



**OREGON
MEMORIAL
ASSOCIATION**

President's Message — Fall 2015

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Dear Fellow Members,

It is with great pride I send you news of our Association's latest year – our 54th.

We continue the tradition of educating and advocating for funeral consumers' rights and we continue strengthening the structures serving that tradition..

One of those strengthenings is the development of the end-of-life planning program called "The Plan That Works." It has already begun to serve members and the general public. Our annual meeting will include a demonstration of the program. You may observe it or sign up as a participating planner and get started on your own plan.

Our fiscal situation is improving, enabling Oregon Memorial Association and (our education arm) the Funeral Consumers Education Foundation (OMA/FCEF) to carry out our traditional service more easily and effectively. (Look at our financials at the annual meeting.) Consider:

- Donations from members have increased over last year.
- A member donated a cemetery lot to us that we can sell.
- We have arranged with the Fred Meyer Foundation to make a quarterly donation to us (FCEF) based on members' Fred Meyer Rewards Card action (at no cost to shoppers/members.) See information about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

■ We received a \$500 grant from Portland's First Unitarian Universalist Church's Alliance to help our volunteer program assist low income people with end of life planning.

■ We have collected record fees – the \$50 fee contracting mortuaries agree to send to OMA when they provide services to our member – from some of the mortuaries whose contracts have lapsed. We continue seeking.

Our information processing has improved in two ways: First, we are saving postage dollars by having our various forms available on our website. And, second, our (20,000 plus) member database has been updated – a mighty piece of work done largely by our part-time staff member, Diane Pohrman, with invaluable help from a systems manager who volunteers his time to make our database hum, and a volunteer phone caller whose reliable assistance whenever asked is humbling.

We happily note that volunteer activity has increased. We have been staffing an information table at the First UU Church coffee hours in Portland for two hours each Sunday all year. And we have had very significant volunteer help in evaluating and recasting parts of The Plan That Works. (Feel free to join in.)

Also, in response to the wishes of those voting at last year's Annual Meeting, we have re-branded our organization by returning to its original name – Oregon Memorial Association.



RCA Moore

Continued on page 4



Death:OK

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT
PORTLAND 10.17.15

OMA to participate in Death:OK symposium

Death:OK (Let's Talk About It) is a day of inspiration, information and connection that will take place Oct. 17 on the Reed College campus in Portland (3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.). The purpose of the gathering is to help build a community where we reconnect to life and death and to each other, reducing the silence, fear, and isolation that too often surround the topic of death.

The day begins with opening remarks by former Gov. Barbara Roberts and a keynote address by Stephen Jenkinson ("Griefwalker"). For the rest of the morning and afternoon, participants can choose from 60 presentations in three tracks: Advance Planning: Dilemmas, Decisions, Documents; Death Care and Bereavement: Reclaiming Rights, Rituals & Remembrance; Arts and Experience: Imagine, Inspire, Immerse.

Presenters include legal and medical experts, nationally renowned visual artists, hands-on creative guides, death care pioneers, shamanic practitioners, filmmakers, front-line story-tellers and theatrical performers. Oregon Memorial Association Board Secretary and Past President Jeanne Staehli will be one of the presenters in a panel discussing Your Last Gift: Meaningful Memorials for the LGBTQ Community. Learn more about the line-up of presenters at www.DeathOK.com/presenters/.

The event also features a Resource Fair (*look for OMA there!*), Death Cafés, an Ancestor Altar, a Legacy Photobooth, and Threshold Choir Song Baths. The day ends with Closing Festivities featuring refreshments, music & humor.

Space is limited; advance ticket purchase is strongly encouraged. Tickets include lunch, happy hour refreshments and 10 hours of programming (9 a.m.-7 p.m.). Purchase tickets at www.DeathOK.com/attend.

This is an all-volunteer event. Help us make it happen! A limited number of work-trade tickets are available. Apply at DeathOK.com/volunteer.

Join us on Oct. 17th for this life and death changing event!

OMA Annual Meeting Sept. 26!

Praise for OMA from Medford

The email note below is typical of what we hear from OMA members. Membership in OMA is not only a money saver, it is also your ticket for meaningful pre-planning that will help your survivors honor your wishes with a minimum of stress.

Have you made your end-of-life wishes known to your family and to your OMA contract mortuary? You do not have to pre-pay for services at this time (you can if you wish in order to lock in a price), but at the least you should register your wishes with loved ones and with the mortuary (with a copy to OMA).

Here's the endorsement from Medford that we deeply appreciate....

"Recently, my hubby and I reached out to Hillcrest Mortuary and Memorial in Medford for pre-planning options, and they were wonderful to us. With our OMA membership they charged us \$785 apiece, for our pre-planning purchases, and made it as simple as could be.

"We want to tell everyone we can about the advocacy of Oregon Memorial Association and the difference it makes in real life expenditures.

"Thank you again, for the difference you are making for those in life, and end-of-life costs."

Have you hidden your end-of life information?

Often OMA receives calls from family members asking about our organization. Statements like, "I just came across a card, in my mother's file, with your name on it, but I don't know what it is all about, or even what you do."

It's time to have the "hard talk" and share with your loved ones where you have the file with your End of Life wishes. Share with them that you have made all the decisions, listed them on your plan, spoken to the mortuary of your choice and advised them of your wishes. If you choose to prepay the mortuary, be sure to keep a copy of that paperwork in your file as well. Or if you don't want to prepay, tell your family what plans you have made to pay final bills. Then, when the time comes, all they have to do is make one phone call to the mortuary and they take over. What a beautiful gift to give your family, even though they don't want to talk about it.

If you haven't done this already, now is a perfect time to look at our new product, THE PLAN THAT WORKS. You can do a very basic plan, or you can get very precise which is what The Plan That Works helps you do. The most important thing is to make a plan, and share it with your family, then show them where your file will be stored when they need that information.

Plan now to attend OMA's annual meeting Sept. 26

The 54th annual meeting of the Oregon Memorial Association and the Funeral Consumers Education Foundation is scheduled for Sept. 26 in Portland. For location and time see the announcement box at the bottom of this newsletter's last page.

There will be several program items of interest including an "unveiling" and an abbreviated introduction to our comprehensive "Plan That Works" — OMA's new end-of-life planning workshop series. OMA Vice President Julianne Foster will preview another workshop opportunity focusing on late-in-life health care. And a short skit will highlight the importance of sharing with children one's end-of-life wishes.

Members will receive a briefing on OMA's finances and operations plus a projection of activities for 2015-16. An important part of the meeting will be election of individuals to our Board of Trustees. Two current trustees have consented to serve another term and the nominating committee is offering Charlie Landis as a candidate for the Board. Nominations will, of course, be accepted from the floor.

Refreshments will be served.

Funeral Consumers partners with Fred Meyer's rewards

Your Funeral Consumers Education Foundation (OMA's sister organization) has signed on to the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program. Now using a Fred Meyer rewards card not only saves you money on shopping, it can also help OMA's Foundation.

All rewards customers have to do is sign up for the Community Rewards Program online and do their regular shopping at Fred Meyer. Simply go online to fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and follow the instructions to link your rewards card to your favorite nonprofit — in this case the the Funeral Consumers Education Foundation (organization number 89340). When you do sign up you'll see this message at the bottom of your receipts: "Thank you for participating in Fred Meyer Community Rewards. You requested Fred Meyer donate to the Funeral Consumers Education Foundation."

Rewards customers continue to earn rewards points, fuel points and rewards rebates just as they do every time they shop at Fred Meyer and your 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.

Why the envelope?

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. The one-time-only dues payment you sent in when you joined does not cover all of the association's expenses. That membership fee has not been raised for a long time and we keep it low on purpose in order to make membership accessible for people of all income levels. For that fee you and your survivors enjoy reduced cost services from our contract mortuaries as well as assistance with funeral pre-planning. This year, as you can read elsewhere in the newsletter, your association is launching an exciting new tool that will guide participants toward a detailed end-of-life plan. This is just one way that OMA is adapting to meet the needs of all our members.

But all this is costly and we depend upon the generosity of our members to keep OMA and FCEF growing and functioning. Almost every aspect of your association depends upon voluntary gifts and volunteer help.

One anonymous member surprised us this past year by donating a cemetery plot at Skyline Memorial Gardens (Portland) that OMA can sell. We thank this member and may that generous gift ignite the ingenuity of others who may be looking for a unique way to assist OMA!

If you make your check out to the Funeral Consumers Education Foundation your donation is tax deductible. For your convenience, you may also make a tax-deductible donation online at our website (fcef-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!

**167 OMA members
responded to our
November call for help
and donated \$8,380!**

Thank You!

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*Invite a Friend
To Join The
Oregon Memorial Association*

President's Message

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You might recall that your donation to the Funeral Consumers Education Foundation is fully tax deductible. Last year, when I asked for your donations, you stepped right up. I'm asking you again. The money you donate makes everything possible since income from membership fees does not cover all our expenses.

I've been a member of OMA for fifty years. What a delight to be part of an association that's been making life better for everyone all that time and is still making an important difference. Thank you and I hope you'll keep moving us along.
— RCA Moore

OMA president appointed to State Mortuary Board

RCA Moore, OMA/FCEF Board President, was appointed to the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board in May.

Moore's name was proposed by AARP. Governor Brown nominated him and the Oregon State Senate confirmed the nomination on May 22. OM&CB is the state body that oversees and controls the activities of mortuaries and cemeteries across the State of Oregon. Moore serves as one of four public members on the 11 member board. There is no compensation for the service.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015

Oregon Memorial Association's 54th Annual Meeting

Noon-2 p.m.

**St. Michael & All Angels
Episcopal Church.**

**1704 NE 43rd Ave.
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*