Funeral Consumers Alliance

Board of Trustees Videoconference Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2021 7:30 pm EST

AGENDA

**I Conference 2022**

**II FEMA’s Funeral Relief Package**

MINUTES

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

Kristin Mouton, Marjorie Focarazzo

Josh Slocum, Executive Director

**Members Excused:** Sarah Jane Lambring

I **Call to Order** by Vice President Ruth Bennett for President Sarah Jane Lambring at 7:45 pm EST

II **Quorum** established.

III FEMA’s Funeral Relief Package

* Amount to be allocated is $9000 for each funeral
* Bill passed in December 2020
* National FCA has not voiced an opinion with regard to the allocation and it is noted that taxpayers did not have any input
* National FCA should take a stand; mission is to educate the consumer on affordable end of life decisions, such as cremation
* National FCA has two audiences: 1) government and 2) consumers
* National FCA believes if the government wants to help pay for funerals, it should encourage Basic Cremations, which could number 7 for the total amount considered for a single funeral at $9000
* National FCA says the monies allocated of $9000 is overpriced and not a wise use of taxpayers’ dollars; this amount of money is a boon for the funeral industry in the amount of billions of dollars and pays for full funerals and luxuries
* To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:
* The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
* The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
* The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
* There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.
* National FCA’s message:
* Provide more affordable options with basic dignity
* Creating an incentive for families to pressure doctors and health care personnel to state death is due to Covid even if the cause of death has nothing to do with Covid
* Future Covid deaths possibly through 2025 could be paid for by the government
* **ACTION:** Josh will draft a press release that funerals do not have to cost $9000 and there are better ways to spend that money; should focus on the money, use for basic or simpler funerals and basic cremations
* Concerns:
* May be considered unsympathetic and uncaring
* May be labeled racist as this type of funeral is favored by Black and Hispanic families

IV 2022 Biennial

* Consider a Virtual Conferenced Fall of 2021
* Cost is minimal
* Is there something to say?
* Perhaps a cemetery walk?
* Biennial
* Financial risk: what if we had to cancel; should we take the risk of signing contract for next June

V Next meeting is May 18, 7:30 EST

VI Adjournment by consensus at 8:42 pm.

Marjorie Focarazzo

April 27, 2021