



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

Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

From the President's Desk Cathy Elkins Changes in the Air



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:

Officers Through May 31, 2024

President: Cathy Elkins

Past President: Su Ann Farnlacher

Treasurer: Su Ann Farnlacher

Recording Secretary: Kristen Figg

Membership Secretary: Cathy Elkins

Directors

Phyllis Byard	Through May 31, 2024
Jack Holdford.	Through May 31, 2024
Dennis Rankin.	Through May 31, 2025
Rita Haider	Through May 31, 2026
Michelle Miles.	Through May 31, 2026
Margaret Sproul	Through May 31, 2026

1. Organizational Changes: Our national organization, Funeral Consumers Alliance, founded in 1963, has given up their office in Vermont as a cost saving measure. Their Director, Josh Slocum, has resigned and other staff were let go. Their current office address is 629 Paris Street, Graham NC 27253-3222. (Our affiliate, FCACO, was founded in 1953 and was originally called The Memorial Society of the Columbus Area.) Their 6-member Board of Directors is a working board much like our board of directors. Like us, they are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to educate and advocate consumers' rights and choices in the funeral industry.

2. Changes in the Funeral Rule: The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in Washington, D.C. has the responsibility to regulate the Funeral Industry. The national FCA and the Consumers Council have lobbied heavily with this Board. Over the years the FTC has made the funeral industry more consumer friendly.

The FTC mandated that funeral homes must give consumers their General Price List to anyone who came in to ask about funeral goods and services. Sixteen items are specifically required to be on the list.

For over a year, the FTC has been reviewing public comments on changes to the rule, including a requirement that funeral homes that have websites post their prices on-line in a consumer-understandable manner. The deadline for comments has been extended to October 10, 2023.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Our Annual Meeting will be Saturday, May 4, 2024
at the First UU church: Noon to 3 PM
93 W. Weisheimer Rd Columbus OH 43214**

Resources for Your Planning Folder Body Donation

Ohio State University; (614) 292-4832

www.go.osu.edu/bodydonation

Boonshoft School of Medicine; (937) 775-3066

<https://medicine.wright.edu/anatomical-gift-program>

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

Links to Our Websites

Funeral Consumers Alliance: www.funerals.org

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio

www.funerasloho.org

The providers who offer discounts to FCACO members

Columbus Area: Cook & Son-Pallay

(614) 444-7861

Dayton/Springfield area: Conroy Funeral Home:

(937) 324 4973

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.

Your Donations support our Mission

Phyllis Byard

Autumn, the season of giving, is here. FCACO relies on your generosity to continue our important work. We gather and share information on end-of-life issues and monitor the funeral industry in the State of Ohio. Our only other source of income is the one-time membership fee of \$40. Our volunteers provide educational workshops, summaries of funeral home prices, helpful brochures, a website, an annual meeting with a topical speaker and a twice yearly informative mailed newsletter (our biggest expense). We have cut our expenses dramatically by renting office space in a church. A lot has changed concerning end of life issues and funerals in the past 30 years that I've been involved in FCACO. We strive to keep you, our members, and the general public informed of such changes. Please help us continue this important, supportive work by sending in your donation today. You can also donate online: www.funeralsohio.org



Got Your Ducks in a Row? Visit www.funeralsohio.org:

1. Survivors Checklist
2. Ohio Disposition Form (to authorize a person to arrange 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. Survey of Funeral Home General Price Lists in central Ohio

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

CONNECT WITH US:



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

THIS QR
CODE WILL
CONNECT
YOU TO OUR
WEBSITE



Estate Planning: Include Digital Power of Attorney

Jack Holdford

Planning for what happens to our assets after we pass has traditionally included a standard list of financial accounts and physical possessions. Today, much of our business and personal lives are conducted electronically, bringing a new category of assets into estate planning. With changing privacy laws, new ways of storing sentimental materials, and even brand-new currencies, digital assets must be considered in the estate planning process.

Digital assets fall into four main categories: 1) electronic items, like Bitcoin, that have actual monetary value, 2) online access to regular financial information like bank and investment accounts, 3) electronic communications which include email accounts and public and private messages in various social media profiles, and 4) all other activities conducted online, including family photos and videos, hobbies, genealogy, and volunteer organizations.

In addition to enabling our executor to pay our electronic debts, most of us would like to provide family and friends with access to photos and videos, stored on our smartphones and other devices, but companies like Apple or Facebook cannot provide the passcode to unlock an account after its user is deceased. In addition to providing access to some people, we may wish to prevent others from gaining access to certain embarrassing or private information.

The Ohio State Bar Association states that *“This is a new area of the law and many form wills do not give specific powers for digital assets. Experienced estate planning attorneys can customize estate plans to help their clients address their unique situations and develop comprehensive plans”*

Volunteers are Welcome

Rita Haider

We extend a heartfelt invitation to all members of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio to take an active role in our mission. As a non-profit organization, we are dedicated to empowering individuals with the knowledge and resources to make funeral arrangements that are dignified, meaningful, and affordable. We believe that our members are a vital part of achieving this mission, and we welcome your participation as volunteers. Whether you can spare just one hour a month or more, there are numerous ways to get involved. You can join committees, undergo training to become speakers, assist at informational events, make phone calls, write letters and contribute your skills and time to make a difference. Your commitment will help us continue to provide invaluable support to our community. Together, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to navigate the sensitive and important decisions surrounding end-of-life arrangements with confidence and compassion. If interested or for information call: (614) 263-4632 or email us: info@funeralsohio.org

Your Donations support our Mission

Phyllis Byard

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Indigent Burial in Ohio

Cathy Elkins

The last two Ohio biennial budgets (4 years) provided funds to reimburse Ohio municipalities for the burial or cremation of their indigent residents. The current Ohio Budget, signed by Governor DeWine on July 4, 2023, did not include funds for this purpose. Our board authorized me to write a letter to the Governor asking him to work with the Legislature to replace these funds. I also wrote a letter to the Columbus Dispatch about this. (See the e-edition of the paper.

What You Need to Know About Embalming

In Ohio, you have the right to refuse embalming when selecting funeral options. There are some exceptions. The health department can require the body of a person who died of a communicable disease to be buried or cremated within 24 hours after death. In some states, bodies transported across state line must be embalmed.



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. (614) 263-4632

