



FCACO

Funeral Consumers Alliance
of Central Ohio

A Memorial Society
"as defined by the FTC"

(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 110 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) 264-4632 or visit us at www.funeralsohio.org.

2009-2010 Board Members

Past President: Sarah Wurdlow

President: Phyllis Byard

President Elect: Su Ann Farnlacher

Treasurer: Julian Larson

Secretary: Nancy Alonzo

Membership Secretary: Alice Faryna

Newsletter Editor: Dwight Sharp

Directors: Deborah Cox,

Su Ann Farnlacher, Dave Hedden,

Dwight Sharp, Frank Timmons

FCACO—Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

Ann Harr to Speak at Annual Meeting

Ann Harr is a social worker who works in an area hospital. She is the latest member of our Board of Directors.

In the past few years Ann became interested and active in a relatively new (old) endeavor—that of helping people learn how to arrange and

manage a "home funeral" with or without a funeral director. Many years ago, before people started moving all over the country (think WWII), having a funeral in the home was the ordinary, standard procedure. Then the style



changed and funeral homes became the home away from home and funeral directors took over dealing with our dead. Funeral Director's Associations became powerful lobbyists in most states and many of the family's responsibilities and care were absorbed to the

point that the customs for home burial were no longer being handed down from generation to generation. There is a national movement trying to revive these customs. Ann will discuss actual cases she has knowledge of in Ohio.

Empower Your Family with FCACO Facts

Don't forget to tell your family you are a FCACO member! We get many phone calls from survivors who had no idea what your membership meant, or even that you were a member. We have brochures that we can provide to you to start the conversation. Give us a call, or look at the FCA Web site, www.funerals.org to see what is available. Also, don't forget to complete

your Advanced Directives (Living Will, Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, Designation of Agent for Disposition of Bodies, and any other legal documents you and your attorney decide you need). If you need copies, call the office. Make sure you tell your next-of-kin where everything is! (And please don't put papers needed at death in your safe deposit box).

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

Spring/Summer 2010

Notes from Our Membership Secretary

Alice Faryna

So far this fiscal year we have added 36 new members and lost 40 due to transfers or death. We are grateful to the office volunteers (Kathleen Boston and Linda Thompson) who helped update the membership files. We are adding telephone numbers and email addresses as we receive them.

Please include them in any correspondence with the office. As postage costs increase and services decline, we expect more communication to take place via the internet. All of our forms can be sent as attachments which is convenient for members to keep a permanent copy on their computers.

I would like to ask all members to send me their current email address (if you have one) and phone number to alicyna@yahoo.com or phone me at the office at (614) 263-4632. Also, if you move, please send us your new address to help us to save on postage for returns and forwarding.

Looking for People

Unknowns...people you've heard of who had joined the for-profit group, Ohio Cremation and Memorial Society, Inc., thinking they were joining us, the non-profit. Do you know anyone who fits that description? If so, could you give them a call to see if we could contact them or they us. There is no problem. We're just trying to get an idea of that particular "head count."

Message from the President

This is my final message as President of FCACO and I'm keeping it short and sweet. I've been active locally and nationally for the past 25 years. People ask me how (and why) I keep at it! I suppose the answer is, I never tire of the good work we do. I am always amazed at how much we accomplish with so little. The volunteer spirit is certainly alive and well in Columbus, Ohio! Many of our board members have been loyal volunteers for years. We do, of course, need more volunteers to continue to do the work we do and even expand.



Phyllis Byard,
FCACO President

Having continuity in an organization is very important. However, it is equally important that new faces join with us to ensure the future of the organization. Consider becoming a part of the Board of Directors, or a committee member or even a committee chair. Get to know the organization and you'll be surprised at how invigorating and even fun the work can be.

As consumer advocates we have a need for continuous oversight of the industry. Unfriendly legislation can sometimes creep in when one least expects it, and without us watching, who would know?

I'll be around next year as the Past President to help wherever I'm needed. Thanks for the many kind words.

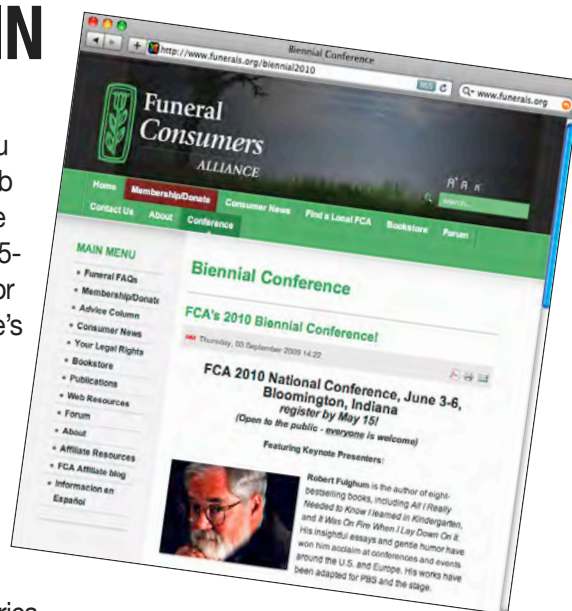
FCA Biennial Meeting to be held in Bloomington, IN

A really exciting meeting is being planned for June 3-6, 2010 and you can go! Simply look at the FCA Web site, www.funerals.org, to get all the details, or phone them at 1-800-765-0170. Unfortunately, the deadline for early registration is May 15th, (there's a \$30 late fee after that) but if you hurry you can make it!

This promises to be a wonderful meeting, and will feature best-selling author, Robert Fulghum and U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, who has introduced legislation in the Congress to bring cemeteries, crematories and third-party retailers under the jurisdiction of the Funeral Rule. Besides that, we can drive there!! There may even be some car pooling going on. Phone the office, (614) 263-4632, to let us know if you're going and would like to car pool. Also featured is Daniel F. Evans, Jr., President and CEO of Clarian Health, discussing the importance of

advance planning and how healthcare workers and funeral consumer organization can work together to encourage comprehensive end-of-life planning.

If you have never been to an FCA Biennial you will be stunned at the interesting and informative time you'll have. See you there!



Annual Meeting Location Changes in 2010

On May 22, 2010 we will have our Annual Meeting at the Maple Grove United Methodist Church, corner of Henderson Road and N. High Street in Columbus. Featured speaker will be Ann Harr (see page 1). We will be serving a light lunch at 12 noon. The meeting and presentation will begin at 1 PM. There is an elevator in the church. Please return your reservation form as soon as possible so that we may make an accurate count for the caterers. Please note that there is no price listed on the reservation form. That is not a mistake. Because of several factors, we have decided that this year at least, we are not asking people to pay

for their lunch. Those factors include: the current state of the economy; the generosity of our membership with their donations; the frugality of our Board of Directors (the pennies really do "squeal"!); the willingness of our members and even their family members to volunteer (such as working on our computer and the computer network free-of-charge); and the willingness of our board to volunteer their cooking abilities! We also hope that this move will encourage many more members to attend the meeting than normally do. But we still need to know how many are coming for lunch, so please, plan to come to hear

our wonderful speaker and support your Board of Directors. Make your reservations now!

As usual, lunch will be served at noon, with the business meeting and speaker beginning at 1:00. You're welcome to come to just the meeting and speaker, if the food doesn't interest you.

To reach the church's parking lot, be on N. High Street and turn West on Aldrich Road (1 block South of Henderson Road). The parking lot is on the right next to the church. Walk under the porch and through the doors marked "Main Entrance." Proceed to the lower level either by the stairs or the elevator.

FCACO Reservation for Annual Meeting

You Are Invited!
FCACO 2010 Annual Meeting
Maple Grove United Methodist Church
Corner Henderson Road and North High Street

12 Noon on May 22, 2010
Luncheon / Buffet will be served promptly at 12 Noon

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Telephone Number _____

Reservations for the Luncheon are required. R.S.V.P. by May 19, 2010

There will be NO tickets issued. Reservations will be checked at the door. For those who wish to attend ONLY the Annual Meeting and hear the featured speaker, no reservation is needed. Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 PM. You may also phone in your reservations to the office phone, (614) 263-4632 or email us at info@funeralsohio.org.

Please check or indicate your meal preference from the choices below:

- ☐ Chicken a la King & Mashed Potatoes
- ☐ Beef Stroganoff & Mashed Potatoes
- ☐ Vegetarian Lasagna

All meals include Salad, Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Tea, Punch or Water and Dessert (Fruit Cup & Cookies).

A Huge Thanks to Our Donors

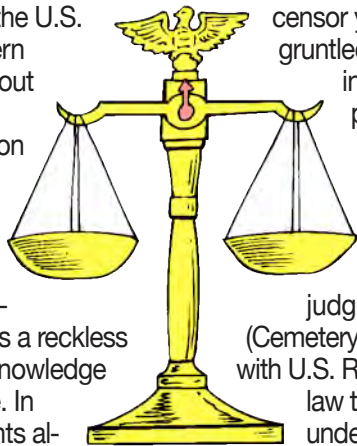
Mary Abbecht-Lemke	Harry Evarts	Calvin & Ilene Kunin	Linda Royalty
Joan Ackerman	Dr. & Mrs. J. Arthur Faber	Betty Leslie	Marie Ryan
Elinor & Chad Alger	Alice Faryna	Curt & Katherine Levis	Martha Saenger
Nancy Alonzo	Betsey Fletcher	Susan Logan	Helen & Henry Samuels
M. Ruris Altman	John & Betty Gabel	Richard & Joyce Long	Ray & Charlotte Schiff
Mary Ankrom	M. Giguere	Marie Lorz	Janet Schneider
Toshiko & George Asakawa	Don Good	Gultekin Ludden	Kathryn Schwartz
Marcella Baird	Kenneth Goodrich	Kenneth Lutz	Jane & Bob Scott
Harlow Ballard	Robert Gordon	Ken & Sylvia Marantz	Karen Shirley
Marie Batley	Robert & Sylvia Green	Lawson Marsh	Rufus Short
Charlotte Battino	Steven Griffing	Frank & Irene McCoy	Blaine Sickles
Carol & William Beale	Clair Hagan/Bauza	David Melick	James Siddens
Vickie Blaine	Bob Harrison	Margaret Merrill	Charles Siple
Dolores Bonier	Jane Harsh	Jeredith Merrin	Ralph & Alice Stacy
Kathleen Boston	Dave & Karen Hedden	Phillip Milledge	Linda Sykora
Dolores Bower	Marilyn Herd	C.Dan & Helen Miller	John & LouAnne Teward
Gillian Brayshaw *	Anna Herolf	Paul Miller	Madelon Timmons
Alton & Geneva Broshane	Patricia Herron	Dorothy Miller	Clyde Tipton, Jr.
Paul & Phyllis Byard	Lawrence Herson	Patricia Miller	Marguerite Turnbull
Patricia Carey	Mary & George Hoffman	Marguerite Molk	Thomas Verdon
Tom & Pat Caruso	Leon Holster	M & David Neeley	Gisela Vitt
Gary Casey	Bruce & Juliet Johnson	Myrleann Newton	Richard T. Ward, Sr
Robert & Lucy Caswell	Pat & Alfred Kealey	Ruby Nicholson	Paul & Eileen Webb
Hubert & Evelyn Clark	MJ & Kenneth Kennedy	D.I. Nilsen	Herb & Rosella Weyl
Michel Coconis	Marjorie Kessler	Wayne Oliver	Lois & Robert Whealey
Kristine Cox	David Kessler	Eliz Persons	Bob & Carole Wilhelm
Gro Cox	Gregory King	Thomas Porch	Frank Williams
Lois & John Day	Robert & Janeen Kirkbride	James Portman	Donald Winchell
Parisi DeSapio	Joseph Knapik	Cary & Ann Rader	Warren Wolf
M. Helen Eier	Harriet Knolls	Robert & Ann Reves	Sarah Wurdlow
Cathy Elkins	Joe & Anita Kohler	Robert & Ruth Riegel	Lunette Zachau
Mary Ernsberger	Werner Kohles	Ann & David Rigney	
Richard Eschlman	Shirley Kristensen	William & Mary Riley	*IN MEMORIAM

News from National FCA

(Free Speech) Last year the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan threw out funeral director Thomas Lynch's libel and defamation suit against Funeral Consumers Alliance and two other defendants. The court stated in part:

"None of the evidence presented by Plaintiffs exhibits a reckless disregard for the truth or knowledge that statements were false. In fact, many of the statements alleged to support a finding of malice appear, based on the record before the court, to be true, and certainly [Plaintiffs] have not produced evidence that shows them to be patently false."

Josh Slocum, FCA's Executive Director notes: "It was important to clear FCA's name in this ridiculous suit, of course, but one of my overriding concerns was sending a clear message to the industry that we will not put up with legal bullying against our volunteer affiliates either. It was bad enough that Mr. Lynch dragged FCA National into court on these flimsy allegations; it was downright unethical to target the tiny FCA of Idaho (for merely printing commentary from another source). This is a victory for all of us. Do not be intimidated by blowhards. Do not

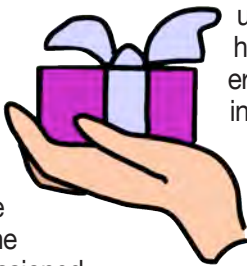


censor yourselves for fear of disgruntled businesses complaining. FCA National—and I personally—will not tolerate it and we will fight back. Never forget that you have a Constitutional right to speak on behalf of consumers, as this judgment affirms."

(Cemetery Abuses) FCA also worked with U.S. Rep Bobby Rush to craft a law that will bring cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the FTC Funeral Rule. Rush, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, is the sponsor of HR3655, the most important bill for grieving consumers in years. Representative Rush asked Josh Slocum to testify before the subcommittee. Josh says his goal was to show lawmakers that outrageous scandals (like the Burr Oak Cemetery desecration of 300 graves) were only the tip of the iceberg and that consumers have no federal protection from fraud and deception when buying cemetery property. Josh was pleased that the subcommittee members seemed informed and engaged and asked pertinent questions. (Representative Rush will be a featured speaker at the upcoming Biennial in Bloomington, Indiana in June.)

Donations Accepted

Yes, we're asking again. Isn't everyone? I think I've received more requests this year than ever before. Times are tough for non-profits. I remember about 20 years ago at one of our annual meetings, when the treasurer's report was given one of our members gave an impassioned plea to spend our money. She asked why we weren't spending and we were just keeping it! The treasurer's answer was that, even though we were financially relatively healthy then, that times might change and we'd be obliged to



use some of those savings. That has happened in the past several years and the value of our investments have dropped, too, like everyone else's. Do remember, your contributions to FCACO are tax deductible as we described as a 501(c)(3) public charity.

So, if each of our members sent in a small amount it would help to keep our operating funds adequate. Also, bequests would be a wonderful support for the future. Ask your attorney and call us if you need information.

Outreach Activities

We present a monthly meeting (4th Mondays) at the First UU Church, 93 W. Weisheimer Rd, Columbus 43214, Room 8 at 7 PM. Come refresh your memory about the organization and bring a friend who should know about us. Remember, we are the non-profit "memorial society" as defined by the FTC.

We are also presenting talks to various social worker groups in town. In fact, if you have access to an organization that would like to schedule a talk, call the office and let us know. We'll be glad to schedule one. As part of our outreach we will participate in the Westerville Police's S.O.S. (Save our Seniors) expo on April 24th. This is our third year of participating.

Although not exactly outreach, we are establishing a paypal account which will allow us to accept memberships and donations securely online (joining the 21st Century!). This will be under the "membership" tab on the Web site menu.

✓ Survivor's Checklist

We have completed our two-page Checklist for Survivors mentioned in our last newsletter. It can be found on our Web site at www.funeralsohio.org. There is also a single summary sheet titled "What to do When Death Occurs" that you can keep posted on a bulletin board for ready consultation.

Volunteer Positions

This year we have had a few volunteers and it really helps! But we could always use more help. Call the office, (614) 263-4632, to get a list of volunteer opportunities. Even if you don't live in Columbus there are many opportunities, the next important one being the Biennial Funeral Home Price Survey. Please call today!

Local FCACO Office

PO Box 14835
Columbus, OH 43214
Phone: (614) 263-4632
www.funeralsohio.org

National FCA Office

33 Patchen Road
South Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: (802) 865-8300
www.funerals.org

Our Providers:

■ Cook and Son-Pallay

Funeral Home
1631 Parsons Avenue,
Columbus, OH 43207
Phone: (614) 444-7861

■ Conroy Funeral Home, Inc.

1660 E. High Street,
Springfield, OH 45505
Phone: (937) 324-4973

And the Nominees Are... Officers and Directors for 2010-2011*

Executive Committee:

President – Su Ann Farnlacher
Past President – Phyllis Byard
President Elect – Alice Faryna
Treasurer – Julian Larson
Membership Secretary – Alice Faryna
Recording Secretary – Nancy Alonzo

Newsletter Editor – Dwight Sharp
Phyllis Byard

Directors:

Dave Hedden	(2011)*
Dwight Sharp	(2011)*
Frank Timmons	(2012)*
Ann Harr	(2012)*
Carol Bohumolski	(2013)*
Sue Pascual	(2013)*

*(End of term at end of FY)



*Nominations will also be accepted from the membership during the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting
Reservation Inside
Deadline: May 19th!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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