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FOCUS

... on the activities of the OHIO EMBALMER ASSOCIATION

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

No. 142
Fall 2025

Fall Seminar Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Marietta, Ohio

**Lafayette Hotel, 101 Front Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750 • (740) 373-5522**

**6 Hours of Continuing Ed have been
applied for in Ohio & West Virginia**

**Cost: \$110 Members • \$220 non members (includes dues).
If you received a full, folded Focus in the mail, you are paid up.**

DAY AT A GLANCE

8:00 - 8:45 Coffee, Registration
9:00 - 11:00 Dr. Paul Koles – **Pathology and Disease and Effects on Embalming**
11:00 - 12:00 Dave Tackett – **Ethics for Funeral Service**
12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH
1:00 - 3:00 Bob & Lia Mazzarella – **Professional Vehicles – Past, Present & Future**
3:30 - 4:30 William Peoples, **Peoples Mortuary Museum**
Self guided tour and short talk about Museum

ACCOMMODATIONS

**Lafayette Hotel has a block of rooms
740.373.5522
Located at 101 Front St - Marietta OH 45750
There are other Hotels in the area as well.**

OEA Fall Seminar - October 8, 2025
Lafayette Hotel • 740.373.5522 • 101 Front St - Marietta OH 45750.
\$110 Members and \$220 Non Members (includes new member registration fees and dues)

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

Name _____
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City / State / Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

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 or Contact David Hicks 513.384.7846

Contact the
Secretary if any questions.
513.384.7846 or
hchohicks@me.com

President's Message

Presidents Message
Greetings All,
I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. With fall just around the corner so is the OEA's Fall Seminar October 8th in Marietta. We have a great lineup of speakers slated, hope to see a great turnout. It will also be my last one having the honor to serve as president, it has been a privilege. I want to wish whoever our newly elected president might be all the best. I look forward to continuing to serve this great association.

Best Regards,
Woody Wilson

OTHER NEWS

Elections will be held at Peoples Mortuary Museum at 5pm Wednesday October 8, 2025.
OEA is working on 2026 Schedule. All 18 hours must be earned by Dec 31, 2026. Venues for 2026 will be: Hocking Hills – Logan OH March 25, Cleveland is set for May 6 at Brennans and will feature all required hours. We will return to the Bluegrass state in Sept or Oct for another Bourbon themed event. If warranted, we will hold another event for all the procrastinators. Be sure to check out the website at www.ohemb.com. Email us at OhioEmbalmersAssociation@gmail.com.



MEET THE SPEAKERS

Paul Koles, M.D. was associate professor of pathology and surgery and chair of the department of pathology in the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University. He has practiced and taught pathology for 30 years in postgraduate and undergraduate settings. His medical education research focuses on instructional strategies and assessment; team-based learning (TBL) is his primary area of interest. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 interdisciplinary TBL modules for medical students, integrating concepts from anatomy, physiology, pathology, microbiology, pharmacology, and clinical decision-making. He has facilitated over 50 TBL workshops and consultations for medical school faculty in the U.S. and Canada. Dr. Koles is certified by the American Board of Pathology in anatomic and clinical pathology with subspecialty certification in cytopathology.

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



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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.

Bob Mazzarella

Bob is the owner of American Coach Sales and American Limousine Service. He is the second-generation Owner, co-founding the Coach Sales company with his father Anthony. He has been working in all aspects of the specialty and professional vehicle industry for the past 45+ years. Bob’s tireless work ethic has brought American Coach to be one of the highest volume providers of the specialty and professional vehicles in the world. He has built American Coach Sales’ reputation for customer service by caring for every customer as a friend, ensuring their needs are met before, during, and after the sale. Bob is a dedicated member of his church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, residing on the board there, and is a proud member of the Northern Ohio Italian American Foundation. He is blessed and excited to be working with his three children, Robert, Jay, and Lia.

Lia Mazzarella

Lia is a Sales & Marketing Representative for American Coach Sales. Her main goals are to grow the Sprinter sales part of the business and expand our marketing and advertising efforts through new technologies. Lia has a thorough understanding of all our Sprinter builds and options. When shopping online for a luxury Sprinter, she should be your first point of contact. Lia works out of Cincinnati, Ohio, putting her within easy reach of much of our territory. She is proud to have earned an Honors B.A. from Xavier University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She loves working with family and the frequent travel to Cleveland and Columbus, where her beloved nieces and nephews reside. In her free time, Lia can be found exploring Cincinnati with friends and attending Xavier Basketball games.

TOPICS

Pathology & Disease and Effects on Embalming – Paul Koles, MD – 2hr

Dr Koles will present case studies from his pathology files that span over 30 years and talk about various pathologies and diseases. His focus will be on the challenges and effects of disease on the embalming process. To make the talk interactive Dr. will present symptoms and photos from previous autopsies and ask for the attendees’ diagnosis. This talk will certainly refresh the attendee with pathology and anatomy along with how they relate to what we do as Embalmers and Funeral Directors to better serve our families

Ethics in Funeral Service – Dave Tackett – 1hr

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 to 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.

Professional Vehicles Past Present & Future- 2hr

This 2-hour discussion will look at the history of the funeral coach from using horse and buggy, the first gasoline powered hearses and ambulances, and modern-day funeral coaches. We will also explore funeral coaches of the future looking at options for families who wish to use a hearse as a part of a life celebration of the future.

Peoples Mortuary Museum – 1hr

Walk or drive from the Lafayette to 408 Front St (located behind Cawley & Peoples Funeral Home). See a large collection of antique funeral and embalming items. Including a wonderful collection of Packard and Henney Hearses. A recent acquisition of Victorian era funeral mourning jewelry and keepsakes is a must see. Peoples recently expanded and updated the museum so even more items can be “viewed”.