

Dear Cemetery Board of Trustees and Managers:

Greetings, everyone! With spring upon us and a sense of renewal all around, I'm continually amazed by the new and unexpected things that emerge while serving on the board. I'm especially grateful to be part of the Public Cemetery District community, where so many people generously share their knowledge and experience to help others. As the saying goes, it takes a village, and I'm so happy to be part of the village. Here is the overview from the most recent GSRMA Board meeting.

Annual Payment: The Board passed a resolution to give its members a 2.50% discount if they pay their contributions in a lump sum by 07/31/25. Most cemetery districts pay in a lump sum and this rebate will be a great savings to districts. If your District chooses to make payments, there will be no interest and no fees (as long as it is paid by the scheduled dates – if not, there will be a 3% late fee added).

Training: GSRMA will once again be offering free Board and Trustee Training on harassment (CA AB 1825) and ethics (CA AB 1234) on April 30 at Granzella's in Williams. Go to <https://gsrma.org/training/> to register.

New Members: The board ratified two new members, including Mt. Whitney Cemetery District. I want to personally welcome aboard the staff and trustees at Mt. Whitney.

Actuarial: There was a presentation from Derek Burkhalter of Bickmore Actuarial on the draft actuarial studies. The findings were that GSRMA continues to be well-funded to cover future claims in all areas.

Loss Prevention Subsidy Fund: The \$25,000 allocation for the Loss Prevention Subsidy Fund for the 2024/25 year has been reached. New funding will be available as of July 1, 2025. The staff is looking at presenting a possible increase and/or changes to the program. Fourteen of the twenty-nine awards from this fund were given to cemetery districts. Most cemetery districts received the maximum of \$1,000.00 which was used to reimburse expenses from attending PCA, CAPC, and GSRMA conferences. Great job cemetery districts for taking advantage of this fund to offset the costs of attending the amazing trainings and events.

Secondary Insurance Update: The premium cost that GSRMA pays its secondary insurers is expected to rise again, according to the reports given by the California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJAP) and their Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) as well as Public Risk Innovation, Solutions and Management (PRISM) Team. The reason for the price increase is primarily due to AB 218 and AB 452 which initially impacted K-14 schools but now it is beginning to be felt across all public entities in their general liability rates.

Additionally, storms, floods, LA fires, and other extreme events have caused the secondary property insurance market to dramatically increase their rates to GSRMA.

Staff visits: GSRMA staff visited 73 members, 35 of which were from cemetery districts. This includes specific training done at cemetery districts. On the topic of training, on April 9, 2025, our friends at the Visalia Cemetery District along with the PCA are hosting a training day that includes workshops on the Brown Act, Digital & Social Media Engagement, and Back Safety &

Proper Lifting. Go to this link for more information and registration details. <https://www.calpca.org/events>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below or via email. Until next time, stay safe and be well!

Rick Beale

Vice President GSRMA Board (Cemetery District Representative)

Chairperson, Orland Cemetery District Board of Directors

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