



**OREGON
MEMORIAL
ASSOCIATION**

&

**FUNERAL
CONSUMERS
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

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President's Message — 2016

Dear Valued Members,

I am pleased to report that the past year for your Association and its Foundation has been one of solid advancement with several key elements in our program reaching fruition.

Over the past year we have been telling you about our exciting and uniquely "Oregon-ized" end-of-life advance planning workshops that we've named "All's Well That Ends Well." That program is now underway in the Portland area with numerous workshops already having been conducted, eliciting eager and enthusiastic response from participants. When additional volunteers step up to assist we are anxious to expand this helpful educational program further in the Portland area plus around the state. So far donations from participants are paying the workshop costs. Board Secretary and Past President RCA Moore has developed and launched this amazing program for us.

Speaking of finances, OMA's financial picture is steadily improving, albeit slowly. Over the year we have kept spending and income balanced thanks to generous gifts from some of our wonderful members. We run a very tight ship and I have to stress that donations are vitally necessary because our modest lifetime membership dues do not come near paying for expenses, yet alone programs to spur growth or services statewide.

An envelope is enclosed with this newsletter that should make it easy for you to assist as you are able. Remember, the security of your OMA funeral contracts depends upon a healthy OMA organization. We appreciate your involvement.

An additional way you can help at no cost to you is to designate our allied Foundation as recipient for rewards when you shop at Fred Meyer. An article in this newsletter explains how to do that.

I am also happy to announce the gift over the past year of one cemetery plot at Portland's Skyline Memorial Park Cemetery and two exclusive mausoleum crypts at Lincoln Memorial Park Funeral Home, also in Portland. These are currently for sale by our Funeral Consumers Education Foundation at bargain prices; see the advertisement on page 2 of this newsletter about these opportunities. We are grateful for these gifts.

If you have not looked at our Internet web page lately, please do so (www.fca-oregon.org). Our webmaster (and Board member) Mike Staehli has updated and pgraded the site recently. Prowl around in it for awhile; you will find a lot there that is of interest.

Besides the need for ongoing financial help, we desperately could use more volunteers. Your primary OMA and Foundation volunteers sit on the Board of Trustees but we are a very small group. In order to expand and strengthen our organization as well as provide necessary services to members statewide, we rely upon volunteers. Our greatest need is volunteers in the Portland metro area but some members have expressed interest in forming OMA discussion or support

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Dave Howard

President's Message

— From page 1

groups in other cities as well. If you think you could help in any way, please let us know! You can easily register your interest with the enclosed reply envelope.

Regardless of where you live, you can help both your friends and family members as well as OMA by spreading the word about our organization and its services. Many, many Oregonians could benefit from OMA membership if someone would only introduce our services to them. Membership application forms are available on our website (<http://fca-oregon.org/join.html>) – print a couple out and encourage someone close to you to join with us. They will thank you for it!

The upcoming Annual Meeting June 18 at beautiful Willamette View Retirement Center (between Portland and Oregon City just west of Highway 99E) will be an exciting one. Besides a short business meeting, we will enjoy a lively discussion about ethics in end-of-life care moderated by Oregon Cemetery and Mortuary Board Executive Michelle Sigmund-Gaines. Attending this timely consumer-oriented discussion will be well worth the drive! We hope to see a large crowd; see details on page 3. Financial reports will be available and refreshments will be served.

– Dave Howard (Lebanon)

Review, Revise, Resubmit

Your Oregon Memorial Association can best help you and your survivors if your information on file with us is up to date. Help us update your file by reviewing your Personal Instruction Form (PIF); revising any information on it such as address, phone, email or new end of life instruction; finally, resubmit the form to us to scan and add to your file. Then when your next of kin calls us, we'll be able to share your wishes.

You can find this important form on our website at www.fca-oregon.org – select the "Join OMA" tab, then in the middle of the page you'll see a green tab that says PIF. Click on the tab and you'll go to the instruction form. Print as many as you need then complete them and mail to OMA, PO Box 13306, Portland, OR 97213.

Be an OMA Hero!

Sometime in the past you learned about Oregon Memorial Association and made the decision that this organization offered end-of-life education and services that were important to you and your family. In filling out that initial application and sending it in with our modest lifetime dues payment you joined with thousands of other Oregonians who also valued those services OMA offered.

Your organization continues to offer those same services plus others that have come along in recent years. But those one-time lifetime dues payments – kept low on purpose so OMA can be available to all income levels – do not cover all expenses. We rely upon additional donations from our members to keep OMA alive and growing.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a handy multi-purpose return envelope. Please use it to keep your OMA updated about changes in mailing address, email address, phone, or other contact information. It is impossible to keep you informed about your membership organization if our contact database is out of date!

In addition, the envelope is your reminder that the Oregon Memorial Association and our sister organization the Funeral Consumers Education Foundation depend upon support from members in order to continue providing all the benefits that make membership so valuable.

If you make your check out to the Funeral Consumers Education Foundation (our sister non-profit organization) your donation is tax deductible. For your convenience, you may also make a tax-deductible donation online at our website (fcfe-oregon.org). You are welcome to designate your gift in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

Please put the enclosed envelope to good use today! Update your information and, if possible, enclose a check as well. Your involvement is essential – and appreciated!

OMA Annual Meeting June 18!
See story on page 3

Complete Your Plan! FCEF has available—

1 Burial Plot at Skyline Memorial Park

4101 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland



2 Mausoleum Crypts at Lincoln Memorial Park

11801 SE Mt. Scott Blvd., Portland

These premier properties can be yours at discounted prices through Funeral Consumers Education Foundation. For details call 888-475-5520

Plan now to attend OMA's annual meeting June 18

Members and friends attending the annual Oregon Memorial Association meeting June 18 are in for a special treat. Opening the afternoon will be a special, timely presentation on funeral home ethics and practices presented by Michelle Sigmund-Gaines, the Executive Director of the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board, the state agency that supervises the industry and enforces the law. This will be a unique educational presentation that will be of value to all consumers.

The program will help OMA members understand how the industry operates, how it has changed in recent years – everything an informed funeral consumer needs to know. She will be aided by some funeral directors who will respond and discuss her remarks.

The program will be held Sat., June 18, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Willamette View Retirement Center, 12705 SE River Rd., Portland, Oregon. The auditorium is located in the largest building and parking is plentiful.

After the program presentation there will be a break for refreshments and visiting, followed by a very short OMA business meeting that will include election of Board Trustees. Financial reports will be available at the meeting.

Plan on attending this informative session and feel free to bring friends or family members. We promise it will be a worthwhile afternoon!

Sign up a friend!

Oregon Memorial Association membership is both a bargain and a peace-of-mind generator. With your membership you are entitled to end-of-life funeral home services at a pre-arranged price available only to members. This alone is worth many times your modest membership fee.

But beyond that, OMA membership entitles you to register your end-of-life plans so when the time comes your loved ones will know your wishes. This will make final arrangements much less stressful for your survivors.

These are advantages worthy of sharing with your friends and family members! We encourage you to talk with those you love about the benefits of being an OMA member. Urge them to join with you in this nonprofit consumer-based organization that offers so much for so little. Guide them to the Oregon Memorial website (www.fca-oregon.org) where they can learn more. Membership application forms can be printed from the website ("Join OMA" tab).

Your friends and family members will thank you for this!

Fred Meyer rewards helps your OMA

The Oregon Memorial Association is a proud nonprofit participant with the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program. Now using a Fred Meyer rewards card not only saves you money on shopping, it can also help the Oregon Memorial Association.

All rewards customers have to do is sign up for the Community Rewards Program online and do their regular shopping at Fredmeyer.com. Go online to — fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and follow simple instructions to link your rewards card to your favorite nonprofit – in this case the Funeral Consumers Education Foundation (or use our group number, 89340). The Foundation is the nonprofit arm of the Oregon Memorial Association.

Since initiating this partnership with Fred Meyer Rewards last fall many members have already linked their cards to the FCEF resulting in several checks. These are a welcome source of badly needed income.

Rewards customers continue to earn rewards points, fuel points and rewards rebates just as they do every time they shop at Fred Meyer and purchase prices will remain the same. This new program is just the latest enhancement to the rewards program and one more benefit of being a rewards customer.

Office manager says 'Farewell'

As I begin to transition into retirement again and begin the next chapter, I want to say thank you for the opportunity to work with some amazing trustees, and staff of many of our contract mortuaries who all have the same passion for the Oregon Memorial Association. Our Board works tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly. I was the only paid person, at a very few hours a week, yet in the last two years this organization has grown so well.

When I was asked two years ago by Trustee Jeanne Staehli to help her put together the annual members' meeting, I soon found myself taking on the same passion that she and the other Board members seem to have. Individually or together we would get an idea, then begin the process of creating a way to accomplish it. Our weekly meetings began to see some changes in the way we did things. New form letters were created to send to those asking about OMA, then welcoming them. Our membership cards had "member since" added to them. We certainly had the ideas, and passion, yet only a fraction of the time, finances and manpower to make them come together. We started with just a few volunteers, and now we have many more. The education program is taking off; membership is growing.

I know I will see you at the annual meetings, as I am a member too, so this is not goodbye. – Diane Pohrman

Oregon Memorial Association
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*Invite a Friend
To Join The
Oregon Memorial Association*

OMA assistance helps members at the time of death

For many members their OMA membership smoothes one of life's roughest times – dealing with the complexities of funeral and burial arrangements. This was especially true for the family of one OMA member who passed away in Portland this spring. This kind thank-you note to OMA's office manager Diane Pohrman, written by the deceased's mother, illustrates the value of membership. Names have been changed to protect privacy.

Dear Diane, I am not sure you will remember me, but we had some communication some time back in regard to our daughter Lisa. You shared some very kind words with me, and helped to transfer Lisa's funeral plan. I did want you to know that she died on March 27 in Portland. God saw fit in His mercy to bring her long, hard journey with pain and drug addiction to an end. We were so thankful to have things in place there as it helped very much with planning the funeral at such a distance – we are in Ohio. It was also very cost efficient for us. Plus, the small funeral we had there at River View Cemetery Funeral Home* turned out to be so beautiful in every way. The staff treated us with respect and compassion, and I felt like Lisa was also treated like the princess she was in her heart of hearts. Just wanted to thank you SO very much for your help with all this, and your kindness to us. Love, Lois

(*Note: River View is OMA's provider for the Portland metro area.)

Saturday, June 18, 2016

Oregon Memorial Association's 55th Annual Meeting

1:30 - 4 p.m.

**Willamette View
Retirement Center (Auditorium)
12705 SE River Rd.
Portland, Oregon**

See the website (www.fca-oregon.org) or phone for
printed driving directions (503-647-5590.)

*All OMA Members
& Friends Are
Encouraged to Attend*

(See Story on Page 3)