

THE FUNERAL CONSUMER SOCIETY OF COLORADO
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NEWS & VIEWS

(Published bi-annually in April & November)

FCSC NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2016

FCSC MISSION STATEMENT

FCSC was founded a half century ago with the goal of helping families find funeral or memorial services at fair prices, but it has greatly expanded to include education of all end-of-life topics.

ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY MAY 7, 2016

Location: First Universalist Church, 4101 E. Hampden Avenue, Denver (northeast corner of intersection of S. Colorado Blvd. & E. Hampden Ave.)
Times: **9:00-9:30 a.m. *Coffee, tea and refreshments in the lobby***
9:30-10:00 a.m. *Business Meeting and Election of Directors*
10:00-11:59 a.m. *Presentations and discussions (see pg. 2)*

*Note: Your board meets on the fourth Thursday of the month six times a year, plus the annual meeting where we invite speakers. Please feel free to join us at 10 a.m., at First Universalist Church, 4101 E. Hampden Avenue. Call ahead at **303-759-2800** to learn the exact date of the next board meeting.*

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Has your Membership expired? Please check the address label for your Dues Date (for example, DD: 01-Jul-16), above your name. If this date is past or coming up soon, you must **renew your membership now** to remain active. Dues are \$10 for one person and \$20 for a couple, for two years. If the year indicated is 2017 or 2018, you are paid up until then. If you see DD: Life Member, you paid more to join as a life member prior to 1999 and owe nothing more. ***Voluntary contributions are always appreciated.*** Remember, we are strictly a volunteer organization, and no one is paid. All funds are dedicated to expenses of the society. **NEW MEMBERS** are welcome! We know there are people out there who don't know the ***Funeral Consumer Society of Colorado*** (FCSC) exists. There are many people who don't know what our purpose is (see the FCSC Mission Statement). Help us by giving a friend your newsletter, and inform them of our service...you will be doing them a favor!

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

To look at a summary of Legislative Bills that have recently been introduced or acted upon in the Colorado Legislature, go to: www.leg.state.co.us

Senate Bill 16-025 concerning End-Of-Life Options for Terminally Ill Individuals was postponed indefinitely on Feb. 3. It will likely be re-written and brought up next year

On another note, California approved their version of the "Death with Dignity" (Doctor assisted death). It is the fifth state to pass this legislation, as of September, 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

In keeping with FCSC's Mission Statement of informing and educating consumers, the Board has agreed on spending to provide information booths at **Senior Law Day** (in October), and three Senior Resource Days. Malley Center in Englewood had an "**Active Aging Expo**" on April 7, 2016. Goodson Rec Center in Centennial will have a **Senior Resource Day** on May 3, 2016, and Buck Rec Center's Senior Resource Day in Littleton will be on May 4th. There will be note pad handouts at each, and a new 6 foot banner will be displayed.

Board Member Grant Steffen recently was requested to give an Outreach speech at Shepherd of the Hills Church in Lakewood, which he did on February 19th. Grant also spoke at the Malley Center's "Active Age Expo" on April 7. These Outreach Presentations are free; contact FCSC (see phone and e-mail on page header) if you would like your group to hear his talk, and ask questions about the funeral industry. See pictures on the "Photos & Videos" page, under "About Us" on our web site: <http://FuneralConsumerColorado.org>.

On January 2, 2016, FCSC was honored to have John Lantz, President of The Memorial Society of Georgia and Board Member of the Funeral Consumers Alliance, visit with several of our Board members. He is very well-informed and has creative ideas for promoting our goals. We look forward to seeing him again in May; he will be one of the guest speakers at our Annual Meeting. Check this newsletter about "**Speakers for the May 7 Annual FCSC Meeting**".

The March Bulletin of AARP notes that funeral home prices can be compared by visiting www.parting.com, a nationwide database started in 2015, based in California. Prices can be searched by location, with a link to their General Price Lists.

2014-2015 FCSC BOARD MEMBERS

Our current Officers and Directors are listed below. Term on the Board expires in the year in ().

Jan Eccher	(2016) President	Ross Getchell	(2016) Education
Anthony Bowerman	(2016) Membership Serv.	Judy Taylor	(2016) Media
Jim Taylor	(2018) Treasurer	Larry Clarke	(2018) Phone Secretary
Em Putnam	(2018) Secretary	Grant Steffen	(2016) Vice President & Phone Secretary

We need to have some new candidates for the Board of Directors! Fresh ideas are always welcome. At the Annual Meeting we will attempt to fill 8 vacancies on the Board. If you are willing to help plan and implement the future of the Society, please consider becoming a Board Member. For information about what is involved, please call us at 303-759-2800, or by **E-mail at fucosoco@yahoo.com**. Ross Getchell announced his retirement in May, 2015, and he passed away March 16, 2016. He joined FCSC's Board twenty years ago in February, 1995.

A REMINDER:

There are several web sites by other organizations which erroneously describe FCSC as a “funeral home”. We are in the process of notifying the various sources and clarifying this mistaken identity. We are not a charity nor a funeral home, nor a funeral insurance plan, nor prepayment plan. We are not affiliated with any mortuary. We do not make decisions for our members. We are a voluntary educational organization, which provides funeral information to help you, or your survivors, make these choices. Although we are not antagonistic to the funeral industry, we are a force promoting consumer choice and fair dealing from them.

OTHER NEWS

FCSC has the revised (2014) Member Handbook available for all FCSC members. This is issued to all new members as part of their membership package. **Existing members can purchase a copy for the price of \$10.00.** Order from FCSC, 4101 E. HAMPDEN AVENUE, DENVER, CO 80222-7262, or order one through e-mail: fucosoco@yahoo.com

FCSC has created a new tri-fold publication, one which makes it clear that our main mission is education on end-of-life issues. These are being distributed in waiting rooms of nursing homes, hospices and hospitals, as well as being given out to prospective FCSC members. They are also being used as handouts at the upcoming public events, such as the Senior Resource days at three different Rec Centers, and the Senior Law day in October at the Merchandise Mart.

Much hard work has been done this spring on the **Provider Contract**. The total contract has been re-worded and updated to clarify expectations between FCSC and funeral providers. See the next page of this newsletter about our (presently) four **FCSC Contract Providers**.

Speakers for the May 7 Annual FCSC Meeting:

John Lantz, President of The Memorial Society of Georgia and Board Member of the Funeral Consumers Alliance, will be one of the guest speakers. John has interesting information about a professionals’ seminar for required credits, titled “Death and Dying for Credit”, and also about Advanced Directives. He is a retired attorney, and has an informed perspective on many aspects of end-of-life issues.

Lynn Weitzel from “Compassion and Choices” is expected to be a guest speaker.

Stewart Fleisher, an estate attorney, may speak on Colorado rules, regulations and new taxes related to estate planning in lieu of Compassion and Choices. Stewart has been a popular Annual Meeting guest speaker for several years; he served many years on the FCSC Board.

---Questions, answers and discussion to follow presentations---

FINANCIAL SUMMARY April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016:

<u>Income:</u>		<u>Expenses:</u>	
Contributions	\$ 1,465.00	FCA dues & donation	\$ 1,287.49
Handbook Purchases	\$ 235.00	Printing (newsletters, etc.)	\$ 1,387.99
Interest & dividends	\$ 893.50	Postage	\$ 2,244.15
Membership fees new	\$ 1,050.00	Telephone	\$ 886.21
Memb. fees renew	\$ 2,230.00	Education & Advertising	\$ 2,791.03
Other Income	\$ 0.00	Other expenses	\$ 396.68
Total income	\$ 5,873.50	Total expenses	\$ 8,993.55

Thanks to contributions, bequests, new members and member renewals, along with the reserves, your organization is financially sound.

FCSC CONTRACT PROVIDERS and FCSC member prices (as of March 2014)

Note: All direct burial prices *include* a minimum casket. Basic funeral and graveside service prices do *not* include a casket. Funeral followed by cremation includes rental casket. Contact the provider for more information or prices for other services.

Stork Family Mortuary

1895 Wadsworth Blvd.

Lakewood, CO 80214

303-237-5350

direct cremation with no services or viewing: **\$925**

direct cremation with memorial services: **\$1,445**

direct burial, no services: **\$1,395**

graveside services (plus casket): **\$1,575**

traditional services (church or chapel) + casket: **\$1,890**

ship out charges (no casket plus airfare) **\$995**

funeral service with cremation after: **\$2,175**

M.P. Murphy & Associates Funeral Directors

7464 Arapahoe Rd Suite A-3

Boulder, CO 80303

303-530-4111

Mail to: P.O. Box 21450, Boulder, Co 80308-4450

direct cremation, no services **\$995**

direct burial, no services: **\$1,475**

basic traditional funeral: **\$3,580**

graveside service: **\$3,380**

funeral, cremation after: **\$3,580**

(Less 15% of all prices for members)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel

121 W. Olive St.

Fort Collins, CO 80524

970-482-4244

direct cremation- no services: **\$995**

direct burial-no services: **\$1,495**

traditional funeral: **\$1,600**

graveside services: **\$1,395**

funeral-cremation after: **\$2,100**

Cappadona Funeral Home, Inc.

1020 East Fillmore Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

719-520-1817

Mail to: P.O. Box 8151, Colorado Springs, Co 80933

direct cremation, no services **\$825**

direct burial, no services: **\$1,645**

basic traditional funeral: **\$1,840**

graveside service: **\$1,540**

funeral, cremation after: **\$2,315**

PLEASE tell us if you move

If you have changed your mailing address, **please notify us** by sending the form below (or by E-mail: fucosoco@yahoo.com) by USPS to **FCSC, 4101 E. HAMPDEN AVENUE, DENVER, CO 80222-7262**. You can also use this form to pay dues, or to make a donation to the Society to keep us financially strong. If you know someone who is not a member, they can use this form to join.

Member Name(s): _____

Please check appropriate box: I am a current (____) new (____) member of FCSC.

Old address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

New address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email address: _____

I would like to make a donation to the Society in the amount of: _____

Enclosed are my dues for the next two years: (\$10 per adult member) _____

Please send an FCSC information brochure and application to: