

The Ohio Embalmers' Association – Organizes September 1931

(The Embalmers' Monthly and National Funeral Director, October 1931)

OHIO EMBALMERS ASSOCIATION



Group of Ohio Embalmers from left to right: first row—William F. Carey, president, Millersburg, Ohio; Don Williams, vice president, Canton, Ohio; Miss Frances Messersmith, secretary to Glenn L. Myers; Glenn L. Myers, Jr., son of Glenn L. Myers; Glenn L. Myers, secretary-treasurer, Columbus. Directly back of Miss Messersmith is Robert E. Armstrong, chairman of the Advisory Board, Columbus, Ohio. (Published in the October 1931 issue of *The Embalmers' Monthly and National Funeral Director*.)

A representative group of licensed Ohio embalmers met at the chapel of Glenn L. Myers, located at 23 West Second Ave., Columbus, Ohio for the purpose of organization.

A program had been prearranged by Mr. Myers as follows: Organ solo by Mrs. Max Chenoweth, Rev. G.C. McKibben, a personal friend of Mr. Myers, opened the meeting with a prayer, which was followed by Mrs. Edith Perkins Conkright, the chapel soprano, who gave a beautiful rendition of "Going Home."

Myers talked at length on the need of an Association, setting forth the fact that there is nothing in the statutes specifying duties for any person connected with the funeral profession, other than the embalmer. All licensed Ohio embalmers, he or she, of good moral standing is entitled to membership.

Rodney B. Baldwin, attorney, advised on organizing Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of the State. All agreed the organizations was to be founded and based on educational lines and it should not compete with any organization now functioning.

The list of elected officers included: William F. Carey, President, Millersburg; Don Williams, Vice-President, Canton; Glenn L. Myers, Secretary-Treasurer, Columbus; Clarence Uhrich, Sergeant-at-Arms, Gnadenhutton. Advisory Board: Robert E. Armstrong, Chairman, Columbus; A.C. McIntire, Wooster; S.P. Gerstner, Washington; William Kelly, East Liverpool. Faris Johnston, St. Clairsville; Herbert Webb, Hamilton; Robert Mock, New Concord; Fred K. Tucker, Eaton.

It is the intention to have an annual convention of at least a three-day session, during which time members will be privileged to listen to various professors and demonstrators in embalming and the instructors in the various sciences of the profession, as well as having an interesting entertainment for the families and friends of the members.

Arrangements have been made for accepting of a bonafide registered apprentice membership, providing that their master embalmer who registered with the Board of Embalming Examiners of Ohio is a member of the Association.

The Constitution and By-Laws were approved. The Advisory Board is composed of 8 men. The president and secretary/treasurer are ex-officio members of this board but have no vote. The Advisory Board is the functioning power of the Association.

Mr. Myers, Secretary-Treasurer, will maintain an office in his establishment and all communication with reference to this Association should be directed to Mr. Myers.

June 1-2, 1932

The first convention was held June 1-2, 1932 at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel in Columbus. 47 new members were accepted at this meeting bringing the membership total to 241.

Newly elected officers elected: President, Donald Williams, Canfield; First Vice-President, Clarence Uhrich, Gnadenhutton; Secretary/Treasurer, Glenn L. Myers, Columbus; Sergeant-at-Arms, C. Richard Brough, Miamisburg. Appointed to the Advisory Board were: Herbert Webb, Hamilton; George Finch, Commercial Point; Burt R. Richeson, St. Paris; William S. Kelly, East Liverpool; A.N. Gregg, Waverly; Robert L. Mock, New Concord; Selby Gerstner, Washington Court House; Charles C. Clay, Troy.

A Pathology Committee was appointed: Herbert Webb, Hamilton; Wesley Bierley, Cleveland and John Orebaugh, Norwalk.

Speakers included: Dr. J.B. Foreman, pathologist; I.C. Plummer, chief of Vital Statistics.

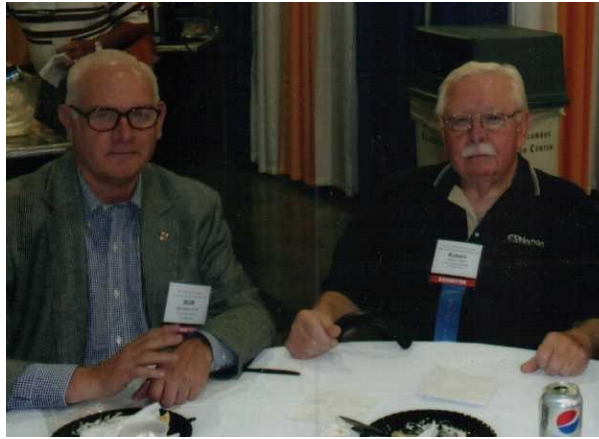
Professor W. J. Collier gave a lecture and embalming demonstration in the amphitheatre building of Ohio State University.

In the evening of June 1, a banquet was held at the Deshler-Wallick Hotel. Selby Gerstner was toastmaster. The address delivered by Secretary Glenn L. Myers, on the topic: "Ethics of the Ohio Embalmers' Association."

It is an honor to be a part of such a grand organization. For 85 years the Ohio Embalmers Association or Embalmers Association of Ohio as it was originally chartered, has been providing high quality educational seminars for the professional embalmer and funeral director.



Inman



Mayer

The seminars sponsored by the OEA are generally technical in nature and cover a wide range of topics that are important to today's funeral service professional. A list of the speakers is included in this booklet. Many names on the list are synonymous with embalming. Names such as, Bob Mayer, Bob Inman, Les Wakeham.

Learning something new or sharing ideas is not limited to the seminars but also occurs between individuals sitting next to each other, on breaks and at lunch. It is just a great organization of embalmers and funeral directors who are looking for more than just hours to fill licensing requirements.

The OEA offers scholarship monies through the Don Lawrence Robert Inman Scholarship fund. This fund was set up in honor of long time secretary, Don Lawrence who passed away in May of 2002. Robert Inman's name was added to honor him after he had given many years of service to the funeral industry. In addition, the Les Wakeham Award is given twice a year at CCMS. This award honors a student who shows both technical skill and maintains a high GPA.

Wakeham



Lawrence



Currently, the OEA has over 1200 members. About 700 are very active and take advantage of the seminars offered. The OEA typically holds 3 seminars per year; Winter, Spring and Fall. The Spring seminar is our biggest. It is a joint collaboration with the Embalmers Association of Cleveland and attracts over 200 attendees annually. The event is held the first or second Wednesday in May in Cleveland. The other two seminars are moved all around the state to give members an opportunity to attend a continuing education event closer to home. Each seminar is at least 6 hours in length and sometimes more. 6 to 12 speakers are needed each year keep the seminars going. I encourage you to look at the list past speakers it is long and impressive. Students and apprentices do not have to pay dues only for the seminar should they decide to attend. Join us for one our seminars, you won't be disappointed. Our website is www.ohemb.com. Or contact us at 513.384.7846.

All the best,

David

David G. Hicks, MBIE
Secretary OEA

2016 Officers of the Ohio Embalmers' Association

President:	Lynn Zechman	Springfield, Ohio
First Vice- President:	Don Kincaid	Albany, Ohio
Second Vice-President:	George Eastman	New London, Ohio
Third Vice-President:	Dan Becker	Struthers, Ohio
Secretary:	David Hicks	Cincinnati, Ohio
Treasurer:	William Peoples	Marietta, Ohio
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Robert Mayer	Pittsburgh, PA

Advisory Board

Tim Barnes	Athens, Ohio
Bruce Borowski	Newton Falls, Ohio
Bill Eberle	London, Ohio
Bill Smith	Reynoldsburg, Ohio
Woody Wilson	Marion, Ohio

Trustees

Brian Eger	Mogadore, Ohio
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George Pugh Steubenville, Ohio

Darrell Waite Medina, Ohio

Trustee Emeritus

Lester Wakeham*

Robert J. Inman *

Immediate Past President

George Pugh Steubenville, Ohio

A GLANCE AT THE YEAR 1931

Herbert Hoover was President

American was still in the Great Depression

16% of American's were unemployed

The Empire State Building was completed

Deaths of notables: Thomas Edison, Melvil Dewey (Dewey decimal system) ; Knute Rockne

Al Capone was sentenced to 11 years in prison for tax evasion

Nylon was invented

15 TV stations were in existence. . . . but no one has a TV set

608 Radio stations – most households had one radio

Popular Dance Orchestras: Paul Whiteman and Guy Lombardo

Most popular vocalists: Rudy Vallee, Kate Smith and a new singer in 1931, Bing Crosby

Favorite radio program: Amos and Andy

Movies: Frankenstein (Karloff); Dracula (Lugosi)

Costs: New car - \$700

Gasoline – 10 cents a gallon

Coffee – 23 cents a pound

Heinz Ketchup – 25 large bottle

Presidents of the Ohio Embalmers' Association

1931 – 2016

William E. Carey, Millersburg, Ohio (1931)

Donald Williams, Canton Ohio (1932)

Clarence W Uhrich, Gnadenhutten, Ohio (1933)

C. Richard Brough, Miamisburg, Ohio (1934)

Selby P. Gerstner, Washington, Ohio (1936)

Herbert A. Webb, Hamilton, Ohio (1937)

Judd W. Wilkins, (1942)

Bernard S. VanHorn (1946)

George M. Sharpe (1947)

Raymond J. Marker (1949)

Howard B. Cox (1950)

Wendell P. Grisier (1951)

Louis A. Zele, Cleveland, Ohio (1953)

Loren E. Hillis, Zanesville, Ohio (1954)

Paul Spindle, Cleveland, Ohio (1955)

Mike Patrick, (2010-2012)

Darrell Waite, (2012-2014)

George Pugh, (2014-2016)

Lynn Zechman, (2016-2018)

Eugene Sujkowski, Toledo, Ohio (1956)

Thomas A. Kidd, (1957)

Lester Wakeham , (1960)

Alton Mollgaard, (1961)

John W. Patterson, (1963)

Dominick J. Bondo, (1964)

David E. McCarty, (1965)

Robert W. Lawver, (1966)

Robert J. Inman, (1969)

Lester Wakeham, (1970)

Walter A. Frey, (1971)

Ernest Scheuffler (1972)

Harry Blackstone (1973)

Ronald McNabb (1975)

George Chapman (1976-1977)

Clarence Carter (1980-1981)

Jeffrey Wells (1982-1983)

Timothy Schmidt (1984-1985)

Launey Dovin, (1986-1987)

David O. Lane, (1988-1989)

William Peoples, (1990-1991)

George Pugh, (1992-1993)

Don Kincaid, (1994-1995)

Lynn Zechman, (1996-1997)

Bernard Borowski, (2000-2001)

Bill Eberle, (2001-2003)

Brian Eger, (2003-2004)

Eugene Sujkowski, (2005-2007)

Bruce Borowski, (2007-2009)

Secretaries of the Ohio Embalmers' Association 1991 - 2016

Don A. Lawrence

OEA Secretary 1977 -2002

On May 1st 2002, Don Lawrence, age 57, passed away following a long illness with cancer. He had just begun his 25th year as Secretary of the Ohio Embalmers Association.

Don attended New London High School graduating in 1962. He attended Ohio State University and graduated from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1968 to 1974. In addition to his service to the OEA Don was a past president of the Cuyahoga Funeral Directors Association, Chagrin Valley Lions Club, Chagrin Valley Jaycees and the Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce.

In 1981 Don and his wife Judi purchased the Stroud-Lawrence Funeral Home; they had started working at the Chagrin Falls Mortuary in 1968 when it was owned by the Stroud Family.

On September 8, 2000 Don gave the commencement address, "Stick With It" for the 121st graduating class of the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the Institute. His speech was based on the statement, "its not the destination that is important . . . is the journey. There is no better time to be happy than right now."

The Don Lawrence Scholarship Fund was established to provide an incentive for new licenses and mortuary educational institutions.

Robert C. Carter filled the secretary position during the months of transition to a new full-time OEA secretary who was announced in the FOCUS Winter edition 2003..

Don had a unique sense of humor which was found throughout the years when Don served as editor of the official OEA publication ***The Focus***. In one of his last editions Don ran this "Thought for the Day". . . *"when you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so that when you die, you're the one smiling and everyone around you is crying."*

David G. Hicks

OEA Secretary 2003 – 2016

In October of 2002 at a meeting of the OEA held at CCMS David G. Hicks, offered his services to serve as permanent secretary of the OEA. He was duly elected at a Board Meeting held in Columbus on November 12, 2002. Charles W. (Bill) Eberle was President.

A native of Cincinnati, he is a graduate of Roger Bacon High School; a 1994 CCMS graduate with a BMS degree. He has been in the employ of Schafer & Busby and the Paul Young Funeral Homes. After a number of years in mortuary education with CCMS David moved into the area of sales in the funeral service market as a representative with the Pierce (Wilbert) Company. This affords him an opportunity to frequently be a presenter at mortuary schools, and funeral service associations. As an international speaker he has presented at the Keele University Lecture series sponsored by the British Institute of Embalmers.

David and his wife Julie are the parents of three sons. Hobbies include N-Scale model railroading. He is an expert in the life and times of Dr. John Hunter noted Scottish/English anatomist of the eighteenth century.

Like Don Lawrence David is blessed with a unique sense of humor. OEA Board meetings conducted by David are always lively and entertaining. He constantly reminds members of organizational structure as depicted in scenes from the *Godfather* movies. . . . “ Michael, we’re bigger than U.S. Steele” or “ Its just business”

David does an outstanding job scheduling the OEA seasonal meetings, obtaining the speakers, editing the OEA Focus. with a circulation of 1,200 and maintaining membership records for the more than 600 Ohio Embalmers Association members. .

Hicks (on right) pictured below with William “Ziggy” Zwicharowski, Speaker at Cleveland meeting



The Ohio Embalmers' Association Speakers - Twenty-Five Years, 1991 - 2016

Adams, Jack (2001,1997) The Dodge Company,Difficult Embalming Cases
Alexander, Brian (2007) Cadaver Dogs
Babcock, Edward (2013,2010) DMORT
Barkley, Scott (1997) Vaults
Bass, Dr. William M.,III (2000) “The Body Farm”
Becker, Dr. William (2007) Emerging Infectious Diseases
Bedino, James (1995,1991) Champion Company, Embalming Chemicals
Beisser, Cynthia S.,M.D. (1992)Forensic Pathology, Lucas County Coroner’s Office
Berry, Daniel (1992) Organ and Tissue Procurement and Donation
Bloom, Donald E. (1999,1994) Mass Fatalities
Brake, Troy L. (2009) Cremation Consumers
Brown, Terry (1995) Computers
Buesching, William J.,Ph.D. (1993) Contagious Diseases
Buhrig, Bob (2002) Dodge Company
Burns, Robert A. (1996) Dental Pathology, Lucas County Coroner’s Office
Canine, John D.,Ph.D. (1997) Psychology
Carter, Robert C. (2001) OFDA President
Casto, Byran D., M.D. (2003) Montgomery County Coroner’s Office
Chew, John (1998) Embalmer’s Supply Company
Collison, Kim (2001) Preparation Room Environment
Conner, John (1993) Vital Statistics
Conrad, Paul (2015) OSHA

Cunningham, Ann (2007) Ohio State Board
Danshroder, William (1997) Vital Statistics
Dashner, Dr. Roger (2015) Vascular Anatomy
Docherty, Dr. John (2003) Smallpox as a Weapon
Dolinak, Dr. David (2006) Forensic Pathology from Womb to Tomb
Dorn, James (1995) Cincinnati College, Embalming Chemistry
Douthit, Donald (2004,1998,1997,1995) Cincinnati College – Embalming Issues
Dutko, Teresa (1997) Cincinnati College, SIDS
Eastman, Dr. Joseph (2014) Ohio University – Vascular Pathology
Eberle, Bill (2012) The Titanic Story
Ferfolia, Donald, J.D. (2012) Cremation Legal Issues
Erel, Sharon, M.D. (2005) Hospice
Finch, Gary (2013) OSHA
Fisher, Joan (1992,1991) Classic Cosmetics
Flory, Dan, Ph.D. (1998,1992 Cincinnati College; Mortuary Education)
Forney, Robert B., Jr.Ph.D. (1996,1992) Lucas County Coroner's Office
Fountain, Vernie (1993) Facial and Head Trauma Restoration
Friel, Larry (2000) Disinterments and Disintombments
Fullerton, James (2011) Embalming from the Heart
Gallagher, Shawn P. (2007) Embalming Chemicals
Garrison, Barbara (1998,1997) OSHA
Gedert, Mike (2006,2004) DMORT
Gee, Sharon (2016, 2009,2005, 2001) Embalming
Gehlert, Stephen J. (2001) OFDA Executive Director
Germinaiuk, Humphrey, M.D. (2012,2010,2007,2006,2005) Trumbull County Coroner
Giles, Karen (2009,2008) Repatriation of Military Personnel ; Mass Fatality
Gilligan, Scott (2000) OFDA, NFDA Legal Matters
Gregris, James (1994) U.S. Air Disaster, Allegheny County Coroner's Office
Hadley, John (2007,2000) Ohio State Board
Hale, Stephen T. (1992) Sculptor and Artist – Human Identification
Hammelrath, Denise (2002) Cincinnati College
Harshbarger, Kent E. M.D.,J.D. (2016,2013,2003) Forensic Science
Hayes, Nelson (2008,2006,2005,2001) Pierce Chemical, Embalming
Henry, Gene (2003) Embalming Issues
Hicks, David (2015,2012,2011,2010,2008,2005,2004) Embalming Theory, John Hunter, British Customs
Hoffman, Keith (1993) Medical Waste
Hughes, Dr. Keith J. (2011,2010) Bacterial Study on Cadavers
Husband, Roger (2006) Wayne State University
Icacobucci, Tony (1995) Funeral Home Employment ; Organ Procurement
Inman, Robert (2006,2004,2003,1995) Embalming
Johnson, Edward C. (1994) Restorative Art
Johnson, Melissa (2000,1999,1994) Embalming, Restorative Art
Keberle, Sylvia (1997)Vital Statistics
Killingsworth, Robert C. (2015) Funeral home design –Stuart Todd, Inc.
Kincaid, Don (2014,2007)) Ohio University Anatomical Department; Plastination
Klaameyer, Tom (1995) Head Trauma
Kuby, Tom (1997) Stress and Burnout
Kudlinski, Garry J. (2005) OSHA
LaFramboise, Ray (1998) ESCO
Lambourne, Debra L. (1993) DNA
Lattimer, Mark (2008,2005) Life Bank/Coroner/Funeral Home Liaison

Lawrence, Don (1995) Embalming Changes
Lechman, Mefry (1998) Children's Miracle Network
Lechner, Col. Jack E., Jr. (2012) Arlington National Cemetery
Lemasters, Poul, J.D. (2012,2011,2010)Funeral Service Legal Issues
Lembach, Richard G.,M.D. Cornea Surgery
Locker, Ann W., RN (1998) HIV
McConnaughey, Robert (2012) Alkaline Hydrolysis
Main, Joe (2010,2005,2004,1995) CJD, Long Bone Donors; DMORT
Marsaglia, Joseph (2012,1994) U.S. Air Disaster :OSHA
Mayer, Robert G. (2015,2013,2010,2008,2006,2004,1999,1997) Embalming; Restorative Art
McNabb, Phyllis (1994) Eye Enucleation
Mecklenburg, Edmund (1994) Cuyahoga County Emergency Management
Minnich, Nathan C. (2005,2004) Jaundice Embalming
Moorfield, Thomas (1994) Fingerprints/ U.S. Air Disaster
Mountain, Rodney, M.D. (1994) Eye Enculeation
Murray, Mike (2008) Astral Casket
Nagy, Dr. Frank (2003) Anatomy (Wright State University)
Negulesco, John A.,M.D. (1994) Anatomy of the Eye (Ohio State U.)
Nilsen, Ted (2004) San Diego Coroner's Office
Ogrodnik, Eugene C. (2012) Mortuary Education
Parrott, M.D. (2002) Hamilton County Coroner's Office
Patrick, James R.,M.D. (1998,1996,1992) Lucas County Coroner
Peoples, William (2015,2011) Marietta, Ohio :Funeral Museum, "Get Low"
Phillips, David E. (1992) Organ and Tissue Procurement
Phillips, Laura T.,R.N. (2005) Hospice
Pinkerton, James (1994) U.S. Air Disaster
Piper, Walter (1995) Head Trauma
Pludeman, John B. (1999) Fairview Mausoleum Disinternments
Poritsky, Ray, M.D. (1995) Case Western Reserve – Anatomy
Reese, Cheri (2007) CJD
Reifsteck, Tim (2001) Aftermath Inc.
Ritchie, Shane A.S. (2015) Advanced Restorations
Robbins, Brenda (2013) Tissue Donation
Rork, Rick (2008) Pierce Chemical
Rosenacker, Frank, J.D. (2002) Legal Issues for the Embalmer
Rosenthal, Dr. (2010) Postmortem Infections
Rospert, Dan (2015) Working with Tissue Banks
Russell, John P. (1995) Bio-medical Liquid Waste Disposition
Sanderson, Amy (1992) Forensic Science – Michigan State Police
Saul, Dr. Frank P., (1996,1992) Anthropology Lucas County Coroner's Office
Saul, Julie M. (1996,1992) Anthropology
Schmidt, Tim (2006,2004) DMORT
Schneider, Mark (1994) Eye Enucleation Restoration
Sexton, Robert E.,J.D. Cemetery Disputes
Shank, Robert (2009,2006,2004,2002) DMORT
Shepardson, Thomas (1994) National Foundation of Mortuary Care
Shumate, Kate (2007) Cadaver Dogs
Sledzik, Paul S. (1996) Armed Forces Museum , DMORT
Smith, Matt (2008) Embalming and Restorative Art
Spangler, Ned (1992) Clark Vault Co.
Spriggle, James C. (1994) FBI Fingerprint Specialist

Spurlock, Dr. Linda(2008) Facial Physiognomy
Strickland, Daniel, D.D.S. (1992) Forensic Odontology, Lucas County Coroner
Tackett, David (2013,2012,2009,2006,1998,1997)Cremation, Clergy Relations, Personnel; Alamo
Tate, Larry R.,M.D. (2009,2007,1993) Franklin County Coroner
Teas, Jeffrey L. (2000) Western Reserve National Cemetery
Timm, Krista, M.D. (2015) Forensic Pathology
Tobias, David (2003) Ohio State Board
Van Atta, Ronald (1995) Ohio State Board
Van Beck, Todd (2016,2006,1995) Funeral Service Psychology , Lincoln/Jefferson Funerals
Vade Bon Coeur, Richard (2013,2011,2009,2007,2005) Forensic Science
Walters, Jim (1996,1991) Embalming
Wasylyshyn, Mark (2005) Law Enforcement and Funerals
Wenzel, Karl (2011) Postmortem Restoration
Werstak, Kenneth R. (2010) FBI
Whittaker, Ken (2006) Dallas Institute, Restorations
Williams, Randy (2011) Dissection Embalming
Zemek, Joseph (1994) Emergency Medical Services , Cleveland Hopkins Airport
Ziegler, Mary (2009) Cremation Consumers

Various Photos of Meetings and Seminars



The Late Gene Sujkowski, Past President and Board Member. A good man! Gene's father, Eugene Sujkowski, was also a past president of the OEA.



L-R Teresa Dutko, Bill Peoples, Bruce Borowski and Mike Patrick

Teresa Dutko inspects the sign in sheet at an OEA Seminar held at CCMS as Bill Peoples, Bruce Borowski and Mike Patrick do nothing.

Bruce Borowski's father, Bernie, was also a past president of the OEA





Don Lawrence, Robert Inman, George Pugh, Don Kincaid, David Lane

Always a fashionable lot. Jack Higgins (Left) addresses OEA at unknown seminar. (Right) Two unidentified gentleman and Dale Windon solve the worlds problem.... Pre-inject or not?

Inman, Pugh and Kincaid

Jim Bowhser and Bernie Borowski



Robert J. Inman



Unidentified Seminar



Mayer, Hicks and David McGowan, Keele University, UK. Sept 2010.
Both Hicks and Mayer addressed the group gathered for the Biennial Conference of British Institute of Embalmers (BIE) in Stoke on Trent, England.



Robert G. Mayer, Jr., FBIE and Peter Ball, FBIE. Taken June of 2009 at BIE Offices in Knowle, England. Mayer is one of only four Americans who have been elected a Fellow of the British Institute of Embalmers. Robert Inman, Arnold Dodge and Edward Johnson are the others

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