

1 Funeral Consumers Alliance
2 Board of Trustees Videoconference Meeting
3 August 28, 2019
4
5

6 **Agenda**
7

- 8 I Call to order
9 II Approval of June 19, 2019 video conference meeting minutes
10 III Finance and Fundraising
11 a. Year to Date Income vs. Expense plus four prior years
12 b. Year to Date Balance Sheet plus four prior years
13 c. Disposition of \$43,400 defunct treasury from Chicago Memorial
14 Association
15 d. Invitation to intensive year-end fundraising conference (see description
16 at https://worklessraisemore.com/year-end/?/?info_contact_key)
17 IV Governance
18 a. Elections Committee—Alison Rector
19 V Conference
20 a. Refine topics to present
21 b. See enclosed list of potential workshops
22 VI Ongoing Projects
23 a. FTC Funeral Rule-Josh
24 b. 200-funeral-home study with Consumer Federation of America-Josh
25

26 **Members in Attendance:** Ruth Bennett, Alison Rector, Karen Smith, Rod Stout,
27 Nancy Peterson, John Lantz, Marjorie Focarazzo
28 Josh Slocum, Executive Director
29

- 30 I **Call to Order:** By President, Ruth Bennett at 7:03 pm Eastern Time; quorum
31 Established
32
33 II **Agenda** approved with addition if Biennial Information.
34
35 III **Minutes:** approval of June 19, 2019 minutes as presented.
36
37 IV **Finances and Fundraising**
38 a. Year to Date Income vs. Expense plus four prior years
39 ➤ Investments are up from \$126,000 to \$137,400
40 ➤ Assets are \$181,000 as of today's date
41 ➤ **ACTION: to email liabilities and equities next week**
42 b. Year to Date Balance Sheet
43 ➤ Does not balance, why?
44 ➤ Fund raising is about the same as last year
45 c. Disposition of \$43,400 defunct treasury from Chicago Memorial

- 1 Association: \$20,000 to checking account; remainder to investments
- 2 ➤ **ACTION: Question as to how they got their money? Requested**
- 3 **more info on they obtained the money before a decision is**
- 4 **made on what to do with it.**
- 5 ➤ **Josh has been directed to contact the Secretary of State on**
- 6 **pre-paid funeral monies; is this general operating funds?**
- 7 ➤ **ACTION: request made for background on how money has**
- 8 **been separated from pre-paid funds and is it within our policy**
- 9 **about pre-paid services?**
- 10 ➤ **There is a concern about liability for National.**
- 11 ➤ **ACTION: place money in a special account while we**
- 12 **investigate answers to our concerns.**
- 13 ➤ **Question: has the organization formally dissolved, and has**
- 14 **the proper paperwork been completed and filed?**
- 15 ➤ **ACTION: Josh will investigate our concerns.**
- 16 d. Invitation to fund raising conference: both Josh and Ruth attended last
- 17 year.
- 18 ➤ Cost is \$8500; includes a money back guarantee but must follow
- 19 “steps” for fund raising receipts to be in excess of the cost
- 20 ➤ Board is concerned about the price mainly because it does not fall
- 21 into the core mission
- 22 *voted to reduce income for this year, so this is a big expense
- 23 *financial statements show organization has been losing
- 24 money the last few years; we need to try something different
- 25 ➤ Board President, Ruth Bennett, know the organization and the
- 26 people and recommends Josh be able to attend; he is one of the
- 27 six slots to be filled.
- 28 ➤ Josh purchased ticket to the San Diego Conference in October
- 29 2019 and asks if someone on the board would like to attend in his
- 30 place since he is attending the retreat. Suggestion was made to
- 31 send Nastassia.
- 32 ➤ Motion made by Ruth Bennett to send Josh to the retreat at the
- 33 cost of \$8500 plus hotel and air but no more than \$9000.
- 34 Seconded by Nancy Peterson. Vote: 6 in the affirmative; one
- 35 negative. Motion carried.

36

37 **V Governance**

38 **a. Elections Committee—Alison Rector**

- 39 ➤ Ideas for candidates brainstormed at Salt Lake City meeting
- 40 *Rudee Slavik, Funeral Director, on the San Diego Memorial
- 41 Board is retiring from the Funeral Home business and selling
- 42 It, making it permissible to serve as a board member as long
- 43 as not receiving any remunerations from the funeral industry.
- 44 *Cassidy Stout and Ginny Farney to contact names from list
- 45 *Ruth will contact Nancy Walker
- 46

- 1 ➤ Present Board Members
- 2 *Karen Smith is terming out
- 3 *Alison Rector will not seek reelection
- 4 *John Lantz will not seek reelection
- 5 *Nancy Peterson will run again
- 6 *Noor needs to be replaced
- 7 *Ruth will be moving to Ecuador, but can remain on the board if
- 8 she chooses
- 9

10 VI Biennial Conference

- 11 a. Refine topics
- 12 ➤ Survey affiliates as to what is of interest
- 13 *Josh will include in upcoming newsletter
- 14 ➤ Basics; nuts-n-bolts
- 15 ➤ Josh: Workshop on Fund raising
- 16 ➤ Ruth: Fund raising in a box
- 17 ➤ First responders
- 18 ➤ Cost comparison surveys will still need to be done even if the
- 19 Funeral Rule goes into effect of having Funeral Homes post
- 20 prices/costs online
- 21 ➤ Discuss additional ideas next meeting
- 22

23 VII Ongoing Projects

- 24 a. Funeral Rule_-Josh needs to contact them
- 25 b. Consumer Federation of America funeral home study
- 26 ➤ Legislation to close loophole in the California law
- 27 ➤ Date to get together, FCCA and CFA
- 28

29 VIII Bylaws: Ruth and Karen to finish

30

31 **IX Next Videoconference:** October 30, 2019, 7 pm EST

32

33 **X Adjourned** at 8:11 pm

34

35 Submitted by

36 Marjorie Focarazzo

37 Oct. 8. 2019

38