



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

Fall 2024

Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

From the President's Desk Rita Haider



Greetings!

I am the new president of the board of directors for the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio (FCACO). I have called Columbus my home for the past 10 years, having moved here from the Appalachian region of Ohio. My career as a hospice nurse practitioner has given me a deep understanding of the importance of compassionate care and planning, especially during some of the most challenging times for families. Our organization has a long history of serving the community, and I am committed to continuing that legacy with the support of our dedicated board and volunteers. As a working board, we are here to serve you, our members. Your input, ideas, and participation are vital to the success of our mission. We want you to know that you are always welcome to attend our board meetings, volunteer your time, or serve on one of our committees. Whether you have an hour a month or several hours to give, there is a place for you to contribute. Many of our volunteer opportunities can even be done from the comfort of your home.

This is your organization, and we thrive when we all work together. I encourage anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about how they can get involved to reach out to me directly at RitaSHaider@funeralsohio.org. You can make a difference, no matter the size of your commitment, I'm excited that **Dr. Nathaniel Overmire**, Franklin County Coroner, will be our guest speaker at the **FCACO Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 31, 2025**.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to appeal to your generosity. Donations are crucial to our ability to continue providing resources, education, and advocacy for fair and affordable funeral practices. Contributions can take many forms—whether it's a financial donation, a pledge of your time, or even including FCACO in your will. Every form of support helps us serve our community better.

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, 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.

Board Members:

2024-2025 Board Members:

President: Rita Haider
Past President: Cathy Elkins
Treasurer: Jack Holdford
Recording Secretary: Su Ann Farnlacher
Membership Secretary: Cathy Elkins and Dennis Rankin

Directors

Phyllis Byard Through May 31, 2027
Kristen Figg Through May 31, 2027
Joan Matyskella Through May 31, 2027
Margaret Sproul Through May 31, 2026

Resources for Your Planning Folder

Body Donation

Ohio State University, Columbus: (614) 292-4832: <https://go.osu.edu/bodydonation>

Wright State University, Dayton: (937) 775-3066. <https://medicine.wright.edu/anatomical-gift-program>

Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine: (740) 593-2171

<https://www.ohio.edu/medicine>

For body donation programs in Cleveland, Athens, Cincinnati, Rootstown, and Toledo visit:

www.ofdaonline.org/aws/OFDA/asset_manager/get_file/101066

Organ Donation

LOOP (Lifeline of Ohio Organ Procurement): (877) 223-6667 <https://lifelineofohio.org/>

Advanced Directives forms: Franklin County Probate Court:

<https://probate.franklincountyohio.gov/>

Funeral Consumers Alliance: <https://funerals.org>

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio
www.funeralsohio.org

For FCACO members who choose to use our contracted providers that offer us discounted funeral services:

Columbus Area: Cook & Son-Pallay (614) 444-7861

Dayton/Springfield area: Conroy Funeral Home: (937) 324 4973

Helpful Documents on our Website

www.funeralsohio.org

1. Survivors Checklist
2. Ohio Disposition Form (designates a person to arrange for the disposition of your remains)
3. What To Do When Death Occurs
4. A Letter to My Family (lists the location of key documents and legal authorizations)
5. Summary of area General Price Lists (GPL)

Newsletters will be mailed to only one person in a household. FCACO attempts to verify all information in this newsletter. Legal questions should be directed to your attorney.

Putting Your Donations to Work

Cathy Elkins

FCACO is run entirely by volunteers who help people facing difficult circumstances. Your tax-deductible donations make it possible to maintain a website, a dedicated telephone line, and an email account. We serve both members and non-members. One call came from a woman in Cincinnati whose mother was a member of the Cincinnati FCA, which no longer exists. The death was well-handled by the contracted funeral home. She was directed to our FCACO website to look at our survey of prices for funeral homes in Central Ohio and then talk to the funeral home that handled her mother's funeral, to discuss a prepayment option, selecting only those services that she would like.

A more complicated inquiry originated from a man who was at the hospital where his mother had just died. The family was from a South American country so American funeral practices were difficult for him to understand. I referred him to our website to compare area funeral costs. I recommended that he speak with his mother's parish priest for more options.

An interesting call came from a woman with serious concerns about the placement of a headstone. I advised her how to contact the cemetery owner. Cemeteries in Ohio are regulated by the Division of Real Estate, not by the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors which handles only funeral disputes.

Documents on the National Website:

www.funerals.org

(Go to: *Get Help*, then use the dropdown menu.)

Here are just a few of them:

1. MAKING DECISIONS
2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS
3. HOW TO SAVE MONEY
4. VETERANS' FUNERAL & BURIAL BENEFITS
5. GREEN BURIAL
6. DEATH AWAY FROM HOME
7. PRE-PLANNING & PRE-PAYING
8. FIND AN AFFILIATE

**Our Annual Meeting will be at noon on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at the First UU church:
93 W. Weisheimer Rd Columbus OH 43214.**

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Nathaniel Overmire, Franklin County Coroner, will be the guest speaker. Dr. Overmire will cover the essential responsibilities of the Coroner's Office, including:

- Can families refuse or request an autopsy?
- Qualifications and the process to become a coroner
- The elected/appointed nature of the position and whether it is full-time
- Circumstances under which the Coroner's Office becomes involved
- Explanation of "manner of death" in official reports
- Procedures after the Coroner's Office is involved
- Family requirements for body identification and the possibility of viewing
- Autopsy processes and who decides when one is necessary

Lunch will be served at no cost to you, but call to register so that we can get a head count.
(614) 263-4632

Being Mortal,- Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande
(Review by Joan Matyskella)

We will have a book club discussion in December. The book is "Being Mortal", by Dr. Atul Gawande, the son of immigrant parents from India, a surgeon who grew up in Athens, Ohio. Released in 2014, it was praised for its masterful exploration of aging, care at the end of life, and the medical profession's need to deal with the wishes people might have beyond mere survival. It quickly became a NY Times bestseller. I read it then and bought a paperback copy. It is a book that can help all of us "mortals" to gain more understanding of the end stages of life, the trauma of sudden illness, and to deal with the troubling uncertainty of "how to proceed" when hard choices have to be made. We will have a discussion on Google Meet or Zoom on Sat. Dec. 7 in the afternoon, at a time when all are available. If you would like to participate, contact Joan at: joanmaty@funeralsohio.org.

News from the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Director

Cathy Elkins

The Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (OBEFD) is taking strong action against funeral directors who misuse funds from prepaid funeral contracts. Currently, the Board is investigating a Columbus funeral home that was sold to another Columbus funeral home. The receiving funeral home has no record of several preneed (paid in advance) files. The Board has reimbursed one family for its financial loss from the Preneed Recovery Fund. The others are still under investigation. The Franklin County Prosecutor may get involved. This Board is intent on making funeral homes follow the law. Since establishing the Preneed Recovery Fund in 2017 until July 31, 2024, 32 applications have been approved.

The last two Ohio fiscal budgets have failed to fund the Indigent Burial Fund. A bill to restore the funding has passed the Ohio House and is now in the Ohio Senate.

Finally, OBEFD anticipates that the Federal Trade Commission will revise The Funeral Rule to require that all funeral homes with websites list their prices online. As of late October, the FTC has not acted.



CONNECT WITH US

<https://www.facebook.com/funeralconsumersallianceofcentralohio>

HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH

We hope you enjoy keeping up to date with FCACO news. We ask our members to advise us of changes to your contact details.

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

Call us at at: 614-263-4632.

Email us at: info@funeralsohio.org

THIS QR
CODE WILL
CONNECT
YOU TO OUR
WEBSITE



SAVE THE DATE!

**Our Annual Meeting will be on Saturday,
May 4, 2024**

**at the First UU church: Noon to 3 PM
93 W. Weisheimer Rd Columbus, OH 43214**

Please let us know your new address.
Call the office at (614) 263-4632
or send a message to info@funeralsohio.org.



Need a speaker? FREE to the Public

Is your organization or faith community interested in a program on End-of-Life Planning? Our board members are available to speak at one of your meetings.

Call (614) 263-4632

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