

THE FUNERAL CONSUMER SOCIETY OF COLORADO
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NEWS & VIEWS

(Published bi-annually in April & November)

FCSC NEWSLETTER
FALL 2018

FCSC MISSION STATEMENT

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

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OUR LOCATION

As you might have noticed, our new address is **FCSC, PO BOX 4743, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80155-4743**. The phone number is the same as before. 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 at the **Englewood Library** (see the Web site: (www.funeralconsumercolorado.org)). Call ahead at 303-759-2800 to learn the exact date of the next Board Meeting. The location for our May 4, 2019, Annual Meeting will be at the Malley Senior Recreation Center, Englewood, CO 80110.

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Has your Membership expired? Please check the address label for your Dues Date (for example, DD: 01-Jul-18), above your name. Dues, which include a Handbook, are \$10 for one person and \$20 for a couple, for two years. If the year indicated is 2019 or 2020, 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.**

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** exists, nor what our purpose is (see the FCSC Mission Statement). Help your friends by passing on your newsletters!

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 15 additions since the last (Spring) newsletter; these include excerpts of the Annual Meeting in May, the Spring Newsletter (and past issues), Legislative news, Board meeting notes, and many of the Outreach presentations and future locations of such.

2018 Board Meeting News

A request by our FCSC telephone answerers: Please, when you're calling our number (303-759-2800) and you get a recording, speak loudly, slowly and clearly! Someone from our Board will return your call within a few days 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 have provided booths at local Resource Days, several Sr. Law Days, attended out-of-town conferences, and we've conducted outreach educational programs. In addition, Board members have spent an extraordinary amount of their own time to provide the public with much valuable information, and we will continue to work for you. If you have any other ideas, let one of us know; come to a Board meeting and share your ideas.

We are looking for new board members!! Please continue to help us with our mission of education and advocacy. If you are interested, please contact our board vice-president, Jill Ross 720-551-1950

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.

Grant Steffen, one of our current Outreach speakers, has given many presentations to various groups in the Denver Metro area, and now with agreement from the Board he is able to extend the program; we are 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"***. Other regular Outreach presenters are V.P. Jill Ross, Andy Sweet and Jennifer Bishop.

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 President reviews all House and Senate bills and informs the Board on all that are related to the funeral industry:

Senate Bill 18-234 was passed and signed by the governor on May 30, 2018, The Bill makes it unlawful for a person who owns a funeral establishment or crematory to also own an interest in a non-transplant tissue bank. This bill was created due to the Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors selling human remains.

Annual Meeting Speakers - 2018

Fran Myers, on “An Orange Juice Can, Sausage Casing and Washing Machine”.

Fran had moved from being a dietician to her current role of informing people about the vital importance of advance directives. She related how vital it is that folks think about what they want for themselves ahead of time. In the 70s and 80s, antibiotics entered the scene. But so did 'tube feeding' to keep a person alive. Remember Karen Quinlan, Nancy Cruzan and Terri Schiavo. These stories resulted in the 1991 Patient Self-Determination Act which allows a person to ask to be removed from life support. Fran is an ardent proponent of writing directives ahead of time when one is fully functional. It is imperative that a Medical Power of Attorney is drafted ahead of a potential loss of the capacity to make meaningful decisions. Heirs need to know your wishes. Fran urged everyone to make Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) notifications which are easily found. She suggests wearing a DNR bracelet and having a DNR sign on the refrigerator. Without a DNR, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is the default action taken. Colorado has a medical order for the scope of treatment (MOST) which spells out a person's end-of life orders. The organization, “Compassion and Choices”, has more information on the subject.

Libby Bortz, LCSW, BCD; Patty Bortz, J.D., CSA© Presented: “Mother and Daughter: Facing Life's Last Chapters”.

These are two remarkable women, who through honesty, tears and laughter have found a way to talk with each other openly about death. Their presentation was titled "Facing Life's Final Chapters." Their journey began when Libby was having surgery and suddenly began losing blood. The surgery could not continue, and Patti had to wait six hours to learn her Mom's fate. Even though Libby felt confident she'd be okay, the impact on Patti during this time was tremendous, and it brought the two of them closer. They conversed about what really matters when one is facing death. The open sharing of feelings was a significant factor in bringing them to a full understanding of each other. They talked about how to start this conversation: Perhaps discussing obvious physical changes and their impact, then moving toward the invisible changes in thoughts and worries. Another subject discussed was: Bringing up the stereotypes toward old people, and how they affect a person. Be a good listener. Bring a sense of humor to the conversation. The Bortzes recommended two publications: "The Other Talk" by Tim Prosch and "Five Wishes." They ended their presentation with a Norman Cousins quote, "Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live."

Other News

We do not have Board meetings in November or December due to the holiday season. Be sure to call ahead (303-759-2800) to find out the next meeting date and location. And save the date for the **FCSC Annual Meeting, May 4th, 2019, 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.

FCSC has a new Facebook site and Administrator--V.P. Jill Ross! Look for more news on this site---Jill has a lot of ideas for FCSC!

Anthony noted that in September we lost 2 dues-paying members, but gained 18. Now in October there are 20 more new dues-paying members! FCSC has over 3000 FCSC members.

Andy reported that the Elder Law and Safety Issues event September 15 meeting was well-attended and well organized. Nevertheless, he suggested we not go back to this event unless the sponsors give a better deal for non-profits than \$250.00 to be a vendor.

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, 2018): **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: