



Oregon Memorial Association

end of life planning since 1961

2020 Annual Report of the Oregon Memorial Association

Presented at the Annual Meeting
September 12, 2020

Liz Jessop and **Susan Robinson** have been pleased to serve as **Co-Presidents** this past year. The OMA board is working well together, meeting monthly, now by Zoom.

We are glad to report that the state of things at OMA is stable at present. Thanks to our finance committee and diligent **Board Treasurer**, the **Rev. Connie Yost**, we have a working budget that we can support with our current funds. We are most grateful to members who have responded to our fund-raising appeals. Because of their generosity, we are able to contract with part time **Office Manager, Natascha Bohmann**, who is terrific. Your board search committee selected Natascha literally the week before the country locked down for the pandemic. This meant that she accomplished the transition from our previous manager entirely by internet. They only met to transfer physical files and the cell phone; otherwise all else was virtual. It is a testament to two dedicated and talented women that this was accomplished. We feel so fortunate to work with Natascha. She has education, experience and skill in public relations, marketing, and management and is genuinely interested in helping people with their end of life needs.

As we reported to you last year, OMA is now an IRS 501C3 nonprofit organization, which means that all donations are tax deductible. OMA has joined the Nonprofit Association of Oregon. We have upgraded to a newer database system and are updating our records. We have established a **Fundraising Committee** to reach out to members, potential sponsors, and perhaps apply for grants as appropriate. The committee is in charge of selling the donated plots and crypts listed on the website. If you have a talent or experience in development, fundraising or grant writing and would like to join our committee as an off-board member, please let us know. This is important work for the future of OMA.

We continue to obtain discounts for cremation and burial wherever possible. That's part of the work of our **Provider Relations Committee**. If you would help us arrange discounts for OMA members and contract with mortuaries in your area or could help to gather price lists, we need volunteers for this work also. We plan to gather and post prices to assist members as they shop for services. Our mission is to educate the public in making sound decisions at the end of life and knowing their rights as funeral consumer.

As for educational work, we now have a number of trainers who conduct our **All's Well That Ends Well** workshop. **Cathy Hall**, the coordinator and board member, developed a full schedule of trainings for the year. Three were presented in person in the greater Portland area before the pandemic hit. Several were postponed, which were planned for Corvallis, Bend, and Pendleton. We trained one group by Zoom in May and will do our second virtual training on September 26. Please call or e-mail OMA if you are interested in taking the workshop or would like to schedule one for a group in your area. Zoom will be our vehicle for a while and, it is a silver lining of the pandemic that we have come to realize it may be the way we can build a stronger statewide organization.

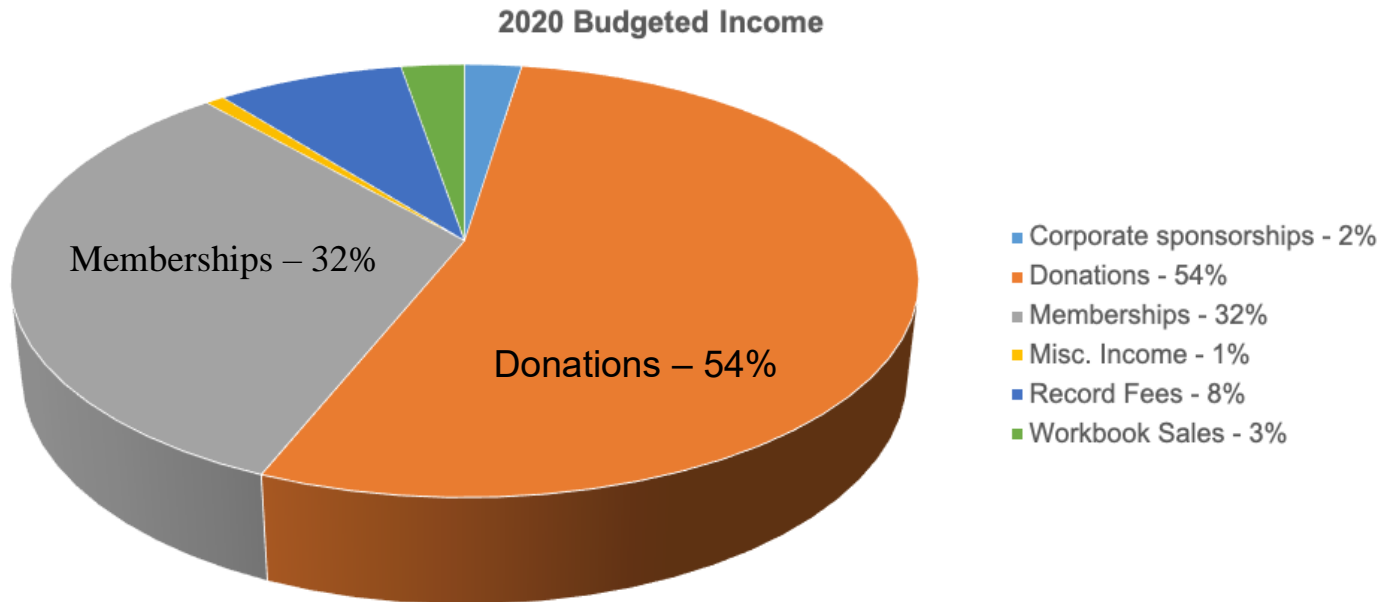
The board has worked diligently on a plan to sustain OMA. We have established several committees, all of which could use two or three off-board members. This meeting, for example, was organized by a small committee working closely with Natascha. Publicity and membership outreach is another task. We need outreach to younger adults and middle agers as well as older adults. Some of you may be interested in serving on the board. We need legal minds, business and financial skills, and people with experience in nonprofit management.

It is an exciting and challenging time to do this work because people still do not like to think about and plan for the end of life. With medical science advancing rapidly and with the development of green burial and other sustainable burial and body disposition options, there is lots of education to do. As we begin our **60th year of service**, OMA is as needed and relevant as ever.

See Financial Report, below.

Financial Report

OMA's board Treasurer, the Rev. Connie Yost, presented the 2020 financial report. She pointed out that though we have a somewhat diverse income stream, we are heavily dependent on donations as record fees have decreased due to the changing funeral industry. The 2020 budget is less than \$20,000. As mentioned in the Co-President's report, we are working to increase our revenue through membership marketing, donation appeals and possible grants.



She said that the OMA expenses are very bare bones, with 73% of expenses paying for our part-time Office Manager and bookkeeping assistance. The rest of our expenses are normal office expenses, which we have worked very hard to keep as minimal as possible.

