

FUNERAL CONSUMER'S ALLIANCE OF SUNCOAST FLORIDA, INC.

Visit our NEW website www.FCASuncoastFL.com

P.O. BOX 15833 SARASOTA, FL 34277

Email FCASuncoastFL@gmail.com

941-953-3740

Christopher White, Editor

December, 2023

Help us celebrate at Our 52nd Annual Meeting **Friday, January 27th, 2024 2:00 PM**

Our Meeting will be held at the Fruitville Public Library in Sarasota. The address of the library is 100 Apex Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240 (just east of I75 off Fruitville Rd. The business meeting will include the following: Reports from the Secretary & Treasurer and a program featuring Tidewell Hospice

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Winter 2024

Happy Holidays. We are celebrating our 52nd year serving the Sarasota – Manatee communities. Please plan to join us at the annual meeting where we'll celebrate with some light refreshments, elect the next board and answer your questions related to the merger and a program from Tidewell Hospice. I can say we've made great progress with local, state and federal agencies and organizations with the name change. 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, you can also vote by email or of course in person at the meeting. 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.FCASuncoastFL.com> and locating more participating providers. The local provider survey for 2021 is complete and posted on our website. We are working on a 2023 update to include our new merged Tampa Bay counties. 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.

Keith Miller – President

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. We are looking forward to our 52st Annual Meeting! I We wish you all a Happy & Healthy 2024! 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. 2024 the Giving Challenge returns from noon-to-noon April 9-10, 2024. We will email a link to our Giving Partner site and post it on our website. Your donations are matched up to \$100. Let us know if you would like extra brochures mailed to you or have anyone interested have them contact us. 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 YOUR LOVED ONES!** As the person who answers the phone and email correspondence, I'm often asked if my loved one had a pre-need contract, or in some cases what plan did they have? If you have a pre-need contract, please let us know so we can update your service record. 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 FCASuncoastFL@gmail.com

Christopher White – Secretary

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

CURRENT PARTICIPATING FUNERAL PROVIDERS & PRICES

Your Traditions Cremation & Funeral Chapel - 2118 Constitution Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34231 941-921-4247
Direct Cremation with minimum container \$**\$1090.00, \$35 medical examiners fee is included for members of FCA *Prices subject to change **This is a price change from \$845

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 \$795.00 plus \$35 medical examiners fee and death certificate for FCA members. *contact directly for prices on other services. *Prices subject to change

Brewer and Sons Funeral Home and Cremation - 3228 S Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33629 813-835-4991
Direct Cremation \$950, Direct Burial \$1050. Many other discounted services for FCA members. See their GPL on our website for more details

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

For the period July - November 2023, our contribution revenue totals \$1,093.01 and our membership dues total \$370.00 for a grand total of \$1,463.01. Revenue for July-November 2022 was \$1,029.00, this is an increase of \$434.01 from last year. Year-to-date revenue is \$9,820.56, compared to \$6,309.23 for 2022. This is an increase of \$3,511.33 (this includes the \$6104.23 from the merger of the FCA Tampa chapter). Expenses for this period were \$2,146.04 compared to \$2,854.06 for July-November 2022, a decrease of \$708.02. Year-to-date expenses are \$3,454.53, compared to \$6,561.88 for 2022. This is a decrease of \$3,107.35. We have a year-to-date deficiency of \$683.03. I want to give a sincere thank you to all of you who have donated to our organization over the past year, these contributions are essential to the ongoing longevity of our chapter. *Chuck Treadway – Treasurer*

2023 Merger of FCA Tampa Bay and FCA Sarasota-Manatee

As I mentioned in the Summer Newsletter, we are merged with FCA Tampa Bay effective 1 January, 2023. We're excited to welcome all of our FCA Tampa Bay members We have 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. It will take some time to merge the member records and files. We have made great progress with our banks, the State of Florida and a new IRS determination letter confirming our 501C3 Charitable Status. We plan to extend our provider survey to Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk and Pasco counties. There are about 180 funeral homes and direct disposers in those 4 counties. When complete we will post it to our website.



Noon-to-Noon April 9-10, 2024

Donations matched up to \$100 by the Patterson Foundation. Help us restore our reserves during this year's Giving Challenge. Check our website, FCASuncoastFL.com for updates. Here is the link to our page at the Giving Partner - www.givingchallenge.org/organizations/funeral-consumers-alliance-of-suncoast-florida-inc

2024 NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

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 Master's in Education from Lesley College. In retirement she enjoys golf, reading and volunteering. Keith joined the FCA board in 2017.

VICE PRESIDENT: Rich Gilbert - I am 73 years old, in good health (as far as I know), married to one woman for 53 years, raised two sons, and have eleven healthy grandchildren, now happily retired for almost six years. I was born in Iowa, grew up in Indiana, went to Michigan for college, got married, worked and raised our sons, always wanting to leave the cold. We finally moved to Florida in 2003. We joined FCA-Tampa Bay in 2017. I've been helping Sandra Elmore. She has been the driving force for years in FCA-Tampa Bay. I completed two years of college (engineering school) before forfeiting a degree to undertake familial responsibilities. I worked twenty-four-plus years for the City of Flint, Michigan, retiring in 1994. I was a real estate appraiser in the City Tax Assessor's office. After that I worked several years for a small non-profit Christian organization as the Business Director. After I rested a while, I needed a job, so I went to truck driving school and drove an eighteen-wheeler for the next fifteen-plus years, retiring in 2017. Rich joined the FCA Board in 2023.

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 fourth year as Treasurer.

BOARD SECRETARY: 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. This will be Bo's third year on the FCA Board.

BUSINESS SECRETARY: 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 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 married to the former Dianna L. Fischer of Ontario, Oregon (39 years) and they have two children, Corinne, 35 (Tampa. FL), and Miles, 29 (CPT, US Army, UK Lexington KY) and one grandchild, Neva. This will be Christopher's 9th year on the FCA Board.

TRUSTEES

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 33 years. This will be Nancie's second year as a Trustee.

Brenda Gimán - Brenda was born and raised in central New Jersey, between Princeton and New Brunswick. Educated at Montclair University with a degree in Biology and later an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She worked for 32 years for a multinational pharmaceutical company, in production and research and development ending with a career in Quality and Compliance. Following early retirement, Brenda and her late husband, William, relocated to the Trilogy at Vistancia community in Peoria Arizona. Brenda served on the volunteer boards of several non-profits. This will be Brenda's second year as Trustee.

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 Suncoast Florida, 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

