



Setting Embalming Standards

Since its humble beginnings in 2004 the Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland continues to promote high standards of Embalming across Ireland and abroad. With now over 100 active members the future of the association seems brighter than ever.

In May 2014 the associations general meeting was held in the beautiful setting of Oranmore, Co. Galway. There the assembly engaged in a insightful and productive forum under the chair of Joe McNamara. Although new to the position of Chairman, Joe has been constantly active in the development of the association. His enthusiasm and vigour will ensure its continued growth.

The association was very pleased to have guest speaker Dr. Elizabeth Brosnan present on the topic of Infectious Diseases - Contamination and Prevention. Dr Brosnan informed the members about the major implications that many infectious diseases have on not only the embalming procedure, but on the funeral service practitioner and on greater society. She emphasised the important role that the embalmer plays in the control of infectious disease.

The Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland recognises the need for constant up-to-date communication between funeral service practitioners and the health care industry. Dr. Brosnan gave an insightful view into an important area affecting both the medical profession and embalmers. The membership of the PEAI created a welcoming forum where important issues could be discussed and debated.

One of the most important goals of the PEAI is that professional embalming standards within Ireland be raised and

maintained at a level that is worthy of international recognition. We believe that by communicating with professionals that have a direct impact on our profession, we can create a meaningful dialogue that will lead to a greater awareness and understanding of our work.

Ireland has very few laws and regulations surrounding funeral services and almost nothing in regard to embalming practices or embalming standards. The PEAI has communicated with national and european government in order to create a voice for professional embalmers working in Ireland.

Our educational seminars and open invitation to guest speakers is just one way in which the PEAI has forged the path of progress to meaningful legislation and recognition of professional embalming in Ireland. It is through the actions and engagement of our active membership that this progress is maintained. Our future is very bright indeed.

The PEAI is not an 'exclusive' organisation but is open to all professional embalmers and practising embalmers who wish to adopt and promote the PEAI standards of embalming practice here in Ireland and abroad. If you are interested in joining the Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland and be a part of a growing professional embalming practice and organisation, feel free to contact Martina Burns, PEAI Secretary at 086 38 45 446 / email: martinakburns@hotmail.com
www.professionalembalmers.ie

The next meeting of the Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland will take place on the 22nd of November in conjunction with the Irish Association of Funeral Directors Annual General Meeting. Venue and location to be announced.