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**For Immediate Release:** May 1, 2026

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## **Registration Now Open: NFDA's 2026 Leadership Conference Welcomes Current and Aspiring Leaders to Louisville**

Brookfield, Wis. – This summer, funeral service professionals from across the country will gather in one of America's most vibrant and historic cities for an energizing and forward-thinking leadership experience. The 2026 [National Funeral Directors Association \(NFDA\) Leadership Conference](#) will take place August 2 through 5 at the Omni Louisville Hotel.

Set against the dynamic backdrop of Louisville's rich heritage and culture, this inspiring event brings together current and aspiring leaders for exceptional education, meaningful conversations and powerful connection. Whether participants are seasoned professionals or exploring leadership opportunities for the first time, the NFDA Leadership Conference offers a welcoming environment to grow, collaborate and lead. Established leaders are encouraged to bring a rising star from their firm or state association, creating a shared experience that strengthens both individuals and the profession.

### **Building Strong Leaders for the Future**

The NFDA Leadership Conference is designed to equip funeral service professionals with the insights and skills needed to lead with confidence in a rapidly evolving profession. Attendees will explore best practices in association management, leadership development and advocacy, while engaging in thoughtful discussions about the challenges and opportunities shaping funeral service today. First-time attendees will find the conference especially accessible, with opportunities to connect early, engage in small-group discussions and learn alongside peers who are navigating similar leadership paths.

A highlight of the conference is the highly anticipated *Breakout by Office* sessions, a longtime attendee favorite. These peer-led discussions allow participants to connect with others who share similar leadership roles, creating space for candid conversations, idea-sharing and practical problem-solving. Whether you're a board member, executive director or aspiring leader, these sessions offer real-world insights you can immediately apply. These sessions consistently rank among the most valuable parts of the conference, offering practical takeaways and connections that extend well beyond the event.

Participants will also have the opportunity to meet candidates for NFDA Board leadership and take part in the election process for at-large representatives. Information about election candidates can be found at [NFDA.org/Elections](https://NFDA.org/Elections).

### **Meaningful Connections and Memorable Experiences**

Beyond the educational sessions, the Leadership Conference offers exceptional opportunities to connect, recharge and build lasting relationships.

The event begins Sunday, August 2, with an optional golf outing at Hunting Creek Country Club in Prospect, Kentucky. Known for its gently rolling hills and scenic beauty, this 7,157-yard private championship course offers both a rewarding challenge and a memorable experience, with wide, tree-lined fairways and picturesque views that make it as visually striking as it is enjoyable to play (optional event; ticket required).

That evening, attendees will gather for a complimentary Welcome Reception at the Omni Louisville Hotel, setting the tone for a week of connection and collaboration.

On Tuesday, August 4, the conference culminates with the *Hats Off to Leadership* Closing Celebration at Churchill Downs, the iconic home of the Kentucky Derby. This unforgettable evening will feature food, entertainment and the opportunity to experience one of the most legendary venues in American sports (optional event; ticket required).

### **A Conference That Inspires**

Past participants consistently describe the Leadership Conference as one of the most valuable and rewarding NFDA experiences. Many attendees have said they leave with new ideas, stronger professional networks and a renewed sense of purpose in their leadership roles.

Attendees consistently highlight the conference's value, particularly for those attending for the first time: "As a first-time attendee it was a great experience, and I will be back again."

Another noted, "I enjoy these smaller conferences. I can connect with other funeral directors in a leadership position."

From collaborative learning to meaningful conversations, the Leadership Conference continues to serve as a catalyst for growth, innovation and leadership across funeral service.

### **Registration Information**

Registration is now open. The registration fee includes the Welcome Reception, educational sessions, handouts and continental breakfasts. Optional events, including the golf outing and *Hats Off to Leadership* Closing Celebration at Churchill Downs, are available for an additional fee. Early-bird rates are available through May 29, offering significant savings for those who register early.

To register or learn more, visit [NFDA.org/Leadership](https://www.nfda.org/Leadership) or call 262-789-1880.

### **Hotel Accommodations**

[The Omni Louisville Hotel](https://www.omnihotels.com/louisville) offers a modern, upscale experience that reflects the energy and character of the city. With 612 guest rooms and a range of on-site amenities, the hotel provides both comfort and convenience for attendees.

Guests can enjoy a heated rooftop pool, relax at the full-service Mokara Spa or gather with colleagues at Pin + Proof, the hotel's Prohibition-style speakeasy featuring bowling, food and signature cocktails. The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Louisville, within walking distance of popular attractions including Main Street, Fourth Street Live, Whiskey Row Distilleries and the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory.

A discounted room block is available for \$239 per night. Reservations must be made by July 6. Visit [NFDA.org/Leadership](https://www.nfda.org/Leadership) for information on booking a room. Attendees are encouraged to book within the official NFDA room block to support conference planning and help keep registration fees lower.

NFDA is the world's leading and largest funeral service association, serving 20,000 individual members who represent nearly 11,000 funeral homes in the United States and 49 countries around

the world. NFDA is the trusted leader, beacon for ethics and the strongest advocate for the profession. NFDA is the association of choice because it offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals. NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., and has an office in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [NFDA.org](http://NFDA.org).

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