

REMINDERS:

- **ANNUAL MEETING**
April 25, 2010 • 2 p.m.
St. Paul's UMC Church
11631 SE Linwood Ave.
Milwaukie, OR 97222
- If you have made prepaid arrangements with a former or present participating mortuary, they will honor your prepaid arrangements. Anything you prepaid is an arrangement directly between you and the funeral home.
- Speaker's Bureau
Contact: Sylvia Bouneff
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FUNERAL CONSUMERS
ALLIANCE OF OREGON
13038 SE Kronan Dr.
Clackamas, OR 97015
Sandy Lofy
Administrative Sec'y

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REUSE, RECYCLE – DONATE!

Check out the Donor Registry at www.donatelifenw.org

.Your community transplant donation agencies:
Lions Eye Bank of Oregon: www.orlions.org
Community Tissue Services: www.communitytissue.org
Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank: www.pntb.org

There is a D on my driver's license, because I once made the decision to donate my tissue or organs when I die. But I have some questions.

Q. Just what does the D mean, and who is responsible for carrying out my wishes if I can't?

A. If you die in a hospital or other facility qualified to receive funding from Medicare/Medicaid, the facility staff will contact the federally-designated, transplant potential donation organizations and work with them to honor your wishes if you are an eligible donor. If the death occurs elsewhere, it is up to your family to follow through. We encourage you to share your wishes with hospice, skilled-nursing facilities, or funeral home professionals bearing in mind that donation is very time-sensitive.

Q. Could my family over-ride my wishes expressed by that D?

A. Until 2007, the next-of-kin's decisions took precedence over that of the deceased. But in 2007 that changed, and now the D is considered "first person legally binding consent." Family support, however, is imperative for helping to ensure that the donation is safe for transplant.

Q. Can the D on my driver's license be used for whole body donation?

A. No. It is only for transplants. For whole body donation, contact OHSU's Body Donation Program at (503) 494-8302 or visit their website at <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-medicine/bodydonation/>

Q. Might I be too old for any of my "parts" to be useful?

A. Almost everyone can be a donor of something. Even if someone is outside of transplant criteria, they may still be eligible for important medical education, disease-specific research, or training.

Q. If I am able to be a donor, could my family still have a regular funeral for me?

A. Yes. Ask your funeral director for details.

Q. What else should be in place to make it possible for my tissue or organs to become transplants, so another person might receive the gift of life, mobility, or sight?

A. Write your wishes clearly, and make sure your family is aware of them. Also, sign up on the Donor Registry at www.donatelifenw.org. It takes about one minute, and could make a life-saving or life-enhancing difference to someone!

Special thanks to Emily Wittekindt of Community Tissue Services and Corrina Patzer of Lions Eye Bank for help with this article.

Volunteers Needed!

If you volunteer a few hours a month, you can help FCAO thrive. Your help is vital! Here are some of the many ways you can help:

Spread the word among your family, friends, church and social groups.

Invite our speakers to talk with a group, large or small.

Join our Speakers' Bureau and give informal talks yourself!

Help us get other members' e-mail addresses.

Forward this newsletter to your family, friends, pastor, etc.

Send money! Consider a special donation in memory of, or to honor, someone dear to you.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Member, Thank you for your positive response to the invitation to attend the Annual Meeting of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Oregon. It is good to know that you are planning to be here. Several members have indicated their willingness to be elected to the Board of Trustees, so we should have a full board to begin the new year.

FCAO makes every effort to send member mail to active addresses. Because of USPS rules, we cannot identify address changes more than 4 years ago. Thus, our mailing list still contains incorrect addresses. Unfortunately, contract mortuaries have not informed us of all members' deaths. If you have received mail for a deceased member, please let us know by phone, e-mail or postal letter.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, April 25. It will be good to be together again!

Mary Sohlstrom, President

Working Together at State & National Level

Looking at the bigger picture for a minute, the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Oregon has a valuable working relationship with the national Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) headquarters in Vermont. The FCA Board and a small staff headed by Director Josh Slocum is a source of information and coordination for the 100 local units across the country that make up the federation of funeral societies.

The FCA office also serves as a watchdog for funeral related matters and national legislation. Josh Slocum is on the national media list whenever items of this type pop up in the news.

This past summer U.S. Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL), became deeply concerned about the matter of graves being dug up and resold, contacted Josh and sought his help for a legislative solution. Josh spent long hours researching and compiling complaints for a 10-page report he presented to the House Subcommittee chaired by Congressman Rush.

Josh asked the lawmakers to expand the Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule -- adopted in 1984 -- to cover cemeteries, crematories, and casket and monument retailers. His full testimony and documentation is available on the Internet. On Sept. 21 Congressman Rush announced that a comprehensive bill (HR 3655) would be introduced, to be known as Bereaved Consumers Protection Act.

FCA's next Biennial Conference will be held Thursday, June 3, through Sunday, June 6, at the Bloomington Campus of Indiana University. The URL for FCA is www.funerals.org.

Overview of Funeral Rule and Details Provided by Wikipedia

Information about the types of funerals and related matters is included in Wikipedia, the free Internet encyclopedia, under the heading "Funeral Rule". The Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule was adopted April 30, 1984 and amended in 1994.