



Funeral Consumers Alliance  
of Central Ohio  
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Email: info@funeralsohio.org

# FCACO News

## ***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 monitor the funeral industry on local and statewide levels
- To maintain public awareness through action, education, and publications.
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## **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.

### **2019-2021 Board Members:**

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

## **From the President's Desk**

Su Ann Farnlacher

Dear members,  
What a productive year this has been! Your board of trustees, a dedicated group of volunteers, has worked hard. Dennis Rankin led us into the 2020's by updating our bylaws, code of regulations and job descriptions. He's also devoted hours comparing the paper membership form we all initially filled out to any computerized lists we developed. Plus, dedicated newsletter editor & former board member, Alice Faryna, with current membership chair, Cathy Elkins, meticulously looked at undeliverable newsletters to keep our membership numbers accurate. Phyllis Byard spearheaded a new outreach venture by contacting Value Pak, put together a committee who designed a front and back ad to be sent to 10,000 Columbus residents explaining that our 501(C)3 resources are **free**. We'll track the number of "hits" on our website to evaluate whether the ad was cost effective, of course. Almost all of our files are now stored in the cloud. Frustrated by not having the 2020 annual meeting due to Covid-19, we truly look forward to seeing you IN PERSON on November 6 2021, at 2:00 pm.

## **Slate of Officers and Directors**

Your Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following Board Officers and Directors serving from November 2021-May 2023

**President---Cathy Elkins**

**Past President—Su Farnlacher**

**President Elect---Vacant**

**Treasurer—Su Farnlacher**

**Recording Secretary—Heather Pierson**

**Membership Secretary—Cathy Elkins**

### **Directors:**

**Kristen Figg---through 2024**

**Jack Holdford--- through 2024**

**Ron Payne--- through 2024**

(Directors Phyllis Byard, Nancy Alonzo and Dennis Rankin remain on the Board until May 2022.) We extend our appreciation for a job well done to Sheila Fox, Celia Elkins and Marylou MacDonald, who will leave the Board.

The existing Officers' and Directors' terms of office have been disrupted by the pandemic which resulted in cancellation of our April 2021 annual meeting.

## Welcome to the Annual Meeting...In person! (with masks)

**Date: November 6, at 2 PM**

**Upper Arlington Public Library, 2800 Tremont Rd, 43221**



This meeting replaces the usual Spring meeting that had to be cancelled in 2020. There will be a brief business meeting with election of officers and an update on our polices and procedures, followed by our speaker, Donna Baker. Donna is a trained death doula, death educator and home funeral guide, certified by the International End-of-Life Doula Association. As a doula, Donna offers guidance on how to care for our dying loved ones. She gives families the tools they need to stay present throughout the process and inspires them to bring creativity and deeper meaning to conventional services. As a member of the National Home Funeral Alliance, she consults with families on post-death body preparation and home viewings. Donna has recently joined the board and planning committee which hopes to establish southeast Ohio's first natural burial ground.

Her website is: <https://columbuscommunitydeathcare.com>

A traffic stop



We are all a year older since our last annual meeting!

### Grim Humor

Have you ever seen owls cry at funerals?

No. They aren't mourning people



### 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](http://www.med.wright.edu/agp)

#### Organ Donation

LOOP (Lifeline of Ohio Organ Procurement)

(877) 223-6667 [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org)

**Advanced Directives forms** Franklin Co. Probate Court:  
<https://probate.franklincountyohio.gov/>, then <Search> for advanced directives

**Funeral Consumers Alliance:** [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)

**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio:**

[www.funeralsohio.org](http://www.funeralsohio.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

### More Grim Humor

#### What do you call a case of premature burial?

A Board member fell asleep while shopping for a casket. The building custodian mistakenly sent her to a funeral home. We apologize for this grave mistake.

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



# FCACO News

## People's Mortuary Museum

By Cathy Elkins

During a recent tour of Marietta, Ohio, the first official settlement in the Northwest Territory of the United States, I visited the Peoples Mortuary Museum. It houses an eclectic collection, depicting early funeral customs. On exhibit are several hearses, including a 1927 Henney and a horse-drawn hearse, built in 1895. Displays include period clothing for the deceased, early embalming equipment, advertising materials, funeral jewelry, and funeral equipment used in homes. Exhibits relate to adults and children. A visit to this museum is well worth the price admission, which is free, but donations are welcome. You can also visit online: <https://www.cawleyandpeoples.com/who-we-are/peoples-mortuary-museum>.

## Five Wishes--Aging With Dignity

By Sheila Fox

Five Wishes is an advance care document prepared by Aging With Dignity, a private, nonprofit organization with the mission of affirming the human dignity of every person facing the challenges and opportunities of aging or serious illness. Five Wishes is a complete approach for discussing and documenting care and comfort choices, connecting families, and communicating with healthcare providers, to ensure that every person facing end of life issues is given the opportunity to discuss what matters most. This document is designed to be legal, accessible, and easy to understand. It is valid in Ohio but requires an extra form. (<https://fivewishes.org/>)

When this document is completed, signed and witnessed, it enables adults of all ages and health to inform others of the care they desire should they become seriously ill or at the end of life. This document is unique as it includes not just a Power of Attorney for healthcare (Wish 1) but also living will sections (Wishes 2-5) which address medical, emotional, spiritual, and personal concerns. Five Wishes allows a trusted person to be designated to make decisions for them on what types of medical treatment they would or would not want, what is most important for one's comfort and dignity, what important spiritual or faith traditions should be remembered and what they want loved ones and healthcare providers to know about them. Also available is a Conversation Guide for Individuals and Families, FAQ's. The cost is \$5.00 a copy or \$10.00 a download.

### Follow us on Social Media

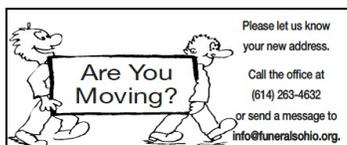
[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/funeralconsumersallianceofcentralohio) Then search for:  
funeralconsumersallianceofcentralohio



Twitter: @ColumbusFuneral



Scan the QR code  
to visit our website:



# FCACO News

## The Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

By Cathy Elkins

The Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (OBEFD) has been meeting virtually for about a year. On August 18, 2021, the Board met in person at the Riffe Center in Columbus. I attend these meetings as a member of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio and as a private citizen. At this meeting, the issue of reciprocity was discussed in response to Ohio House Bill 203. This bill proposes that licensing and regulations of Ohio agencies, which issue occupational licenses, permit reciprocity with individuals, who hold a similar out-of-state license. Currently Ohio requires that applicants for an embalmer and/or funeral director license have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college. Other states, e.g., Kentucky, require a high school diploma or GED. One could assume all Ohio agencies that issue such licenses will be concerned about this legislation. In addition, OBEFD Executive Director Cheryl Grossman reported that a total of 13 applications have been approved for reimbursement from the Preneed Recovery Fund, totaling \$67,027.49, from the start of this program through July 31, 2021. During the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Preneed Recovery Fund Committee, three cases were discussed. One was tabled for more investigation, and two were approved for payment. Also, during the month of July 2021, 98 applicants were approved and reimbursed from the Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program for a total of \$38,389.51. This represents applications approved and paid during the month of July 2021.

### CHECK OUT THESE USEFUL RESOURCES

At our website [www.funeralsohio.org](http://www.funeralsohio.org):

1. What To Do When Death Occurs
2. Ohio Disposition Form (to designate a person to arrange disposition of your remains. This is a legally binding form)
3. Survivors Checklist
4. A Letter to My Family
5. Our newsletters

On the national website: [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)

Select "Consumers".

Then look at the topics listed next to "Know Your Rights to a Fair and Affordable Funeral" Topics include:

1. Burials/Cemeteries
2. Caskets
3. Cremation
4. Embalming/Organ Donation
5. Financing
6. Funeral Homes
7. Legal/Your Rights



### VOLUNTEER TO HELP FCACO

Interested in data entry? Writing articles for our newsletter? Helping us get and summarize price lists of funeral homes? Participating in education sessions for the public? Call (614) 263 4632 , or email us at [info@funeralsohio.org](mailto:info@funeralsohio.org)

