

OCA Journal

January 2024 | Volume 14 | Issue 1
Publication of the Ohio Cemetery Association

Incoming President's Message

My name is Paul O'Brien, and I would like to thank the OCA Board of Directors for selecting me as President for this coming year. I am truly honored and humbled by this opportunity. I would like to thank Scott Wright for his work as President and the high bar he has left for me to live up to.



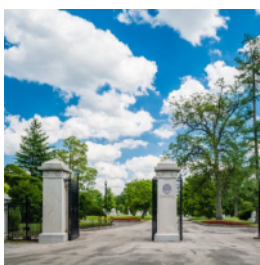
Paul O'Brien
Incoming President

For those of you who don't know me, I am the Operations Manager for Oak Hill Cemetery in historic Glendale. Oak Hill is the sister cemetery to Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a great organization that cares as much for their employees as they do the families we serve and the history we protect.

So, what's in store for '24? Since it's a new year, I have made a resolution for my new role. I have resolved to CARE more. C- to collaborate more. Talk to, and more importantly, listen more to the input of others. Many problems can be solved if you're willing to look at them from a different angle. A- to advocate for the organization by letting cemeteries across the state know how they benefit from the OCA, many without even knowing it. R- to reciprocate more. Last year I was invited to a think tank and a round table for area township cemeteries and enjoyed every minute. Both offered new perspectives and ideas that I could bring back to Oak Hill, so I am open to meeting with any group that wants to meet with the OCA. And most importantly, E- to educate more. I never stop looking for opportunities to learn and to share what I have learned.

Thank you again for this opportunity and I look forward to a prosperous new year!

Paul O'Brien, Operations Manager
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Spring Grove Funeral Homes
OCA President - 2024
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Oak Hill Cemetery

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Outgoing President's Message

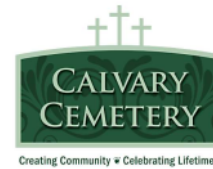
Happy New Year everyone! I hope that the holidays were a blessing for your family and you are excited for 2024. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as President of the OCA during 2023. Our OCA is a historic, long-standing organization that is strengthened by all of its members, and, that was very evident in all of our activities in 2023. In February, we celebrated the post COVID return of the Awards Banquet in Columbus. Later that Spring, we also co-hosted a "Think Tank" with the Catholic Cemetery Conference. We are again co-hosting this two-day conference in Coshocton OH this upcoming April, please reach out if you are interested in attending. In the summer, the OCA hosted a very well attended annual convention in Dayton OH, including the return of a "Field Day" at Dayton Memorial Park--- Thank you to the whole crew at Dayton Memorial Park for hosting the OCA. There were also some legislative issues that Tim Long and Legislation Committee of the OCA were instrumental in collaborating on near the end of the year.



*Scott Wright
Outgoing
President*

As I look forward to 2024, I would especially like to thank everyone for their participation in the OCA. I am reminded every time I look at the OCA logo that we are an Association of "Caring Professionals moving forward together." Continue to be that beacon of care for the families that we serve daily at our individual cemeteries. It was an honor to serve as your President in 2023, and, I look forward to seeing you at OCA events in 2024.

Scott Wright, M.Div., CCCE
Community Outreach Director
Calvary Cemetery - Dayton
OCA President (2023)



Mark Your Calendar



**OCA Annual Awards & Casino Night
March 2, 2024**

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Cemetery Spotlight: Calvary Cemetery - Dayton Angel Night, November 30, 2023



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DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
Wed., January 24, 2024	Century ~ Cincinnati	8650 Bilstein Blvd.	Hamilton	Ohio
Wed., February 7, 2024	Century ~ Columbus	4199 Leap Rd.	Hilliard	Ohio
Wed., February 14, 2024	Century ~ Toledo	5959 Angola Rd.	Toledo	Ohio
Wed., February 21, 2024	Century ~ Cleveland	2266 E. Aurora Rd.	Twinsburg	Ohio

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Dayton, OH 45414
(937) 890-1831
Email: lparker@daytonmemorialpark.com
Website: www.daytonmemorialpark.com



Larry Parker - I am the new General Manager at Dayton Memorial Park and Cemetery. Prior to coming to Dayton Memorial Park I worked for the city of Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners where served several roles during my tenure. Started at Cincinnati Parks as an urban forester, then moved on to park district crew leader and lastly completed my career as division manager of operations. I have a degree in agriculture with specialization in horticulture from the Ohio State University. I enjoy most all outdoor activities camping, hiking, cycling, hunting and fishing.

TOM KLECKER
Replaces Theresa Rutschilling
GREENLAWN CEMETERY
12502 Presar Road
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-2232
Email: tdklecker@gmail.com

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Website: www.liferemembered.com



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RICK SYMANSKI

PHOENIX BRONZE RESOURCES

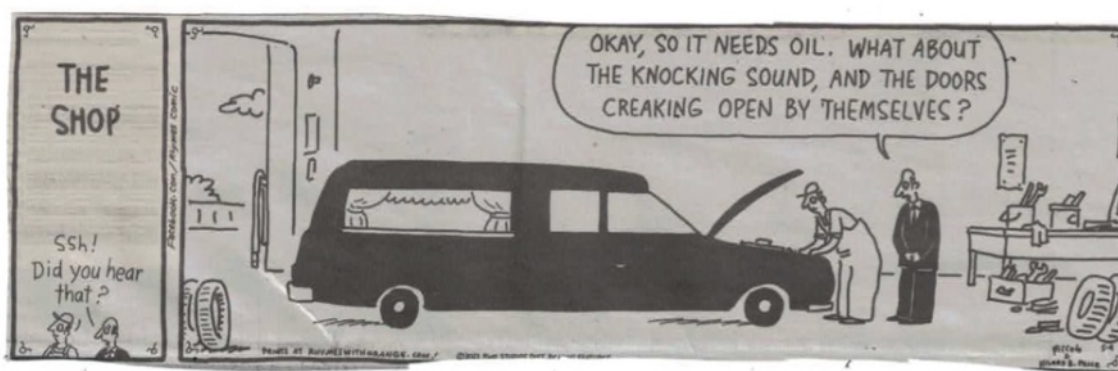
100 Steel Street

Aliquippa, PA 15001

(724) 857-2225

Email: arsymanski@pbrbronze.com

Website: www.pbrbronze.com



Special - Safety Concerns In Cemeteries

Importance of signage/postings in cemeteries

The importance of safety standards in cemeteries either by signage at your main entrance to the postings on your website or social media.

During the winter months, especially if freezing temperatures and snow and ice accumulation, there are safety issues that arise for our visiting families.

Examples of some of these matters are listed below:

Slippery surfaces: Cemeteries contain polished granite flush markers that become slippery when exposed to rain, frost, snow and even grass clippings in the summer months. It is important to watch for these and it is difficult sometimes especially if these markers are snow covered. Use extreme caution when walking the sections to your loved one's grave.

Roadside hazards: Most cemeteries try to maintain their roadways and clear snow, ice, etc. with snowplows and other equipment. This is not always the case in all cemeteries due to gravel roads versus paved roads or smaller cemeteries that do not have full time staff on site. It is extremely important to use caution when visiting these cemeteries. We know the importance of wanting to honor and visit your loved ones but understand the hazards that can arise from this if you decide to visit during winter conditions.

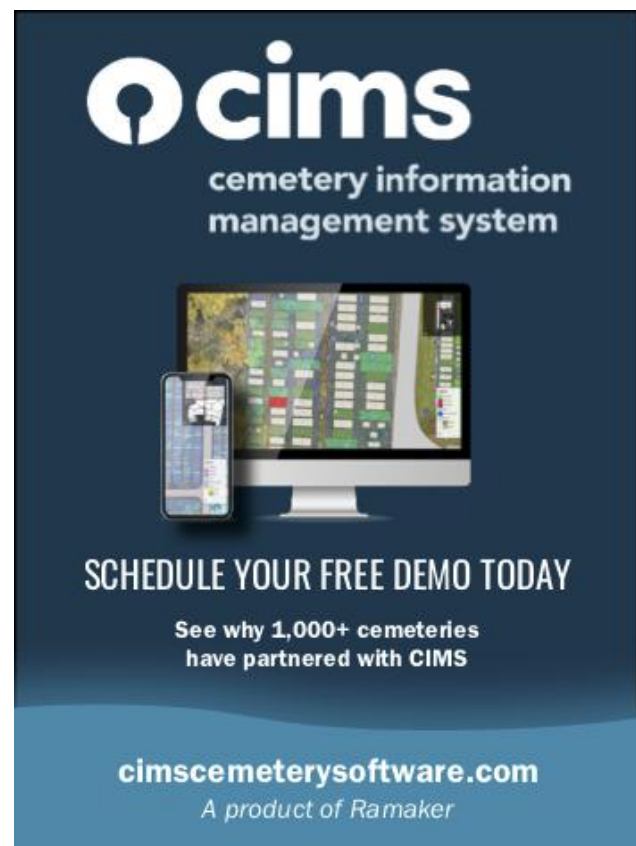
Sidewalk hazards: Some cemeteries have sidewalks leading to their office, or mausoleums and some may have sidewalks in some of their sections. For most part these sidewalks are cleaned and off and treated for ice. But not all cemeteries do this. So, use extreme caution when visiting.

Concealed hazards: Snow and grass clippings can conceal walking hazards such as slightly raised markers, decorations, uneven surfaces. Please watch your step.

Exercise caution: Uneven ground and settling soil around gravesites can create walking hazards throughout the cemetery.

Sinking hazards: Rain can create muddy conditions around gravesites that result in graves sinking. This is so common in cemeteries throughout the year. It is not uncommon for cemeteries to have to go back to these sites and fill in with more dirt for the next several weeks - especially during the winter months when cemeteries do not seed or sod graves. Please use extreme caution if you come across your loved ones grave and it may have sunk from rain. You can either call the cemetery or stop in the office and report it and it will get fixed just in case the cemetery is not aware that the grave has sunk.

Tips for cemeteries that plow and use ice melt and treat their roadways. Try not to pile the snow in certain areas too high. Visitors will still want to come and visit even during snowy conditions. This makes it extremely difficult to get their loved ones grave if there is a 6-foot pile of snow right by the road.



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Special - Safety Concerns In Cemeteries continued from page 9.

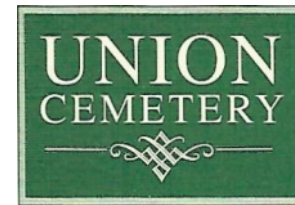
Another successful tip if you have sewer drops throughout your cemetery. During the winter months use orange painted rods that are approximately 24 to 30 inches in height and place them right above these drops so when you do get snow you can find these easier and remove snow from them to allow better drainage, when snow starts to melt.

Each cemetery has their own procedures on how they handle wintertime conditions and roadways.

Like with rules and regulations that a lot of cemeteries have posted on signage at their main entrance it is not a bad idea to have safety hazards posted as well it will help with future issues that may arise.

One thing our cemetery added to signage was a safety warning on monuments and or markers on the importance of not trying to fix your own memorial if it is leaning or unlevel. These granite markers are extremely heavy and can easily injure someone. We had an instance where a family member tried to fix his own monument and the monument did fall on his leg and he had to be rushed to the hospital. Because we had no signage at our main gate, we ended up with an insurance claim and settling this matter with the customer receiving a settlement. Simple signage at your gates such as rules and regulations, safety hazards, etc. will protect you in the long run.

Jimmie J. Blevins
General Manager
Union Cemetery Association
OCA Board member/OCDRC member
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Update From Sedgwick



Safeguarding machinery

Various types of machines pose hazards to employees that can result in injuries that include crushing, entrapment, amputations, and even death. These hazardous areas, known as danger zones, are machine parts that must be guarded to protect employees from injury. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines a danger zone as “any place in or about a machine or piece of equipment where an employee may be struck by or caught between moving parts, caught between moving and stationary objects or parts of the machine, caught between the material and a moving part of the machine, burned by hot surfaces or exposed to electric shock.”

Per OSHA’s General Requirements for Machine Guarding (29 CFR 1910.212), employers are required to perform an evaluation of the machinery in their workplace in order to identify and adequately guard the danger zones to provide protection to employees. In fact, machine guarding violations frequently show up as one of the OSHA’s top ten most cited violations each year. So not only is it essential to protect employees, but an effective machine guarding program will help in the event of an OSHA inspection.

It is essential first to understand the movements of machinery to identify the danger zones. There are two types of hazardous movements that a machine makes: Mechanical Motions and Mechanical Actions.

1. **Mechanical Motions** – Mechanical motions include gears, pulleys, or moving belts. There are basically four different types of mechanical motions.
 - a. **Rotating** – Rotating motions include collars, couplings, cams, flywheels, shaft ends, spindles, and horizontal or vertical shafts. These are dangerous as they may grip hair, clothing, and body parts. Additional dangers on rotating parts include when projections exist, such as set screws, bolts, nicks, and abrasions.
 - b. **In-running Nip Points** – These hazards are caused by rolling parts on machinery. The basic types of in-running nip points include parts that rotate in opposite directions, such as rolling mills and calendars, and rotating and fixed parts that create a shearing, crushing, or abrading action. In addition, rotating parts between power transmission belts and pulleys, a chain and sprocket, and a rack and pinion.
 - c. **Reciprocating** – Reciprocating is an action caused by a back-and-forth motion where a worker may get struck by or caught between a moving and stationary part.
 - d. **Transversing** – This movement is a straight, continuous line, such as the motion of a belt to moving parts.
2. **Mechanical Actions** – These actions are defined as where the work is being performed. There are four types of mechanical actions.
 - a. **Cutting** – The cutting action involves rotating, reciprocating and transverse motions. Types of these actions include bandsaws, circular saws, boring and drilling machines, lathes and milling machines.
 - b. **Punching** – Punching action refers to power when applied to the ram (slide). Work examples of punching include stamping of metal or other materials.
 - c. **Shearing** – The shearing action refers to applying power to slide a knife to trim or shear material. Shearing machines can be powered mechanically, hydraulically, or pneumatically.
 - d. **Bending** – The bending action refers to power applied to a slide or ram to draw or stamp metal or other materials. Types of equipment that bend materials include power presses and press brakes.

Once you understand the different types of danger zones, perform an audit of your facility. Keep an open mind and check every department with machinery, regardless of the equipment size. Once you’ve identified the machinery, check to see if the guarding meets OSHA’s General Requirements for Machine Guarding (29 CFR 1910.212). If not, you will need to upgrade to meet those requirements.

Update From Sedgwick continued from page 11.



Sedgwick cost containment

As most employers know, the financial and emotional impact of a work-related employee injury can be significant. While the primary goal is to ensure the injured worker receives appropriate care, minimizing the costs associated with the accident should also be a focus for employers.

In Ohio, there are three primary cost containment options for employers – Settlement, Handicap Reimbursement and Subrogation/No Fault Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA). Sedgwick is the industry leader in successfully employing these options.

Significant premium savings is available to employers through these cost containment initiatives; however, the injured employee does not see a reduction in their benefits when the cost containment options are utilized.

We utilize leading measures and predictive cost containment to help Ohio employers contain costs and lower premiums. When a claim occurs, Sedgwick is ready to apply cost containment strategies to quickly resolve the claim, resulting in cost savings for the employer.

Sedgwick has a dedicated cost containment team that solely focuses on achieving significant cost savings for our clients through Settlements, Handicap Reimbursements and Subrogation/MVA. Our efforts have resulted in massive cost reductions for not only the individual employer, but for all employers participating in group retrospective rating.

Sedgwick savings results include:

- **Handicap condition relief** estimated premium refunds, savings and increase in group retro refunds savings range of: **\$13,253,289 to \$14,608,194**
- **Settlements** estimated premium savings and increase in group retro refunds: **\$9,589,890**
- **Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA)** estimated claim costs charged to surplus fund: **\$9,733,503**
(may not equate to dollar-to-dollar savings - based on total costs at time of MVA surplus approval)

Sedgwick is honored to partner with you on successfully managing your workers' compensation program. Sedgwick's early, proactive cost containment strategies will continue to be an ongoing priority toward achieving the best outcomes for clients and their injured workers.

If you have any questions, contact our Sedgwick program manager, Rejeana Woolum-Napier, at (614)359-2403 or rejeana.woolum-napier@sedgwick.com.

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