



The Professional Embalmers'

Association of Ireland is among the fastest growing independent associations for professional embalmers in Ireland and Europe. Through the joint efforts of the officers and loyal support of members, the meeting and educational tour in the University College Cork turned out to be a huge success! The event was attended by almost 60 members. This is another notable record set by the PEAI in the history of the funeral sector in Ireland.

New Members- Twenty-six (26) new members were welcomed after being awarded their certificates of PEAI Membership. These new members will be a great additional voice to the organisation because a lot of them would have experience in the industry longer than some of the practising embalmers in any other embalmers' organisation in Ireland. This again proves the commitment of the PEAI into bringing about uniform standards of embalming practice in Ireland and promoting professionalism of practice. This also proves that PEAI is not an exclusive association but an association that helps embalmers and works for the cause of its members.

Speakers- Speaker Michael Cronin, Prosector in Anatomy and Technical Officer in University College Cork spoke at the meeting regarding donation of bodies to science. He explained the process of donating a body and also spoke about the regulations and issues regarding donation of bodies to science.

Speaker George R. Kelder, Assistant Executive Director of the New Jersey State Funeral Directors Association, Manasquan, New Jersey USA put together a very exclusive presentation on 'Embalming After Multiple Organ Donations'. He described in detail how embalmers in New Jersey deal with preparation of deceased persons with multiple organ donations (e.g. complete bone donation, multiple organ donation, skin donation, tissue donation, etc.) which leaves almost nothing but the head and sometimes only partial skin surface to work on and still to be viewed the family members with an open casket in a lot of cases. Most of all, this is no longer considered a specialist job but a regular daily task of any embalmer in New Jersey. This was truly a very fascinating and educational talk given by George Kelder as it had given PEAI members a well advanced knowledge and education on such situation which may likely be encountered in Ireland in the future.

The New Jersey State of Funeral Directors is most abreast association in America when it comes to education, legislation, research and in almost all other aspects of the funeral trade. The PEAI is working closely with the NJSFD in keeping with the most current advancements and updates in the funeral sector.

David McGowan played a recording in which he was interviewed by a local radio station in connection with a Road Safety Authority of Ireland. The recording was from a talk he gave to a group of at least 1500 second level students at the Royal TF, Castlebar, Co. Mayo earlier in this year. It was the first year a funeral director was introduced to talk to the students in this particular event which is organized every year. In this interview, David explained the role of a funeral director and embalmer at a road traffic accident. The public and even the gardai and media expressed that they misconstrue the real role and value of our jobs. Apart from that, there is an abstruse fact regarding the ordeal that we go through as well when we are called into such tragic situation and how we cope with the grief for others and also to ourselves that may not have been explained to the public.

Tour of the Anatomy FLAME Laboratory- The guided tour of the Anatomy FLAME Laboratory was astounding and highly educational. It had opened a new dimension of knowledge and awareness of the human body and other educational and scientific purpose of embalming. The group was given exclusive access to see the state-of-the-art facilities for anatomical dissection and a huge display of anatomical models and well-preserved specimens and valuable artifacts dating over a hundred years back. Another section of the building was dedicated to embalming and dissection of cadavers donated to the university and also the fridges where they are kept. The laboratory featured modern equipment (e.g. high end steam cleaning machine, autoclave, air cycle control systems, etc.) and modified machines (e.g. as industrial dishwasher, cutters, etc.) in a pressure graded and engineered laboratory which is every embalmer's dream.

PEAI will continually be doing educational events and tours for the benefit of its members. For news and events visit www.professionalembalmers.ie