

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

July, 2021

50th Annual Meeting has been scheduled **Friday, January 28th, 2022 2:00 PM**

We are optimistically planning our 50th annual meeting. Not sure about the venue yet, but we invite you to save the date and join us. This will be a celebration of our 50 years of service to over 9000 members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Summer 2021

Hello Members and Friends, since our last update we've added two new board members. Bo Galford as Board Secretary and Chuck Treadway as Treasurer. We appreciate their willingness to serve and share the load. Given the many challenges we have faced this past year, your Funeral Consumer's Alliance remains strong and relevant.

COVID 19 has affected many of us either through inconvenience or personal loss. Through May of this year, it was inconvenience for me, and then I lost a close friend to COVID. We had been best friends since 3d grade at Bay Haven Elementary here in Sarasota. He took the precautions, received his first vaccination within a week of infection. His wife and a daughter were also infected. After hospitalization at SMH (where he was born 63 years ago), he received all the therapeutic treatments, remained isolated and slowly declined. 42 days and he was gone. His spouse of 37 years was devastated. Along the way, she asked for advice on end-of-life planning. They had a living will but neglected to complete the DNR section. No cemetery plot planned. She asked for a Funeral Home recommendation. Since cremation was the best option, I suggested Your Traditions. She told me they were so kind and helpful at the time she needed help the most. That entire family is vaccinated now. My spouse, Dianna and I are test subjects in the Moderna Phase 3 trials. We were both vaccinated a year ago. We remain in the trial as they try and determine how long protection lasts. With new variants appearing all the time, choosing to remain unvaccinated is an unnecessary risk for you and those around you. Dianna and I are proof that the vaccine is safe and effective. Please get the vaccine for your protection and those close to you.

We continue to add valuable, useful information for you by publishing our newsletters twice a year, adding more content to our website at <http://www.fcasarasota.com> and locating more participating providers.

Tucked inside this newsletter is our donation envelope. 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,

I hope 2021 is going well for you. We are looking forward to things returning to “normal” and are hoping to be able to see you in January of 2022 for our 50th annual meeting. The Board of your Funeral Consumer's Alliance continues to meet quarterly and although things have slowed down, we continue to welcome new members and new board members. Our ability to distribute brochures has been challenging over the past year 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. Many members have been updating their records with us. Let us know if you feel you need to update yours. 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 WHO 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

5% discount for FCA Members

\$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

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

For the period January- June 2021, our contribution revenue totals \$1,815 and our new membership dues total \$310 for a grand total of \$2,125. This is a decline of \$1,808 from last year which included our Giving Challenge. Expenses for this period were \$3,811 compared to \$5,594 for January-June 2020, a decrease of \$1,783. We have a year-to-date deficiency of \$1,569. I want to give a sincere thank you to all of you who have donated to our organization.

Chuck Treadway – Treasurer

New Service Record Update Options

As Nancie mentioned above, we have been processing many service record updates. One of our members, Catherine Dente, was waiting on an update form and decided to build her own. The result is a much-improved version that helps us capture more information that will assist your selected funeral provider and your family.

We are adding a self-service tab to our website at <http://www.fcasarasota.com>. The initial service record form, the update form and a digital version of our brochure/member application will be posted there in PDF format. Members can download, complete the form and mail it into Nancie. Once the forms are completed, we only want to work with paper. We don't want to put any member's personal data out on the web, even as an email attachment. We hope this self-service option will give you more control and you can share this with other prospective members. Thanks Catherine!

FEMA COVID FUNERAL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that it will begin applications for reimbursement for funeral expenses of deaths due to Covid. Here are some questions and answers. Please know that the details below are all the details we have. To check for updates to the program, visit FEMA's website. <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

Q: Who will qualify to have their funeral costs reimbursed?

A: Only those families/persons who experienced a death that was caused by Covid. Covid must be explicitly listed on the death certificate as the cause of death.

Q: Did the death from Covid have to occur within a certain time frame to qualify?

A: Yes. The death must have occurred after January 20, 2020. It appears this program will be available for Covid deaths throughout 2021 and beyond.

Q: Will FEMA advance me money upfront to pay for a Covid death funeral?

A: No. Do not contract for a funeral that you cannot afford, assuming that you'll get a grant to pay that funeral in time. You will have to pay for the funeral yourself first, in any case.

Q: How much will FEMA reimburse?

A: Up to \$9,000. But we are uncertain, as these reports contradict the language in the federal legislation that authorized this money. That legislation gives a different amount. We have not received an answer about this discrepancy.

NOTE!—FEMA will NOT reimburse funeral costs that you have already found money to pay for. For example, if you had a life insurance policy that covered part or all of the cost, or if you did a fundraiser to help pay for the funeral, or if you had a pre-need contract, you will not be reimbursed by FEMA for the money from the insurance (including pre-need) or the fundraiser.

Q: What agency should I call to start my application?

A: **You must call FEMA's dedicated line, 844-684-6333. There is no online application. You must apply by phone.**

Q: What should I do to prepare for filing my application?

A: **We suggest you gather the following. This is advice based on our experience, but we do not know for certain what documentation FEMA will require.**

—A certified copy (not a photocopy, an official document from the vital statistics office in your state) of the death certificate. **Remember that Covid must be explicitly listed as the cause of death.**

—A copy of the complete funeral contract, itemized bill, and documentation of any payment you made on that bill. For example, canceled checks, credit card statements, etc.

—Documentation of any and all sources of money you received that helped you pay for some or all of the funeral. This includes things like receipts showing your fundraising total, or copies of any payments the deceased's life insurance company made toward the funeral.

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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