



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) 263-4632 or visit us at www.funeralsohio.org.

2013-2014 Board Members

Past President: Su Ann Farnlacher

President: Alice Faryna

President Elect: Open

Treasurer: Su Ann Farnlacher

Secretary: Nancy Alonzo

Membership Secretary: Cathy Elkins

Newsletter Editors: Alice Faryna and volunteer Olwen Firestone

Directors: Edgel Alley, Frank Timmons, Jan Waters, Cathy Elkins

Appointed Directors: Kelley Milledge and Vivian Fiscus

FCACO—Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

Body Donation

by Vivian Fiscus

This year an estimated 20,000 persons will donate their bodies to public and private medical research facilities. While an anatomical donation may advance medical education or research, it also results in minimal burial expenses.

Embalmed cadavers are used to teach anatomy to medical students and to develop and teach new surgical techniques on tissue, bone and joints. In some instances, the body may be

used to develop new surgical instruments, to further vehicle safety, develop protective equipment or to assess impact of damaging forces to the body.

If you are interested in donating your body, the University of Florida has an internet site (<http://old.med.ufl.edu/anatbd/usprograms.html>) which lists United States body donation programs. For non-profit and for-profit com-

panies search "whole body donation." Before signing a contract for body donation, you should discuss this decision with your

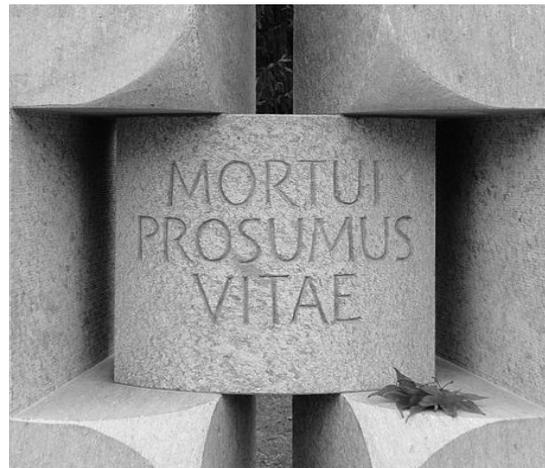
family. They will need to know who to contact and how to arrange for transportation of the body. Time is of the essence and your family must be prepared to quickly follow your wishes upon your death. You should also inform your physician, lawyer and funeral director of your wishes.

Upon admission

to a hospital or care facility, you should inform them of your status as a body donor and the institution to be contacted upon your death.

Some medical schools do not pay for preliminary embalming or transportation to their facility, whereas, private companies will pay

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"Even in death do we serve life": Inscription on a communal grave dedicated to body donors.

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Body Donation

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to procure human tissue and will usually cover all expenses from pickup to cremation. By law, anatomical gift programs are not permitted to provide certified copies of death certificates.

However, they will file the death certificate with the Department of Vital Statistics in the county of your death. If you choose to have an obituary in a local newspaper, any charges will be billed to your survivors.

In most instances, the facility receiving the body is informed by the funeral home or health facility. If the body is accepted, transportation must be arranged. If your body is not accepted, your family should have an alternate plan for burial.

Some of the common reasons bodies are not accepted include: contagious diseases, extreme emaciation, obesity or body contractures, severe trauma or open wounds (including recent surgeries), ascites, edema or septicemia, organs or parts removed at time of death (except eyes) or the current education or research programs are not in need of donors. Bodies are also not accepted if you die in another state, or an autopsy is performed on your body.

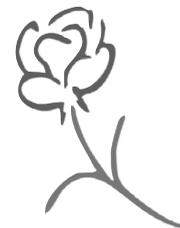
Anatomical findings made by the institution are not reported to family members. After the facility has finished with the body, there is usually a memorial service to recognize and honor the donor, as well as to thank the family for this gift.

The Ohio schools accepting body donations include: Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic, Northeast Ohio Medical University, Ohio University, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo and Wright State University. Each of these facilities has a detailed web page which includes forms for donation as well as the answers to commonly asked questions.

Nancy Greene in Memoriam

FCACO lost Nancy Greene last year, a fierce supporter of the work we do. She served on our board and represented us at the Ohio Embalmers and Funeral Directors meetings until her health failed.

Her wisdom, integrity and support are indeed missed.



Alice Faryna,
FCACO President

From the President's Desk

A new publication was released by FCA in December 2013. This spiral-bound workbook, titled *Before I Go You Should Know*, replaces the Big Kits designed for preplanning. This 30-page workbook also contains two valuable inserts specifically for Ohio residents: an Ohio form for appointing a representative for disposition of bodily remains, and the Ohio chapter from the book, *Final Rights*, written by Josh Slocum, Executive Director of FCA, and former Director Lisa Carlson. This book is a comprehensive reference source on the funeral industry. It includes chapters for each of the 50 states, detailing state laws and regulations affecting consumers of funeral goods and services.

Each page in the workbook provides an opportunity to record information on the location of important documents you have completed (for example, living will, healthcare power of attorney, financial power of attorney, funeral/memorial wishes, disposition wishes and final services options). If you haven't gotten around to completing such documents, this is a handy reminder to get started.

Other pages provide you the opportunity to record the location of critical legal documents (e.g., birth certificates, divorce decrees, military records). Finally, there are pages in which you can summarize financial information and assets. Page 27 is a reminder that we live in an electronically connected world. It may be prudent to leave password information with a trusted person so that online accounts can be deleted.

One of the most loving gifts you can leave your survivors is access to the information they need to carry out your wishes and settle your estate promptly. We will have a supply of these workbooks at our annual meeting. The purchase price is \$15. (We do not have the capability to accept credit cards.) The workbooks can also be purchased online at www.funerals.org, or send a check for \$15 to the FCACO office (P.O. Box 14835, Columbus OH 43214-0835) and we will mail you one.

If you decide to use this workbook, make sure that it is accessible to your survivors. It should not be stored in a safety deposit box because its contents may not be available immediately after death.



bookstore



Visit Us On Facebook!

This is an interactive page.
Find news related to trends in the industry and legislation.
Share your own stories and photos.

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

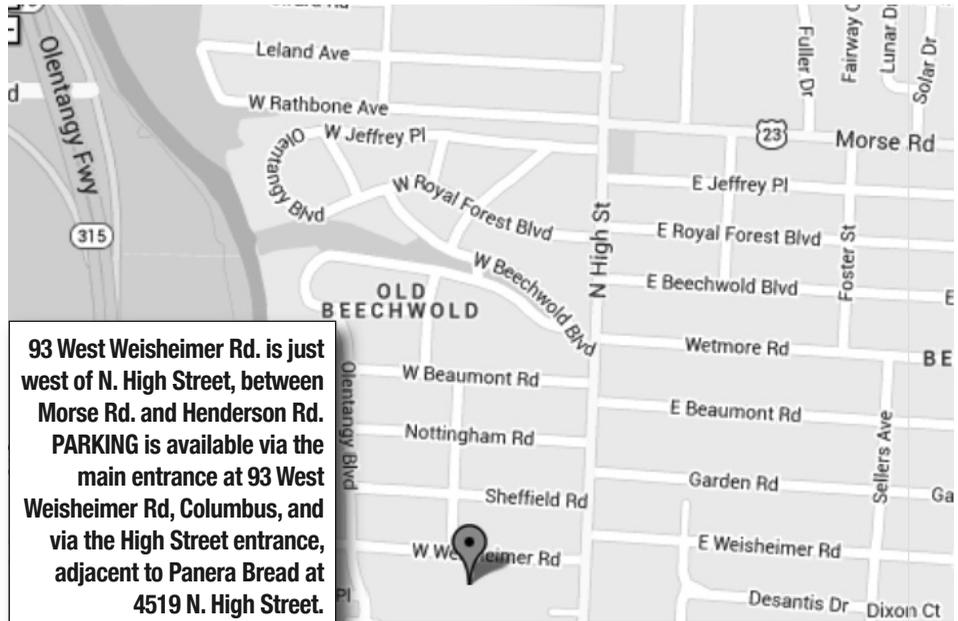
FCACO 2014 Annual Meeting

Please join us at our annual meeting and luncheon on Saturday, May 24, 2014, at the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Columbus, 93 W. Weisheimer Rd. 43214.

To register call (614) 263-4632 and tell us how many will come. If attending the luncheon, please call by Wednesday, May 21. There is no charge for registration, but donations are always welcome at the door.

A buffet lunch will be served at 12 noon, followed by a business meeting and a program. Our speaker is Vanessa Niekamp, the Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. Her topic will be "Overview and Challenges for the Funeral Industry."

We will again offer tickets for a 50/50 auction. Free literature will be available as



Vanessa Niekamp,
Executive Director of the Ohio Board
of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

well as copies of "Before I Go You should know," at a cost of \$15. (We are unable to accept credit cards.)

The slate of candidates for the next fiscal year beginning June 1, 2014 proposed by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

The following candidates have agreed to serve as indicated: Officers serve 1-year terms; Directors' terms are staggered 3-year terms.

- *President Elect: Open
- *President: Alice Faryna
- *Treasurer: Su Ann Farnlacher
- *Membership Secretary: Cathy Elkins
- *Recording Secy: Celia Elkins
- *Director (2016): Vivian Fiscus
- *Director (2017): Kelley Milledge
- *Director (2017): Pat Hoffman
- *Director (2017): Madelon Timmons

The following Directors have unexpired

terms and do not require a vote.

Director (2015): Jan Waters

Director (2016): Frank Timmons

FCA National Conference June 5-7, 2014 • Minneapolis, MN

Two FCACO board members are heading north for the annual FCA meeting, which is open to the general public. You can register on the national web site: www.funerals.org. Special pricing for registrants is available at the Park Plaza Hotel, 4460 W 78th St Cir. in Bloomington (952-831-3131). The hotel offers free shuttle service to the airport and the Mall of America.

The registration fee of \$225 includes the opening reception on Thursday, breakfast and lunch Friday and Saturday, all programs, and a field trip to Minnesota's newest natural burial ground (Prairie Oaks Memorial EcoGardens). *Join us!*

Shipping Cremated Remains

We have been notified by the US Postal Service that it has eliminated Registered Mail Service as an option for shipping. Customers shipping either human or animal remains must use Priority Mail Service only.

Are You Moving?

Each time we send out a newsletter we receive a large number of "undeliverable" mail returns. We must then remove those names

from our database. Please let us know if your contact information has changed. Send an email with correct address and phone number to: info@funeralsohio.org, or notify the office at (614) 263 4632.

We Welcome New Members!

Stock your place of worship or Senior Center with our brochures. Remember that FCACO talks to clubs and organizations. Help us to get the word out about our organization and services. Call for details and brochures at (614) 263-4632.

Become Immortalized on the Web

by Alice Faryna

One day as I was checking emails that come into info@funeralsohio.org, and deleting the marketing ones, I couldn't resist checking out one whose subject was "QR codes on headstones". I learned that if I called to obtain their free starter kit, I would make an extra \$150-\$250 profit on each funeral service. Further research revealed that there are other companies marketing this use of digital technology. The services offered are the creation of a personalized web page which will store photographs, memoirs, and an obituary. The subscriber receives a unique QR code chip which can be attached to a headstone providing it has a clean smooth surface. When the code is scanned by a smart phone or an Internet tablet it opens up the web archive. As marketed, this website would be created after death. However there is no reason why a person so inclined could not create such a website in advance of death.

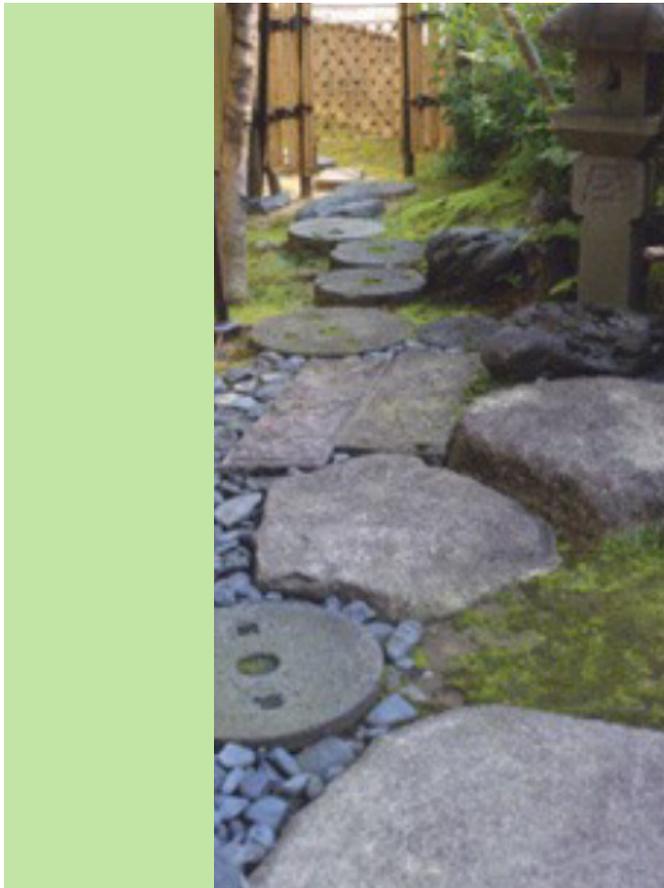
Last fall, the Washington Post reported that the advisory committee of Arlington National Cemetery had discussed this new technology but decided to stick with its policy of not allowing QR codes at their gravesites. A spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars was quoted as saying the idea is worth discussing with the veteran community.

FCACO does not provide funeral services or goods, so of course I did not reply to this email. For those of you who are inclined to create a web site or may already have one, you can create your own QR code at no cost. The image can be placed on flyers or stationery. For example, friends and relatives who are unable to attend a funeral or memorial service could use a QR code to view a memoir of a loved one (which could include a video of the service).



A Huge "Thank You" to Our Donors for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year

Joan R. Ackerman
Nancy S. Alonzo
Chadwick F. Alger
Mary F. Abicht-Lemke
Mary T. Babcock
Marcella Baird
Vera J. Blaine
Catherine N. Bremner
Phyllis Byard
Patricia Carey
Thomas & Patricia Caruso
Robert Jeff & Lucy S. Caswell
Richard A. Marcia D. Childs
Patsy J. Crewe
Janet M. Davis
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Jo A. Dickinson
Lehr L. Dircks
Catherine E. Elkins
Nancy F. Evans
SuAnn Farnlacher
Alice Faryna
Gunter Fildebrandt
Olwen Firestone
Vivian L. Fiscus
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Kenneth P. Goodrich
Curtis D. Greene
Doris J. Hall
Bari & John E. Hart Jr.
J. Paul & Debra S. Heimann
Mary E. Hoffman
Fredrick Hunker & Linda A. Spohn
Juliet Ann Johnson
Roger Johnson
Gregory King
Robert & Janeen Kirkbride
Joseph & Anita Kohler
Werner H. Kohles
Harriet L. Knolls
Dee K. Krieg
Shirley Kristensen
Wayne E. Lander
Julian R. Larson
Susan J. Logan
Marie Lorz
Kenneth Lutz
Julian & Robin Bell Markels
David Melik
Joe Miccio
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Marie A. Miller
Paul W. Miller
Marguerite Cox Molk
Nina D. Myatt
Saad Z. & Jane Kay Nagi
Michelle E. & David A. Neeley
Betty Nelson
Sue J. Neptune
Myrleann Newton & Scott Keith Greene
David I. Nilsen
David M. Smith & Joan Phillips
Robert W. & Dorothy S. Postle
Robert & Ann Reves
Levenia S. Robinson
Ronald Rossington
R. Altman & Marianne Ruisis
Lenore Sanderson
Marilyn B. Saveson
Judith Schumacher
Lori Seaman
Tamara & Anatoly S. Shamson
Anonymous
Joan H. Shkolnik
David R. & Carolyn T. Stanley
Madge Stanley-Will
Kathleen H. Thompson
Frank E. Timmons
Madelon A. Timmons
Clyde R. Tipton Jr.
Thomas Verdon
Charles J. Veverka
Gisela M. Vitt
Herbert L. & Rose L. Weyl
Herman L. & Zelma Wilt
Donald E. Winchell
Warren W. Wolf, Jr.
Sarah L. Wurdlow



Do You Know Someone Who Would Like to Join, or Who Would Benefit from an FCACO Gift Membership?

1. Give them the attached application form to complete.
OR
2. Complete the form as a gift from you and mail to FCACO.

FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL OHIO
PO BOX 14835
COLUMBUS OHIO 43214

As a member of FCACO you already understand the wisdom of pre-planning and the benefits of membership in FCACO. Many people, especially those in the prime of life, put off making end-of-life decisions for a variety of reasons. And, sadly, accidents or unexpected fatal illnesses do occasionally strike the very young. Some of our members have purchased a gift membership for their adult children or other relatives who live in Central Ohio. If they should move to other locations or other states, their membership can be transferred easily by contacting the nearest FCA affiliate. Simply call our office at **(614) 263-4632** for transfer information or locate affiliates in the National Directory which can be found at www.funerals.org

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio Welcomes You!

Upon receipt of this form and the appropriate donation, membership materials will be mailed to the new member(s). These include a membership card, a price list of 4 funeral plans offered at a discount by our contracted providers, a planning form and a legally binding form to appoint a representative for disposition of remains (this is an optional resource). Members also receive a newsletter twice a year. Dependent children (to age 18) are included in a parent's plan. Please enclose a check to FCACO of \$40 per adult member. There are no annual dues.

Please print: Name _____ 2nd Member if applicable _____

Address _____ Address _____

City _____ OH Zip _____ City _____ OH Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Names and birth year of dependent children: _____

This membership is a gift donated by _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ OH Zip _____

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

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Columbus, Ohio
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Contact Information on Important Resources

(Please keep this in a handy place)

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

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

Body Donation at OSU
(614) 292-4832

for forms: <http://go.osu.edu/bodydonation>

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
of Central Ohio (FCACO)
(614) 263-4632
or <http://www.funeralsohio.org>
(forms, copies of old newsletters, funeral
home surveys and other information.)

Pre-Planning Tips for Veterans

by Cathy Elkins

How can family members of Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio assist veterans and their families in planning a dignified, economical burial?

Here are some resources for planning ahead:

- To the veteran: make sure your family knows your wishes and where your **discharge papers are kept**. This is most important!
- For the veteran: Benefits may include burial in a VA national cemetery, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, inscribed headstone or marker, a burial flag, Presidential Memorial certificate, and other services. Veterans may be eligible for a headstone, marker, or medallion for placement in private cemeteries worldwide. Some Veterans may also be eligible for a burial allowance. For more information visit: www.va.gov.
- For a dependent or a survivor: The Veterans Administration offers a variety of benefits and services to spouses, children, and parents of service members and Veterans who are deceased or totally and permanently disabled by a service-connected disability. For more information visit: www.va.gov.

In Ohio all counties have a Veterans Services Office. Be sure to call them for specific veteran benefits in Ohio.

Most funeral homes are knowledgeable of procedures and burial benefits for veterans.

To schedule a burial at the time of need, the person in charge should follow this two step process:

- If burial will be in a National Cemetery: Fax the discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417.
- Follow up by calling 1-800-535-1117.

CAUTION

The Veterans Administration has received some complaints from veterans who were approached by commercial funeral outfits offering "free" cemetery lots or other so-called "veterans benefits." They DO NOT represent the U.S. Government.

This article is the result of inspiration from our member Betty Gabel, Dublin, Ohio and information from Richard Isbell, special assistant to Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman for Veterans issues and Douglas Lay, Director of the Franklin County Veterans Commission.