



Mid-Winter 2010

Events/Dates



See the presentation of [top awards](#)
– only part of OGR's Conference

OGR Audio Seminars

February 25

[Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan](#)

March 25

[What's Involved in Becoming a CFSP](#)

May 27

[Green Funerals](#)

July 29

[OSHA Issues](#)

September 30

[Leveraging Social Media to Optimize Website Traffic & Revenue](#)

November 18

[Pet Services Pros and Cons](#)

Conference promises super-charged sessions

Three dynamic general-session speakers, a solid schedule of educational opportunities, and plenty of time for visiting and fun are only a few of the benefits you'll profit from at the 2010 OGR Annual Conference. Plus members will be asked to vote on a number of proposed policies and bylaw changes. **Register now** to join your friends at the spectacular, five-star Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, April 22-24 [Register and details >>>](#)



Kevin Opsahl named OGR president

Kevin Opsahl of the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc., in Yankton, S.D., has been elected OGR president for the coming term by the board of directors. Jeffrey S. Wages, Wages & Sons-Gwinnet Chapel, Lawrenceville, Ga., was elected president-elect and Michael S. Lewis, Lewis Funeral Home, Inc., Milton, Fla., was elected secretary-treasurer. Complete details will be featured in the Spring issue of *The Independent*.

OGR to help promote hearses-to-Haiti aid project

OGR has agreed to help member John Vincent Scalia, Staten Island, N.Y., by promoting a nationwide campaign he is developing and will administer to donate used hearses, vans and other items to the people of Haiti. For the last four years he has been donating his used hearses to church parishes for use as both hearses and ambulances through the not-for-profit group [Hope for a Healthier Humanity](#). Scalia said that before the earthquake there were only three ambulances in Port-au-Prince. Watch for more details in *The Independent*.

Board grants Hughes 2-year contract as executive director

The OGR Board of Directors extended Dianne Hughes a 2-year contract as OGR executive director. She has made great strides in stabilizing OGR's

Co-op Buying Program

Remember to check the OGR web site ogr.org for a list of suppliers or contact Maureen Hayes at 800-637-8030 or mhayes@ogr.org to ask if the product or service you need to purchase is available through our supplier network.

Get it for less at Office Depot

Shop over a 30 day period at Office Depot using OGR's Office Depot Program and you will save and win for your business.

[Sign up today](#)

OGR business forms now online

The business forms listed below are available to you only online at no charge.

[Insurance Assignment](#) (pdf)

[Clergy Preference](#) (pdf)

[Cremation Authorization](#) (pdf)

[3rd Party casket Agreement](#) (pdf)

financial well-being as well as dealing with complex legal and management needs. OGR members have demonstrated commitment to securing OGR's future as the best association for independents in the country.

Register now for OGR audio seminars

Sign up now for audio seminars – the first one takes place **Feb. 25**. If you register for all six seminars, you pay only \$99 per seminar. Remember, one registration fee allows an unlimited number of your staff to participate at each location. All attendees are eligible for one CEU, where approved. [Details >>>](#)

***The Independent* magazine – New features for spring issue**

OGR is excited to bring your attention to some great new features in the Spring issue of *The Independent* – in this issue and each issue going forward, you'll see two member profiles – one long term member and one shorter-term, each from a different geographic region. Also you'll read about how two members each apply quite different marketing logistics to gain a similar market advantage. Watch for *The Independent* beginning March 20.

Stradling adds Denver, Pa., funeral home with purchase

[Stradling Funeral Homes Inc.](#), with funeral service operations in Ephrata and Akron, Pa, has bought the former Roseboro Funeral Home in nearby Denver, Pa. The new location will be called Roseboro-Stradling Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. The Roseboro family has been associated with the Denver funeral home since 1906. George T. Stradling Jr. started Stradling Funeral Homes of Akron in 1953. Five family members are involved in the business. G. Tomlinson Stradling III is owner and is a past president of OGR 1999-2000.

Dr. Alan Wolfelt, Coleen Ellis launch pet loss course

Responding to growing demand for education in pet-related grief and bereavement by both veterinary and funeral industry professionals, Coleen Ellis and Dr. Alan Wolfelt (OGR Conference speaker) are offering a new Pet Loss Companioning Certification program at the Center for Loss in Fort Collins, Colo. Read more at www.twoheartspetlosscenter.com.

Average prices up 12 percent for basic funeral services

Average prices for basic funeral home services increased 12 percent over last year, found an annual survey of funeral homes in the Northeast U.S. by Citrin Cooperman & Company. The increases may reflect costs now associated with low-margin services such as direct cremations and immediate burials. Average charge for direct cremations rose 17 percent, for immediate burials by 16 percent. Read the full report at http://ogr.org/documents/Brief_CC_survey.PDF

Support grows for federal Bereaved Consumer Rights Bill

Broad support is growing for the Bereaved Consumers Bill of Rights Act following two developments: FTC subcommittee testimony in late January and passage of the Illinois Cemetery Oversight Act. The subcommittee hearing not only demonstrated support from consumers, the industry and regulators, but also clarified provisions of the proposed federal bill. Read updates at <http://ogr.org/fedleg.php>

Piedmont Technical College

Opens first-ever mortuary school pet crematory...

Piedmont Technical College, Greenwood, SC will begin offering a program of pet cremation services this spring. Piedmont implemented the program to meet growing demand. Read more at [pet crematory service](#).

...also expands funeral facility

Piedmont's Funeral Service Education department is expanding. The 3,700-SF facility includes a larger lab area, addition of a body cooler, prep tables and other equipment, and the installation of high-tech broadcasting equipment. Read more at [department expanding](#).

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3520 Executive Center Dr., Suite 300, Austin, TX 78731 | <http://www.ogr.org>