

FUNERAL CONSUMER'S ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA-MANATEE, INC.

Visit our *NEW* website www.fcasarasota.com

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SARASOTA, FL 34277

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Nancie Edwards, Editor
JANUARY 2016

Join us for our 44rd Annual Meeting

Friday January 22, 2016 2:00 p.m.

Our meeting will be held at the **St. Andrew United Church of Christ** in Sarasota.
The address of the church is 6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34238

The business meeting will include the following:
Reports from the Secretary & Treasurer and elections of Officers and Trustees for 2016.

OUR PROGRAM

~Changes in the Funeral Service Industry and your rights~

Our speaker, Mr. Powell Helm, owner of Helm Monument and Vault, is also a board member for the State of Florida Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services Board. This Board oversees and regulates the funeral services industry. Mr. Helm will address the effects of consolidation of providers, areas of concern for the Board and consumer rights.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 2016

Greetings to all. First, I need to thank Jim Prentice for holding the organization together this past year. It was a tall order as we sorted through the loss of nearly every provider we had worked with for years. The good news is, we have arrangements in place to accommodate every member at a competitive price. The bad news is Jim resigned in September. I appreciate his dedication and service to the organization.


The Board has a few initiatives under way to serve you better. We continue to locate independent service providers that will offer competitive rates. Sadly the days of a price lock and conveniently located funeral homes close to you are gone. We plan to increase our newsletter to twice a year. There is so much happening, the only certain way to share important information is via the newsletter. Look for our mid-year edition in early June. For those with computer access our homepage is now managed locally which means we can update information quickly.

Like so many business sectors, big business has come to town and bought out many family owned funeral homes. These national companies, like SCI, are not interested in working with FCA. Furthermore, they aggressively poach our membership with misleading letters about prepayment. I have received one of those letters, just like many of you have. Prepayment is another gimmick to lock you in at an attractive price today. In Florida there are about 900 funeral homes and over 4000 pre-need sale agents! We'll discuss pre-need and other current topics at our annual meeting. A big thanks to our new board members for the ideas and contributions they are making for you.

Christopher F. White - President

UPDATES AND A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings Members,

The changes in funeral providers made for an unsettled 2015! I must thank you for your patience not only with the changes but for waiting for phone calls, emails and letters. Looking forward to a much calmer 2016  It was nice to be able to talk with so many of you. As always, you have been generous with your contributions that continued to come in all year. We are so dependent on those contributions and really appreciate every single one of them! We are thankful to have a wonderful board of trustees who are committed to making sure we continue to offer an alternative to high cost funerals. We added 60 new members this year. We are continuing with aggressive brochure placement and are pleased to have had the opportunity to speak to some of your groups. By joining our alliance you have saved your friends and families time and money in carrying out your final arrangements. Please make sure you share your plans with them and talk about the choices you have made. Make sure your next-of-kin knows who to call at the time of need. Please keep us informed of changes in your plans or address so we may continue to stay in touch with you. Use the form on page 4 to order blank service record forms to update your records, if they need to be updated. Do your friends, family and neighbors a favor and tell them about us. Provide me with their names and addresses and I will gladly send them brochures. Or, how about placing some of our brochures in your church, social hall, fraternal organization, etc.? If you can get permission to do so, I will send you a supply of brochures. Let's not keep the Funeral Consumers Alliance our "best kept secret." Hope to see you at the annual meeting. ☺

Nancie Edwards - Secretary

Here is a list of current providers and the prices they have agreed to honor for 2016!

**WIEGAND BROTHERS
FUNERAL HOME
7454 S. TAMiami TRAIL
SARASOTA, FL. 34231
941-921-5755**

TYPE 1 – CREMATION \$1,295.00

TYPE 2 – BURIAL \$1,695.00

*TYPE 3 – OUT OF STATE BURIAL
\$1,695.00*

*TYPE 4 – CREMATION WITH
VIEWING & FUNERAL SERVICE
\$1,895.00*

**ALL VETERANS ALL
FAMILIES
40 SARASOTA CENTER
BLVD.
SARASOTA, FL. 34240
941-377-1060**

*TYPE 1 – CREMATION -
\$995.00
\$895.00 IF VETERAN

*TYPE 2 – BURIAL - CALL FOR
A PRICE QUOTE*

*TYPE 3 – OUT OF STATE
BURIAL – CALL FOR A PRICE
QUOTE*

*TYPE 4 – CREMATION WITH
VIEWING & FUNERAL
SERVICE – CALL FOR A
PRICE QUOTE*

**EWING - TOALE BROTHERS
FUNERAL HOME
140 E. VENICE AVE.
VENICE, FL. 34285
941-488-7737**

TYPE 1 – CREMATION \$1,495.00

TYPE 2 – BURIAL \$1,895.00

*TYPE 3 – OUT OF STATE BURIAL
\$1,895.00*

*TYPE 4 – CREMATION WITH
VIEWING & FUNERAL SERVICE
\$2,095.00*

**Prices only available to members who
were members prior to 2015*

Those of you who have pre-paid contracts with any funeral home, those contracts are unchanged! Your fully pre-paid contracts will be honored by the new ownership!

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

A detailed Annual Report will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

This is a preliminary statement based on three quarters in 2015. Donations continue to be essential for the financial health of the organization and to cover expenses incurred in efforts essential for maintaining and increasing membership. Our total income for 2015 will not cover our expenses. Your donations to date have provided 65% of all operating revenue and those donations are vital in maintaining the organization as a viable entity. The Reserve fund at Vanguard yielded a 2.9% return (including capital gains) for 2015. This return cannot be estimated for 2016, as is usual for this type of investment.

Mohan Prasad - Treasurer

2015 NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Colonel (Ret.) Christopher White – Was born in Columbus GA., but calls Sarasota, FL home after moving here when he was just a year old. On graduation from college he was commissioned in 1984 through Army ROTC at Eastern Oregon State College. During his nearly 28 year career, Chris served in ground and aviation Cavalry, logistics and financial management assignments, culminating as US Forces-Afghanistan J8. Chris retired from the USSOCOM, MacDill AFB, in January 2012 with 27 ½ years' service and returned to live in Sarasota close to family and friends. Chris is a graduate of Eastern Oregon State College with a BS in Political Science, Campbell University – Masters in Business Administration, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College-Masters in Strategic Studies. In retirement, Chris joined the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Sarasota-Manatee as the Vice-President in July 2014. Chris is an active member with the Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS) and a lifetime VFW member. Chris is married to the former Dianna Lea Fischer of Ontario, Oregon (31 years) and they have two children, Corinne, 27 (Indianapolis, IN), and Miles, 21 (USF Tampa, Army ROTC, Senior). This will be Christopher's first full year as President.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Vacant

TREASURER: Mohan Prasad – Mo retired after 45 years as a software engineer and has lived in Sarasota for 11 years with his wife of 43 years Veraine (Vicki). Over the many years in Massachusetts he served on several non-profit Boards. At his second home Condo Association in New Hampshire he continues to be responsible for all financial and administrative issues for 23 years, during which period he had also served on that Board for 7 years. This will be Mo's fourth year on our Board and his 2nd year as Treasurer.

SECRETARY: Nancie Edwards – Nancie is the wife of Douglas Edwards and the mother of four children and 6 grandchildren. In addition to her position with the Alliance, Nancie works several part-time jobs. Nancie has been the Secretary for 28 years.

Trustees

Rocky Ruoff – Ralph (Rocky) Ruoff is from Rochester New York. He attended 2 engineering colleges before being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1959 and was honorably discharged in 1962. He started his own waste disposal business and later sold it to Waste Management in 1992. He retired to Sarasota with his wife Carol. They reside in Palm Aire Country Club. They have 6 children, 7 grandchildren and in Feb. 2016 will have 5 great-grandchildren. Rocky is a past President of the Webster NY Kiwanis Club and a past President of the Webster Chamber of Commerce. This will be Rocky's second year on the board.

William Fieberg – Bill moved to Sarasota from Chicago 24 years ago where he was in the construction business. Bill is a Korean War combat Veteran and was a 1st Lieutenant in the Army. He and his wife Joyce were married 32 years before she passed away. This will be Bill's fifth year on the board.

We have room for you! If you are interested in joining us we would love to have you. We can nominate you at the meeting or if you can't make it to the meeting just use the coupon on the back and we'll give you a call.

Need something? Want to help? Let us know by using the form below. Complete the form and return it to:
Funeral Consumer's Alliance of Sarasota - Manatee, Inc., P.O. Box 15833, Sarasota, FL 34277.
If you need additional information or have questions, call us at (941) 953-3740

NAME(S) _____

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

- I WOULD LIKE _____ COPIES OF THE ALLIANCE BROCHURE FOR MY FRIENDS.
- I WISH TO UPDATE MY RECORDS. PLEASE SEND ME A BLANK SERVICE RECORD FORM.
- I WILL SERVE ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. HAVE SOMEONE CALL ME AT _____.
- PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF \$_____ TO SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE.

** Copies of the Annual Financial Report, Membership Report and Minutes of the meeting will be available after January 31st. If you would like copies, let us know which reports you want, include a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will mail them to you.

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