

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, 2021

Help us celebrate at Our 50th Annual Meeting **Friday , March 25th, 2022 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Winter 2022

Happy Holidays. We are celebrating our 50th year serving the Sarasota – Manatee communities. Over the years we've helped over 9000 members with their end of life arrangements. Please plan to join us at the annual meeting where we'll celebrate with some light refreshments and an interesting program. The Director of Eternal Reefs will present on their innovative burial option nearby in the Gulf of Mexico. We'll have COVID 19 precautions as well. Please wear a mask. We'll space out the seating and plan to open the doors for good ventilation. Our by-laws require annual election of officers and trustees. Inside this newsletter is a ballot for the board. Please complete it and return it to us. Normally, we would conduct this business at our January meeting, but postponed the meeting due to COVID concerns.

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. The local provider survey update is complete and posted on our website - Quite a few changes since our last survey in 2016. A summary of the most significant changes is included in this 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. 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,

We are very excited to be planning an in person annual meeting and 50th Anniversary celebration on Friday March 25th, 2022 at 2:00 pm. We moved the date due to the current COVID outbreak related to Omicron.

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 continues to be challenging. As always, we can 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 THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTING YOUR PLAN!** 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 \$870.00, Direct Cremation with minimum cardboard container \$895.00, Immediate Burial \$1,045.00, 5% discount and \$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!*

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

For the period July- November 2021, our contribution revenue totals \$915.00 and our new membership dues total \$240.00 for a grand total of \$1,155.00. Revenue for July-November 2020 was \$1,885.00. This is a decline of \$730.00 from last year. Year-to-date revenue is \$3,890.00, compared to \$5,848.66 for 2020. Expenses for this period were \$4,020.70 compared to \$3,845.00 for July-November 2020, a decrease of \$175.00. We have a year-to-date deficiency of \$1,842.60. Year-to-date expenses are \$6,667.18, compared to \$5,524.29 for 2020. I want to give a sincere thank you to all of you who have donated to our organization.

Chuck Treadway – Treasurer

2021 Funeral Services Provider Survey

We requested General Price Lists (GPL) from all of the area funeral homes. We evaluated these GPLs on price for three categories of service: direct cremation, immediate burial, and a full funeral service. Cremation prices ranged from \$895 to over \$3270 for the same service. The cost for immediate burial (excludes embalming and includes lowest priced casket) ranged from \$2085 to \$5145. The cost for a full funeral service including embalming, viewing, transportation and graveside services ranged from \$2900 to \$8545. Important to note, the cost of the immediate burial and the full funeral service does not include the cost of a casket, cemetery plot, burial liner (vault) or burial marker.

The survey revealed some interesting details about our local funeral homes, their pricing and compliance with the FTC's Funeral Rule. It also illustrates how funeral homes serving minority communities price higher and will help finance the services selected. Private –vs – corporate ownership was another area where corporate homes prices are higher. Corporate-owned funeral homes were consistently more expensive than private-owned funeral homes for all of the services evaluated. The average price for a direct cremation, immediate burial, and full funeral service at corporate-owned funeral homes is 36%, 40% and 30% more expensive respectively, when compared with the averages for same services at privately-owned funeral homes. One exception was Sound Choice which is SCI owned, but marketed as a thrift. They are very competitive. Robert Toale and Sons is an SCI provider.

A relatively new trend is toward “direct disposers”. These are providers who operate without a licensed Funeral Director. Direct Disposers are licensed and regulated by the state. They only offer cremation. As a result they generally have lower costs. Gulf Coast Cremations is a good example. They offer direct cremation for \$930 with an alternative container and temporary urn included. Tulip is another option. Completely internet based, Tulip offers direct cremation for \$900. Pick-up area is large and included. Cremains are returned to the family by Priority Mail.

One important point is that most funeral homes offer service packages. These are often the best value. Because these packages vary in content, we did not compare them in the survey. You can always negotiate if you feel the list or offered price is just too high.

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, 33 (Fayetteville, NC), and Miles, 27 (CPT, US Army, UK Lexington KY) and one grandchild, Neva. 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: Chuck Treadway – Chuck grew up in Miami, FL, after graduating he joined the Air Force Reserve, and then began his career with BellSouth/AT&T/Lucent Technologies. His career moved him to Atlanta GA area where he retired in 2000. He had two more careers as a project manager for a small software company, again retiring in 2008 and finally as a real estate appraiser, retiring in 2013. With his spouse, Ruth, they sold their home and became full time RV’ers. They spent the next 4 years traveling the country, a journey he will always treasure. They have visited almost every state in their RV and have seen so much of this amazing country. In 2016 they decided to return to Florida and chose to locate in Sarasota. They still travel in the RV when away from Sarasota during the summer and fall months. This will be Chuck’s second year as Treasurer.

BOARD SECRETERY: Rosemary “Bo” Galford - Bo was born in Michigan and is a widow with two “over-the-hill” children. She migrated to the west coast, lived in San Francisco, Sonora, and Sequim. Then she headed to Seattle, returned to school, and received her MFA in Graphic Design at the University of Washington. She bartended at a wine bar in downtown Seattle, then went to work for a software company designing software manuals. Those were the days when software came in boxes. During a vacation in Hawaii, she and her family took scuba lessons, which provided a good reason to visit exotic dive spots. She retired to Sarasota to join her son and his best friend from high school where they opened and run a Scuba Center - - Florida Underwater Sports.

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 as of Feb. 2016, 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 fourth 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.

Saying Goodbye doesn’t have to be so expensive or complicated, let FCA help you plan a dignified 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.

Funeral Consumers Alliance
P.O. Box 15833
Sarasota, FL 34277