

Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland

NEWS

The Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland welcomes its newly elected officers and representatives! The members and the officers are proud to be leaders in embalming standards and continue in promoting excellence in embalming and in all aspects of funeral care.



Joe McNamara (Chairperson)
MPEAI, MEAE, MIAFD

Joe is the director of Corrigan and Sons Funeral Directors, Dublin; born into the undertaking business, the fourth generation to run the company. He is a part of an unbroken line of family involvement in a company set up by Patrick Corrigan in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Currently, he works with three medical schools (UCD, TCD and the Royal College of Surgeons) in Dublin and takes care of the burials or cremations of those who have donated their bodies to medical research.

Joe has earned a Degree in Business in University College Dublin. Afterwards, he started training in embalming at the Midlands Embalming School, Birmingham with J. Lee as tutor. He also earned his Diploma in Funeral Directing in Coventry (R. Pargetter, tutor). He is a Founder Member of the 'Leinster Division' the first structured gathering of embalmers in ROI; and subsequently, Founder Member of the 'Professional Embalmers' Association'.

To be a good embalmer or funeral director, he believes that temperament is the key, coupled with training and an ability to understand grief and the stages one goes through-loss, denial and acceptance. Joe considers dead persons as part of the community and therefore approaches the funeral as an inclusive situation; a bringing together of people in healing and reconciliation.

People nowadays are more anxious than ever before about what death looks like, so, as an embalmer, Joe believes that you need to be sensitive to how a person looked in life. There's a code of ethics around embalming which involves confidentiality and respect for the dead.

The death of someone close is not something that anyone gets over. In fact, it's something that most people don't want to get over. Getting over something implies forgetting about it and the last thing you'll want to do is to forget about your wife, husband, father, mother, brother, sister or friend. This in turn does not mean that someone who has recently been bereaved should live by or in the past. The aim is to accept that they have gone, draw strength from the past and let go of the pain. Joe believes that we embalmers can contribute a lot in easing such grief and in helping people move on.



Martina Burns (Secretary)
MPEAI, MEAE, MDCA

"Life is difficult and complicated and beyond anyone's total control and the humility to know that will enable you to survive its vicissitudes." J.K. Rowling

Martina always had a huge interest in embalming and the care for the deceased. After finishing her leaving certificate, Martina went to Dundalk Institute of Technology (DIT) for two years doing a course in Business studies. After which, she felt the urgent need of pursuing a career in embalming. In 2002, she enrolled with The Irish College of Funeral Directing and Embalming in Ballina, Co. Mayo where she received mentorship from Peter J. Ball. On the course of gaining her qualification in professional embalming practice, she was offered the opportunity to join the team of embalmers and funeral directors in McGowan's Funeral Home in Ballina, Co. Mayo. She finally gained her Professional Embalming qualification through the European and International Examinations Board of Mortuary Science in December 2006. Since then, Martina has been a Member of the European Association of Embalmers and the Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland.

Martina has served as the Secretary of PEAI since 2009 up to the present. She is also the current Registrar of The Irish College of Funeral Directing and Embalming. For the past 11 years of full time employment as an Embalmer, she has been active in tutoring and providing support to students of the

ICFDE. Recently, she has been appointed as the national sales representative of DJ MacNeice & Company Ltd.



Margaret Igoe (Treasurer)
MPEAI, MEAE, MICM, MDCA

"Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught." Oscar Wilde

Margaret started her career in the funeral industry in 2005. She enrolled in the Irish College of Funeral Directing and Embalming with David McGowan and Peter J. Ball as tutors. She began working as a student embalmer for ten months in O' Connors Bros. Funeral Directors, Northgate Bridge in Cork under the direction of Mr T. Val O' Connor.

Margaret qualified as an embalmer in 2007 with the Irish College of Funeral Directing and Embalming. She became a full member of the Professional Embalmers' Association and European Association of Embalmers in 2007 after gaining her qualification. Following her student apprenticeship, she was offered a permanent full time position as embalmer with O'Connor's Bros that year. While living in Cork, Margaret attended evening college courses and studied Hairdressing Theory and Practice in St John's Central College, Cosmetics with LaBeaute, Manual and Computerised Sage Line 50 Accounts with Cork College of Commerce and Pitman Training. She also enrolled as a member of The Institute of Commercial Management. In 2009, Margaret elected as treasurer of the Professional Embalmers' Association. Margaret is currently employed as manager with DJ MacNeice & Co. Ltd in Dublin. Margaret has also recently gained FETAC Level 6 Certification in Instructing Manual Handling. She is currently attending Dublin Business School studying B.A Business Management.



Daniel O'Connor (PRO)
MPEAI, MEAE

Daniel is a practicing Barrister.

PEAI new members- Two more successful student embalmers have recently passed the Final Theory

Examination and the Objective Structured Practical Examination (OSPE) conducted by an external examination board, Deathcare Academy Examinations Board of Mortuary Science (DCAEBMS) and have been awarded full membership into the Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland. Rebecca Daly (Walkinston, Dublin 12) and Paul Roberts (Castlebar, Co. Mayo) completed the Embalming Course through The Irish College of Funeral Directing and Embalming with flying colours.

Three more members were officially presented the PEAI Full Membership certificates during the PEAI meeting last October- Alan Harmon (Queen Street, Dublin 7), Gary McCool (Ballybofey, Co. Donegal), and Brian Edward McElroy (Crumlin Village, Dublin 11).

PEAI in 2013- This has been another exciting year for all the members of the Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland. This year alone, over 20 new members were awarded full membership into the PEAI. The PEAI has also extended its benefits to self-taught and highly experienced embalmers by approving formal training and qualifications gained through an intensive Upskilling Programme facilitated by The Irish College of Funeral Directing and Embalming and the Deathcare Academy Examinations Board of Mortuary Science. In May this year, the PEAI meeting and educational event that took place in University College Cork (UCC) was attended by over 60 members with special guests and speaker from the New Jersey State Funeral Directors' Association. The PEAI has now almost 100 members working hand in hand in promoting the best standards of practice in Ireland and abroad.

The officers and representatives of the PEAI would like to thank all of its members who have, in the past years up to the present, contributed and supported the association and have dedicated themselves in performing the highest standard of practice possible and in line with the PEAI's Code of Professional Conduct.

The PEAI would like to specially express its most sincere gratitude to the invaluable efforts of one of its founding members and out-going Chairperson, Mr David McGowan. David has never ceased and still continues to give his all-out support to the PEAI and all its members.

Finally, the PEAI wishes you, your family and your staff in advance the Merriest Christmas and a very Prosperous 2014!

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