



The Latest Diggings March 2021 Newsletter

Funeral Consumers Alliance of San Joaquin County & Mother Lode

PO Box 4832, Stockton, CA 95204

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT –

Despite the many difficulties we all have faced in over a year of pandemic, your board has continued to work on getting our message out so that others can benefit from reasonably planned and priced funerals.

We meet on Zoom from the safety of our own homes and all of you are welcome to attend our board meetings and bring us your ideas and concerns, just email me – kschick2@gmail.com – to find out the time and date of our next meeting.

We are in the midst of acquiring a functional web page. Although you can find us on the web now, our page housed in the national group's website is out of date and impossible to update.

We will let you know as soon as we get a website, but in the meantime, we have an active and updated FaceBook page, so visit us there.

<https://www.facebook.com/funeralconsumersallianceofSJ/>

My personal goal for this year is to get email addresses for every one of our FCA members. Please consider helping us out by updating your email address. And be sure we have your current email address.

We promise to use your email address ONLY to send you email copies of our newsletter, and

the state group's newsletter – no more than four a year – and to let you know the address of our website, once we set it up.

You may send your email address to me at kschick2@gmail.com or send it to our official email address: FuneralConsumersAllianceofSJ@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping us bring our membership list into this century.

Kathy Schick, President

Meet your new 2021 FCA board

President – Kathy Schick

Vice President – Harry Welte

Treasurer – Cindy Riddles

Board Secretary – Clair Trujillo

By-Laws Committee – Bev Blum
& Pat Montague

3 Board Members: positions open - just contact us if you are interested

Ex Officio Volunteers:

We love the folks who do so much work for us behind the scenes!

Membership Secretary – Mary Bullard

Bookkeeper – Dave Hall

Newsletter printer – Martha Tipton

DONATIONS since September, 2020

Maryella Allred
Rosemary Atkinson
Janet Bonner
Linda Fay Danes
Wendell Eggleston
Ella Evans
Julie & William Factor
Vivian Faulk
Stephen Fidanque
Gladys Finucane
Myrna Hoyt
Jonathan Jacoby
Gay King
Martha Kulisch
Joanne & Michael Lamm
Sharon Langston
Margaret & Russell Lawson
Wendy Leandro
Julie Bates-Livesay & Kimba Livesay
Beverly Fitch McCarthy
Dianne & Dick McCleery
Pricilla & Bill McGregor
Sara & Dwane Milnes
Gwinnett Mitchell
Yvonne Phillips
Edward Puulei
Helen Reeve
Marilyn & Robert Remenyi
Cynthia Riddles
Dorothy Riddles
Martha & Jose Santiago
Kathy Schick
Rena & Melvin Silveira
Sally Spenker

Laura Sun
Mary Swift
Joanne & Henry Talbot
Erin & Daniel Thiele
Mary Lois & Syd Thompson
Clair Trujillo
Patricia Voss
Myrna Walker
Harry Welte
Elaine & William Werner
Nishka Yudnich

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED
TO KEEP OUR AFFILIATE GOING!**



OUR SPEAKERS' BUREAU

We would like to take our message about planning ahead for our funerals, especially to avoid horrendous costs and decisions by surviving family members while they are grieving.

Mary Bullard and Kathy Schick are ready to come speak (5 to 15 minutes, as requested) to members of your service organizations and church groups and spread our message.

We have lovely and colorful flyers to share with them as well.

Do you know a group which would like a brief speaker for their meeting, or that would appreciate our message?

Call us at 209-465-2741 or email us at

FuneralConsumersAllianceofSJ@gmail.com

NOTE TO MEMBERS:

FCA of San Joaquin and the Mother Lode plans to recommend bylaws revisions at its next Fall Annual Members Meeting. One significant change would change members' once-in-a-lifetime donation to a yearly donation, like most other nonprofit organizations.

Some local families are being exploited by locally-owned mortuaries bought up by a nation-wide corporation seeking local monopolies to eliminate competitive prices. These tend to propose expensive and often environmentally-harmful elements not required by law. FCA needs to expand community education so families know that less expensive funerals can be equally beautiful and comforting, and to compare prices from several mortuaries.

Annual modest dues would help FCA reach more people and also help maintain current membership records, as FCA is not always notified when a member dies or moves away.

Your Board of Directors would greatly appreciate your views on this Bylaws change and others we'll send before the Fall meeting.

Just email:

FuneralConsumersAllianceofSJ@gmail.com

or drop a note to

**FCA of SJ & ML
PO Box 4832
Stockton, CA 95204.**



*Thank you for letting our board know
how we can serve you best.*

SPREAD THE WORD: FCA'S VALUE

Tell your family, your friends, your neighbors about F.C.A.

Direct Cremation - \$685/\$775

Immediate Burial - \$1,585/\$1,694,

depending on which funeral home you choose, rather than the thousands of dollars more that others pay.

♥ A cremation with services averages over \$3200 in California, and that is without the urn.

♥ A traditional funeral in California averages just under \$10,000, with plots and grave markers extra.



A NEW STATE NEWSLETTER

If you are receiving this newsletter as an email attachment, you will find the February newsletter from FCA California attached.

Otherwise, you should be able to find their newsletter on the state's website at WWW.FCA-CALIF.ORG.

Send us your email addresses so we can keep you up with each quarterly issue.



REMINDERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

- IF YOU AS AN FCA MEMBER CHOOSE DISCOUNTS FOR BURIAL OR CREMATION, ARE YOUR WISHES ON FILE WITH EITHER COLONIAL ROSE (Stockton) OR PARK VIEW (French Camp)?
- OVER 18? HAVE YOU WRITTEN AND SIGNED YOUR WISHES FOR EMERGENCY CARE?
- IF YOU CHOOSE BODY DONATION, HAVE YOU ALREADY NOTIFIED AND FILLED OUT A FORM FOR DAVIS OR SAN FRANCISCO MEDICAL SCHOOLS?
- DOES YOUR FAMILY (and other important helpers) KNOW WHERE YOU KEEP COPIES OF ALL THESE IMPORTANT PAPERS?