

# Why Belong to the State Cemetery Association?

Casey asked me if I would agree to submit a letter to our members for our newsletter. I agreed, and after giving a little thought to it, I decided to ride the coat tails of John Dick's message in this issue of our Newsletter. John alludes to some very good reasons for cemetery managers across our State to belong to the Indiana Cemetery Association. As well, John defines some of the member benefits.

I would like to take John's message one step further. I ask that you take just a moment and think about this quote from our 35th President, John F. Kennedy; "Ask not what your Country can do for you, but what you can do for your Country."

I am assuming that this newsletter is reaching people that have leadership roles within the facilities (cemetaries, suppliers) identified within our membership roster. (We all know what happens when you ASSUME.) I ask you, the leaders of your organization, to refine John F. Kennedy's quote to; "Ask not what your Association can do for you, but what you can do for your Association."



I got my start in this business in 1988 with my family acquiring Graceland Memorial Park (New Albany, IN) from Mr. A. Wood Hardin. Not knowing what I was getting into, my brothers hired a cemetery consultant (Mr. Lew Tingley, CCE) to spend some time with me. We spent about a week together. Lew hauled my @#& from cemetery to cemetery, introducing me to



every cemetery manager/owner he knew, and all the while, filling my head with as much knowledge as possible from his past experiences. One of the things that Lew was adamant about was that I attend Association Meetings and get embedded within the Indiana Cemetery Association. I can recall Lew telling me; "the Associations are the voice of our industry, representing our interests on both the State and National level." He went on to say; "if you care anything about your future you need to know what their position is on issues, and have some input." I attended my first ICA convention in the fall of 1989, was appointed to the board in 1991, served as President 1993 – 1994, my term expired in 1996. I took a short reprieve from the board until just a few years ago, now serving my third term as a board member. Do I regret it? Not one day of it! Was it fruitful? Absolutely! In my wildest imagination I would have never guessed that I would be witness to such an evolution of the industry (1988 – Present). I am thankful for the voice I was allowed through the Association. I can honestly say that if not for the Association, chances are I would not be providing Pre-need options to families today, and would most likely be in some other occupation.

You might be asking; what or how can I contribute or be involved? There are many ways other than your membership (#1 in importance), and all are critical to the Association; Financial Support, Attendance of Conventions/Seminars, Committee Chairperson/s, Board Member/s, Voice to Local Legislators, PAC Fund Contribution, etc...

Things have been somewhat quiet on the legislative front for the past several years, however, I have good reason to believe that

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things are getting ready to really heat up, and we may be calling upon you for support in one or more of these ways. Knowledgeable of the fact that each and every one of you takes a great amount of pride in your facilities, and the services you provide, I am going to conclude this lengthy orientation by asking you to add one VERY IMPORTANT THING to your 2008 to do list.

*Take one, two, or more of your local legislators out to lunch. Share with them what you do, and help them better understand our industry. Start to build a relationship with them if you have not already.*



In closing I would like to formally thank Ray Sabol for his past leadership as President of the ICA and I truly look forward to working with John Dick and the current board.

God Bless,  
Brad Kraft, Vice President



## Editor's Note:

ICA attorney Bill Keown has suggested the following language be included on cemetery contracts for compliance to I.C. 23-14-58.5

"Indiana law permits cemeteries to reclaim burial spaces that are deemed abandoned by the purchaser. This contract may be terminated if the burial space has remained unused for a period of at least fifty (50) years from the date of sale and no improvements have been made to the burial space. Procedures for such termination of this contract can be found at I.C. 23-14-58.5."

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# VIEWPOINT

INDIANA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

[www.indianacemeteryassociation.org](http://www.indianacemeteryassociation.org)

Winter 2008

## A Message from the President.

Greetings all, I hope everything is well and within your grasp as we approach the holiday season. I do have some pleasant news for you as a result of our recent Board of Directors meeting held on December 5, 2007 in Indianapolis. First of all I would like to welcome Ted Mau as our newest member of the ICA Board of Directors. He is associated with Washington Park Cemetery in Indianapolis and also serves on the State Board. Secondly, the Board unanimously approved to keep the 2008 dues per burial at \$1.50 and no change in the maximum cap which stays at \$1,000. However, we did approve raising the minimum from \$50 to \$75. Also, the Board gave their approval for our convention co-chairs, Brad Kraft and Henry Drux to continue their planning for the Annual ICA/KCA Convention scheduled for September 18, 19, 20, 2008 in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

The final item, the Board spent considerable time and effort discussing our continued presence in the legislative

activity. The entire ICA Board, including myself, totally supports our continuing presence with the Indiana General Assembly.

In preparing this article I felt the subject matter regarding our legislative presence is so important that reprinting excerpts from Ray Sabol's (Junior Past Pres. 2005-2007) article which appeared in the January 2006 "ViewPoint" was a must. I don't believe this topic could be better stated or defined than how Ray presented it. So, with Ray's permission the excerpts follow:

"...Whether you care or not, our Indiana General Assembly can have and has had a very important impact on cemetery operations over the years. I, along with the

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## President's Letter CONTINUED

entire ICA Board, feel strongly about maintaining an active presence when it comes to legislative activity that effect our businesses. We need to remain vigilant for bills that are introduced on either side of the General Assembly as well as being pro-active by introducing bills ourselves when the time is appropriate. However, in order to do this, it does take financial resources..."

"I remember reading sometime back, that the best way to predict your future is to create it. Well, for the ICA to continue to create and stay involved with legislation that will impact your operations positively, it the financial means to so it..."

"I think it is important to mention that it **only** takes one time, one situation when we are not "watching the store" to place all of us in a position where we lose some control. It only takes one person, one sponsor of a bill to adversely affect us. I certainly would not want that to happen because we could not afford to have our eyes and ears in the right places. A lobbyist looking out for us on a full-time basis is the only way to accomplish this. We simply have to understand and accept two very important factors: One is that we need to stay involved legislatively. Two, this involvement does take money!"

"We have been fortunate to establish a great relationship with Bill Keown and his staff over the last few years as our lobbyist, and we certainly want to continue

this productive relationship. Bill has become the "go-to-guy" at the state house when questions or issues come up related to cemeteries, and it is in all our best interests to do what we can to see that it continues. So, all of us need to clearly understand that advantages of paying now rather than later. We pay now and enhance our control over the legislative results, we pay later and not only are we not being pro-active but it could most certainly cost us all a lot more. The one thing none of us can afford to do is to be short-sighted, thinking that future politics will not affect our business. It certainly can and will if we are not on watch."

Thanks, Ray, for allowing me to reprint portions of your column. I, along with the ICA Board of Directors, believe it is imperative that we continue maintaining this presence and to do so we need your assistance. After the first of the new year, along with your dues statement, you will receive a letter requesting additional assistance. Additionally, you will receive a telephone call or visit from one of our board members to help enlighten you further.

Only you can assure we maintain our legislative presence. I personally want to thank you for your assistance this past year and for your continued support during 2008.

John W. Dick  
ICA President (765-642-3714)

## Editor's Note:

The ICA Board of Directors is extremely pleased to introduce its newest member, Ted Mau. The following is Ted's bio.

Ted is the President and CEO of Washington Park Cemetery Association, Inc which owns and operates seven cemeteries in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. Ted has been with Washington Park for the last 13 years and been instrumental in implementing new building development, master planning and changes in

cemetery operations. Prior to Washington Park, Ted worked in the manufacturing and financial services industries.

Ted is a current member of the Indiana State Board of Funeral and Cemetery Service and past President of the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis.

He has a B.S. degree from Indiana University, an M.B.A. degree from Butler University and has a Certified Public Account designation. Ted can be reached at 317-396-2524 or at [tmau@washingtonparkcemetery.org](mailto:tmau@washingtonparkcemetery.org).

### A Brief History of Calvary Cemetery

Often referred to as "The Cemetery Beautiful" Calvary Cemetery was established during the summer of 1913 known as the Calumet-Gary Cemetery Association by James J. Kelley and G.M. Semmes of Gary, Indiana with the pastoral assistance of Bishop Herman J. Alerding of the Fort Wayne Diocese.

According to the January 2, 1914 edition of the "The Calumet" Calvary Cemetery was originally a 100 acre apple orchard with 700 fruit trees, historic farm and summer home owned by Frank Gavit, President of the Gary and Interurban Railway Company and was to be transformed into more than a cemetery. "It will be a beautiful park with lakes and woods, of which the entire Calumet district will feel proud."

Calvary Cemetery is situated directly upon the old Gary and Interurban Railway line (as well as the old Detroit to Chicago Stagecoach trail) is of easy access to the entire district which it serves. A special funeral car, (The Calvary) was constructed by the railway company to accommodate funeral burials at the cemetery. They

Wallis. Mr. Wallis was the superintendent of Rosehill Cemetery, the then largest and most beautiful cemetery in Chicago. Moreover, he was one of the landscape gardeners who laid out the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, creating a dream city and fairyland which will never be forgotten.

The need for a Catholic Cemetery in the Calumet region (especially to help meet the need of new immigration from Poland, Slovakia, Croatia and the Baltic States) was recognized by Mssrs. Kelley and Semmes along with Bishop Alerding of the Fort Wayne Diocese. Half of the entire site was to be known as "Calvary Cemetery" and was to be devoted to the Catholic Church alone (according to a contract with Rt. Rev. Herman J. Alerding covering the use of the Catholic portion of the cemetery by the Catholics of Gary and surrounding territory) while the remainder would be non-sectarian and would be known by another name.

Work began at once since the site which was selected for the Cemetery was naturally one of the most beautiful and physically well adapted for cemetery purposes of any that could be found in the



hauled in to help transform the flat farmland into a beautifully landscaped property with soft, gentle rolling hills.

Upon completion of the imposing entrance with pillared gateways and an administration building (which has remained original except for the addition of a cupola) was completed, it was time to pick a dedication day.

Sunday, July 4, 1915 at 3 o'clock was selected for the Dedication. The Gary and Interurban offered free train tickets for that day only in order to attract as many participants as possible. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the Dedication ceremonies had to be postponed until Sunday, July 18, 1915.

"VAST THROG AT NEW CEMETERY CONSECRATION" is the way the Gary Tribune described the Dedication on the front page in the July 19, 1915 edition. Over 6,500 people attended the Services which were officiated by Bishop Alerding of Fort Wayne and Bishop Peter P. Rhode, auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Chicago and pastor of St. Michael's Polish Catholic church of South Chicago. Bishop Rhode was invited by Bishop Alerding to address the crowd in Polish during the ceremony and were assisted by thirty priests. The ceremony which was chanted in Latin by Bishop Alerding lasted more than an hour.

In the annals of the Roman Catholic Church of the Calumet region Sunday, July 18, 1915, will go down as the "Red Letter" Day. The greatest outpouring of Catholics in attendance as upon any religious function in the Diocese of Fort Wayne was occasioned by the Consecration and Dedication of Calvary Cemetery that day.

Catherine B. Hennessey buried on June 5, 1914, this was interment at Calvary Cemetery. Among the celebrities buried in Calvary Cemetery are Msgr. Thomas Francis Jansen, founder of Holy Angels Parish and its pastor for nearly 35 years. Msgr. Jansen was also an integral part of the establishment of the future diocese of Gary as well as Calvary Cemetery. Msgr. Jansen came to Gary when Gary wasn't yet Gary. He was a young priest at St. Bridget's Mission in Hobart and was asked by Bishop Alerding to accept a new assignment in Gary and to build a new church there, Holy Angels. Bishop Alerding looked to young Father Jansen to help him spread the news about Calvary Cemetery to the new immigrants through other parishes near Gary. Along with Msgr. Jansen are other priests of the Fort Wayne Diocese in a plot that was allocated for clergy. Other celebrities include Middleweight champion Tony Zale is also buried at Calvary Cemetery.

A crematory was added to the park in May of 1978 by Superintendent Raymond A. Gerlach. In 1985 under the supervision of Mr. Gerlach an Interment Chapel was constructed that also houses niches for cremated remains.

Calvary Cemetery is located in Portage, Indiana and continues to provide death care services to the surrounding communities of Lake and Porter Counties.

# FEATURING Calvary Cemetery



offered a funeral service unexcelled in any section of the country.

The work of beautifying the grounds was under the general direction of Thomas

Calumet Region with it's good elevation, splendid drainage and firm character of soil, wooded spots and a flowing stream running through the middle of it. Mr. Wallis had truckloads of sand from the construction of the steel mills in Gary