

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

Visit our NEW website www.fcasarasota.com

P.O. BOX 15833 SARASOTA, FL 34277

Nancie Edwards, Editor

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941-953-3740

December, 2020

Our 49th Annual Meeting has been cancelled **Friday, January 29th, 2021 2:00 PM**

Due to the pandemic, we've cancelled the in-person Annual Meeting. We've enclosed a mail-in ballot to choose Officers and Trustees for 2021. Reports from the Secretary and Treasurer are included in this newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Winter 2021

Happy Holidays! This has been a most unusual year for all of us. Despite the pandemic, political turmoil and climate challenges, your Funeral Consumers Alliance remains engaged. We continue our progress in getting valuable, useful information to you by publishing our newsletters twice a year, adding more content to our website at <http://www.fcasarasota.com> and locating more participating providers.

We had a call from a member in Ft Myers recently. She had a bad experience with a provider and was looking for some advice. She had used Gallaher American Funeral Home a few years ago and was satisfied with their service then. When her husband passed recently, she called them and released the body for pick up. When she met with the Funeral Director, she showed them a General Price List (GPL) from her earlier experience. That GPL was no longer valid. The new prices were significantly higher. Since Gallaher already had the body, she faced expensive choices. The full Funeral Director's fee (\$3K) to go elsewhere. She ended up staying with Gallaher and paying way more than she could afford. I advised her to contact the Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery and Consumer Services and complain. I have worked with them and found them to be very responsive.

The reason I bring this vignette up is Baldwin Brothers has come to Sarasota. No relationship to Gallaher that I can find, but a new player, nevertheless. I saw an ad for Baldwin recently in the local paper offering a free dinner and funeral planning sales and assistance. They also have teaser rates that compete with any of our preferred providers. I would caution our members. Baldwin has been expanding across the state. They have a family story, but a corporate look.

Tucked inside this newsletter is our voting/donation envelope. We need your vote to elect the 2021 board since we cannot meet in person this year. 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. 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,

What a year! This is the 1st time in my 32 years with the Funeral Consumers Alliance that we are not able to hold our annual meeting. Although we will miss you it is important that we all do what we can to keep each other safe and healthy. Thank you for taking the time to vote by mail and for supporting us with your generous donations. We have a good supply of brochures and could use your help to share the benefits of belonging to our Alliance. Use the form included in this newsletter to request brochures and anything else you need.

If you are receiving this newsletter via the US mail and would like to receive it and other communications via email, send us your email address and we will add you to our digital roster. Current providers are shown in the boxes below. Some of the prices may change in 2021. You can contact the providers directly to confirm prices based on your specific wishes and needs. Contact us if you need to confirm your choice 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 WHO WILL BE FOLLOWING THEM!** We are here to help you and your family, so please contact us with any questions. JOIN US! We have room on our board if you are interested in helping let us know either by phone 941-953-3740 or email 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

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

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!

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 \$21,193.87 (compared to last FY Q3 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 was a great equalizer this year.

Christopher White - Interim Treasurer

Board Positions Open

You might have noticed our Board is looking a little thin? We have two openings and could use another Trustee as well. These are volunteer, unpaid positions. No specific experience required.

Board Secretary – responsible for scheduling board meetings and venues (4X year). Maintains notes during the board meetings and publishes meeting minutes.

Treasurer – Responsible for maintaining FCA accounts, paying invoices, producing financial statements and filing with the IRS annually. Our previous Treasurer, Suzanne Takerian, established a user-friendly online bookkeeping tool to assist.

Trustee – Provides ideas, direction and oversight to the board.

Please consider joining our board. We really need you! Contact Christopher or Nancie.

2021 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 L. Fischer of Ontario, Oregon (36 years) and they have two children, Corinne, 32 (Fayetteville, NC), and Miles, 26 (CPT, US Army, FT Wainright, AK). This will be Christopher’s eighth 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 - We NEED a volunteer!

BOARD SECRETARY: Vacant - We NEED YOU!

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 full time as a concierge for the Fountains at Lakepoint Woods. Nancie has been the Secretary for 32 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 1st 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.

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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