

THE FUNERAL CONSUMER SOCIETY OF COLORADO
P.O. BOX 4743
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80155-4743
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 2017

FCSC MISSION STATEMENT

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

.....

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 10:30 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 5, 2018, 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-17), 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 2018 or 2019, 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!

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, PO BOX 4743, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80155-4743**

Our officers are: President, Jan Eccher; Vice-President, Grant Steffen; Secretary, Em Putnam; Treasurer, Jim Taylor. Other Board members are: Anthony Bowerman, Larry Clarke, Judy Taylor, Barbara Wagner, Lewis Dunlap, Andy Sweet, Jennifer Bishop, and Jill Ross.

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.

2017 Board Meeting News

Your Board has been busy in 2017, with **"...informing and educating consumers on significant end-of-life issues"** (our mission for FCSC):

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.

The website will now have some of the agenda items from previous Board meetings; look on the menu item "News", and then under "Other News".

FCSC has completed a revision of its member Handbook. The booklet is issued to all new members as part of their membership package. **Anyone can purchase a copy** (about 60 pages) **for the price of \$10.00**. Order from FCSC, P.O. Box 4743, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80155-4743 or order one through e-mail: fucosoco@yahoo.com. A \$10 new membership includes a Handbook; electronic versions can be ordered for \$1.00. Group discounts are now available---20% off (plus mailing charges) for 10 or more.

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 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.

Vice President 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 to include other parts of Colorado. This will greatly help people in outlying communities to understand FCSC's mission: **"To inform and educate consumers on significant end-of-life issues"**. The Society is working to add Contract Providers from more distant parts of the state. Other regular Outreach presenters are Jennifer Bishop, Jill Ross, Jan Eccher, and Andy Sweet.

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. No special bills were reported.

Annual Meeting Speakers - 2017

Sandra Sigler, LLC, presented a slide show of her brochure on: "What To Do When Someone Dies." She is a very informed attorney, with a specialty in Probate Litigation, and often has clients needing information on end-of-life issues. She went over the many documents and regulations that Executors, or "Personal Representatives" need to know about and follow.

The second speaker, **Charles Hamlin, M.D.**, is a retired doctor of medicine. Though his topic was "End of Life," he surprised us with his uplifting and often humorous presentation. Dr. Hamlin is relieved that the new Colorado law, Medical Aid in Dying, was passed. He stated that there has been no abuse of this type of law in other states, as many detractors believed would happen. Highlights of both talks are on the website: <http://funeralconsumercolorado.org>.

Other Notes

At the September Board meeting our President, Jan Eccher, brought in some interesting statistics on Colorado deaths in individual counties. The source of the information is the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, Health Statistics Section. It states in columns for all counties: total deaths, deaths autopsied, burial or cremation, body donation, removal from state, etc. Interestingly, cremation in Colorado is now over 70 %.

On September 30th, Board member Anthony Bowerman, received information from "Return to Nature Burial & Cremation in Colorado Springs" that they are adding alkaline hydrolysis to their services. To our knowledge, this is the first one in the state to do so.

Among the events that Board members attended and/or presented Outreach programs: Training for Sr. Law Day Exhibitors, Riverpointe Sr. Living, two senior housing facilities, and Boulder Sr. Law Day. Five of our Board members did presentations at these. Other events will be attended when they are scheduled, which will be mostly after the first of the year. .

Look for our new logo, which is being finalized this month! Board member Andy Sweet is doing this, and will then be helping with the design to be added to name badges, business cards, the web site, a table top banner, stationery, etc.

FCSC now offers a 20% discount for Handbooks to organizations which serve seniors if at least ten are ordered. Those organizations can make a small profit for themselves by selling them. This will help get the word out about our organization, and it also promotes our mission.

At the past few Board meetings several topics are continually on the agenda. One of the items is reviewing, revising, and editing the By-laws. Another topic of discussion taking time and thought is that of advertising---what media, how often, costs involved, distribution, etc. Our dilemma is balance---how much advertising should we, as a non-profit, do?

Humor

Stan: My wife treats me like I'm a god. Steve: So she worships, honors and obeys you?

Stan: No, she ignores me until she wants something ~ AARP, April, 2017

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 April, 2016): **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: **\$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**

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**

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)

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: