

Your 2024 Annual Convention Guide

Passport to Progress

LOCATION

We are excited to bring you the 144th Annual Iowa Funeral Directors Association (IFDA) Convention and Expo on April 16th - 18th, 2024, at Prairie Meadows Event Center in Altoona, Iowa. For the convenience of all participants, the casino, racetrack, hotel rooms and several restaurants are located within the complex.

Prairie Meadows Events & Conference Center

- » 1 Prairie Meadows Drive
- » Altoona, IA 50009



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

For hotel rooms, please call the hotel directly or book online, referencing our group block: Iowa Funeral Directors Association. Rooms always book quickly, make sure you reserve yours as soon as possible!

Prairie Meadows Hotel

- » 1 Prairie Meadows Dr.
- » Altoona, IA 50009
- » PHONE: 515.957.3000 | 800.325.9015
- » Room Block Code: 05102024IAF
- » Password: 863000129

REGISTRATION

Register by Monday, April 8, 2024. Complete the registration form for the 2024 IFDA Annual Convention and corresponding events on our website. All other registrations will be accepted with a late fee at the IFDA registration desk at the Convention. Forms that are not completely filled out or not returned with a payment will be considered a late registration and subject to the late fee.

Please make checks payable to Iowa Funeral Directors Association (IFDA) or follow the credit card link from the online registration form.

Iowa Funeral Directors Association

- » 6909 Vista Dr.
- » West Des Moines, IA 50266

ENGAGE

Your 2024 Annual Convention Guide

Convention Events By Day

MONDAY, April 15th

Golf Outing - NEW THIS YEAR

Due to unpredictable weather in Iowa in April, we are welcoming you to Toad Valley's Top Tracer (think "Top Golf")! This way, golfers and non-golfers can enjoy 3 hours of nonstop fun: socialization, food, drink; all in one space! Teams can range from 4-8 people. Awards and prizes to follow, including closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt, hole in one, and tickets for other raffle prizes.

Monday Night Social: Whiskey and Beer from Around the World

Special guest from Ireland, Padraic Conroy (featured in our Winter 2023 Communiqué) will join us.

TUESDAY, April 16th

Opening Ceremony

Keynote presentation by John T. McQueen

Past Presidents Luncheon

Ben Eldridge will host lunch for the Past Presidents at 11:30 a.m.

Premier Funeral Service Expo

The Bishop Ballroom will host dozens of exhibitors ready to show attendees the newest innovations in funeral service.

Continuing Education

Attendees can earn up to 16.5 hours of continuing education between Tuesday and Thursday on a variety of subjects from experts in the funeral service and insurance professions. Because these hours are offered by IFDA, they are pre-approved by the state of Iowa.

Service of Remembrance

Prior to the Presidential Banquet, we take time to honor those who have passed this year. Welcome by Marcus Vigen, IFDA President. Robert Bacon presiding.

Presidential Banquet

Service starts promptly at 7 p.m. in the Banquet Hall. We will be honoring Members with Milestone Achievements, Awarding the Inspire Award and Award of Excellence, our Scholarship awardees, and Premiering the Documentary about and honoring the volunteers of the United Flight 232 crash.

WEDNESDAY, April 17th

Premier Funeral Service Expo

Open until 1 p.m.

Continuing Education

Offered all day.

THURSDAY, April 18th

Continuing Education

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Schedule Breakdown By Day

Monday, April 15th

Golf Outing: Toad Valley Flight Zone

- » 12:00 p.m. Registration, Lunch, and Practice Round
- » 1:00 p.m. Golf Starting Time (*raffle prizes given out while golfing*)
- » 4:00 p.m. Awards

Preconvention Social: Whiskey and Beer from Around the World

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. music, cocktails

Attendance includes 2 drink tickets and 2 chances at prizes

Early Bird Exhibitor Setup

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16th

Registration and Walk-ins

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Preconvention Session:

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

"*Embalming in Today's World - Can We Do Better*" - Dana Goodell

9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Mercy One Honor Guard

Opening Ceremony

10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Keynote:

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

"*Customer Care: Cruising to New Heights*" - John T. McQueen

Annual Meeting

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Lunch

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for Vendors/Attendees

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for Past Presidents

Premier Midwest Funeral Service Expo

12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Continuing Education

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"*Iowa Laws and Rules*" - Mike Triplett

"*Funeral Practices Around the World*" - Alan Ritchie and Padraic Conroy

Cocktail Hour

5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

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Schedule Breakdown By Day

Tuesday, April 16th continued

Service of Remembrance

6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Rob Bacon

Presidential Banquet

Please be seated by 6:55 p.m.

- » Dinner Service
- » Recognizing Honorees
- » United Flight 232 Documentary

Wednesday, April 17th

Registration and Walk-ins

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Mass Casualties and the Affects on Funeral Professionals Panel

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Premier Midwest Funeral Service Expo

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Concurrent Continuing Education

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

"Generational Gaps and Preneed Trends" - Brianne Niedermyer

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

"Succession Planning" - Dave Adams

2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

"ISOME" - Mark Bethel

3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

"Family Life and the Prep Room" - Michelle Johnston

3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

"Cremation Crossroads" - Roger Sheagren

4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

"The Changing Demographics of Today's Workforce" - Claudia Schabel

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"Cybersecurity and OSHA" - Adam Ries

Thursday, April 18th

Continuing Education

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

"Embalming Tips and Airbrush Cosmetics" - Michelle Johnston

