

THE FUNERAL CONSUMER SOCIETY OF COLORADO
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NEWS & VIEWS

(Published bi-annually in April & November)

FCSC NEWSLETTER
FALL 2019

FCSC Mission Statement

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

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To Contact Us:

We have a new phone number: (720) 432-5379. Our address is **FCSC, PO BOX 4743, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80155-4743.** The Board has its monthly meetings at the Englewood Library, and meets on the fourth Thursday of the month, six times a year, at 10:15 a.m. Please feel free to join us (see the Web site: www.funeralconsumercolorado.org). Call ahead to learn the exact date of the next Board Meeting. Our Annual Meeting, May 2, 2020, will be at the Malley Senior Recreation Center, Englewood, CO 80110, at 9:00 a.m.

FLASH!!!!!!!!

Your society is in urgent need of a Board Secretary! If you volunteer, you would become vital part of our very important non-profit work. You would receive a free Handbook and become a free member for life. We meet eight times a year at the Englewood library, on the morning of the 4th Thursday of the month.

Has your Membership expired? Please check the address label for your Dues Date (for example, DD: 01-Jul-19), above your name. Dues, which initially includes a Handbook, are \$10 for one person and \$20 for a couple, for two years. If the year indicated is 2020 or 2021, 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. **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's Website

Check our website (<http://funeralconsumercolorado.org>) for changes and additions. These are listed at the bottom of the "Home" page. There have been 14 additions since the last (Spring) newsletter; these include excerpts of the Annual Meeting in May, the Spring Newsletter (and past issues), Board meeting notes, and many of the Outreach presentations and future locations of such.

2019 Board Meeting News

- * **A request from our FCSC telephone answerers:** Please, when you're calling our new number (**720-432-5379**) and you get a recording, speak loudly, slowly and clearly! Someone from our Board will return your call within 24 hours if they can hear your message. Some messages haven't been returned because they could not be heard or understood. And we want to help you find the answers you need!
- * We had agreed to change our FCSC phone number to Google voice. We are announcing our new phone number in this Fall Newsletter; we will cancel the older number in about a month.
- * FCSC has a new President: Jill Ross, and a new Vice President: Sue Mackey.
- * Anthony reports that our membership is increasing; it is still over 3000 in Colorado.
- * Jan learned that a 2018 survey showed Americans and Coloradans are choosing cremation. In Boulder County it was 75.2%. In Colorado cremations were at 72.2% and just 18.9% favor burial.
- * There are now 8 states that have legalized Medical Aid in Dying: CA, CO, HI, OR, VT, MT, NJ, and now Maine.
- * Jan shared a very interesting article which exposes the conflict between the CO aid-in-dying law and faith-based health care businesses. FCSC will be monitoring this as news come up.
- * There are 9 new entries on the website since May's Annual Meeting; learn what they are by checking the bottom of the home page.

Need a Guest Speaker?

For those of you who belong to organizations that plan periodic meetings, FCSC can provide a guest speaker who can present a program (half hour to one hour) regarding basic information about our organization, "End of Life Issues" or "Being a Wise Consumer Regarding Cremations and Funerals". There is no charge, but donations are graciously accepted.

Several of our current Outreach speakers have given presentations to various groups in the Denver Metro area, and now with agreement from the Board we're pursuing new contract arrangements with other mortuaries around the state to achieve our mutual goals as a way to offer members dignified at-death arrangements at a reasonable cost. This will greatly help people in outlying communities to understand FCSC's mission: ***"To inform and educate consumers on significant end-of-life issues"***.

Annual Meeting Speakers - 2019

Lindsey Wolman is an employee serving as the Outreach Manager at Donor Alliance, an organization which oversees organ and tissue donations for transplant. They are located in the Lowry area. The organization is highly regulated by the Federal Government, and it has had sixteen years of experience working with funeral businesses. They handle all tissue and organ donations. Currently, there are about 140,000 people in the U.S. waiting for a transplant. Over the years, sixty million people have donated tissue, organs and even bones.

Donors are recognized by the black heart symbol which is on the bottom right hand corner of their driver's licenses. The process is time- sensitive and must be done within 24 hours of death. Donor Alliance can be notified by family members, doctors, coroners, police, hospitals and

hospices. They do the initial screening, and then they recover tissue and organs. After that, they talk to family members, explaining the process and answering questions.

A donor's wishes are legally binding. Nobody can override a donation request. There is no age limit for donors. Sometimes a request to donate is part of a will; sometimes the donor is on the Donor Alliance Registry. There is no need for a family member to approve a donor request. There is a fee for transportation of the body, but often Medicare or Medicaid can help.

Occasionally, family members are unaware of the fact that another member has become an organ and/or tissue donor. Normally family member support is excellent. But sometimes family members object to proceeding with the donation. This often happens when the family had no knowledge of the choice. But their objection cannot be honored. Sometimes, because the donor has an infectious disease, his or her tissue and organs must be rejected.

Heather McGuire is a Death Doula, a "soul midwife," a person who is a witness to a client's dying and who supports the family by being present. She can give not only emotional support, but also physical and pain management support. She helps clients to figure out how to plan his/her last days. It is important clients know they aren't alone. She helps clients think of meaningful times in life and become less stressed by death. She also supports family members who frequently have no idea of what to do or say. They can be completely unprepared.

It was immediately clear that her caring, generous and loving personality is perfect for the role of assisting clients as well as family members facing the death of a loved one. She has had many, actually joyful, experiences with her clients.

Heather told us stories of experiences with specific people. One time she found a male client wiping tears from his eyes. But after a while with her, he discovered his energy had soared to the point where he determined to hold tight till the moment he died.

She worked with a female client who had five children whom she never knew. Plus, she never lived with their father. However, Heather evoked from her stories about her life and even her fantasy experiences. She turned out to be a wonderful woman who at the end said, "I've never felt better" and refused her medications.

Heather explained that she never judges a person's past. She is an advocate for her clients and works to build a meaningful relationship with them.

Information on 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.colorado.gov. FCSC's Board member, Jan, reviews all House and Senate bills and informs the Board on all that are related to the funeral industry:

Other News

We do not have Board meetings in November or December due to the holiday season. Be sure to call ahead **(720) 432-5379** to find out the next meeting date and location. And save the date for the **FCSC Annual Meeting, May 2nd, 2020, at 9:00** (almost always the first Saturday in May). The location has been booked for **Malley Sr. Rec. Center**, in Englewood. Speakers and details will follow in the Spring Newsletter and on the website.

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! Help your friends by passing on your newsletters!

Executors of estates are urgently advised to note that the deceased must have been a member of FCSC for at least one year in order to be eligible for the contracted price on services from a contract provider mortuary.

FCSC Contract Providers

FCSC member prices (as of March, 2019): **Note---**All direct burial prices *include* a minimum casket. Basic funeral and graveside service prices do *not* include a casket. Funerals followed by cremation include 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: **\$955**

direct cremation with memorial services: **\$1,475**

direct burial, no services: **\$1,425**

graveside services (plus casket): **\$1,605**

traditional services (church or chapel) + casket: **\$1,920**

ship out charges (no casket plus airfare) **\$1,025**

funeral service with cremation after: **\$2,205**

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**

If you have changed your mailing address, please notify us by sending the form below (or by e-mail) to: FCSC, **PO BOX 4743, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80155-4743**. You can **also use this form to pay dues, or to make a donation** to the Society. 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: