

**Special points of interest:**

- Look inside for information on upcoming Operator Training
- Important information on Pacemaker Disposal

## Crematory Operator Training Spring 2008 in Long Beach

The Marriott Hotel in Long Beach was the site of our Crematory Operators Certificate Training Seminar and Spring Conference. On Wednesday, February 20, 2008 Operators from around California gathered to hear experts in Crematory Training.

Peter Hartwick, President of Hartwick Combustion Technologies explained the fundamentals of Combustion and Design Evolution of Crematories. John Raggett, President of American Crematory Equipment Co., discussed proper crematory operation, safety issues, maintenance and repairs along with troubleshooting. George Prather, Director of Safety and Compliance with Stewart Enterprises reviewed California Law as it applies to Custody, record-keeping and storage, authority to cremate, the process of cremating, inurnment and release of cremated remains. Dan Red-

mond, Field Representative with the Department of Consumer Affairs/Cemetery and Funeral Bureau spoke on compliance in crematories, funeral homes and cemeteries, plus safety issues and explained in detail what the Bureau is looking

for when it comes to inspections. Paul Rahill, President of Matthew International Cremation Division gave an informative presentation on cremation and the environment, and crematory permits and compliance.

All 25 participants in the training received a manual with each of the speakers presentations photocopied for future use. The participants also took a test at the end of the day, where after



passing, a certificate is mailed to them to show that they participated in our training and passed the test. Also, each participant was asked to complete a survey so we can evaluate the program, the surveys came back with positive scores in all categories. ACC, in the last year and a half has certified over 75 crematory operators.

Look for details of our next certification training soon on our website [www.accinfo.org](http://www.accinfo.org).

### ACC Membership Growing

Membership in ACC is growing. We currently have 42 Regular members, Nine Supplier members, Two Associate members, and seven Operator Members.

Membership has grown by ten percent over the last year. For a complete list of members, please check our website at [www.accinfo.org](http://www.accinfo.org).

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## ACC Spring Conference Long Beach

On Thursday, February 21, 2008 we held our Spring Conference (formerly called Let's Talk, Let's Share). There were crematory operators, owners, and managers in attendance.

Dan Redmond, started off the morning reviewing compliance in crematories, funeral homes and cemeteries. Mr. Redmond also held a question and answer period, which our members felt was valuable to them. They could ask specific questions about inspections and know what they need to improve upon.

When they returned to work.

Mark Matthews, Vice President of ACC and President of Wiefels and Sons spoke on recent lawsuits within the industry and how you can protect yourself.

Rodney Millican, Senior Engineer of the South Coast Air Quality Management District reviewed obtaining a permit, crematory emissions, and crematory mercury emissions. Mr. Millican held a question and answer period after his presentation and answered our members many questions regarding the AQMD.

Brian Halle, President of Pacific Enterprise Bank ex-

plained different ways to finance your business and the difference between accounts – swiped and keyed.

Paul Rahill, President of Matthews International Cremation Division reviewed statistics and trends within the industry and “greening” of cremation.

Participants on this day, again left with a detailed manual of the days presentations along with a membership directory for ACC. Surveys returned by the participants of the Spring Conference returned them with favorable reviews in all categories.

## Mark Your Calendar Operator Training July 9 and Annual Convention July 10

The 2008 Annual Convention of the Association of California Cremationists will be Thursday, July 10, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Orange County Airport North, in Santa Ana.

This year's Annual Meeting will also include Vendor Table Top Displays. In addition, the ACC will also include Vendor Table Top Displays. In addition, the ACC will conduct

an Operator Certification Training on July 9, 2008.

Embassy Suites Santa Ana offers complimentary transportation to and from Orange County Airport. Each guest is invited to complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast each morning. Join the ACC Wednesday evening for a reception serving beverages and light snacks from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To make hotel reservations, please call the hotel directly at (714) 241-3800 and identify yourself as a member of ACC. Reservations must be made by 12:00 a.m., June 17, 2008.

Watch your mailbox for registration information, e-mail our ACC Executive Director, Karen Thomas, at [ktthomas@accinfo.org](mailto:ktthomas@accinfo.org)

**“ACC Annual  
Convention is  
July 10 in  
Santa Ana”**

## Mercury Update

Crematories represent 0% of the total inventory for national mercury emissions rates according to US EPA and their Best Point Estimates.

Most recently, US EPA updated their National Emissions Inventory and, based on actual data from testing they participated in, all US crematories combined in 1999 produced a total of 238 pounds of mercury.

The most notable way that mercury enters the cremation

by Matthews Cremation

cycle, and therefore crematory emissions, is through silver amalgam dental fillings found in many dead human bodies.

Silver amalgam tooth fillings containing mercury have been common for many years, but their use appears to be on a significant decline. Within the last 10 years, the percentage of fillings containing mercury has already declined by 30%, a significant decrease. Although concern for environment has always been a

priority for the dental industry, the primary driver of this trend is actually found in the mirror, the appearance. Composite resins blend better with the color and appearance of natural teeth. All these changes in dental practices and consumer preferences have resulted in significantly less mercury entering the cremation stream and thereby reducing mercury emissions by reducing mercury input.

# ACC Legislative Update

By Jim Draper

## CFB Supports Bill to Reestablish \$8.50 Regulatory Fee

As expected, Assembly Member Hayashi introduced AB 2946 in February, 2008, at the request of the Department of Consumer Affairs, with the support of the Cemetery & Funeral Bureau.

This bill would reestablish the quarterly regulatory fee of \$8.50 for each burial, entombment, or inurnment, that was sunsetted as of December 31, 2007, by amending Business & Professions Code §9765.

While the bill, as introduced, does not currently seek to also amend Business & Professions Code §9786 which establishes a like regulatory fee on cremations, the author has confirmed this is an oversight and the bill will

be amended to make the fee applicable to all cremations, burials, entombments, and inurnments, as was the case prior to the sunset of both sections.

## CA Law Now Silent With Respect to the Disposal of Pacemakers

Prior to January 1, 2008, California Law (Health & Safety Code Section 7153) expressly stated a pacemaker could only be returned to "a person who reconditions pacemakers."

However, AB 1689 was enacted on January 1, 2008, which *repealed* the existing Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (*including* H&S Section 7153), and reenacted the Act, *excluding* any reference to the disposition of pacemakers.

And, according to the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), anyone who assists in the shipment of a pacemaker to the ultimate user must be licensed as a distributor with the Food and Drug Administration, pursuant to Federal law. Thus, in the absence of State Law, distributing pacemakers to persons who recondition them "might" place funeral homes in violation of Federal Law. NFDA, therefore, recommends that pacemakers be returned to the manufacturer, disposed of by the funeral home, or returned to the family of the decedent. What's more, NFDA points out, pacemakers and other medical devices are not the property of the funeral home and should neither be sold, disposed of, nor transferred without permission from the family.

**"Watch Out !  
\$8.50 Fee Coming  
Back!"**



### Urn Presentation Bags

Soft cloth bag with drawstring, large enough to hold most cremation urns (15" x 15"). Add dignity to the moment, when you return a loved one's cremated remains to the family. Also ideal for committal services, particularly when a temporary plastic or fiberboard container has been selected. Each bag is individually handmade in the U.S.A.

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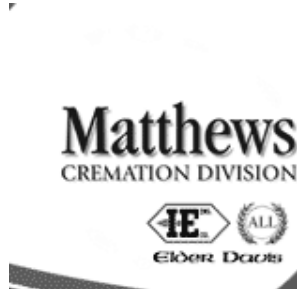
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## Program Highlights Environmentally-Friendly Cremation Practices

Matthews Cremation, the leader in environmental standards for cremation equipment, is pleased to unveil the industry's first 'Cremation Green' campaign for crematory equipment, caskets and memorial products.

"To be Cremation Green, it's more than just building environmentally-friendly products but incorporating this philosophy into manufacturer and op-

erational practices," said Steve Schaal, Division Sales & Marketing Manager.

Matthews 'Cremation Green' provides information and tools that will assist funeral professionals in developing and sustaining ecologically sound practices.

"We understand the importance of our leadership role as it relates to the environment," added Schaal. "We are committed to **Preserve,**

**Protect & Educate** the industry about the best ways to remain environmentally sensitive as it relates to cremation practices."

To find out more about 'Cremation Green' and information on making cremation equipment environmentally friendly, contact Matthews Cremation at 800-327-2831 or visit their website at [www.matthewscremation.com](http://www.matthewscremation.com)