



# 2025 IFDA ANNUAL CONVENTION

*A GATHERING OF THE BEST OF THE BEST*

APRIL 7-9 / OAK BROOK HILLS RESORT / OAK BROOK, IL



Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center

*A Gathering of The Best of The Best*



**Registration Guide**

**2025 IFDA Annual Convention at a Glance**



**2025 IFDA Annual Convention**  
**Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center**  
**3500 Midwest Road**  
**Oak Brook, IL 60523**  
**April 7, 2025 - April 9, 2025**



[ifda.org](http://ifda.org)



### Why stay at the host hotel?

- ◆ Save time! Zero commute, no traffic, no need to look for parking.
- ◆ If you forget something, you can simply walk back to your room in a few minutes.
- ◆ Maximize networking opportunities!
- ◆ Enjoy a lakefront outdoor pool, tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts, a spa, two golf simulators, and two restaurants.
- ◆ Did we mention the Audubon—certified 18 hole Willow Crest Golf Club!

### Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center

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### Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center

3500 Midwest Road,  
Oak Brook, IL 60523

Call 630-850-5555 for Reservations.

Group Name:  
Illinois Funeral Directors Association

**Hotel Reservation Deadline is  
March 8, 2025!**



# Sponsorships



**Member & Vendor Appreciation Party**

**Opening Sessions**



**Photobooth**

**Early Arrival Meet & Greet**



**Hotel Key Cards**

**Convention Pens**



**Convention Lanyards**



## 2025 Convention Schedule

### Monday, April 7, 2025

Masterclass Arranger Training - Sugar Maple Room	8:00am - 4:30pm
Golf Outing - Willow Crest Golf Club	12:00pm Tee Time
Early Arrival Meet & Greet - Tin Cup Bar & Grille	7:00pm - 9:00pm
Registration Desk Open	4:00pm - 7:00pm

### Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Registration Desk Open	7:30am - 5:30pm
Opening Session & Service of Remembrance - DuPage Amphitheater	8:00am - 8:45am
<i>Break</i>	<i>8:45am - 9:00am</i>
Keynote - Eddie Slowikowski - DuPage Amphitheater (2FD)	9:00am - 10:45am
<i>Break</i>	<i>10:45am - 11:00am</i>
Session 2 - John T. Hill - DuPage Amphitheater (2EMB)	11:00am - 12:45pm
<i>Lunch On Your Own</i>	<i>12:45pm - 1:30pm</i>
Session 3 - Eddie Slowikowski - DuPage Amphitheater (1FD)	1:30pm - 2:30pm
Expo Hall - Grand Ballroom (1FD/1EMB)	2:30pm - 5:30pm
Member & Vendor Appreciation Party - The Marquis Tent	6:30pm - 9:30pm

### Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Registration Desk Open	7:30am - 3:00pm
Policy & Advocacy Report - Michael D. Sharkey - DuPage Amphitheater (1FD)	8:00am - 8:50am
<i>Break</i>	<i>8:50am - 9:00am</i>
Session 4 - Michelle Johnston - DuPage Amphitheater (2EMB)	9:00am - 10:45am
<i>Break</i>	<i>10:45am - 11:00am</i>
Expo Hall - Grand Ballroom (1FD/1EMB)	11:00AM - 2:00PM
<i>Lunch on Your Own</i>	
Session 5 - Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - DuPage Amphitheater (1FD)	2:00pm - 2:50pm
<i>Break</i>	<i>2:50pm - 3:00pm</i>
Session 6 - Michael D. Sharkey - DuPage Amphitheater (2FD)	3:00pm - 4:45pm

### Concurrent Sessions

#### Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Federated Insurance - Mallard Room (2FD)	11:00am - 12:45pm
Michelle Johnston - Mallard Room (1EMB)	1:30pm - 2:30pm

#### Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Ethics - Tom Ripperda - Mallard Room (3FD)	8:00am - 11:00pm
Foresight Companies - Mallard Room (1FD)	2:00pm - 2:50pm

\*Registration for the Arranger Training is not included in the 2025 IFDA Convention Registration.

\*You can only receive credit for the exhibit floor one time and must be on the exhibit floor a minimum of two-hours.

\*To earn credit, ensure your badge is scanned or enter the session code in the app, and complete the session evaluation following each session.

### Connect

Meet with familiar colleagues and fresh faces at the largest gathering of funeral professionals in Illinois. Convention provides an in-person opportunity to build a professional community of like-minded individuals who experience similar challenges and successes.

### Learn

The endless Continuing Education opportunities offered throughout the year can be overwhelming and expensive. Between seminars, webinars, institutes and workshops, no one can take advantage of every opportunity. We know you must be judicious with your time and funds devoted to continuing education. With 19 CE credit options offered in our sessions, we think you will find the 2025 IFDA Annual Convention a valuable return on investment.

### Listen

Our speakers are proven business leaders, strategists, practitioners, and peers. Many of them are current funeral care professionals; others are well-respected professional leaders who know what you need to know. You will gain a thorough understanding of tried-and-true funeral care fundamentals and unique insight.

### Engage

Our exhibitors are industry experts and solution-providers with extensive experience in the funeral service profession. Embrace the present world of funeral care by learning the latest trends, strategies, and innovations in the field. No matter how long you have been in the business or what position you hold, there are always new things to learn.

Get ready to tee off for the ultimate day of swings and fun at the IFDA Golf Outing! Join us on Monday April 7th for 18 holes of pure golfing bliss at Willow Crest Golf Club! We will kick off the day with a 12:00pm tee time.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or not, this event promises fun and camaraderie for all skill levels. Pricing will be \$120 per golfer.



## Exhibit Hall

The **IFDA Exhibit Hall** is the ultimate destination for funeral home innovation. Our exhibitors are on the cutting edge of the newest trends and technology in Funeral Service, Financial Planning and Transportation, to name a few.

The Exhibit Hall features the leading brands and services on display for you to see, try out, and compare. Visiting is a great way to:

- Stimulate new ideas for you and your funeral home.
- Get a hands-on feel for new products, equipment, technology, and best practices.
- Review offers from multiple suppliers at one time.

## Early Arrival Meet & Greet

The **Early Arrival Meet & Greet** is the first official get-together of the Convention. Held on Monday evening, attendees include IFDA leadership, funeral directors, funeral home owners, guests, and industry representatives. This is a can't miss opportunity for anyone looking to get quality face-time with attendees while having fun.

Event Location:

Oak Brook Hills Resort & Convention Center

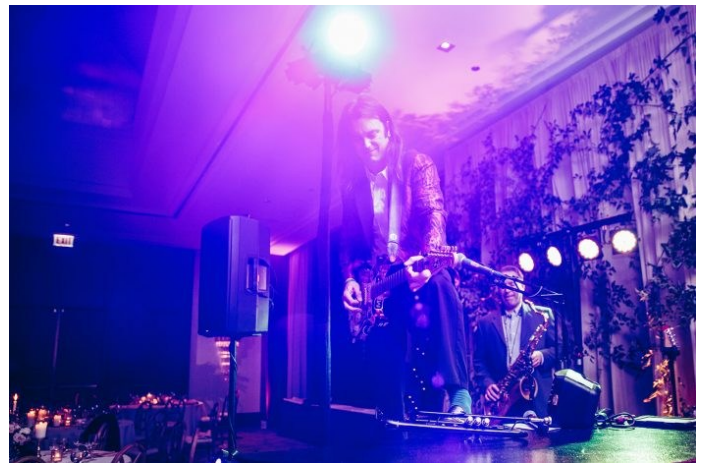
Tin Cup Bar & Grille

3500 Midwest Road

Oak Brook, IL 60523

## Member & Vendor Appreciation

Join us Tuesday evening for the Member & Vendor Appreciation Party! The Member & Vendor Appreciation Party has become the social highlight of the Convention and is attended by funeral directors, interns, students, guests, and industry representatives. Capture your memories in the 360° Photo Booth!



## Service of Remembrance



**Service of Remembrance**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

**8:00am — 8:45am**

Join us on Tuesday as we take time to remember our own—honoring and remembering our colleagues, friends, and family.





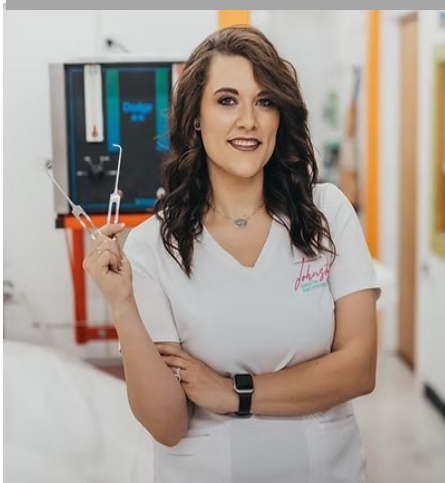
**Eddie is known throughout the industry as an Inspired Performance Expert. His widely acclaimed “Four Minute Formula” has been utilized by people from all walks of life. Through years of training as an athlete and running his own successful speaking & consulting business, he knows what it takes to be elite. Eddie has always had the can-do spirit of an entrepreneur, in all walks of life. Best of all, Eddie can channel that sense of accomplishment through interactive storytelling and raw emotion to audiences everywhere. He can make you laugh, cry, dance and learn... all in one presentation. It’s a rollercoaster journey like no other, and Eddie’s been doing it for close to 3 decades.**

**Eddie Slowikowski**



**John T. Hill is an Undertaker, currently licensed in 5 states. Based in North Carolina, he serves at James Funeral Home and Northlake Memorial Gardens in Huntersville near the city of Charlotte. Additionally, he owns Hill Mortuary Service & Seminars, offering embalming, restorative arts, and continuing education. On his days off, he embalms at Rouse Mortuary Service in Greenville, NC, and shares his expertise as a mortuary science instructor at Fayetteville Technical Community College and Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service.**

**John T. Hill**



**Michelle Johnston has been licensed as a funeral director and embalmer since 2013. She has attended Fountain National Academy in Springfield, Missouri. She has advanced skills in both embalming and restorative art.**

**Michelle opened East Texas Mortuary Service in Tyler, Texas in 2019 and began serving funeral homes. Michelle strives to change the narrative in the industry from closed caskets to the possibility of open caskets under any circumstance. In 2021, she was awarded the East Texas Embalmer of the Year award and in 2022, she is speaking on many platforms teaching new techniques to embalmers and students.**

**Michelle Johnston**

## Speakers



WI, a place that time seemingly forgot as he had what he thinks of as the last Tom Sawyer- like childhood before the world became so connected and fast paced. He now lives in Minneapolis.

When not practicing law or out of the funeral convention speaking circuit Michael likes to cook, ride his Harley, visit cemeteries, and putter about his happy little backyard tending his flowers and veggies. “Shark”- as he is commonly known- served in the U.S. Marines.

Licensed to practice law in MN, WI, IL, SD, and WA.

Michael Sharkey



Tom conducts continuing education seminars for various professionals around the country. He authored books on Long Term Care, National Flood Insurance, Index Products, Life Insurance, Disability, Viatical Settlements, Annuity Suitability, Ethics and Affordable Care Act.

Tom is a past president of NAIFA- East Side in Illinois and is a past Member of the Board of Directors for NAIFA-Illinois. He serves on an Continuing Education Advisory Council for the Illinois Department of Insurance. His outside activities include Rotary where he has served as District 6510 Governor in 2012-13 and as Zone 31 Visioning Coordinator.

Thomas Ripperda

## IFDA Mobile APP

### Download the IFDA Mobile App from your favorite App Store!

Get the most from your convention experience with the mobile IFDA App! You will find features like daily schedules, speaker information, attendee networking, exhibitor details, local area information and more. The App will also be used to track your continuing education hours with a unique QR code that will be scanned after each session.

Search IFDA in your App store. Accessing the convention App is easy. Just use the unique email you used to register for the Convention to sign in. No password required! We will always be on-hand to help you get started, should you need help. Note: there may be a delay between the time you register and when you have access to the App. Communication will be sent out when the App is available for download.



## THANK YOU To the Continuing Education Session Sponsors

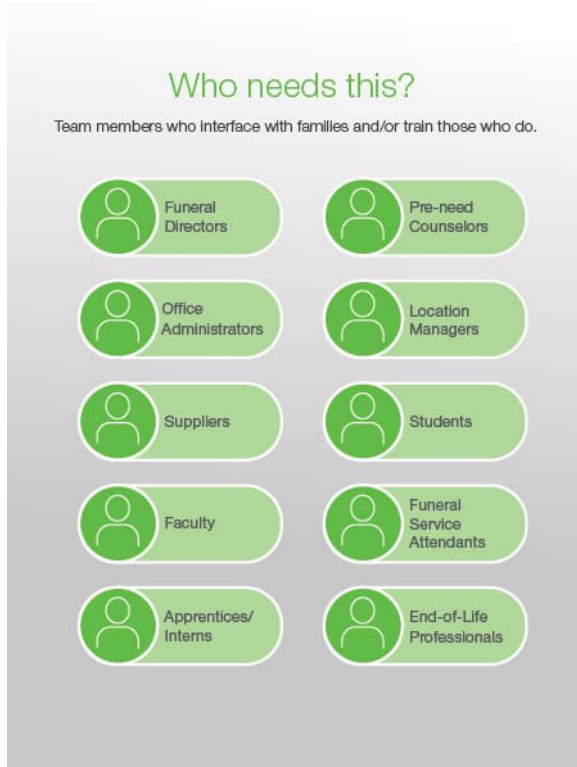


915 S. Durkin Dr., Suite A  
Springfield, IL 62704  
1-866-701-3728





Whether you are a new or seasoned professional, you will benefit from NFDA's reinvented Training experience.



Meet the Presenter: **Lanae Strovers** has been a licensed funeral director for more than 12 years with Hamilton's Funeral Home in Des Moines, Iowa. Hamilton's collaborates with the Des Moines Area Community College Mortuary Science Program where she has mentored students coming through the program. Lanae is President of The Final Salute, a non-profit that helps ensure all unclaimed cremated remains are laid to rest respectfully.



Arranger Training during the 2025 IFDA Annual Convention is being offered for 8 hours of funeral directing continuing education credit.

**\*Registration:**

American Coach Sales
American Wilbert Vault Corp.
ASD - Answering Service for Directors
Baines Professional Vehicles, Inc.
CFL Pre-Need
Chicago Cremation Supplies
Church & Chapel Metal Arts, Inc.
Cooperative Funeral Fund, Inc.
Core Scientific
Cremation Systems
Des Moines Area Community College
The Dodge Company
Express Funeral Funding
Federated Insurance
Frigid Fluid
FT North America (Facultatieve Technologies)
Funeral Directors Life (FDL)
Funeral Home Gifts
FuneralScreen
Futura Funeral Trust
G-4 Funeral Home Construction
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network
Lake Forest Casket, Inc.
LiveControl
Medxwaste of Illinois
Messenger
Miller Architects & Builders
MorTrack by Cairnstack
Muster Coaches
National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA)
Paul Davis Emergency Services
Pekin Life Insurance Company
Peter Troost Monument Company
PMRS
Precoa
Rex Vault Service
Riviera Tailors, Ltd.
S&S Superior Coach Company
Security National Life Insurance
Shiva Shade
Thumbies
Trigard Burial Vaults
United Heritage Life Insurance Company
Urns Etc. Inc.
Worsham College of Mortuary Science

## Registration Information

### Fee Structure

Our **registration fee structure** allows you to pay one fee to attend both days or any single day of the Convention. Multi-day registration includes all social events and educational programs for every day of the Convention. Single-day registration includes all educational programs and all social events offered for the day on which you register unless otherwise stated. NFDA's Arranger Training Course and the Ethics Training program not included in registration fees.

### Refund Policy

All requests to cancel must be made in writing to IFDA by emailing [info@ifda.org](mailto:info@ifda.org). Your registration can be cancelled at any time before April 1, 2025 for a full refund without any penalties. This policy is in place for the 2025 IFDA Annual Convention only. No refunds or cancellations will be issued after April 1, 2025. No-shows will not receive a refund.

All refunds will be processed after the 2025 IFDA Annual Convention. Registration may not be transferred to another attendee. Registration may not be transferred to any future IFDA events.

### Liability Waiver

By registering for the IFDA Convention, you agree and acknowledge that you are participating in IFDA events and activities on your own free and intentional will. You acknowledge this freely and knowingly and that you are, as a result, able to participate in IFDA Convention events and hereby assume responsibility for your own well-being. **This acknowledgement includes your guest(s)' participation in any events.**

### Attendee List

By registering for the Convention, you acknowledge that your contact information will be included on the attendee list made available to all meeting registrants. If you do not want your contact information included in convention materials, please initial to opt-out from attendee list on the registration form or contact IFDA at 217-525-2000.

### Photography Waiver

By registering for this event, you consent that photos and videos of you at the event may be published in print or posted online in online photo albums; on photo/video-sharing sites such as YouTube; on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram; and in other web-based media at the sole discretion of IFDA.

### Americans with Disabilities Act

IFDA only uses facilities that are in compliance with the ADA. If you require special assistance while attending the Convention, please visit the IFDA Registration Desk.

Thank you for supporting  
IFDA—we look forward  
to seeing you in April!



## Registration Form—Only One Licensed Funeral Director per Form

Please print clearly and fill out the form COMPLETELY.

First Name	Last Name	Phone
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License Number	Unique Email Address (Required)
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Firm Name
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Address	City	State	Zip
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Please Check here if you have any ADA needs. Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

By registering for the Convention, you acknowledge you have read the registration information and agree to the terms and that your contact information will be included on the attendee list made available to all meeting registrants. If you do not want your contact information included in the conference materials, initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to register for the following:**

- |                     |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| IFDA Member         | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Day \$349 <del>\$299</del> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday OR <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday \$199 <del>\$149</del> |
| Licensed Non-Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Day \$649 <del>\$599</del> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday OR <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday \$349 <del>\$299</del> |
| Non-Licensed Guest  | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Day \$299 <del>\$249</del> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday OR <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday \$199 <del>\$149</del> |
| Child               | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Day \$49                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday OR <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday \$49                   |
| Student             | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Day \$99                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday OR <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday \$59                   |
| Licensed Intern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Day \$99                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday OR <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday \$59                   |

**Discounted rates apply through February 14, 2025.**

Better Late Than Never price applies to all registrations received after close of business February 14th. After April 1st, registrations will be on-site only and accepted on a space-available basis.

**Please indicate the functions you pan to attend:**

- Early Arrival Meet & Greet (4/7)
- Member Appreciation Party (4/8)
- Golf Outing \$120 (4/7)

**Is this your first year being licensed for:**

- 40 years
- 50 years
- 60 years

How many unlicensed guests will be attending with you? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the name(s) of your guest(s):

**By submitting this registration form, you agree and accept the Liability and Photography Waiver listed as part of the registration brochure.**

<b>PAYMENT</b>			Check Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> Discover
Credit Card #	EXP:	CVV:	Amount Due:	Return To: IFDA 3 Lawrence Square, Suite 2 Springfield, IL 62704
Cardholder Signature				



