



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

FCACO News

!2021 ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED!

FCACO Mission Statement

- To promote end-of-life planning and preparation
- To outline practical steps to take before death
- 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: 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, hopefully by now you've had both of your vaccinations. Over the past year the board has used Zoom to the fullest. We virtually revised FCACO's code of regulations, board job descriptions and created a new procedural manual. And we mailed you all the questionnaire to confirm your whereabouts. We received over 400 responses with a resounding NO to Zooming the annual meeting. Therefore, our tentative annual meeting will be:

In person on November 6, 2021

Location: First Unitarian Universalist Church
93 W. Weisheimer Rd., Col., 43214
12:00 noon with a light lunch provided.

This will be followed by a short business meeting and a program.

Our speaker will be Donna Baker, a Death Doula.

A slate of officers for elections, and instructions on registration will be included in our fall newsletter. You must pre-register so we can call you if it's canceled. Stay healthy!

From the Nominating Committee

This has been a year like no other! FCACO has re-scheduled an in-person Annual Meeting in November 2021. This meeting regularly includes a slate of candidates for Board positions (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary) and two or three At-Large Directors. Refer to the Mission Statement (see column on the left) to see what some of the Board's goals are for its directors. It's very satisfying work to help motivate others, to break their procrastination about getting their affairs in order; to support people dealing with a death. FCACO offers to make these tasks a bit easier. For example, our website (funeralsohio.org) has numerous helpful forms to be downloaded for personal use. So if any members receiving this newsletter would like to serve on the board, please call or email us. We'll train you.

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.org

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

Funeral Consumers Alliance: www.funerals.org

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio:

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

Thanks to FCACO

Sheila Fox

I love cemeteries. Growing up, my family made annual visits to decorate and visit the graves of our deceased loved ones. I knew that I, too, would one day lie alongside them. I also love the earth. When I learned about the environmental impact of a traditional burial, I felt I should consider alternatives. If I could find and afford a nice, green cemetery, maybe that was my solution. A newspaper article prompted me to contact the Funeral Consumer Alliance of Central Ohio (FCACO). Cathy Elkins, membership secretary, informed me that not all traditional cemeteries require embalming, non-degradable caskets or vaults. I also learned membership in FCACO was affordable and that one of FCACO's contracted providers, Conroy Funeral Home and Cremation Services, offers members a discounted natural burial option. It is similar to a green burial but with fewer regulations and a more affordable cost. I contacted my family's cemetery, and now have a plot where I will be buried without chemicals and non-degradable materials, near my parents, my husband and my sisters. I am so grateful to have found FCACO to help, not just with the decision regarding my remains, but for practical advice.

(cont'd in next column)

OHIO INDIGENT BURIAL AND CREMATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

By Cathy Elkins

The Ohio Legislature created the Ohio Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program in late 2019. Only municipalities may receive a reimbursement. For FY 2020, there were 105 applications approved for total payments of \$73,977.47. So far in FY 2021, seven approved applications have resulted in reimbursements of \$ 5,362.

In Central Ohio, according to the Franklin County Coroner, every municipality operates separately. Most indigents eligible for this service live in Columbus. Day Funeral Service in Gahanna has the contract for the City of Columbus and is paid \$625 per cremation. According to its staff, the funeral home has performed hundreds of cremations.

In Clark County, as reported by Conroy Funeral Home & Cremation Services, (our contracted provider in Springfield, Ohio), all funeral homes are required to participate. Conroy Funeral Home averages 10 to 20 cremations each year. There is no obituary nor attempt to sell an urn. Conroy is paid by the City of Springfield \$850 per indigent residing in the city, and 600 - \$750 is paid for indigents residing in townships outside of the city.

Thanks to FCACO....cont'd.

FCACO is an invaluable resource for end-of-life planning. Its mission is to help individuals understand options and costs so they can make funeral and burial arrangements that are dignified, meaningful, and affordable. Thanks to Cathy and FCACO, I have made arrangements that are appropriate for me. Green burials are a commitment to a cause, not necessarily an economic decision

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

CHECK OUT THESE 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. This is a legally binding form)
3. Survivors Checklist
4. A Letter to My Family

On the national website: 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

So You Are Now an Executor? Good Luck



Even a modest estate can take a year or more to move through Probate Court. Be kind to your executor: prepare a list of all necessary information and keep it updated. See “A Letter to my Family” on our website. A useful summary of the necessary steps and a timeline can be found at:

<https://www.estateexec.com/>



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 info@funeralsohio.org



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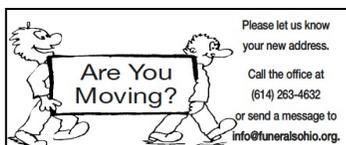
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Announcing a New Natural Burial Option

Nancy Alonzo

Craig McDonald, Newark Advocate journalist, wrote in a February 15, 2021, article that the Granville Township Trustees have approved guidelines for the Maple Grove Cemetery in Granville to be the first cemetery to permit “natural burials” under new Licking County rules. With a purchased plot, neither embalming, casket, or outer burial vault will be required.

Alternatively, burials in certified Green Burial sites, exact more rigorous requirements, such as specifying how a body is preserved between death and burial and requiring that a container, if used, be constructed of natural, biodegradable material, tend to be a more expensive option.

For several years, the McPeck-Hoekstra Funeral Home, also in Granville, has maintained Green Burial Council certification though requests for such burials have been rare, perhaps because of the cost. New natural burials at the Maple Grove Cemetery require a biodegradable wicker pod, commonly selling for about \$400. Typically, natural burials range from \$500 - \$2,000 in contrast to traditional funerals, which may cost several times that amount.

(Photo taken at Prairie Oaks Green Burial site in Minnesota during an annual meeting of FCA).



NEWS FROM FCA

JOSH SLOCUM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello to our members, friends, and supporters. First, thanks to all of you who dug into your pockets and donated to Funeral Consumers Alliance during our fundraiser last December. Your gifts help us to respond to calls for help.

A longtime member and local FCA volunteer, Laurie, contacted us when her mother died. Their plans for a home funeral were hampered by authorities ready to insert themselves into a family affair over which they have no legal jurisdiction. The police believed they had a duty to stand guard over her mother's body until a funeral director arrived. Fortunately, things turned out for the best for Laurie's family. Here is an excerpt of her story:

"Thanks for responding so quickly on Sunday. That really meant a lot to me—and to my family. Your clarity gave me the confidence I needed to deal with the police. Although, they had to call the medical examiner's office in Newark and then the Prosecutor's office in our county, they indeed found there was no law. They left with a new insight about what is possible when someone dies. We had a 2-day home funeral that was a powerful send-off that honored my mom and our family in profound ways. There is so much to say, but for now: Thank you."

Covid Funeral News

Some of you may wish to know if federal money is available to help families with funeral costs from a Covid death. Last year, Congress approved billions of dollars to pay the funeral expenses of families with a Covid death.

—FEMA will start taking applications on April 12, 2021.

—FEMA has NOT yet announced what organizations or state offices you should contact.

—The funds will only be available for deaths where Covid is listed as the cause of death on the death certificate and occurred on or after January 20, 2020.

—This is NOT a source to pay for a funeral that has not yet occurred. This is only reimbursement for *prior* Covid-caused deaths. It appears that they will reimburse for costs up to \$9000.

For updated details, follow our blog at www.funerals.org/fema

FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number 844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

Muslim Funerals

by Cathy Elkins

Ohio law permits religious organizations to arrange their own funerals. For years Rutherford Funeral Home, 2383 N. High St, had served as the funeral home in Columbus for local Muslim funerals. A retrofitted, special single-use room for loved ones to wash and prepare a body for burial was provided until COVID-19 social distancing rules prohibited its use. Muslims must be buried (never cremated) as soon as possible after death, usually within 24 hours. An autopsy is done only if the county coroner insists. Since the Covid -19 pandemic, the Abubakar Assiddiq Islamic Center, 591 Industrial Mile Rd. in Columbus provides Muslim funerals. Interment is in the Islamic Cemetery of Columbus at 3880 Sunbury Rd. Columbus Ohio.

In Springfield, Ohio the Miami Valley Islamic Association (MVIA) has a separate room on its grounds to wash and shroud a body. This practice is performed by male family members for deceased males and female family members for deceased females. Transportation and other services are done by Littleton & Rue Funeral Home. Burial is in a separate area of Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Springfield. Twelve years ago, MVIA bought 200 plots. They have used 30 to 40 of these plots to date.



THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS (through March 2021)

Sincere apologies if we have missed anyone...

Mary F. Abicht-Lemke
Steve R. Ackley
Nancy Alonzo
Kathleen Anderson
Toshiko Asakawa
Mary Babcock
Margrit Ballard & Jack. Groom
Margaret Banning
Mary E. Barnhart
Rubin Battino
Carole Beale
Agnes N. Benedict
Andree A. Bognar
Kathleen Boston
Esther Boykin
Carol J. Branscomb
Geneva Brisbane
Elaine Brown
Duane Buck & Ellen Rapkin
John Bushman
Paul and Phyllis Byard
Patricia & Thomas Caruso
Robert J. Caswell
Ted and Bobbie Celeste
Theodore Cope
Deborah Cox
Kristine Cox
Kathleen Curley
Lehr Dircks
Mallory A. Dubois
Catherine E. Elkins
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Su Ann Farnlacher
Alice Faryna
Gunter Fildebrandt
Olwen Firestone
Sheila Fox
Pauline M. & Earl Fritz
Elizabeth Gabel
Kenneth P. Goodrich
Shirley A. Hatfield
Debra Heimann

Deborah G. Henderson
Carolyn Hippensteel
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Nancy Platt
Bob and Sue Postle
Dorothy L. Powell
E.W. Powell*
Nancy Powlick
Bertina Povenmire
Dennis Rankin &
 Wolfgang Salazar
Jane Reisman
Thomas M. Ricci
Robert B. Rideout
John R. Rockwell
Ronald Rossington
Linda Royalty
William A. Russo
Carolyn Sandy
Robert J. & Jane Scott
Thomas Scott
James M. Siddens
Susan S. Skinner
Inga H. Smith
Rev. Pamela Spence
Madge Staley-Will
Muriel Standley
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AliceJean Thomson
Linda Thompson
Madelon Timmons/Bill
 Miller
Tom Tucker
Nancy Van Deusen
Jim and Jordy Ventresca
Cheryl Artis Walker
Janet & Richard Waters
Diana L. Welsh
Herbert L. Weyl
Lois D. Whealey
Carole Wilhelm
Ohma Willette
David Williams
Jo Wilson
Keystone Preservation Tr.