

FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Promoting a consumer's right to choose dignified, meaningful, and affordable after-death care.



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WHAT WE'RE TRACKING

SUPPORTING FCAEM

62nd Annual Meeting: Earth-Friendly Deathcare (Virtual)

Saturday, October 21, 2023 3:00 - 5:00 pm

At our annual meeting, we'll explore climate-friendly body disposition methods and discuss how we can make them more accessible in Massachusetts. We'll have presentations by:

- **Katrina Spade:** Founder of Recompose, the first provider of Natural Organic Reduction (human composting)
- **State Representative Natalie Higgins:** Co-author of "An Act Expanding After-Deathcare Options"
- **Eva Moseley:** Board member of Green Burial Massachusetts and FCAEM

Plus: Action highlights, Board elections, and more! Don't miss this exciting event. **Register at www.fcaemass.org.**



NEWS & EVENTS



Some members of the FCAEM Board in a strategic planning breakout session.

Member Exclusive: “Planning Ahead” Virtual Workshop

This fall, join us to create your personal funeral plan and explore other topics with FCAEM’s “Planning Ahead” workshop.

The workshop will meet on the first three Wednesdays of November (the 1st, 8th, and 15th) from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. Ruth Faas and Paula Chasan, experienced FCAEM Board Members, will lead the workshops using the national Funeral Consumer Alliance workbook “Before I Go, You Should Know.”

To sign up, visit www.fcaemass.org. Not yet a member? Visit our website at fcaemass.org/get-involved to join FCAEM and enjoy benefits. New members will receive one complimentary copy of “Before I Go, You Should Know.”

Election of FCAEM Directors

We're excited to announce the 2023 slate of Board Nominees! As a reminder, FCAEM elects half the Board each year for a two-year term. Elections will take place at our 2023 Annual Meeting

- Patricia Muldoon: President
- Paula Chasan: Membership Sec.
- Fred Hapgood: Director
- Eva Moseley: Director
- Lindsay Mahoney: Director

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts's Annual Meeting

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts will hold its meeting the day after ours on October 22nd at 2 pm. Their theme is “What’s New & What’s Changing to Help Funeral Consumers?”

You can join their meeting in person at 220 Main Street, Northampton, or by remote access. For a Zoom link, contact facwmass@gmail.com.

WHAT WE'RE TRACKING

Encouraging National Funeral Rule Changes



Last year, the Federal Trade Commission issued a notice of proposed rule changes that could require funeral homes to display prices on their websites. Funeral Consumer Alliances nationwide are advocating for price transparency online. **Public comments are invited until October 10th.** Instructions to add your feedback are available at www.fcaemass.org.

Morgue Theft Points to Larger Problems

Bi-partisan legislation recently filed in Congress of the Consensual Donation and Research Integrity Act of 2023 (H.R 4275) would provide long-overdue accountability and transparency to the whole-body donation process and ensure donors' bodies are treated with dignity and respect.

Unclaimed Bodies in the Commonwealth

Earlier this year, the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) quietly introduced a pilot program to take responsibility for unclaimed bodies across the state. OCME will now essentially function as the funeral director for those bodies – including transport and burial. The Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association asserts this is illegal. OCME is adding \$1000 of its own funds to the \$1100 available from the Department of Transitional Assistance to handle the disposition of unclaimed bodies. We're tracking this issue as it develops and will continue to advocate for the rights and dignity of everyone.

State Bill to Expand Deathcare Options

Some of our members testified at the Statehouse hearing in September to support legalizing greener deathcare options with H.2193/S.1339. Your written testimony is still encouraged. For directions, please visit our website at www.fcaemass.org. To learn more about these new versions of old deathcare methods, come to our annual meeting on October 21st.



FCAEM President Patti Muldoon spoke with WBUR about regulatory frameworks around the custody of human remains



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Instructions for how to donate, sign up to be a new member or volunteer, and register for events can be found on our website at www.fcaemass.org.

Donations are also welcome by mail.

