

OCA Journal

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Publication of the Ohio Cemetery Association

President's Message

As we enter the month of April, we are reminded of the beauty of the season and the life that is blooming. It is a time of renewal and growth, and it is a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. As President of the Ohio Cemetery Association, I am proud to be part of this community and to work with you to ensure that our cemeteries are maintained and protected for generations to come.

One of the challenges we face as cemetery professionals is the aging of our infrastructure. Many of our cemeteries were built decades ago, and the buildings and grounds are in need of repair and maintenance. It is our responsibility to ensure that our cemeteries are safe and secure for our members and the public. We must work together to address these challenges and ensure that our cemeteries are well-maintained and protected for the future.

Another challenge we face is the loss of cemetery professionals. As many of our members retire, we are losing valuable knowledge and experience. It is important that we take steps to ensure that this knowledge is passed on to the next generation. We must invest in training and education for our members and ensure that they have the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in this profession.

Finally, we must continue to advocate for our profession and our cemeteries. We must ensure that our cemeteries are protected and that our members are treated fairly. We must work together to ensure that our cemeteries are a place of peace and respect for all.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Ohio Cemetery Association. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead.



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OHIO
CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION
Caring professionals
moving forward
together

2022 AWARD WINNER PLAQUES WERE PRESENTED AT THE OCA AWARDS NIGHT FEBRUARY 18, 2023



CATEGORY 1	KALIE GREGORY – EASTLAWN MEMORY GARDENS	BRUNSWICK
CATEGORY 2	TAMMY TAYLOR-EAST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK	MARIETTA
	ROBIN CORCORAN-SPRING GROVE CEMETERY	CINCINNATI
	TESS SHERICK-CALVARY CEMETERY	DAYTON
	JEFF BRACK-LAKE VIEW CEMETERY	CLEVELAND
	VENITA BROWN-SPRING GROVE CEMETERY	CINCINNATI
	DOUGLAS TINSMAN-CALVARY CEMETERY	DAYTON
	ANNA FERRO-LAKE VIEW CEMETERY	CLEVELAND
	RUSS SMITH-LAKE VIEW CEMETERY	CLEVELAND
CATEGORY 3	LAURA FAVRET-CATHOLIC CEMETERIES	COLUMBUS
	JULIE GERST-CATHOLIC CEMETERIES	COLUMBUS
CATEGORY 4	KRISTI WOODWARD-ASHLAND COUNTY MEMORIAL PARK	ASHLAND
SPEFCAL EMPLOYEES	RONALD FOWLER-UNION CEMETERY ASSOCIATION	COLUMBUS
	JOSEPH GLANDON-UNION CEMETERY ASSOCIATION	COLUMBUS
	CHRISTOPHER URBIEL-CATHOLIC CEMETERIES	COLUMBUS
ROOKIES	ADAM WILL-EAST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK	MARIETTA
	DAVID PHILLIPS-MT. VERNON MEMORIAL GARDENS	MT. VERNON

VISIT THE OCA WEB FOR PICTURES (PAST EVENTS)

**SPECIAL THANKS TO DAVE ENGLAND AND COLD SPRING MEMORIAL
GROUP FOR PROVIDING SPECIAL PLAQUES**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



OCA ANNUAL CONVENTION JULY 31, AUGUST 1-2, 2023

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Update From Sedgwick



Controlling costs with the handicap reimbursement program

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) offers the Handicap Reimbursement Program to potentially off-set claim costs and encourage employers to hire and retain employees with a handicapped condition. Ohio Revised Code 4123.343 recognizes 26 conditions / disabilities in which, under some circumstances, the employer may be eligible for reimbursement of partial claim costs. The handicap percentage awarded by BWC will reduce claim costs without reducing the benefits to the injured worker. The reduced claim costs can result in sizable premium reductions.

Eligibility Requirements

If an employee suffers a lost-time industrial injury/ occupational injury or death, the claim may be eligible for handicap reimbursement if it can be shown that the handicapped condition pre-existed the industrial injury or occupational disease and either caused the claim or contributed to increased costs or delay in recovery.

Additionally, one of the following benefit types must have been paid in the claim:

- Temporary total compensation
- Permanent total disability
- Permanent partial-scheduled loss
- Survivor benefits
- Wages in lieu of temporary total disability

Application Filing Deadlines

Private Employers:

- If the date of injury is between Jan. 1 and June 30, the application must be filed by June 30 of the year no more than six years from the year of the date of injury or occupational disease.
- If the date of injury is between July 1 and Dec. 31, the application must be filed by June 30 of the year no more than seven years from the year of the date of the injury or occupational disease.

Public Employers:

- A public employer must file the application by Dec. 31 of the year no more than six years from the year of the date of the injury or occupational disease.

The Sedgwick cost containment team conducts reviews on claims which meet the eligibility requirements for handicap reimbursement, files the application and attends the handicap hearing on behalf of our Ohio TPA clients.

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

Update From Sedgwick continued from page 4.



Spring safety

Here we are in 2023 and the first day of spring has come and gone. This is a great time for us all to leave the cold weather behind and look forward to warmer weather. The hazards we face in the winter may be different than the hazards we face in the spring. If your employees are working outside this spring, they should be made aware of those dangers. Below is a list of work your employees may be performing outdoors, the hazards they may face, and tips on staying safe.

Outdoor power equipment

1. Be sure to wear gloves, safety goggles/glasses, sturdy shoes, pants, and any other necessary PPE.
2. Follow all the manufacturer's operation and safety guidelines and do not take short cuts. The guidelines are designed for your safety.
3. Perform a maintenance tune up on your equipment such as oil/fuel change, sparkplug, filter, etc.
4. Ensure your blades on equipment are kept sharp as this will make the job easier and lower the chances of getting injured.
5. Remember to protect your hearing. Outdoor power equipment can damage your hearing.

Working at heights

1. When using a ladder, inspect it for damage and be sure to use the right ladder for the job.
2. Extension ladders should extend at least 3 feet above the working platform or roof.
3. Always maintain a three-point contact and if you need to carry tools, use a tool belt.
4. Scaffolding must be built per the manufacturer's specifications and by a competent person.
5. Use the appropriate fall protection when working at heights.
6. When removing material from the back of a truck, ensure the truck bed is organized to eliminate any trip hazards.

Outdoor hazards

1. Reduce the risk of sunburn and skin cancer by wearing long sleeves, a wide-brimmed hat and sunshades. Use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher.
2. Be sure to wear insect repellent to prevent insect bites.
3. When using chemicals, be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Heed all safety warnings!!!
4. Keep an eye on the thermometer and take precautions if it gets too hot. Don't forget to drink water or hydrating liquids.
5. Learn the warning signs of heat-related illnesses and share them with others. These include symptoms like headache, dizziness, rapid pulse, nausea and confusion.

Working outside as the weather warms up can be beneficial, mentally and physically. The warm sun, cool breeze and new blossoms are just a few benefits. But we must remember there are some hidden hazards. Be sure to take the appropriate precautions, as this will make working outdoors safer and more enjoyable!

For more information, please contact Sedgwick's Andy Sawan at 330.819.4728 or andrew.sawan@sedgwick.com

Spring Newsletter Special



*SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL;
FAILURE IS NOT FATAL;
IT IS THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE THAT COUNTS.
-WINSTON S. CHURCHILL*

As the Winter season begins to fade, we begin to prepare for the Spring rush. This is a great time to reflect on the past year. What went well? When did things not go as planned? How do we, as a vital business, build for the future? Everyone in our industry has a specific way of doing things. Is it the best way, or just the way we have always done things? Over the years, I have learned to keep an open mind to new ideas and processes. These ideas can come from within your organization at every level or from networking throughout our industry.

The Ohio Cemetery Association has provided many new ideas and processes over the years that I have adapted into my operations. These ideas can be as simple as grave/interment verifications or major project plans for mausoleums and cremation gardens. Our association holds years of knowledge dealing with every aspect of cemetery operations. Information sharing is a great tool (and FREE!) for expanding operational needs throughout our industry. This is where our OCA events come into play. Our events provide a laid-back atmosphere to share ideas and discuss industry trends with fellow cemeterians and suppliers. These events also provide a great environment to network and receive much-needed legal updates.

Cemetery operations are constantly evolving and require an open mind. Until you work in the industry, it's difficult to imagine everything that goes into it. Cemeteries range in different sizes, interment options, and available staffing. However, regardless of your size or business structure, we face the same obstacles and challenges. What are my customer's needs? Do the options that we provide fit each family's desires? Am I prepared to handle a grieving family? Is my staff or grounds workers trained to handle difficult situations? How do I expand my services to meet the needs and expectations of the families I work with? These are all important considerations that we can continuously evaluate and improve by making small changes from within. It is important to be sure these changes are communicated throughout your organization. Keep everyone informed! Make everyone within your organization feel respected and up to speed on these changes. Employees that are well informed will tend to feel part of the TEAM and, in return, will feel appreciated, valued, and be better employees.

Keeping the workplace atmosphere positive is important. Leading by example is crucial. There are many struggles in this world that we have no control over. Try to take this opportunity to make a positive impact on someone's life during a challenging time. We all face tough decisions in life that many people are not aware of. We typically spend more time with our coworkers than with our families. Use this time to build positive working relationships. A friendly gesture or hello may be all that's needed to let someone know you care.

Hopefully, 2023 will be a great year that brings many joys and accomplishments your way. Please utilize the OCA's vast networking and reach out with any questions or issues that you and your organization may face.

Scott Harmon
City of Dover Cemeteries
OCA Board Member

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AMANDA THORESON

GENERAL MANAGER OF ROSELAWN CEMETERY



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Welcome New Members!

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Caleena Hesler

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Rhonda Ledford

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Charlie Harris

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Email: franklintwpdarke@gmail.com

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The founder of our firm, E. Todd Fowler, has been in the deathcare industry since 1983.

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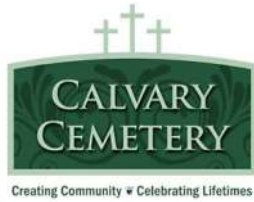
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Google business profile mgt
Content creation

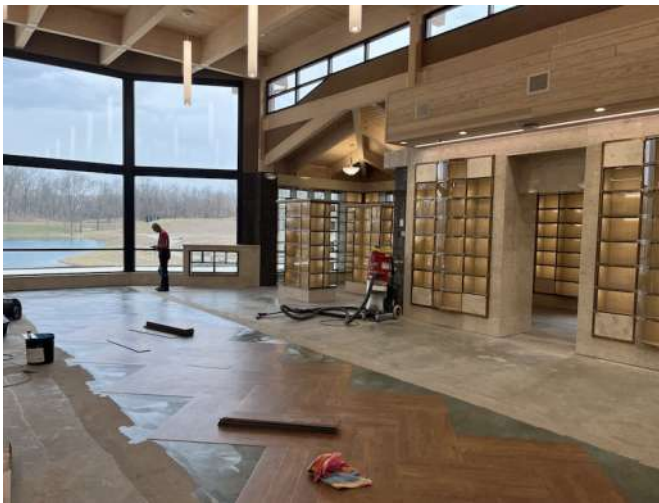
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Cemetery Spotlight – Calvary Cemetery - Dayton, Ohio



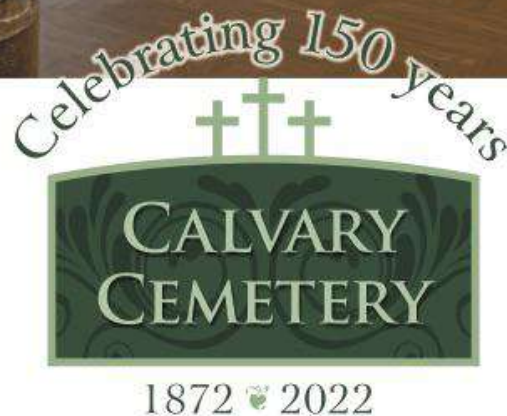
The Garden of Peace Columbarium will be dedicated on May 13th at Calvary Cemetery. Designed by McCleskey, this building features glass front niches. The most striking feature of this building is that back wall is completely made of glass overlooking the St. Kateri Preserve for Natural Burial. This building will be open for tours as part of the OCA Convention and Trade Show this summer. Mark your calendars to attend the trade show and tour the columbarium on August 2, 2023.



Cemetery Spotlight continued from page 10.



A new indoor cremation
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[Placeholder text block containing several lines of text, likely representing a list or description of cemetery-related topics.]

