Funeral Consumers Alliance

Board of Trustees Videoconference Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022 8:00 EST

Members in Attendance: **Ruth Bennett, Kristen** Mouton, Katherine Ortiz, Dianna Repp,

Marjorie Focarazzo

Josh Slocum, Executive Director

Excused: Rod Stout

I **Call to Order** by Acting President and VP Ruth Bennett at 7:45 pm.

II **Quorum** established.

III **Minutes** of the February 24, 2022 board meeting via zoom were approved as presented.

IV **Finance and Fundraising**

* Income and Expense report shows a comparison for the past four years.
* Loss of approximately $10,000 in the investment portfolio between 12/31/201 and 3/31/2022
* Approximately $208,000 in assets
* Board will discuss staff salaries after the review

V **Governance**

* Board Elections: ballots are due by 4/29/2022
* Tellers will meet in early May to tabulate results and report to Josh with the results
* Invite newly elected Board members and alternates to orientation; Ruth and Josh will plan what to discuss
* Invite alternates to all board meetings, while they cannot vote, they are encouraged to share ideas and join in on conversations
* Retiring board members are officially off the board at the June meeting, when newly elected board members take their positions

VI **Affiliate Relations**

* FCA of Northern California is defunct, which is the result of a new group forming who are writing bylaws, but not sure what model will be used as an organization
* Joyce Mitchell, FCA Utah, is working on a project to contact all affiliates to offer help with websites. She is keeping track of those affiliates who maintain best standards. These will be highlighted in upcoming newsletters.
* Joyce will make a presentation at the conference in October

VII **Ongoing Projects**

* **FTC Funeral Rule Reform:** nothing to report, no movement; no notification on what changes, if any, they are considering; no indication when this will be reported
* **Study with Consumer Federation of America:** laws across the country are too difficult to compare against one another, too hard to show a connection between statutes and actual enforcement of laws, and how consumer complaints are handled. Instead, Josh and Steve will do an update on voluntary price disclosers found on funeral home websites.
* Reviewing 26 state capitals
* Checking if any of the original funeral homes in the 2017 study are new putting their price list on the website
* Adding funeral homes; sample size should be about 300 funeral homes
* Information could be used to encourage FTC to move on The Funeral Rule
* **Embalming Law Reform, New Hampshire:** Josh has met numerous times with the house and state senate to reform ambiguous laws
* Continued claims about health issues and safety
* Innuendos that other states have similar law (which is not true)
* Lawmakers believe FCAs information is more accurate
* Compromise to remove language referring to viewing the body or the term public health from any laws referencing embalming
* Passage should happen in both houses and result reported in spring
* **Updating Fina Rights State Law Chapters:** after a short hiatus, Lee Webster and Nastassia are working on this with Josh. Report to be ready in spring.

VIII **Upcoming Projects**

* **Conference 2022**
  + Online/Virtual this year
  + Hold in September or October
  + Two days
  + Use of breakout rooms
  + Conference Programing
* Jeff Rowes, attorney, with Institute for Justice will present
* Joyce Mitchell, FCA Utah will talk on her project of affiliate websites and will highlight best practices

IX **Future Meetings**

* Orientation, May 16th at 8 pm EST
* Board Meeting, transition from old board to new board, Monday, June 20th at 8 pm EST

Submitted

Marjorie Focarazzo