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FOCUS

... on the activities of the OHIO EMBALMER ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 621320 • Cincinnati, OH 45262-1320

No. 135
Fall 2023

Fall Seminar Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Hocking Hills Lodge

20020 SR 664 S, Logan OH 43138

6 Hours of Continuing Ed have been approved in Ohio

Cost \$95 Members and \$190 non members.

DAY AT A GLANCE

- .75 Hour – 8-8:45am Registration and Coffee
- 2.0 Hour – 9-11 Dr. Lee, Forensics – Case Studies
- 1.0 Hour – 11-12 Dave Tackett, Ethics
- 1.0 Hour – 12-1pm – Lunch
- 1.0 Hour – 1-2 Tyler O'Brien, Attrition of licensees within the first 5 yrs
- 2.0 Hour – 2-4 Scott Janssen, The Mushin Mortician & Alaskan Funeral Service Tales

ACCOMMODATIONS

Rooms are being held at the Hocking Hills Lodge
20020 SR 664 S, Logan OH 43138. Ph 800.282.7275
for OEA Rate of \$179 (Price may vary on room location and type).

Cut out and return with payment registration form

OEA Fall Seminar - October 11, 2023

Hocking Hills Lodge • 20020 SR 664 S, Logan OH 43138
\$95 Members and \$190 Non Members (includes dues)

If non-member, please use space below for your current mailing address:

Name _____	Embalmer's license # _____	FD License # _____	Member ID _____
Address _____	City / State / Zip _____		
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Contact the
Secretary if
any questions.
513.384.7846 or
hchicks@me.com

Please complete form (or photocopy) and send with the appropriate check and postage to:
O.E.A., PO Box #621320, Cincinnati, Ohio 45262-1320. 513.384.7846 www.ohemb.com.
Visit www.ohemb.com (Newly Designed) or Contact David Hicks 513.384.7846



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my "swan song". From the day when you ran into me wandering around the Ohio Funeral Director's convention. Honestly, it has been a tremendously wonderful experience and a joy being part of the Ohio Embalmers Association. After my Army years, YSU and PIMS I have been an active Ohio Funeral Director and Embalmer for 56 years. Although I have not been that active in the preparation room recently. However, I know of no finer group of men and women I'd rather be with than you. Our profession and all the success we have had is based on the professional work (I should say art) that you do.

Respectfully,
Dan Becker,
President OEA 2022-24

OTHER NEWS

We continue to work on the new website design and features. If you update your profile by visiting www.ohemb.com that will allow you to eventually sign up for seminars online, pay dues, and other services that are in the works. If you are receiving this FOCUS newsletter by USPS your dues are paid for 2023 there is no need to pay for 2024 yet. Elections will be held at this meeting. The plan is to have them in the Lodge at 6pm Tuesday Oct 10. However, we are waiting to hear from them as to where exactly this will happen. Join us if possible.



IN MEMORIAM

In May of this year OEA and Funeral Service lost their biggest cheerleader. The Ohio Embalmers Association announces the unexpected passing of member Todd Wesley Van Beck on Tuesday May 23 at his residence in Cincinnati.

His career in funeral service began in Hancock, Iowa and later led him to the New England Institute of Embalming and Sanitary Science in Boston. In addition to funeral service Todd had formal theological training and holds a Masters Degree from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, Batchelor's Degree from Mount Mercy University , Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service, Houston, Texas

For a number of decades Todd was a practitioner and educator in the funeral service profession. A noted historian of the industry he has been described by CCMS President Jack Lechner, Jr. as, "the preeminent historian of the deathcare profession." Noted amongst his numerous seminars was his presentation on the death and funeral of President Abraham Lincoln. Todd was the author of over 65 books and manuals and 300 articles on historical diverse funeral service topics of interest to funeral directors, cemeterians and clergy- he has chronicled funeral establishments such as Frank Campbell in NYC and the centennial history of the Cincinnati College. His stories of his early Iowa experiences as an apprentice have flavored his seminars and writings.

Over the years he was affiliated with a number of mortuary colleges most recently he was director of continuing education at John A. Gupton College in Nashville, Tennessee. In August of 2022 he again joined the faculty of The Cincinnati College as director of professional education.

Todd was affiliated with many state, national and international funeral associations. He has lectured extensively in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Germany. For several years Todd was associated with the continuing education University of the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association.

In the field of embalming most recently he lectured at CCMS on the preparation of infants at CCMS. He was a contributor to the text Embalming: History Theory and Practice. He was a frequent presenter over the years to the Ohio Embalmers – he last spoke at the meeting at the Buffalo Trace Distillery on September 7, 2022 on the topic of "Barnes Neo Cardinal Gas Embalming Method."



OEA
P.O. BOX 621320
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45262-1320

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TOPICS

Forensics & Case Studies - Dr. Jeff Lee – 2 hr

Dr. Lee - Will discuss some of his most interesting cases in his career. Synergies between the funeral service community and coroner's office will be shared as well.

Ethics in Funeral Service – Dave Tackett – 1 hr

Tackett will push the thinking of the attendees in this presentation. In the funeral industry we are given a lot of trust. Using scenarios Tackett will engage the audience think about what they do in the funeral home behind closed doors. Does the air tray from a ship in become a cremation tray for another family? Is that family charged for a new tray? Situations like this and others will be presented during this talk.

Attrition Among New Licensees –

Tyler O'Brien – 1 hr - Where are the apprentices?

This presentation will offer insight into a recent research study of Ohio embalmers and identify factors that impact attrition and retention rates of new licensees. Participants will hear first-hand experiences and learn strategies to mitigate attrition of new licensees. 60 minutes in length.

Dissertation citation

O'Brien. (2023). The First Five Years of Licensure as Told by Ohio Funeral Directors. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing.

Alaskan Funeral Service and Customs

Scott Janssen – 2 hr

Janssen will talk about life as a funeral director in Alaska. Winter funerals and burials, funeral customs of the native inhabitants of Alaska and the Iditarod will all be discussed in this talk.

MEET THE SPEAKERS

C. Jeff Lee, D.O., is currently the Chief Forensic Pathologist Licking County Coroner's Office. He earned a BS in Chemistry from the Ohio State University in 1987 and Doctor of Osteopathy from Ohio University, Athens OH in 1992. From 1992-93 Lee served a Rotating Osteopathic Internship in Flint MI. From 1993-97 Dr Lee served an Anatomic/ Clinical Pathology Residency at William Bauemont Hospital in Royal Oak MI. In 1998 Dr Lee completed his Forensic Pathology Fellowship at the Medical University of Carolina, Charleston, SC. He was the Assistant Chief Medical Examiner, Central District of Richmond, VA from 1998-2000. Dr Lee is the author several Publications and Lectures, and is involved in several Medical Societies

David W. Tackett, M. Div., CFSP

David first became interested in funeral service as a teenager growing up in rural central Pennsylvania in the 1970s. After a brief stint in the Navy Reserves and upon graduation from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, he worked in corrections. David then answered a call to ministry and graduated from United Theological Seminary in Dayton in 1987 with a Master of Divinity degree. He was often called upon to conduct services for families with no pastor and has officiated over 1,000 funeral/memorial services. He remains an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church. The call to funeral service was always present and David attended CCMS, graduating in 1994 summa cum laude. He apprenticed and worked as an Ohio dual licensee for Routsong Funeral Home in Kettering, Ohio.

David was invited to join the faculty of CCMS in 1996. He taught in the clinical lab as well as various business, religion, ethics, embalming and legal courses. In 2000, he was appointed Dean of CCMS and held that position until 2012.

Since leaving the college, David has done trade embalming and directing and has worked for several Dayton area funeral homes.

In the late Spring of 2023 David returned to the ministry serving as a part-time Pastor at Normandy Church in Centerville.

David has written articles for The Director and the American Funeral Director magazines. He authored a chapter in the Funeral Directing and Funeral Service Management textbook used in mortuary colleges nationwide. He has presented numerous con-ed programs at the local, state, and national level. He is a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner, a Certified Funeral Celebrant and a certified crematory operator. David is, or has been, a member of NFDA, OFDA, OEA, APFSP, ICCFA and the British Institute of Embalmers. David lives in Kettering, Ohio with his wife and a spoiled Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. He has 2 grown children and three grandchildren.

Dr. Tyler O'Brien, Ed.D., M.A.

Dr. Tyler J. O'Brien is an author, catechist, educator, and funeral service professional. He is a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner through the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practitioners and a Certified Cremation Service Provider through the National Funeral Directors Association; he is licensed in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. Dr. O'Brien earned an Associate of Applied Sciences and a Bachelor of Mortuary Sciences from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He earned a Master of Arts in Theology from Lourdes University and later a Doctor of Education from the University of the Cumberland. His experiences include an internship with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Anatomical Donation Program, trade funeral director and embalmer, and as an educator and administrator within the public school setting and as a NASA educational partner. He is a funeral director and embalmer for a funeral home in northwest Ohio. Dr. O'Brien has served in various leadership roles and committees on Christian education and faith formation programs within the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit and is the Director of Religious Education at the parish level.

Scott Janssen, 62, the "Mushin Mortician", was born and raised in Crookston, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1985 with a B.S. in Mortuary Science and moved to Alaska in June of that year to work as a mortician at Evergreen Memorial Chapel. He has been a mortician and owner of Evergreen Memorial Chapel later known as Janssen Funeral homes since 2007. Scott began mushing in 2007 and says "Iditarod has been my dream since 1986." He grasped his dream by finishing 42nd in the 2011 Iditarod and 38th in the 2012 Iditarod. He and Debbie, his wife of 43 years, are the parents of two adult daughters, Angela and Chelsea, son Jaikob and his grandchildren Avalyn, Liam, Charlie and Ruth. Scott is a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, the ICCFA, Kiwanis, Catholic Archdiocese of Anchorage and the Iditarod Finishers' Club. He enjoys spending time with his family, racing legend cars, mushing dogs, camping, hunting, fishing, skiing and riding Harleys.