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## January 2015 Newsletter

Share your news by submitting photos or an article about your cemetery or relevant information that you would like to share. Email us with your news and we'll contact you about including it in our next newsletter!

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### President's Message

Dear fellow cemeterian:

I'm very excited to serve as the president of the Cemetery Association of Oregon. I wouldn't have thought that in 2007 when I started working on a records project for the old cemeteries in Multnomah County that I would eventually manage them and then move into managing a combination cemetery and funeral home business. Most certainly I wouldn't have thought that I would be recognized by my peers and lead a state association of cemeteries. It just goes to show that you never know where life will lead you and where you will "land." I've come to know and find pride in being amongst the ranks of cemeterians who feel the love for the families we serve, the graves we tend and the grounds we keep.

I want to thank some folks who have put in a lot of service on the CAO over the years and have recently stepped down to focus on their own personal endeavors and businesses: Rick Hilts has been a long standing board member and has seen us through through healthy financial oversight as our Treasurer. I wish him all the best! Tim Farrell who owns Mt. View Cemetery in Hood River has moved to Washington DC to pursue his career as an attorney. We will greatly miss his sage advice and measured service on the board.

I also want to congratulate Justin Trowbridge in completing his second term as the President of the Cemetery Association of Oregon. Justin is forthright and witty and I always appreciate how he is able to voice his opinion, that's a skill that is needed lately and I appreciate Justin's commitment to our association and his frank, honest feedback.

2015 will be an exciting year for all of us, there's some proposed legislation that could impact our operations, the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board is looking to require continuing education for cemetery employees. This begs for all of us to work together to engage with our elected leaders and policy makers. I'm confident in the association which now has a fairly fresh new board of directors to lead the charge.

Our board is comprised as follows:

President - Rachel Fox, Skyline Memorial Gardens, Portland, OR  
Vice President – Bob Huskey, Idlewilde Cemetery, Hood River, OR  
Treasurer – JC Aubry, Lincoln Memorial Park, Portland, OR  
Secretary – Kimberly Morley, Finley Sunset Hills, Portland, OR  
Board Member – Bill Patrick, Rose City Cemetery, Portland, OR  
Board Member – Cynthia Beal, Oak Hill Cemetery, Eugene, OR  
Board Member – open seat

Boad Member – Glen Macy, Evergreen Memorial Park, McMinnville, OR  
Vendor Representative – Dave Dahl, Milne Construction, Portland, OR  
Past President – Justin Trowbridge, Wilhelm’s Portland Memorial, Portland, OR

I’m looking forward to a busy, productive year and our annual conference. We’ll be looking to hold it in September or October. Attached to this newsletter you will find our membership form, our membership fees are set low to make it easy to join an amazing group of professionals. I encourage you to join us this year.

Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out to us at [cemeteryassociationoforegon@gmail.com](mailto:cemeteryassociationoforegon@gmail.com) or call 971-258-0886.

Kind regards,  
Rachel Fox, Board President

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### **Legislative update, Rachel Fox**

Please note there was a change in the Oregon Revised Statutes in 2013 that many operators were not aware of, similar to the Cemetery “Interment Authorization” ORS 830-040-0000 7G requires funeral homes, scattering services etc... to obtain a signature from the person who has the right to control the final disposition of human remains. As a cemeterian you need to be made aware that this is ownerous on the funeral provider, they must list the cemetery name and they must sign the form along with the person who has the right of disposition.

**ORS 830-040-0000 7G** (g) Written permission for embalming, final disposition and scattering services from the person who has the right to control disposition of the human remains pursuant to ORS 97.130(1) and (2)

The record of such authorization must include at a minimum: printed name, signature and phone number of the authorizing agent and relationship to the deceased, date and time permission was obtained, and printed name and signature of the licensee or facility representative acquiring the authorization.

### **OAR 830-Divison 30**

November 2014 I worked with many of the cemetery operators in the State and sent a letter to Michelle Gains of the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board. The purpose of the letter was to oppose the OAR 830-Divison 30 requirement for cemetery managers to have continuing education as a part of their licensure.

Our efforts on your behalf have worked the Board has decided to gather further information, and revise the proposed program based on the input from the Cemetery Association of Oregon as well has many individual cemetery operators.

The Board is now targeting consideration of the revised program at the July 2015 meeting. In the meantime, they are making revisions and adding requested detail and many changes, will be sending back out to cemetery operators for review, as well as scheduling additional public hearings so as to develop an effective program proposal.

Note - The CAO believes that education has its place, and that the CAO is positioned to help deliver education, however the OAR proposal needed further clarification and the CAO board felt that we could not support the implementation of the CE requirement due to the vagueness of the verbiage presented in the OMCB proposed change.

### **Upcoming Legislation -**

We want you to be aware that the CAO is following the State Legislature with regard to some upcoming bills, we will do our best to represent the interest of Oregon cemeteries. You can find these bills at the following weblinks:

HB 2471 Relating to qualifications to practice a profession related to the final disposition of human remains  
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2471>

HB 2472 Modifies authority of State Mortuary and Cemetery Board to conduct investigations of premises and records of facilities that provide services related to final disposition of human remains.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2472/Introduced>

HB 5023 Limits biennial expenditures from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by State Mortuary and Cemetery Board, Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine, Occupational Therapy Licensing Board, Board of Medical Imaging, State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB5023/Introduced>

SB 454 and HB 2005 Requires all employers to implement paid sick time for employees.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2005/Introduced>

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB454/Introduced>

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## 2014 CAO Annual Conference - Group Discussion

In what ways do you rely on the Cemetery Association?

Compliance, Standards of Practice, resources for smaller cemeteries, forms to use, how to do things, land care. Would like to see a quiz on best practices in cemeteries provided by CAO. Prefer to call CAO first before calling OMCB when in need of simple help. Create an OMCB checklist. Would like to see simple resources such as sample affidavits, contracts, interment authorizations. The conferences are helpful. Rely on them with the legislature and OMCB. Rely on them for best business practices. Sharing knowledge together.

How do you see the Cemetery Association working with the Oregon Funeral Directors Association?

The value of them working together outweighs the ego between the two groups. The public perceives that it is one business entity, they don't care that it's two different types of business. Both associations have low participation from their perspective audiences. It would benefit both sides to be involved with one another. Opportunity to learn and share new skills in a fast changing industry. We can work together better to see what's coming down the pipeline that will affect our industry. We will get higher quality and mix of vendors at our conferences if we did them together. There are more opportunities for smaller organizations to participate if they work better together. We need to get over the division. We need to think of our vendors and what benefits them by both groups working together. We would have the ability to be bigger and better, getting better speakers for our conferences. We serve the same customers.

How do you see the Cemetery Association working with the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board?

Oversight in what the OMCB is doing, we should be monitoring their activities and have a voice, we need to work as partners with them to make positive changes. Both parties need to be more collaborative together to make positive change.

How do you see the Cemetery Association working with the State legislature?

Through the legislative process allows us plenty of time to get something done, the state legislators learn about our issues. Do we need a lobbyist? How do we stay on top of what issues are brought to the legislature?

What benefits would you like to see from the CAO?

More networking and meeting with other cemetery operators and vendors where it is in a neutral environment. We need to move back to regular newsletters that provide best practices, advice, communicate on legislation. The CAO is a benefit for smaller cemeteries that need help in mediation and consultation.

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### **“Bud Collins Walk of Honor” Idlewilde Cemetery, Hood River, OR**

Bob Huskey, Idlewilde Cemetery Manager & Sexton along with Dennis Leonard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander of the American Legion Post #22 accepts a seven foot illuminated wreath crafted by Peggy Ross, placed over the holidays on the “Bud Collins Walk of Honor”, honoring all Veterans buried at Idlewilde Cemetery.



Bob shares about Hood River County’s annual “Cemetery Tales” which are small theatrical acts of historical representations of residents from Hood River during its settlement. “With the early freezing and snow fall in the Gorge, while the leaves and fruit were still on the trees, leaf mulching and fall cleanup is two months behind. This allowed early planning to take place for Idlewilde’s and Hood River County History Museums ‘Cemetery Tales’ held in Idlewilde Cemetery each September, this has become just as popular as Memorial Day. This is a large fundraiser for furthering educational programs at the History Museum and brings families to the cemetery for the time without attending a funeral.”

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### **“Natural Burial Company digs in to South Willamette Valley cemeteries”**

This past summer, Cynthia Beal, founder of the Natural Burial Company (2004), took over the reins of two historic Lane County cemeteries - Oak Hill Cemetery in Eugene and Rest Lawn Memorial Park in Junction City.

Although new to cemetery operation, Beal has owned and operated her own businesses since she was 26, and has 30 years of experience managing a wide range of products, consumer needs, and staff, much of it in the emerging natural products and sustainable agriculture marketplace.

Since 2006, Beal has been using the Natural Burial Company's biodegradable coffin and urn line to promote the natural burial and funeral practices of Ken West, Peter Rock, and her UK compatriots as a way to regain customer interest in burial while reducing resource use and stewarding habitat. Natural coffin and urn sales help cemeteries and funeral homes promote burial practices that are more in touch with the environmental values of upcoming generations, and Beal thinks they're the 'missing link' for EOL consumers in the 21st Century.

Prior to the cemeteries' purchase, Beal had worked with David Noble (the former owner) on natural interment options at Oak Hill, Rest Lawn and Portland's River View Cemetery, so the Lane County sites are familiar landscapes for her. “Digging into” the cemetery business – especially with two well-run small cemeteries in the South Willamette Valley where she's lived for over 25 years - is a natural.

Changes at the cemetery will be incremental, and already include altering the cemetery's resource and pesticide use, laying out natural urn and burial sections, the planning and planting of pollinator gardens, and training existing staff in natural options. She doesn't plan to alter the cemetery's current practices dramatically, but instead intends to expand them – adding natural options while maintaining the conventional core services these cemeteries have offered for decades.

Beal is also the founder of the Sustainable Cemetery Studies Lab at Oregon State University, and creator of the first online course in cemetery management offered by a four year university (Introduction to Sustainable Cemetery



Management, available to the general public in Fall and Winter quarters).The Cemetery Lab, already hosting student learning/work parties at both cemeteries, encourages soil researchers and college students to consider cemeteries as a focus for their career goals.

Acquiring these two cemeteries is an important step for Beal’s sustainable cemetery vision. Her passion is to help Oregon’s existing cemeteries thrive as places of habitat, environmental beauty, personal remembrance, and community history, and the cemeteries will help demonstrate her belief that natural burials - and the corresponding natural services that go with them - are must-haves for any sustainably operated cemetery's long-term well-being.

Contact Cynthia at [cynthia@naturalburialcompany.com](mailto:cynthia@naturalburialcompany.com)

Image: LCC Water Quality Management students learn about soils in a grave-shaped soil pit in Oak Hill Cemetery's undeveloped field.



Cynthia at the NFDA Trade show with her woven coffins



Image: Looking into part of the new natural burial section at Rest Lawn Memorial Park in Junction City.

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### **Oregon Burial Site Guide – Submitted by Stanley Clarke, Genealogist**

We are losing our warehouse space the end of July. So the boss said to offer the Oregon Burial Site Guide, compiled by Dean Byrd, Stanley Clarke, & Janice M. Healy for free. We will send a hard back copy to everyone for the cost of shipping and handling. Prepaid \$20 post marked not later than 1 July 2015. Those of you with Nonprofit status please add your tax ID number. Any questions contact me. This book sold for \$125 each but we are now offering it for free.

This book is about where the cemeteries of Oregon are located. Not lists of who is buried in them. Those are only listed for the small sites on private property with 12 or less burials.

The book is 8.5" X 11" X 2" 1,200 plus pages and weighs in at about 8 lbs in the shipping carton. Fully alphabetical by county and site, each county is indexed, Black and White photos for a general idea of what monuments are in each county, with a state wide index in the back. This is a must for those researching Oregon using death certificates. We tried to pick up all the also known as names to the sites. There are about 2500 burial sites in the 36 counties of Oregon. This material is updated and corrected, not like the material from the old ODOT book that has been put up on the web. So no this is not on the web.

Make checks out to: Stoney Way LLC  
Contact: Janice M Healy, Secretary/Treasurer  
PO Box 5414  
Aloha, OR 97006-0414  
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## MYRTLE HILL MAUSOLEUM

Myrtle Hill Cemetery - Rome, Georgia | *Sarah Kishpaugh, Milne Construction Co.*

*Since 1953, [MILNE CONSTRUCTION CO.](#) has proudly served the cemetery industry through all stages of growth and development. Milne provides a range of services including Construction, Architectural Design, Master-Planning, Sales and Marketing Guidance.*

Building a public space with dual purpose is often a collaborative effort. Seven years ago, the City of Rome, Georgia, put in a request for a design-build estimate for a new mausoleum atop Myrtle Hill. Through solid concept design, and working with the client to understand their needs and requirements, Milne Construction Co., of Portland, Oregon, won the bid.

When asked about his framework for the design, chief architect, Cal Pearson noted a two-part approach focusing on the nature of the area as well as the site.

"Rome was a Confederate stronghold during the civil war," he said, "and the town has a theme of an antebellum Greek revival, with lots of brick. In history's honor, I wanted to maintain a *genus loci*, or "spirit of place". Rome has a strong presence of character, so maintaining that feel was our top priority. Everyone was on board, especially Stan Rogers, the Cemetery Department Director for the City of Rome."

Also driving the design, Pearson had a vision for a flexible communal space: "I can see people gathered on the steps and in the park. Maybe they are gathering for a committal, or maybe there is a summer concert or play. Either way, it must be a beautiful structure, with a curved rotunda gesturing toward the city and confluence of rivers below."

Built in 1857, the historic Myrtle Hill Cemetery is part of the "Where Romans Rest" city tour. Across from downtown Rome, at the confluence of the Coosa, Etowah, and Oostanaula rivers, the cemetery's new classical-themed mausoleum now adds to the history of this beautiful cemetery and city.

To realize this building from the initial vision through to this completed product, Milne pulled together its experienced team of construction professionals and craftsmen to hone the details.

Among this team, were Laurie Hauer-LaDuca of Clarence, NY, the technical architect, and her assistant, Ruth Iten, "who were a joy to work with," says Pearson. "Same with Rajah Selliah, the superintendent on the job during construction. His crew worked through a lot of mud on that site. He did a great job managing the complexities of this project."

To accomplish the detailing level and character required for the building, the job called for a variety of quality, time-tested, materials. Concrete, brick, pre-cast shapes, granite, iron, and concrete tile all adorn the site. Refining the assemblies and relationships of these materials throughout the construction process was necessary to ensure the building came together as intended.

From concept to completion, the commitment to detail throughout the construction process resulted in a successful mausoleum building that serves the community.

Pictures with these captions:

1. **DETAILING.** Myrtle Hill Mausoleum is a nod to the past, with intricate detailing of the roof assemblies, fluted ionic columns, iron railings, window grills, lighting and lampposts are aligned with nearby antebellum-styled Rome, Georgia.
2. **SITE RESPONSE.** The surrounding grassy knoll and rolling steps are an invitation for a community gathering place, and the inflection of the curved rotunda a place to view the city and rivers below.
3. **VALUABLE SPACE.** The new mausoleum includes 588 crypt spaces and 596 niches – valuable inventory (and revenue) to a historic city-cemetery long been thought to have been filled-up. *Once thought unusable land, this now helps support the perpetual care of the cemetery.*
4. **LOCAL MATERIALS.** To complement the area’s architecture, and evoke a sense of permanence, local materials were used. “Silver-cloud” granite fronts & trim veneer came out of Elberton, as well as “Manchester Red” brick from Fairmont.

Contact info: [www.milneconstruction.com](http://www.milneconstruction.com) [info@milneconstruction.com](mailto:info@milneconstruction.com) 1-800-547-4909  
Milne Construction Co., P.O. 2740, Portland, OR 97208



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### **Finley-Sunset Hills, Portland, Oregon finds a unique way to support Breast Cancer Awareness in Oregon & SW Washington October 2014**

Each week in Oregon 51 women are diagnosed with breast cancer and 9 will die from the disease. It is estimated that in Washington each week 86 women are diagnosed with the disease and about 15 will die. Oregon and Washington have some of the highest breast cancer rates in the country, although the specific reason is unknown.

Because of these staggering numbers, our facility and our staff are dedicated to raising awareness to find a cure for breast cancer. On October 1st, the staff at Finley-Sunset Hills Mortuary and Memorial Park turned our facility Pink to show our support for this cause. We consulted with a local lighting company to obtain pink filters for our large

floodlights that illuminate our 650 foot mausoleum, our large fountain in our cremation garden, and purchased 32 pink floodlamps for the entryway of our mortuary.

Our facility is located near the Sunset Highway in Portland, Oregon, which is traveled by over 100,000 vehicles every day. Wishing to bring attention to the seriousness of this disease and how many people it affects on a daily basis, we were proud to contact many of our local members of press and local agencies also doing what they can to raise awareness. So far, we have contacted Susan G. Komen of Portland, Oregon Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, The American Cancer Society, The Oregonian newspaper, the Beaverton Valley Times newspaper, our local CBS affiliate, our local NBC affiliate, our local ABC affiliate, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and we have been featured with photos on the Facebook page of Hollywood Lights (our local vendor for our pink filters).

The Finley-Sunset Hills staff are all very proud of our facility and our dedication to this cause, many have posted photographs on their own personal webpages and forwarded to friends who have also posted. In honor of those we have lost to this disease, and those who have survived, we are all wearing handmade pink ribbons for the month of October.