



# FCACO

Funeral Consumers Alliance  
of Central Ohio  
P.O. Box 14835  
Columbus OH 43214  
(614) 263-4632  
[www.funeralsoh.org](http://www.funeralsoh.org)

# News

Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

## **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 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, Springfield, Yellow Springs, and Dayton. FCACO is an affiliate of the national organization: Funeral Consumers Alliance, which is actively involved in improving regulations of the funeral industry through the Federal Trade Commission. Many useful resources may be found on its website. [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)

## **2017-2018 Board Members:**

President: MaryLou MacDonald  
Past President: Vivian Fiscus  
Treasurer: Celia Elkins  
Recording Secretary: Su Ann Farnlacher  
Membership Secretary: Cathy Elkins  
Director: Sharon Oliver  
Director: Michel Coconis  
Director: Nancy Alonzo  
Director: Marian Garcia

## ***From the President's Desk: Past, Present, and Future***

***MaryLou MacDonald, Board President***

As your new president, I want to reflect on the past and project on the health and future of our local affiliate.

Over 30 years ago when the grass roots movement started at the national level with the Federal Trade Commission, it was an uphill battle to get "official" information for consumers, regarding funeral practices. There was much lobbying of Congress to get the consumer friendly Funeral Rule established. But in 1984 the efforts paid off, per the FTC's new Rule. Mortuaries were required to provide a printed General Price List on request. Other low-cost groups arose from our upstart, and they have our movement to thank for laying the groundwork. At one time there were over 125 affiliates like ours educating, providing access to forms, and having contracts with reputable funeral homes which offered good discounts to the membership. For-profit operations had to think twice about their "up-selling" tactics when informed consumers came knocking. So big cheers for the very hard work of our predecessors.

Now, in an effort to market to millennials and build publicity about our continuing good work, a plan is being created to increase our social media presence by establishing both Twitter and Instagram accounts in addition to our Facebook page. There will be links from our website to these new and informative sites.

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FCACO attempts to verify all information in this newsletter, but cannot guarantee all.

Legal questions should be directed to your attorney

**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.gov/probate](http://www.lifelineofohio.gov/probate)

**Advanced Directives forms:**  
Franklin County Probate Court  
[www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate)

**Funeral Consumers Alliance:** [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)  
**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio:**  
[www.funerasloh.org](http://www.funerasloh.org)

(planning forms, newsletters, membership application,  
donations)

**FCACO contracted providers for discounted services  
to members:**

Columbus Area: Cook & Son-Pallay (614) 444-7861  
Dayton/Springfield area: Conroy Funeral Home:  
(937) 324-4973

**Corrections: List of Donors:**

Sincere apologies (and thanks)  
to Nancy Beja, Greg King, and  
Madelon Timmons, whose  
names were inadvertently  
omitted from the list of donors in  
our Spring Newsletter.



Your Generosity Sustains Us

Thank You  
for your gifts!

As you consider tax-deductible donations for  
this year, please keep FCACO in mind. Our  
members are not required to pay annual  
dues.

All of our work is done by dedicated  
volunteers, who conduct educational  
seminars on end-of-life planning, attend  
meetings of the Ohio Board of Embalmers  
and Funeral Directors, operate an emergency  
hotline for those who have problems with  
funeral planning, and prepare an informative  
newsletter twice a year.

**VISIT FUNERAL CONSUMERS  
ALLIANCE**

On Facebook:  
Share your  
stories and photos.



On our Website:



**We invite your inquiries:**

**Call (614) 263-4632**

**Email us at:**

**[info@funeralsohio.org](mailto:info@funeralsohio.org)**



## **Who Watches the Watchdogs (Part 2)** (Cathy Elkins)

The Fall 2016 newsletter described the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. This Board licenses and regulates embalmers, funeral directors, funeral homes, and crematories. It also inspects facilities, handles consumer complaints, and writes rules, based on Ohio funeral laws. The Board has open monthly meetings which I try to attend.

David A. Ingram is the current Executive Director. The Board members are: Jill R. Pugh, Jon W. Retting, Sr., William C. Wappner, Thomas N. Taneff, and William Dodson, Jr. The full board consists of five licensed embalmers and practicing funeral directors and two citizen/consumers. Presently there is an opening for a citizen/consumer.

The Board is presently writing rules to implement Ohio's Preneed Recovery Fund, which was included in Ohio House Bill 49. This Fund will reimburse a consumer who purchased a preneed contract and subsequently suffered a financial loss as a result of illegal behavior, failure, or insolvency in the sale of a preneed funeral contract by any licensee. The Board may collect as much as \$10 from licensed funeral homes for each preneed contract sold. Past members of the FCACO Board have long advocated this provision.

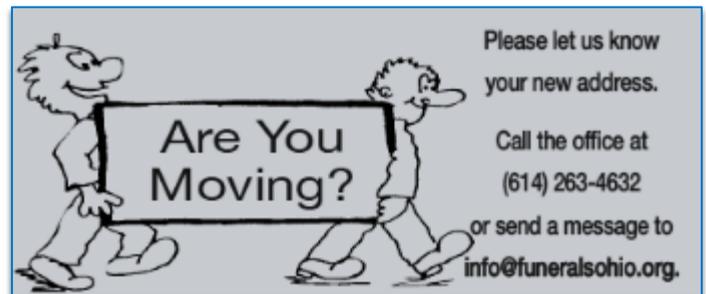
Consumers may contact the Ohio Board at: (614) 466-4252 to report a complaint.

## ***Continued...Past, Present, and Future*** ***MaryLou MacDonald, Board President***

Other news: With the slowly dwindling finances in mind, the Board voted at its September meeting in favor of a task force recommendation to go more digital, (scan documents, store them in the Cloud, and use an internet phone service), and close the physical office by May 31, 2018, thus saving monthly rent and other office expenses. Our post office box and the newsletter printing and mailing will both remain the same. A former Board member will assume newsletter layout and design, thus saving another expense. Quarterly meetings will be held in Board members' homes or other facilities, and electronic communications will continue to serve us efficiently.

Finally, donations and new members are our lifeline! So we challenge each other to spread the word, recruit, and consider giving gift memberships this coming holiday season.

No re-gifting of unwanted items will be necessary!



### **Know and Protect Your Rights!**

The Federal Trade Commission enforces the Funeral Rule, which outlines your rights when making final arrangements. You can view and download this Rule at [ftc.gov/funerals](http://ftc.gov/funerals). Complaints can be filed with your state's Funeral Board, (see "Watchdogs" in this newsletter). state attorney general, or the FTC. The latter can be reached at (877) 382-4357

**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio**  
**P.O. Box 14835**  
**Columbus OH 43214-8035**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Fall 2017

***Embalming in the U.S.***  
***(Sharon Oliver)***

Embalming dates to ancient Egypt, but it didn't become popular in the United States until the Civil War when there was a need to preserve the dead for the long journey home. Captain Thomas Holmes, a surgeon in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, established himself as the father of modern-day embalming. On the Civil War battlefields he erected an embalming tent to tend to the dead. His embalming table was crude and often consisted of a wooden door resting upon two barrels. During embalming, the body was placed in a wooden box, usually lined with zinc, along with the soldier's personal belongings. Holmes's fee for embalming was \$50 for an officer and \$25 for an enlisted man. Later, Holmes resigned his commission and began to charge \$100 per embalming. When surgeons and pharmacists became aware of the profits to be made from embalming, they would converge on the battlefield and quickly find dead officers to embalm, knowing that the family of an officer would be grateful and able to pay the fee. By the end of the war, the War Department issued General Order No. 39 Concerning Embalmers, which was the precedent for today's funeral directors' licenses.

Holmes claimed to have embalmed 4,028 bodies during the Civil War. His supposed nontoxic embalming solution, arsenious acid, was, indeed, toxic. Before his death in 1900, Holmes requested that he not be embalmed.