

PUBLIC CEMETERY  
ALLIANCE

# News & Notes

## PCA ELECTION NEWS

As a result of the COVID-9 pandemic the 2020 PCA Annual Conference had to be cancelled. The election, usually conducted during the Annual Conference, had to be conducted remotely—by email and snail mail. We are pleased to announce the election results.

First, the amendments to the PCA’s Bylaws proposed by the Board of Directors (see PCA *Update* Summer 2020 edition) were overwhelmingly approved by the general membership with only a single vote against the proposal. The revised Bylaws will be posted soon to the PCA’s new website (see below).

In addition, the three nominated candidates were elected to the Board of Directors serving two-year terms ending in 2022. No write-ins or other votes were cast. Your new Directors are Cindy Summer of the Visalia Cemetery District, Matt Melugin of the Nevada Cemetery District, and Cheryl Smith of the Oroville Cemetery District. *Welcome aboard!*

The Board of Directors held an introductory meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> in Roseville. Among many other items of business conducted during the meeting, Board officers were elected. The new PCA officers are:

President: **Cheryl Smith**  
Vice President: **Cindy Summers**  
Secretary: **Cheryl Smith**  
Finally, as required by the recently-approved amendment to the Bylaws, the Board appointed a vendor Board Director—**Mark Marshall**—also serving a two-year term.

Here is your new Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact any of them if you have any question or suggestions.

### 2019-2020 PCA Board of Directors

- John Anderson, President  
*maderad@sbcglobal.net*
- Cindy Summers  
*csummers@visaliacemetery.com*
- Don Neufeld  
*dnpneufeld@gmail.com*
- Matt Melugin  
*tombstonencd@sbcglobal.net*
- Rick Beale  
*rbealeorland@aol.com*
- Cheryl Smith  
*oroville.district@att.net*
- Ken Moeller  
*hfcdistrict@gmail.com*
- 
- Cheryl Smith, Secretary  
*oroville.district@att.net*
- Bob Hunt, General Counsel  
*hunt@pacbell.net*

Many thanks to **John Anderson** for his years of service as President, and to **Steve Perry, Dennis Cassella** and **Craig Forrey** for their service on the PCA’s Board of Directors.  
*Thank You!*

## New Website

As announced in the Summer 2020 edition of the *Update* newsletter, the PCA’s new website is currently under construction. Not only will the new website have a more attractive look and easy-to-navigate accessibility, it will provide more service, information and value to PCA members. The addition of a “Members” section, accessible only to PCA members, is intended to provide significantly more information that will help in the every-day operation of a public cemetery district. The new site will also have a new shorter url address which is easier to remember—and to type.

We hope to have the new website up and running by mid- to late-September.



## EVENTS



### Documenting Employee Performance

The PCA, in cooperation with Golden State Risk Management Authority, will conduct an informative Zoominar during which Bob Hunt will discuss “Documenting Employee Performance.” Bob will talk about **What, Why, How, When and Where** to document an employee’s performance and behavior. Mark your calendars for **September 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** and look for flyers announcing the program. If you have any particular issues or questions you would like Bob to discuss in the future, please send them to Bob. ([hunt@pacbell.net](mailto:hunt@pacbell.net))

### Safety & Equipment Shows

Assuming that the COVID-19 permits such gatherings, remember that Madera Cemetery District will hold its annual Safety Day in early February, and Fair Oaks Cemetery District will hold its annual Equipment Show next year as well.

Although dates haven’t yet been firmed up, Madera’s Safety Training Day is usually in the first week of February, and Fair Oak’s Equipment Show is generally in the last week of March. Stay tuned for dates and further information.

Check the PCA website for updates.

### PCA “Mini-Conference”

Assuming the fates allow, the PCA will hold a one-day mini-conference on **January 22, 2021** in Williams, California. There will be a full day of informative programs by a range of speakers. Lunch (sandwiches) will be served. In addition, at this time GSRMA is planning to offer supervisory-level Ethics and Prevention of Sexual Harassment training the day prior to the conference—**January 21, 2021**.

PCA’s current plans are to hold three or four of these mini-conferences throughout the state over the next year. Please let us know your suggestions for sites of upcoming mini-conferences, and especially any topics you would like to have addressed at these conferences, or even in the *Update* newsletter.

Of course, at this point all plans are subject to change given the unknown course of future events.

### Brown Act

And finally, let us take this opportunity to thank the CAPC and GSRMA for presenting a Zoominar on the Brown Act on August 4th. There were over 130 attendees participating, great questions were asked, and it was well regarded by all. *Thank You!*

### “Treemation”

The Roseville Public Cemetery District has made a new interment option available to its families. Kelly Ehrman, Roseville’s Superintendent, calls it “*Treemation*.” *Treemation* combines the interment of cremated remains along with the planting of a memorial tree. Roseville believes its *Treemation* program is the first option of this nature in its region.

Kelly says that he has been bouncing around ideas for a new option for several years. Recently he noticed that variations of Roseville’s *Treemation* option are available along the North Coast of the state. None are the same as *Treemation*—one involves only a memorial service and the purchase of 25 trees; the other appears to be the mingling of cremated remains into the forest soil—scattering.

But Roseville’s *Treemation* is different. You all know that cemeteries must replace aging or damaged trees on a regular basis. In addition, for years many families have asked for interment beside or near trees. Many would also like cremated remains interment options different than the typical columbaria (“niche wall”), and at the same time creating a memorial for their loved ones that also contributes to the cemetery. To meet this need Kelly developed the idea of *Treemation*.

Under this option, families pay for the interment of cremated remains in a biodegradable urn, and the purchase and planting a new tree over the remains. The family also may have a memorial stone or marker the meets the cemetery’s rules placed at or near the interment site.

Kelly took the idea to the District’s Board of Trustees who approved the *Treemation* option at on June 11, 2020 and adopted a list of trees approved for planting in the cemetery. Not only does *Treemation* meet the needs of the District’s families, it helps with the cemetery’s necessary tree replacement program and generates additional revenues.

Articles about Roseville’s *Treemation* program has appeared in the local press, and Kelly appeared in a news segment on a Sacramento television station. *Treemation* has been well-received by the public and several interments have already been made

If you would like more information, contact Kelly Ehrman at [kellyrped@surewest.net](mailto:kellyrped@surewest.net).