



PEAI- Leading the Embalming Standards in Ireland

Ireland is currently far behind other European countries and other developed countries around the globe when it comes to laws and regulations relating to the funeral industry. In the contrary, our funeral tradition is far richer if not equally as rich as most of these countries. It is our unique tradition that makes us Irish and it is because of this tradition that we, the funeral sector, exists.

The funeral services and embalming practice has evolved in so many ways for the past twenty years. The value of our services cannot be denied of the vitality of the role it plays in the grieving and healing process after the tragedy of losing a loved-one. But is the value of this role completely understood or being practised by everyone involved in the funeral industry? The Irish legislation at the moment does not seem to be giving us borders and directions relating to the industry. So due of the lack of legislation in the funeral sector in Ireland, a small group of dedicated Embalmers, who saw the dire need of standardisation of the embalming practice, had convened and initiated a fully Irish association for Embalmers that would dedicate and promote an embalming standard that is set to equal if not exceed the standards of other countries and organisations globally.

The Professional Embalmers' Association of Ireland (PEAI) is an organisation based in Ireland representing professional embalming practitioners. The PEAi actively represents the Irish Embalmers at the European level. PEAi believes in the importance of having an Irish organisation which can independently represent Irish embalmers and that members will have their own voice in Europe and internationally. The PEAi also provides continuous support in training and education and also has a very helpful and effective practical work support system for members.

It is the aim of the PEAi that professional embalming standards within Ireland be raised and maintained at a level that is worthy of

international recognition. The main driving force behind it all is the genuine understanding and compassion for the deceased who cannot speak for themselves and the bereaved families whose lives are being touched in so many ways by the passing away of their loved-ones.

The PEAi is gaining more interest from both the 'traditional & experienced' embalmers and young aspiring professionals. PEAi recently awarded new certificates to the following- from left to right, **Daniel O'Connor** (*Barrister at Law*); **Mary McGowan** (*BS Science student*) **Michael Cronin** (*UCC- Prosector in the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience*); **Edelweiss Fernandez-Ga** (*Registered Physiotherapist and Researcher for DMG Chemicals*) and **Noel Gibbons** (*member, An Garda Siochana*). Good luck to all new PEAi members!

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 0863 845 446 / email: martinakburns@hotmail.com or David McGowan, PEAi Chairperson at 0872 437 063 email: mcgowand@eircom.net. www.professionalembalmers.ie