Funeral Consumers Alliance

Board of Trustees Videoconference Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2021 7:30 pm EST

*To join the Zoom meeting, put this link in your web browser’s URL address bar:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2811916531*

AGENDA

**I. Call to Order

II. Approval of draft minutes from April 20, 2021, meeting**

**III. Conference Planning**

a. Results of affiliate poll measuring willingness to attend an in-person

 conference in 2022 (see executive director’s report)

 b. Discussion of whether to plan in-person meeting for 2022

 c. Discussion of virtual/video conference for fall 2021

**IV. Ongoing Projects**

a. Discussion of draft letter of concern re FEMA funeral money

 b. New project with Consumer Federation of America; evaluating state funeral board websites for usefulness to consumers

 c. State-by-state law project with Lee Webster

 d. FTC Funeral Rule

**V. Affiliates**

a. Recommend the board approve the re-affiliation of FCA of Los Angeles

MINUTES

**Members in Attendance:** Katherine Ortiz, Dianna Repp, Rod Stout,

 Kristin Mouton, Marjorie Focarazzo

 Josh Slocum, Executive Director

**Members Excused:** Sarah Jane Lambring, Ruth Bennett

I **Call to Order** by Executive Director Josh Slocum in place of VP Ruth Bennett at 7:40 pm EST.

II **Quorum** established.

III Minutes of the April 20, 2021 were presented. Katherine Ortiz made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Rod Stout, unanimously approved as presented by those present.

IV 2022 Biennial

* 460 FCA affiliate leaders were polled with an 11% response (52); of the 52 11 would be willing to attend an in-person conference and 21 would not attend for a variety of reason not necessarily due to Covid; and 20 were not sure at this point in time.
* Decision to have an in-person conference cannot be determine by poll results.
* Wait until January to revisit and decide; cur currently leaning towards a zoom/virtual program again
* May consider a hybrid conference, but would probably need tech support to accomplish this
* Virtual conferences are more profitable than in person ones; profit could be $2000 to $4000
* Charge or ask for donations?
* Hold a virtual conference Fall of 2021
* Idea: cemetery walk

 Human composting

* Looking for ideas for topics and/or speakers
* **ACTION:** Josh will set up idea page on google to submit topics and/or speakers

V Ongoing Projects

* Draft Letter on FEMA Funeral Money
* Audience is not just policy makers but also the general public
* Stick with FCA’s general mission statement: ensure consumers are fully prepared and protected when planning a funeral for themselves or their loved ones.
* How do we educate the general public on funeral costs and options?
* Comparabilities with
* veteran’s benefits?
* 9/11 victims’ compensation
* Developing a “white” paper may be more beneficial
* **ACTION:** Josh will work on the “white” paper
* The Funeral Rule: Federal Grade Commission may make a determination late spring/early summer in one of three ways:
* Make no change
* Eliminate completely
* Make changes that reflect comments submitted
* GPL must be clearly labeled for the average citizen to access
* Should include Funeral Rule rights, prepaid funeral rights and protections
* List any Funeral Home in violation with disciplinary measure
* A means for consumers to file complaints
* State-by-State Law Project with Lee Webster: involves investigating statues and regulations for each state and may take some time to complete
* Consumer Federation of America: to evaluate websites of states funeral boards
* Are prepaid funerals explained?
* Is there a means to file a complaint?
* Is there information on adjudicated complaints and the results?
* How can the public be educated?
* Josh and Steve Brobeck are working together to survey the 50 state’s funeral regulatory boards and are almost finished with the first pass
* Run as revenue generators?
* Websites need to be brought up to date

VI Affiliates

* Josh brought to the Board for approval re-affiliation of FCA of Los Angeles, which was approved unanimously

VII Reminder of Thursday, May 20th at 8 pm’s program: forum with affiliate leaders via zoom

V Next meeting is June 15th, 7:30 EST

VI Adjournment by consensus at 8:50 pm.

Marjorie Focarazzo

May 22, 2021