

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

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

P.O. BOX 15833 SARASOTA, FL 34277

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Nancie Edwards, Editor

941-953-3740

December 2019

## Join us for our 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 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 2019

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Winter 2019

Happy Holidays! This has been another busy and productive year for your Funeral Consumers Alliance. We've continued our 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. The turbulence and consolidation locally in the funeral industry makes your membership even more important as we help you make sense of these changes and advise you on your choices.

I've started an update of our Provider Survey. This update will include all providers in Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Desoto counties. It is time consuming as we contact every provider, obtain their pricing info (GPL), then assess and grade their compliance with state and federal law, and finally dissect their package pricing to offer you a detailed price comparison. This new survey should be complete by February and will be posted on our website.

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 or will donate to our mission.

Please mark your calendars for **Friday, 25 January, 2018 at 2 PM** for our Annual Meeting. At this meeting we will conduct our election of board members and trustees, answer you questions and concerns and for the first time host a Death Café (DC) with assistance from Risa Marlen. Risa hosts the DC in Sarasota every other month. See more about the DC inside this newsletter. Finally, a big thanks to our board members and trustees for the ideas they provide and contributions they are make on your behalf.

*Christopher F. White – President*

### A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings Members,

More of you are receiving this newsletter via email and we appreciate that! If you want to be included in our email list please let us know your email address and we will be happy to add you.

The providers listed below are the ones that have agreed to offer special prices for members of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Sarasota-Manatee. If you ever want to change providers, simply contact us by phone

941-953-3740 or email [fcasarasotaman@aol.com](mailto:fcasarasotaman@aol.com). This information along with other useful information is also available on our website [www.fcasarasota.com](http://www.fcasarasota.com).

As always, make your choice of funeral provider based on what best fits your needs and **SHARE YOUR WISHES WITH THOSE THAT WILL BE FOLLOWING THEM!** We are here to help you and your family, so please contact 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 [fcasarasotaman@aol.com](mailto:fcasarasotaman@aol.com).

*Nancie Edwards*

**Robert Toale & Sons (formerly Wiegand Brothers)**

7454 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 w/Viewing \$ Funeral Service \$1,895.00

**All Veterans All Families Funerals & Cremations**

7 South Lime Street Sarasota, FL 34237  
941-377-1060

Cremation \$995.00 if Veteran \$895.00  
Absolute Economy Program \$685.00  
\*contact directly for prices on other services. The \$35 medical examiners fee is included for members of FCA

**Your Traditions Cremation & Funeral Chapel**

2118 Constitution Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34231  
941-921-4247

Direct Cremation w/container provided \$670.00  
Direct Cremation with minimum cardboard container \$695.00  
Immediate Burial \$995.00  
5% discount for members of FCA

**Toale Brothers –Ewing Chapel**

140 E. Venice Ave. Venice, FL 34285  
941-488-7737

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

Type 1 Cremation \$1,495.00  
Type 2 Burial \$1,895.00  
Type 3 Out Of State Burial \$1,895.00  
Type 4 Cremation w/ Viewing & Funeral Service \$2,095.00

**A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

For the period January-September 2018, our contribution revenue totals \$5,187 and our new membership dues total \$1,260 for a total of \$6,447. This includes our Giving Challenge receipt of \$3,253 received in July. We have a year-to-date deficiency of \$1,256. I want to give a sincere thank you to all of you who have donated to our organization. Below is why your donations are so important. You are not only helping yourselves, you are helping others!

One of my co-workers recently told me that she prepaid for a cremation (and other services) with a local funeral home (she does not need a plot because her ashes will go into our Sarasota National Cemetery here, which will be no cost.) She paid +\$4,000 to the funeral home, and now has a sister in an assisted living facility who she is helping support. She now realizes that she overpaid and wishes she had most of the money back to support her sister. She is 72, earns \$35,000 a year and her sister is 70, has no savings and is not well. Of course, she could pay \$695 for a cremation and her family could have a ceremony in a park for free. Prepayment did not allow for a change of circumstances, and she was uninformed when she made her arrangements. If only we could have helped her sooner.

*Suzanne Takerian – 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 (3G years) and they have two children, Corinne, 30 (Indianapolis, IN), and Miles, 24 (1LT, US Army). This will be Christopher's fifth full year as President.

**VICE-PRESIDENT: Keith Miller** – Keith grew up in a military family (USMC) She moved a lot when she was young. Her parents retired to El Paso, TX where Keith Graduated Texas Western College of Mines (renamed University of Texas El Paso) 1965 B.A. in Radio & Television / Minor in English / Speech. She taught in the El Paso schools for nearly 20- years. Moved to Sarasota in 1993 and has been active in business and civic activities. She has two children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Keith has a Masters in Education from Lesley College Outreach In retirement she enjoys golf, reading and volunteering. Keith joined the FCA board in 2017.

**TREASURER:** Bringing sound fiduciary management and accountability, **Suzanne Takerian** has been the **Chief Financial Officer** of the Child Protection Center in Sarasota, FL since July 2011. Suzanne, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Business Administration, is a CPA and Certified Internal Auditor. She brings 21 years of experience in public accounting, internal auditing, industry accounting, management and compliance to the position. With a focus on high standards of transparent accounting, reporting and management, Suzanne communicates confidence to donors and grantors that their financial support is funding the non-profit's mission in the most meaningful and efficient way. Suzanne also recently completed 240 hours of study and obtained her Funeral Services Associate Certification. Suzanne joined the FCA board in 2016

**BOARD SECRETARY: Vacant (Please contact Chris or Nancie if you are interested)**

**BUSINESS 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 30 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 third 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 sixth year on the board.

### ANNUAL MEETING DEATH CAFE

At a Death Café, people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death. Our objective is *'to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives'*.

A Death Cafe is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session. Think of it as the spiritual component vs. FCA which is the business component. Death Cafes have spread quickly across Europe, North America and Australia. Organizers have offered 7437 Death Cafes in 63 countries since September 2011. If 10 people came to each one that would be 74370 participants. We've established both that there are people who are keen to talk about death and that many are passionate enough to organize their own Death Cafe.

The Death Cafe model was developed by [Jon Underwood](#) and [Sue Barsky Reid](#), based on the ideas of [Bernard Crettaz](#).

Following the FCA business meeting, we'll invite members from the local Death Café chapter, our host, Risa Marlen, and of course our FCA members to join in our first Death Café. I've been to the Sarasota Death Café and was pleasantly surprised. Please plan to join us for this special opportunity. To learn more about DC, check out this story from NPR. [www.npr.org/2013/03/08/173808940/death-cafes-breathe-life-into-conversations-about-dying](http://www.npr.org/2013/03/08/173808940/death-cafes-breathe-life-into-conversations-about-dying)

**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.**

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.

Funeral Consumers Alliance  
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