

THE FUNERAL CONSUMER SOCIETY OF COLORADO
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NEWS & VIEWS

(Published bi-annually in April & November)

FCSC NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2018

FCSC MISSION STATEMENT

FCSC was founded a half century ago with the goal of helping families find funeral or memorial services at fair prices, but it has greatly expanded to include education of all end-of-life topics.

ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY MAY 5, 2018

LOCATION: **Malley Sr. Recreation Center**, 3380 S. Lincoln St., Englewood. It is one block east of Broadway at the intersection with Englewood Parkway (on the west side) which is named Girard Ave. (on the east side.) There are three parking lots: one across S. Lincoln Street from Malley, one behind Malley and one across Girard Ave. from the side entrance to Malley. Parking is free on Saturdays—disregard the signs, “For Malley members only”. **See pg. 5 for the speakers and bios!**

Times: **9:00-9:30 a.m. Coffee, tea and refreshments in the Ballroom**
9:30-10:00 a.m. Business Meeting and Election of Directors
10:00-11:59 a.m. Presentations and discussions (see pg. 3)

*Note: Your Board meets on the fourth Thursday of the month six times a year, plus the annual meeting where we invite speakers. Please feel free to join us at 10:30 a.m., at the **Englewood Library** (see the Web site: www.funeralconsumercolorado.org). Call ahead at **303-759-2800** to learn the exact time and date of the next Board Meeting.*

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. If this date is past or coming up soon, you must **renew your membership now** to remain active. Dues 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. **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** (FCSC) exists. There are many people who don't know what our purpose is (see the FCSC Mission Statement). **Give your friend a newsletter!**

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

As of January, 2018, there are no new Colorado bills which are of interest to FCSC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In keeping with FCSC's Mission Statement of informing and educating consumers, the Board regularly provides information booths at most local **Senior Law Days** and **Senior Resource Days**. **Board Member Barbara Wagner** will keep us informed on when new Law Days will occur, and if FCSC will be present. There will be informational materials at each, and the hanging 6-foot-wide banner and new table-top banner will be displayed.

Board Members Grant Steffen, Jill Ross, Jennifer Bishop, Barbara Wagner and Andy Sweet have been giving Outreach speeches for various groups around the Metro area. See the Web site for additional talks, and more details. These Outreach Presentations are free; contact FCSC if you would like your group to provide one of these informative talks, which also offers time for questions about the funeral industry.

On the website page, "**Community Education**", is a **calendar** with listings of Outreach talks, Sr. Law Days, our meetings and other important dates pertaining to our consumer organization. **Jennifer Bishop** is the calendar editor. **To get to our website and see the calendar:**

Type our website address: www.funeralconsumercolorado.org into the URL "**SEARCH OR ENTER WEB ADDRESS**" (NOT "Search The Web"---these are paid business entries, and not ours!). After you click or enter the address our website will come up with the home page. There are eight other main menu tabs, and four sub-tabs, which will show up when you run the mouse pointer across the main tabs. Click on the one you want. **For the calendar, go to the tab "More", and click on "Community Ed."** Wait about three seconds for it to come up. The calendar can be moved up and down, and the months can be changed by clicking on the little arrows to the left. **Can't make it work? Call the Webmasters, Judy & Jim Taylor – 303-795-3278.**

OTHER NEWS

FCSC has revised the 2014 Member Handbook, available for all FCSC members. This is issued to all new members as part of their membership package. **Existing members can purchase a copy for the price of \$10.00. Order from FCSC, P.O. BOX 4743, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80155-4743**, or order one through our e-mail: fucosoco@yahoo.com.

According to an email from the People's Memorial Association in the state of Washington, Biochemical Hydrolysis legislation (HB1700/SB5387) did not pass the 2018 legislative session.

FLASH!!! We now have a **new logo and table-top banner!** Thanks to Board Member, Andy Sweet, and the Board for approving the design. See the pictures on page 4.

2017-2018 FCSC BOARD MEMBERS

Our current Officers and Directors are listed below. Term on the Board expires in the year in ().

Jan Eccher	(2019) President	Barbara Wagner	(2019) Education
Anthony Bowerman	(2019) Membership Serv.	Judy Taylor	(2019) Media
Jim Taylor	(2018) Treasurer	Em Putnam	(2018) Secretary
Grant Steffen	(2019) Vice President	Jennifer Bishop	(2020) Outreach
Jill Ross	(2020) Outreach	Andy Sweet	(2020) Outreach

Any member is welcome to attend any of our Board meetings; fresh ideas are always encouraged. The phone number is 303-759-2800, e-mail address is: fucosoco@yahoo.com. Be sure to look at our Web site: www.funeralconsumercolorado.org.

A REMINDER:

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. We are not a charity nor a funeral home, nor a funeral insurance plan, nor prepayment plan. We are not affiliated with any mortuary. We do not make decisions for our members. We are a voluntary educational organization, which provides end-of-life information to help you, or your survivors, make these choices. Although we are not antagonistic toward the funeral industry, we are a force promoting consumer choice and fair dealing from them.

Speakers for the May 5 Annual FCSC Meeting:

---Questions, answers and discussion to follow presentations---

Fran Myers, the 1st speaker, on “An Orange Juice Can, Sausage Casing and Washing Machine”. Fran’s passion for Hospice and The Conversation Project, and an early career as a nursing home dietitian, has led her to start a business around Advance Directives and end-of-life advocacy. She is committed to educating the public about end-of-life options and decision making that suits each individual. Confusion about Living Wills, Do Not Resuscitate and The New Right to Die law leave many unanswered questions for each of us.

Libby Bortz, LCSW, BCD and Patty Bortz, J.D., CSA©, the 2nd speakers, present: “Mother and Daughter: Facing Life’s Last Chapters”. Libby and Patty Bortz share their emotional journey as mother and daughter, discussing the difficult topics of aging, dying and what matters most in the later chapters of life. They help other daughters, sons, mothers, fathers and partners learn how to start such critically important conversations with their own loving, yet reluctant family members.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018:

<u>Income:</u>		<u>Expenses:</u>	
Contributions	\$ 1,650.00	FCA dues & donation	\$ 1,289.25
Handbook Purchases	\$ 340.00	Printing (newsletters, etc.)	\$ 3,275.00
Interest & dividends	\$ 169.70	Postage	\$ 1,685.92
Membership fees new	\$ 1,370.00	Telephone	\$ 985.82
Memb. fees renew	\$ 2,020.00	Education & Advertising	\$ 923.60
Other Income	\$ 0.00	Other expenses	\$ 671.43
Total income	\$ 5,549.70	Total expenses	\$ 8,831.02

Even though income is down and expenses are up, with our reserves your organization is financially sound.

FCSC CONTRACT PROVIDERS and 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. 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: **\$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**

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**

PLEASE tell us if you move

If you have changed your mailing address, ***please notify us*** by sending the form below (or by E-mail: fucosoco@yahoo.com) by USPS to **FCSC, P.O. BOX 4743, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80155-4743** 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: _____

Email 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:

Prepare for the Future

*****Published in the Fall 1994 Newsletter of this Society*****

All of our lives, we have prepared for this, that, and anything else we could think of. For most of our planning, it was a matter of timing. Well, here is one more item to plan properly, even though it is not necessarily the easiest to deal with.

Pre-Planning your own funeral arrangements not only allows you to be aware of the financial implications, but also removes a heavy burden from your family at a time of stress.

As a guideline for such planning, we have prepared the following checklist for our members:

1. Discuss your FCSC membership and its benefits with family members and/or your estate executor.
 2. Fill out a Personal Data Form, sign, and distribute copies to your next-of-kin or anybody you may designate.
 3. Fill out a Living Will if you are so inclined; have it notarized at your bank or lawyer's office, and file it with your other documents.
 4. Fill out a Durable Power of Attorney, properly signed by you and witnesses, and file it with your other documents.
 5. From time to time, review all documents that you have prepared over a number of years, including your will; make certain that everything is still current. If you fill out new forms, make sure old copies are destroyed.
 6. Organize your written wishes, including your FCSC membership card, in one place, and ensure that your family is aware of the steps to be taken.
- Above all, your records should be kept safe, yet accessible to your family and your designated executor.

HUMOR:

FRED: What'd you get your wife for Christmas?

NED: She told me, "Nothing would make me happier than a diamond necklace."

FRED: So you got her diamonds?

NED: No, I got her nothing.

FRED: How do I get to the hospital from here?

NED: Just close your eyes and walk into the street. They'll come and get you.

"If the shoe fits, get another one just like it."

MORE NEWS:

Jon Shulz, whose father, Jack was President of Rocky Mountain Memorial Society from June 1979 until June 1982 and who has been an active FCSC Life Member since November, 1989, spoke with Jan and Grant recently. He lives in Paonia, CO, and has offered to be a Western Slope Representative. *Thank you, Jon; we are glad to have someone help us in Western Colorado!*

There is an interesting article, "**Death Notice Double-Cross...Be Careful with Obituaries---Scam Artists Are Reading**" in the March, 2018 AARP Bulletin, pg. 34. Some of the subjects covered are Identity Theft, Deceptive Debt Collection, Fictitious Life Insurance, Burglary, and others. It mentions that "Publicly sharing personal information is risky enough in everyday life; it gets worse in death", and that "the more personal facts you provide in an obit, the greater risk of scams---for the departed and survivors alike." **Read this article BEFORE it is needed!**

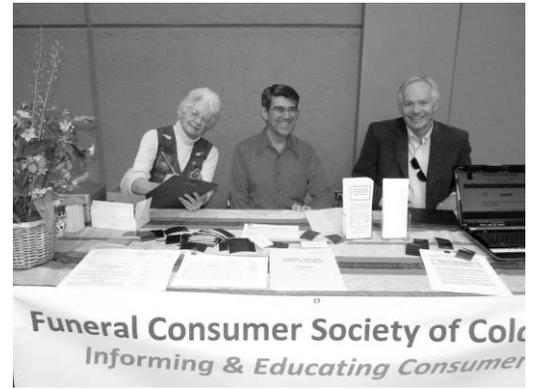
Pictures from the Past of our FCSC Outreach Speakers



Barbara, Jennifer, Grant 9/23/17



Jill & Jennifer 3/2/18



Em, Jim, Larry 4/7/16



Jim, Judy, Anthony 5/3/16

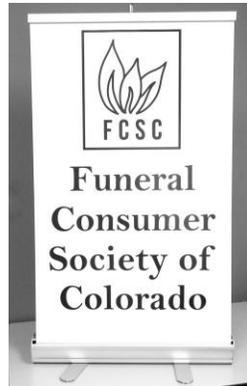


Table Top Banner



Em, Jan, Judy 5/4/16



Sandra Sigler, LLC;
May 6, 2017 Annual
Meeting speaker



Your 2017-18 FCSC Board
L to R. back row: Jim Taylor, Grant Steffen,
Jill Ross, Anthony Bowerman, Lew Dunlap
L to R. front: Em Putnam, Judy Taylor, Jan
Eccher, Barbara Wagner, Jennifer Bishop
(Andy Sweet not pictured)



Charles Hamlin, MD;
May 6, 2017 Annual
Meeting speaker