



The Latest Diggings

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Joaquin County & the Mother Lode

PO Box 4832, Stockton, CA 95204

Tel. 209-465-2741, email: FuneralConsumersAllianceofSJ@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is Fall again and time for our annual meeting. We prepared a spring newsletter but mailing was suspended during the pandemic. Board member Doray Vail Johnson died a few weeks after last year's annual meeting.

Our board has continued to meet during the pandemic through Zoom.

We want you to join us via Zoom for our annual meeting. For those of you who have not used this computer platform before, Cindy Riddles, our computer guru, will join with me in a practice session the day before our annual meeting.

Saturday, October 10, 2020, at 2:00 pm

Zoom Practice Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83247658886>

Meeting ID: 832 4765 8886

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,83247658886# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,83247658886# US (Tacoma)

In case you have problems getting into zoom, please telephone me at (209)612-5130 for help.

I look forward to seeing you all at the annual meeting.

-Kathy Schick

∞ **MOVED? BE SURE TO LET US KNOW** ∞

ANNUAL MEETING

of FCA of San Joaquin Co.

& the Mother Lode

Sunday, Oct 11, 2020, 2:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87904792343>

Meeting ID: 879 0479 2343

One tap mobile:

+16699006833,,87904792343# (San Jose)

For telephone connection dial in

+1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 (Tacoma)

Please "attend" the meeting, by computer or telephone, however you can.

[See you there](#)

National website: www.funerals.org

State website: <https://www.fca-ca.org/>

To our members:

BE SURE YOUR CHOSEN FUNERAL HOME AND ALL YOUR KEY SURVIVORS KNOW YOUR WISHES AND ALSO ANY PREPAY ARRANGEMENTS.

Your family will be forever grateful you eased their burdens at your passing.

The **FCA of San Joaquin County and the Mother Lode** is a nonprofit consumer advocate urging informed advance planning and comparing prices for body-disposition and memorials.

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2019-2020 Board actions

Mary Bullard, our membership secretary, answers the telephone to help relatives of our members and others find the contracted funeral home. Grateful callers have made financial donations to help our work.

Cindy Riddles, our treasurer and computer whiz, has set up our FaceBook page with links to many helpful articles, our state affiliate and our national entity. Please explore our FB page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/funeralconsumersallianceofSJ/> and do not forget to “like” us.

Bev Blum, former board member, has worked with president Kathy Schick to link with Funeral Consumers Alliance of California and Funeral Consumers Alliance of the United States. We’ve forged an informal alliance with FCA of Stanislaus and Merced as well as FCA of Sacramento. The Attempts at mergers have not succeeded, but we still hold hopes for shared communications through shared newsletters as well as pamphlets and other educational tools.



Meet your new 2019-2020 FCA board

President – Kathy Schick
Vice President – Harry Welte
Treasurer – Cindy Riddles
Board Secretary – Clair Trujillo
Membership Secretary – Mary Bullard
Board Member – Pat Montague
3 Board positions unfilled

PROPOSED FCA&ML GOALS FOR 2020-21

I. Increase awareness of affordable funeral options in our service areas. Publicize key messages:

- i. Online for FCA members and public,
- ii. Via other media as available,
- iii. Seek and fill speaker requests,
- iv. Update and create more ed. materials, and
- v. Support state and national FCA initiatives

II. Increase financial and volunteer resources: Financial donations and bequests, other sources for each task.

III. Streamline board operations: Create Board communication tools, and seek cooperation with other affiliates as well as FCA of California and national FCA for economies.

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting 10/13/2019

1. President Kathy White welcomed members.
2. The minutes of last year’s annual meeting were approved
3. The Financial Report for 2019-20 was reviewed.
4. We elected Mary Bullard, Doray Johnson, Pat Montague, Cindy Riddles, Kathy Schick, Clair Trujillo, Harry Welte were elected to the board. We continue to lack two board members.
5. Board priorities for 2019-20 were approved.
6. The meeting was adjourned.

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NOMINATIONS FOR 2020-21 BOARD

Bev Blum	1 st Term	ends 2022
Pat Montague	1 st	2021
Cindy Riddles	1 st	2021
Kathy Schick	1 st	2021
Clair Trujillo	1 st	2022
Harry Welte	1 st	2022
_____		2023
_____		2023
_____		2023

News from the State

Like our planet's magnetic poles that occasionally reverse, I had the great fortune to grow up learning from elders, and now, find myself an elder.

We used to learn about death and dying from elders. Today there are so many environmentally-friendly and affordable choices being developed by the younger generation, and yet still, today, way too many Californians go deeply into debt by making hasty decisions while grieving. Today there are far more effective and efficient ways our FCA's can spread valuable information to these consumers.

To provide Californians greater access to information to make choices and share with their families while still healthy, FCA seeks to expand public and community-based education across California as well as social media. We are exploring more economical options. As a nearly-all-volunteer network, we need many more volunteers.

**Contact your local
FCA affiliate or the State
FCA office today –
Phone: 209-427-6086 or
email: fcacalif@gmail.com**

This coming year our State FCA has 3 Task Forces: educators, affiliate newsletter editors, and a traveling re-organization team to assist locals.

- Bev Blum, Board Member,
FCA of California

FCS of SJC & ML	Budget 2019-20	Actual* 2019-20	Budget 2020-21
Beginning balance		\$1,214	
INCOME			
Donations	\$4,200	\$2,855	\$4,200
Literature sales	\$300	\$30	\$300
Misc.			
TOTAL Income	\$4,500	\$2,885	\$4,500
EXPENSES			
Telephone	\$800	\$761.49	\$800
Newsletter	\$2,000	\$55 *	\$2,000
Literature	\$200		\$200
Office supplies	\$100	\$665.48	\$100
State dues	\$50	\$100	\$100
National dues	\$650	\$405.75	\$500
Website	\$100		\$100
Speakers	\$200		\$200
Trainings	\$300		\$300
Misc.	\$100	\$106	\$100
TOTAL expenses	\$4,500	\$2,093.72	\$4,500
NET	\$0	\$791.28	
Ending balance		\$2,800	

*Actual expenses to date do not include the cost of this newsletter.

Check out the new blog:

<https://funerals.org/funerals-during-a-pandemic-things-to-keep-in-mind/>



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Many Thanks for
MEMBER
DONATIONS
since 11/2019**

Rosemary Atkinson
Kimba Bates-Livesay
Ruth Becker
Janet Bonner
Joan Briscoe
Mary Bullard
Rodger Condell
Dale Dunmire
Wendell Eggleston
Stephen Fidanque
Gladys Finucane
Carole Green
Harlan Hague
Myrna Hoyt
Craig Hubbard

Gladys and Bob Ikeda
Jonathan Jacoby
Judith Jaeger
Diana and Bruce Jones
Helen T. Mar
Beverly Fitch McCarthy
Dick and Dianne McCleery
Helen McCormick
David and Trilby McCulloch
Cynthia Milford
Gwinnett Mitchell
Michele A. Moon
Laurel Myers
Sharon and Carl Nordstrom
K. Yvonne Phillips
Marilyn and Robert Remenyi
Steven Rykowski
Katherine Schick
Jackie Setser
Alice and Robert Shellenberger

Sally Spenke
JoAnne and Henry Talbot
Dan Thiele
Mary Lois Thompson
Sydney Thompson
Roberta Unger
Carol and Warren Van Bronkhorst
Linda Vieira
Patricia Voss
Myrna Walker
Harry Welte
Elaine and William Werner
Katherine White
Linda Fay Danes Wingett

*To support FCA's
education efforts we ask
ALL members to donate
yearly an amount you
choose. Thank you*

