

INTRODUCTION



SELECTED --- CONNECTIONS

*The Professional Exchange Program
Exclusively for Members of
Selected Independent Funeral Homes*



BACKGROUND

On September 16, 1917, ten funeral directors from across the United States met with a mutual vision. That vision became the Association known as National Selected Morticians (NSM). While many changes have taken place in the decades since that vision was established, the principles of NSM, now Selected Independent Funeral Homes, have not. In fact, Article II of the Association's Constitution outlines its Purposes and Objectives, two of which include:



- (a) To study, develop and establish the highest standards of service for the benefit of the public.*
- (b) To provide a continuing forum for the exchange, development and dissemination of knowledge and information beneficial to members and the public.*

The Association has always pursued cooperation among its members, and members of Selected Independent Funeral Homes have always recognized the importance of information and education. Members value the opportunity to gather and share ideas and concerns in an atmosphere of openness and confidence. Members respect the insight and input of their peers. Members trust the professionalism and standards they hold are shared.

SELECTED CONNECTIONS

The Selected Connections program serves as a formal, on-site networking and educational opportunity exclusively for members of Selected Independent Funeral Homes. The purpose of the program is to provide a professional exchange between member firms. The host firm is responsible for outlining a two or three day hands-on experience for participants from other member firms.



SELECTED CONNECTIONS

Every funeral home has at least a few areas in which it excels, such as dealing with increasing cremation rates, opening a community center or implementing an effective public education program within the community. The Selected Connections program allows member firms to focus on topic areas that they are most proud to feature and share their insight on how they have effectively managed the challenges presented by those areas.

By serving as a host firm, the member has an opportunity to share information with fellow members on key successes as well as provide its own staff with a sense of accomplishment for their part in achieving success in those areas. The Selected Connections experience also provides the host firm with insight from participants on ways to further improve the areas featured as well as other aspects of their funeral service business.

By attending a Selected Connections program, participants are given an inside look at the daily operation of a fellow Selected Independent Funeral Homes member firm. Participants are able to focus on a small number of key topic areas to learn how the host firm has addressed and thrived in those particular areas. In addition, participants are able to brainstorm with the host firm, and each other, on further ways to improve and/or implement concepts in their own funeral home operation.

The synergy created through the Selected Connections exchange directly ties in with the Association's original vision of cooperation among members and to study best practices and share information that benefits the public.

EXPECTATIONS

OF HOST FIRMS

- The Host Firm is expected to create a professional, informative two or three-day program for participants from other member firms.
- The program should focus on one to three main topic areas in which the Host Firm feels it has achieved particular success that would be beneficial to share with participants.
- The Host Firm should arrange for participants to get hands-on experience in the daily operation of the featured topic areas. In addition, the Host Firm agrees to allow participants access to other daily operations of its funeral home, in a spirit of openness and professional evaluation.



OF MEMBER PARTICIPANTS

- A Participant is expected to register to attend the Selected Connections program of their choice and view it as a professional development opportunity.
- Upon notification that his/her Enrollment Application has been received and approved, a participant will be required to submit full registration fees prior to the scheduled program in order to hold their reservation.

OF SELECTED INDEPENDENT FUNERAL HOMES

- All Host Firm applications are subject to review and approval by the Selected Independent Funeral Homes Board of Directors.
- Approved programs will be publicized to Association members through new releases, the members-only section of the Association's website (www.selectedfuneralhomes.org/members) and the Association's bimonthly news publication, *The Bulletin*.
- Headquarters will process all participant Enrollment Applications.



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

FOR HOSTS

Members of Selected Independent Funeral Homes interested in serving as a Selected Connections host firm should complete a Host Firm Application.

FOR PARTICIPANTS

Members interested in participating in a scheduled Selected Connections program should complete an Enrollment Application.

*Information and application forms are available by
contacting the Headquarters office at*

800-323-4219 or info@selectedfuneralhomes.org

*Information and forms also are available online at
www.selectedfuneralhomes.org/members.*

Your member ID and password will be required to enter this members-only site.



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