

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

Visit our website www.fcasarasota.com

P.O. BOX 15833 SARASOTA, FL 34277

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Nancie Edwards, Editor

941-953-3740

July 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Summer 2019

Summer Greetings from your Funeral Consumers Alliance. Sure seems like Summer heat comes earlier and stays through Halloween! I've been avoiding it with a month long trip to the NW and to NC. I hope that you can see 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 continued 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. See discussion in the Secretary's note.

At the end of our Annual Meeting in January, your Board and some of you participated in a Death Café. I've been to several of these and find them thought provoking. One constant theme I hear in these sessions is keeping your plan (funeral, estate, spiritual) current and sharing the plan with loved ones. Most of us know, trying to discuss this content with friends and family can be challenging. Drawing responses like "lets not talk about this now" to "that's so morbid and depressing". So we have to find a way to communicate the plan or where it can be found at the time of need. I determined my plan and my spouse's were out of date. Our wills and related healthcare documents were based on North Carolina residency. That won't work well in Florida. So we are have started the update. See Suzanne's timely piece on sharing your wishes below.

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. **Also, we really need a couple of volunteers for our Board. See the ad below.**

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. Please note...Robert Toale & Sons (formerly Wiegand Brothers) is no longer offering set prices for members of the FCA. They will give a 10% discount off regular prices (Direct Cremation was \$1295, now \$1770) to members of the FCA. Although we are disappointed in this change we feel it is still important to offer this funeral provider as a choice. Contact them directly for exact prices.

Any pre-paid contracts with Wiegand Brothers Funeral Home or Robert Toale & Sons will remain unchanged!

This change will only affect a member who has not yet prepaid, though we don't advocate prepay as the best method to avoid these types of changes. If you ever want to change providers, simply contact us by phone 941-953-3740 or email fcasarasotaman@aol.com. This information along with other useful information is also available on our website 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 fcasarotaman@aol.com.

We need your help! FCA Sarasota-Manatee would like to hold a summer meeting in 2020, possibly in the Venice area. This would be in addition to our annual meeting that is held in January. If you have connections through your church, community association or other groups that offer meeting space please let us know!

Nancie Edwards

Robert Toale & Sons (formerly Wiegand Brothers)

7454 Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL 34231
941-921-5755

10% discount off regular prices

Contact directly for a price quote!

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

Your local FCA Sarasota-Manatee needs two members to fill critical Board positions. These volunteer positions have minimal time commitments (4 Board meetings annually).

Treasurer – We are losing Suzanne early next year. Her full time job just got busier.

Board Secretary – Nancie cannot perform both Business Secretary and Board Secretary (conflict)

Please contact Christopher or Nancie if you are interested at FCASarasota@gmail.com or 941 953 3740

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

For the period through March 2019 our combined account balances stand at \$24,432. Compared with January 2019 at \$24,023. I want to give a sincere thank you to all of you who have donated to our organization.

This is a reminder to all of you to talk with your family and/or friends about your end-of-life wishes and desired funeral arrangements early on when things in your life are calm and not under duress (and give them a summary in writing). Here is why I say this: I am one of those people who is a life-long learner. When I learn new information that I feel will be helpful, I share the information with others. I have an interest in the end-of-life

experience and choices, because I want to experience this time in my life with the most control and contentment possible. Many people are afraid of these topics and try to avoid them. This is not helpful to you, and your family and friends who will be caring for you and/or making decisions and arrangements regarding you. **The timing of these end-of-life and funeral discussions is important however.** People will be most relaxed and receptive when they are not under duress themselves or facing the concerns that you wish to speak with them about. Talking to your sister about your funeral arrangements when her son was killed in a car accident several weeks ago maybe too painful for her to listen.

A few years ago, I spent a year studying topics like death, dying, grief, hospices, funerals, etc. After a time, I thought I should send an email to my 6 siblings mentioning my studies and certification and somewhat offering up my knowledge in the future if they had questions. I was busy and did not do it for several months. Just when I was ready to email them, I received an email that my brother had serious bladder cancer and was going to have his bladder removed. Oh, Oh, I thought... probably not a good time to send this email because a discussion of death and dying may upset them. Later, I came across some very good information about Tidewell Hospice and all the services they provide, including services to Veterans. I was getting ready to email that information to my siblings (most in their 60s). Unfortunately, I received a call from my sister that my younger sister's 29 year-old son committed suicide due to his drug addiction. Oh Oh, .. another sensitive time about end-of-life and death, so not a good time to send hospice information around. Recently, I read the book called "Finish Strong" by Barbara Coombs Lee. It is about achieving an end-of-life experience to match the life one enjoyed - defined by love, purpose and agency. More good information that I want to share, but before I had a chance, I received another email that after a year of being cancer free (so he thought), my brother's bladder cancer metastasized to his brain and required surgery the next day to remove a 2" malignant tumor. It is an aggressive cancer and 50% likely to return even with radiation. Is he in the mood to read the book called "Finish Strong"? I am not sure, but I doubt it.

We don't always control the timing of things in our lives. When a serious disease manifests, or an unexpected death occurs, end-of-life issues like plans of care, urgent medical decisions, and funeral arrangements are more likely to be made in fearful, stressed, uncertain, chaotic circumstances. Illness and death are often heavy emotional times in a family. Prior discussion with family or friends should provide them the confidence, clarity and direction to handle decisions and care when the time comes. This should also keep the support and focus on the family member who is ill, or who passed away and should be honored in a meaningful way.

There may not be an optimal time to discuss end-of-life concerns, but don't wait until there is a crisis to initiate the conversation.

Suzanne Takerian – Treasurer

DID YOU KNOW?

A 2017 study from the Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals the cost of dying—\$7,360 on average for funeral services and burial—has risen 227% since 1986 (compared to 123% for all goods). Today's \$14 billion death industry is catering to an increasing secular country: A 2017 survey by the National Funeral Directors Association found that only 39.5% of respondents are being buried in ceremonies with a religious component, and more than half of respondents are interested in green burial options and cremation. Remember, these costs exclude a burial plot, grave liner (almost universally required in FL), the cemetery grave opening and closing costs, and a gravesite marker.

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 NEED A NEW MEMBERSHIP ID CARD.
- 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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