

THE FUNERAL CONSUMER SOCIETY OF COLORADO
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NEWS & VIEWS

(Published bi-annually in April & November)

FCSC NEWSLETTER
FALL 2015

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 website: <http://funeralconsumercolorado.org>. Call 303-759-2800, or write to: **FCSC, 4101 E. HAMPDEN AVENUE, DENVER, CO 80222-7262.**

We need two new Board Members; one was lost due to retirement, and we would like one more to make the 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's Website

See the above website address for changes and additions. These are listed on the bottom of the home page for members to check without viewing the whole site. There are video interviews of Board members, done by our Board member and videographer, Larry Clark. We welcome you to view our website and share it with your friends and relatives; the site has much comprehensive information plus links to other websites that can answer many questions you might have. Our bi-annual Newsletter, which contains updates on current news and Colorado legislation, is also available on our website.

FCSC Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Funeral Consumer Society of Colorado was held on May 2, 2015 at the First Universalist Church of Denver, with close to 50 people in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Jan Eccher, President. Jan spoke about our activities this year:

- Three Colorado bills related to our interests came up this year. HB 1135, which is similar to Oregon's doctor assisted suicide bill, was defeated. HB 125 concerning a statewide registry of advance directives was postponed indefinitely. HB 110, which extends the Mortuary Science Code regulations for funeral homes and crematories until June 2024, was passed. It was introduced in October of 2014 and went into effect July 1, 2015.
- Member totals are 3,215, which is a decrease of 55 from the 3270 members of a year ago. The number of Life Members has decreased due to deaths or moves out of state.
- Jan presented our net worth and largest expenses. The biggest expense is the postage for the Newsletter, followed by dues to Funeral Consumers Alliance, our parent organization, and then our rental fee and liability insurance payments for use of the First Universalist Church.
- Jan announced our inheritance of over \$100,000 from a member's estate; she explained that this was an unexpected, but deeply appreciated, surprise for us. She then asked those present for ideas of how we might best use this windfall for our mission of education. Suggestions included:

*Have a booth at the Senior Colorado Law Days

*Become a participant in Bemis Library's information on aging

*Have a booth at resource fairs, such as Buck Rec Center and Malley Sr. Rec

*Be a sponsor for Colorado Public Radio ("CPR")

*Make videos for possible showing on YouTube and Facebook

*Place an ad in the obituaries section of newspapers

*Arrange for feature articles on FCSC in newspapers

SPEAKERS

Jan then announced our speakers: Jim and Judy Taylor with our website presentation, Anita Larson of the Colorado Death Café, and Stewart Fleisher, estate attorney.

Using a media presentation with a large screen, Judy and Jim walked the audience through our website. This site was initiated last summer and is frequently updated to keep users aware of current news. Options on each page, which were briefly discussed, are: "Home", "Membership", "Contract Providers", "Resources", "Newsletters", "News", "Annual Meeting Speakers", "About Us", and "FAQ".

Anita Larson is a professional Family Celebrant who helps organize funerals and memorials. Anita has been interviewed by Colorado Public Radio, and the Denver Death Café has been featured in Westword, The Best of Denver and in the Intermountain Jewish News. She, with assistance from Greg Whitehair, opened the first Denver Death Café in September, 2103. The Death Café is a global, life-confirming movement started in England in 2011, and it now has 1,774 world-wide cafes. Death Café operates as an open, self-generated dialogue which discusses death, dying and end-of-life concerns. It is not a grief or counseling group. The Denver chapter, which

meets at Porter Place, 1001 E. Yale Avenue, Denver at 3:00 pm on the third Sunday of each month, is free, open to all and includes refreshments. Information is available on Facebook, Pinterest and their website www.deathcafe.com.

Stewart Fleisher, long-time past FCSC Board Member, spent the majority of his address on the subject of probate - why it exists, who opens probate and how it can be avoided. Probate is a court proceeding in which it is assured that any creditors are paid before estate assets are distributed. It can be opened by an executor or an attorney representing the executor. If an executor decides not to open probate, he or she is liable for paying all debts, including outstanding bills, credit card charges and a mortgage. Stewart named other tasks that can be done ahead of time which can help avoid probate. He also made note of many other important items about Death Certificates, assets and release of funds, Small Estate Affidavits, Federal estate taxes, state taxes, the "Step-up in Basis", challenged wills, and gift allowances without taxes.

A brief Board business meeting followed the Annual Meeting. The Board Meeting schedule for the 2015/16 year is July, September, October, January, February, March, April and the Annual Meeting in May.

Jan attended some sessions of the Funeral Consumer Alliance Board meeting held in Denver over the April 25th weekend. She gave highlights of that meeting.

Subjects discussed by Board members at the business meeting were:

- Memberships of folks taking advantage of the reduced fees of our contract providers (vote was made to require at least 1 year of membership for this)
- Looking into what to do if someone dies out of state or out of country
- Whether we should look into participating in the Colorado Law Day

Other Board Meeting 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. We meet at the First Universalist Church, at 4101 E. Hampden Ave. in Denver.

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.

Grant Steffen, our Outreach person, had a ½ hour interview about FCSC with Channel 4; other news must have prevailed, because it was not aired. Grant also had a talk scheduled with Denver Hospice which was cancelled. He will be speaking at Buck Recreation Center on Oct. 22. Grant and Larry Clarke are working together to create videos of interviews with Board members for the website.

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 the deceased must have been a member of FCSC for at least one year in order to get the contracted price on services from a contract provider mortuary.

FCSC Contract Providers

FCSC member prices (as of Oct. 2015) **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: **\$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. 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: