

# ***FCAI Annual Meeting & Member Death Café***

Saturday, April 30, 2016

The Library! at Cole & Ustick 1:00-3:00 pm

**What is a Death Café?** Death Café is an established 'social franchise' that has spread quickly across the globe. Death Cafés are discussions about death that are always offered in a respectful and confidential space, with no intention of leading people to any conclusion, product or course of action, refreshing drinks and snacks are also offered! <http://deathcafe.com/>

*FCAI Member, Joyce Harvey-Morgan, former Dean of Boise State Extended Studies, will introduce this special Death Café. Joyce is the organizer and facilitator of Boise Death Cafés, and guide Death Mask Making Workshops in the Boise area and West Coast. She is a believer in learning to die in order to live more fully and is a life-long learner and educator. Come meet Joyce and enjoy her work.*

## **FCAI Annual Membership Meeting Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Speaker / Program "Death Café" Presentation by Joyce Harvey-Morgan
3. Review of Spring Newsletter
4. Call to Order for the Business Portion of this Meeting, and Quorum Report
5. Minutes from May 2015 Annual Meeting
6. Year in review:
  - a. Membership Report - Susan
  - b. Treasurer's Report - Patricia
  - c. Outreach Activities - Monte
  - d. 2016 Comparative Price Survey - Sherri
  - e. Mortuary Contract Renewal - Sherri
  - f. Strategic Planning - Rose
  - g. Appreciation to donors - Sherri
7. Elections
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

## From the desk of the president:

**“Thank you, no thank you, no, no, no thank YOU!!!”**

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for being a member of this great group, a self-determining, democratically run, member-based, 501(c)4 organization dating back to 1972.

Thousands of lives have benefited over the years with membership and we are looking forward to another solid year. We decided to mail out an abbreviated newsletter in an attempt to garner more volunteer support. It is expensive and time consuming to send printed material. Email, for better or worse, is financially beneficial. 20 mailers came back with no forwarding address. Seldom do we get changes of address from members, so over the past 44 years we have “lost” members. One of our volunteer opportunities is to try and locate newly ‘lost’ members. Some members die without using their benefit so we get no notification of their death and, over time, their addresses become invalid and their status is updated to indicate “lost’. Here is a volunteer opportunity.

If you are interested in researching the whereabouts of lost members please let us know; we could use your help.

Count of Status	
Status	Total
Lost	73
Deceased	280
Transfer out	73
FCAI/IMA origin	624
Transfer in	99
Minor dependent (blank)	12
Grand Total	1161
<b>Current</b>	<b>723</b>

This table from the FCAI Membership database tallies status of members going back to 1972. Currently we have 723 active members. Over the past 12 months, our FCAI Membership Secretary **signed up 61 new members, processed 25 deaths, transferred-in 7 affiliate members and transferred none out.**

FISCAL YEAR	NEW	TRANSFERS	DEATHS
2016	61	7	25
2015	109	8	15
2014	43	9	16
2013	58	8	17
2012	20	6	11

### ***Another Volunteer Opportunity:***

We need a member volunteer to help with the annual financial audit. This audit usually takes less than 3 hours and is done with the help of our wonderful treasurer, Pat Kolb and another volunteer.

Pat is retiring as Treasurer of the Board this June, her three-year position is expiring and she is looking forward to taking an advisory role with the organization. We have been very fortunate to have Pat's talent, strengths and calm.

In the role of Treasurer, Pat has kept our finances straight and has served the organization well. Pat graciously responded to a call for nominees at an open annual meeting. She was not confident that her skills would be useful, but she soon found out that her willingness to help would make all the difference. Monica Perry provided invaluable mentoring and support with the past couple of audits. Pat's training wheels came off in just a few months.

FCAI is fortunate to have past board members, like Monica, active in the ongoing support and guidance of the organization. Currently, no one has submitted names for the vacating position but it is not too late.

**If YOU are interested in serving please raise a hand and volunteer when we open the floor for nominations. This group is easy to work with and fun to be around.**

### **A funny thing happened, as in peculiar, not ha, ha.....**

Earlier this spring, my blended-family sister, died at age 55. Even though a FCAI gift membership was available, she made no preparation or mention of wishes; not for herself nor the minor children under her care. It was left up to ...whom?

A majority of her children had to sign the cremation order so she needed additional refrigeration for the several days because of travel-time. Her assets unavailable, her children and parents shouldered the expense of cremation and memorial service, and a lot of guesswork went into trying to provide a meaningful conclusion of a life cut short. It was a beautiful memorial, but stressful for the deciders.

She must have thought she would have more time... don't we all?!

The upswing of this tale; our family found a funeral home in Caldwell that negotiated charges in order to keep our business. The cost of cremation was lowered to avoid having services transferred to another less expensive provider. The price adjustment was a huge incentive for staying with the original funeral home. So you can always ask if you find similar services elsewhere for less cost.

**Which brings us to the question...**

## **Have you filled out and returned your “Putting My House In Order” Form?**

This form is available in the membership packet and online at our website. You still have time. Technically, **you are not a member until Accent or Rosenau receives your PMHO Form.** Both addresses are towards the top of the Putting My House In Order Form. Funeral Directors Randy Arnzen, at Accent, and Kevin Rosenau, at Rosenau, are very good to work with, sometimes processing new members hours before their death, but this is NOT desirable for our service providers. Members need to complete the paperwork before the services are needed to have a win-win relationship with our providers.

### **Only 2 Steps to becoming a member:**

- 1) Make payment of \$35.00 for a lifetime membership fee. Or transfer in.
- 2) Provide the Funeral Home information for Death Certificate by submitting the “Putting My House in Order (PMHO) Form in the membership packet or download online.

If you have not provided Accent or Rosenau with your Putting My House in Order paperwork, now is a good time. Or if the paperwork needs reviewed or updated, please do it now. PMHO Forms are available in the membership packet and online at our website. You still have time. Technically, **you are not a proper member until Accent or Rosenau receive your PMHO Form. This form is needed by the funeral home prior to death.**



### **2015-2016 Community Outreach:**

Community Education Classes April/Sept/Dec & Feb

St. John's Health Fair - October

Parkview Christian Church - April

Osher Institute “A Dying Movement” - Nov

Living and Dying 101 – March

Death Cafés

If you are members of an organization that would like a FCAI speaker please contact any one of the Board Members with the request. We are very happy to be invited to speak!

## ***Change is in the air...***

*One of the purposes of FCAI is to inform the public of the changes in the funeral industry. Trends in the body's final disposition are changing and the funeral industry is adapting. According to the National Funeral Directors Association, **in 2015 Idahoans choose burial 29.1% and cremation 58.2%**. (Source is National Funeral Directors Association)*

**Green Burial** has become popular over the past few years and offers an alternative to cremation or a traditional burial. The Green Burial Council ([www.greenburialcouncil.org](http://www.greenburialcouncil.org)) offers certification to funeral homes and has a complete list of certified providers by state. Idaho has no certified green cemeteries listed. However Mountain View Cemetery in Leadore, Idaho offers interment in a simple, biodegradable casket or shroud. A vault and headstone are not required nor allowed. GPS coordinates locate the final resting ground of your loved one.

New to the funeral industry is **Alkaline Hydrolysis**, also known "**Bio-cremation**" a chemical process using heat, lye and pressure to reduce the body to liquid and bone fragments. Eight states have approved legislation allowing for alkaline hydrolysis; Idaho has not.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/cremation-vs-burial-state-map-2015-5>

## ***Funeral Home Service Provider Biannual Contract Review***

Contract renegotiations with **Rosenau Funeral Home** in Twin Falls, came due March 14, 2016. An agreement and renewal was signed through March 16, 2018 for FCAI members. No changes were made in this renewal period.

**Victory for Idaho Consumers! - Governor Otter signed HB482 into law** on April 5, 2016. A big win for consumers everywhere! This legislation adds lay people, consumers, to each of the Occupational Licensing Boards; the boards that govern the practices of its licensee. It has long been a goal of FCAI to have a permanent lay board member on the Board of Morticians. FCAI officers routinely attend the meetings of the BOM as an observer over the industry governed Board. With this piece of legislation the governor will appoint individuals to sit on these boards. From the bill's statement of purpose (see <http://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2016/H0482.htm>):

"This bill will reduce the exposure Idaho's regulatory boards, commissions, and members have to federal anti-trust prosecution by modernizing older regulatory licensure board/commission statutes to mirror newer regulatory licensure board/commission statutes. It will do this by:

- 1) Allowing the governor to consider for board/commission appointment all qualified candidates who are recommended by trade associations and by any individual residing in this state;
- 2) directing that all board/commission members serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

3) requiring that each regulatory licensure board/commission have at least one consumer member.

“This change will permit all qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to Idaho's regulatory boards/commissions, permit the state to more closely supervise regulators, and bring the consumer perspective to all regulatory licensure boards/commissions responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. “

FCAI submitted a letter of support, on April 15, 2016, to Governor Otter and suggested Tom von Alten and myself as possible candidates. The governor has until July 2016 to appoint the new positions. If anyone has any clout with the governor's office and wants to throw their name in the hat, please do so. It would be a great boon to have a FCAI member sit on the Board of Morticians.



***NO Northern Idaho FUNERAL DIRECTOR INTERESTED IN SERVING North IDAHO members.***

The board attempted to expand member services to north, north-central Idaho this past July. We contacted 21 independent Funeral Homes in Emmett, Lewiston, Moscow, Grangeville, Kellogg, Post Falls, Sandpoint, Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Cottonwood and Bonners Ferry. NOT ONE FUNERAL DIRECTOR RESPONDED. There are currently 623 Idaho residents signed up with our sister affiliates in Washington and Oregon. Here is the letter we sent:

July 15, 2015  
Funeral Director

**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Idaho** is working to expand service provider opportunities to Central and North Idaho. It has been a desire of the organization to better serve the entire state, allowing for the convenience of preplanning without the risks of prepayment for our members in Central and Northern Idaho.

Currently, 326 FCA Idaho residents are purchasing funeral and mortuary services in Eastern Washington through our sister organization, Peoples Memorial Society. At current membership prices, that totals over \$200,000 in funeral monies that could be kept instate. If we are able to secure an independent, participating funeral home in Central/North Idaho, we would contact the 326 Idaho residents to transfer back and will promote the expansion through senior centers, hospice organizations and senior service organizations.

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Idaho (FCAI), founded in 1972, is a not-for-profit, volunteer, consumer group with more than 650 members throughout Idaho. We are one of 200 similar groups affiliated with the national Funeral Consumer Alliance to provide objective advice and information about legal rights. Membership in FCAI is a one-time fee of \$35 and is transferable to FCA affiliates in other states.

**FCAI** is dedicated to protecting a consumer's right to choose a meaningful, dignified, affordable funeral and believes that better decisions are made when you are informed and are not making difficult decisions while dealing with grief and loss.

The mission of our organization is to inform consumers of their rights and options as provided by the Federal Funeral Rule and Idaho Statutes. Our website contains dozens of downloadable, printable brochures on subjects ranging from recycling medical devices, green burial, funeral planning, survivors' checklist, and veteran's funeral and burial benefits. Advance Directives are also explained and available for download and printing, all at NO CHARGE.

Perhaps of most interest to consumers is an annual comparative General Price List of Funeral Homes that shows pricing for the same services and the range of costs between providers.

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Idaho contracts with local, independent funeral homes to provide services to our members. We continually recruit board members and everyone is welcome.

FCAI uses independent, participating funeral homes: Accent in Meridian and Rosenau in Twin Falls. Please look over our membership application for the agreement of services and member prices for immediate burial and direct cremation. A sample contract is available upon request.

If you are interested in joining us as a provider, we would schedule a tour of your facility and sit down to discuss it with you in more detail. In the meanwhile, please send me your General Price List.

Best regards,  
Sherri Rudai, President  
Funeral Consumer Alliance of Idaho, Inc.  
Enclosed – FCAI Membership Application

We will keep trying.

## **FCA Biennial Conference in Atlanta!**

Join the National FCA June 23 through 25, 2016, at the biennial conference. Book your room at the Crowne Plaza at the Atlanta airport today. Special discount for attendees; rooms are \$92 a night plus tax so book early as the room block is limited. Book your rooms directly with the Crowne Plaza. Be sure to tell them to book you within the FCA ROOM BLOCK.

<https://www.funerals.org/newsandblogsmenu/blogdailydirge/3658-conference2016article>

### **-WANTED- Volunteers! New Board Members**

Do you ever wonder how it all happens? Does it seem like magic? An impossibly good deal for that once-in-a-lifetime membership fee?

**We could use a hand.**

If you are interested, can spare a few hours a month please call Sherri at 208-363-0314.

2015-2016

#### Board Members

**President:**

Sherri Rudai *term ends 2018*

**Vice President:**

Rose Thomas *term ends 2018*

**Treasurer:**

Patricia Kolb *term ends 2016*

**Secretary:**

Monte Wilson *term ends 2017*

**Membership Secretary:**

Susan Randall *term ends 2017*

Our bylaws call for five board members, with three year, staggered terms. *We need nominations for **one** board position **this** annual meeting.*

**2016 Funeral Home Comparative General Price List** is available online. New this year, Funeral Homes with their GPL online have been indicated with easy hyperlinks to their websites.

Check it out:

<http://fcai.fortboise.org/survey.html>

A **special thank you** goes out to our at-large advisory-historian **Monica Perry** and super hero web master, **Tom von Alten**. With their continued knowledge, experience and expertise your organization is able to maintain a higher level of exposure and professionalism.

Thank you **DUNIA Marketplace**, located at 1609 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street in historic Hyde Park, Boise, for the donation of Fair Trade coffee and tea for our annual meeting.

The financial report will be given at the meeting and a copy will be available for review at the meeting. Please plan on joining us.