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FOCUS

... on the activities of the OHIO EMBALMER ASSOCIATION

No. 145
Fall 2026

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

Procrastinators Special 2026

Nov 11, 2026

Waters Edge - Lakeview Event Center
4643 Trueman Blvd. • Hilliard, OH 43026

6 Hours of Continuing Ed have been applied for in OH

Cost \$125 Members. Non-members \$225

DAY AT A GLANCE

8-8:45am	Registration and Coffee
9-12	Michelle Johnston - Facial Reconstruction & Embalming Techniques
12-1pm	Lunch
1-2	Robert G. Mayer - Indeed, Learning Never Ends
2-4	Danielle Jordan - CJD, Taking care of the families and the deceased

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Rooms are being held at the- Columbus Homewood Suites, 3841 Park Mill Run Dr. Hilliard, OH 43026. Call 614.529.4100 or on www.ohemb.com.
Find accommodation for the current seminar and click the booking link.
The Room block will be held until Oct 12, 2026. Room rate is \$149.

DUES

If you would like to pay 2027 dues with registration for this upcoming CE Event, just add \$50 to your registration fee for each licensee being registered.

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

Name _____	Member ID _____
Embalmer's license # _____	FD License # _____
Address _____	located next to your address
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 ques-
tions. 513.384.7846 or
hchohicks@me.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings Friends,
I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and are preparing for a busy fall with school back in session, sports and marching bands practicing and all that comes with the autumn before the cold sets in.
OEA also hopes you are prepared for the end of this compliance year for your Ohio Licenses. We have two more programs coming up in October and November for you to attend and knockout those hours.
Check out our website for more information on those two events.
I am looking forward to continuing OEA's dedication to education and fellowship for our profession into 2027.

All the best, **Jay Moffett** *President*

MEET THE SPEAKERS

Michelle Johnston, CFSP, has been licensed as a funeral director and embalmer since 2013. She is married to Benjamin Johnston and has three children. She graduated from Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in 2012 and was dual licensed in 2013. She attended Fountain National Academy in Springfield, Missouri to further her knowledge in Restorative Art and postmortem reconstructive surgery. She has advanced skills in both embalming and restorative art. Michelle opened East Texas Mortuary Service in Tyler, Texas in 2019 and began serving funeral homes by offering all services, from embalming to advanced trauma repair. In March of 2023, she was approved by the APFSP and the State Anatomical Board to open her own education institution for professionals. That institution is named Johnston Embalming & Reconstructive Institute.
Michelle currently holds multiple positions within the Texas Funeral Directors Association. Michelle strives to change the narrative in the industry from closed caskets to the possibility of open caskets under any circumstance. In 2021, she was awarded the East Texas Embalmer of the Year award and has been invited to speak on many platforms, including NFDA 2024 & 2025.

Robert G. Mayer, Jr., FBIE, active in funeral service for the past 67 years - beginning as a high school junior in the summer of 1959 in the parking lot of Davis-Velker Funeral Home in Boardman, Ohio Formal education includes 1967 graduate from Youngstown University and a 1963 honors graduate from Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science.

Licensed as a funeral director and embalmer in Ohio and Pennsylvania; he has been practicing as a trade embalmer in Pittsburgh for 58 years. 30 years full-time and adjunct instructor at Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. For 35 years he served as primary author/editor of “Embalming: History, Theory and Practice”, through 5 editions, textbook of the American Board of Funeral Service Education. Used nationally and internationally.

He serves on the Boards of the Ohio Embalmers Association and the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in his hometown of Boardman, Ohio. Bob presented his first seminar in 1972 for the Ohio Embalmers – this program in Hilliary, Ohio brings to a close over 200 such seminars, given nationally and internationally. Affiliations include honorary lifetime memberships with the British Institute of Embalmers, Association of European Embalmers, and the Allegheny County Funeral Directors Association of Pittsburgh.

Bob resides in Pittsburgh and currently is associated with the Soxman Funeral Home in Plum, Pennsylvania.

Danielle Jordan is the Autopsy Program Manager for the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center (NPDPS). With more than twenty years of experience, she oversees the Center’s national autopsy coordination program, collaborating with physicians, funeral professionals, medical examiners, coroners, state health departments, and the CJD Foundation, a national nonprofit organization that provides support, education, advocacy and resources for families affected by prion disease and the funeral professionals who serve them, to coordinate specialized autopsy services nationwide for suspected prion disease cases. A Certified Grief Recovery Specialist, Danielle is passionate about providing compassionate support to families while advancing education and collaboration among healthcare and funeral professionals. In 2022, she established the NPDPS Social Work Internship Program in partnership with Case Western Reserve



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University and continues to serve as a Field Instructor. Danielle is a frequent presenter on prion disease, autopsy coordination, bereavement and collaboration with funeral professionals and is committed to ensuring every family is treated with dignity, respect and empathy throughout their journey.

Aaron Koeth is a 1991 graduate of the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and is a licensed embalmer and funeral director. He is retired chief mortician at a major teaching and research hospital in Cleveland and is the current Owner of NeuroPath, LLC., which is a Neurological Autopsy technical and consulting service.

TOPICS

Michelle Johnston, CFSP

Facial Reconstruction and Embalming Techniques 3 hrs

Whether you are a novice eager to build your foundational skills or an experienced embalmer seeking to refine your techniques, this class will empower you to confidently reconstruct bone structures and enhance lifelike appearances, ensuring your ability to keep the casket open for families during their time of remembrance.

Attendees will learn:

- Fundamentals of Facial Anatomy: Provide attendees with a solid grounding in facial anatomy, including the structure and proportions of the face, to enhance their understanding of natural contours and features that are essential for effective reconstruction.
- Techniques for Reconstruction: Equip attendees with practical skills and techniques for facial reconstruction, focusing on methods to restore and enhance facial features damaged due to trauma, disease, or other factors during the embalming process.
- Artistic Considerations: Foster an appreciation for the artistic aspects of facial reconstruction, teaching students how to achieve a lifelike appearance through careful attention to detail, color matching, and the use of appropriate materials.
- Assessment Skills: Attendees will learn how to assess the condition of the deceased’s face and identify areas needing reconstruction,

enabling them to create a tailored plan for facial restoration.

- Material Selection: Attendees will explore various materials used in facial reconstruction, including waxes, gels, hardware store items, and how to select the right products for different situations to achieve the best results.
- Visual Learning: Attendees will learn from photos of each step being performed, gaining confidence and proficiency in creating natural and aesthetically pleasing restorations.

Indeed, Learning Never Ends – 2hr

Bob Mayer

Most churches can be described as “traditional” or “contemporary’ or a mixture of both. The 9am service drums and guitars, casual clergy and congregation, the 11am service organ and choir, robed clergy and a formal liturgy. A mixture of traditional and contemporary are good words to describe the American Funeral in the third decade of the 21st Century. Present day funeral service has morphed, progressed, moved, transitioned, shifted or just plain CHANGED from its past to the present. This hour program will present an overview of funeral service during the past seven decades. The primary portion of the seminar looks at the present day preparation room; and, as described by Chales O Dhonau in 1928 the “elements of an embalmment;” the Embalmer, the Deceased; the Protocols and materials employed. Mayer will introduce a variety of mentors, articles and funeral associations that have directed his 67-year journey in funeral service.

CJD, Taking care of the Families and the deceased – 2hr

Danielle Jordan and Aaron Koeth will present on CJD and related diseases. Danielle will focus on the care of the families affected by Prion Diseases and grief support. Aaron will cover the embalming protocols needed to treat these cases. Along with the bullets listed below.

- Purpose of the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center
- Expound on prion disease & types
- Requested role of mortuary providers
- Perceived risk factors vs actualities
- Chronic Wasting Disease
- Mr. Aaron Koeth (NeuroPath LLC) - Open discussion