

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

Visit our *NEW* website www.fcasarasota.com

P.O. BOX 15833 SARASOTA, FL 34277

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July, 2020

Join us for our 48th Annual Meeting Friday, January 29th, 2021 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 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Summer 2020

Summer Greetings! We are living in unprecedented times. Between a global pandemic, record unemployment, an election year and increased racial tensions across the country, we could all use a little certainty in our lives. Your FCA Sarasota - Manatee staff continue gathering local funeral industry facts and figures to help you make informed choices. 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.

We'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 has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many providers are short staffed and collecting the GPLs is more difficult these days. When finished, the survey will be posted on our website. Also, on our website, I've added a link to the [My End of Life Decisions Guide](http://www.fcasarasota.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/My-End-of-Life-Decisions-Guide.pdf) from Compassion and Choices. This is an excellent planner and tool to document what you expect your loved ones to follow. You can download a copy at <http://www.fcasarasota.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/My-End-of-Life-Decisions-Guide.pdf>

A special thanks to our members who participated in the 2020 Giving Challenge. With your help and the Patterson Foundation match, we raised \$2459 this year (down a bit from our 2018 record of \$3253).

We have a few key positions to fill on the Board. We need volunteers for Treasurer, Board Secretary and Trustee. I am covering the Treasurer's duties in the interim. At most it takes a couple of hours a month. Nancie, our Business Secretary has been covering the Board Secretary duties. For a nonprofit to function properly (maintaining a quorum), we need willing members to volunteer and serve. Please join us and keep this organization going.

Tucked inside this newsletter is a donation envelope. We are all volunteers, but marketing and newsletters have a price. Thanks to all who have or will donate to our mission. The CARES Act allows you to deduct \$300 in contributions to nonprofits on your 2020 tax return if you take the standard deduction

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,

First and foremost, I hope this newsletter finds you well. During these challenging times I hope you are finding ways to stay healthy, safe and continue to stay active physically and mentally. The Board of your Funeral Consumer's Alliance continues to meet quarterly and although things have slowed down, we continue to welcome new members. Our ability to distribute brochures has been challenging the last quarter due to libraries and senior activity facilities being closed. We could use your help to share the benefits of belonging to our Alliance with your friends and families. Let us know if you would like extra brochures mailed to you or have anyone interested have them contact us. If you are not receiving this newsletter digitally (email), please send us an email so we can add your email to our digital roster.

Current participating funeral providers are shown below. Contact us if you want to confirm the provider you have chosen or if you would like to change providers. 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. We have a good supply of brochures and other informative pamphlets that can help in the planning process. **JOIN US!** We have room on our board. If you are interested in becoming a part of our board contact us at 941-953-3740 or by email at fcasarasotaman@aol.com

Nancie Edwards

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

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

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

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!

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

For the period January- June 2020, our contribution revenue totals \$3933 and our new membership dues total \$380 for a grand total of \$4313. This includes our Giving Challenge receipt of \$2,459 received in late June. We have a year-to-date deficiency of \$1,589. I want to give a sincere thank you to all of you who have donated to our organization.

Christopher White – Treasurer

FCA SARASOTA – MANATEE BOARD VACANCIES

Treasurer - A couple of hours each month and 4 Board meetings annually. Voting Member

Board Secretary – A couple of hours per quarter. Sends meeting notice, keeps meeting minutes and publishes minutes. Attends 4 Board meetings annually. Voting Member.

Trustee – Attends 4 Board meetings annually. Provides strategic input to the Board. Voting Member.

Please contact Nancie or Christopher for more information. FCASarasota@gmail.com

UPDATE ON NATIONAL FUNERAL EXPENSES

Funerals represent a major and sometimes unexpected expense. According to a 2017 estimate by the National Funeral Directors Association, the median funeral cost \$7,360. This expense did not include vault, burial plot, headstone, flowers, or obituary. Consequently, the average funeral costs considerably more. While there is no solid cost data on the subject, African-Americans and Latinos may well spend more on funerals because these ceremonies have been such important parts of their cultures. For both the African-American “homegoing” and the Latino “wake,” embalming and burial are essential elements of the ceremony. And there is research indicating that African-Americans are less likely than other Americans to choose cremation.¹ Furthermore, any affordability problems faced by African-American and Latino populations may be worsened by the fact that, overall, their incomes and wealth are lower than those of other Americans. (*I found this to be true in our local provider survey*)

Consumers care a great deal about funeral prices, and lower-income consumers care the most. In late February 2020, Engine Group surveyed a representative sample of 1,000 adult Americans online about these prices and related disclosures.² The first survey question was, “If you had to plan their funeral and also cover the cost, how important would this cost be in your decision about choosing a funeral home?” Ninety-three percent of respondents said that cost was important, with 62 percent saying it was “very important.” Those with household incomes under \$50,000 were more concerned about cost than were households with incomes \$100,000 and over. Sixty-seven percent of the low-income group, but only 51 percent of the high-income group, said that cost was a very important factor in choosing a funeral home.

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.

¹ Tom Buchanan, Paige Gabriel, “Race Differences in Acceptance of Cremation: Religion, Durkheim, and Death in the African-American Community,” *Social Compass* (March 2, 2015). Landi K. Conn, “Contemporary Death Practices in the Catholic Latino Community,” *Thanatos*, v. 5 (2016).

² CFA commissioned the survey by Engine Group, known formerly as Opinion Research Corporation International. The survey was conducted February 26-28, 2020.

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.

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