

THE FUNERAL CONSUMER SOCIETY OF COLORADO
4101 E. HAMPDEN AVENUE
DENVER, CO 80222-7262
303-759-2800
E-MAIL ADDRESS: fucosoco@yahoo.com

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 142

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWS & VIEWS

(Published bi-annually in April & November)

FCSC NEWSLETTER
FALL 2014

FCSC MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to inform and educate consumers on significant end-of-life issues.

Whom do you know...

Who has not heard of **FCSC**? You can do your friends and family a favor by informing them of the services this society provides. Ask if they would like more info, either by one of our mailings or by looking us up on our Web site: <http://funeralconsumercolorado.org>. Call 303-759-2800, or write to: **FCSC, 4101 E. HAMPDEN AVENUE, DENVER, CO 80222-7262.**

We need one new Board Member to make our voting numbers uneven! For information about what is involved, please call us at 303-759-2800, or e-mail: fucosoco@yahoo.com. Our officers are: President, Jan Eccher; Vice-President, Grant Steffen; Secretary, Mary Putnam; Treasurer, Jim Taylor.

Are Your Dues Now Due?

Please check the address label for your Dues Date (DD). If this date is past, or coming up soon, you must renew your membership now to remain active.

FCSC has a new Website!

The new domain name, www.funeralconsumercolorado.org was chosen at the September Board meeting. There will be changes and additions listed on the bottom of the home page for members to check without viewing the whole site. In development for the website, are videos of interviews of Board members, done by our Board member and videographer, Larry Clark.

We welcome you to view our new website and share it with your friends and relatives; the site has much information and links to other websites that can answer many questions you might have. FCSC is also in the process of investigating creating an ad, using Facebook.

FCSC Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Funeral Consumer Society of Colorado was held on May 3, 2014 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Denver, with over 50 people in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Jan Eccher, President. Jan spoke about our activities this year:

- One bill carried this year - HB 1059, which ensures that the discharge of cartridges fired at military funerals is not a crime.
- Member totals are 3,270. One hundred eighteen Life Members have died in the fiscal year, and Dues-paying Members have shrunk by twenty-seven, due mostly to changes in address.
- One of our goals is to increase membership. We're planning to advertise.
- Jan announced that though expenses were slightly higher than income this year, the \$100,000+ inheritance from a deceased member's estate boosted our net worth to a higher level than ever before. We are now considering the best ways to use the money.
- It is suggested that we distribute the Newsletter via email. This would save postage costs, but many people want to receive the hard copy via USPS. We need many more email addresses to consider this option; the Board will look into this.

Jan then introduced the first speaker, **Stewart Fleisher**. Highlights of both presentations follow: (a synopsis of the presentations is on FCSC's website, www.funeralconsumercolorado.org),

Stewart is an Estate Planning Attorney and former FCSC Board member. He talked about Estate and Gift Taxes, the Step up in "Basis", the Small Estate Affidavit, Inherited IRAs, Probate, and many other topics. Stewart urged us to have a comprehensive estate plan which includes, at a minimum, the following documents: a Will, Durable General Power of Attorney, a Health Care Power of Attorney, a Living Will, and the HIPPA Medical Release.

The second speaker was introduced: **Josh Slocum**, who is the Executive Director of the Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA), the "umbrella" organization for the eighty groups across the country who are affiliated, of which we are one. Josh was brought in from Vermont to speak. Josh is highly knowledgeable in end-of-life issues, and voiced his concern about the conglomerates that are taking over the funeral industry. His, and FCA's mission, is to educate, get rid of bogus assumptions, and to explain legal, burial, cremation, and body disposal rights. Josh's humorous, yet serious, presentation was warmly received by the 50-some people attending.

The date of the next Annual Meeting is May 2, 2015, at 9:00 AM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Denver.

Treasury

Jim Taylor, Treasurer, has researched ways for our treasury to remain healthy. With consent of the Board, much of the deceased member's inheritance has been transferred into a CD, a money market fund, and an associated checking account. We continue to have expenses for printing of the newsletter and Handbooks, for mailing charges and for special travel.

Other News

We remind everyone that they are welcome to attend any of our Board meetings. These are generally held at 10:00 AM on the fourth Thursday of the month. Check with one of our Board Members for an exact date, as these meetings are held only six times per year.

Revised Handbook: FCSC has completed a revision of its member 55-page Handbook. The booklet is issued to all new members as part of their membership package. **Anyone 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 The Handbook can also be ordered for \$1.00 for the electronic version.

Because of the handbook sales, the Board agreed to order more. Included will be new information on body donations:

“The Colorado Anatomical Board at the University of Colorado Medical School will pay for the transport of a body from within the greater Denver Metro area...”

At our May 22nd Board Meeting, Grant Steffen was appointed Vice President; he also agreed to serve as the Outreach person and has spoken at the Lakewood Kiwanis Club (on 9/11), and plans to do a presentation at Windsor Gardens.

FCSC sent Grant to the FCA Convention in Minneapolis, which began on July 7. Upon his return, he gave a summary of some of the workshops he attended: "How to Get The Death You Want", "Funeral Home Pricing", "Alkaline Hydrolysis, a New Method of Cremation", and "Home Funerals and At-Home Body Care". Grant also attended Senior Law Day at the Denver Merchandise Mart.

Board Members Larry Clarke and Grant Steffen will be the telephone message responders, acting alternately on Wednesdays and Sundays. They are also working together to create videos of interviews with Board members for our new website.

The price survey being done by Board members is in the process now. There are 211 funeral homes in the Denver Metro area that are listed by DORA (Dept. of Regulatory Agencies), and some are not included. Letters e-mails and phone calls are being done from the ever-changing listings. As of the end of September we have over 40 responses. This survey is a BIG project!

There are several websites 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; FCSC is NOT a funeral home, nor are we affiliated with any mortuary.

Ross Goetchell, Board Member in charge of Education, recently learned that currently there are about 15 to 30 funerals a day at Fort Logan, which equals about 900 every month. An all-veteran Honor Guard is available at Fort Logan burials upon request.

Ross also gave a report on the history of our flag, and that a high school student has been credited with designing the 50-star American flag as part of his American History class.

Need a Guest Speaker?

For those of you who belong to organizations that plan monthly meetings, FCSC can provide a guest speaker who can present a program (half hour to one hour) regarding basic information of our organization, “End of Life Issues” or “Being a Wise Consumer Regarding Cremations and Funerals”. There is no charge, but donations are graciously accepted; please call our office, 303-759-2800.

Executors of estates are urgently advised to note that a deceased is a member of FCSC in order to get the contracted price on services from a contract provider mortuary.

FCSC Contract Providers

FCSC member prices (as of Oct. 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: **\$875**

direct cremation with memorial services: **\$1,395**

direct burial, no services: **\$1,305**

graveside services (plus casket): **\$1,425**

traditional services (church or chapel) + casket: **\$1,780**

ship out charges (no casket plus airfare) **\$875**

funeral service with cremation after: **\$1,975**

M.P. Murphy & Associates Funeral Directors

7464 Arapahoe Rd Suite A-3

Boulder, CO 80303

303-530-4111

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

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

719-520-1817

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**

If you have changed your mailing address, please notify us by sending the form below (or by e-mail) 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: _____

E-mail 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: