



CREATIVE CHOICES

In this issue . . .	
• Annual meeting	1
• OOH-DNR orders	1
• AMBIS Briefs	2
• Creating a legacy	2
• AMBIS Donors	3
• Cooperating FHs	4
• Governing Council	4
Winter	2007

The newsletter of the Austin Memorial and Burial Information Society (AMBIS), a nonprofit, nonsectarian, educational and consumer association organized to encourage informed planning about end-of-life issues. AMBIS is a member of the Funeral Consumers Alliance.

Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 11, 3-5 p.m.

The annual AMBIS meeting for 2007 will be held at First English Lutheran Church (3001 Whitis Avenue, Austin, Texas) Sunday, February 11 from 3-5 p.m. The church is located three blocks east of Guadalupe Street, on West 30th Street, near Adams-Hemphill Park.

The program will feature a presentation about organ donation. Presenters will include organ donor families, recipients, and an organization that matches donors with families. The discussion will cover some myths about organ donation and will allow time for questions and answers. There will be a wide variety of snacks to share. A notary public will be available to enable members to complete or update their advance planning documents.

The order of business for the meeting is as follows:

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of the 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Election of Governing Council members

Program: Organ Donation, presented by Michelle Segovia with Texas Organ Sharing Alliance. In addition, an organ recipient will participate in the discussion.

Questions and answers about organ donation
Adjournment and Refreshments



Guests are welcome. There is no charge to anyone, so please bring a friend.

The Texas Organ Sharing Alliance is an organ procurement organization that focuses on procuring transplantable organs. It is not involved with whole-body donation, which is controlled in Texas by the Texas Anatomical Board, to provide whole bodies for teaching use by medical and chiropractic schools in Texas. Neither entity procures whole bodies in order to harvest body parts for educational and research use, as discussed in the article on LifeLegacy in the Fall 2006 newsletter. Ω

Understanding Texas Out-of-Hospital–Do-Not-Resuscitate orders

Texas law permits a physician, in consultation with a patient, to provide an Out-of-Hospital–Do-Not-Resuscitate (OOH–DNR) order for persons who no longer wish to be resuscitated if they stop breathing and their hearts stop beating if resuscitation would be futile for their long-term recovery from a medical condition. Resuscitative measures include cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), advanced airway management, defibrillation, artificial ventilation and transcutaneous cardiac pacing.

Much confusion has been expressed recently by participants in the on-line discussion list sponsored by the Funeral Consumers Alliance about the efficacy of generic bracelets or other identification indicating that a person has an OOH–DNR order in place. We provide the following information in an effort to clarify the status of OOH–DNR orders in Texas.

Once a physician has issued an OOH–DNR order for a patient on the form prescribed by the Texas Department of State Health Services, the patient may obtain a special bracelet to alert medical personnel, including emergency medical technicians, to the existence of the OOH–DNR order. The bracelets are offered as an alternative to having to carry around paper forms, but a generic OOH–DNR medic alert bracelet will not be sufficient in Texas to give medical personnel the authority not to attempt to

resuscitate someone who is unconscious or not breathing.

In order for EMS or other medical personnel to honor a bracelet in lieu of an original OOH–DNR Order, the bracelet must be either (1) an intact, unaltered, easily identifiable plastic identification OOH–DNR bracelet, with the word "Texas" (or a representation of the geographical shape of Texas and the word "STOP" imposed over the shape) and the words "Do Not Resuscitate," or (2) an intact, unaltered, easily identifiable metal bracelet or necklace inscribed with the words, "Texas Do Not Resuscitate–OOH."

For a more complete explanation of the bracelet program in Texas, including citations to the applicable law, and information on how to obtain approved bracelets or other identification, go to <<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/ems/dnrhome.htm>>.

EMS personnel—once called to the scene of a medical crisis—will do everything within their power to restore cardio-respiratory function, in spite of the protestations of bystanders or the presence of anything other than a legally-recognized DNR order or indicator. They risk being held liable for the consequences if they do otherwise.

A person who has not lost decision-making capacity is always

Continued on p. 2, col. 2 OOH–DNR

AMBIS BRIEFS

Receive newsletter electronically

If you would like to receive *Creative Choices* by email, please send the request to <mail@ambis.info>. A copy will be posted on the AMBIS website, also. If you would like to receive both a hard copy and the electronic copy, please tell us to leave you on the newsletter mailing list. Those who receive the newsletter electronically will also receive periodic notices of interest.

2006 Cemetery Survey complete

The costs of cemetery goods and services are taken from a sampling of cemeteries in Bastrop, Hays, Travis, Caldwell and Williamson counties. Copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Annual funeral costs survey available at Annual Meeting

The 2007 Annual Survey of Funeral Costs in the Austin area will be available at the Annual Meeting. Because of the scheduling of the Annual Meeting earlier in February than has been customary, there was not time to produce the survey for inclusion in the Winter newsletter. Copies of the new survey will be available at the Annual Meeting or may be requested by contacting the AMBIS office at 480-0555, or an electronic version can be requested by email directed to <mail@ambis.info>.

Board member positions to be filled at Annual Meeting

Five positions on the AMBIS Council will be filled at the Annual Meeting. Anyone interested in being considered for service on the Council should contact one of the Councilmembers listed on page four of this newsletter prior to the February 11 Annual Meeting.

Continued from p.1, OOH-DNR

able to refuse all forms of medical treatment, including CPR, but once they are no longer able to act on their own behalf, the law is clear on the procedure that treatment decisions must follow.

A DNR order, whether the patient is in the hospital or out of the hospital, is a "doctor's order" and is not something over which a patient has absolute control if the patient cannot communicate treatment decisions.

At the Annual Meeting, AMBIS will have copies of the OOH-DNR form that physician's use for those who would like to look at a copy to further their own education about this process. There is no substitute, however, for discussing your medical condition with your physician, the only official who can issue an OOH-DNR order in Texas. **Ω**

Memorial gifts to AMBIS in 2006

In memory of Lyndon Clements by Mark Filip & Kenneth Clements

In memory of Otis Graf by Leah Cohen

In memory of Otis Graf by Warden & Sue Rimel

In memory of Otis Graf by Richard A. & Jane Neith Thompson

In memory of Val Nogues by Warden & Sue Rimel

In memory of Donna Terpack-Paltr's sister by Daesene Willmann

In memory of Perry Thompson by Daesene Willmann

In-kind donations to AMBIS in 2006

Ashburn, Chauncy

Belk, Donna

Boas, Kathy

Burnette, Helen

Day, Bob

Grobe, Kathleen

Hankins, Lamar

Hawkins, George & Carol

Melancon, Rebecca

Schneider, Jo

Schneider, Tim

Twiss, Tom

Creating your own Legacy

AMBIS continues in its outreach to the community through advance directive seminars, meetings with social workers and individuals and through its quarterly newsletter. The expense of maintaining an office, and publishing and delivering the many educational items and newsletters that we produce, requires a constant flow of contributions to make our work possible.

You can help through your tax deductible contributions (AMBIS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization). Giving to AMBIS in honor of landmark events of the people in your life or as a living memorial to those who have died is a way to guarantee that the funds will be well used to help many people right here in our own community.

An excellent tax planning idea is to make a gift of an appreciated asset such as stock or other property. AMBIS benefits from the gift, you get a charitable deduction for your taxes, and you avoid the capital gains taxes on the sale of the property. AMBIS also accepts the gift of Life Insurance or Annuities that are no longer needed in your financial plan.

AMBIS has a volunteer Registered Financial Consultant who can help you determine the best way to make a gift to the Society. Please feel free to call our office to arrange an appointment to discuss your giving plans (512-480-0555). Or send your check to AMBIS, P. O. Box 4382, Austin, Texas 78765.

Gary Lichtenstein

Director, AMBIS Governing Council

Registered Financial consultant

Donors are the life-blood of AMBIS—THANKS!

The following AMBIS supporters made donations during 2006. Without their help, AMBIS could not provide the assistance that it gives to hundreds of families each year from all over the Central Texas area. It takes AMBIS volunteers, council members, friends, and supporters like these to carry out our mission, which is to educate the public about all aspects of death, dying, and funeral and cremation arrangements, and to provide information on behalf of families to the Legislature, state agencies, and public and private organizations interested in the information we have to offer. Our donors are a vital link in making our work a success. A heartfelt thanks to you all.

Albarado, Willis & Angelika	Falck, Frank & Vilma	Maddox, Mary Joe	Salvador, Amos & Lynn
Allen, F.B.	Feutz, William & Sara	Mading, George & Betty	Sampson, Chris
Azevedo, Lorraine C.	Fickling, Horace	McCabe, Richard E.	Sampson, Timothy
Barber, Virginia W.	Fleming, Bill & Brenda	McCarthy, Pat M.	Sanders, Richard & Penny
Barkan, Maxine L.	Fleming, Jan	McCauley, John Hayes	Schimmels, Kirby & Mary Ellen
Bates, Al & Marion	Fowler, H.E. & Ernestine	McDermott, Paul & Jean	Schram, Peter
Baumgardner, Robert W., Jr.	Foy, William & Greta	McPhail, Angus & Virginia	Schroeter, Valeria B.
Benner, L.J. & F.W.	Frazee, Dr. Jerry D.	Menasco, Mr. & Mrs. O.F.	Severin, Werner J.
Bertrand, Virginia W.	Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. W.W., Jr.	Meriwether, W.M.	Sheehan, Frances
Blankenship, Mr. & Mrs. Charles	Giddens, Homer A.	Mesrobian, Ann	Shirley, Carolyn E.
Boas, Kathy	Gilliam, Randall & Susan	Meyer, Deborah Ann	Shirley, Constance
Bogart, Dorothy M.	Goldston, Carolyn	Middleton, Robert & Karol	Shuttles, Tanya
Boggers, Elizabeth	Gormley, Kenneth & Irene	Mittag, Erika	Sloan, Fran
Bohman, Tom & Diane	Grant, Alexandra	Mixon, Thomas & Arveda	Small, George & Virginia
Boman, Dale & Marlene	Graves, E.W. & Holly June	Moore, Paul & Carole	Smith, Richard & Marsha
Boswell, Michael & Kathryn	Green, Lawrence Jr. & Joanna	Mueller, Fred & Helen	Snider, Dr. Robert & Viola
Bowman, Juliet C.	Griswold, Gary & Kimberly	Murray, Sean & Elizabeth	Spelce, Beck
Bradshaw, John F. & Edna	Hackenberry, Donald & Betty	Myers, Joseph L.	Standifer, C.H.
Brooks, Stan M.	Hale, Beverly A.	Nauert, Herbert & Dora	Sternberg, Robert E.
Brown, Beatrice	Happel, Carl & Genell	Nelson, Herman M.	Stoddard, Mark & Laurel
Brown, James & Glenda	Harmer, William & Marjorie	Nelson, Pamala A.	Stotts, Jack & Virginia
Brumber, Ellen	Harrel, John & Doris	Nordstrom, Robert A.	Street, John P. & Martha Anne
Brunch, Joseph	Haynes, Ernest & Nancy	Ochs, Paul	Teich, Donald
Bryan, Richard	Henderson, Richard & Dorothy	Ode, Dr. Helmer	Telford, Judith
Bryant, Robert R.	Hess, Margaret	Olson, Danford	Tenney, Martin & Myra
Burch, Herman & Lillian	Hess, Richard	Orton, Richard	Treat, Carol Lou
Burke, Edward & Dolores	Hillen, Bernard J.	Osterhaus, Leo	Treptow, Jacqueline E.
Byers, Richard & Lois	Hinesley, Vivian	Oswald, Mr. & Mrs. Guenther	Turner, Ron
Cashman, Alice	Honeybear Woodcrafters (Pat Fitzgerald)	Padorr, Audrey J.	Turner, Ron
Cheney, Elliot W. & Victoria	Jacob, S.	Patton, Robert & Camilla	Twiss, Thomas
Church, Eva	Jennings, Coleman & Lola	Pearce, C.H. & Judith	Urelius, Emerson & Lois
Cochran, Deanna	Johnson, Dennis & Pauline	Peer, Sunny	Varenbrink, Johan & Marie
Coker, Judy D.	Jones, Raymond & Barbara	Pennybacker, Robert	Victor, P.J.
Collier Casket	Jones, Shirley	Peterson, Robert & Charlotte	Vlasnian, Andrew & Marjorie
Corin, Ted & Georgia	Kaplan, Mary & Harold	Pham, Quynh	Wade, Herb & Ann
Cummings, Tom & Rosanne	Kasson, William & Brooks	Pilgrim, Suzanne	Webb, Margie
Danner, Adele A.	Kelly, Suzanne	Pinette, Jean & Benita	Weismann, Donald L.
Denny, George & Barbara	Kennedy, Sali	Pivonka, Kerry	White, Barbara
Dercleyn, Col. (Ret.) Conrad	King, Richard & Patti	Pope, Joan	Willmann, Daesene
Dewhurst, Frank & Barbara	Kirk, Joan	Price, Mr. & Mrs. E.B.	Wilson, John & Joyce
Donoghue, James L.	Kosewich, Dale & Chris	Rankin, Gilbert	Winans, Mary
Drawbaugh, William & Edith	Leiden, Prof. Carl	Reich, Jessie & Irene	Winfield, Myra
Drury, Richard	Lindell, John & Betty	Reitmeyer, Wayne & Darlene	Woodard, R.H. & Aleen
Dureka, James	Lockard, Harry G.	Richardson, Martha	Worsham, William & Jean
Durrett, Kenneth L.	Louis, P.	Rigney, Carl & Margaret	Wyatt, John & Mary
Eells, Albert & Virginia	Luedecke, Sue	Rimel, Warden & Sue	Wyllys, Ronald
Eskew, Russell C.	MacDonald, John A.	Ritenour, M.M.	Yeaman, John F.
Evans, Hazel R.	Macomber, Edward & Rita	Roberts, Doug & Margaret J.	
Ewing, Richard & Rita		Ryan, B.W. & Joan	
		Salsman, Lucy	

Please Help Us Keep Our Mailing List Current

To help us keep our mailing costs down, be sure to let AMBIS know if your address changes. If you move out of the area, we can help you transfer your membership. Send changes by email, call the AMBIS office at 512-480-0555, or send this form with the old address to AMBIS

My new or corrected address is:

Name

New or correct address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email address

Austin Memorial & Burial
Information Society
A Funeral Consumers Alliance
P. O. Box 4382
Austin, Texas 78765

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Postmaster, please return
newsletter with addressee
legible for remailing

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 236
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Winter 2007

✂ -----
To mail an address correction, please clip and mail to AMBIS at P.O.Box 4382, Austin, TX 78765, or take to AMBIS office in the Austin Groups for the Elderly Bldg. at 3710 Cedar St. (at 38th Street), Room 112. Email an address change to <mail@ambis.info>.

AMBIS CONTRACTED FUNERAL HOMES

The following funeral homes offer to AMBIS members a 15% discount off of the costs shown on their General Price Lists:

- All Faiths Funeral Services
8507 North IH 35 (512-339-8878) and
4360 South Congress Avenue (512-326-8878)
- Fuller-Sheffield Funeral Home
2808 E. MLK Blvd. (512-476-9164)
- Harrell Funeral Home
4435 Frontier Trail (512-443-1366)
- Heritage Funeral Home (Central Texas Cremation)
425 E. Central Texas Expressway
Harker Heights (800-788-8218)
- Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home
2620 S. Congress (512-442-1446)
- Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home
3125 N. Lamar (512-452-8811)

When contacting one of these funeral homes, please provide proof of your AMBIS membership by showing a copy of this newsletter addressed to you or your new membership letter. Membership can be confirmed also by calling the AMBIS office at 512-480-0555.

www.ambis.info

CREATIVE CHOICES

CREATIVE CHOICES is published quarterly by the Austin Memorial and Burial Information Society, a nonprofit, nonsectarian consumer and educational organization formed in 1964 to protect a consumer's right to choose a meaningful, dignified, and affordable funeral.

The ideas expressed in *CREATIVE CHOICES* are those of the authors and editor and not necessarily those of AMBIS. Address changes, editorial items, letters, and inquiries about the benefits of membership should be sent to:

AMBIS, P.O. Box 4382, Austin, Texas 78765
Office: AGE Bldg., 3710 Cedar Street, Rm. 112, Austin
Telephone inquiries may be made to 512/480-0555
E-mail may be sent to mail@ambis.info

GOVERNING COUNCIL:

Donna Belk, President (922-8043, Austin)
Leo Osterhaus, Vice-president (836-8104, Austin)
David Pharis, Treasurer (453-2155, Austin)
Helen Burnette, Secretary (454-0809, Austin)
Daesene Willmann, Outreach (459-6703, Austin)
Gary Lichtenstein, Director (263-1821, Austin)
Jim Brittnacher, Director (453-5046, Austin)
Vacancy
Vacancy

Leon Lebowitz, Immediate Past Pres. (452-8601, Austin)
Editor, Lamar W. Hankins (512-396-0317, San Marcos)
Editorial assistance provided by Dr. June Chase Hankins