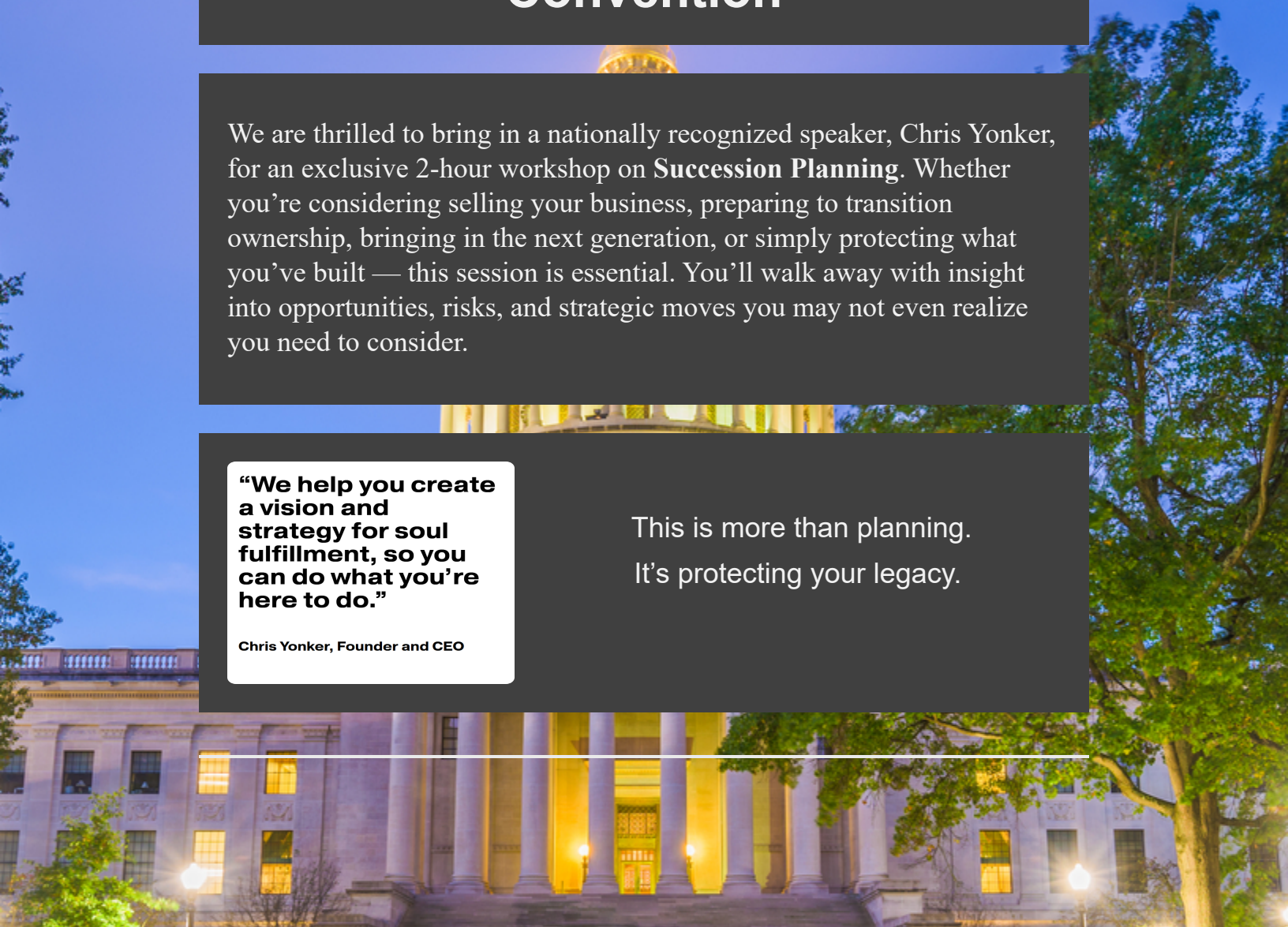
Save the date! June 3, 4, & 5 Stonewall Resort for Annual Convention

We are thrilled to bring in a nationally recognized speaker, Chris Yonker, for an exclusive 2-hour workshop on **Succession Planning**. Whether you're considering selling your business, preparing to transition ownership, bringing in the next generation, or simply protecting what you've built — this session is essential. You'll walk away with insight into opportunities, risks, and strategic moves you may not even realize you need to consider.

“We help you create a vision and strategy for soul fulfillment, so you can do what you're here to do.”

Chris Yonker, Founder and CEO

This is more than planning.
It's protecting your legacy.



Melissa's Monthly Blog is Now Active!

View it **HERE** on the Website!



Copyright © West Virginia Funeral Directors and Crematory Operators Association
WVFDCOA.com/Contact-Us

Our mailing address is:

400 Allen Drive, Suite 20 Charleston, WV 25302

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

West Virginia Funeral Directors Association · 400 Allen Drive, Suite 20 · Charleston, WV 25302 · USA

