



FCACO

Funeral Consumers Alliance
of Central Ohio

*A Memorial Society
"as defined by the FTC"*

P.O. Box 14835
Columbus, Ohio 43214

www.funeralsohio.org • 614.263.4632

News

FCACO Mission Statement

- To promote end-of-life planning and preparation
- To outline practical steps to be taken before death
- To inform and instruct the public concerning the funeral industry
- To offer reasonably priced options for dealing with remains at death
- To monitor the funeral industry on a local and statewide level
- To maintain public awareness and wariness through action, education and publications

Funeral Advice You Can Trust

Founded in 1953, FCACO is one of more than 70 similar alliances across the country working in conjunction with the national Funeral Consumers Alliance. We are run by volunteers and have no connection with the funeral industry, or any religious group. Membership is open to all in our service area that includes Columbus, Springfield, Yellow Springs, Dayton and outlying areas.

FCACO invites your inquiries. Call (614) 263-4632 or visit us at www.funeralsohio.org.

2016-2017 Board Members

President: Vivian Fiscus

President Elect: Marylou MacDonald

Past President: Alice Faryna

Treasurer: Celia Elkins

Secretary: Su Ann Farnlacher

Membership Secretary: Cathy Elkins

Directors: Pat Hoffman,

Marian Garcia and Nancy Alonzo

FCACO—Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

From the President's Desk

Save the Date: Annual Meeting • May 20, 2017

On May 20 we will 'make the best of it' when we hold our annual meeting. The meeting, which begins at noon, will start with a free light lunch. We will meet at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 93 W. Weisheimer Road, Columbus, OH. Please call the Funeral



**Reverend
Jef Gamblee
2017 Annual Meeting
Guest Speaker**

Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio (FCACO) at (614) 263-4632 to reserve your spot for lunch.

This year our program will feature the Rev. Jef Gamblee, a hospice chaplain and Unitarian Universalist minister, who will speak on

'Making the Best of It'.

The son of a burial casket sales-

man, Gamblee has been involved in the end-of-life ministry since the early 1990's. He began as a volunteer at Hospice of Cincinnati and then, after moving to New York, served five years as night chaplain at Calvary Hospital, a 200 bed in-patient hospice in the Bronx. Gamblee served four UU congregations in the New York area. While working at the last two, he split his time between congregational work and serving as a chaplain for Life Source Services Hospice in Paramus, NJ. He now lives in Westerville with his wife of 41 years, Patricia Wallendjack, where they serve as staff for their cat Bell. He is a member of the First UU Church of Columbus and is active in BREAD, one of the church's social justice projects. Prior to being ordained in 2009, Gamblee had a successful career in the broadcasting industry. He was nominated for

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Visit
**Funeral Consumers
Alliance of Central
Ohio on Facebook.**

FCACO attempts to verify all information in this newsletter, but cannot guarantee all. Legal questions should be directed to your attorney.



Neptune Society and Prepaid Cremation

by Alice Faryna

Service Corporation International (SCI) is the largest provider of funeral, cremation and cemetery services in the USA. It operates in 42 states at over 4000 sites and includes a number of affiliates such as Dignity Memorial and the Neptune Society which have facilities in the Central Ohio area. Marketing meetings offering free lunch are held periodically in Central Ohio. The Neptune Society offers a prepaid cremation plan which includes the transfer of the body from the place of death within a radius of 75 miles from the beneficiary's address to a crematory, cremation in a standard cardboard container, and disposition of the remains by common scattering at sea, or return to an authorized person.

The standard Neptune plan costs \$1999 as of March 2017. Members interested in prepaid cremation plans should consult our literature on such plans and obtain General Price Lists from area funeral homes to compare prices. Please see the article on a national survey comparing costs of the independent funeral homes with SCI plans on page 3.

From the President's Desk continued...

four regional Emmys and took two home in the 1980's.

On another note:

Your board is working to ensure its ability to continue to serve our members. We have trimmed our budget by reducing our rent while still looking at the option of closing the office. We are in the process of going to Google Talk which will definitely cut the telephone bill down to size. Effective March 1, 2017, we raised the one-time membership fee from \$40 to \$50. Any and all suggestions are

welcome as we continue our quest to reduce expenses and maintain our level of service to FCACO members.

Please consider serving on our board. This organization, like all of us, is aging. However, without volunteer support and participation, this organization will not thrive. We have made serving on the board easier by doing more of our work online and only holding business meetings as needed. I look forward to your suggestions on how we can maintain our role in your lives.

Slate of Officers for 2017-2018

President:
Marylou MacDonald

President Elect:
Open

Past President:
Vivan Fiscus

Treasurer:
Celia Elkins

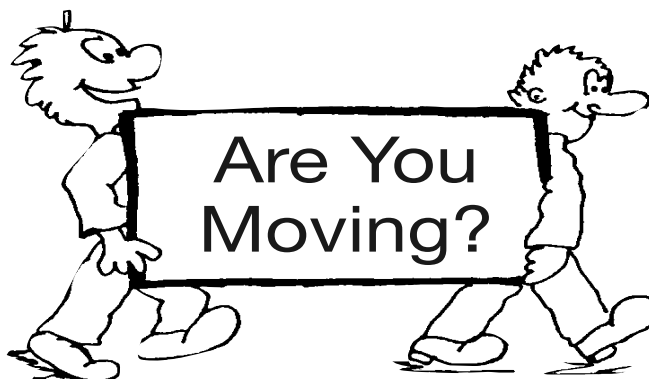
Recording Secretary:
Su Ann Farnlacher

Membership Secretary:
Cathy Elkins

Directors
with terms to 2020:
Sharon Oliver
Michel Coconis

Time to Update Your Files?

We will have forms at the annual meeting for you to complete. Many of you made your arrangements years ago when you joined. However, with the passage of time, your feelings about your end of life arrangements may have changed. This will give you the chance to update your information for our files. Please remember to make copies for those who will be handling your end of life arrangements.



Please let us know
your new address.

Call the office at
(614) 263-4632

or send a message to
info@funeralsohio.org.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

There are no words to express how much your donations mean to our organization. We are truly grateful that you are so generous in sharing your resources with us. Here is the list of 2016 donors:

Charles Abbey	Jann Ichida	E.W. Powell
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Frederick Hunker		

New Funeral Consumers Alliance Survey

by Cathy Elkins

A national teleconference was held on March 6, 2017. Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) Executive Director Josh Slocum and Stephen Brobeck, Executive Director of Consumer Federation of America, reported the results of a survey done in nine major metropolitan areas comparing costs of funeral and cremation services between independent funeral homes and Service Corporation International, a provider of funeral, cremation and cemetery services in the USA. The survey compared prices for three options: simple cremation, simple burial, full service funeral. The median price difference was that SCI funeral homes were 42 to 72 percent higher to the consumer.

The purpose of this teleconference was to put pressure on the Federal Trade Commission to update its Funeral Rule, which mandates that all funeral homes must provide the public with a written list of their charges either from phone requests or walk-in requests. Funeral Consumers Alliance and the Consumer Federation of America want the Federal Trade Commission to mandate that all funeral home web sites include their prices.

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio
P.O. Box 14835
Columbus OH 43214-0835

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FCACO Resources

(Please keep this in a handy place)

Body Donation at OSU

(614) 292-4832 • forms: <http://go.osu.edu/bodydonation>

Body Donation at Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University

(937) 775-3066 • www.med.wright.edu/agp

LOOP (Lifeline of Ohio Organ Procurement)

(includes cornea donations)

(877) 223-6667 • www.lifelineofohio.org

Franklin County Probate Court

advanced directives including "Funeral Agent" form

www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate

Funeral Consumers Alliance

has many useful documents that can be downloaded at

www.funerals.org

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio (FCACO)

(614) 263-4632 • **www.funeralsohio.org**

(planning forms, copies of old newsletters, funeral home surveys
and other information)

FCACO contracted providers for discounted services:

Cook and Son-Pallay Funeral Home (in Columbus) **(614) 444-7861**

Conroy Funeral Home (in Springfield) **(937) 324-4973**

Reserved

Call

(614) 263-4632

now

to reserve

a lunch spot

at our

Annual Meeting

on May 20th.