

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

Visit our NEW website [www.fcasarasota.com](http://www.fcasarasota.com)

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941-953-3740

July, 2022

Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Year serving over 9000 members

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Summer 2022

Hello Members and Friends, since our last update we've added one new board member. Brenda Gimman has joined as a Trustee and we could certainly use another Trustee. Minimal time commitment.

I have big news to announce. The Tampa Bay chapter asked to merge with us. The Board approved the merger which will take place in late December of this year. More on this on page 3.

Some of our members have been contacted by a woman named Gayle. She told our members that their funeral arrangements with Wiegand or Robert Toll & Sons were incomplete. She is selling a pre-need contract. For many years we provided your preferred arrangements with Wiegand. We haven't shared anything since they went corporate. They are mining those personal info sheets for sales leads. If you are committed to using either of these providers, you might reconsider. Your Traditions is a preferred provider with excellent service and value.

My spouse, Dianna and I are test subjects in the Moderna Phase 3 trials. We were both vaccinated 2 years ago and boosted twice. Our participation in the trial ends next month. 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 have some changes coming to the Board next year. I'll be stepping down as President and taking over for Nancie, as the Business Secretary, Nancie will stay on as a Trustee. More on this on page 2.

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,

We celebrated 50 years of serving the community on Friday March 25, 2022. It was great to see those that attended our meeting and celebration. Recently we learned, from member feedback, that a representative from one of our cooperating funeral providers has been contacting FCA members. The representative is encouraging members who have not already prepaid for final arrangements to do so. The Funeral Consumers Alliance does not advocate prepaid funeral contracts! We feel members should make the choice to prepay or not based on their individual needs. Funeral providers are given pertinent information on our members in order to help with end of life matters at the time of need. Providers are asked to not use member information for solicitation but there are times when they feel they are being helpful by reaching out. If you ever receive a call or written communication from one of our providers, feel free to call us at 941-953-3740 or email us at [fcasarasota@gmail.com](mailto:fcasarasota@gmail.com).to let us know and answer any questions you may have. The board of your Funeral Consumer's Alliance continues to meet quarterly and we continue to welcome new members and new board members. 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 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 fcasarasota@gmail.com

*Nancie Edwards*

#### CURRENT PARTICIPATING FUNERAL PROVIDERS & PRICES

**Your Traditions Cremation& Funeral Chapel** - 2118 Constitution Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34231 941-921-4247

Direct Cremation with minimum container \$845.00, Immediate Burial \$1,045.00, \$35 medical examiners fee is included for members of FCA \*Prices subject to change

**Robert Toale & Son (formerly Wiegand Brothers)** – 7454 S. 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 plus \$35 medical examiners fee, includes ceremony at Sarasota National Cemetery, Simple Cremation Package \$685.00 plus \$35 medical examiners fee.\*contact directly for prices on other services. \*Prices subject to change

#### **A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

For the period January- June 2021, our member contribution revenue totals \$1,825.00 and we received \$3,455.23 from the Giving Challenge for a total of \$5,280.23 in contributions. Our new membership dues total \$150.00 for a grand total income of \$5,430.23. Year-to-date revenue is \$5,430.23, compared to \$2,125.00 for 2021, this is an increase of \$3,305.23 from last year Expenses for this period were \$3,703.82 compared to \$3,864.28 for January-June 2021, a decrease of \$156.46. We have a year-to-date surplus of \$1,722.41. Many thanks to all who have joined or donated direct contributions to FCA Sarasota Manatee and for those giving to the Giving Challenge, your contributions are what keep us solvent.

*Chuck Treadway – Treasurer*

#### **PLANNED BOARD CHANGES 2023**

We have an opening for President of the chapter in 2023. As I step down and take over for Nancie, as the Business Secretary, we still have a full board and trustees. Time commitments for President are and much or little as you like. While I did devote more time to improving the chapter, the next President can simply preside over 4 meetings a year. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact me or Nancie.

## FCA Tampa Bay merger with FCA Sarasota-Manatee

FCA Tampa Bay has been a chapter in decline for many years. The current President, Sandy Elmore has held the chapter together with limited support for many years. She is turning 80 and decided now was the time to retire. With no one to replace her, she could merge with a nearby chapter or fold and return her members to FCA National. They have 616 members spread across 5 counties. We have 2800 members across 4 counties. Tampa Bay has a contract with a family owned funeral home, Brewer and Sons with 7 chapels and the rates are as good as or better than our preferred providers. This will result in a name change to FCA Suncoast Florida next year. One of their members will join our Board as a trustee in January.

## Changes coming to the FTC Funeral Rule

The national Funeral Consumers Alliance and the Consumer Federation of America just released a fascinating report. They **surveyed over 1,000 funeral homes** across the country to see if they post their **general price list (GPL)** on their website.

The **1984 Funeral Rule** requires that funeral homes provide consumers with a **written, itemized price list** if they visit in-person, as well as provide a price quote over the phone if requested. It's shocking that this is the **only federal legislation** that governs the funeral industry... and it hasn't been updated since it was originally written!

Many advocacy organizations (including PMA and FCA!) are recommending that the Federal Trade Commission update this legislation to **require funeral homes to post their pricing on their websites**.

We know that the current rules place an undue burden on grieving consumers as they seek to make informed decisions about deathcare, especially in light of the ongoing **COVID-19** pandemic. Of the over 2,000 funeral consumers surveyed separately earlier this year, 41% said that when they were planning a funeral they **only visited one funeral home** to obtain a price list!

*To read the report in its entirety,  
[click here.](#)*

Our FCA Sarasota – Manatee provider survey shows that less than 20% of funeral homes in our area make their General Price Lists (GPL) available on line. The few that do, do not always make it easy to find. Of course you never find an internet based GPL on a corporate owned provider, like SCI. Web based companies like Tulip do provide GPLs on their websites. In the survey you can see those that do make their GPLs available on their websites. We also have a complete GPL repository of every provider in Sarasota, Manatee, Desoto and Charlotte counties.

### Notable Findings

- Only **18%** of those funeral homes surveyed posted their general price lists online.
- Looking specifically at cremation across ten cities revealed that the **highest price was typically at least four times greater than the lowest price.**
- Price disclosure rates are higher on the **west coast.**
- **75% of funeral consumers** support requiring online price disclosures.

From our Friends at the Peoples Memorial Society  
Seattle Washington

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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