

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

Visit our *NEW* website www.fcasarasota.com

P.O. BOX 15833 SARASOTA, FL 34277

Email FCASarasotaMan@aol.com

Nancie Edwards, Editor

941-953-3740

December, 2019

Join us for our 48th Annual Meeting Friday, January 24th, 2020 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 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Winter 2018

Happy Holidays! This has been a busy and productive year for your Funeral Consumers Alliance. We've continue our progress in getting valuable, useful information to you by publishing our newsletters to twice a year, adding more content to our website at <http://www.fcasarasota.com> and locating more participating providers.

Also in this edition, you'll find a short think piece on planning a memorial service from our Treasurer, Suzanne Takerian. Her "Anatomy of a Good Celebration of Life" is just one of many steps required when a loved one passes. We'll have more on funeral planning in our Summer Newsletter.

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 will be participating in the Giving Challenge for 2020. Save this date, April 28 -29 2020. The event runs for 24 hours. Your contributions are matched by the Community Foundation of Sarasota. More on this early next year.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, 24 January, 2020 at 2 PM for our Annual Meeting. You will see below we have some critical board vacancies. At this meeting we will conduct our election of board members and trustees, answer your questions and concerns and for the second time host an information fair with specialists from a local Elderlaw firm, Hospice, Sarasota National Cemetery (VA) and a couple of Funeral Directors - your opportunity to build contacts and get answers. Finally, a big thanks to our board members and trustees for the ideas they provide and contributions they 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 fcasarasotaman@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 includes ceremony at Sarasota National Cemetery

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 \$720.00

Direct Cremation with minimum cardboard container \$745.00

Immediate Burial \$1,045.00

\$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

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Through the 3d Quarter of our fiscal year, FCA Sarasota Manatee has reserves of \$22, 249. Quarterly expenses continue to exceed income, though by a smaller margin. Thanks to everyone who has made a donation. The Giving Challenge 2020 is another excellent opportunity to donate and FCA receives a match from the Community Foundation of Sarasota. More on the giving challenge early next year.

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 air 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 (35 years) and they have two children, Corinne, 31 (Indianapolis, IN), and Miles, 25 (1LT, US Army). This will be Christopher’s seventh 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. In retirement she enjoys golf, reading and volunteering. Keith joined the FCA board in 2017.

TREASURER: Vacant

BOARD SECRETERY: Vacant

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 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 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.

Anatomy of a Good Celebration of Life

Life is often book-marked by certain events. Main events include welcoming a new baby into the family and community with a baby shower or the visiting of family and friends. The final event often includes a Celebration of Life to honor a person and say good bye. This Celebration of Life can be an important final memory and closure, which can begin the healing process for the family and friends.

A good Celebration of Life will welcome the family, friends and guests, and often includes the following:

Safety – the communication that the ceremony provides a sacred and safe place to grieve and acknowledge the loss of the deceased.

Participation – Family and friends should be encouraged to participate in the ceremony (by planning it, providing stories to tell, lighting of candles, giving a reading, selecting quotes and music, making a video). Participation counters the tendency to avoid or deny the death, which impedes healing and adjusting to a new life without the deceased.

Roots – Stories and rituals should connect the person to their family, friends and community and explain their significance to all - Marion was the one who kept our family together by, or John, because of his childhood as an orphan and his big heart, was the back stop for any non-profit in the community that needed urgent help (funds) to continue their mission.

Ceremony - should reflect the person and their life. A theme should be crafted and a few stories should be put together to best illustrate **the essence of the person**, and anchor their time, place and history. Humor and happy stories are welcome to soften the sadness of the loss. This allows others to share these experiences once again, and pay their respects to the deceased and friends and family. Ceremonies are generally about 30-40 minutes long, unless a mass is incorporated.

Reality – The ceremony helps formalize the good-bye to then facilitate healing and closure. Until the reality of the loss is processed, little progress with the grieving process can be made.

Significance – A Ceremony helps acknowledge the value of our loss, the value of the person we lost, and the loss socially to the community. Was this person a dynamo in business but who received more pleasure from buying and giving wheel chairs to those who could not afford them? The dedicated teacher with a big heart who continually bought school supplies for kids with her personal funds? The immigrant whose greatest pride was becoming an American citizen and getting a good job to support his family?

To create a meaningful ceremony and honor someone who has passed away acknowledges their Importance and impact on our lives, the gift we have been given to share love and lives, and the loss we will try and adjust to over time as we say good-bye.

Suzanne Takerian

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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Sarasota, FL 34277

