

The Buckeye Director

A publication of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association

Fall 2011

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The Buckeye Director

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The Ohio Funeral Directors Association

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OFDA Mission Statement

To represent and support our membership
by promoting professional standards and excel-
lence in funeral service.



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The Buckeye Director Magazine Schedule

The schedule for all contributors to adhere to for future publications is as follows:
December publication deadline is October 13, 2011

If your copy is not received by the deadline date, it will not be published. We feel it necessary to impose these restrictions in order to better serve our members.

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The Power of Partnership



What a great summer it has been in Ohio since the big rains slowed down in June. The OFDA annual family day at Cedar Point was another great event enjoyed by all who attended. As your current association president, it has been a privilege for me to serve these first few months. I have been asked by many friends and family members about the time and energy it takes to be active with OFDA and our Executive Committee with the popular question, "How do you do it?" Let me take a moment and tell you how I have made the commitment while going through the chairs in one of the largest state funeral directors associations.

Sometimes success does not happen without a few failures along the way. Two years before I was elected as secretary, I lost the nomination to another great leader at OFDA. I never thought for a second that I was inferior or lacking qualities, but I made a promise to myself to continue being involved at the district, regional and committee levels. With perseverance and dedication to our profession, I smiled and kept volunteering. Yes, volunteering! I enjoy helping others and volunteering, which is one of my hobbies. As a first-generation funeral director, I don't like to take off days, weekends or holidays from the families I serve in the community. But now, after serving a few years on the executive board and traveling to NFDA conferences, I have experienced "time off." Please don't confuse this traveling with a vacation, as my wife, Jennifer, would not agree.

I am a funeral home owner in a small city with a population of 17,000, and surprisingly, people notice when I am out of town with OFDA. I have been out of town many times, and no one died in our community, and other times, my wife served as the licensed director for a funeral or a walk-in preneed. Teamwork is really important, and I am lucky to have so many funeral director friends who would gladly drive over to embalm or meet a family for us.

This is a five-year process, and the most difficult for me was the first year as secretary, because everything was new. I did not know what to expect out of myself, the association, my family and my work schedule. As you could imagine, in due time, the worries became less, and the joy of being involved with OFDA heightened. As my fourth year began as president, I was ready to give more of myself and time to the association. I have a community of family, friends and colleagues who are willing me motivation to serve our profession to the best of my ability. So, I now answer the question, "How can I do this?" I do it because I can ... I have many people supporting and encouraging me so that I can participate in OFDA events throughout the term.

One evening, as I was sitting in our hot tub overlooking the golf course, I asked myself, "What can I do after the next few years?" I believe I answered the thought by knowing I can travel to OFDA winter educational conferences and to Columbus anytime to see good friends. I encourage any member to volunteer, join a committee and meet new friends, too.



John W. Evans

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Office Closed in Observance of the Holiday
- 8 OFDA Annual Golf Outing, NorthStar Golf Club, Sunbury
- 14 District 9 Meeting with OFDA Program, Presidential Banquet Center, Kettering
- 20 Master Trust Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 20 Executive Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 27 District 14 Meeting with OFDA Program, Der Dutchman Restaurant, Plain City
- 27 District 19 Meeting with OFDA Program, Laurello Winery, Geneva
- 28 District 1 Meeting with OFDA Program, The Barn Restaurant, Archbold

OCTOBER

- 11 District 10 Meeting with OFDA Program, Location to Be Determined
- 12 District 4 Meeting with OFDA Program, Woodside Cemetery Community Room, Middletown
- 13 OFDA PAC Fundraiser, Sporting Clay Event, Mad River Sportsman's Club, Bellefontaine
- 17 District 6 Meeting with OFDA Program, Georgio's Café, Toledo
- 18 Master Trust Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 18 Executive Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 19 Board of Directors Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 23-26 NFDA International Convention & Expo, Chicago, Illinois



Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 15 Master Trust Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 15 Executive Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 17 District 8, 15, 16 and 18 Meeting with OFDA Program, LaPizzaria, Canton
- 24-25 Office Closed in Observance of the Holiday

DECEMBER

- 1 Executive Committee Meeting, Hilton, Easton
- 13 District 5 Meeting with OFDA, Maggiano's, Kenwood



Stephen J. Gehlert

The Heart of a Leader

I recently revisited a book a member gave me a few years ago. The title of the book is *The Heart of a Leader*, by Ken Blanchard, and I would like to share a few gems from this book with you.

The heart of this volume is the importance of choosing correct values, aiming for excellence, finding the courage to change and helping others to reach their full potential. I believe it is easy to see, if we commit ourselves to developing these traits, how successful our professional lives and businesses can become and, even more importantly, how valuable our personal lives can be to those who work with us, our families and all we come in contact with.

Here are a few values to consider:

None of Us Is as Smart as All of Us

Use your entire staff when you have a problem to solve. The answer could come from anyone.

When You Stop Learning, You Stop Growing

As John Wooden, the famous UCLA basketball coach, once said: "It's what I learned after I knew it all that made me successful."

If You Don't Seek Perfection, You Can Never Reach Excellence

Perfection may not be attainable, but if that is your goal, even your "misses" will produce excellent results.

Inquire Within

Take time to think; allow your staff time to think. Our rush-rush society robs us of creativity. This thought echoes one of my favorite Bible verses, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Choose Work You Love and You Will Never Have to Work a Day in Your Life

If you can make your profession your passion, every day will be enjoyable, challenging, exciting and exactly where your talents are best utilized. We should all be saying, "Thank God it's Monday."

It's Surprising How Much You Can Accomplish if You Don't Care Who Gets the Credit

Recognizing and sharing credit creates team-building as nothing else can. None of us has all the answers. Encourage input from everyone, and be quick and honest about sharing the credit when good results happen all around you.

Take Time to Identify Core Values

What do you and your organization truly believe and stand for? List these values, communicate them constantly to your staff members and associates, and walk your talk every day in the communities you serve. The result will be incredible.

And a final quote that wasn't in this book but has been a favorite of mine for many years is, "One man with courage makes a majority."

I believe it is becoming more and more difficult in our society to stand up and *do the right thing*, especially when it goes against modern thought patterns and sentiment. It takes real courage to live by your values and beliefs, NO MATTER WHAT! And yet it is that one person who stands by his or her commitment at all costs whom we admire the most and desire to be like.

Take time to re-examine the core values of both your personal and professional lives. Share them with your family and your employees to make sure they embrace them as you do.

The blessings you reap will extend beyond your family and your business to the families you serve and the communities you live and work in.



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by Janet Blankenship, Resource Coordinator

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Check your supplies for upcoming holiday programs; you may want to consider the new trifold brochure from New Leaf Resources, *Handling Special Days and Holidays* Package of 25: \$15

Help the Resource Center run more efficiently by reducing the inventory to a manageable level as the items available online are restructured. Please check the estore, www.OFDAonline.org/resources, for these changes, along with a link for the following reductions:

- Additional 10 percent discount on excess titles
- 50 percent discount on previous issues, discontinued and/or one-of-a-kind resources
- FREE classic resources – Just pay shipping

AVAILABLE DISCOUNTS

- OFDA members – 20 percent
- Institutional – churches, hospice, hospitals and schools in Ohio – 10 percent

As always, please feel free to contact Janet Blankenship, OFDA resource coordinator, Janet@OFDAonline.org, 614-486-5339 or 800-589-6332, fax 614-486-5358 or 800-507-1465 with any questions and/or comments.

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Removing Remains from a Home or Long-Term Care Facility? *Watch Out for Bedbugs!*

by Barb Garrison, MS, CHMM, President, Safety and Environmental Solutions, LLC

Bedbugs are probably the furthest thing from your mind when removing remains from a private residence or a long-term care center, but you may want to start thinking about what you would do if you encountered the creatures or signs of a bedbug infestation during a removal. The last thing you want to do is carry them back to your funeral home or your own home.

There is a plethora of information about bedbugs out there, but one excellent resource is the Central Ohio Bed Bug Task Force's website: <http://www.centralohiobedbugs.org/index.html>. Most of the following information was obtained from this site.

Identification

Bedbugs are small but visible insects. There are three main life stages: the whitish egg (about 1 mm in length); five pale juvenile (nymph) stages that range from 1 mm to 4.5 mm (a quarter-inch); and the adult, which can be as long as 7 or 8 mm (three-eighths of an inch) when fed. The newly hatched nymph is very pale until it feeds, and then it looks like a tiny droplet of blood. The adult is about the size and shape of an apple seed and dark red to brown in color. It is also as flat as a credit card before feeding. *Interesting Fact: Bed bugs can live for a year after consuming a blood meal.*

Signs of an Infestation

The first sign of a bedbug infestation is usually the appearance of bites on the arms, neck, torso or legs. If you see what appear to be insect bites on the deceased, you may want to consider donning the personal protective equipment recommended below. Clusters of small stains or droplets of dried blood on furniture and bedding may also be found. These stains are the bedbugs' fecal droppings. They may be accompanied by shed bedbug skins, because bedbugs shed their outer skin, or molt, as they grow.

How to Avoid Transporting

Bed Bugs When Making Removals

- Wear disposable shoe covers, and tuck your pants into your socks. This may be very difficult to do in the presence of family members, but a few awkward moments could save you a huge headache later. If you don't use shoe covers, designate a pair of shoes specifically for removals, and inspect them before getting into your car or returning to the funeral home. Store your "removal shoes" in a sealed plastic bag until they can be placed in a dryer for 15 minutes.

- If the home is known to be infested with bedbugs or, if you see evidence of the bugs, don a disposable paper suit. (Yeah, I know you're laughing now.) If this isn't possible, carry an extra set of clothes with you and change out of your "bedbug clothes" as soon as possible — preferably before you get into your vehicle. Place your clothes in a sealed plastic bag until you can wash them. Wash potentially contaminated clothing in hot, soapy water, and dry in a dryer using the highest heat setting. Any clothing or items that cannot be washed or dry-cleaned should be placed in a hot dryer for at least 15 minutes. Before making a removal, check with your local health department to see if it keeps a list of homes that it knows are infested with bedbugs. This could help you make an informed decision about whether you should suit up or not.
- Do not sit on sofas, upholstered chairs or beds, and avoid placing any items on upholstered furniture, bedding or carpeted floors.
- Carry a spray bottle containing a 70 percent solution of isopropyl alcohol. Do a self-check before getting into your vehicle, and spray any bedbugs you may find with the solution. Pay particular attention to inside and outside of shoes, lace holes, socks, pant legs, leg area and around hands and arms.

For more information on preventing the transfer of bedbugs from an infested home, refer to the Guidelines for Reducing the Risk of Transporting Bed Bugs on the Task Force's website: http://www.centralohiobedbugs.org/pdf/healthcare_guidelines.pdf.

Remember — bedbugs have been found in the following establishments:

- Private homes
- Senior housing
- Nursing homes
- Firehouses
- Apartment buildings
- Hotels
- Schools
- Churches
- Movie theaters
- College dorms
- Social service agency offices

Let's try to avoid adding funeral homes to this list!

If you have any other health, safety or environmental questions, please feel free to contact me at 614-404-3384 or bgarrison@sandesolutions.net.

WHO HOLDS THE RIGHT OF DISPOSITION?

by T. Scott Gilligan, OFDA General Counsel



On October 9 of this year, Ohio's right of disposition law, which is found in Section 2108.70 of the Ohio Revised Code, will celebrate its fifth anniversary. The law, which was drafted and shepherded through the legislature by OFDA, has been a blessing for Ohio's funeral directors. Among other things, it establishes a comprehensive priority list of who holds the right of disposition, gives an individual a method by which to control his or her disposition after death, recognizes the majority of those holding the right of disposition control over a minority, allows one person with the right of disposition to sign the cremation authorization form on behalf of all who hold the right, gives the funeral home the power to authorize the disposition of an unclaimed body and provides broad immunity to funeral homes that rely upon signed disposition authorizations.

Despite the guidance and direction the law brought to this area, OFDA members still face issues and questions regarding how the law addresses the multitude of disposition issues every day. OFDA has put together 10 different scenarios to show how the law operates and who holds the right of disposition. Take a look at each scenario and see if you know the answer before viewing the explanation of how the law operates. Good luck.

1. Twenty years ago, a husband moved out of his wife's residence and obtained a legal separation. He moved in with his girlfriend. The husband dies, and both the wife and girlfriend claim the right of disposition. Who wins?

The wife. Spouses lose the right of disposition if they are divorced or in the process of being divorced when the death occurs. However, under Ohio law, legal separation is not divorce. Therefore, in this case, the wife would retain the right of disposition, and the funeral home should deal with the wife.

2. A widow dies with two adult children who do not get along. One son wants cremation, and the other wants burial. The son wishing cremation claims he has the right of disposition because he is named as executor in the widow's will. Does he have the right?

No. Section 2108.82(c)(2) provides an individual does not have any greater rights to direct the disposition because he or she was named as the executor or the personal representative of the decedent. In this case, if the two sons cannot agree on the disposition, the matter would have to be resolved by the Probate Court.

3. A woman does not wish any of her family or friends to see her remains following death. She appoints her friend as the representative to carry out her final disposition with instructions that no one is to view her body. The friend conveys those instructions to the funeral home. Upon her death, the husband asks the funeral director if he can privately view the body for 10 minutes prior to funeral services. Should the funeral director grant this request?

No. Since the friend was appointed representative, the friend controls all aspects of the funeral, including who may view the body. The funeral director should advise the husband he cannot view the body without the permission of the friend, and the only way to override the friend's authority is to file a petition with the Probate Court.

4. A woman dies, survived by an adult daughter and an adult niece. The daughter promises to come into the funeral home on Tuesday, but by Friday, she is still a no-show. Can the funeral home proceed to make arrangements with the niece?

Yes. Under Section 2108.75(A)(4), if a person refuses to exercise the right within two days after notification of the decedent's death, the funeral home can proceed to the next person in the priority list. In this case, the daughter has lost her rights, since she failed to make arrangements within two days after being notified of the death.



5. Two adult daughters are in a dispute regarding the disposition of their deceased father. One daughter shows you her father signed an appointment of representation form appointing her as his representative. The authorization form contains the decedent's signature and is witnessed by the daughter's two adult sons. Does the daughter now hold the exclusive right of disposition?

No. The authorization appointing the daughter as the representative is invalid under Section 2108.73 since it was witnessed by two adults who are related by blood to the decedent. In order for an appointment form to be valid, it must be witnessed by two adults who are not related by blood, marriage or adoption to the decedent.

6. A husband is charged with the murder of his wife. The funeral home makes arrangements with the wife's parents to have the remains buried in the family's plot at a local cemetery. Three months after the funeral, the husband is acquitted of the charges. He instructs the funeral home to disinter his wife's remains and have them cremated. Does he have this right?

Yes. While under Section 2108.77(A)(1), the husband lost the right of disposition when he was charged with murder, he regained the right of disposition when he was acquitted of the charges. As the spouse, he now has the right to order disinterment without Probate Court permission and have the remains cremated.

7. An elderly man dies at a nursing home. The nursing home informs the funeral home it has no record of any family members. The funeral home does a search and cannot locate anyone who is related to the decedent. The nursing home refuses to take any responsibility for the disposition. Can the funeral home authorize the cremation on its own?

Yes. Under Section 2108.81(B)(9), a funeral home may carry out the disposition of an unclaimed body after attesting in writing a good-faith effort has been made to locate someone on the priority list. In this case, the funeral home, after making the unsuccessful search to locate anyone on the priority list, should sign a statement to that effect and place it in the funeral home files. It may then carry out the disposition.

8. A woman had two children during her lifetime. The oldest was born before the woman was married, and she allowed the child to be adopted. The woman has now died, and her other daughter instructs her to proceed with the cremation and not to contact the older daughter who was adopted. Should you follow her instructions?

Yes. Under the law, the decedent has only one daughter. Once the older biological child was adopted, the mother-daughter relationship ceased under the eyes of the law. Therefore, the daughter who was adopted has no rights to direct the disposition.

9. A widower is survived by seven adult children, only one of whom lives in town. The child wants cremation and indicates he has contacted four of his siblings, two of whom want cremation and two who are opposed to cremation. He cannot locate the other two siblings. Can the funeral home carry out the cremation?

Yes. Section 2108.81 provides the majority of those holding the right of disposition who can be located can control the disposition. In this case, of the five siblings that can be located, three want cremation. In addition, the law allows the funeral director to accept the written representation of the one sibling that the other two that he could locate agree with the cremation.

10. A widow dies, and her only son is incarcerated in prison on a murder conviction. Since he is in prison on a murder charge, can the funeral home deal with the next person on the priority list?

No. The right of disposition is only taken away if a person is charged with murder or voluntary manslaughter of the decedent. In this case, the son was convicted of murder of someone other than the decedent. Therefore, he still retains the right, and the funeral home must take its directions from the son or have him sign a waiver of the right of disposition.

OFDA members with questions regarding the right of disposition may contact Scott Gilligan at 513-871-6332.

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OFDA Mortuary Response Team Annual Golf Outing

On Thursday, June 2, the OFDA Mortuary Response Team (MRT) hosted its 15th annual golf outing at Oakhaven Golf Club in Delaware.

This year was a “Thank You” to all of those who have been supporters of the OFDA MRT during the past 15 years. The 50/50 drawing and the skin game were seeded with \$500 each; the two 50/50 winners each walked away with \$800, and the team with the one and only skin split \$920. There were also nine contest holes with each winner awarded \$50, along with lots of great door prizes given away.

The outing would not be able to continue each year without the support of our generous sponsors and golfers. The proceeds from the outing go directly to the Mortuary Response Foundation to help offset expenses incurred by the team for trainings and equipment.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of those who graciously helped the team through sponsorships:

Breakfast – **Cincinnati Equitable Life Insurance Company**
Lunch – **Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company**

Refreshments – **The Akron Vault Co.; Baxter Burial Vault Service, Inc.; Bell Vault & Monument, Inc.; Carr Concrete Corp.; Crummitt & Son Vault Corp.; Fithian-Wilbert Burial Vault Co.; Hupp-Stiverson Co., Longstreth, Inc.; Ohio Vault Works, Inc.; Tri-State Wilbert Vault Co.; and Turner Vault Company**
Dinner – **State Auto Insurance Companies**
Carts – **Robert Shank Sr. and SCI**



First-Place Team



Second-Place Team

HOLE CONTEST SPONSORS AND WINNER

- Ladies Longest Drive #1 – Sponsored by John Atkins, OFDA MRT
 - **Melissa Sullivan**
- Straightest Drive Beyond 150 Yards #5 – Sponsored by Bob Van Horn & Mark Whetstone, OFDA MRT
 - **Nick Spech**
- Mens Longest Drive #6 – Sponsored by Ed Babcock, OFDA MRT; Murray’s Tool Rental
 - **Mike Neeper**
- Longest Putt #8 – Sponsored by Brent Hartley, OFDA MRT
 - **Shawn Gallagher**

- Closest to Pin #9 – Sponsored by Bob Van Horn, OFDA MRT
 - **Jerry Inebnit**
- Shortest Drive in Fairway (Men’s Tee) #10 – Sponsored by NOMIS Publications
 - **Craig Brinkmoeller**
- Ladies Closest to Pin on/off Green #11 – Sponsored by Astral Industries
 - **Monique Shafer**
- Closest to Pin, Second Shot #12 – Sponsored by Mike Gedert, OFDA MRT
 - **Rick Reed**
- Longest Putt #18 – Sponsored by Brent Hartley, OFDA MRT
 - **Ben Kyle**

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The winning team was Sean Hartwell, Jerry Inebnit, Matt Creech and Chris White.

The second-place team was Jeff Schertzer, Mike Neeper, Jerry Ungashick and Craig Brinkmoeller.



2011-2012 OFDA Committee Lineup

Allied Memorial Council

John Evans, CFSP, Norwalk
Mark Merz, CFSP, Holland
Stephen Gehlert, Columbus

Benefit Trust Committee

Sue Jones, Worthington, Chair

Ken Cahall, CFSP, Georgetown
JoAnn Hartley, McComb
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Mark Merz, CFSP, Holland
Pam Parramore, CFSP, Middletown
Frank Rosenacker, Cincinnati
Sean Sauer, CFSP, Columbus
Michael Schoedinger, CFSP, Columbus
Jason Wilson, Bridgeport

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Do You Know What Your Growth Rate Is?

by Kevin Gaffney, FDLIC Regional Sales Vice President



This is a phrase that I have heard quite often from funeral directors since I began working in preneed sales management. In my experience, a general confusion seems to surround preneed funding growth rates.

But because preneed is literally the future of a funeral establishment's business, a funeral home owner cannot really afford *not* to know what is going on.

For example, at one point, many funeral homes were funding policies with a product that was growing based on the Gross National Product Deflator ... seriously? Did anyone really understand why that made sense for a funeral home? How about the practice of lowering the growth rate on business that was written years ago, when the investments purchased with those funds were supposed to be paying a much better rate than currently available? Those types of decisions can cost funeral homes a lot of money, especially if they have written with that provider for a long time. Maybe you have been offered a marketing allowance in lieu of growth on policies. That could work if the math were in your favor. But is it? It doesn't take an actuary to figure out that the long-term effects of low growth rates could be more than harmful to the bottom line than fewer marketing ventures now.

The matter is further complicated by the current economic conditions. As Kris Seale, president and CEO of FDLIC, has stated in recent articles he's written and posted on www.funeraldirectorslife.com, the investment environment for insurance companies has been volatile and "dramatic." For that reason, wise and prudent insurance companies have had to make changes to their growth rates because the interest rate environment just isn't what it used to be. Many of those who promised more than they could deliver eventually folded or moved out of the market, wreaking havoc in the lives of honest funeral service professionals.

The interest rate environment in which we live now is completely different than it was in the early '80s. Compounded to that, yields have been significantly lower than "normal" since 2008.

As 2010 drew to a close, we were seeing the lowest interest rates in recent history. So far this year, recent events have affected interest rates dramatically — from elections to tax-cut extensions to unrest in the Middle East and natural disasters overseas.

The bottom line is that growth rates are not as complicated as they've been made out to be by some. Simply put, the preneed provider needs to be able to remain stable while crediting what makes sense for the product, the funeral home's future business and the interest-rate environment. It's a delicate balancing act with many moving parts, but it can be done. I've shared with you how my company has dealt with the investment rate changes. We are continually looking for that perfect balance that is a win-win-win situation for funeral homes, policyholders and the long-term safety and security of the company. That is because our roots are in the funeral service profession, and to this day, our Board of Directors is made up primarily of funeral home owners who are concerned for the future of their own businesses and those of their friends and colleagues.

As a funeral home owner yourself, if you haven't been paying attention, it might be time to sit down with your preneed provider and ask some pointed questions about crediting rates and why they are what they are. Here are a few important questions to ponder when it comes to growth rates:

- What are the policies that we are writing today being credited?
- Is it simple interest or compound?
- Are all of the policies we have written with your company being credited at the same rate?
- If not, what are the other rates, and on what policies?
- Does this make sense based on life expectancies?
- Based on our business, are we using the right product?

The next time someone asks you "what is the growth rate on your preneed funds?", stop to think about the meaning of that question, because the answer is directly linked to the future success and stability of your business. So, what is your growth rate?

OFDA'S PAC FUNDRAISER

Sporting Clay Event

Thursday, October 13, 2011
Mad River Sportsman's Club, Bellefontaine, Ohio



Mad River Sportsman's Club has secured a reputation as the finest private outdoor sporting clays club in the Midwest. Open year-round, their courses have been shot by more industry leaders than any other in the country.

Not an avid hunter? No problem! All skill levels are welcome at this important PAC fundraising event! Come have fun and support OFDA's legislative efforts!

Single registrants welcome! We'll assign you to a squad.

What to Expect

Come enjoy camaraderie among your fellow OFDA members, or bring a non-member friend — everyone is welcome!

- Four-person squad
- A 12-station course
- 100 targets
- Prizes for skill
- Prizes for "lack of skill"
- Hot barbecue lunch
- Refreshments

Registration will begin at 9 a.m., with shooting to begin at 10 a.m.

Registration Fees

- \$125 for first registrant
- \$100 for each additional registrant

Event Sponsor

Feeling generous? Choose one of the major sponsorships for the day:

- Lunch Sponsor: \$1,000
- Refreshments: \$500
- Station Sponsor: Can't join us for the day, but would like to support PAC? Then sign up to be a station sponsor for \$150.

Gifts

Would you like to donate a gift for one of the prizes? A freebie for everyone in attendance? If so, please contact Diana or Melissa at the OFDA office (800-589-6332).

Signage on course and acknowledgement in *The Buckeye Director* will confirm your generosity as a sponsor.

OFDA PAC Needs You

by Jon Deitloff, Chairman of the OFDA Legislative Committee



Rachel Maddow has a television show on MSNBC. There are currently a number of promotional spots for her show where she stands in front of large public works projects, like a dam, and says, “No one could attempt this on their own. The government needs to provide this type of leadership.” Regardless of your opinion of Ms. Maddow’s beliefs, she is correct that individuals are generally not capable of conquering huge projects. *However*, groups of committed individuals can tackle any project successfully.

The OFDA PAC is a great example of this principle in action. All too often, we complain about electing sensible people to office only to have them do crazy things with our money once they are in office. As individuals, we can voice our concerns, but it can be difficult to be heard. But as an association of Ohio’s funeral directors, our voices carry authority and can gain access where an individual may struggle.

Many of you can sense there is an appeal for money coming. There is, but I’ll get to that in a minute. My immediate appeal is for each of you to give something far more valuable. I’m appealing for your time and your talents. Every legislative cycle, your association tracks bills that could have an impact on your business. We support the ones we believe will help and offer opposition to the ones we believe will hinder us. We’re missing too many of your voices when we speak to the legislature. Candidly, we need a much deeper involvement from funeral directors across the state. Every politician gets re-elected by pleasing his or her constituents. It is amazing the difference it makes when a funeral director “from the district” joins an OFDA PAC representative on a legislative visit.

How do you help? Start by paying attention. It is so easy to tune out the noise coming out of Columbus and worry only about what’s happening at home. Unfortunately, the things that happen in Columbus affect you every day. If you don’t know what the current issues are, ask questions. Steve Gehlert or your officers will be glad to tell you. I guarantee that something they tell

you will get your attention. Once you’re informed, then act. Your influence in the legislature is every bit as important as being seen at the local church supper.

We’re missing too many of your voices when we speak to the legislature. Candidly, we need a much deeper involvement from funeral directors across the state.

As promised earlier, we need your financial support. The balance in the PAC fund currently stands around \$4,400. This is the lowest it’s been in years. To have an effective political voice, we need to support candidates who support us. We have spent wisely and will continue donating where it is warranted. Your donation will help. Better yet, send a donation, and then ask to deliver it to your official. OFDA is happy to contact the elected official and schedule a meeting in YOUR funeral home. I am not aware of an instance where an elected official declined a visit when he or she knew a check was involved.

The annual Legislative Reception is held in Columbus. This is one of the best or-

ganized events OFDA sponsors. We need you to come to Columbus, enjoy the hospitality and represent funeral service when your official comes through. We have a reputation for holding a great event and many legislators make it a point to attend. There are always representatives from the Board of Funeral Directors and embalmers present. OFDA’s lobbyist, John McGough, will be happy to make a personal introduction if you don’t have a personal relationship with your official. OFDA will provide you with printed talking points, but we need you! This is your best opportunity to meet the people that have an impact on your business.

Lastly, come to our annual fundraiser. There will be a sporting clay shoot near Bellefontaine in October. It is held at a beautiful location, and the luncheon that follows is beyond compare. Shooters of all skill levels are welcome, and even people who have never fired a shotgun should come. If you are interested in shooting but don’t have equipment, call me at 513-236-6407, and I will loan first-timers everything you need to participate. This is a first-class event with funeral directors from around the state, but you do not need to be a funeral director to enjoy this event. This year, I throw my personal challenge for the ladies to attend. Women represent a significant percentage of the workforce in funeral service but are under-represented at the shoot. We want everyone at this event.

Your Association needs all of Ohio funeral service to get behind the PAC.

PAC Contributors

Thank you to all who have participated in the 2011 PAC Campaign. You are still encouraged to support PAC if you have not done so this year. Your contributions are prudently allocated to worthy candidates.

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Decision by Ohio Board Greatly Increases Liability for Funeral Homes

by T. Scott Gilligan, OFDA General Counsel

Section 4717.24(A)(17) of the Ohio Revised Code provides if a funeral director signs the cremation authorization form as a witness, the funeral director “shall certify that the dead human body delivered to the crematory facility is that of the decedent identified on the authorization form.” Does that statute mean a funeral director who witnesses a cremation authorization form must undertake those steps a reasonable and prudent funeral director would under the circumstances to confirm the identity of the decedent prior to cremation? Or does the statute mean, if a funeral director witnesses a cremation authorization form, he or she is the absolute guarantor that the body being cremated is the person listed on the cremation authorization form? Put differently, does the statute make the funeral director liable if there is any misidentification of the decedent, regardless of how it occurred or whose fault it is?

Unfortunately, in a baffling decision, the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (the “Board”) decided to make a funeral director who witnesses a cremation authorization form the absolute guarantor of the identity of the cremated body. Since nothing in this life can ever be 100 percent certain, especially when the body cannot be in the custody of the funeral director 24/7 prior to cremation, OFDA is strongly advising funeral directors to **NEVER WITNESS A CREMATION AUTHORIZATION FORM** until OFDA can try to overturn this ruling by changing the statute.

As background to the ruling, the case before the Board involved the Marlan Gary Funeral Home of Columbus. The funeral home was contacted to cremate the remains of an infant. The infant was at the Franklin County Coroner’s Office for an autopsy, and the parents requested an immediate cremation so they could obtain the cremated remains for a scheduled memorial service. The funeral home sent a livery company to pick up the infant from the coroner’s office and transport the remains directly to a crematory. An employee of the coroner’s office presented to the livery company a

body bag containing a different infant. Neither the coroner’s employee nor the livery company representative checked the identification tags. When the coroner’s office discovered the mix-up two days later, everyone realized the wrong body had been cremated. The funeral home was sued by the family, and a complaint was brought against Marlan Gary and his funeral home by the Board since he had witnessed the cremation authorization form but failed to identify the body prior to cremation.

The funeral home defended against the Board’s complaint by claiming a funeral director who witnesses a cremation authorization form should be able to rely upon an identification made by the coroner. The Board’s hearing officer found against the funeral director and the funeral home and decided Section 4717.24(A)(17) imposes upon a funeral director who witnesses a cremation authorization form the following obligations:

- “...to absolutely ensure as much as possible the correct body is being cremated.”
- “...every precaution and safeguard must be taken to ensure accuracy.”
- “I believe 4717.24(A)(17) requires the funeral director to take some affirmative step to verify and confirm the body delivered to the crematory is the person named on the Cremation Authorization form.”

- “Mr. Gary clearly cannot delegate his duty to certify the identity of the body to Mr. Snodgrass (livery company employee). The statute imposes the duty on the funeral director.”
- “...the funeral director simply cannot rely on another, be it a driver or a coroner, to get it right. Again, R.C. 4717.24(A)(17) imposes the duty on the funeral director to certify (or ensure) the correct body is being cremated.”

In his discussion, the hearing officer opined, in some cases, the funeral home may have to resort to DNA testing to prove identification. Since the hearing officer found a funeral home may not rely upon a coroner, this places a funeral home in no man’s land in cases of traumatic death or decomposition. Does the funeral home have to pay for its own DNA testing before cremation? According to the hearing officer, the answer would be “yes.”

The hearing officer’s interpretation of the statute is only a recommendation to the Board. Although the Board had the discretion to overturn or at least clarify the hearing officer’s interpretation of what Section 4717.24(A)(17) requires, it chose to simply rubber-stamp the hearing officer’s findings.



Cremation

While the decision greatly increases liability for all Ohio funeral homes, for Mr. Gary, it may mean the end of his funeral home business. Not only did the Board ratify the hearing officer's interpretation of the law, it also confirmed his recommended penalty of a six-month suspension for both Mr. Gary's funeral director's license and his funeral home's license. As a small, one-facility operation, the six-month suspension will drive him out of business. Therefore, a mistake by a coroner and a livery service employee, coupled with the Board's decision, has cost a funeral director his business.

What should Ohio funeral homes do to protect themselves until the law can be changed? As stated above, do not have a licensee witness the cremation authorization form. The wording of the statute imposes liability on the funeral director but only if he or she witnesses the cremation authorization form. While the law does require the signature of the authorizing agent on the cremation authorization form be witnessed, it specifically provides the witness may be a funeral director "or another individual." Therefore, use a family member or a non-licensed employee of the funeral home to witness the cremation authorization form. Under no circumstances should a licensed funeral director serve as the witness.

OFDA will seek to change this unfortunate ruling through a bill that will be introduced in the Ohio legislature this fall. However, even if OFDA is successful in pushing a bill through the legislature, any change would not take effect until later next year at the earliest. Therefore, licensed funeral directors should not witness cremation authorization forms for the foreseeable future until the law has been changed.

OFDA members with questions regarding this matter may contact Scott Gilligan at 513-871-6332.



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The Private Worlds of Bereaved Children and Adolescents

With Leslie Balmer, PhD

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 15, 2011

**MetroHealth Medical Center
Scott Auditorium,
Cleveland, Ohio**

Presented by:

**MetroHealth
Medical Center**

**Busch Funeral and
Crematory Services**

PROGRAM

8:00-8:30 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30-8:45 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

8:45-10:15 a.m.

Variables Affecting Childhood

Grief Outcome

10:15-10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m.-Noon

Time and Healing

Noon-1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Trauma: Common

Responses and Intervention

2:30-2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45-4:15 p.m.

Traumatic Grief: Clinical Themes

4:15-4:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks and Evaluations

The morning presentation will address general issues related to childhood grief and loss, including theoretical frameworks to consider, individual factors predicting resilience, child development, and time and healing.

The afternoon will build on the morning's presentation and address the topic of traumatic loss. During this segment, participants will learn assessment tools and practical techniques for assisting children when they are faced with the death of a loved one's illness, accident, suicide or murder.

Case examples, artwork and extensive video segments will be presented throughout the day to illustrate the profound nature of childhood grief, emphasizing the resiliency of bereaved children and adolescents as they struggle to make sense of their world after the death of a loved one.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Identify what makes childhood loss unique from loss during adulthood
- Discuss children's concepts of death and how this impacts the grief process
- Explore childhood grief as a dynamic developmental process that lasts a lifetime
- Define traumatic loss, and understand why a death from illness can be viewed as sudden and traumatic by children
- Describe ways parents and caregivers can assist their children after a traumatic death
- Examine practical and interactive assessment and therapy techniques with bereaved children and adolescents

Registration Deadline: November 4, 2011

No Refunds After November 8, 2011

For More Information, Call 216-778-2992

SPEAKER

Leslie Balmer, PhD, C.Psych., is a registered psychologist in private practice with Fleming

Vigna Balmer in Ontario, Canada. She has more than 20 years of experience in the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents and adults. Dr. Balmer specializes in working with trauma victims who have suffered the death of a loved one through accident, suicide or murder. In addition, she works with children, adolescents and adults who are living with a life-threatening illness or who have lost a loved one through illness.

Drawing primarily on a cognitive-behavioral therapy background, Dr. Balmer incorporates art, games and play into her treatment of children and adolescents.

She has published numerous articles on childhood and adolescent bereavement and has lectured and facilitated training workshops in Canada, the United States, South America, Europe and Australia. Dr. Balmer is a member of the Ontario Psychological Association, the College of Psychologists for the Province of Ontario, the Canadian Crime Victims Foundation and the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement.

Generous support provided by: Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio Hospice

Please note: funeral director six CEUs, pending approval



State Budget Repeals Ohio Estate Tax

by John McGough, OFDA Lobbyist



On June 30, 2011, Gov. John Kasich signed into law Ohio's biennial budget, which funds state government from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013. The governor touted that he and the legislature were able to close a projected \$8 billion deficit without raising taxes. Many Statehouse observers have stated that this budget made some of the most far-reaching changes to how state and local governments are funded, including increased privatization of government services.

From OFDA's perspective, the most significant change affecting owners of funeral homes is the repeal of Ohio's estate tax. The repeal has a delayed implementation date of applying to any estates with dates of death on or after January 1, 2013. This delayed effective date means local governments will not likely feel much impact during the current biennium but may in the future.

OFDA's position on this issue is, in order to recognize and preserve the heritage and strength of small businesses, including funeral homes, it is critical Ohio's estate tax not penalize or otherwise prevent the tax-free transfer of family business ownership at death to other family members. Moreover, the significant dollars many funeral home owners spend in estate planning to avoid estate taxes or in the purchase of insurance policies to cover their potential estate-tax liability could be better spent on business operations, salaries and other employee benefits and community-outreach programs.

Ohio is one of only 20 states that has an estate tax and also has the lowest dollar exemption (\$338,333) in the country. Currently, 80 percent of state estate tax proceeds go to local governments, and 20 percent of proceeds

go to the state. In fiscal year 2010, the estate tax generated \$230.8 million for local governments and \$55 million for the state; however, the estate tax only provides an average of two percent of local government funding and does not go to county governments or schools.

As you may know, during the past two years, OFDA has supported the efforts of Citizens United to End Ohio's Estate Tax, a grassroots organization that has been collecting signatures to place the estate-tax repeal issue on the Ohio ballot. Many OFDA members made contributions to support placing the issue on the ballot.

As a result of this grassroots effort, two bills were introduced in the Ohio legislature to repeal the estate tax. After significant legislative activity on both bills (including testimony by OFDA), the House decided to insert the estate-tax repeal language into the budget bill. The Senate version of the budget bill also included the repeal language, as did the final version of the bill that was signed by Gov. Kasich.

OFDA would like to thank our members who were instrumental in supporting this grassroots effort.

Why You Need Flood Insurance

by Phil Black, Manager, Association Programs, State Auto Insurance Companies

We've all seen the horrible photos ... the devastation and loss to whole communities after a flood event. It can truly be a disaster, and without flood insurance, most people are not protected.

While business insurance protects you from most unexpected events, it was not designed to protect against flooding. Flood is the most common natural disaster in the United States — causing more than \$2 billion in property damage every year. Just an inch of water can cause thousands of dollars of damage to your property.

It Can Happen Anywhere

Flooding can happen anywhere, not just in designated high-risk flood plain areas. In fact, at least one in four insured flood losses occur outside of areas thought most likely to flood. Unusually heavy rains, snow melt, a blocked creek, land development runoff, inadequate drainage and breached dams or levees can all lead to unexpected and expensive flood damage.

Bottom line, your business has a lot at risk in the event of a flood — and your business property policy will not cover it.

Why YOU Need Flood Insurance

Many don't think they need flood insurance because they believe federal disaster aid will come to their rescue. However, floods aren't always de-

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Betty L. Baker, 89, of Washington Court House, Ohio, died Saturday, July 2, 2011. Mrs. Baker was born April 6, 1922, in Madison County, Ohio, to Harry and Nelle Hawkins Turvy. She was a graduate of London High School and also graduated from the Capital Beauty School in Columbus.

She was a retired beautician and formerly owned and operated the Millwood Beauty Shop. Mrs. Baker was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, where she had served as a deacon; London Chapter #386 of the Order of the Eastern Star; and the Fayette County Commission on Aging, and she formerly was a volunteer with the Fayette County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Duane C. Baker, on November 26, 1988; a daughter-in-law, Jodi Baker; a sister, Mary Porter; and five brothers, Theodore, Robert, Walter, James and Harry.

Mrs. Baker is survived by a son, Scott D. Baker, longtime funeral director and embalmer with Kirkpatrick Funeral Home; two grandchildren, Ashley and Seth Baker, both of Washington Court House; a brother and sister-in-law, Larry and JoAnn Turvy of Enon, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 214 North Hinde Street, or the Fayette County Memorial Hospital Foundation, 1430 Columbus Avenue, Washington Court House, OH 43160.

Jack R. Carpenter, OD, 92, of Columbiana died Monday, June 27, 2011, at Salem Community Hospital of congestive heart failure.

Dr. Carpenter was born April 6, 1919, in Lodi, a son of Dr. Paul R. and Bessie Odora Warner Carpenter. He attended Marshall College in Huntington, West Virginia, and graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago in 1948. He moved to East Palestine in 1950 from Barberton and established an optometric practice on South Market Street and later on West Martin Street, from which he retired in September 1991. He had been residing at Whispering Pines Village for the past two years. Jack had served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church, East Palestine. He was also a member of the George F. McBane Post #31 of the American Legion; Edward L. McGuckin Post #4579 of the VFW; the 86th Blackhawk Division Organization; National Lodge #568 F. & A. M., Barberton, Ohio; Aut Mori Grotto, Youngstown; and the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite-Valley of Youngstown. He was a past president and also treasurer of the East Palestine Kiwanis Club and a member of Friends of the Library and the Radio Club in East Palestine, where his call sign was WD8LQQ.

His first wife, the former Doris J. Lance, whom he married November 12, 1942, died December 26, 1984.

He is survived by his second wife, the former K. Eudora Conley Swaney, whom he married May 9, 1987; two daughters, Crystal Dover of Asheville, North Carolina, and Amy (Grant) Laing of Oakton, Virginia; three stepdaughters, Kathryn (Gregory) Doby of Princeton Junction, New Jersey, Elizabeth Olive of Niles, and Martha A. Swaney of San Diego, California; four grandchildren, Julie (Chris) Shinn, Kevin (Kim) Dover,

Kate Laing and Ryan Laing; and three step-grandchildren, Eric Doby, Meredith Doby and Kathleen E. Olive; two great-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by two sisters, Ethelwyn Crumley and Eleanor Blocker; and his stepson-in-law, Michael Olive.

Material tributes may be made to Centenary United Methodist Church.

Samuel F. "Sam" Grafton, of Mineral Ridge, passed away at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2011, at Vibra Health Care of Mahoning Valley from complications of congestive heart failure. Sam was 75 years old. Sam was born in Warren on July 5, 1936, to the late Samuel and Alice (Clemson) Grafton.

Sam attended Youngstown State University before transferring to the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, where he graduated in 1964 with a degree in mortuary science. After serving a one-year apprenticeship, Sam was a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the state of Ohio and worked for Lane Funeral Homes in Mineral Ridge and Austintown. Sam also worked for the Lane Ambulance Company for many years and Norwich Pharmaceutical Company for 12 years. Sam retired in 1998 from the Weathersfield Local School District after working for 20 years in the Maintenance Department.

Sam was a member of the former Order of Odd Fellows Lodge in Mineral Ridge and had a talent for doing calligraphy. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, and he enjoyed working and hanging out at Miller's Garage in Mineral Ridge as a kid and collecting knives. Most of

all, Sam's passion was spending time with his grandchildren. Sam was a member of New Hope United Methodist Church of Niles and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Sam is survived by his wife, the former Janet Gosnell, whom he married on August 18, 1962; two sons, Todd S. (Jennifer) Grafton of Mineral Ridge and Dr. Brian W. Grafton of Cleveland; and his grandchildren, Dylan, Devon, Steven, Zachary and Victoria. He is also survived by his sister Phyllis Grafton of Mineral Ridge and an aunt, Shirlee (Ralph) Johnson of Niles.

Besides his parents, Sam was preceded in death by his sister Judy Rathburn.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions take the form of donations in Sam's name to either the American Heart Association or a charity of the donor's choice.

Eric N. Grisier, age 48, of Archbold, passed away Monday, July 4, 2011, at Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice, following a long and hard-fought battle with kidney cancer. Despite the trials of the disease, he lived his life to the fullest, and his faith never wavered. Eric taught so much to so many throughout his illness. Eric was an engineer for Bard Manufacturing in Bryan for 27 years.

Eric was born in Montpelier, Ohio, on September 25, 1962, the son of Frederick and Helen (Potts) Grisier. He married Gwen Wachtman on October 20, 1990, and she survives. He was a member of St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Archbold. Eric loved anything with the outdoors. He enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and sitting around a well-constructed bonfire (constructed by him, of course). Eric's greatest love was his wife and children.

Surviving besides his wife, Gwen, are his children, Emily and Adam Grisier, both of Archbold; his parents, Fred and Helen Grisier of Stryker; three brothers, Marc (Deb) Grisier of Toledo, Todd (Sabrina) Grisier of Archbold and Scott (Cheryl) Grisier of Wauseon. He is also survived by his niece Katelyn Hesterman; and his nephews, Wesley Hesterman, Christian, Grant, Colin, Luke and Cole Grisier. Eric was preceded in death by his niece Chelsey Grisier.

The family requests that memorial contributions be given to St. Martin's Lutheran Church

or Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice Patient Fund. Grisier Funeral Home in Archbold was entrusted with arrangements.

Marilyn A. Hill, age 82, of Westerville passed away June 14, 2011, at her residence. Born in Canton to John and Cleo Todd. Marilyn was co-founder and owner of the Hill Funeral Home with her husband, Frank E. Hill Sr. (deceased). She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Millie Lyle and Arlene Barton.

She attended OSU and Otterbein College. She was a member of Church of the Master, U.M., and sang with the Village Voices and the church choir. She was a member of Westerville Music Club, OES, PEO and the Breakfast Club.

She is survived by her children, Dianna (Mark) Clark, Frank (Carol) Hill Jr., and Mary (Greg) Miller; her grandchildren, Stefanie Clark, Aimee Clark, Jonathan Hill, Casey Hill, Matt (Kathleen) Miller, Jaclyn Miller and Daniel Miller; her great-grandson, Callen Miller; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends may contribute in her memory to The Church of the Master, U.M., 24 North Grove Street, Westerville, OH 43081.

Richard W. Kirkpatrick, 90, of New Holland, died Wednesday, June 14, 2011, at 3:25 a.m. at Fayette County Memorial Hospital, where he had been a patient for one day. He had been in failing health.

He was born January 1, 1921, in New Holland, Ohio, to Ansel W. and Erma M. Speasmaker Kirkpatrick, and he was a lifelong resident of the New Holland community, where he was a 1939 graduate of New Holland High School.



Richard was a 1942 graduate of the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and was a second-generation licensed embalmer and funeral director. He owned and operated the Kirkpatrick Funeral Home in New Holland and Washington Court House until his son, Roger, took over the business in 2001. Richard was a member of the National and Ohio funeral directors associations.

He was a former longtime chairman of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank in New Holland and Mount Sterling and currently was serving on the advisory board of the Milton Banking Company.

Richard was a member of the New Holland United Methodist Church, where, for many years, he was Sunday school superintendent.

He served as a captain in the U.S. Army in the European theatre of operation in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany during World War II. He was a life member and finance officer of the former ARCH Post #477 of the American Legion in New Holland and was a member of Paul H. Hughey Post #25 of the American Legion; Burnett-Ducey Post #4762 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Voiture #888 of the 40 and 8.

Richard was a 65-year member of New Holland Lodge F. & A.M. #392; was a 32nd Degree Mason, Valley of Columbus; Aladdin Temple Shrine in Columbus; and was a member and past president of the Washington Shrine Club.

He was a member of Hillsboro Chapter #40 of the Royal Arch Masons; Hillsboro Council, #16 of the Royal and Select Masters; and Highland Commandery #31, Knights Templar.

Richard was a member of the Washington Rotary Club; a 60-year member and last charter member of the New Holland Lions Club; a member of Washington Court House Lodge #129 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks; and a former longtime member of the Washington Country Club. He was a loyal member of the morning Koffee Klatch group at the American Legion.

He had owned standardbred race horses and was a former member of the United States Trotting Association.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Elizabeth E. Ebert, on August 30, 1985; a brother and sister-in-law, Ansel W. and

Mary Kirkpatrick Jr.; a brother-in-law, Dr. Ray Eugene Ebert; and a sister-in-law, Mary Frances Kirkpatrick.

Richard is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, William R. and Diana J. Kirkpatrick of New Holland and Roger E. and Diana L. Kirkpatrick of Washington Court House; a daughter and son-in-law, Jan E. and Doug S. Snyder of Meadow Lands, Pennsylvania; five grandchildren, Brent R. Kirkpatrick and his wife, Sarah, of Washington Court House; Courtney J. Hagler and her husband, Jimmy, of Bloomingburg; Troy J. Kirkpatrick and his wife, Lynn, of Powell, Ohio; Cody W. Kirkpatrick and his wife, Deanne, of New Holland; and Elizabeth L. Snyder of Meadow Lands, Pennsylvania; eight great-grandchildren, Alexis (Lexi) and Emma Hagler; and Cole, Hidy, Cali, Ian, Nate and Quinn Kirkpatrick; a step-grandson, Douglas Snyder; and a step-great-granddaughter, Annabelle, both of Meadow Lands, Pennsylvania; a brother, Edward C. (Eddie Kirk) Kirkpatrick; a sister-in-law, Lilian Ebert of Upper Arlington; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Pete and Madeline Ebert of New Holland; and his long-time companion, Bernice Brannigan of Washington Court House.

Memorial contributions may be made to the New Holland United Methodist Church, c/o Mrs. Nikki Sheets, 154 East Front Street, New Holland, OH 43145 or the Fayette County Memorial Hospital Foundation, 1430 Columbus Avenue, Washington Court House, OH 43160.

Shontell Snyder's faith became sight on Monday, June 20, 2011, at the age of 79. Born Shontell Irene Wolford on June 10, 1932, in Huron County to Willment W. and Laura L. (Doty) Wolford, she moved to the family's farm north of Shenandoah as a child.

It was there on the farm that she learned a good work ethic. As firstborn, Shontell learned early how to drive the tractor, milk cows by hand and tend chickens. She advanced through elementary school, skipping the second grade, and graduated from Savannah High School in 1949.

She attended Oberlin School of Commerce, where she learned her elegant handwriting, shorthand at 120 words a minute and perfectly typed 60 words a minute. On the recommen-

ation of her professors, she was hired in as secretary to the vice presidents of the former Farmers Savings & Trust in Mansfield.

She and Jason Paul Snyder were married August 23, 1953, in the Shenandoah Christian Church, her home church, where as a youth, she served as church organist.

The Snyders made their home in Fredericktown and were blessed with three sons, and though she worked as a teller in the Dan Struble Bank (now First Knox National Bank), she felt her calling in life was "to have a Christian home for [our] children."

She was a member and church pianist in First Baptist Church of Fredericktown. After their move to Lexington in 1969, she continued playing piano for worship as a member of Lexington Church of Christ. For nearly 50 years, she accompanied worshippers in churches. She was a member of Palmyra Church of Christ and was a 50-year member of Ann Hill Chapter #281 Order of the Eastern Star, Fredericktown.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, J. Paul Snyder; three sons and daughters-in-law, Bradley and Kim Snyder of Powell, Randy and Tess Snyder of Pickerington and J. Todd and Linda Snyder of Mansfield; grandchildren Brittany and Tony Stoffer, Bethany Snyder, Jordan Snyder, Lindsay and Brad Radkoski, Jeff and Kelsey Snyder, Leah Snyder, Seth Roberts, Kennan Roberts, Hannah Snyder and Gideon Snyder; a sister and brother-in-law, Eileen Wolford and Bill Marsh of Mansfield; a brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Laura Wolford of Shenandoah; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Robert and Dorothy Snyder of Canon City, Colorado; Betty and Bill Ritchie of Tucson, Arizona; Helen Snyder of Mount Vernon; Gifty Snyder of Bellville; Madelyn Snyder of Mount Gilead; T. Arthur and Joyce Snyder of Mansfield; Patricia and Larry Hoffman of Colorado Springs, Colorado; James and Pat Snyder and Janet and James Hope, all of Bellville; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Don and Virginia Snyder, Dave and Jean Snyder, Richard Snyder, Ora, Junior "Pete" Snyder, Philip Snyder and Arden Snyder.

Contributions in Shontell's memory are encouraged to MedCentral Hospice or Jefferson Township-Bellville Rescue Squad.



Emmy Lou Sweeney, 99, of Amsterdam, died Saturday, July 16, 2011. She was born September 26, 1911, in Pomeroy, Ohio, the daughter of Charles H. Keehne and Blanche Enzenauer Keehne.

Mrs. Sweeney graduated from Pomeroy High School and Ohio University in Athens with a bachelor of science degree in music education. She was a member of Chi Omega Sorority and Sigma Alpha Iota, National Honorary of Music Sorority, the University Choir and the Women's Glee Club. She taught music in the public schools of Pomeroy and was a private piano and voice teacher in Amsterdam for more than 30 years. She contributed her musical talents to the Amsterdam Presbyterian Church, where she played the organ and directed the choir. Mrs. Sweeney was a member of the Music Study Club of Carrollton and was called upon as a soloist for many occasions in the area. Mrs. Sweeney was a charter member and a past president of the Jefferson Hills Garden Club, where she received statewide recognition for her floral arrangements. She was the past matron of the Unionport Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star 360 and was the soloist for the Grand Chapter.

Mrs. Sweeney came to Amsterdam in fall 1936, when she married Paul M. Sweeney, whom she met while they were students at Ohio University. Mr. Sweeney joined his family's business upon his return to Amsterdam after completing his education and training. Mrs. Sweeney became an integral part of the funeral business and received her funeral director's license in 1957. She played an active role in both the Amsterdam and Carrollton funeral homes.

She loved to tend her flower gardens, and she loved to travel. She was fortunate to be able to do both.



Mrs. Sweeney is preceded in death by her husband, Paul; and her three sisters, Margaret K. Davis of Athens, Ohio; Ruth K. Ebersbach of Roseland, New Jersey; and Helena K. Lietwiler of Bethesda, Maryland. She is survived by three children, Mary Lynne (John Irwin) of Brooklyn, New York; Ann (Sherman Kopelson, deceased) of Randallstown, Maryland; and Dick (Linda) of Mansfield, Ohio; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. She will be greatly missed.

Memorial donations may be made to Valley Hospice, 10686 State Route 150, Rayland, OH 43943; or the United Methodist Church of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Lending Library, both in Amsterdam, Ohio.

Paul Roger Vernier Sr., 69, of West Portsmouth, died Thursday June 2, 2011, at SOMC Hospice. He was born May 26, 1942, in Portsmouth to the late Paul L. Vernier and Midge Ferguson Vernier of Chillicothe. Roger was the father of funeral director Leichia Davis, Roger W. Davis Funeral Home, West Portsmouth, Ohio.

Roger was a former manager of Burger Chef Restaurants, a former special deputy for the Scioto County Sheriff's Department, a former member of Washington Township Volunteer Fire Department, a member of Nauvoo Masonic Lodge #769 and a U.S. Air Force veteran. Along with his father, Roger was preceded in death by his wife, Dora Conley Vernier.

Roger is survived by two sons, Paul Roger (Sherry) Vernier Jr. and David Larry (Heather) Vernier, all of West Portsmouth; a daughter, Leichia (Scott) Davis of West Portsmouth; nine grandchildren, Roger (Tiffany) Vernier III and Ryan (Sheena) Vernier; Alex, Michael and Nickolas Davis; and Kolten, Dawson, Tanner and Aadyn Vernier; all of West Portsmouth; three great-grandchildren, Gracie, Sophie and Brayden

Vernier; three stepchildren, Jenny (Barry) Carver, Lisa Montgomery and Eric (Jackie) Bell, all of West Portsmouth; and seven step-grandchildren.

The family requests that donations be made to SOMC Hospice in Roger's name.

John D. Webster, 61, of Middletown, died unexpectedly on Friday, May 27, 2011. He was born January 9, 1950, in Harriman, Tennessee, to John and Martha (Smith) Webster.

John grew up in Hamilton, Ohio, and graduated from Garfield Senior High School in 1967. He attended Miami University in Hamilton, where he and his future wife, Jan, started singing together — one of their greatest joys for the next 40 years. John taught himself to play the guitar when he was 15 years old. He loved and respected music and always felt privileged when asked to sing for someone's wedding, funeral or backyard party.

John started working at the former Webb Funeral Home at age 16 and spent the rest of his life in the funeral business. He graduated with honors from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1973. In 1977, he brought his family to Middletown, where he and his wife raised their three children. For nearly 34 years, he tirelessly worked at Breitenbach-McCoy-Leffler Funeral Home, where he helped countless families through their most difficult times. Though his career was at the center of who he was, he still had so much more to give.

John recently received the Legion of Honor Award from Middletown Kiwanis Club for 30 years of membership. He was very proud of being part of Kiwanis, where he made many dear friends. At the age of 9, he played his first season of Little League baseball and never lost his passion for the game. He played for years on the Middletown Police Department's softball team and cherished the memories from each tournament trip and every friendship made.

In 1976, he graduated from the Columbus Police Academy at the top of his class. Once in Middletown, he became a volunteer officer with the Police Reserve Unit. He finished 30 years of service in 2007 as the unit's commander. His volunteer hours would have exceeded 10 years of full-time work. When he left the department, he was given the rank of major.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Janice L. (Clark) Webster; his son, John Robert

(Stacey) Webster; his daughters, Amanda (Mike) Phipps and Julie (Jon) Krueckeberg; his grandson, Wyatt Webster Phipps; four granddaughters, Meryl Phipps, Maeve Phipps, Grace Krueckeberg and Meyer Webster; his father, John K. Webster; a brother, Robert D. Webster; two sisters, Gale Browning and Susan Hendrickson; his mother-in-law, Margie Clark; many nieces and nephews; countless friends; and the special family he formed with those he worked closest with at Breitenbach-McCoy-Leffler Funeral Home. He was greatly anticipating the birth of his newest granddaughter, who will be born this summer. He was preceded in death by his mother, Martha Webster, and his father-in-law, Robert Clark.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cincinnati Children's Hospital or to the American Cancer Society.

Marian L. Zettler, age 88, of Hamilton, died Saturday April 2, 2011, at her home. She was born in Hamilton, Ohio, on August 10, 1922, to Arthur and Opal (Franz) Brandhoff.

Marian attended Notre Dame High School and graduated from Hamilton High school in 1940. She married James R. Zettler on February 25, 1943, in Hamilton, Ohio. Along with her husband, she opened the Zettler Funeral Home in 1951. She was active in the operation of the funeral home for more than 50 years.

Marian was an active member of St. Ann Church, where she was involved in the Altar Rosary Society. She was an avid bridge player and an excellent cook. Marian was a devoted wife to Jim for 68 years. Her greatest joy was spending time surrounded by her family, especially her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by eight children: James R. (Anne) Zettler Jr., Karen (Richard) Bell, Nancy (Joseph) Morelli, Jack A. Zettler, Mary Lou (Greg) Hartman, Patti (Tony) Walker, Thomas G. (Christen) Zettler and Connie (Jeffrey) Turner. She also is survived by 23 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and a brother-in-law, Richard (Dorothy) Zettler. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert and Raymond Brandhoff, and a sister, Dorothy Schmidt.

Memorials are suggested to St. Ann Church or Hospice of Hamilton.



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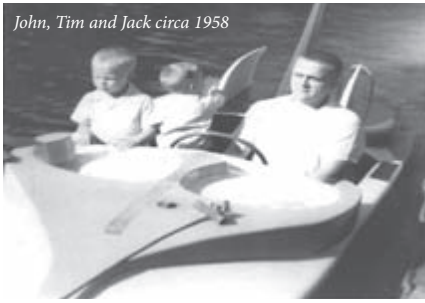
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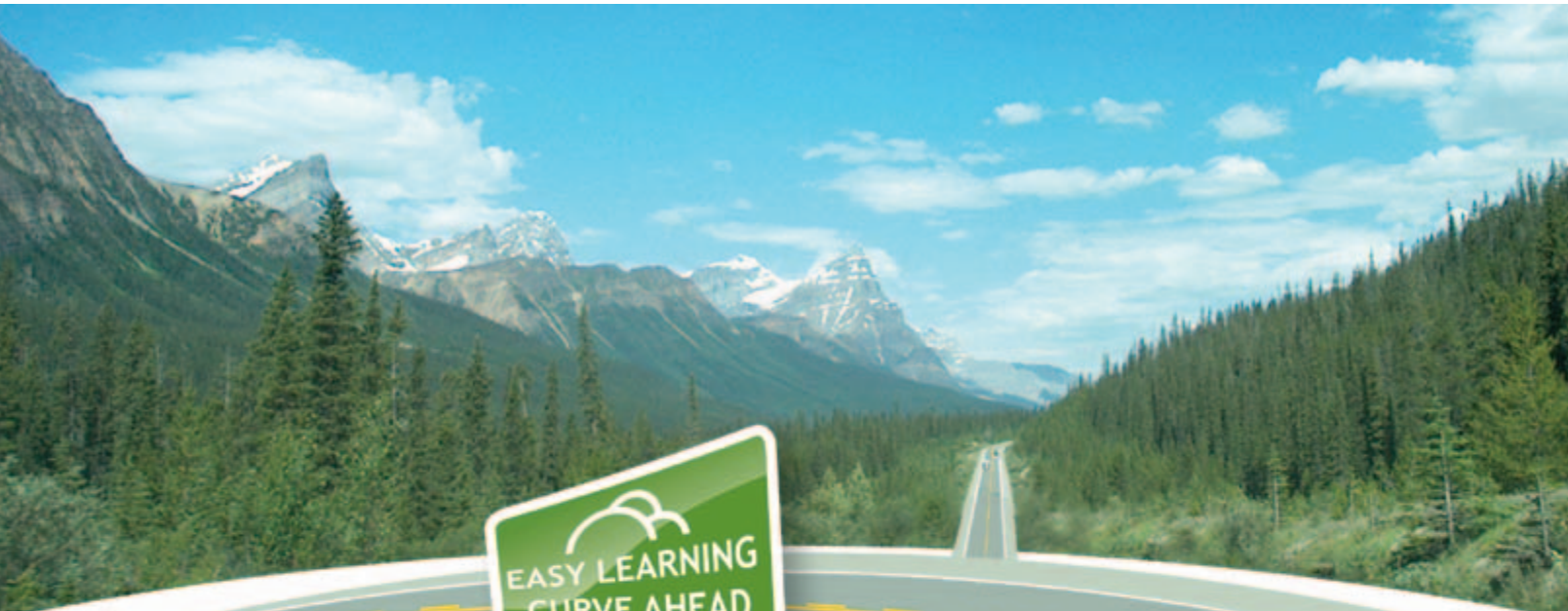
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