



# FCACO

Funeral Consumers Alliance  
of Central Ohio  
A Memorial Society  
"as defined by the FTC"  
(614) 263-4632

# News

## 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 and wariness through action, education and publications

## Funeral Advice You Can Trust

Founded in 1953, FCACO is one of more than 110 similar alliances across the country working in conjunction with the national Funeral Consumers Alliance. We are run by volunteers and have no connection with the funeral industry, or any religious group. Membership is open to all in our service area that includes Columbus, Springfield, Yellow Springs, Dayton and outlying areas.

FCACO invites your inquiries. Call (614) 264-4632 or visit us at [www.funeralsohio.org](http://www.funeralsohio.org).

## 2012-2013 Board Members

*Past President:* Su Ann Farnlacher

*President:* Alice Faryna

*President Elect:* Open

*Treasurer:* Su Ann Farnlacher

*Secretary:* Nancy Alonzo

*Membership Secretary:* Carol Bohumolski

*Newsletter Editors:* Phyllis Byard, Alice Faryna, Olwen Firestone

*Newsletter Editor Emeritus:* Dwight Sharp

*Directors:* Edgel Alley, Cathy Elkins, Frank Timmons, Jan Waters

FCACO—Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

## Death Cafés:

# Talking about the Taboo

by Lizzy Miles,  
Guest Commentator

A Death Café is a pop-up event where people get together to talk about death, and have tea and delicious cake. The events started in Switzerland, spread to the United Kingdom, and I hosted the first in the U.S. in Columbus, Ohio, in July 2012. Now the movement has spread and there are Death Café events being

held in cities around the country from New York to Tucson, Atlanta to Sonoma County. I continue to host the event here in Columbus about once a month.

So what do people talk about at a Death Café? There is no set agenda; there is no end game. Each event is unique, and the variety stems from the topics brought up by the participants. Attendees range in age from twenties to over ninety! While I call myself a facilitator, I am more like a host who starts the conversation. Participants are simply asked what brought them to the event,

and that question alone will keep the conversation going for two hours. Most Death Café events now have some repeat attendees and some new ones. Put together a group

that includes a 25-year-old with a Master's in Transpersonal Psychology, a 70-year-old widow, and a funeral home director, and you're going to have an interesting dialogue.

There are a lot of questions pondered at Death Cafés. Is it normal to think

about dying every day? Which is worse to experience—the sudden death of a loved one, or watching them suffer for a prolonged period of time? Is a viewing necessary? What if I don't agree with my family on how a funeral should be put together? How do you define quality of life? Why can't I choose when I will die? What happens after we die?

The Death Café is special. It creates that space to have the conversations that we



Continued on page 3...

## We always need and welcome new members!

Stock your place of worship or Senior Center with our brochures. Remember that FCACO talks to clubs and organizations. Help us to get the word out about our organization and services. Call for details and brochures. **(614) 263-4632**



## Musings from Retiring Editor

by Phyllis Byard

As I step back from my involvement in writing this newsletter I have so many things left to say! I guess prioritizing them is the place to begin. First and foremost, I'm as dedicated to this organization as I was when I first joined. I want to see it continue and flourish. That obviously depends on two things: people and money. We need to reach more people to become members, which would provide both financial support and personnel for our board and outreach work. Our members are generous with their contributions, so more members would also mean more financial support. (The one-time membership fee from new members is certainly not enough to keep us going.)

I'm hoping that you want the same thing for FCACO. Then do yourself (and me) a favor. Recruit someone to listen to our story. Talk to someone about why you became a member and why they should consider it. Bring them to a presentation (listed on our Web site). If only 300 of our members would bring a new member in, it would be a big help.

The most common reason I hear for joining is "peace of mind"—that all arrangements are fixed and in place, and that they don't have to think about it anymore! Remember, you don't have to pay ahead to the funeral home unless you particularly want to. You just need to plan ahead.



## FCA 2014 Biennial

We have it on good advice that the FCA Biennial in 2014 will probably be in Chattanooga, TN on June 5, 6 and 7. Since it is relatively "close by," perhaps you would consider attending. These Biennials are phenomenally interesting and informative. Keep on the lookout for more detailed information in the coming year.

# From the President's Desk



Alice Faryna,  
FCACO President

As our fiscal year draws to a close, the FCACO board is preparing for our May 11th annual meeting. We encourage members to attend and bring any interested guests. Once again we are not requiring a fee at registration, but donations to cover the cost of food are encouraged.

Do call in advance so we know how much food to prepare.

We are excited to have as our speaker, Josh Slocum, the executive director of our national organization, Funeral Consumers Alliance. Josh is the co-author, along with Lisa Carlson, leader of the Funeral Ethics Organization, of Final Rights, the definitive book on the modern funeral industry. This book can be ordered from the national Web site, [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org), and is available for Kindle or Nook electronic readers. You can also order, for a smaller fee, the chapter(s) on individual states. Each chapter contains useful information on state regulations regarding such topics as embalming, cremation, dealing with a coroner, out of state disposition, burial, and many other topics.

Particularly useful are sections on prepayment of funerals and cemetery services.

Members should be aware of the fact that funeral directors and cemeteries are two different businesses, regulated under separate departments. Cemeteries in the state of Ohio are regulated by a variety of laws, depending on the owner of the cemetery (township, municipality, association, religious institution, etc.). The Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, under the Real Estate and Professional Licensing Division of Commerce, regulates cemeteries, but cemeteries also have their own set of rules and regulations which must be obtained from the cemetery you are doing business with. What consumers are actually purchasing is not the specific burial plot, but the right to be interred in that space. There are cemeteries that charge when multiple interments will be conducted in one plot. This can be found in the cemetery's rules and regulations.

Questions or disputes should be made to:

**Registration and Resolution Section Chief  
Ohio Department of Commerce  
77 South High Street, 20th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215**

**phone: (614) 466-5384**

## SLATE OF CANDIDATES—Fiscal Year 2014

These individuals have agreed to run for office for the coming year beginning June 1, 2013. According to our by-laws, members present at the annual meeting will be considered sufficient to constitute a quorum for voting purposes. Although this slate of candidates is presented herein, it must be voted upon at the Annual Meeting. We have two vacancies on the board owing to the resignation of two board members in 2013. Members may also nominate individuals from the floor at the meeting.

### OFFICERS

(these are 1- year terms)

President Elect.....open  
 President .....Alice Faryna  
 Past President (automatic)Su Ann Farnlacher  
 Membership Secretary ....Cathy Elkins  
 Recording Secretary .....Nancy Alonzo  
 Treasurer.....Su Ann Farnlacher

### BOARD MEMBERS AND TERMS

(3 year terms)

Open .....(2014)  
 Edgel Alley.....(2014)  
 Open .....(2015)  
 Jan Waters.....(2015)  
 Frank Timmons .....(2016)  
 Jennifer Ayers .....(2016)

FCACO attempts to verify all information in this newsletter, but cannot guarantee all. Legal questions should be directed to your attorney.



## A Huge Thanks to Our Donors for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year

Mary F. Abicht  
Betty May Aiken  
Chadwick & Elinor Alger  
Judith Waite Allee  
Dianne L. & Donald J. Almedinger  
Nancy S. Alonzo  
Toshiko & George Asakawa  
Barbara & Grey Austin  
Marcella Baird  
Marie Batley  
Charlotte & Rubin Battino  
Gloria Jean Beal  
Carol Bohumolski  
Catherine M. Bremner  
Catherine Brewer  
Geneva Brisbane  
Phyllis L. & Paul M. Byard  
Patricia Carey  
Patricia & Thomas Caruso  
Robert J. & Lucy Shelton Caswell  
Ruth F. Cowperthwaite  
John B. Day  
John Dickinson  
Betty Neuman Dicklich  
Catherine E. Elkins  
Richard E. & Jean E. Eschliman  
SuAnn Farnlacher  
Alice Faryna  
Gunter Fildebrandt  
Olwen Firestone  
Betty Gabel  
Donald W. Good  
Nancy R. & Curtis D. Greene  
John Hart, Jr.  
John E. Hart  
Joseph C. Hendrix  
Libby D. & Dr. Lawrence J. R. Herson  
Frederick Hunker & Linda A. Spohn  
Jann M. Ichida  
Lloyd Kennedy  
M. J. & Kenneth W. Kennedy  
Georgory B. King

Robert & Janeen Kirkbride  
Joseph Knapik  
Anita A. Kohler  
Shirley Kristensen  
Calvin & Ilene Kunin  
Wayne Lander  
Julian Larson  
Marian C. Lindberg  
Marie Lorz  
Geraldine B. & John A. Lott  
Sylvia S. & Kenneth A. Marantz  
Lawson E. & Jean S. Marsh  
Arline McCarthy  
David Melick  
Carl D. & Helen W. Miller  
John M. Morgan  
Nina D. Myatt  
Betty L. Nelson  
Sue J. Neptune  
Ruby W. Nicholson  
David J. Nilsen  
Elizabeth Persons  
Nancy G. & William R. Platt  
Ann Rader  
Anna T. Reeves  
Robert & Ann Reves  
Thomas M. Ricci & Sheri E. Bidwell  
Marianne Ruis  
Linda M. Royalty  
Kathryn C. Schwartz  
Annetta C. Schlereth  
Jane Nicholson & Robert James Scott  
Janice L. & Phillip C. Sorensen  
Linda Stevens & Patricia J. Kealey  
Frank E. & Barbara W. Timmons  
Madelon A. Timmons  
Lois D. & Robert H. Whealey  
Carole T. & Robert G. Wilhelm  
David L. & Karen J. Williams  
Donald E. Winchell  
Warren W. Wolf  
Sarah L. Wurdlow

## ***Death Cafés:***

Continued from front page...

can't seem to have anywhere else. My interest in the Death Café was sparked from my experience as a hospice worker. I found that wherever I went, once I mentioned hospice, strangers would immediately share their stories with me. The Death Café creates a safe place for storytelling and exploration of a normally taboo topic.

To find out about the worldwide movement visit [deathcafe.com](http://deathcafe.com)

To find out about upcoming Columbus Death Café events, "like" Columbus Death Café on Facebook.

Contact [lizzymiles@gmail.com](mailto:lizzymiles@gmail.com). to be added to the Columbus Death Café mailing list.



## ***Odds 'n Ends***

A big THANK YOU to Christian Laver and Associates, Lincoln Financial Advisors, for keeping us supplied with our brochures.



## ***Is Your Will Up-to-Date?***

How about Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare and Living Will? All done? Good for you!! Now, what about your "funeral agent form" (Ohio Appointment of Representative for Disposition of Bodily Remains, Funeral Arrangements, and Burial or Cremation Goods and Services)? Contact the Office to receive a free copy. It's very important to make sure you have named someone that you trust to follow through on your funeral arrangements. This can be your spouse, child or children, or a neighbor, friend, or relative. If you don't have one of these documents naming someone, the State of Ohio has a list that they follow. Check this out on our Web site under the tab "documents." You can download a blank copy to fill out.

Remember our Speaker's Bureau if you are a member of an organization that would like to schedule an informative talk. Contact the office for details.

## New this Year!

by Cathy Elkins

At the annual meeting of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio on May 11 we will have a Silent Auction of selected items from our Board members and Central Ohio artists Tom and Deb Baillieul and Betty Aiken.

Funds raised will help with our out-reach efforts and printing of materials. Plan to join us and purchase a lovely article to take home. We can accept checks and cash, but not credit cards. See you on Saturday, May 11.



## Monthly Meeting of State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

by Jan Waters, FCACO board member

As members of the Board of Directors of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio, Cathy Elkins and I continue to attend the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors monthly meetings to learn what is happening in the funeral industry in Ohio. Of ongoing concern is what happens to paid, pre-need funds when funeral homes are closed (for whatever reasons). If the funds have not been placed in a trust account consumers may find themselves "out the money." Within the last two years, half a million dollars has been lost to Ohio consumers when the funeral homes have been closed. The board is considering possible bonding of funeral homes in an attempt to end this situation (which would require action by the Legislature).

Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors meetings are open to the public and listed on [www.funeral.ohio.gov](http://www.funeral.ohio.gov).

Other topics addressed at these meetings are compliance issues, complaints from consumers, licensure issues, regulation of apprentices, and reports of inspections occurring each month of funeral facilities and crematoriums.

Cathy and I continue to be impressed by the sincere efforts of this board to protect consumers and make accountable the funeral directors in the State of Ohio.

# FCACO 2013 Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend our annual meeting and luncheon on **Saturday, May 11, 2013** at the Columbus Mennonite Church:

**35 Oakland Park Avenue, Columbus, OH 43214**

A buffet lunch will be served at noon, followed by our business meeting and program. This year we are introducing a new feature, a silent auction described in another article.

Please register by calling **(614) 263-4632** and indicate how many are attending. There is no charge for registration, but donations are always welcome at the door.

The church is near the intersection of High St and East N. Broadway. The parking lot is accessed from Broadway Place (see arrow on map below)



## ANNUAL MEETING FEATURED SPEAKER



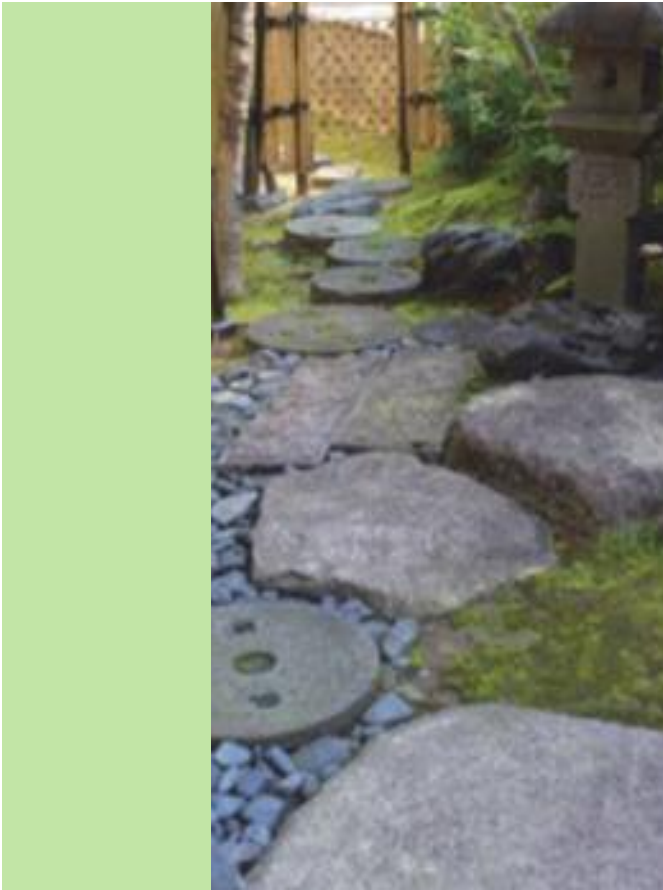
**Josh Slocum,**  
Executive Director  
National Funeral Consumers Alliance

Josh Slocum, Executive Director of the National Funeral Consumers Alliance since 2003, will give the annual address:

### **“What Ever Happened to Pine Boxes?”**

Slocum has been consulted by legislators and the media around the country as an expert in funeral law and consumer advocacy. He helped draft a bill before Congress that would extend Federal Trade Commission consumer protection rules to cemeteries, crematories, and funeral merchandise vendors. In 2009, he participated in a working group that developed the toughest cemetery regulations in the nation, Illinois' Cemetery Oversight Act, and he has submitted testimony to support local Funeral Consumers Alliance legislative reform efforts in nearly a dozen states.

Slocum lives just outside Burlington, Vermont, in a small house where he made his World Cardiac Debut in December 2010. In an ensemble of boxer shorts and a T-shirt he performed the instant classic "My First Heart Attack: Portrait of a 36-year-old Needing a Stent Stat." He would like everyone his age to know that they are not, in fact, immortal simply by virtue of not being old.



# Do You Know Someone Who Would Like to Join, or Who Would Benefit from an FCACO Gift Membership?

- 1. Give them the attached application form to complete.
- OR
- 2. Complete the form as a gift from you and mail to FCACO.

**FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL OHIO**  
**PO BOX 14835**  
**COLUMBUS OHIO 43214**

As a member of FCACO you already understand the wisdom of pre-planning and the benefits of membership in FCACO. Many people, especially those in the prime of life put off making end-of-life decisions for a variety of reasons. And, sadly, accidents or unexpected fatal illnesses do occasionally strike the very young. Some of our members have purchased a gift membership for their adult children or other relatives who live in Central Ohio. If they should move to other locations or other states, their membership can be transferred easily by contacting the nearest FCA affiliate. Simply call our office at **(614) 263-4632** for transfer information or locate affiliates in the National Directory which can be found at [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)

## *Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio Welcomes You!*

Upon receipt of this form and the appropriate donation, membership materials will be mailed to the new member(s). These include a membership card, a price list of 4 funeral plans offered at a discount by our contracted providers, a planning form and a legally binding form to appoint a representative for disposition of remains (this is an optional resource). Members also receive a newsletter twice a year. Dependent children (to age 18) are included in a parent's plan. Please enclose a check to FCACO of \$40 per adult member. There are no annual dues.

Please print: Name \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Member if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ OH Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ OH Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Names and birth year of dependent children: \_\_\_\_\_

This membership is a gift donated by \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ OH Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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## Contact Information on Important Resources

(Please keep this in a handy place)

Cook and Son-Pallay Funeral Home  
(in Columbus) **(614) 444-7861**

Conroy Funeral Home  
(in Springfield) **(937) 324-4973**

Body Donation at OSU  
**(614) 292-4832**

for forms: <http://go.osu.edu/bodydonation>

### LOOP

(Lifeline of Ohio Organ Procurement)  
(includes cornea donations)

**(877) 223-6667**

[www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org)

Franklin County Probate Court  
advanced directives including  
“Funeral Agent” form  
[www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate)

Funeral Consumers Alliance  
of Central Ohio (FCACO)

**(614) 263-4632**

or <http://www.funeralsohio.org>  
(forms, copies of old newsletters, funeral  
home surveys and other information).

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# Volunteering

by Phyllis Byard

Many years ago I was reading an FCACO Newsletter (then we were still called “The Memorial Society”) and there was the on-going “ad” in it that our long-time editor, Dwight Sharp, ALWAYS included. That was an “ad” that hit both subjects we always need, money and helpers: helpers in the form of people who would be willing to serve on the board for a year or two; helpers that could serve on committees; helpers that could join the speaker’s bureau, or set appointments for the speakers; helpers who could keep literature bins filled in various locations.

Until that particular day, I had never volunteered to help. Not sure why not, but I hadn’t. I had given my yearly donation, but I

suddenly thought, “Gee, if people like me who care about this group don’t volunteer, how will we be able to continue to do it?” Then and there I filled out the little form in the newsletter that Dwight had made, tore it out of the newsletter and sent it in. I’m so glad I did!

We’ve made it easier for you! You don’t have to tear anything. You can write your name on the enclosed remittance envelope, and volunteer today! You’ll be glad you did (and so will we)!

**You can help by “adopting” a location and making sure it’s supplied with brochures. Let us know how many brochures you need!**

## FCACO News Team Members Needed

If you would like to be a contributing writer for future newsletters, please contact Phyllis Byard, (614) 263-4632, for more information.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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