June 2024

Informed Final Choices — Crestone End of Life Project

Issue #1

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

New Volunteer Newsletter Launches

Volunteers play a vital role in the continued success of the Crestone End of Life Project (CEOLP). There are many ways volunteers contribute to the activities required for open-air cremation or natural burial. While motivation for volunteering may vary, all agree that what they do is immensely meaningful and sacred.

In the following months, this occasional newsletter will feature a Q&A with CEOLP volunteers to share their thoughts on the roles they're involved with and what it means to them. We'll also keep you informed of any upcoming scheduled events and important news that comes out of our board meetings. You can expect this newsletter to be issued at varying times during the year, depending on when news events occur.

To learn more about CEOLP and read descriptions of each volunteer role, visit https://crestoneendoflifeproject.org. Also stay connected by visiting the website of CEOLP's sister organization, Informed Final Choices https://informedfinalchoices.org.

News From the Board

- CEOLP's Annual Registration Party was held June 22 at the T Road Brewery in Crestone. Twenty-four new registrants signed up for CEOLP services!
- Our first annual Volunteer Appreciation Day will be held August 3rd at the Little Shepherd fellowship hall. Invitations to active volunteers will be sent out in July.
- Upcoming: All-day contemplative retreat for active volunteers. More information to follow.

CEOLP/IFC Open Meetings

- Open meetings are now held quarterly.
- The next meeting will take place Wednesday, July 10th at 7 p.m. in person at the Little Shepherd fellowship hall in downtown Crestone and on zoom. We hope you'll join us!

Myan Sorensen

1. What volunteer role(s) do you take part in with CEOLP?

I have taken on several roles: family liaison, care of the body, emcee, altar, sound system, censer, juniper gathering, and site prep. Due to a busy travel schedule, my role tends to be filling an immediate need when I am available.

2. About how long have you been volunteering?

I have had the honor of serving on and off for many more years than I can track.

3. What first motivated you to become involved?

When CEOLP formed, I was intrigued by the notion that there could be an alternative to the traditional method of disposition that I had experienced growing up. The idea that death can be normalized and celebrated appeals to me. The first CEOLP meeting I attended was profoundly moving. I had lived in Crestone long enough to know that we have quite the cast of characters and personalities here. It took less than 5 minutes for me to feel the respect for the task at hand &how egos were left at the door. The experience to do just that, drop the ego and show up to serve is an enriching opportunity.

4. What's most important and meaningful to you about it?

When I serve with CEOLP, there is always an overarching experience of humility and deep gratitude. It doesn't get much more real than ushering a community member and their families through the gateway of death.

5. What do you enjoy about it?

Each time we are called to serve, time feels altered. Each CEOLP member serving steps up and we operate like a murmuration, a beautifully orchestrated dance of surrender, love, and service.

6. Is there anything that has challenged you about it, and if so, how that's helped you know yourself better or grow?

Serving CEOLP, even intermittently, has and continues to be a great honor. I bow to all the members who have made this possible over the years.