



Funeral Consumers
Alliance
of Central Ohio
P.O. Box 14835
Columbus OH 43214
(614) 263 4632
www.funeralsohio.org
Email:
info@funeralsohio.org

FCCAO News

Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

FCACO Mission Statement

- To promote end-of-life planning and preparation
- To outline practical steps to take 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 through action, education and publications

Funeral Advice You Can Trust

Founded in 1953, FCACO is a 501(C)3 organization run entirely by volunteers who have no connection to the funeral industry or any religious group. Our service area for members includes Columbus and surrounding counties, serving Springfield, Urbana, Yellow Springs, and Dayton.

FCACO is an affiliate of the national organization: Funeral Consumers Alliance, which is actively involved in improving regulation of the funeral industry through the Federal Trade Commission.

2019-2020 Board Members:

President: Su Ann Farnlacher
Past President: Marylou MacDonald
Treasurer: Celia Elkins
Recording Secretary: Michel Coconis
Membership Secretary: Cathy Elkins
Director: Phyllis Byard
Director: Sheila Fox
Director: Nancy Alonzo
Director: Dennis Rankin

NOTICE: FCACO Annual Meeting Rescheduled
Tentative new date: Saturday, October 31, 2020, 12-2pm

The FCACO Board of Directors, facing the uncertainty of future public gatherings in light of the ongoing spread of COVID-19, made a decision to postpone our Annual Meeting from the usual mid-May timeframe to the fall. We are acting out of an abundance of caution as well as concern for the health and well-being of our attendees, board members, church staff, and volunteers. There will be an election at the fall meeting with the current Board members and Officers agreeing to hold their existing positions throughout this time. A slate of officers will be published in the next newsletter. If, in the event of a need to otherwise hold the meeting, we may hold a vote using the mail, email, and other electronic means should we be unable to physically meet for this vote.

Meanwhile, this public crisis affords us an opportunity to review many aspects of our organization and to assess how we can communicate with each other more efficiently, less expensively, and in a more timely manner, still respecting the preferences of existing members. At this time, we ask that you send an email to info@funeralsohio.org with **your current EMAIL address** as soon as possible. We encourage you to go online and login to our **Facebook page** and to consider using **Twitter** for updates. Finally, our website will be under review, but we will also post updates to programming, organizational materials, and meetings via this website and the Facebook calendar.

Email: info@funeralsohio.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/funeralconsumersallianceofcentralohio>
Twitter: [@ColumbusFuneral](https://twitter.com/ColumbusFuneral)
Website: <http://www.funeralsohio.org/>
Phone: 614-263-4632
Mail: Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio
P. O. Box 14835 Columbus, OH 43214-0835



From the President's Desk

Su Ann Farnlacher

Dear Members,

Covid-19 sequestering has prompted me to wander into uncharted territory lately. As a senior, I have attempted to do my end of life planning. If people have not planned by now, when will they? If you, too, have dragged your feet, why not do it now? This is a good time to review your will and advanced directives to see if changes are necessary. Another thing to consider is appointing a digital executor or power of attorney for online assets, social media accounts or online banking accounts.

<https://www.legalzoom.com/articles/including-digital-assets-in-your-estate-plan>

This action will make your loved ones' lives much easier after you are gone.

As you know FCACO moved out of its rental office. Documents and files were moved to the cloud, and older documents, to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus where space is tight but free. We are trying to be good stewards of our precious resources.

Stay healthy.



**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL DONORS!**

*Sincere apologies if we have
missed anyone...*

Anonymous	Catherine E. Elkins	Mary Abicht Lemke	Jane Reisman
Nancy Alonzo	Su Ann Farnlacher	Sarah Luckay	Robert Rideout
Kathleen Anderson	Alice Faryna	Margaret Lynd	R. Ian Rossington
Toshiko Asakawa	Sheila Fox	Julian Markels	Linda Royalty
Mary Babcock	Elizabeth Gabel	Joan Markos	William A. Russo
Margrit S. Ballard & J. Groom	Kenneth Goodrich	Thomas McDowell	Carolyn Sandy
Margaret Banning	Shirley A. Hatfield	Phil Meeks	Robert J. & Jane N. Scott
Rubin & Charlotte Battino	Debra Heimann	David E. Melick	Thomas S. Scott
Agnes N. Benedict	Deborah Henderson	P. Kelly Milledge	Muriel Standley
Andree A. Bognar	Carolyn Hippensteel	Dan Miller	Alice Jean Thomson
Kathleen Boston	Roger Johnson	Marie A. Miller	Nancy G. Van Deusen
Esther Boykin	Marjorie Kessler	Robert Mills & Judith Kleen	Richard & Janet Waters
Carol J. Branscomb	Robert Kirkbride	Marguerite C. Molk	Diana Welsh
Duane Buck & Ellen Rapkin	Harriet Knolls-Walker	George Myers	Lois D. Whealey
Paul & Phyllis Byard	Joseph Kohler	Betty Nelson & Liane M. Dumolt	Carole Wilhelm
Patricia & Thomas Caruso	Shirley Kristensen	Richard Niemann	Omha Willette
Robert J. Caswell	Norma Kruger	Fred Pastor	David Williams
Ted & Bobbie Celeste	Calvin & Ilene Kunin	Bob and Sue Postle	Herbert L. Weyl
Kristine Cox	Julian Larson	Nancy & Len Powlick	Madge B. Staley-Will
Kathleen Curley	Christian E. Laver	Dennis Rankin	
Mallory Dubois	Merilyn K. Lee		

Resources for Your Planning Folder

Body Donation

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

WSU: Boonshoft School of Medicine, Dayton, OH

(937) 775-3966: www.med.wright.edu/agp

Organ Donation

LOOP (Lifeline of Ohio Organ Procurement) (877) 223-6667

www.lifelineofohio.gov/probate

Advanced Directives forms Franklin County Probate Court:

www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate

Funeral Consumers Alliance: www.funerals.org

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio:

www.funeraslohio.org

(planning forms, newsletters, membership application, donations, etc.)

For FCACO members who choose to use our contracted discounted providers:

Columbus Area: Cook & Son-Pallay (614) 444-7861

Dayton/Springfield area: Conroy Funeral Home: (937) 324 4973

FCA NEWS

Executive Director Josh Slocum has been urging the Federal Trade Commission to update its Funeral Rule. The rule specifies the information funeral homes must put in their General Price Lists. The Rule was last updated in 1994. The FTC recently posted questions about updates, soliciting public comments by April 14, 2020. Item 21 asked: "Should all funeral providers be required to post their itemized GPLs, CPLs or OBCPLs online? Why or why not?"

Slocum has noted that more and more people have embraced the digital age to find information and make purchases online. It is time for GPLs to be online as well.

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The Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

Cathy Elkins

The Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors inspects, handles complaints and writes rules pertaining to legislation for cremation facilities and funeral homes. It has the authority to levy fines and close facilities.

On October 1, 2017, The Preneed Recovery Fund was established. Funeral homes pay the Board \$10 for every preneed funeral contract sold. Families that purchase a preneed contract are reimbursed if a funeral home misuses the payment for a prepaid plan. Presently, the Preneed Fund has a balance of slightly less than \$500,000. On January 2020, the Board approved its first payment to a bereaved family.

At the March 18, 2020, meeting, the Board approved three more preneed payments and tabled two. (It appears there are still some bad actors out there in the funeral industry.)

Also, David Ingram resigned as Executive Director of this Board, effective 12/27/2019. I believe he did an exceptional job. He was replaced by Cheryl Grossman, effective 12/29/2019. Ms. Grossman represented the 23rd Ohio House District from 2009 to 2016 and served as a councilwoman and mayor of Grove City.

Lastly, the President of the Board, William Wappner, mentioned recent legislation in Washington State about that state's approval of deceased body composting and alkaline hydrolysis. He indicated there were problems with this legislation. The Board took no action.

Funerals During Pandemics

Our Executive Director, Josh Slocum, recently prepared a video on this subject. It contains useful information on safe practices. You can view the video by going to youtube and searching for Funeral Consumers Alliance, or entering this link into your browser:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAFD_v1u6mU&feature=youtu.be

CHECK OUT THESE USEFUL RESOURCES

At our website www.funeralsohio.org:

1. What To Do When Death Occurs
2. Ohio Disposition Form (to designate a person to arrange disposition of your remains)
3. Survivors Checklist
4. A Letter to My Family

On the national website: www.funerals.org

(Go to: *Resources*, then to *FAQ pamphlets*.) These are a few of them:

1. Green Burial
2. Should You Prepay Your Funeral?
3. Death Away From Home
4. Embalming Explained
5. Cremation Explained

FCACO attempts to verify all information in this newsletter. Legal questions should be directed to your attorney.

Coronavirus Is Spurring a New Era of Digital Funerals

According to Eleanor Cummins, journalist writing in OneZero, roughly 1 in 5 American funeral homes have livestreaming capabilities.

Livestreaming can be helpful when mourners can't afford to travel or won't be able to make it to the funeral in time.

It's also useful during a pandemic when people are required to stay at home.

Alert! FCACO Annual meeting postponed. See page 1

