



Funeral Consumers
Alliance
of Central Ohio
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FCACO News

November 2020

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: (vacant)
Membership Secretary: Cathy Elkins
Director: Phyllis Byard
Director: Sheila Fox
Director: Nancy Alonzo
Director: Dennis Rankin

Dear Members, this Covid-19 weary board chair likes bullets, so this is my article:

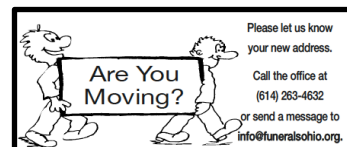
- Have you ever Googled our national office, Funeral Consumer Alliance (FCA)? It's interesting reading.
- Have you ordered your **\$15** "Before I Go You Should Go" workbook from FCA? You can order directly from FCA online or call them at 802-865-8300. A **\$9.00** electronic form is available for download. You can always call us at 614-263-4632 & we can order it for you.
- Gift memberships to FCACO might just make somebody on your Christmas list happy. Hint, hint.
- More cemeteries are offering **green burials** now.
- If you've moved, **please** contact us. And if you moved out of our area or to another state your membership can be transferred to the FCA affiliate in that area.
- Your generous donations are always gratefully received. A donation of your **time** would be even more welcome, honest. It's time for another price list which involves calls to funeral homes for updates. Our board meets via Zoom now. Please consider volunteering.
- We sincerely hope to have our annual meeting next May.
- **Stay Healthy and have the Merriest Christmas and Happiest New Year!!**

Let us hear from you on social media

ht  www.facebook.com/funeralconsumersallianceofcentralohio

Twitter: Visit [@ColumbusFuneral](https://twitter.com/ColumbusFuneral)

Tweet to us: [@ColumbusFuneral](https://twitter.com/ColumbusFuneral)



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



We Thrive on Your
Generosity!

Lifetime membership dues only cover a portion of our annual budget. FCACO relies on your generosity to continue to educate the public, monitor funeral industry regulations, and advocate for your rights to funeral and after-death arrangements that meet the unique needs of your family. Your donation is tax-deductible. Mail your check to:

FCACO

P.O. Box 14835

Columbus OH 43214

You can also donate online at
www.funeralsohio.org

QR code
For
FCACO
website



FCA National Conference: Sept. 2020

Phyllis Byard

In the late 1990s, I had the privilege of serving as a board member and as President of our national organization, Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) and participated in several Biennial Conferences. This year the Conference was moved to a virtual platform. I found the meeting rewarding and fresh, as did other affiliate board members. All the sessions were recorded and are available free on the FCA website:

<https://funerals.org/conference-2020-recorded-presentations/>

The selections are broad, and you should be able to find one or more of interest. The featured Keynote Speaker, Dr. Kami Fletcher, Associate Professor of History, Albright College, presented on "African - American Undertaking: History, Burial Rights and Deathwork."

Josh Slocum, Executive Director, opened the Conference with an update on FCA's involvement with other consumer groups urging the FTC to make changes to the "Funeral Rule" (originally adopted in 1984) which would, among other things, mandate online price disclosure by funeral homes.

I believe you will find this worthwhile and even entertaining.

The Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

Cathy Elkins

OBEFD is the state body that inspects, licenses, writes rules following legislation, and handles complaints regarding cremation facilities and funeral homes. It has the authority to levy fines and close facilities. I attend this group's monthly board meetings as a private citizen.

I have been following two issues: The Preneed Recovery Fund helps families recoup funds if a funeral home misuses preneed funds. Funeral homes pay \$10 for each preneed contract they sell. As of September 16, 2020, the Board had \$823,000 in this fund, and \$30,000 was expended for seven claims.

The second issue is the Ohio Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program created by the Legislature, effective in late 2019. Only municipalities may be reimbursed for burial or cremation costs of indigent persons. As of August 31, 2020 (FY 2021), three applications were paid out for a total of \$2,335. For FY 2020, 85 payments totaled \$60,778.47.

The Board has identified concerns about funeral homes that are closing. Where are their preneed contracts going? Are there any cremains left in the funeral home?

The Board publishes a quarterly newsletter. It may be accessed at their web site: funeral.ohio.gov

COVID-19 and Death Care (By Cathy Elkins)

The Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors has sent their members directions on handling deceased persons in this day of COVID-19. (For details: www.funeral.ohio.gov)

Our two contracted providers were contacted for their input. Cook & Son-Pallay (Columbus) said the funeral home has not seen much impact, with only one or two cases. All staff and visitors must wear masks, and hand sanitizer is available. They have not needed to limit the number of visitors for viewings. Viewing before cremation requires embalming, which is done by an outside vendor, so PPE is not an issue. They do not have the ability to live-stream a funeral service, but Wi Fi is available in the parlor so the family can do it.

Conroy Funeral Home in Springfield reports only about 2 to 3 cases of COVID-19 so far. Some PPE is hard to get. Visitation is limited to one hour, only on the day of funeral. Attendance is limited to thirty persons. Masks are required for staff and visitors, and hand sanitation stations are available. They are able to livestream funerals through YouTube.

Cemeteries have different rules about the number of persons allowed for a burial.

FUN FACTS

Celia Elkins

- In 1960, the percentage of Americans choosing cremation was just 4%. In 2019, the percentage of Americans choosing cremation was 54.6%.
- A cremation permanently destroys all traces of DNA.
- Your disposal options are numerous. The cremains can be interred in a cemetery plot, retained by a family member, scattered on your private property, or at a place that was significant to the deceased.
- Always check local regulations regarding scattering in a public place. Scattering ashes is generally forbidden in public parks. Your funeral director can help you with this .