



ICCFA Leadership Summit

October 20 - 22, 2026
The DeSoto | Savannah, GA

Schedule of Events

Monday, October 19

2:30 - 5:30 PM

Registration

Foyer

3:30 - 4:45 PM

Finance Committee Meeting

Lafayette

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting

Lafayette

Tuesday, October 20

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Registration

Foyer

9:15 - 10:45 AM

Board of Directors Meeting

Cumberland

11:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Lunch & Golf Tournament

The Club at Savannah Harbor

(limited to first 60 RSVPs)

Enjoy lunch before teeing off with fellow attendees at The Club at Savannah Harbor, a renowned Low Country course nestled along the banks of the Savannah and Back Rivers. Former host of the PGA TOUR Champions' Liberty Mutual Insurance Legends of Golf Championship, this scenic course provides the perfect backdrop for an afternoon of friendly competition, networking, and some of Savannah's best views.

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Cocktails & The National Prohibition Museum

Enjoy an afternoon of cocktails, history, and connection at Savannah's American Prohibition Museum! Mix up something spirited during a hands-on cocktail class, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and networking in a speakeasy, then explore the fascinating stories of America's Prohibition era on a guided museum tour.

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Welcome Reception

Harborview

Wednesday, October 21

8:15 AM - 5:00 PM

Registration

Foyer

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Welcome Breakfast & Coffee

Foyer / Cumberland

8:55 - 9:00 AM

Welcome

Cumberland

9:00 - 10:30 AM

The Irwin W. Shipper Legislative Session & Breakfast

*Mary Beth McGowan, Dykema
and Poul Lemasters, Esq., ICCFA
Cumberland*



Rise and shine for your timely Government and Legal Update. The regulatory and legislative landscape continues to evolve, with developments at both the federal and state levels impacting the deathcare profession. Join the ICCFA Government & Legal team for an open discussion on the latest issues, what's on the horizon, and what it could mean for your business. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions, share challenges from their own states and regions, and join the conversation.

Keynote

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Human-Centered AI Strategy: Putting AI to Work Without Losing the Personal Touch

*Caleb Gardner
Cumberland*



Caleb cuts through the AI hype to focus on what matters most for a profession built on personal connection: where these tools can help and where the relationship with families needs to stay firmly in human hands. Explore AI through the intersection of people, process, and technology, and learn how to distinguish between the work AI can support and the moments only a person can hold.

What attendees walk away with:

- A framework for identifying where AI fits within a deathcare operation — and where it does not.

- Practical examples of where AI can make a meaningful impact, including reducing administrative burden.
- A clearer understanding of what AI can take off your team's plate and the moments that must stay human, from difficult family conversations to the calls only a person should make.

12:15 – 1:30 PM

Lunch

Foyer / Cumberland

1:30 – 3:00 PM



AI in Practice: Free Your Team for Work That Matters

Caleb Gardner

Cumberland

Move from AI strategy to hands-on practice with real, ready-to-use workflows designed for the deathcare profession. Explore how AI can fit into day-to-day operations, reduce time spent on administrative tasks and routine communications, and free your team to focus more of their time and attention on the families they serve.

What you'll walk away with:

- Practical AI workflows tailored to funeral homes, cemeteries, and crematories.
- Hands-on experience using AI to save time on administrative tasks and routine communications.
- A better understanding of where AI can support your team—and where a person needs to stay in the loop.

3:00 – 3:30 PM

Networking Break

3:30 – 4:30 PM



When AI Keeps Us Connected: The Promise and Perils of Digital Afterlife

Moderator:

Panel: Caleb Gardner | Poul Lemasters, ICCFA

Cumberland

Artificial intelligence is changing how we work—but what happens when it changes how we grieve?

Emerging technologies can use a person's voice, image, memories, messages, and other digital information to create interactive AI avatars that simulate conversations with someone who has died. While these technologies offer new possibilities



for remembrance and connection, they also raise complex questions about grief, consent, privacy, ownership, and ethical use.

This multidisciplinary panel will explore the emotional, ethical, legal, and technological implications of AI avatars and consider what these emerging tools could mean for grieving families and the deathcare professionals who serve them.

What you'll walk away with:

- Potential benefits and risks of AI avatars in the grieving and memorialization process.
- Key ethical and legal considerations, including consent, privacy, ownership, and responsible use of a deceased person's digital identity.
- The role deathcare professionals may play in helping families understand and navigate emerging AI-based memorialization technologies.

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Wrap Up & Announcements

Cumberland

- 40 Under 40 Recognition
- Educational Foundation Thank You
Gino Merendino

8:00 PM

Ghost Tour of Savannah

Thursday, October 22

Travel Day



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

BLACK DIAMOND



DIAMOND



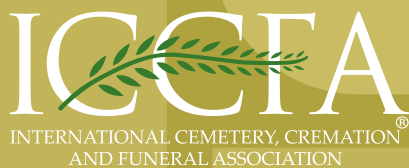
Thank You to Our Sponsors!

PLATINUM



GOLD





107 Carpenter Drive, Suite 100 • Sterling, VA 20164 • 703.391.8400
iccfa.com