



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

Serving the Central Ohio Community since 1953

## From the President's Desk

Cathy Elkins

SAVE THE DATE FOR FCACO'S ANNUAL MEETING ON MAY 4, AT THE FIRST UU CHURCH, 93 W. WEISHEIMER RD, COLUMBUS. PLEASE CALL 614-263-4632 TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR LUNCH AT NOON. There is no charge, but donations are always welcome.



This year's speaker is Jarrod Williams, recently named Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors which licenses and oversees the

operation of funeral homes in Ohio.

It has the authority to fine and close funeral homes that engage in egregious practices. Mr. Williams is the most senior staff person to serve on this Board. He is knowledgeable and committed to its mission. I believe



an excellent Executive Director and am pleased he has agreed to be our guest speaker. Readers of this newsletter will note that I attend these monthly Board meetings.

## FOLLOW UP ON OTHER ITEMS

1. Our national organization, Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) is no longer located in Vermont. Their current address is 629 Paris St. Graham, N.C. The phone number is 802 865-8300 The web address is [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org) and the email is: [fca@funerals.org](mailto:fca@funerals.org)
2. We had hoped we could report a significant change in the Funeral Rule by the Federal Trade Commission by this time. FCA and the Consumers Council have been advocating that the FTC mandate that funeral homes with websites publish their General Price List (GPL) online. The FTC has conducted a lengthy review of this issue which included an opportunity for public comment. To date, no action has been taken.

### 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

## **Resources for Your Planning Folder Body Donation**

Ohio State University; (614) 292-4832

[www.go.osu.edu/bodydonation](http://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](http://www.lifelineofohio.gov/probate)

### **Advanced Directives forms**

Franklin County Probate Court;

[www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/probate)

### **Links to Our Websites**

**Funeral Consumers Alliance:** [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)

**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio**

[www.funerasloho.org](http://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



### **Got Your Ducks in a Row?**

Visit [www.funeralsohio.org](http://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](http://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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<https://www.facebook.com/funeralconsumersallianceofcentralohio>

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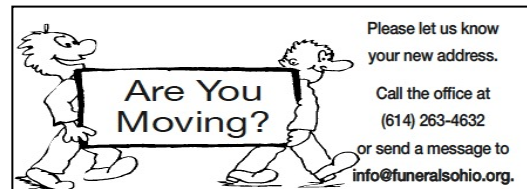


Newsletters will be mailed to only one person in a household. FCACO attempts to verify all information in this newsletter. Legal questions should be directed to your attorney.



### **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



Please let us know your new address.

Call the office at (614) 263-4632

or send a message to [info@funeralsohio.org](mailto:info@funeralsohio.org).

**Yes, You Can Buy Your Casket from Costco  
...and other things you may not know.**

By Rita Haider

Did you know that you can buy a casket online for a fraction of the price charged by some funeral homes? Mortuaries are legally required to accept caskets from outside vendors without charging you an extra fee.

There are a variety of affordable casket options, from wood veneer to cardboard printed with wood grain or even personalized patterns and pictures. If you opt for plain cardboard, guests, including children, can decorate it with personal messages, making it a meaningful part of the farewell.

You can also choose a "minimum container" and cover it with a quilt, flag, or other attractive material. If you are feeling especially crafty or want a truly personal touch, you can even make your own coffin. Directions or patterns are available to make a bookshelf that can easily be turned into a casket when needed. For more creative ideas, try googling images of caskets that look like art. Whether you are looking for a simple goodbye or a personalized send-off, the options are more varied and affordable than you might have imagined.

For more information see- **How to Save on Caskets:**  
<https://funerals.org/get-help/how-to-save-money/how-to-save-on-caskets>.

**Please Register (614) 263-4632**

**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**

**Slate of Officers for 2024-25**

The following nominations were submitted by the Nominating Committee: (Officers are elected for 1 year)

President: Rita Haider

Treasurer: Jack Holdford

Secretary: Su Farnlacher

Membership: Cathy Elkins & Dennis Rankin

Director: Joan Matyskella Through May 2027

Director: Kristen Figg Through May 2027

Director: Phyllis Byard Through May 2027

**Suggestions for Things to Say to  
Someone Who is Dying**

Jack Holdford (summarized from:  
<https://www.thelist.com/932178/what-not-to-say-to-someone-who-is-dying/> by  
Britt Hawes)

When someone you love receives news that they don't have long to live, going forward won't be easy. No one wants to hear the words "I'm sorry" from a physician. The sad reality is that life doesn't last forever. It will be incredibly difficult for the dying person and those close to them when the time draws near. Knowing what to say and not say is essential. You want to put their mind at ease and comfort them in their last moments. Avoid discussing their finances and funeral — at least not solely. Instead, use this precious time to discuss whatever they have on their mind, be it the weather or an old acquaintance.

Although you are likely hurting and trying to cope with your loved one's impending death, you must let the person know that you are there for them and won't give up after they have passed. Many dying people are most concerned about those left behind, not what comes after death. Do your best to assure them that you love them, how much you will miss them, and that you will live on for them. The best thing you can do might be to just listen to them. Did they positively impact your life? Let them know how. Simply being there and showing your appreciation can be the best way to be supportive.

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

Thank you to our Wonderful Donors! You make it possible for us to serve you and the public.



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