



FCAWPA Newsletter

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western PA – Spring 2010

The 2010 FCAWP Annual Meeting:

A Lasting Gift: Whole body or organ/tissue donation – What you need to know!

We know you are a generous soul: you carry an organ donation card in your wallet, and you may even have designated your body for educational or research use. But do you know the “ifs,” “ands,” and “buts” of such gifts?

This year’s FCAWP annual meeting, on Sunday, May 2, will explore the details and misconceptions about such gifts with experts in both areas:

- *Is there an age limit for whole body donations?*
- *Are there other conditions that might cause rejection? If so, what alternative plans should you provide for?*
- *What are the limitations for organ donations—corneas, skin, bone, and other organs?*
- *Will the “organ donor” designation on your license guarantee that your wishes will be honored? Are your survivors legally required to abide by them?*
- *Are families subject to any costs associated with organ or body donations?*
- *Have you seriously considered which option is best for you?*

Whole body and organ donation are both in short supply, particularly in a center of medical education and research like Pittsburgh. To help you make informed choices, three speakers have agreed to meet with us on May 2. They are:

- **Jason Finney**, Funeral Director, Coroner, and Medical Examiner Liaison at the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE) on organ donation;
- **Clariza Murray**, Public Relations and Program Coordinator for the Philadelphia-based Humanity Gifts Registry, on whole body donations for education and research; and
- Elder law attorney **Andrew G. Sykes** on legal aspects of both kinds of donations.

There will be an opportunity for questions, and FCAWP Program Chair Charlotte Zabusky will moderate the discussion.

The Annual Meeting will again be at the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, at 5808 Baum Boulevard in Shadyside. Free parking is available, and the building is handicapped accessible. Those who wish to tour the facility should arrive *before* 1:30.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For directions to the school, go to the web site at www.pims.edu or call the school at 412-362-8500.

Members to elect officers, board members May 2

The 2010 slate includes **Arlene Stromberg** for president and **John Brobst** for treasurer, both incumbents. **Frank Ashbaugh**, former trustee and president, has been nominated for the board of trustees.

A brief business meeting and election will begin promptly at 2 p.m. Nominations for these positions as well as for vice president and secretary will be accepted from the floor. Volunteers for committee chairs are also urged to step forward.

A number of trustees and officers retired from the board this year. They include Tom Bellucci, Mary Schafer, Madalon Amenta, Don Gilbert, Jeanne Kaufmann, and Al Mann, and they leave with our thanks for their faithful service.

FCAWP ANNUAL MEETING

A Lasting Gift:

*Whole Body or Organ Donation--
What You Need to Know*

**Sunday, May 2, 2010
2 p.m.**

(Tour of PIMS at 1:30 P.M.)

Pittsburgh Institute of
Mortuary Science
5808 Baum Boulevard (Shadyside)