

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio
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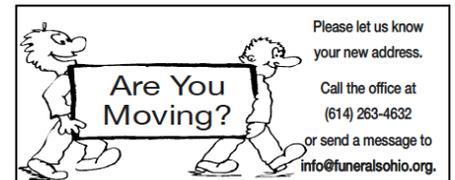
Fall 2019

SAVE THE DATE!
Our Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, May 16, 2020. Lunch at noon with program to follow.



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

(Households with two different surnames are often mangled by mail-merge. We apologize for any strange labels.)



CHECK OUT THESE USEFUL DOCUMENTS

At our website www.funeralsohio.org:

1. Survivors Checklist
2. Ohio Disposition Form (to designate a person to arrange disposition of your remains)
3. What To Do When Death Occurs
4. A Letter to My Family

On the national website: www.funerals.org

(Go to: *Resources*, then to *FAQ pamphlets*) These are just a few of them:

1. Green Burial
2. Should You Prepay Your Funeral?
3. Death Away From Home
4. Embalming Explained
5. Cremation Explained



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

FCACO News

Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

From the President's Desk Su Ann Farnlacher, president

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.

2017-2018 Board Members:

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

The proverb, wrongly attributed to the Chinese, "May you live in interesting times", is also called the Chamberlain curse, dating back to 1936 when England was rearming in response to the threat of Nazi Germany. That seems to say it all and funerals are no exception. But, dear members, end of life planning doesn't have to be that complicated. If you desire forms, speakers or information to ensure an easier transition, please call us or visit our website. We look forward to hearing from you.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

We were recently treated to a visit by Josh Slocum, the Executive Director of our national organization, FCA. Noting that there are over 2.5 million deaths per year in the U.S., and that most people still don't pre-plan, our educational efforts remain necessary and relevant.

(continued on page 2)



We Thrive on Your Generosity!

If you are thinking of tax-deductible donations this year, please consider a gift to FCACO. We have no paid staff members, but we have costs for printing, mailing, maintaining a website and telephone service. We serve our members at the time of need, and also are a resource to the larger central Ohio community.

Mail your check to: FCACO

P.O. Box 14835 Columbus OH 43214

You can also donate online at www.funeralsohio.org

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.gov/probate

Advanced Directives forms: Franklin County Probate Court:

www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate

Funeral Consumers Alliance: www.funerals.org

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio: www.funerasloho.org

(planning forms, newsletters, membership application, donations, etc.)

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

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

(continued from page 1)

Each year, more consumers use the internet for a variety of purchases, yet a recent survey by FCA revealed that only 25% of Funeral Homes put any of their prices on line.

FCA has been at the forefront in pushing the Federal Trade Commission to amend the Funeral Rule, requiring online posting of General Price Lists. Slocum expects the FTC address this in January. We will keep you posted.

Another way to go? Natural Organic Reduction

Sheila Fox

A growing number of people are not only concerned with their ecological footprint while alive but also after death as well. Cities have limited cemetery space. Traditional burials use embalming, pumping formaldehyde, phenol, methanol and glycerin into the body. Hundreds of thousands of gallons of formaldehyde, a potential human carcinogen, end up in the ground every year. Cremation is less harsh on the environment, but releases carbon monoxide, fine soot, sulfur dioxide, heavy metals and mercury emissions (from dental fillings) into the atmosphere.

Alternatives are emerging. In May, Washington State passed SB5001, legalizing natural organic reduction, or “the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.” Survivors may keep the soil in urns, spread the soil on public lands or use it on private property to grow plants. The law also will allow for alkaline hydrolysis or liquid cremation, which is already legal in 19 states.

The legislation was inspired by the work of Katrina Spade, who based her idea on the process used by farmers who compost the bodies of livestock. A study showed that bodies decompose in about four weeks, resulting in about one cubic yard of soil per person. Spade has founded a company (Recompose, planned to open in 2020) that will provide these services to the public. The cost is estimated at \$5500. The patent-pending process modeled on green burial is designed for cities where land is scarce. In about thirty days the body is fully transformed into soil that can grow new life. Recompose seeks to emulate nature’s cycles and regenerative design. More information can be found on her website: <https://www.recompose.life/>

The Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

Cathy Elkins

As a board member of FCACO, I attend the monthly board meetings of the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, which licenses, inspects, handles complaints, and writes rules pertaining to legislation on cremation facilities and funeral homes. It has the authority to levy fines and close facilities.

Two recent board actions are of particular interest. On October 1, 2017, The Preneed Recovery Fund was initiated. It requires that funeral homes pay to the Board a fee of \$10 for every preneed funeral contract sold. These funds will reimburse the purchaser of such contracts who have suffered financial loss as a result of malfeasance, default, failure or insolvency in connection with the sale of a preneed funeral contract by the licensee. Stringent rules require funeral homes to hold preneed funds in an insurance product, not in their operating funds. As of September 18, 2019, there is \$519,749 in the Preneed Recovery Fund.

The second action is the resurrection of Ohio's Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program that ended in 2001. The state has appropriated \$1 million a year to a fund for reimbursement of the costs of burial or cremation of indigent deceased persons to local government entities. Neither funeral homes, nor funeral directors can apply for these funds. Administrative rules are due by October 2019.

Digital Afterlife Decisions Need Attention Too!

Michel Coconis, FCACO Board Secretary

Among the items to consider when preplanning, your executor will need additional copies of death certificates to deactivate almost any online account. Each site has its own rules. One option is to notify survivors where your key passwords are stored so that the executor can delete accounts. FCACO has a template (Letter to My Family) that you can use to communicate key information to survivors. It is available on our website.

Another aspect of post-death digital life concerns apps and websites where you can set up a means to contact selected people and organizations after your death with emails, texts, and video links. Space does not permit inclusion of multiple long internet addresses here. I encourage you to email your request to info@funeralsohio.org. I will send you the requested information. A planning guide of questions to consider will be posted to our FB page and our website as well. If a group wants a workshop on these issues, let us know via phone, FB, Twitter, or email.



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

FCACO QR code



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