

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

Visit our *NEW* website [www.fcasarasota.com](http://www.fcasarasota.com)

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Christopher White, Editor  
941-953-3740

December 2016

## Join us for our 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 2:00 PM

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

The business meeting will include the following:

Reports from the Secretary & Treasurer and the elections of Officers and Trustees for 2017

### Our Program

Screening the film – **In the Parlor: The Final Goodbye**



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Winter 2017

Happy Holidays! This has been a busy and productive year for your Funeral Consumers Alliance. We've made progress in getting valuable, useful information to you by increasing our newsletters to twice a year, adding more content to the website at <http://www.fcasarasota.com> and locating more participating providers. By press time, we will have completed our comprehensive regional provider survey. Over 50 providers were analyzed, including complete General Price Lists for services and our assessment of each provider's compliance with the FTC funeral rule. I've included some "best buys" in this newsletter. The complete survey will be on the website. Watch the local paper for our news release.

Tucked inside this newsletter is a donation envelope. As we near the end of the tax year, this a great time to send a donation to your Alliance. We are all volunteers, but marketing and newsletters have a price. Thanks to all who have donated, or who will donate to our mission.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, 27 January, 2017 at 2 PM for our Annual Meeting. At this meeting we will conduct our election of board members (sure could use a volunteer for VP) and trustees, answer your questions and concerns. Then we'll screen the award winning film, In the Parlor. "Both a critical look at the American relationship with death and an inquiry into the home death care movement, In The Parlor; The Final Goodbye takes viewers on a journey where very few have gone, and challenges us to reflect on this uncomfortable subject, which is so often hidden away and ignored." Finally, a big thanks to our board members, especially departing Treasurer, Mohan Prasad, and our trustees for the ideas they provide and contributions they are making on your behalf.

*Christopher F. White – President*

## A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

### Greetings Members,

Some of you are receiving this newsletter via email for the first time! Send us your email address if you are interested in joining our email group. It has been another busy year and it has been my pleasure to help so many families during their time of need. Your continued appreciation for what we do and your donations make us want to work harder every year. We have been working to find ways to provide options for you and your families during the ever changing funeral market. Our board, lead by President Christopher White, has compiled a list of prices from many funeral providers in our area. The completed survey can be found on our website <http://www.fcasarasota.com> or I can send you a printed copy. The providers listed below are the ones that have agreed to offer special prices for members of the Funeral Consumers Alliance. As always make your choice of funeral provider based on what best fits your needs and SHARE YOUR WISHES WITH THOSE WHO WILL BE FOLLOWING THEM! We are here to help you and your family, so please call us with any questions. We have a good supply of brochures and other informative pamphlets. JOIN US! We have room on our board if you are interested in serving let us know either by phone 941-953-3740 or email [fcasarotaman@aol.com](mailto:fcasarotaman@aol.com).

*Nancie Edwards*

<p><b>WIEGAND BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME</b>  <b>7454 TAMiami TRAIL</b>  <b>SARASOTA, FL 34231</b>  <b>841-821-5755</b></p>
<p>TYPE 1 – CREMATION \$1,295.00</p>
<p>TYPE 2 – BURIAL \$1,695.00</p>
<p>TYPE 3 – OUT OF STATE BURIAL \$1,695.00</p>
<p>TYPE 4 – CREMATION WITH VIEWING AND FUNERAL SERVICE \$1,895.00</p>

<p><b>ALL VETERANS ALL FAMILIES</b>  <b>40 SARASOTA CENTER BLVD.</b>  <b>SARASOTA, FL 34240</b>  <b>941-377-1060</b></p>
<p>TYPE 1 – ABSOLUTE CREMATION \$685.00</p>
<p>*35.00 medical examiner fee paid for all FCA members</p>
<p>ALL OTHER SERVICES – CALL FOR A QUOTE</p>

<p><b>EWING –TOALE BROTHERS</b>  <b>140 E. VENICE AVE.</b>  <b>VENICE, FL 34285</b>  <b>941-488-7737</b></p>
<p>TYPE 1 – CREMATION \$1,495.00</p>
<p>TYPE 2 – BURIAL \$1,895.00</p>
<p>TYPE 3 – OUT OF STATE BURIAL \$1,895.00</p>
<p>TYPE 4 – CREMATION WITH VIEWING &amp; FUNERAL SERVICE \$2,095.00</p>
<p><i>*prices only available to members who were members prior to 2015.</i></p>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Fixed expenses, consisting primarily of administrative costs, telephone, printing and mailing charges continue to pose an ongoing challenge to the mission of the organization. New membership is our only other source of income at this time. Your donations are vital in keeping us from having to further dig into our shrinking reserves just to cover operating expenses. Thank you for your support.

*Mohan Prasad – Treasurer*

## 2017 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. 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. 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 (32 years) and they have two children, Corinne, 28 (Indianapolis, IN), and Miles, 22 (2LT, US Army). This will be Christopher’s third full year as President.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Vacant – could be you. Please volunteer so we can fill all board seats.

**TREASURER: Suzanne Takerian** - Suzanne Takerian, born in Wisconsin, married and started a family and studied at the University system. She graduated with a BBA, with honors, from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Business School with majors in accounting and finance. She began her career as an auditor with Price Waterhouse Coopers and obtained her CPA license. While in Milwaukee, she moved on to Johnson Controls, Schwarz Pharma, and Prudential Insurance, where she obtained her life, health, property and series 6 and 63 licenses. In 1996, she remarried and moved to Sarasota, working as the Auditor for Venice Hospital, and obtaining her Certified Internal Auditor license. She wanted to spend more time with family and friends, and retired for 10 years. Concern for an unstable economy brought her back to work with a position as the CFO of the Child Protection Center in 2011. Focusing on sound fiduciary management and accountability, she oversees accounting, annual audits, the 990 tax return, payroll, insurance, reporting to the BOD, and reporting and compliance with government funders, donors and grantors. Suzanne and the management team at the Child Protection Center embrace high standards and clear, accurate and transparent reporting, which gives funders and donors confidence that the mission is carried out in the most efficient way. This has enabled the Child Protection Center to be awarded the 2015 Non-Profit of the Year Award by the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce. Suzanne brings the same focus on high standards and transparent accounting to the FCA. Demographics show that the demand for the end of life services will increase substantially, and Suzanne will work to ensure that consumers have clear and adequate information to make the decisions that best suit their needs and wishes.

**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 29 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 below and we’ll give you a call.**

Check out the new regional provider survey at our website <http://www.fcasarasota.com>. You can find screened and summarized results from over 50 providers covering Sarasota, Manatee, Desoto and Charlotte counties. One trend I noticed was ultra-low priced cremation packages. About \$650 from several providers, including All Veterans – All Families, Sound Choice, and Alan Moore. The next tier is around \$850 from Covell and Gulf Coast. Keep in mind actual cremation cost (wholesale) in our area is \$325 and \$45 for an alternative container. We’ll keep looking for the best prices and alternatives to meet your needs.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

ADD MY EMAIL 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.

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