Funeral Consumers Alliance

Board of Trustees Videoconference Meeting

December 18, 2019

**Agenda**

I Call to order

II Approval of draft minutes from videoconference meeting of October 20, 2019

III Approval of Agenda

IV Finance and Fundraising

V Governance

VI Conference 2020

VII Ongoing Projects

VIII Adjournment

**Members in Attendance:** Ruth Bennett, Alison Rector, Karen Smith, John Lantz

Nancy Petersen, Marjorie Focarazzo

Josh Slocum, Executive Director

**I** **Call to Order**: By President, Ruth Bennett at 7:06 pm Eastern Time.

Quorum is established.

**II** **Minutes:** approval of draft minutes from October 20, 2019 videoconference

approved as written.

**III** **Agenda:** Approved as presented.

**IV** **Finances and Fundraising: Josh Slocum**

1. Year to Date Income vs Expenses plus four prior years

* Operating in the black

1. Year to Date Balance Sheet plus four years

* Per Josh, assets are $165,883

1. End of Year Fundraising Campaign

* 10,000 fund raising letters mailed
* Anticipate returns through the beginning of 2020
* Thank you to Alison Rector for the $5000 donation from her affiliate

1. Board member solicitation from affiliates

* Anticipate an increase in donations in 2020
* **ACTION:** Ruth will solicit from her former board in Arizona to make a donation

1. Proposed Budget for 2020

* No significant changes from the 2019 operating budget to the 2020 operating budget
* Biennial will be budgeted for 2020; usually makes money, mainly from registration fees
* Need to do Josh’s evaluation this year; consider a raise up to 3% but determined by the amount in donations received; **ACTION:** consider salary increase at next meeting

**V** **Governance: Alison Rector**

1. Number of board members has been reduced from nine to seven
2. Seven (7) candidates; completed questionnaires have been received by Alison; Election Committee consisted of Cassidy Stout and Ginny Farney

\*Catherine

\*Donna

\*Kristen

\*Dylan

\*Nancy Petersen (incumbent)

\*Marjorie Focarazzo(incumbent)

\*Sarah

c) Re-draft of Bylaws, progress: Karen Smith and Ruth Bennett

* Discussion of changes should be first order of business at the biennial with the new board
* Concerns on *Conflict of Interest*: where to draw the line; appearance can look like reality
* **ACTION:** Josh to send out definitions again

**VI Conference 2020 (confirmed in italics)**

1. Topics/Presentations

* Fund Raising in a box as a plenary session
* *Josh Slocum: “A One Year Fund Raising Plan” Assistance from Nora Menkin, PMA*
* What is the role of National FCA and the role of the affiliates
* Mission and Value of National FCA; how do the affiliates fit into National?

\*Financial

\*Fee for service(s)

* *Jim Bates: Lobbying/regulatory*
* *Sara Williams and Rebecca Taylor: Merging of affiliates*
* *Josh Slocum and Ruth Bennett: Financing Future of FCA as the opening plenary*
* “State of FCA”
* Funeral Home is not your Pastor
* *PMA: Getting Your Ducks in a Row*
* *Nancy Peterson: Outreach and public presentations to community organizations*
* Tentative:

\*Price Surveys, Ginny Farley

\*Grief Dialogues, Elizabeth Coplan

\*Local Affiliates, Nancy Walker

* Presentations to Work On:

\*Engaging Clergy, Nancy Walker

\*Transitioning from buyers’ club to advocacy

\* National Home Funeral Alliance, Sara Jane Lambring

**VII Ongoing Projects**

1. The Funeral Rule: currently no time frame for opening comments; Josh will keep us posted on the progress
2. Education Video #2 to be completed by Christmas
3. FCA California: in contact with the Consumer Federation; not compliant, lack of state regulations. Josh will have more information next meeting.

**VIII Adjourned** at 8:11 pm EST

Next videoconference: February 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm EST

Submitted by

Marjorie Focarazzo

1-30-2020