



# MICHIGAN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION W O L V E R I N E

May 2005



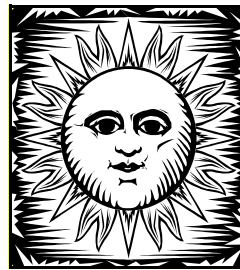
## MCA Summer Conference - Right On Target!

**Mark your calendars! Register today!** The MCA annual summer conference is just around the corner and you do not want to miss it!

MCA summer conference committee members, all representing Saginaw....Ken Groya, Diocese of Saginaw Catholic Cemeteries, and, Jon Tobias and John Baer of Pumford Construction have worked hard to present an all inclusive agenda... diverse educational presentations and fun-filled activities for the entire family.

Jon Tobias explains this conference will address a subject which has not been presented in many years..."mausoleum sales and mausoleum techniques." Of special interest on Tuesday, July 12th, a selected panel of Michigan cemeterians, will focus on mausoleum sales and techniques. Jon says, "It is the

"sales" orientation side of the industry we hope to draw to this summer '05 conference. Our agenda will not only be of value to the cemetery owners, but also to the counselors who work so hard in the field to promote their companies."



Watch your mail for conference programs and registration details. You may also go to the MCA webpage: [www.mcainfo.org](http://www.mcainfo.org) to download and print conference and sponsorship information.

- Education, legislative updates, supplier news,
- golf, fellowship, good food, music and FUN for
- the whole family. Where do I sign up?

### LEGISLATIVE CORNER...

*By Brett Henderson and Don Van Singel —  
Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. (GCSI)  
Lansing, MI*

So far during the 2005-2006 Legislative Session, legislative activity on bills concerning cemeteries has been limited to the House and Senate passing a package of bills dealing with the purchase of American Flags. However, the MCA/GCSI Lobby Team has been active in monitoring issues regarding indigent burials, and the promulgation of rules implementing Senate Bill 512 and Senate Bill 513 from last session, which we are sure you all remember well!

House Bill 4772 and House Bill 4773 were passed by the House and Senate and are

awaiting the Governor's signature. The bills would amend Public Act 63 of 1915 (which requires a city, village, or township to furnish and pay for suitable flag holders and United States flags for the graves of veterans in a cemetery owned by the local unit) to allow the legislative body of a city, village, township, or county to procure and furnish, at the local unit's expense, flag holders and U.S. flags for the graves of veterans located within the city, village, township, or county at a cemetery that was not owned by that local unit of government.

Continued on page 3.

## MCA Member Profile

### Chancey P. Miller... Appointed Executive Vice President of the new Historic Elmwood Cemetery Foundation

**Congratulations** are extended to Chancey P. Miller for his recent appointment as Executive Vice President to the new **Historic Elmwood Foundation**. Elmwood Board of Trustees appointed Chancey in December, 2004.

Chancey had served as Elmwood's General Manager since 1990. The board emphasized his work of over 40 years in the cemetery industry and his in-depth knowledge of Elmwood Cemetery's history and operation, which he will bring to his new position.

In accepting the new position, Chancey said, "the most important goal for the Foundation is to preserve Elmwood's rich history for generations to come."



Chancey's educational and professional background in state and local history, as well as his interest in theater and art provides him with the knowledge and resources to weave Elmwood's rich history together with local, national and international events. As part of the Foundation's goal to increase community awareness for Elmwood, Chancey will create presentations that

will bring Elmwood's historic significance to life.

In addition to his position with Elmwood Cemetery, Chancey also serves as the President of the Greater Southeast Michigan Cemetery Association, vice President of Detroit Society for Genealogical Research and is the longest serving board member of the Michigan Cemetery Association. Chancey takes an active role in community history, theater, and art and is a member of the American Theater Association, Michigan Community Theater Association and Grosse Pointe Theater.

We wish Chancey the best of luck in his new position as Executive Vice President of the **Elmwood Cemetery Foundation!**

#### LEGISLATIVE FLASH: MCA ATTENDANCE REQUESTED:

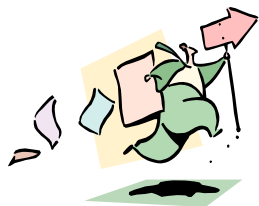
**Thursday, June 30, 2005**, Public Hearing on Public Act 21 and 22 of 2004 (SB 512 & 513) **2:00 p.m.** at Suzanne Jolicoeur's offices: DLEG—2502 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, MI 48913-0001 - Conference Room 1. (517.241.9252)

This is the promulgation hearing to officially enact the rules (PA 21 & 22 of 2004) into law.

We understand some funeral directors have voiced concerns about the need to promulgate any rules on these two Public Acts. Therefore, we believe MFDA will be present at this public hearing.

***Your support is appreciated!***

*\*Please contact Cindy Schnetzler at the UCM offices to advise of your intentions to attend this public hearing: 517.484.6064.*



Welcome  
New  
MCA Members!

#### Advance Planning Services

David Flick - Alpena

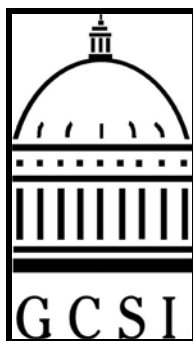
#### Noah Mowing System

Dean Nafziger- Archbold, OH

#### St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Stephen Hill - Davison

## Legislative Update continued from page 1



Brett and Don continue to track down information regarding a potential proposal from the Michigan Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) that would alter the way the State of Michigan pays for indigent burials in the budget for the Department of Human Services (formerly the Family Independence Agency).

Though the Lobby Team has not been able to uncover any documentation, we have learned that the MFDA proposal would discontinue the practice of allowing the survivors of the deceased from contributing any additional funds to the costs of the funeral and burial. Roughly 25% of indigent burials involve the survivors' contributing additional funds beyond the State of Michigan's allocation for indigent burial. The MFDA proposal then assumes a 25% savings

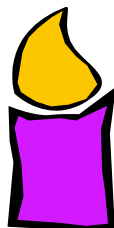
from the State no longer allowing this practice and then would apply that as an increase to the State allocation. GCSI has met with key Legislators to request the Michigan Cemetery Association be given the opportunity to respond to this potential MFDA proposal, and to encourage them to give it a very careful review.

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) has recently posted the draft rules implementing Senate Bills 512 and 513 (the "compromise" reached with MFDA). The Michigan Cemetery Commissioner presented these to MCA Members at the Winter Conference. The GCSI Team has picked up information that the MFDA is actively contacting Legislators already to express their disapproval of the proposed rules. The MCA/GCSI Lobby Team is bracing itself for another battle with MFDA on the issue!

We will give you a complete update at the summer conference. ■

### In Memoriam

#### Syd Adler... *A true friend of the cemetery industry and to his community!*



We were deeply saddened to hear in February 2005, that Syd Adler had passed away on November 18, 2004. Syd died of an apparent stroke at the age of 78.

Syd Adler was well known for his enduring support for the cemetery industry in Michigan. Many of you may recall his advocacy on behalf of the United Cemeteries of Michigan... organized as the legislative arm of the MCA. He worked tirelessly with GCSI dating back to the early 1990's. Syd would fly and/or drive to Lansing for meetings with many legislators and state officials... Sen. Cisky, Reps. Pitoniak, Gernaat, Randall, and Brackenridge... Cemetery Commissioner, Julie Croll and remember, Dick Bryant—MFDA... about issues of trusting, warehousing, combinations...

In a memo to the MCA/UCM dated 11/30/97, regarding his retirement as chair of UCM, Syd wrote the following comments:

*"It is important that everyone works for the good of the entire cemetery industry and that the cemetery industry speak with a single voice. Any*

*division in what are the objectives will make it impossible to succeed.*

*You need to always look to protect the consumer. Trust levels can always be changed in the future, (remember when we had 70% trusting on vaults?) Cemeterymen and funeral directors must be both willing to give. Someone once said, "fair" is a man-made word. Don't let your definition of "fair" stand in the way of making a deal.*

*I will miss not being there with you but I want you to know I will always be available to help."*

Interesting, Syd's words are equally as important in 2005, as they were in 1997. Syd was a kind, intelligent and caring individual, and we will always remember him for those qualities.

When Syd and his wife Rita moved to Florida, he continued to be a successful businessman, and influential community leader in Florida. He was well known for his support of the arts and preserving the environment, and was a founding member of Sarasota Rural Heritage, a group formed to preserve East County as a rural community.



Michigan Cemetery  
Association  
Executive Office  
2020 E. Hill Road  
Fenton, MI 48439

Phone: 810.694.4101  
Fax: 810.694.9481  
[www.mcainfo.org](http://www.mcainfo.org)

**We're on the web!**  
[www.mcainfo.org](http://www.mcainfo.org)

### Michigan Cemetery Association Board of Directors

**President: Gerri Sutherland**

Michigan Memorial Park  
Flat Rock  
734.783.1278

**First Vice President - Bert Edquist**

Mission Hills Memorial Park  
Niles  
269.683.8333

**Second Vice-President - Tom Habitz**

Glen Eden Memorial Park  
Livonia  
248.477.4460

**Secretary-Treasurer: Barbara Bisbee**

Crestwood Cemetery  
Grand Blanc  
810.694.4101

**Legislative Chair/Past President -  
Mike Butts**

Meadowview Memorial Gardens  
Davison—810.653.2196

**Past - President - David Krall**

White Chapel Memorial Association  
Troy—248.362.7693

**Past - President - David Zielinski**

St. Hedwig Cemetery  
Dearborn Heights—313.562.0940

**Directors:**

**Bill Burr**  
All Saints Cemetery  
Livonia—248.623.3140

**Curt Clemens**

Blythfield Memory Gardens  
& Mausoleum  
Grand Rapids—616.363.9272

**Ken Groya**

Diocese of Saginaw  
Catholic Cemeteries  
Saginaw—989.797.6628

**Leonard Krawczyk**

Hillcrest Memorial Gardens  
Owosso—989.725.5322

**Larry Merkle**

Roselawn Memorial Park  
LaSalle—734.242.2475

**Chancey Miller**

Elmwood Cemetery  
Detroit—313.567.3453

**Supplier Director:**

Raymond Leach  
Cold Spring Granite Group—  
800.328.2312

**Wolverine staff:** Cindy Schnetzler  
United Cemeteries of Michigan—  
517.484.6064